

PART II.

LAND SETTLEMENT ; AGRICULTURE ; PASTORAL AND
DAIRYING ; FORESTRY.

LAND AND SETTLEMENT.

The total area of the State is 56,245,760 acres. On 31st December, 1947, this comprised :—

	Acres.
Lands alienated in fee-simple	29,598,624
Lands in process of alienation	3,045,425
Crown lands	23,601,711
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Total	56,245,760
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The Crown lands comprise—

Permanent forests (under Forests Act)	4,222,041
Timber reserves (under Forests Act)	717,453
State Forests and timber reserves (under Land Act)	161,943
Water reserves	315,919
Reserves in the Mallee	410,000
Other reserves	549,384
Roads	1,794,218
Water frontages, beds of rivers, lakes, &c. ; unsold land in cities, towns, and boroughs	4,502,289
Land in occupation under—	
Perpetual leases	82,794
Leases of former Agricultural College lands	66,974
Other leases and licences	20,354
Temporary grazing licences	8,505,758
Unoccupied	2,252,484
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Total	23,601,711
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In the following table are shown the area of Crown lands sold absolutely and conditionally, and the area of lands alienated in fee-simple during the six years 1942-47. A portion of the area conditionally sold reverts to the Crown each year in consequence of the non-fulfilment of conditions by the selectors. The lands alienated each year include areas selected in previous years.

VICTORIA—ALIENATION OF CROWN LANDS, 1942
TO 1947.

Year Ended 31st December.	Area of Crown Lands Sold.			Crown Lands alienated in Fee-simple.	
	Absolutely, at Auction, &c.	Conditionally to Selectors.	Total.	Area.	Purchase Money.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£
1942	3,160	26,563	29,723	205,292	129,529
1943	3,770	11,474	15,244	168,423	107,407
1944	2,429	1,507	3,936	108,750	116,118
1945	1,991	139	2,130	183,342	98,315
1946	1,789	49	1,838	264,316	126,625
1947	2,974	..	2,974	247,189	161,135

From the period of the first settlement of the State to the end of 1947 the amount realized by the sale of Crown lands was £37,863,332. Payment of a considerable portion of this amount extended over a series of years without interest, upon very easy terms.

The "Torrens System", whereby persons acquiring possession of land may receive a clear title, was introduced into Victoria in 1862. The system has been the means of simplifying procedure in connexion with the transfer of land, thereby reducing the cost of dealing in real estate, and giving a title to the transferee free of any latent defect. The Crown grant issues through the Titles Office.

In order to bring under the Transfer of Land Act land that was parted with prior to 1862 (5,142,321 acres), application must be made accompanied by strict proofs of the applicant's interest in the property.

During 1947 there were submitted 129 such applications in respect of land amounting in area to 789 acres, and in value to £364,334; while the land actually brought under the Act as a result of applications was 1,759 acres valued at £144,229. Up to the end of 1947 there had been brought under the Act 3,313,027 acres valued at £75,161,846. The area of land still under the Old Law System at the end of 1947 was 1,829,294 acres. A summary of dealings under the Transfer of Land Acts will be found in part "Accumulation" of the *Year-Book*.

Assurance Fund. In granting an application to have land brought under the *Transfer of Land Act 1928*, the Commissioner of Titles is required to issue a perfect Title save as to any circumstances of which he has had notice. To assure and indemnify the Government in a case where the Supreme Court or some higher Tribunal has decided that some person other than the applicant has an interest in the property, and it has consequently been found necessary to compensate such other person, there has been constituted an Assurance Fund which is built up of contributions of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £ on the value of the land covered by the application. During 1947-48 receipts of the Fund comprised contributions, £3,627, and interest on stock, £3,269. No claim was paid from the Fund during the year, but the sum of £5,095 was paid out in accordance with section 3 of the *Special Funds Act 1920* to provide for the interest on loan moneys expended on University buildings. The balance at the credit of the Assurance Fund on 30th June, 1948, was £118,534. The amount paid up to 30th June, 1948, as compensation and for judgments recovered, including costs, was £11,386.

CLOSER SETTLEMENT AND DISCHARGED SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT.

The history of Closer Settlement and of Discharged Soldiers' Settlement in Victoria will be found in previous issues of the *Year-Book*.

Dissolution of the Closer Settlement Commission. The *Closer Settlement Act 1938* which was passed in December, 1938, provided that the Closer Settlement Commission be dissolved and cease to exist, that the Board of Land and Works be deemed to be the successor in law of the Commission and that the Act be administered in the Department of Crown Lands and Survey.

Soldier Settlement Commission. The *Soldier Settlement Act 1945*, No. 5107, *inter alia*, (a) authorized the ratification of an agreement between the State of Victoria and the Commonwealth of Australia relating to the settlement on land of discharged members of the forces; (b) provided for the constitution of a Soldier Settlement Commission

consisting of three members to administer soldier settlement and the appointment of the necessary officers and employees of the Commission and local advisory committees; (c) provided for the raising of £15,000,000 towards soldier settlement and the application thereof; (d) prescribed the powers and functions of the Commission relating to the acquisition and setting apart of land for purposes of soldier settlement; (e) provided for the valuation of land and the determination of disputed claims for compensation; and (f) set out the general duties of the Commission as to the settlement of discharged soldiers on the land and the advances to such soldiers.

The *Closer Settlement (Amendment) Act* 1946, No. 5133 (a) extended the powers of the Commission to subdivide land by enabling the setting aside of portions of the land for public purposes and the disposal of unsuitable positions; (b) provided for the appointment of assessors, two of whom will sit with the judge during hearings of disputed claims for compensation; and (c) extended the power of the Commission to make advances to discharged soldiers to include the making of "advances in kind" of stock, implements, and equipment.

Section 41 of the principal Act imposed the duty on the Commission to recommend such other legislation considered to be necessary or expedient in order to give effect to the War Service Land Settlement Agreement. The performance of this duty resulted in the *Soldier Settlement Act* 1946, No. 5179, which (a) legislated in detail for the subdivision of lands acquired for soldier settlement and the settling of discharged soldiers thereon; (b) authorized the making of advances to discharged soldiers in connexion with single-unit farms and for "carrying-on" expenses and for the purchase of stock, plant, equipment, &c.; and (c) contained miscellaneous administrative provisions and made consequential amendments to the Soldier Settlement Acts.

Up to the 30th June, 1948, the Commission has acquired Land Acquired. by voluntary negotiation land as follows:—

	Acres.	Price Paid. £
Land acquired prior to 1st July, 1947 ..	233,208	2,134,554
Land acquired 1st July, 1947, to 30th June, 1948	312,384	2,812,176
	<u>545,592</u>	<u>4,946,730</u>

In addition to the land acquired, 16,606 acres of Crown Land have been set apart for settlement purposes.

In order to maintain production from acquired properties, it is the policy of the Commission to lease the land back to the vendors or to other suitable tenants pending sub-division and allocation to settlers.

To 30th June, 1948, 10,687 ex-servicemen had lodged applications for classification as to eligibility and suitability. Of this number, 9,666 have appeared before Classification Boards with the following results :—

Suitable for farm ownership	6,549
Suitable for further training	1,961
Unsuitable, withdrawn and deferred	1,156
	9,666

It is interesting to note that only 2,411 individual ex-servicemen, after having been classified as suitable, had actually lodged applications for land made available.

Land Allocated. Of the land acquired and set apart, 278,143 acres have been sub-divided into 687 holdings. These holdings were made available for application and up to 30th June, 1948, 636 holdings, comprising 241,862 acres, have been allocated.

Development of Holdings. The War Settlement Land Agreement provides that the State shall, *inter alia*, develop and improve land to a stage when it can be brought into production within a reasonable time. This work envisaged the erection of fencing and improvements, clearing, provision of water points, pasture improvement, planting of orchards, vineyards, &c., construction of roads, and arrangements for electricity supply if available. Tenders have been accepted for the construction of 387 new houses and the renovation of a number of existing houses on purchased estates is proceeding. The Commission has also purchased three army camps and is utilizing the buildings to provide sheds and temporary housing accommodation for 184 farms. Prefabricated huts (100) have also been purchased and moved to holdings in order to assist settlers to erect temporary living quarters themselves.

Close co-operation exists between the Commission, the Country Roads Board, and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission in connexion with the construction of necessary roads and the lay-out of irrigation farms, &c.

Stock Purchased. When purchasing some estates it was necessary to complete negotiations on a walk-in walk-out basis. In this way the Commission obtained 132,831 sheep, 2,780 cattle, and 202 horses. Thus, settlers obtain good station stock to form the nucleus of their flocks or herds. In addition, 5,030 heifer calves were purchased and these have been made available to settlers. Many of these are now in production and their productive qualities are up to the high standard anticipated when purchased.

Single Unit Farms. Financial assistance afforded to ex-servicemen to enable them to purchase farms of their own choosing is solely a State responsibility and is outside the terms of the War Service Land

Settlement Agreement. The evidence to date shows that this form of re-habilitation is less costly to the State and more satisfactory to the ex-serviceman than that provided under the Agreement mentioned.

Applications for loans numbered 1,857 up to 30th June, 1948. Financial assistance amounting to £3,616,771 has been approved in 1,060 cases; 684 applications were not granted, and the remainder are in stages of being dealt with. As advances of up to 90 per cent. of the Commission's valuations of the farms are provided for under the Act it is expected that some losses must be expected.

The Commission as agent for the Commonwealth Government administers the *Re-Establishment and Employment Act 1945* as far as it relates to the granting of Agricultural Loans and Allowances. Loans are limited to £1,000 in each case and all capital is provided and administrative expenses are borne by the Commonwealth Government.

To the 30th June, 1948, loans totalling £1,189,178 were granted to 1,852 ex-servicemen and allowances totalling £170,000 were made to 1,622 applicants.

WATERWORKS.

All Victorian waterworks are controlled by official bodies, either State or local. The following table shows State expenditure on works under the control of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, as well as grants and loans to local bodies. In addition to free grants to local bodies, large sums have been written off their liabilities. The following information has been taken from the Annual Report of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission.

VICTORIA—STATE EXPENDITURE AND LOAN LIABILITY ON WATERWORKS* TO 30TH JUNE, 1948.

Description of Works.	Capital Expenditure to 30th June, 1948.	Loan Redemption Paid.	Loan Liability at 30th June, 1948.
Free Headworks	£ 1,242,562	£ 520	£ 1,242,042
Capital Works and Charges not apportionable to Districts	2,786,633	364,990	2,421,643
Central Plant Depot—Bendigo	42,080	1	42,079
Headworks Costs apportioned to Districts	11,831,583	138,726	11,692,857
Irrigation and Water Supply Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	6,861,387	106,078	6,755,309
Urban Divisions of Irrigation Districts	68,767	2,324	66,443
Waterworks Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	3,010,098	62,959	2,947,139
Urban Districts of Waterworks Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	2,787,876	54,833	2,733,043
Flood Protection and Drainage Districts	597,687	8,912	588,775
Waterworks Trusts and Local Governing Bodies	4,573,708	826,740	3,746,968
TOTAL	33,802,381	1,566,083	32,236,298

* Excluding Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, and the Ballarat Water Commission, particulars of which appear in part "Local Government" of this issue.

IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT.

Progress of Irrigation. Prior to 1905 the management of irrigation in Victoria was in the hands of various Irrigation Trusts, which were financed by the State. These Trusts drifted into financial difficulties and the State was compelled to assume control. In the year mentioned, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was constituted and entrusted with the management of all irrigation works, except those controlled by the First Mildura Trust. This authority is embodied in the *Water Act* 1928, which consolidates the *Water Acts* of 1915, 1916, and 1918, and the *Ballarat Water Commissioners Act* 1921.

The particulars in the following statement, while not covering the whole of the activities of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, furnish a general idea of the development of water conservation and distribution, and of drainage and flood protection in districts under its administration:—

VICTORIA—WATER CONSERVATION AND DISTRIBUTION :
DRAINAGE AND FLOOD PROTECTION DISTRICTS.

---	At 30th June, 1907.	At 30th June, 1948.
Area of State artificially supplied with water		
(acres)	10,800,000	15,378,860
Capacity of reservoirs .. (acre feet)	474,000	1,970,250
Irrigation Districts—		
Number of Districts administered	10	28
Number of Districts having Water Rights ..	Nil	26
Total of such Water Rights (acre feet) ..	Nil	515,392
Area classified as irrigable.. .. (acres)	..	1,016,515
Area under Irrigated Culture .. (acres)	108,000	686,848
Rural Waterworks Districts (Domestic and Stock Supply)—		
Number of Districts administered	3	28
Annual Value for Rating purposes .. (£)	125,000	1,428,776
Urban Districts—		
Number of Districts administered	1	87
Annual Value for Rating purposes	5,600	922,232
Coliban System (Urban, Rural, Irrigation and Mining Supplies)—		
Annual Value for Urban Rating purposes (£)	317,750	440,362
Flood Protection Districts—		
Number of Districts administered .. ..	..	4
Drainage Districts—		
Number of Districts administered .. ..	..	14
Number of Assessments .. ..	..	10,026

The subjoined table shows the total extent of irrigated land in the State in each of the five years, 1944 to 1948, and the purposes for which the land was utilized. Rainfall in irrigation districts in the 1947-48 season was above average and consequently the demand for water was lower than in the previous season. This applied particularly to spring rains, and the effect is shown by the decrease in the area of cereals irrigated from 83,263 acres in 1946-47 to 33,889 acres in 1947-48. On the other hand, the area of sown pastures irrigated has continued to expand, and, in 1947-48, reached the record of 366,392 acres.

VICTORIA—IRRIGATED AREAS : HOW UTILIZED.

Crop.	Year ended 30th June—				
	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Cereals	42,114	62,942	72,956	83,263	33,889
Lucerne	64,041	64,286	67,309	69,700	65,211
Sorghum and other annual fodders	25,807	34,326	15,152	17,657	8,685
Pastures	443,223	411,018	407,415	440,879	478,576
Vineyards, Orchards, and Market Gardens	81,167	83,800	83,579	87,953	88,539
Fallow and Miscellaneous	8,892	8,838	10,434	9,138	11,948
Total	665,244	665,210	656,845	708,590	686,848

Of the total area irrigated in 1947-48—686,848 acres—the percentages devoted to different purposes were as follows:—Pastures, 70; lucerne, 9; vineyards, orchards, and gardens, 13; cereals, 5; sorghum and other annual fodder crops, 1; fallows and miscellaneous, 2.

Dairying is one of the principal industries in irrigation districts. Dairy herds grazed on irrigated pastures obtained prominent positions in the 1947-48 Standard Herd Test conducted by the Department of Agriculture.

The production of dried vine and tree fruits, of citrus, and of fruits for canning are established features in these districts. There has also been considerable expansion in vegetable growing and a development of the canning industry in relation thereto. The Victorian dried

Progress in
Irrigation
Areas,
1947-48.

vine-fruit crop amounted to 55,246 tons. The Victorian production of citrus fruits during the 1947-48 season amounted to 963,466 bushels—approximately 90 per cent. of which was grown within irrigation districts.

The Victorian production of canned apricots, peaches, and pears in the season 1947-48 was 2,157,596 cases, each of two dozen 30-oz. tins. This represented 73 per cent. of the Australian output of those fruits.

Extensive schemes for the supply of water for domestic, industrial, and stock purposes are under the control of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Altogether, the rural and urban area so supplied is approximately 20,251 square miles—23 per cent. of the total area of the State. The major portion of such area is in the Mallee and Wimmera districts.

The numbers of country centres supplied with water for domestic and industrial purposes are—127 by the Commission, 118 by Waterworks Trusts, and 15 by Local Government bodies.

The estimated population in country centres supplied with water in 1947-48 was 455,340 persons.

STORAGE AND SUPPLY SCHEMES.

In 1902, the capacity of storages in the State was 172,000 acre feet. The present capacity (including half share of the River Murray Works) is 1,970,250 acre feet. The Hume Reservoir, designed to contain 2,000,000 acre feet (half of which can, subject to the provisions of the River Murray Agreement, be credited to the State of Victoria) now has a capacity of 1,250,000 acre feet. When the final stage of this work has been completed, and when the Rocklands, Glenmaggie, Cairn Curran, and Lauriston Reservoirs are also completed, the combined storage capacity available to users in Victoria will be 2,778,750 acre feet.

EXISTING STORAGES.

						Capacities in Acre Feet.
<i>Goulburn System—</i>						
Goulburn Weir	..	..	..	..	..	20,700
Waranga	..	..	..	..	..	333,400
Eildon	..	..	..	..	..	306,000
						660,100

EXISTING STORAGES—continued.

<i>Murray-Loddon System—</i>	Capacities in Acre Feet.
Hume Reservoir (half share of 1,250,000 acre feet) ..	625,000
Yarrowonga Weir (half share of 95,120 acre feet) ..	47,560
Torrumbarry (half share of 28,900 acre feet) ..	14,450
Mildura (half share of 29,360 acre feet) ..	14,680
Wentworth (half share of 38,140 acre feet) ..	19,070
Euston Lock Weir (half share of 31,320 acre feet) ..	15,660
Kow Swamp	40,860
Laanecoorie	6,300
Kerang North-west Lakes	69,400
Lake Boga	29,650
Lake Cullulleraine	2,000
	884,630
 <i>Wimmera-Mallee System—</i>	
Fyans Lake	17,100
Lake Lonsdale	53,300
Wartook	23,800
Taylor's Lake	30,000
Pine Lake	52,000
Green Lake	6,600
Dock Lake	4,800
Moora	5,100
Lower Wimmera Weirs	2,870
Batyo Catyo (Avon Regulator)	5,000
Lake Whitton	1,300
Township Reservoirs, and Mallee Tanks	4,840
	206,710
 <i>Maffra-Sale System—</i>	
Glenmaggie Reservoir (part of 150,000 acre feet) ..	104,500
Stratford Service Basin	20
Heyfield Service Basin	20
	104,540
 <i>Coliban System—</i>	
Upper Coliban	25,700
Malmsbury	14,400
Lauriston	12,000
Spring Gully	2,000
Subsidiary Reservoirs	4,750
	58,850
 <i>Werribee System—</i>	
Pykes Creek	19,400
Melton	15,500
	34,900

EXISTING STORAGES—*continued.*

						Capacities in Acre Feet.		
<i>Bellarine Peninsula System—</i>								
Wurdee Boluc	..	..	..	..	..	10,000	
Service Basins	..	..	..	..	..	850	
						<hr/>	10,850	
<i>Mornington Peninsula System—</i>								
Lysterfield	..	..	..	..	..	3,400	
Beaconsfield	..	..	..	..	..	740	
Frankston	..	..	..	..	..	660	
Mornington	..	..	..	..	..	260	
Bittern	..	..	..	..	..	480	
Service Basins	..	..	..	..	..	260	
						<hr/>	5,800	
<i>Otway System—</i>								
Service Reservoirs	..	..	..	..	..		1,080
<i>Miscellaneous—</i>								
Eppalock	..	..	..	..	..	1,200	
Wonthaggi	..	..	..	..	..	1,550	
Wonthaggi Service Basins	..	..	..	..	..	10	
Newstead	..	..	..	..	..	30	
						<hr/>	2,790	
Total capacity of existing Storages						<hr/> <hr/> 1,970,250

ADDITIONAL STORAGE BEING PROVIDED BY WORKS IN COURSE OF
CONSTRUCTION.

<i>Wimmera-Mallee System—</i>							
Rocklands	..	..	..	..	..		264,000
<i>Murray-Loddon System—</i>							
Cairn Curran	..	..	..	..	..		120,000

FURTHER STORAGE WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED BY COMPLETION OF
EXISTING WORKS.

<i>Maffra-Sale System—</i>								
Glenmaggie Reservoir (balance of 150,000 acre feet)	..	..	..	..	..	45,500	
<i>Murray System—</i>								
Hume Reservoir, at junction with Mitta River (half share of balance of 2,000,000 acre feet)	..	..	..	..	..	375,000	
<i>Coliban System—</i>								
Lauriston (to 16,000 acre feet)	..	..	..	..	..	4,000*	
						<hr/>	424,500	
Total capacity of storages when works are completed						<hr/> <hr/> 2,778,750

* Completed July, 1949:

Detailed descriptions of the various systems which have been instituted for irrigation and for supplying water for domestic and stock purposes appear in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29 (pp. 526 to 534).

METEOROLOGY.

Particulars in regard to climate and weather conditions have been furnished by the Meteorological Bureau, and are given in the following tables. In the first are shown the rainfall for each district and for the whole State for each of the years 1901 to 1948, together with the average rainfall covering a period of 30 years.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL IN DISTRICTS.

Year Ended 31st Decem-ber.	Districts.								Whole State.
	Mallee.	Wim-mera.	North-ern.	North-Central.	North-Eastern.	Western.	Central.	Gipps-land.	
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
1901 ..	9.39	16.61	13.58	24.78	28.08	27.90	28.98	33.66	22.05
1902 ..	7.64	11.94	11.26	18.41	20.10	23.54	24.88	33.35	18.55
1903 ..	16.34	22.76	22.22	32.07	33.13	33.43	32.86	33.68	27.44
1904 ..	10.75	17.22	17.32	28.00	33.56	28.54	31.29	30.02	23.49
1905 ..	12.01	18.40	16.39	25.36	31.72	28.79	29.61	37.84	24.53
1906 ..	15.22	23.42	24.16	32.00	42.11	32.53	30.13	34.81	28.49
1907 ..	9.25	17.07	14.74	22.42	26.19	26.16	25.36	27.20	20.40
1908 ..	12.33	17.72	14.38	19.98	26.40	25.81	20.08	24.29	20.02
1909 ..	14.35	22.38	20.04	29.77	35.62	31.37	30.57	34.09	26.52
1910 ..	15.96	22.36	20.13	29.13	32.10	32.45	28.28	30.80	25.96
1911 ..	17.84	19.89	19.87	29.79	33.24	31.13	36.88	39.71	28.08
1912 ..	12.50	17.52	18.12	23.00	30.93	25.94	24.92	26.60	21.86
1913 ..	12.66	16.38	16.76	24.22	29.69	25.85	27.64	34.65	22.66
1914 ..	7.29	9.76	9.73	14.95	19.94	18.56	20.05	23.81	14.66
1915 ..	12.42	18.98	16.75	25.65	34.17	27.44	24.67	27.63	22.35
1916 ..	17.72	22.54	25.60	34.44	44.01	30.72	38.78	37.78	30.27
1917 ..	19.55	21.96	26.34	35.86	56.09	31.70	32.41	34.63	30.77
1918 ..	13.59	16.44	21.96	28.30	36.96	25.70	30.11	33.39	24.70
1919 ..	11.46	13.86	15.06	21.21	27.27	26.47	25.48	37.03	22.77
1920 ..	14.93	16.04	20.15	28.37	34.42	25.99	31.38	33.37	25.43
1921 ..	16.29	19.99	23.69	31.75	39.57	27.36	31.13	31.73	25.35
1922 ..	10.44	17.15	13.15	20.85	26.10	28.09	27.82	32.92	21.35
1923 ..	15.07	20.21	17.60	27.30	34.80	33.51	30.11	33.88	26.12
1924 ..	16.08	22.17	23.29	34.74	40.70	31.13	40.30	37.37	28.10
1925 ..	9.87	14.20	14.09	20.28	27.42	22.43	23.12	29.69	19.74
1926 ..	12.64	17.00	16.85	24.25	35.36	26.70	24.20	29.72	22.90
1927 ..	7.66	13.93	11.14	18.67	26.15	23.20	22.16	28.43	18.56
1928 ..	14.04	19.10	21.27	29.56	37.21	30.46	29.86	33.98	26.14
1929 ..	9.10	15.56	13.65	24.20	27.24	29.28	31.13	32.36	22.00
1930 ..	15.32	20.94	19.68	30.59	32.49	29.43	30.85	33.66	25.76
1931 ..	14.86	19.25	21.77	31.20	43.18	28.79	32.88	32.65	26.97
1932 ..	14.96	18.90	20.60	29.63	34.33	31.85	32.91	34.19	26.34
1933 ..	14.13	20.96	20.25	31.09	32.09	26.87	27.56	30.65	24.47
1934 ..	13.21	16.64	21.01	28.57	42.81	29.20	35.60	43.39	27.60
1935 ..	10.84	17.71	19.53	29.14	35.86	30.49	34.23	42.53	24.63
1936 ..	14.39	19.41	19.50	28.47	35.52	26.91	30.24	36.38	25.63
1937 ..	12.69	17.19	13.70	20.08	26.25	26.39	25.20	28.33	21.02
1938 ..	6.30	11.39	8.66	15.62	20.49	22.63	20.47	26.39	16.28
1939 ..	15.32	20.33	27.72	37.83	53.05	32.94	38.10	38.16	31.37
1940 ..	6.82	11.26	9.67	17.13	21.21	21.51	22.81	26.04	16.73
1941 ..	12.23	20.14	17.31	25.39	30.41	29.73	31.53	33.13	24.29
1942 ..	14.31	22.04	19.66	31.91	38.28	30.54	29.68	31.59	26.28
1943 ..	8.25	13.48	10.98	20.22	26.76	25.86	22.46	30.05	19.44
1944 ..	6.59	10.46	9.24	17.10	20.72	24.30	23.97	27.54	17.09
1945 ..	9.63	15.20	14.84	21.72	29.97	25.21	22.25	28.60	20.50
1946 ..	14.07	22.07	17.76	29.86	39.85	40.20	33.04	41.19	29.37
1947 ..	15.16	22.71	20.35	32.93	40.91	33.80	33.00	36.10	28.46
1948 ..	11.29	19.15	16.46	24.82	31.98	28.37	25.98	34.37	23.61
Ave- rages*	12.49	17.52	18.09	27.06	34.81	27.58	29.64	33.47	24.28

* Averages for a standard 30 years' period 1911-1940.

The heaviest rainfall in the State occurs in the Eastern highlands (from the Yarra watershed to the Upper Murray), in the Cape Otway Forest in the Western District and in the South Gippsland, Latrobe and Thomson Basin sections of the Gippsland District. The lightest rainfall is in the Mallee District, the northern portion of which receives on the average from 10 to 12 inches only per year.

The means of the climatic elements for the seasons in Melbourne deduced from all available official records are given in the following table.

MEANS OF CLIMATIC ELEMENTS IN MELBOURNE.

Meteorological Elements.	Spring.	Summer.	Autumn.	Winter.
Mean pressure of air in inches	29.974	29.919	30.079	30.077
Monthly range of pressure of air—inches ..	0.889	0.768	0.816	0.974
Mean temperature of air in shade—° Fahr.	57.8	66.6	59.4	50.0
Mean daily range of temperature of air in shade—° Fahr.	18.7	21.1	17.4	14.0
Mean relative humidity. Saturation = 100	65	59	69	74
Mean rainfall in inches	7.14	6.07	6.57	5.82
Mean number of days of rain	38	25	33	45
Mean amount of spontaneous evaporation in inches	10.26	17.28	8.01	3.77
Mean daily amount of cloudiness—Scale 0 to 10	6.0	5.2	5.9	6.5
Mean number of days of fog	1	1	7	12

In the subjoined statement are shown the yearly means of the climatic elements in Melbourne for 1947 together with averages and number of years of record for each element as well as the extremes between which the yearly mean values of such elements have oscillated in the latter periods.

**YEARLY MEANS AND EXTREMES OF CLIMATIC
ELEMENTS IN MELBOURNE.**

Meteorological Elements.	Mean for Year 1947.	Means Over Period of Years.			
		Number of Years Recorded.	Mean for Period.	Extremes between which the yearly mean values have oscillated during the number of years shown in second column.	
				Highest.	Lowest.
Mean atmospheric pressure (inches) ..	29.981	90	30.012	30.106	29.945
Highest " " " ..	30.555	90	30.604	30.770	30.405
Lowest " " " ..	29.372	90	29.253	29.495	28.942
Range (inches)	1.183	90	1.353	1.719	1.074
Mean temperature of air in shade (° Fahr.)	59.3	92	58.5	59.9	57.3
Mean daily maximum .. (° Fahr.)	68.3	92	67.4	69.4	65.4
Mean daily minimum	50.3	92	49.6	51.2	47.2
Absolute maximum	102.8	92	105.0	114.2	96.6
Absolute minimum	32.1	92	31.0	34.2	27.0
Mean daily range	18.0	92	17.8	20.4	15.0
Absolute annual range	70.7	92	74.0	84.1	66.0
Terrestrial Radiation (mean minima)	47.1	87	44.0	47.1	39.5
Rainfall (in inches)	30.47	92	25.60	38.04	15.61
Number of wet days	163	92	142	187	102
Year's amount of free evaporation (in inches)	42.99	75	39.32	45.66	31.59
Percentage of humidity (saturation = 100)	63	91	67	76	58
Cloudiness (scale 10 = overcast, 0 = clear)	6.1	90	5.9	6.7	4.8
Number of days of fog	14	90	21	50	5

An estimate of the areas of the State, subject to different degrees of rainfall is contained in the following statement:—

VICTORIA—DISTRIBUTION OF AVERAGE RAINFALL.

Rainfall.	Area.
Inches.	Squares Miles
Under 15	18,701
15 to 20	13,800
20 to 25	13,551
25 to 30	14,528
30 to 40	15,802
40 to 50	6,671
50 to 60	2,660
Over 60	2,171

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

This Department is controlled by a Minister of the **Department of Agriculture.** Crown, under whom there is a staff of experts with the Director of Agriculture as permanent head. These officers are actively engaged in supervising all matters relating to agricultural and pastoral industries of the State, and in giving advice to those engaged therein. The Department publishes a monthly journal.

Research and experimental work are conducted at the **Government Experimental Farms.** State Research Farm at Werribee, the Mallee Research Station at Walpeup, the Horticultural Research Station at Tatura, the Rutherglen State Farm, the Longerenong Agricultural College, the Dookie Agricultural College, the School of Dairy Technology and Dairy Research Institute, Werribee, and at the School of Primary Agriculture, Burnley. A Potato Experimental Station is being established at Healesville and a second Horticultural Research Station at Scoresby. In addition, experiments and demonstrations are conducted on many selected private farms throughout the State and, in conjunction with the Victorian Pasture Improvement League, on some 80 pasture experiment plots.

At the State Research Farm, Werribee, experiments are undertaken for the improvement of wheat and other cereals, grasses, clovers, and various economic plants, and investigations made into the methods and problems relating to irrigated agriculture and the breeding and feeding of dairy cattle, horses, sheep, and poultry. At the School of Dairy Technology the higher training of dairy factory operatives and research and investigation into problems arising in the manufacture of dairy produce are undertaken.

Work at the Rutherglen Farm, which serves as a research station for the North-East, includes various aspects of cereal growing and pasture improvement. It was here that the initial experiments were conducted (1911-1918) which resulted in the widespread practice of the topdressing of pastures with phosphates. The Mallee Research Station was established in 1932. In addition to cereal and grazing investigations, an important feature of the work at this station is research concerning various grasses with the view to producing a pasture which will thrive under Mallee conditions. Special attention is being paid to the problem of sand drift. At Longerenong and Dookie, experiments are conducted on wheat and oat cultivation for Wimmera and north-eastern conditions respectively. At the School of Primary Agriculture, Burnley, in addition to instruction in, and study of, horticultural problems, research work on the breeding and selection of grasses and clovers is carried on; a Plant Research Laboratory mainly devoted to plant pathological and entomological research has also been established.

The Horticultural Research Station at Tatura was recently established as a research centre for the purpose of improving varieties of fruits. Officers are now engaged in the study of irrigation and soil fertility in the Goulburn Valley in relation to the production of canning fruits.

The work at the Government experimental plots on selected farms embraces investigations into pasture improvement, grazing trials, and the cultivation of wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, tobacco, maize, broom millet, and vegetables.

The pasture experiments are largely responsible for advances made in pasture improvement throughout Victoria. It is estimated that topdressing results in an increase in carrying capacity of about 50 per cent. above pastures not similarly treated. During the season 1947-48, 4,461,025 acres were topdressed as compared with 3,374,996 acres in 1946-47.

Agricultural Colleges. An Act for the establishment of Agricultural Colleges was passed in 1884, and 14,458 acres, comprising 5,955 acres at Dookie; 2,386 acres at Longerenong; 2,500 acres at Gunyah Gunyah; 2,800 acres at Olangolah, and 817 acres at Bullarto, were reserved as sites for colleges and experimental farms. Only the lands at Dookie and Longerenong are being used for college purposes and in 1944 all the other areas reverted to the Crown under the provisions of the *Agricultural Colleges Act 1944*. This Act, which also abolished the Council of Agricultural Education, provided that the two colleges should be controlled by the State through the medium of the Minister of Agriculture. The fee for students in residence at the agricultural colleges is £50 per annum for maintenance. No charge is made for instruction. Accommodation is provided at Dookie for 130 and at Longerenong for 70 students. At Dookie a special annexe has been established for the training of discharged servicemen. Provision has been made for 200 students and it is expected that the work will be carried on for several years.

Inspection of Orchards, Nurseries, &c. The orchards, nurseries, and gardens of the State are systematically inspected by officers of the Horticultural Division of the Department of Agriculture. All plant material entering Victoria, whether from other Australian States or overseas, is subject to strict inspection and measures are taken when necessary either to free such material of disease or to have it destroyed.

Melbourne University School of Agriculture. Melbourne University has a well-equipped School of Agriculture, for the maintenance of which a special grant is provided by the State. This School affords opportunity for the training of students in science as applied to practical agriculture and kindred industries. The course occupies

four years. The first is devoted to pure science; during the second the students are in residence at the Dookie Agricultural College, engaged in practical farming with lectures on preparatory subjects, and the remaining two years are devoted to a more specialized study of agriculture and allied subjects on a scientific basis. A large number of graduates of this school is employed, mostly in the Victorian Department of Agriculture, on field advisory work and laboratory investigations.

Commonwealth Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research was established in 1926 by the re-organization of the existing Institute of Science and Industry. The powers and functions of the Council are defined by the *Science and Industry Research Act 1920-1945*, and include the initiation and carrying out of research in connexion with, or for, the promotion of primary and secondary industries; the training of research workers; the making of grants in aid of pure research; the testing and standardization of scientific apparatus and instruments; and the carrying out of scientific investigations connected with standardization; and the establishment of an information service relating to scientific and technical matters.

Divisions of the Council now operating are those relating to Plant Industry, Economic Entomology, Animal Health and Production, Biochemistry and Nutrition, Soils, Irrigation Settlement, Forest Products, Fisheries, Flax, Dairy Products, Food Preservation, Metrology, Electrotechnology, Physics, Aeronautics, Industrial Chemistry, Radiophysics, Tribophysics, Building Materials. Other investigations include Radio, Mineragraphy, Metallurgy, Meteorology, Rubber and Atomic Physics.

Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The Commonwealth Bureau of Agricultural Economics was established in August, 1945, in order to meet the need for a Commonwealth research and investigating authority in the fields of agricultural economics and rural policy.

The Bureau was developed from the rural division of the Ministry of Post-War Reconstruction in which Department it was first established. In 1946, it was transferred to the Department of Commerce and Agriculture and is comprised of the following sections (1) General and Statistics; (2) Agricultural Commodities; (3) Land Use; and (4) Wool.

No administrative functions are vested in the Bureau. It is specifically a service institution charged with the duty of undertaking fact-finding researches, studying and interpreting the facts and making the results available to all concerned, including Commonwealth and State Departments, semi-governmental and private institutions and individuals.

Reference to the activities of the wool section of the Bureau appears on page 122 of this issue of the *Year-Book*.

AGRICULTURE.

In all divisions of the State there are areas suitable for cultivation. The area cultivated in 1947-48 was 7,550,455 acres, as compared with 7,563,330 acres in the previous season, and an annual average of 5,977,754 acres for the seasons 1941-45, 7,179,443 acres for the seasons 1936-40, 7,739,251 acres for the seasons 1926-35, 6,446,389 acres for the seasons 1916-25, 5,032,359 acres for the seasons 1906-15, and 3,547,111 acres for the seasons 1896-1905.

The following table shows the area under cultivation from period to period during the last 93 years :—

VICTORIA—ACREAGE CULTIVATED ANNUALLY, 1856 TO 1948.

Period or Year (ended March).	Annual average area in each decennium, 1856 to 1925, and actual area each year 1926-1948, under—		
	Crop.	Fallow.	Total Cultivation.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1856-65	325,676	12,146	337,822
1866-75	624,377	57,274	681,651
1876-85	1,306,920	137,536	1,444,456
1886-95	2,109,326	364,282	2,473,608
1896-1905	3,022,914	524,197	3,547,111
1906-15	3,756,211	1,276,148	5,032,359
1916-25	4,594,244	1,852,145	6,446,389
1926	4,433,492	2,457,136	6,890,628
1927	4,735,173	2,569,021	7,304,194
1928	4,942,258	2,692,044	7,634,302
1929	5,505,651	2,683,462	8,189,113
1930	5,579,258	2,482,662	8,061,920
1931	6,715,660	2,590,629	9,306,289
1932	5,407,109	2,145,819	7,552,928
1933	5,115,745	2,633,287	7,749,032
1934	5,266,913	2,543,043	7,809,956
1935	4,677,683	2,216,464	6,894,147
1936	4,438,761	2,358,777	6,797,538
1937	4,407,312	2,483,163	6,890,475
1938	4,662,354	2,604,556	7,266,910
1939	5,019,299	2,543,225	7,562,524
1940	5,002,362	2,377,405	7,379,767
1941	4,467,191	1,887,418	6,354,609
1942	4,731,712	2,101,360	6,833,072
1943	3,838,415	1,660,171	5,498,586
1944	3,478,889	1,719,363	5,198,252
1945	4,310,152	1,694,097	6,004,249
1946	5,327,122	2,394,032	7,721,154
1947	5,102,980	2,460,350	7,563,330
1948	5,023,149	2,527,306	7,550,455

It will be seen from these tables that the proportion of cultivation to land occupied is much larger in the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern than in other districts. Of the occupied land in each of these districts, 33 per cent. in the Wimmera, 40 per cent. in the Mallee, and 26 per cent. in the Northern districts were used for agriculture in 1947-48. In that year the area cultivated in these three districts was more than 85 per cent. of the total cultivation in Victoria. In the North-Central, Western, and North-Eastern districts, the land occupied is largely devoted to grazing. Gippsland, Western, and Central are the chief dairying districts, and contain 72 per cent. of the sown pastures of the State.

To illustrate the uses to which the land was applied in 1925, 1929, 1934, and 1938, information relating to holdings of different sizes of privately-owned land and Crown land held in conjunction therewith, appears in tables given on pages 436 to 438 of the 1938-39 issue of the *Year-Book*.

Size of holdings and how utilized, 1925, 1929, 1934, and 1938.

The number of holdings of privately-owned land of over 10,000 acres was 104 in 1938, 97 in 1934, 105 in 1929, 104 in 1925, 152 in 1919, 151 in 1913, 175 in 1910, and 195 in 1906, and the aggregate areas comprised therein in the corresponding years were 1,684,969 acres, 1,562,013 acres, 1,587,345 acres, 1,576,942 acres, 2,638,307 acres, 2,652,966 acres, 3,298,227 acres, and 4,134,067 acres. The reduction in the period of 32 years between 1906 and 1938 was equivalent to 47 per cent. in the number, and 62 per cent. in the acreage of such estates. Most of this reduction took place between the years 1906 and 1913, and 1919 and 1925, the periods of active Closer Settlement and of Soldier Settlement respectively.

The following table shows the annual average area, production and yield per acre during each decennium, 1855 to 1935, and the actual area, production and yield per acre for the principal crops (excluding vegetables and fruit) during each of the five seasons, 1944-1948.

Principal Crops (Area, Production, and Average Yield).

VICTORIA—ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND AVERAGE YIELD
OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 TO 1948.

Period or Season.	Wheat.*	Oats.*	Barley.*	Potatoes.	Hay.
ANNUAL AREA.					
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1855-65 ..	119,001	83,296	4,843	24,123	80,117
1865-75 ..	278,077	129,384	19,262	36,744	117,393
1875-85 ..	776,031	147,343	41,188	39,089	226,775
1885-95 ..	1,236,501	210,901	64,310	48,009	437,087
1895-1905 ..	1,898,280	340,957	52,829	45,243	540,472
1905-15 ..	2,190,336	390,642	60,378	56,272	848,587
1915-25 ..	2,633,945	428,372	84,205	61,195	1,122,978
1925-35 ..	3,268,656	445,987	88,358	65,677	1,057,905
1943-44 ..	1,793,428	426,305	83,259	70,430	740,672
1944-45 ..	2,141,729	722,169	129,054	83,238	901,983
1945-46 ..	3,251,393	511,483	134,132	63,000	1,060,496
1946-47 ..	3,501,135	453,898	138,022	56,400	677,787
1947-48 ..	3,227,162	650,119	164,189	59,400	657,146
ANNUAL PRODUCTION.					
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1855-65 ..	2,198,874	2,068,648	103,575	62,723	111,806
1865-75 ..	4,385,814	2,636,747	390,337	111,800	153,852
1875-85 ..	8,593,308	3,297,468	799,938	135,614	276,771
1885-95 ..	12,268,905	4,649,393	1,187,007	170,905	547,092
1895-1905 ..	14,032,145	6,649,453	947,580	134,357	672,982
1905-15 ..	22,906,743	7,342,468	1,243,442	158,445	1,084,726
1915-25 ..	39,171,358	7,965,864	1,923,654	169,864	1,511,298
1925-35 ..	38,661,077	5,696,134	1,772,099	167,965	1,242,808
1943-44 ..	19,733,322	3,704,985	1,078,128	217,380	963,103
1944-45 ..	3,497,677	1,335,429	359,536	305,216	704,246
1945-46 ..	29,633,760	7,401,816	1,743,754	230,749	1,444,250
1946-47 ..	48,970,908	6,401,430	2,321,912	223,782	985,224
1947-48 ..	46,962,385	15,380,970	3,576,771	184,882	1,042,438
AVERAGE ANNUAL YIELD PER ACRE.					
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1855-65 ..	18·48	24·83	21·39	2·60	1·40
1865-75 ..	15·77	20·38	20·27	3·04	1·31
1875-85 ..	11·07	22·38	19·42	3·47	1·22
1885-95 ..	9·92	22·05	18·46	3·56	1·21
1895-1905 ..	7·39	19·50	17·94	2·97	1·25
1905-15 ..	10·46	18·79	20·59	2·82	1·28
1915-25 ..	14·87	18·60	22·84	2·78	1·35
1925-35 ..	11·83	12·77	20·06	2·56	1·17
1943-44 ..	11·00	8·69	12·95	3·09	1·30
1944-45 ..	1·63	1·85	2·79	3·67	·78
1945-46 ..	9·11	14·47	13·00	3·66	1·36
1946-47 ..	13·99	14·10	16·82	3·97	1·45
1947-48 ..	14·55	23·66	21·78	3·11	1·59

* For grain.

Growers of
certain crops,
season
1947-48.

The following table shows the number of growers of certain primary products, in each statistical district of the State, for the season 1947-48.

The information has no relation to the number of rural holdings in the State, as numbers of occupiers engage in the cultivation of more than one of the crops enumerated.

VICTORIA—GROWERS OF CERTAIN CROPS—SEASON
1947-48.

Crops Grown.	Growers in each Statistical District.								State Total.
	Central.	North-Central.	Wes-tern.	Wim-mera.	Mallee.	Nor-thern.	North-East-tern.	Gipps-land.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Grain Crops—									
Wheat ..	593	441	764	4,004	3,312	4,141	494	79	13,828
Oats ..	487	413	875	2,494	2,108	3,003	400	32	9,812
Barley ..	550	70	245	714	584	798	49	141	3,151
Maize ..	36	11	..	..	..	4	144	307	502
Hay—									
All kinds ..	4,816	1,853	5,582	3,129	1,848	5,390	2,587	4,446	29,651
Green Fodder—									
Maize ..	1,165	64	267	7	5	34	91	1,186	2,819
Lucerne ..	191	55	49	13	23	152	48	70	601
Millet ..	451	36	122	12	49	200	226	629	1,725
All other ..	187	62	82	4	19	79	107	126	666
Other—									
Potatoes ..	2,121	624	1,088	29	..	12	279	1,135	5,288
Onions ..	521	2	391	2	1	14	5	62	998
Other Vegetables	2,092	42	223	126	207	878	80	279	3,927
Orchards ..	2,592	230	232	269	915	1,165	324	214	5,941
Vineyards ..	2	6	2	54	2,088	191	77	..	2,420
Grass and Clover	18	70	122	8	1	14	11	17	261
Seed Tobacco ..	..	..	1	..	..	7	63	..	71
Flax ..	30	4	222	1	..	2	24	22	305

Area Cultivated
1947-48.

A summary of the area under cultivation in each County.

VICTORIA—AREA UNDER CULTIVATION

Districts and Counties.	Grain Crops.					Potatoes.	Onions.	Hay (Wheaten, Oaten, Lucerne, Grass, &c).
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Malze.	Peas.			
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Central District—								
Bourke	8,573	8,270	3,899	..	177	3,984	790	35,207
Grant	24,034	8,472	17,323	..	2,701	9,795	1,545	28,353
Mornington	54	71	77	382	72	6,758	292	31,652
Evelyn	53	11	155	9	9	4,414	7	6,715
North-Central District—								
Anglesey	646	592	18	56	46	807	10	5,445
Dalhousie	2,403	1,773	102	..	10	3,316	..	7,297
Talbot	25,946	11,791	975	..	125	8,584	..	26,794
Western District—								
Grenville	13,132	6,623	2,069	..	1,619	993	1,555	18,344
Polwarth	309	223	837	..	860	3,161	1,065	8,325
Heytesbury	172	6	46	..	50	115	..	13,900
Hampden	14,931	8,029	784	..	..	159	141	17,515
Ripon	37,766	17,318	394	..	5	872	2	13,683
Villiers	677	1,743	350	..	723	2,982	695	23,815
Normanby	658	1,194	693	..	1,451	881	1	15,283
Dundas	2,054	5,155	318	..	1,097	38	8	14,709
Follett	38	47	10	..	..	41	..	2,945
Wimmera District—								
Lowan	228,521	69,848	20,225	..	..	12	10	25,839
Borong	563,413	52,564	28,663	..	..	198	1	35,008
Kara Kara	178,995	47,678	2,044	..	..	37	..	13,714
Mallee District—								
Millewa	106,857	5,493	85	..	..	..	..	4,455
Weeah	171,770	31,780	1,1437	..	..	..	..	7,280
Karkaroc	723,050	117,168	39,304	..	..	..	..	28,741
Tatchera	428,192	67,960	5,552	..	..	..	1	25,233
Northern District—								
Gunbower	26,382	10,555	9,696	6	20	..	..	17,756
Gladstone	148,158	53,030	2,173	..	5	2	..	14,865
Bendigo	128,466	27,285	2,646	..	7	4	11	24,356
Rodney	67,558	26,067	8,272	4	41	7	14	40,521
Moira	280,159	58,268	1,605	1	50	14	13	34,062
North-Eastern District—								
Delatite	4,353	3,692	249	644	35	1,273	11	23,091
Bogong	35,134	6,360	230	795	29	595	3	19,526
Benambra	259	351	55	86	..	13	..	4,723
Wonnangatta .. ..	..	..	..	34	..	8	..	383
Gippsland District—								
Croajingolong	8	..	..	1,210	132	72	..	1,393
Tambo	3	21	83	1,525	10	43	7	1,443
Dargo	52	82	256	1,346	69	250	4	1,675
Tanjil	4,139	424	2,984	1,851	275	720	4	17,162
Bulu Bulu	247	175	580	19	55	9,252	532	45,938
Total for State ..	3,227,162	650,119	164,189	7,968	9,676	59,400	6,722	657,146

of the State for the season 1947-48 is given in the following table:—
FOR THE SEASON 1947-48.

Flax.	Green Fodder.	Grass and Clover for Seed.	Tobacco.	Vines.	Area Sown to Vegetables (other than Potatoes and Onions).	Orchards.	All Other Crops.	Total Area under Crops.	Land in Fallow.	Total Area under Cultivation.
Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
93	2,372	35	..	..	10,533	10,469	1,316	85,718	32,260	117,978
902	1,157	177	..	..	3,315	1,409	546	99,729	30,943	130,672
155	6,525	351	..	3	5,524	11,418	1,399	64,733	11,079	75,812
..	991	10	..	1	2,546	6,552	459	21,932	3,689	25,621
..	614	108	..	..	70	11	2	8,425	2,138	10,563
45	653	438	..	40	18	34	28	16,157	1,701	17,858
..	1,273	2,554	..	15	55	3,106	232	81,450	20,166	101,616
775	184	1,194	..	1	250	242	290	47,271	7,030	54,301
1,205	1,433	2,734	1	..	954	155	421	21,683	2,341	24,024
..	586	..	..	..	13	34	96	15,018	2,198	17,216
2,572	348	579	..	..	33	8	39	45,138	4,707	49,845
2,387	64	470	..	..	7	5	131	73,104	10,093	83,197
749	1,248	180	..	..	110	16	236	33,524	8,654	42,178
685	795	296	..	..	238	635	649	23,459	3,784	27,243
979	348	406	..	2	108	28	452	25,702	4,303	30,005
69	34	400	..	..	..	34	60	3,678	1,443	5,121
..	60	725	..	25	24	1,012	221	346,522	199,037	545,559
2	117	10	..	646	401	2,013	618	683,654	505,793	1,189,447
3	70	..	..	43	5	241	80	242,910	159,105	402,015
..	..	..	..	163	..	58	182	117,293	39,480	156,773
..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3,695	225,963	137,041	363,004
..	184	..	..	30,232	507	2,409	2,754	944,349	531,686	1,476,035
..	1,429	25	..	7,563	1,227	1,468	702	539,352	326,282	865,634
..	2,772	40	3	18	188	1,256	929	69,621	24,261	93,882
..	374	..	..	1	66	214	10	218,898	112,040	330,938
..	774	70	2	32	1,493	2,054	23	187,223	85,037	272,260
29	1,568	259	..	267	1,414	11,515	36	157,572	49,301	206,873
..	887	340	24	684	2,698	12,395	101	391,301	169,557	560,858
882	2,762	290	515	76	131	536	516	39,059	3,296	42,355
313	1,478	..	413	3,972	272	1,409	372	70,901	12,724	83,625
..	648	..	..	..	3	28	100	6,266	756	7,022
..	4	..	..	..	44	4	5	482	81	563
..	563	..	..	..	551	24	68	4,021	79	4,100
..	796	10	..	..	1,095	41	115	5,192	430	5,622
2	1,117	7	..	..	1,297	146	261	6,564	1,306	7,870
..	3,662	..	..	..	351	127	824	32,523	6,879	39,402
336	8,210	38	..	..	365	407	608	66,762	16,606	83,368
12,183	46,100	11,746	958	43,784	35,907	71,513	18,576	5,023,149	2,527,306	7,550,455

Yields of
Principal Crops.

The table which follows shows the yields, in Counties,

VICTORIA—YIELDS OF PRINCIPAL

Districts and Counties.	Grain Crops.					Potatoes.
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Peas.	
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.
Central District—						
Bourke	148,568	248,174	92,433	..	5,220	15,596
Grant	473,076	257,979	556,820	..	70,429	24,534
Mornington	77	1,021	1,508	13,722	3,035	22,375
Evelyn	745	196	4,195	221	360	14,284
North-Central District—						
Anglesey	13,184	12,362	384	1,802	1,116	2,536
Dalhousie	33,914	41,317	2,126	..	62	10,878
Talbot	460,294	317,005	30,266	..	5,775	27,428
Western District—						
Grenville	246,967	209,442	79,358	..	45,992	2,647
Polwarth	5,937	2,076	17,577	..	22,292	11,471
Heytesbury	1,957	63	816	..	883	227
Hampden	247,116	237,973	23,103	..	..	510
Ripon	676,756	590,399	12,462	..	93	1,869
Villiers	6,091	41,876	8,615	..	21,427	9,237
Normanby	10,000	23,583	18,326	..	32,088	2,145
Dundas	15,123	61,035	6,454	..	35,976	130
Follett	466	569	..	..	..	132
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	3,939,981	1,485,450	376,041	..	..	33
Borong	10,917,670	1,180,886	595,049	..	..	376
Kara Kara	3,291,936	1,367,196	50,692	..	..	120
Mallee District—						
Millewa	336,985	46,740	413	..	..	..
Weeah	1,491,902	398,713	160,487	..	..	..
Karkaroc	7,630,215	1,790,955	642,875	..	..	..
Tatchera	4,898,801	1,458,507	118,648	..	..	..
Northern District—						
Gunbower	319,067	301,009	231,293	200	310	..
Gladstone	2,452,668	1,554,505	51,728	..	93	4
Bendigo	2,095,584	809,292	70,620	..	93	20
Rodney	1,196,420	848,283	265,618	240	1,550	24
Moira	5,153,265	1,826,458	37,609	50	124	49
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	73,493	65,444	4,434	15,263	533	3,620
Bogong	762,847	185,675	4,667	23,355	496	1,602
Benambra	2,715	6,345	1,503	4,748	..	43
Wonnangatta .. ..	..	..	..	460	..	11
Gippsland District—						
Croajingolong	62	..	..	63,543	976	170
Tambo	42	569	1,719	77,525	115	176
Dargo	734	939	4,715	57,954	2,201	949
Tanjil	83,908	7,695	91,449	64,561	6,203	2,349
Buln Buln	3,816	1,239	12,762	340	1,668	29,337
Total for State	46,962,385	15,380,970	3,576,771	323,984	259,110	184,882

NOTE.—The letter "F" signifies that the crop was a failure.

of the principal crops for the season 1947-48.

CROPS FOR THE SEASON 1947-48.

Onions.	Hay (Wheaten, Oaten, Lucerne, Grass, &c.).	Grass and Clover for Seed.	Tobacco.	Wine Made.	Dried Vine-Fruits.			
					Raisins.	Sultanas.	Currants.	
Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Gallons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
8,745	55,147	46	..	} 2,958,292	..	..	..
8,760	46,414	186	..		..	..	..
2,593	52,588	222	..		..	..	..
43	10,900	14	..		..	..	..
57	9,003	57	..		..	..	..
..	11,590	616	..		..	..	..
..	50,534	4,402	..		..	..	..
15,006	33,594	1,741	..		..	..	..
12,733	14,341	4,935	2		..	..	..
..	23,760	..	..		..	..	..
1,120	32,421	505	..		..	..	..
17	25,826	270	..		..	..	..
6,978	42,697	442	..		..	..	..
7	26,483	341	..		..	..	..
56	21,165	965	..		..	..	..
..	5,032	1,040	..		..	..	..
66	39,612	1,090	..		..	..	4
7	52,628	7	..		..	..	5½
..	21,391	..	..		..	..	..
..	2,815	13	147	26
..	5,815
..	25,923	4,430	36,923	7,547
5	28,297	4	743	4,897	501
..	24,951	63	31	
..	23,749
97	37,753	146	23		½
88	59,652	349
72	51,301	138	212		..	3	3	2
68	41,532	232	728	
24	34,633	..	166	
..	8,566	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	657	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	3,170	..	..	..	..	..	..
44	2,681	13	..	..	..	..	..
21	2,997	13	..	..	..	..	..
28	33,412	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,905	79,408	56	..	..	..	..	..
61,540	1,042,438	17,893	1,162	2,958,292	5,189	41,971	8,086	

Area, Yield
and Gross
Value of
Crops, Season
1947-48.

The following table shows the area under, the yield from, and the gross value of each of the principal crops in Victoria for the season 1947-48.

VICTORIA—AREA, YIELD, AND GROSS VALUE OF CROPS,
1947-48.

Crop.	Area.	Yield.	Gross Value.(a)
	Acres.		£
Wheat	3,227,162	46,962,385 bushels	32,130,370(b)
Oats	650,119	15,380,970 bushels	5,715,609
Barley—			
Malting (2 row)	149,567	3,253,774 bushels	2,313,742
Other (6 row)	14,622	322,997 bushels	187,066
Maize	7,968	323,984 bushels	162,467
Rye	8,148	49,554 bushels	37,166
Hay—			
Wheaten	52,020	75,942 tons	364,388
Oaten	340,036	511,831 tons	2,498,103
Lucerne, &c.	46,994	86,058 tons	567,110
Meadow	218,096	368,607 tons	1,874,342
Straw		30,000 tons	111,750
Grass and Clover Seed	11,746	17,893 cwt.	90,807
Canary Seed	36	240 cwt.	621
Peas for grain	9,676	259,110 bushels	155,505
Green Fodder	46,100		115,630
Potatoes	59,400	184,882 tons	2,251,590(c)
Onions	6,722	61,540 tons	904,887
Other Vegetables	35,907		3,369,105
Sugar Beet	553	6,362 tons of beet (584 tons of sugar)	19,086
Turnips, Beet, &c., for fodder	1,042	4,869 tons	38,952
Mangolds and Pumpkins	537	2,455 tons	12,275
Tobacco	958	1,162 cwt.	18,379
Hops	240	2,538 cwt.	41,451
Broom Millet	422	2,134 cwt. fibre	8,106
Chicory	442	1,095 cwt. seed	737
Flax	12,183	540 tons	38,880
Linseed	384	19,427 tons of straw	159,977
.. .. .		2,746 bush seed	4,901
Orchards—			
Productive	57,943		3,578,524
Unproductive	13,570		..
Grapes—			
Table	1,470	4,328 tons	151,480
Wine	6,327	16,329 tons	253,309
Drying	33,641	Wine made 2,958,292 gallons	
		213,457 tons producing—	
		41,971 tons of sultanas	2,878,877
		5,189 tons of raisins	332,208
		8,086 tons of currants	461,709
Vines, unproductive	2,346		
Other Crops	6,772		401,129
Total Crops	5,023,149		61,250,238

(a) The gross value is based on the wholesale price realized in the principal markets. The places where primary products are absorbed locally or where they become raw materials for a secondary industry are presumed to be the principal markets.

(b) Includes Flour Tax payments.

(c) Includes Subsidies.

THE GRAIN ELEVATOR SYSTEM FOR THE BULK HANDLING OF WHEAT IN VICTORIA.

The *Grain Elevator Act* 1934 provided for the handling of grain in bulk, for wheat within defined areas to be delivered to elevators, and for the constitution of the Grain Elevators Board. It also empowered the Board to borrow money to the extent that the money owing at any one time shall not exceed £2,000,000. Amending legislation passed in 1940 increased the borrowing powers to £2,500,000.

Except for the Williamstown Terminal, the construction of elevators has been completed. The scheme comprises 138 country elevators, with a total storage capacity of 14,951,000 bushels, serving terminals at Geelong and Williamstown. These terminals, which have storage capacities of 4,050,000 bushels and 2,600,000 bushels respectively, are designed to receive wheat from railway trucks at the rate of 20,000 bushels per hour and to load into ships at 64,000 bushels per hour.

In addition to the elevators within the scheme nine mill silos were leased by the Board as from 1942-43 and these provided a further storage capacity of 1,688,000 bushels. The total country storage capacity was therefore increased to 16,639,000 bushels.

The Geelong section, which embraces the western portion of the State bounded on the east by the Melbourne-Mildura railway line, came into operation at the beginning of the 1939-40 season.

Receipts for the season 1947-48 amounted to 35,361,007 bushels.

From data obtained from the Wheat Industry Stabilization Board, the Commonwealth Statistician has compiled tables showing the number of licences issued to wheat growers within various acreage groups.

The table which follows shows the number of licences issued in Victoria and the area licensed for wheat for grain. Although the area licensed is shown as 2,878,000 acres, the actual area sown was 2,757,080 acres. The number of licences issued does not necessarily indicate the total number of wheat growers as original licences only were tabulated, the share-farming licences being omitted. The actual number of holdings on which wheat for grain was grown was not tabulated for the season 1941-42.

**Wheat
Licences—
Season
1941-42.**

VICTORIA—WHEAT (FOR GRAIN) LICENCES AND AREA
LICENSED—SEASON 1941-42.

	Acreage Groups.									Total.
	Under 50 Acres.	50 and under 100.	100 and under 150.	150 and under 200.	200 and under 250.	250 and under 300.	300 and under 500.	500 and under 1,000.	1,000 and over.	
Number of Licences Issued	1,929	2,043	2,045	1,648	1,918	1,125	2,507	760	53	14,028*
Area Licensed (1,000 Acres)	50	146	241	269	410	296	927	466	73	2,878

* Excluding 3,914 Share-farmers.

Wheat Deliveries in Size Groups—Season 1942-43.

The number of growers who delivered wheat from the 1942-43 season's harvest and their deliveries in Victoria are classified in the following table according to size groups. Wheat grown in one State and delivered in another has been tabulated according to State of delivery, hence particulars of a number of growers in New South Wales are included therein. Wheat grown in New South Wales and delivered in Victoria amounted to 1,529,000 bushels. The statement shows that 58 per cent. of the growers delivered wheat up to 3,000 bushels and that such wheat was approximately 26 per cent. of total deliveries. For the whole of Australia the percentages were 62 and 30 respectively.

VICTORIA—GROWERS DELIVERING WHEAT AND
QUANTITY DELIVERED—SEASON 1942-43.

	Size Groups in Bushels.									Total.
	Up to 1,000 Bushels.	1,001 to 1,500.	1,501 to 2,000.	2,001 to 2,500.	2,501 to 3,000.	3,001 to 4,000.	4,001 to 5,000.	5,001 to 6,000.	6,001 Bushels and over	
Number of Growers ..	2,692	1,312	1,240	1,000	1,069	1,749	997	650	1,798	12,507
Wheat delivered (1,000 bushels)	1,521	1,632	2,155	2,254	2,959	5,943	4,482	3,574	16,402	40,922

Wheat growing in counties.

The principal wheat-growing areas are in the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern districts. In the season 1947-48 these districts were responsible for 93 per cent. of the total wheat production of the State. Although other districts provided

only small proportions of the total area, they are not to be regarded as unsuitable for wheat growing, as their average yield per acre is usually greater than in the areas mentioned. The yield in 1947-48 was 46,962,385 bushels, or an average yield per acre of 14·55 bushels in comparison with an average of 13·99 bushels in 1946-47 and an average of 9·11 bushels in 1945-46. The area sown and the production of wheat for grain in different counties for each of the three seasons, 1946-48, are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—WHEAT AREAS AND YIELDS IN COUNTIES
FOR THE THREE SEASONS, 1946-1948.

Districts and Counties.	Year ended March.								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1946.	1947.	1948.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bus.	Bus.	Bus.	
Central—									
Bourke ..	2,309	9,024	8,573	40,262	172,581	148,568	17·44	19·12	17·33
Grant ..	12,953	23,115	24,034	193,224	468,474	473,079	14·92	20·27	19·68
Mornington ..	2	3	54	18	126	77	9·00	15·75	1·43
Evelyn ..	4	4	53	78	63	745	19·50	15·75	14·06
Total ..	15,268	32,151	32,714	233,582	641,244	622,469	15·30	19·94	19·03
North-Central—									
Anglesey ..	240	917	646	7,591	25,485	13,184	31·63	27·79	20·41
Dalhousie ..	913	1,908	2,403	25,943	35,592	33,914	28·42	18·65	14·11
Talbot ..	12,589	23,591	25,946	235,457	486,753	460,294	18·70	20·63	17·74
Total ..	13,742	26,416	28,995	268,991	547,830	507,392	19·57	20·74	17·50
Western—									
Grenville ..	3,824	10,686	13,132	91,095	190,194	246,967	23·82	17·80	18·81
Polwarth ..	8	529	309	268	4,266	5,937	33·50	8·06	19·21
Heytesbury ..	36	3	172	1,026	54	1,957	28·50	18·00	11·38
Hampden ..	6,888	13,062	14,931	221,861	265,941	247,116	32·21	20·36	16·55
Ripon ..	13,009	35,871	37,766	352,959	801,963	676,756	27·43	22·36	17·92
Villiers ..	355	449	677	7,585	4,965	6,091	21·37	11·06	9·00
Normanby ..	273	538	658	7,007	7,179	10,000	25·67	13·34	15·20
Dundas ..	826	2,668	2,054	16,772	12,939	15,123	20·31	4·85	7·36
Follett ..	108	53	38	1,740	378	466	16·11	7·13	12·26
Total ..	25,327	63,859	69,737	700,313	1,287,879	1,210,413	27·65	20·17	17·36
Wimmera—									
Lowan ..	217,704	234,905	228,521	2,568,418	5,785,629	3,939,981	11·80	24·63	17·24
Borong ..	606,014	595,941	563,413	6,224,821	11,972,703	10,917,670	10·27	20·09	19·38
Kara Kara ..	189,021	193,510	178,995	2,048,769	3,770,835	3,291,936	10·84	19·49	18·39
Total ..	1,012,739	1,024,356	970,929	10,842,008	21,529,167	18,149,587	10·71	21·02	18·69

VICTORIA—WHEAT AREAS AND YIELDS IN COUNTIES FOR THE THREE SEASONS, 1946-1948—*continued.*

Districts and Counties.	Year ended March.								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1946.	1947.	1948.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1946.	1947.	1948.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bus.	Bus.	Bus.
Mallee—									
Millewa ..	119,346	142,923	106,857	474,292	492,429	336,985	3·97	3·45	3·15
Weeah ..	174,882	180,670	171,770	1,067,548	1,871,346	1,491,902	6·10	10·36	8·68
Karkaroc ..	812,081	806,489	723,050	4,623,941	7,402,656	7,600,215	5·69	9·18	10·51
Tatchera ..	502,463	491,612	428,192	3,235,909	4,598,970	4,898,801	6·44	9·35	11·44
Total ..	1,608,772	1,621,694	1,429,869	9,401,690	14,365,401	14,327,903	5·84	8·86	10·02
Northern—									
Gunbower ..	27,846	34,970	26,382	221,437	243,126	319,067	7·95	6·95	12·10
Gladstone ..	131,300	157,434	148,158	1,545,502	2,251,371	2,452,668	11·77	14·30	16·55
Bendigo ..	96,496	131,494	128,466	1,164,692	1,604,484	2,095,584	12·07	12·20	16·31
Rodney ..	55,675	78,330	67,558	801,512	1,278,456	1,196,420	14·40	16·32	17·71
Moira ..	239,410	287,156	280,159	3,822,887	4,271,664	5,153,265	15·97	14·88	18·39
Total ..	550,727	689,384	650,723	7,556,030	9,649,101	11,217,004	13·72	14·00	17·24
North-Eastern—									
Delatite ..	2,146	5,025	4,353	61,774	116,943	73,493	28·79	23·27	16·88
Bogong ..	19,631	33,108	35,134	492,072	726,759	762,847	25·07	21·95	21·71
Benambra ..	193	164	250	3,976	2,961	2,715	20·60	18·05	10·48
Wonnangatta ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	21,970	38,297	39,746	557,822	846,663	839,055	25·39	22·11	21·11
Gippsland—									
Croajingolong ..	..	..	8	..	..	62	..	..	7·75
Tambo ..	26	16	3	457	342	42	17·58	21·38	14·00
Dargo ..	151	85	52	2,089	1,209	734	13·83	14·22	14·11
Tanjil ..	2,249	4,670	4,139	62,205	99,483	83,908	27·66	21·30	20·27
Buln Buln ..	422	207	247	8,573	2,589	3,816	20·32	12·51	15·45
Total ..	2,848	4,978	4,449	73,324	103,623	88,562	25·75	20·82	19·91
Total (State)	3,251,393	3,501,135	3,227,162	29,633,760	48,970,908	46,962,385	9·11	13·99	14·55

The production of wheat in the other Australian States in 1947-48 was as follows:—New South Wales, 95,227,000 bushels; South Australia, 32,524,000 bushels; Western Australia, 34,500,000 bushels; Queensland, 10,685,000 bushels; and Tasmania, 118,000 bushels. The total production for the Commonwealth was 220,116,000 bushels.

In the following table the average yield per acre in each of the main wheat growing counties for the seasons 1937-38 to 1948-49 is shown in conjunction with the approximate mean rainfall recorded each month. The rainfall during the growing season is shown separately to indicate its effect on wheat production. While the table is useful as a general reference in respect of the relationship of wheat yields to rainfall, it should be remembered that temperatures, winds, and other factors such as the extent to which fallowing, rotational cropping, and fertilizing are practised have also considerable effect on average yields, as do also the varieties of wheat used.

Monthly Rainfall and Average Yields of Wheat 1937-38 to 1948-49.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1937-38 TO 1948-49.

8433/40-5

County and Year.	Approximate Mean Rainfall each Month.												Total for Year.	Total Wheat-growing Period.	Average Wheat Yield per Acre.
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	Wheat-growing Months.						Dec.			
						June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.				
Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Busheis.
Lowan—															
1937 ..	226	87	114	55	155	93	107	256	205	152	43	247	1,740	856	23.92
1938 ..	119	152	33	236	27	212	189	88	78	27	80	20	1,261	674	12.44
1939 ..	161	123	28	187	201	194	122	389	126	115	253	50	1,949	1,199	20.05
1940 ..	85	16	30	257	115	67	200	82	92	72	177	109	1,302	690	14.01
1941 ..	436	29	223	171	56	174	317	117	313	146	77	41	2,100	1,144	21.13
1942 ..	87	88	38	117	385	306	266	335	282	242	184	59	2,389	1,615	23.76
1943 ..	57	123	18	163	85	206	227	242	256	109	95	52	1,633	1,135	22.60
1944 ..	39	62	26	161	213	45	122	19	66	189	77	139	1,158	518	4.88
1945 ..	74	224	18	11	148	180	124	307	134	199	155	104	1,678	1,099	11.80
1946 ..	293	447	359	57	123	221	421	174	120	90	76	190	2,571	1,102	24.63
1947 ..	28	149	317	117	82	272	408	232	212	304	200	317	2,638	1,628	17.24
1948 ..	17	65	23	425	165	226	151	173	141	368	181	199	2,134	1,240	23.60
Borung—															
1937 ..	193	99	87	21	114	128	77	187	145	291	42	278	1,662	870	25.67
1938 ..	168	89	13	132	38	183	211	62	42	15	59	7	1,019	572	10.59
1939 ..	97	208	12	261	267	172	120	308	95	76	273	25	1,914	1,044	18.01
1940 ..	69	9	15	236	70	58	147	50	88	48	145	97	1,012	516	6.35
1941 ..	343	28	180	126	44	218	259	103	322	165	133	45	1,966	1,200	23.46
1942 ..	93	55	44	142	356	262	179	360	222	237	198	51	2,199	1,458	28.26
1943 ..	68	90	16	119	78	150	178	200	184	102	42	38	1,265	856	15.55
1944 ..	53	61	22	143	178	27	142	7	52	142	69	156	1,052	439	1.69
1945 ..	67	227	18	10	87	251	161	268	93	125	134	49	1,490	1,032	10.27
1946 ..	291	359	273	70	134	200	296	139	102	77	81	111	2,133	895	20.09
1947 ..	19	112	300	90	47	215	288	168	169	311	181	228	2,128	1,332	19.38
1948 ..	15	40	10	265	157	233	150	88	127	401	116	189	1,791	1,115	25.86
Kara Kara—															
1937 ..	222	95	42	19	129	98	76	229	135	332	26	258	1,661	896	21.99
1938 ..	132	86	13	123	28	225	201	68	37	16	55	4	988	602	8.38
1939 ..	93	293	32	518	279	191	118	323	107	88	280	25	2,347	1,107	22.91
1940 ..	83	12	16	197	42	49	157	43	135	47	81	84	946	512	2.73
1941 ..	306	34	167	90	33	189	265	155	326	192	176	49	1,982	1,303	24.13
1942 ..	100	50	77	99	373	260	188	371	214	240	181	44	2,197	1,454	24.18
1943 ..	79	96	14	104	81	146	203	193	187	84	52	31	1,270	865	12.87
1944 ..	37	37	52	165	178	26	162	10	63	131	57	135	1,053	449	0.86
1945 ..	49	107	13	8	85	318	182	254	95	133	135	33	1,412	1,117	10.84
1946 ..	330	340	256	87	129	185	261	138	91	110	93	141	2,161	878	19.49
1947 ..	11	118	317	93	48	234	298	176	157	378	169	228	2,227	1,412	18.39
1948 ..	40	64	9	195	148	203	158	94	118	358	103	97	1,587	1,034	21.28

Land Settlement, &c.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1937-38 TO 1948-49—*continued.*

County and Year.	Approximate Mean Rainfall each Month.											Total for Year.	Total Wheat-growing Period.	Average Wheat Yield per Acre.	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	Wheat-growing Months.						Nov.				Dec.
					May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.					
	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Bushels.
Millewa—															
1937 ..	196	10	47	30	71	185	68	191	36	163	30	127	1,154	714	9·67
1938 ..	122	37	2	63	34	26	186	45	5	29	10	..	559	325	0·95
1939 ..	6	367	37	34	126	118	69	154	67	87	259	1	1,325	621	9·20
1940 ..	34	7	4	131	22	10	64	34	89	22	54	34	505	241	0·42
1941 ..	284	9	49	10	18	154	140	101	90	157	92	35	1,139	660	9·28
1942 ..	19	43	9	121	174	178	112	179	36	211	45	29	1,156	890	11·16
1943 ..	7	36	3	38	23	33	43	93	81	52	59	66	534	325	0·01
1944 ..	35	15	5	18	98	16	58	14	13	65	74	74	485	264	0·04
1945 ..	4	12	4	1	56	176	82	89	39	142	65	69	739	584	3·97
1946 ..	125	218	88	48	80	131	153	40	22	38	187	91	1,221	464	3·45
1947 ..	13	211	250	30	2	107	123	92	106	153	84	135	1,306	583	3·15
1948 ..	9	2	1	143	60	140	69	76	23	186	62	80	851	554	5·94
Weeah—															
1937 ..	139	43	101	11	63	135	92	211	63	215	36	196	1,305	779	12·75
1938 ..	123	85	..	158	6	85	189	57	10	7	44	8	772	354	6·87
1939 ..	32	214	6	103	119	131	77	187	36	27	221	5	1,158	577	7·71
1940 ..	45	17	12	246	35	13	84	40	118	25	62	72	789	315	5·31
1941 ..	275	12	100	51	23	225	171	64	198	194	82	32	1,427	875	13·80
1942 ..	66	32	13	103	186	187	158	220	123	129	139	33	1,389	1,003	13·06
1943 ..	41	70	8	85	35	101	83	132	107	151	82	62	957	609	7·84
1944 ..	35	15	22	57	143	8	92	7	35	79	71	101	665	364	2·53
1945 ..	10	64	6	5	77	198	88	126	77	135	90	86	962	701	6·10
1946 ..	147	306	154	36	77	127	140	105	51	45	105	70	1,363	545	10·36
1947 ..	3	180	196	38	35	103	181	139	135	183	132	179	1,504	776	8·63
1948 ..	4	29	5	195	106	159	104	68	47	313	131	144	1,305	797	11·84
Karkaroc—															
1937 ..	179	36	55	12	83	175	62	179	41	285	26	176	1,309	825	13·97
1938 ..	102	49	4	60	20	78	175	61	6	25	17	1	598	365	3·89
1939 ..	24	375	34	135	169	149	85	173	59	45	234	2	1,484	680	12·93
1940 ..	48	15	8	151	26	11	67	34	153	16	74	55	655	307	2·73
1941 ..	239	15	73	23	21	139	159	64	163	162	117	39	1,214	708	12·90
1942 ..	40	37	20	110	216	199	140	224	75	165	130	26	1,382	1,019	15·42
1943 ..	34	42	5	61	38	88	88	133	99	94	56	35	773	540	7·13
1944 ..	22	15	8	95	121	7	74	7	29	73	71	88	610	311	1·14
1945 ..	20	51	6	4	55	239	85	136	42	148	74	54	914	705	5·69
1946 ..	213	275	101	29	134	133	131	92	33	44	115	68	1,368	567	9·18
1947 ..	6	176	221	55	24	117	168	108	98	195	159	145	1,472	710	10·51
1948 ..	6	21	2	133	96	155	67	38	42	285	94	91	1,030	683	10·32

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1937-38 TO 1948-49—continued.

County and Year.	Approximate Mean Rainfall each Month.												Total for Year.	Total Wheat-growing Period.	Average Wheat Yield per Acre.
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	Wheat-growing Months.						Nov.	Dec.			
					May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.					
Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Bushels.
Tatchera—															
1937 ..	156	43	14	11	82	128	46	148	38	302	11	91	1,070	744	11-32
1938 ..	100	49	1	42	17	117	165	68	5	15	13	1	593	387	2-46
1939 ..	19	304	34	165	247	154	99	178	87	54	220	4	1,655	819	17-03
1940 ..	48	15	11	130	15	22	84	40	187	9	62	28	651	357	1-61
1941 ..	211	19	69	13	27	77	175	62	168	137	120	32	1,110	646	8-42
1942 ..	41	89	48	93	219	213	119	230	59	134	142	32	1,419	974	15-19
1943 ..	15	36	4	63	27	90	88	121	93	107	43	28	715	526	4-42
1944 ..	20	9	11	117	119	10	70	5	26	75	68	106	636	305	0-14
1945 ..	17	28	13	..	54	276	95	162	39	219	112	44	1,059	845	6-44
1946 ..	271	313	99	28	132	145	124	105	27	50	120	75	1,489	583	9-35
1947 ..	15	159	237	49	25	127	174	96	105	228	172	137	1,524	755	11-44
1948 ..	9	55	2	107	118	130	55	29	64	279	79	94	1,021	675	8-38
Gunbower—															
1937 ..	138	46	5	44	89	95	44	158	77	215	11	79	1,001	678	10-79
1938 ..	104	66	1	39	17	157	184	60	9	6	27	1	671	433	1-94
1939 ..	12	400	85	200	192	176	105	203	96	94	235	8	1,806	866	18-14
1940 ..	35	10	14	155	10	29	112	36	199	18	76	62	756	404	1-28
1941 ..	300	13	95	12	35	98	236	58	158	123	69	22	1,219	708	12-42
1942 ..	65	76	142	54	252	191	146	249	96	138	106	35	1,550	1,072	14-72
1943 ..	88	32	7	66	46	78	105	79	94	91	50	34	770	493	3-72
1944 ..	31	13	33	138	156	19	89	4	26	85	66	88	748	379	0-33
1945 ..	54	56	22	2	43	209	124	215	49	175	122	37	1,108	815	7-95
1946 ..	227	338	77	34	109	112	131	85	29	67	148	39	1,396	533	6-95
1947 ..	10	116	205	52	21	89	253	118	130	304	144	232	1,674	915	12-10
1948 ..	13	86	1	149	147	189	71	31	74	259	89	104	1,213	771	9-39
Gladstone—															
1937 ..	209	75	27	34	103	93	57	196	103	333	21	193	1,444	885	19-33
1938 ..	103	56	8	91	30	193	211	72	25	13	39	4	845	544	6-19
1939 ..	72	350	38	431	293	208	127	272	97	76	303	15	2,282	1,073	20-05
1940 ..	73	21	18	173	24	45	122	41	187	31	52	60	847	450	2-42
1941 ..	270	34	143	60	27	147	226	109	238	190	123	34	1,601	937	19-51
1942 ..	74	57	78	68	358	261	168	335	156	173	198	35	1,961	1,451	19-93
1943 ..	88	54	10	89	62	120	199	158	134	87	50	36	1,087	760	10-97
1944 ..	21	26	34	149	154	23	129	9	46	106	48	83	828	467	1-01
1945 ..	47	110	18	4	100	345	165	250	83	130	132	29	1,413	1,073	11-77
1946 ..	290	305	140	67	129	152	222	111	60	96	116	86	1,774	770	14-30
1947 ..	4	102	292	82	37	100	297	147	150	347	169	200	2,017	1,168	16-55
1948 ..	35	138	4	135	160	194	118	65	90	342	113	130	1,524	969	16-05

Land Settlement, &c.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1937-38 TO 1948-49—continued.

County and Year.	Approximate Mean Rainfall each Month.											Total for Year.	Total Wheat-growing Period.	Average Wheat Yield per Acre.	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	Wheat-growing Months.						Nov.				Dec.
					May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.					
	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Bushels.
Bendigo—															
1937 ..	128	93	8	111	116	94	61	176	97	192	13	99	1,188	736	16.34
1938 ..	98	63	6	54	30	208	188	49	10	7	35	2	750	492	3.36
1939 ..	55	400	109	412	221	231	104	261	93	106	244	17	2,253	1,016	18.46
1940 ..	49	24	27	186	24	51	145	38	196	26	50	56	872	480	3.92
1941 ..	245	31	157	41	23	121	208	59	211	153	120	28	1,397	775	16.03
1942 ..	82	130	133	70	352	242	152	293	116	232	155	25	1,982	1,387	18.32
1943 ..	150	41	5	76	55	96	167	101	130	119	57	38	1,035	668	9.39
1944 ..	30	23	29	155	177	15	107	10	31	94	45	78	794	434	1.81
1945 ..	63	81	19	2	71	267	161	266	66	151	101	32	1,280	982	12.07
1946 ..	197	294	102	76	114	113	199	88	34	99	131	85	1,532	647	12.20
1947 ..	5	91	225	53	29	126	263	130	157	331	118	234	1,762	1,036	16.31
1948 ..	20	209	1	172	174	221	119	40	81	250	97	125	1,509	885	15.26
Rodney—															
1937 ..	164	73	19	51	159	131	78	163	107	203	14	94	1,256	841	17.29
1938 ..	120	104	5	55	32	275	151	80	14	10	30	2	878	562	3.62
1939 ..	45	481	212	621	200	311	139	388	132	153	236	25	2,943	1,323	17.30
1940 ..	24	16	48	191	47	50	167	55	204	32	52	89	975	555	4.69
1941 ..	516	28	234	28	85	113	226	73	169	159	114	47	1,792	825	20.19
1942 ..	87	260	166	70	371	213	180	293	120	208	117	55	2,140	1,385	17.99
1943 ..	168	34	4	100	73	127	169	136	164	116	64	24	1,179	785	13.58
1944 ..	13	28	47	165	231	42	126	2	35	114	63	82	948	550	1.80
1945 ..	146	52	12	4	66	244	173	322	85	217	141	34	1,496	1,107	14.40
1946 ..	264	372	121	89	94	139	222	114	33	121	188	71	1,828	723	16.32
1947 ..	14	98	225	72	44	132	303	171	208	357	120	339	2,083	1,215	17.71
1948 ..	25	252	..	218	180	279	147	54	114	234	126	145	1,774	1,008	19.15
Moirā—															
1937 ..	206	68	33	58	145	148	91	204	121	278	43	102	1,497	987	19.13
1938 ..	96	71	3	83	54	292	170	149	27	13	9	3	970	705	8.72
1939 ..	22	548	297	676	120	401	165	459	150	271	221	20	3,350	1,566	12.94
1940 ..	24	5	19	260	65	55	159	64	224	35	74	127	1,111	602	8.99
1941 ..	539	46	432	18	81	155	243	76	156	150	99	56	2,051	861	23.07
1942 ..	108	176	143	82	355	236	143	255	102	177	237	69	2,083	1,268	18.76
1943 ..	140	32	12	129	72	114	153	154	168	126	58	12	1,170	787	12.72
1944 ..	5	16	52	163	270	51	129	2	36	100	86	148	1,058	588	2.22
1945 ..	222	31	4	17	55	264	164	298	92	252	180	34	1,613	1,125	15.97
1946 ..	216	442	137	91	98	150	267	133	33	113	236	60	1,976	794	14.88
1947 ..	20	117	263	52	48	155	342	185	185	284	122	348	2,121	1,199	18.39
1948 ..	18	198	1	173	213	253	106	66	129	243	208	223	1,831	1,010	18.05

Wheat Growing in conjunction with Sheep Grazing and Dairying.

On pages 455 and 456 of the 1938-39 issue of the *Year-Book*, tables appeared showing (a) the extent to which mixed farming was practised in conjunction with wheat growing and (b) the wheat productivity of the State in bag series per acre for the season 1935-36.

Varieties of Wheat.

The following statement shows the areas under the principal varieties of wheat, including wheat for hay, for the seasons 1945-46, 1946-47, and 1947-48. Varieties are tabulated in order of popularity for the last-mentioned season. The percentages shown indicate the fluctuation which has taken place amongst the popular varieties.

Over 100 varieties of wheat were sown. The number which was tried in the Mallee greatly exceeded that experimented with in any other district. A more extended list showing the area and percentage of each variety, and the ten principal varieties grown in the wheat-growing districts, may be obtained on application to the Government Statist.

VICTORIA—VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN EACH OF THE SEASONS, 1945-46, 1946-47, AND 1947-48.

Variety (in order of Popularity, Season 1947-48).	1945-46.		1946-47.		1947-48.	
	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.
	Acres.	%	Acres.	%	Acres.	%
Quadrat	649,118	19.29	959,167	26.89	1,219,054	37.18
Ghurka	836,021	24.84	724,048	20.30	418,011	12.75
Magnet	210,730	6.26	324,983	9.11	393,173	11.99
Bencubbin	194,952	5.80	299,205	8.39	301,881	9.21
Pindar	246,379	7.32	348,358	9.77	298,024	9.09
Ranee	223,290	6.64	313,345	8.79	208,527	6.36
Regalia	135,037	4.01	172,871	4.85	131,127	4.00
Insignia .. ..	..	..	4,076	0.11	62,989	1.92
Pinnacle .. ..	..	..	3,189	0.09	44,315	1.35
Bobin	38,103	1.13	50,401	1.41	40,225	1.23
Dundee	78,241	2.33	73,437	2.06	38,478	1.17
Baldmin	31,940	0.95	42,165	1.18	37,541	1.14
Rajah	13,926	0.41	23,618	0.66	20,484	0.62
Free Gallipoli	34,439	1.02	26,273	0.74	11,467	0.35
Sepoy	19,002	0.56	14,617	0.41	9,608	0.29
Mac's White	3,778	0.11	6,601	0.19	7,294	0.22
Glucub	5,977	0.18	8,814	0.25	6,353	0.19
Diadem .. ..	..	..	..	..	4,036	0.12
Turvey	5,628	0.17	3,678	0.10	3,448	0.11
Nabawa	4,380	0.13	4,293	0.12	2,933	0.09
C.M.G.	5,806	0.17	4,251	0.12	2,168	0.07
Waratah	3,010	0.09	2,484	0.07	1,857	0.06
Gluyas	654	0.02	566	0.02	1,111	0.03
Seagull	2,181	0.06	1,566	0.04	945	0.03
Major	5,897	0.18	2,420	0.07	888	0.03
Eureka	316	0.01	781	0.02	783	0.02
Gabo .. ..	..	..	94	..	667	0.02
Gular	2,141	0.06	1,221	0.03	594	0.02
Warigo .. ..	..	..	138	..	594	0.02
Bungulla	193	0.01	583	0.02	567	0.02
All Other Varieties	614,419	18.25	149,246	4.19	10,040	0.30
Total	3,365,558	100.00	3,566,489	100.00	3,279,182	100.00

It will be noted from the foregoing statement that changes have occurred in the leading varieties during the seasons shown. In the 1946-47 season, Quadrat became the variety most widely sown, and it is expected to become even more popular. New varieties, Insignia, Pinnacle, and Diadem, were released from the Research Station at Werribee in 1946 and 1947. All are expected to make further rapid headway.

Many changes have also taken place in the leading varieties of wheat in other Australian wheat-growing States during recent years. In New South Wales, Bencubbin has displaced Ford as the leading variety. In 1935-36 only 0·6 per cent. of the area was sown with Bencubbin. In Western Australia, Bencubbin has also displaced Nabawa, which was the leading variety with 47 per cent. of the total area sown in 1929. Nabawa has now declined to ninth place on the list, with only 1·2 per cent. of the area sown in 1947. In South Australia the area sown with Bencubbin was only ·66 per cent. of the total area sown in 1935-36, but the area now sown with this variety amounts to 21·95 per cent., of the total area sown. Free Gallipoli became the leading variety in Victoria in 1929-30, and continued as such until the season 1934-35, when it was superseded by Ghurka. This variety continued as the most popular until it was displaced by Quadrat at the 1946 sowing.

PRINCIPAL VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN AUSTRALIAN STATES, 1947-48.

New South Wales (1946-47.)		Victoria.		South Australia.		Western Australia.	
Variety.	Per-centage of Total Area.	Variety.	Per-centage of Total Area.	Variety.	Per-centage of Total Area.	Variety.	Per-centage of Total Area.
Bencubbin ..	45·70	Quadrat ..	37·18	Bencubbin ..	21·95	Bencubbin ..	30·89
Ford ..	10·80	Ghurka ..	12·75	Warigo ..	7·05	Bungulla ..	23·82
Dundee ..	4·70	Magnet ..	11·99	Waratah ..	6·53	Glucub ..	18·34
Eureka ..	4·10	Bencubbin ..	9·21	Ranee ..	6·41	Ranee ..	4·49
Bordan ..	3·40	Pindar ..	9·09	Sword ..	5·29	Merredin ..	3·19
Ranee ..	3·20	Ranee ..	6·36	Gluyas ..	5·04	Kondut ..	1·97
Waratah ..	2·70	Regalia ..	4·00	Marathon ..	4·51	Koorda ..	1·88
All others ..	25·40	All others ..	9·42	All others ..	43·22	All others ..	15·42
Total ..	100·00		100·00		100·00		100·00

Seed and Fertilizers used on Wheat Areas (grain and hay), 1947-48.

The total seed used for grain and hay areas amounted to 3,458,576 bushels, and total fertilizers to 87,382 tons. The average rate of sowing in the principal wheat-growing counties, ranged from 40 lb. of seed per acre in the County of Millewa to 88 lb. in Ripon.

SEED AND FERTILIZERS USED ON WHEAT AREAS
SEASON 1947-48.
(GRAIN AND HAY.)

District.	Area Sown.	Seed Used.		Fertilizers Used.
		Per Acre.	Total.	
	Acres.	lb.	Bushels.	Tons.
Central	36,837	88	54,028	1,566
North-Central	32,122	80	42,829	1,312
Western	72,912	85	103,292	3,590
Wimmera	988,724	70	1,153,511	30,624
Mallee	1,434,755	54	1,291,280	27,003
Northern	667,331	68	756,308	21,417
North-Eastern	41,489	73	50,478	1,667
Gippsland	5,012	82	6,850	203
Total State	3,279,182	63	3,458,576	87,382

Fallow. The large area of land fallowed for the next season's cropping operations is a feature of the three wheat-growing districts. Of the 2,527,306 acres in fallow during the season 1947-48, 1,034,489 were in the Mallee, 863,935 in the Wimmera, and 440,196 in the Northern districts. The total area of fallow in these three districts—2,338,620 acres—represented 93 per cent. of the land fallowed in the State.

The following table shows the acreage in fallow in various years, together with the area sown to wheat in each succeeding season :—

VICTORIA—LAND IN FALLOW AND WHEAT SOWN.

Season.			Land in Fallow.	Season.			Area Sown to Wheat.
			Acres.				Acres.
1901-02	..	..	681,778	1902-03	..	..	2,155,928
1911-12	..	..	1,469,608	1912-13	..	..	2,471,586
1921-22	..	..	2,052,964	1922-23	..	..	2,857,533
1931-32	..	..	2,145,819	1932-33	..	..	3,320,504
1935-36	..	..	2,358,777	1936-37	..	..	2,466,664
1936-37	..	..	2,483,163	1937-38	..	..	2,776,301
1937-38	..	..	2,604,556	1938-39	..	..	3,007,201
1938-39	..	..	2,543,225	1939-40	..	..	2,923,027
1939-40	..	..	2,377,405	1940-41	..	..	2,769,580
1940-41	..	..	1,887,418	1941-42	..	..	2,889,853
1941-42	..	..	2,101,360	1942-43	..	..	2,212,915
1942-43	..	..	1,660,171	1943-44	..	..	1,864,895
1943-44	..	..	1,719,363	1944-45	..	..	2,246,217
1944-45	..	..	1,694,097	1945-46	..	..	3,365,558
1945-46	..	..	2,394,032	1946-47	..	..	3,566,489
1946-47	..	..	2,460,350	1947-48	..	..	3,279,182
1947-48	..	..	2,527,306	1948-49	..	..	3,033,395

Wheat standard.

The weight of an imperial bushel of wheat is 60 lb., but the actual weight of a bushel of Victorian wheat of fair average quality standard is determined annually by the Chamber of Commerce.

The following table shows the standard determined in Victoria for each of the ten seasons, 1939-40 to 1948-49:—

Season.			Weight of Bushel of Wheat, f.a.q.	Season.			Weight of Bushel of Wheat, f.a.q.
			lb.				lb.
1939-40	..	..	63½	1944-45	..	..	63½
1940-41	..	..	64½	1945-46	..	..	62½
1941-42	..	..	63¾	1946-47	..	..	63½
1942-43	..	..	64¼	1947-48	..	..	60½
1943-44	..	..	65	1948-49	..	..	63

**Farmers
Growing
Wheat for
Grain.**

The following statement shows the number of farmers engaged in the growing of wheat for grain.

VICTORIA—NUMBER OF HOLDINGS WITH TWENTY OR MORE ACRES OF WHEAT FOR GRAIN, SEASONS 1942-43 TO 1947-48.

1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47	1947-48.
Not tabulated.	9,859	10,433	11,813	13,155	12,681

Oats. Oats may be cut for hay, stripped for grain or fed off to stock. The proportion of the oat crop used for each of the above purposes varies according to seasonal conditions. Oats as hay or grain form a very suitable fodder reserve on Mallee farms. For many years past, increasing areas of oats have been sown with the object of providing feed for sheep during the winter and early spring months. Some varieties of oats show high powers of recovery, particularly for a grain yield, after such grazing. The area harvested (season 1947-48) for hay was 340,036 acres, and for grain 650,119 acres, which produced 511,831 tons of hay, and 15,380,970 bushels of grain respectively. The area of oats sown for grazing purposes amounted to 102,255 acres. More than 60 varieties of oats are generally sown, but Algerian, with nearly 88 per cent. of the area, predominates.

Hay. Of the total area under hay in 1947-48, as shown in the table on page 72, 340,036 acres under oats produced 511,831 tons; 52,020 acres under wheat produced 75,942 tons; 45,809 acres under lucerne produced 84,366 tons; 1,185 acres under barley and rye produced 1,692 tons; and 218,096 acres under grass and clover produced 368,607 tons; the yields per acre of these kinds of hay were 1.51, 1.46, 1.84, 1.43, 1.69 tons respectively.

The quantities of hay (in districts) held on rural holdings on the 31st March, 1946, 1947, and 1948, are shown in the following table:—

STOCKS OF HAY HELD ON FARMS.

District.	At 31st March, 1946.	At 31st March, 1947.	At 31st March, 1948.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Central	179,435	186,614	148,810
North-Central	79,718	71,716	67,113
Western	227,746	184,792	200,770
Wimmera	98,034	130,075	141,786
Mallee	35,769	48,819	67,633
Northern	188,934	184,728	221,447
North-Eastern	89,493	79,733	93,161
Gippsland	127,452	133,251	119,122
State	1,026,581	1,019,728	1,059,842

Barley. The area under barley for grain in 1947-48 was 164,189 acres, of which 149,567 were under malting (2 row), and 14,622 under feed (6 row) barley. Although barley is grown generally throughout the State, 116,952 acres, or 71 per cent. of the total area for the season 1947-48, were sown in the counties of Grant, Lowan, Borung, Weeah, and Karkaroc. The figures in the subjoined table show the acreage, production, and yield per acre, for each of the five seasons 1943-44 to 1947-48.

VICTORIA—BARLEY PRODUCTION, 1943-44 TO 1947-48.

Year ended arch—	Area under Crop.		Produce.		Average per Acre.		
	Malting (2 row).	Other (6 row).	Malting (2 row).	Other (6 row).	Malting (2 row).	Other (6 row).	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1944 ..	70,341	12,918	914,958	163,170	13·01	12·63	12·95
1945 ..	105,945	23,109	286,600	72,936	2·71	3·16	2·79
1946 ..	117,774	16,358	1,480,394	263,360	12·57	16·10	13·00
1947 ..	124,079	13,943	2,106,595	215,317	16·98	15·44	16·82
1948 ..	149,567	14,622	3,253,774	322,997	21·75	22·09	21·78

Maize. Maize for grain is cultivated mainly in Gippsland, but one or two thousand acres are regularly grown in the Mornington and the North-Eastern districts. It is grown in Victoria both for grain and for green fodder. The areas for 1947-48 were 7,968 acres for grain, and 10,873 acres for green fodder. The area, production, and average yield for each of the five seasons, 1943-44 to 1947-48, are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MAIZE PRODUCTION, 1943-44 TO 1947-48.

Season.	For Green Fodder.	For Grain.		
		Area.	Production.	Yield per Acre.
	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1943-44	17,641	6,598	150,433	22·80
1944-45	17,307	4,544	165,347	36·39
1945-46	17,407	6,809	307,934	45·22
1946-47	12,245	8,107	356,898	44·02
1947-48	10,873	7,968	323,984	40·66

The annual average yield of the last five seasons was 38·34 bushels per acre, as compared with 45·0 in 1910-15, and 65·4 in 1900-05. The relatively light yield per acre for the latest five-year period was probably due to the cultivation of new areas, which are less fertile than the rich river flats upon which this cereal was grown exclusively in earlier periods.

Potatoes. Victoria is the chief potato-producing State in the Commonwealth. Out of a total area of 145,629 acres planted in 1947-48 to potatoes, 59,400 acres were grown in this State.

The cultivation of potatoes in Victoria is confined mainly to the central highlands, the South-western district and the Gippsland district. These districts are favoured with good average rainfall varying from 30 to 50 inches per annum, which is fairly well distributed throughout the year.

The following table shows the area, yield, and value of potatoes for each of the five seasons, 1943-44 to 1947-48 :—

VICTORIA—POTATO PRODUCTION, 1943-44 TO 1947-48.

Season.	Area.	Production.*	Average Yield.	Gross Value.
	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	£
1943-44	70,430	217,380	3·09	2,308,993
1944-45	83,238	305,216	3·67	3,574,332
1945-46	63,000	230,749	3·66	2,496,050
1946-47	56,400	223,782	3·97	2,479,641
1947-48	59,400	184,882	3·11	2,251,590

* Includes amounts held on farms for seed, stock feed, &c., as follow :—45,682 tons in 1943-44, 74,060 tons in 1944-45, 44,077 tons in 1945-46, 49,753 tons in 1946-47, and 37,030 tons in 1947-48.

Onions. Onions are grown in nearly every county south of the Dividing Range. The returns for the season 1947-48 show that in Bourke the yield was 8,745 tons from 790 acres; in Grant 8,760 tons from 1,545 acres; in Grenville 15,006 tons from 1,555 acres; in Polwarth 12,733 tons from 1,065 acres; in Villiers 6,978 tons from 695 acres; and in Buln Buln 4,905 tons from 532 acres. The following statement shows the area, yield, and value for each of the last five years :—

VICTORIA—ONION PRODUCTION, 1943-44 TO 1947-48.

Season—	Area.	Production.	Average Yield.	Gross Value.
	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	£
1943-44	5,997	32,203	5·37	470,969
1944-45	7,905	55,158	6·98	806,686
1945-46	8,170	46,338	5·67	677,693
1946-47	6,460	28,244	4·37	452,435
1947-48	6,722	61,540	9·15	904,887

Wholesale prices of agricultural and pastoral products.

The prices which appear below are the average wholesale prices in Melbourne for the marketed produce of the seasons enumerated. Average monthly prices are shown on pages 129 and 130.

VICTORIA—AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES REALIZED FOR AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL PRODUCE, 1938-39 TO 1947-48.

Average Prices Realized for Produce of Season—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley (Malting).	Maize.	Potatoes.	Onions.	Wool.* (Clipped, and on Skins.)
	Per bushel. s. d.	Per bushel. s. d.	Per bushel. s. d.	Per bushel. s. d.	Per ton. s. d.	Per ton. s. d.	Per lb. s. d.
1938-39 ..	2 7½	3 6	3 4	5 3¼	289 0	380 0	0 10·59
1939-40 ..	3 8¾	2 1	3 7½	6 0	230 0	148 6	1 2·06
1940-41 ..	3 9	3 6	4 2½	4 3½	105 0	280 0	1 2·21
1941-42 ..	4 0½†	2 7	3 3½	8 4	320 0	320 0	1 2·20
1942-43 ..	3 11¼†	2 10	4 7¼	8 1	214 5	292 6	1 4·40
1943-44 ..	3 11¼†	3 1½	5 0½	8 3	149 0	292 6	1 4·24
1944-45 ..	3 11¼†	3 11½	6 0	8 4	150 0	292 6	1 4·06
1945-46 ..	3 11¼†	3 11¼	6 1	8 5	150 0	292 6	1 3·00
1946-47 ..	3 11¼†	4 4	6 1	8 6	150 0	305 6	1 10·78
1947-48 ..	5 0¼†	4 6½	6 5½	8 6	185 5	329 0	3 1·51

* Victorian production only. † From June, 1942, to December, 1947, the price of wheat for flour for home consumption was 3s. 11¼d. per bushel.

Vine Production.

The production of dried vine-fruits for the season 1947-48 amounted to 55,246 tons, as compared with a production of 43,303 tons for the previous season. This far exceeds the requirements for home consumption. Overseas exports of Victorian produce for the season 1947-48 amounted to 37,445 tons.

Australian production of dried vine-fruits for the season 1947-48 amounted to approximately 84,700 tons, of which the Victorian portion represented over 65 per cent.

Particulars of vine production for the five seasons 1943-44 to 1947-48 are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—VINE-FRUIT PRODUCTION, 1943-44 TO 1947-48.

Season.	Number of Growers.	Area.		Produce.				
		Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Grapes gathered.	Wine made.	Dried Fruits.		
						Raisins.		Currants.
		Lexias.	Sultanas.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.		
1943-44 ..	2,336	41,285	1,426	4,897,836	1,319,630	117,920	859,100	199,740
1944-45 ..	2,364	41,626	1,288	3,386,399	784,886	106,961	554,566	137,167
1945-46 ..	2,355	41,468	1,375	4,291,105	1,915,705	97,457	762,438	128,701
1946-47 ..	2,392	41,551	1,397	3,797,935	3,081,622	83,484	660,826	121,751
1947-48 ..	2,420	41,438	2,346	4,682,682	2,958,292	103,796	839,410	161,718

Of the total quantity of grapes gathered in 1947-48, it is estimated that 326,580 cwt. were used for making wine and spirits, 4,269,140 cwt. for raisins and currants, and 86,562 cwt. for table consumption.

Tobacco.

The imposition of emergency tariff rates about 1931 greatly stimulated the growing of tobacco in Victoria and, as a result, the area planted increased in the 1932-33 season to 13,418 acres. Due, however, to economic circumstances and to disease in the crops, the acreage subsequently declined. The 1947-48 crop amounted to 1,162 cwt., which was obtained from 958 acres.

The following table furnishes details of the area, production, and average yield in each of the five seasons, 1943-44 to 1947-48:—

VICTORIA—TOBACCO PRODUCTION, 1943-44 TO 1947-48.

Season—			Area.	Production.	Produce per Acre.	Gross Value.
			Acres.	Cwt. (dry).	Cwt. (dry).	£
1943-44	..	..	2,000	13,785	6·89	172,882
1944-45	..	..	1,500	5,128	3·42	53,242
1945-46	..	..	1,408	3,844	2·73	45,146
1946-47	..	..	1,186	9,706	8·18	147,815
1947-48	..	..	958	1,162	1·21	18,379

Flax. The production of flax is confined mainly to the Central, Western, and Gippsland Districts.

The following table shows the area, the quantity of straw delivered at mills, and the produce obtained therefrom for each of the seasons 1943-44 to 1947-48. Australian imports of certain flax products for each of the years ended 30th June, 1944 to 1948 are also shown.

VICTORIAN FLAX PRODUCTION AND AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS OF FLAX PRODUCTS, 1943-44 TO 1947-48.

Season.	Area.	Straw delivered at Mills.	Produce Obtained.		Australian Imports (year ended 30th June).			
			Fibre.	Seed.	Fibre.	Linseed.	Linseed Oil.	
								Cwt.
1943-44	..	31,567	40,937	38,860	41,600	..	537,162	2
1944-45	..	38,459	17,035	39,781	39,109	..	869,956	1,216
1945-46	..	26,419	18,798	32,340	15,360	..	750,554	..
1946-47	..	12,041	13,858	28,240	16,036	241	318,670	86,392
1947-48	..	12,183	19,427	20,126	27,671	..	270,039	1,411,625

Linseed. Linseed Oil is one of the chief components of paints, varnishes, and linoleum, and has many other industrial uses. The presscake or meal, which remains after the oil has been extracted from the ground, and partly-cooked seed, is a valuable stock food.

Several attempts have been made in the past to establish linseed growing in Australia. In general, they have failed because of unsuitable varieties, insect pests, and disease. However, the introduction of disease-resisting varieties and the development of effective means of pest control have combined to make linseed growing a favorable enterprise.

The area sown to linseed in Victoria in 1947 was 384 acres. The average yield of pure seed was 7·15 bushels (56 lb.) per acre, and the average return to the grower was on the basis of £68 per ton.

For the season 1948-49, the acreage in Victoria has increased to 3,570 acres, the acreage in Australia being about 20,000 acres.

Orchards. The extent of cultivation of each important class of fruit on holdings of one acre and upwards during the seasons 1943-44 and 1946-47 is shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—FRUIT TREES, PLANTS, ETC., IN ORCHARDS AND GARDENS, 1943-44 AND 1946-47.

Fruit.	Number of Trees, Plants, &c.					
	1943-44.			1946-47.		
	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.
Apples	1,958,264	225,082	2,183,346	1,812,605	230,609	2,043,214
Pears	1,044,914	274,397	1,319,311	1,131,658	191,488	1,323,146
Quinces	59,416	16,633	76,049	53,524	19,543	73,067
Plums	253,903	40,960	294,863	228,346	67,593	295,939
Prunes	38,695	9,365	48,060	36,274	10,947	47,221
Cherries	100,891	43,754	144,645	98,708	67,844	166,552
Peaches	1,106,554	344,637	1,451,191	1,163,870	334,546	1,498,416
Apricots	376,963	97,212	474,175	394,048	112,443	506,491
Nectarines	23,999	8,504	32,503	30,133	11,583	41,716
Oranges	347,548	98,836	446,384	355,337	111,211	466,548
Lemons	109,331	78,072	187,403	120,550	73,640	194,190
Loquats	not	collected.		not	collected.	
Figs	22,254	3,140	25,394	17,959	2,200	20,159
Persimmons	not	collected.		not	collected.	
Total Large Fruits	5,442,732	1,240,592	6,683,324	5,443,012	1,233,647	6,676,659
Raspberries	292,822	25,968	318,790	303,526	46,263	349,789
Loganberries	136,856	6,652	143,508	119,861	9,312	129,173
Strawberries	3,329,792	305,835	3,635,627	4,532,309	631,586	5,163,895
Gooseberries	93,386	8,083	101,469	69,208	11,708	80,916
Mulberries	not	collected.		not	collected.	
Currants (Red, White and Black)	not	collected.		not	collected.	
Olives	2,335	15,138	17,473	1,606	55,806	57,412
Passion-fruit	28,374	8,729	37,103	22,197	13,614	35,811
Almonds	36,413	10,225	46,638	40,590	26,927	67,517
Walnuts	7,098	3,428	10,526	5,903	4,580	10,483
Filberts	3,194	214	3,408	2,800	830	3,630
Chestnuts	not	collected.		not	collected.	
Total Nuts	46,705	13,867	60,572	49,293	32,337	81,630

The distribution of the fruit industry over the State is set out fruit and the number of trees of each kind in each county are

Statistical Districts and Counties.	Growers.	Area.	Apples.	Pears.	Peaches.	Apricots.
	No.	Acres.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.
Central District—						
Bourke	700	10,561	267,748	290,852	262,467	46,951
Grant	184	1,449	59,858	7,322	4,458	54,320
Mornington	889	11,548	889,426	80,470	28,584	10,774
Evelyn	745	6,623	240,544	54,231	56,654	8,401
North Central District—						
Anglesey	18	13	515	84	84	31
Dalhousie	14	21	1,084	129	51	16
Talbot	209	3,051	209,623	65,077	2,262	1,578
Western District—						
Grenville	32	252	7,332	992	109	13,085
Polwarth	50	145	10,727	931	54	577
Heytesbury	10	28	2,337	76	11	63
Hampden	6	15	871	126	34	58
Ripon	3	5	270	68	24	9
Villiers	8	9	210	40	14	22
Normanby	101	637	60,550	965	70	263
Dundas	14	26	733	72	46	892
Follett	9	37	2,972	111	18	50
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	44	933	3,085	377	1,593	7,477
Borong	171	1,986	44,737	17,946	41,024	30,582
Kara Kara	47	242	18,324	1,390	1,418	657
Mallee District—						
Millewa	3	54	..	17	..	..
Weeah .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Karkaroc	609	2,185	462	1,866	2,312	7,074
Tatchera	266	1,251	912	517	1,596	10,455
Northern District—						
Gunbower	92	1,240	2,256	881	433	772
Gladstone	35	203	13,577	2,091	1,293	641
Bendigo	198	2,018	55,386	35,991	24,079	10,328
Rodney	371	12,424	7,343	407,400	584,650	145,109
Moira	437	11,924	14,672	346,262	480,326	154,355
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	83	502	19,802	637	1,102	392
Bogong	193	1,226	62,217	2,600	1,385	507
Benambra	19	31	1,004	137	183	63
Wonnangatta	4	5	211	34	5	4
Gippsland District—						
Croajingolong	8	8	71	37	20	10
Tambo	14	24	477	175	78	152
Dargo	46	132	6,854	230	497	155
Tanjil	33	142	9,659	1,933	435	300
Buln Buln	72	362	27,365	1,079	1,047	368
Total for State	5,737	71,312	2,043,214	1,323,146	1,498,416	506,491

in the following table, where the number of growers, the area under given for the season 1946-47 :—

Plums.	Prunes.	Cherries.	Quinces.	Nectarines.	Figs.	Oranges.	Mandarins.	Grapefruit.	Lemons and Limes.
Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.
38,327	19	36,182	25,810	22,617	4,858	85	5	225	88,577
5,979	211	1,808	1,148	331	175	11	..	5	972
44,410	348	27,229	5,414	2,933	153	229	3	112	25,215
97,036	437	78,896	11,490	8,618	412	114	4	155	34,869
112	9	15	23	10	19	8	..	1	9
68	2	5	11	..	6	2	..	..	64
12,415	34	5,273	1,731	41	63	2	..	1	123
1,200	5	21	195	2	3	1	..	1	2
1,169	3	71	66	9	9	2	..	1	8
111	..	2	24	1	2	..	..	..	1
130	4	4	5	6	7	2	..	..	4
13	..	..	5	..	1	..	..	..	..
45	3	7	11	10	4	..	..	..	..
397	28	37	69	30	23	12	..	2	19
84	94	26	18	16	16	6	..	..	8
46	7	4	8	6	10	..	..	..	1
761	9,286	34	236	70	127	148	16	4	59
5,817	6,568	3,088	4,729	603	681	475	20	17	1,427
356	32	959	56	93	58	..	..	..	10
..	..	..	..	..	..	2,659	..	441	252
1,006	960	23	468	292	905	127,770	4,019	11,091	7,378
487	2,653	103	246	381	200	75,177	637	4,435	4,495
206	412	60	68	131	93	96,857	2,356	5,866	3,423
221	1	318	33	37	302	336	7	6	51
8,725	5,899	820	3,250	98	1,998	28,930	171	813	7,570
15,212	10,287	105	7,527	2,155	8,309	15,977	105	152	4,350
54,724	8,583	6,102	9,493	2,866	798	77,483	1,207	4,410	17,842
349	78	1,162	395	48	60	898	19	213	180
5,052	1,047	2,768	347	145	759	2,502	54	48	1,244
113	12	48	42	40	19	54	5	1	15
26	..	14	12	9	1	5	6	..	3
20	4	14	7	10	5	18	4	..	6
70	14	56	24	12	23	19	1	2	149
172	28	461	29	44	24	35	2	..	570
260	59	292	29	27	17	28	2	3	93
820	94	595	48	25	19	5	..	50	201
295,939	47,221	166,552	73,067	41,716	20,159	429,850	8,643	28,055	194,190

The next three tables show the numbers of growers (in counties) of each kind of fruit and nuts grown in the State for the season 1943-44 :

Districts and Counties.	Apples.		Pears.		Peaches.		Apricots.		Plums.		Prunes.	
	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.
Central District—												
Bourke	360	87	362	66	325	21	100	80	154	133	..	1
Grant	93	70	25	60	17	27	101	48	30	61	1	1
Mornington	705	86	220	131	52	31	46	82	167	146	..	3
Evelyn	370	130	146	86	119	65	24	72	304	188	..	1
	1,528	373	753	343	513	144	271	282	655	528	1	6
North Central District—												
Anglesey	2	18	..	4	..	2	..	..	..	3	..	..
Dalhousie	8	5	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Talbot	184	28	125	39	10	15	6	15	56	48	..	2
	194	51	125	49	10	17	6	15	56	54	..	2
Western District—												
Grenville	14	13	3	13	..	5	23	3	5	12	..	..
Polwarth	19	21	3	10	..	..	2	1	4	10	..	..
Heytesbury	8	11	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	5	..	..
Hampden	3	5	1	3	..	1	..	2	1	5	..	..
Ripon	3	5	1	3	1	2	..	..	..	4	..	..
Villiers .. .. .	..	8	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Normanby	73	36	6	17	..	2	..	10	..	16	..	..
Dundas	1	16	..	3	..	2	..	4	..	5	..	..
Follett	7	6	..	7	..	2	..	3	..	2	..	..
	128	121	14	59	1	14	25	26	10	59	..	..
Wimmera District—												
Lowan	11	13	2	10	4	11	20	9	2	11	15	4
Borong	69	56	56	59	62	49	74	39	26	56	16	20
Kara Kara	37	15	3	25	3	14	2	13	1	18	..	..
	117	84	61	94	69	74	96	61	29	85	31	24
Mallee District—												
Millewa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Weeah .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Karkaroo .. .. .	..	3	3	33	3	19	14	61	3	10	5	15
Tatchera	4	25	..	20	5	33	42	73	1	20	6	14
	4	28	3	53	8	52	56	134	4	30	11	29
Northern District—												
Gunbower	3	33	3	15	1	10	1	12	..	8	1	..
Gladstone	21	13	5	9	4	7	3	6	1	10	..	1
Bendigo	74	38	73	33	42	34	37	49	36	46	9	10
Rodney	15	41	268	24	288	7	230	26	33	25	12	6
Moira	57	71	235	19	238	29	231	32	118	46	24	5
	170	196	584	100	573	87	502	125	188	135	46	22
North-Eastern District—												
Delatite	24	46	3	8	5	5	..	4	..	12	..	4
Bogong	68	57	8	35	3	19	..	10	2	20	2	3
Benambra	3	17	..	5	1	4	..	2	..	6	..	..
Wonnaungatta	1	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	96	125	11	49	9	28	..	16	2	33	2	7
Gippsland District—												
Croajingolong	1	8	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..
Tambo	1	24	1	4	..	5	1	5	1	5	..	..
Dargo	14	12	1	6	2	4	1	4	..	4	..	2
Tanjil	9	13	2	5	..	3	1	1	..	6	..	1
Buln Buln	23	44	2	12	1	4	1	4	2	15	..	1
	48	101	6	27	3	17	4	16	3	30	..	4
Total	2,285	1,079	1,557	774	1,186	433	960	675	947	959	91	94

Number of Growers—continued.

Districts and Counties.	Cherries.		Quinces.		Nectarines.		Figs.		Passion Fruit.		Oranges.	
	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 vines and over.	10 and under 100 vines.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.
Central District—	143	40	94	141	85	99	38	23	..	1	..	4
Bourke	9	11	1	32	..	4	1	4	..	2	..	..
Grant	76	19	15	44	4	17	..	2	13	9	..	5
Mornington ..	198	25	42	92	22	57	4	6	10	6	..	3
Evelyn .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	426	95	152	309	111	177	43	35	23	18	..	12
North Central District—	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anglesey .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dalhousie ..	26	12	6	18	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..
Talbot .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	26	13	6	18	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..
Western District—	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grenville ..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Polwarth ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heytesbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hampden ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ripon .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Villiers ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Normanby ..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dundas .. ..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Follett .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	..	4	..	14	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..
Wimmera District—	..	1	..	5	..	3	..	2	..	..	1	1
Lowan	11	11	10	43	1	13	2	20	..	4	1	9
Borong	5	7	..	3	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	1
Kara Kara ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	16	19	10	51	1	19	3	22	5	4	2	11
Mallee District—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Millewa .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Weeah .. ..	..	..	..	4	1	4	3	20	..	1	254	244
Karkaroc ..	..	3	..	9	1	4	3	5	1	1	107	59
Tatchera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	..	3	..	13	2	8	6	25	1	2	363	303
Northern District—	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	59	16
Gunbower ..	2	3	..	4	..	..	1	9	..	..	1	..
Gladstone ..	10	7	9	26	..	..	9	13	..	..	50	21
Bendigo	1	1	13	12	11	9	16	8	..	2	37	21
Rodney	7	8	19	29	8	9	7	27	3	1	85	36
Moira .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	20	21	41	71	19	19	33	59	3	3	232	94
North-Eastern District—	5	2	1	4	..	..	..	1	18	..	2	5
Delatite	6	2	..	8	..	2	4	12	2	1	9	31
Bogong .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Benambra ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wonnangatta ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	11	5	1	13	..	2	4	13	20	1	11	37
Gippsland District—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croajingolong ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1
Tambo .. ..	..	2	..	1	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	..
Dargo	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	3
Tanjil .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..
Buln Buln ..	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	9	2	..	..	1
	4	4	..	3	..	1	..	2	14	4	..	5
Total	503	164	210	492	133	228	89	159	66	34	608	462

Number of Growers—continued.

Districts and Counties.	Man-darins.		Grape-fruit.		Lemons.		Almonds.		Walnuts.	
	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.
Central District—										
Bourke	1	1	229	109	..	2	..	7
Grant	1	1	1	10	..	15
Mornington	3	69	66	11	1	12
Evelyn	1	96	129	1	5	7	25
North Central District—	1	5	395	305	3	28	8	59
Anglesey	3
Dalhousie
Talbot	2	..	..	6	..	5
Western District—	2	..	..	6	..	8
Grenville	1
Polwarth	2
Heytesbury	2
Hampden	1	..	1
Ripon	1	..	2
Villiers	1
Normanby	3
Dundas	2
Follett	2
Wimmera District—	2	..	16
Lowan	1	1	..	1	5	7	..	3
Borong	1	..	..	17	13	32	1	14
Kara Kara	2	5	..	9
Mallee District—	..	2	..	1	..	18	20	44	1	26
Millewa	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Weeah
Karkaroc	6	87	21	102	18	78	11	74	5	89
Tatchera	1	13	7	24	19	39	24	75	..	30
Northern District—	7	100	29	126	38	117	35	149	5	119
Gunbower	7	10	14	14	14	17	3	12	..	11
Gladstone	1	..	2	..	1
Bendigo	6	1	10	22	27	15	15	..	16
Rodney	3	1	6	14	15	7	18	..	19
Moira	7	14	10	22	43	42	10	22	1	15
North-Eastern District—	14	33	26	52	93	102	35	69	1	62
Delatite	1	1	..	4	3	6	15	38
Bogong	1	..	..	1	18	16	14	3	30
Benambra	1	..	2	1	8
Wonnangatta	2
Gippsland District—	..	1	1	1	1	23	19	22	19	78
Croajingolong	1	..	1
Tambo	1	3	..	1	..	3
Dargo	3	..	..	1	..	8
Tanjil	3	..	1	..	13
Buln Buln	1	..	..	4	..	..	3	6
	1	..	4	10	..	3	6	45
Total	21	136	58	185	533	575	112	323	40	413

The principal fruits grown in the State are apples, pears, peaches, and citrus. The apple and pear crops for the season 1947-48 amounted to 1,991,297 and 1,854,909 bushels respectively.

A considerable quantity of apricots, peaches, and pears is grown, mostly in irrigated areas, for canning purposes. The total output of 2,157,596 cases of canned fruits for the 1948 season comprised apricots, 210,116 cases; peaches, 1,188,452 cases; and pears, 759,028 cases. This output represented 73 per cent. of the total Australian pack of these fruits. In addition to the fruits shown in the subjoined table, large quantities of melons, rhubarb, and tomatoes are produced in orchards. The gross value of all fruit grown in the season 1947-48 was £3,578,524 as compared with £3,311,622 in 1946-47.

VICTORIA—FRUIT GROWING, 1942-43 TO 1947-48.

	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.
Number of Growers ..	6,155	5,915	5,706	5,598	5,737	5,941
Area ..	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
	69,776	70,024	68,245	69,479	71,312	71,513
Kind of Fruit—	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Apples ..	845,184	2,326,224	1,138,801	2,597,618	1,111,780	1,991,297
Pears ..	1,581,841	1,421,706	1,750,802	1,464,075	2,215,592	1,854,909
Quinces ..	55,131	63,208	61,532	65,341	46,730	81,529
Apricots ..	422,100	464,934	366,000	336,871	429,951	563,774
Cherries ..	47,081	64,689	52,929	44,064	43,446	57,988
Nectarines ..	12,577	23,383	24,011	22,196	20,176	22,463
Peaches ..	1,178,242	1,460,813	1,404,870	1,086,841	1,350,113	1,619,066
Plums ..	210,383	187,977	156,391	189,155	135,653	248,226
Prunes ..	37,032	58,415	33,709	39,548	35,597	32,289
Lemons ..	128,210	162,000	100,897	109,463	117,936	170,385
Oranges ..	556,500	637,798	663,418	655,562	466,774	793,081
Figs ..	15,686	13,096	11,537	14,701	15,859	13,139
Passion-fruit ..	10,779	8,431	6,254	3,523	7,283	7,415
Other Large Fruits ..	4,649	1,985	2,157	2,113	724	1,510
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Blackberries ..	732	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.
Cape Gooseberries ..	13	"	"	"	"	"
Currants ..	86	"	"	"	"	"
Gooseberries ..	2,257	3,041	2,423	1,639	2,427	2,245
Loganberries ..	2,527	3,196	3,017	2,688	3,320	2,502
Mulberries ..	20	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.
Raspberries ..	2,690	2,908	2,950	2,397	3,278	3,243
Strawberries ..	3,372	4,054	3,561	3,027	5,007	4,033
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Almonds ..	128,737	116,604	122,766	131,299	154,063	151,428
Chestnuts ..	18,885	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.
Filberts ..	4,625	6,580	9,572	4,970	7,219	6,934
Walnuts ..	76,111	72,937	86,987	63,310	85,303	61,622

Dried fruit
(exclusive of
Raisins and
Currants).

The production of the various kinds of dried tree-fruits for each of the last five seasons is shown in the following statement. Particulars in respect of dried vine-fruits appear on page 95.

VICTORIA—DRIED TREE-FRUITS, 1943-44 TO 1947-48.

Year ended June—	Apples.	Apricots.	Figs.	Nectarines.	Peaches.	Pears.	Prunes.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1944 ..	2,594	210,560	7,240	46	425,600	286,720	705,600	1,638,360
1945 ..	76	215,040	8,196	27	683,200	304,640	456,960	1,668,139
1946 ..	4,508	103,040	8,153	149	465,920	176,960	432,320	1,191,050
1947 ..	61	78,400	..	1,120	436,800	241,920	465,920	1,224,221
1948 ..	108	55,343	5,010	141	624,736	135,082	407,372	1,227,792

Vegetable
growing.

Prior to the season 1942-43, statistics relating to vegetable growing were collected only from those market gardeners who cropped an area of 1 acre or more. Only the surface area employed for vegetable growing was tabulated and, as a consequence, due to double-cropping, the actual area utilized was understated. Furthermore, vegetables grown between trees and vines in orchards and vineyards were not recorded.

From the season 1942-43, however, particulars were obtained of all vegetables grown on areas of $\frac{1}{4}$ acre and upwards, including those grown in orchards and vineyards, and allowance was made for double cropping. These changes in practice therefore invalidate any comparison with previous years.

Excluding potatoes and onions, which are shown under separate headings in this issue of the *Year-Book*, the area sown to vegetables in Victoria for the season 1947-48 was 35,907 acres and the gross value of the estimated production therefrom was £3,369,105.

The areas sown to the different kinds of vegetables were :—

	Acres.		Acres.
Carrots	1,492	Beans, French ..	3,603
Parsnips	944	Beans, Navy ..	28
Beetroot	668	Peas, green ..	9,667
Cabbage	1,825	Peas, blue ..	714
Cauliflower ..	2,851	Silver beet ..	149
Lettuce	1,941	Cucumber ..	134
Tomatoes	5,515	Marrows ..	140
Pumpkins	1,800	Melons ..	696
Turnips	435	Other ..	3,305

Minor Crops. There are other crops cultivated in Victoria in addition to those enumerated on pages 74 and 75. The most important of these are:—Nursery products, cut flowers, sweet corn, mustard, sunflowers, garlic, scent plants, and agricultural seeds.

Fertilizers. The following table shows the number of holdings upon which fertilizers were applied and the quantities used in the various seasons. The fertilizer mainly used on wheat areas is "Superphosphate 22 per cent." (reduced to 18 per cent. in July, 1941 and then increased to 19 per cent. in October, 1946, 21 per cent. in December, 1947, and 22 per cent. in September, 1948). It is also used on 90 per cent. of the oat areas fertilized:—

VICTORIA—ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS USED.

Season.	Number of Holdings.	Area Fertilized.	Quantity Used.
		Acres.	Tons.
1941-42	Crops } Not tabulated {	3,650,339	145,245
		Pastures } {	3,290,142	167,418
1942-43	Crops } Not tabulated {	2,444,332	90,033
		Pastures } {	2,140,314	94,762
1943-44	Crops	28,841	2,060,274
	Pastures	23,161	2,034,698
1944-45	Crops	30,905	2,445,339
	Pastures	23,917	2,121,406
1945-46	Crops	32,148	3,383,072
	Pastures	25,019	2,708,379
1946-47	Crops	30,471	3,536,941
	Pastures	26,763	3,374,996
1947-48	Crops	30,853	3,769,125
	Pastures	29,056	4,461,025

Machinery used on Holdings. Statistics in respect of most kinds of serviceable farming implements were last collected in 1946. In 1948 the collection was confined to Milking Plants, Shearing Plants, and Tractors. The information is shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS IN USE ON
RURAL HOLDINGS AT 31ST MARCH, 1946 AND 1948.

	Number.	
	1946.	1948.
Milking machines—Number of units	38,639	45,933
Shearing machines—Number of stands	15,136	16,539
Tractors—		
Wheeled type	13,599	15,611
Crawler or track type	584	684
Ploughs—		
Single furrow	37,599	} Not collected.
Multiple furrow	42,758	
Cultivators (including scarifiers, harrows, &c.)—		
Tandem Disc	4,492	} Not collected.
Other Disc	14,045	
Spring tooth	15,245	
Rigid time	5,117	
Scarifiers	19,495	
Harrows—Number of leaves	189,216	
Rotary Hoes	1,423	
Other	1,615	
Fertilizer distributors and broadcasters	14,158	
Grain drills—		
Combine type	16,887	
Other types	10,321	
Maize planters	1,339	
Harvesting machinery—		
Headers, strippers, and harvesters	15,048	
Binders	18,649	
Mowers	19,138	
Hay rakes	15,526	
Hay presses and balers	2,785	
Chaff cutters	23,013	
Spraying plants	3,209	
Fruit graders	835	
Motor trucks, utilities or motor lorries	19,824	
Stationary engines	33,682	

Information is collected annually as to the number of persons ordinarily engaged in farm work on rural holdings of one acre or more. Persons absent from their farms for the greater portion of the year following other occupations, as well as temporary hands engaged in harvesting, &c., are excluded from the tabulation. In respect of female employees, it is evident that numbers of occupiers misinterpret the questions and wrongly include those who, though they may give some assistance outdoors, are primarily engaged in domestic duties. The large increase in the number of females employed as at 31st March, 1943, was due to wartime conditions causing a shortage of male labour. Particulars for the years 1942-43 to 1947-48 are as follow:—

**Persons
employed on
Rural
Holdings.**

VICTORIA—PERSONS PERMANENTLY ENGAGED ON RURAL HOLDINGS, INCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS, ETC., BUT EXCLUDING CASUAL AND SEASONAL WORKERS, 1942-43 TO 1947-48.

Year ending March.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
1943	84,045	16,352	100,397
1944	85,074	13,207	98,281
1945	87,418	12,064	99,482
1946	89,867	10,209	100,076
1947	92,533	8,784	101,317
1948	92,178	7,353	99,531

NOTE.—Information relating to wages of males temporarily employed during 1946-47 was collected in addition to the numbers of those permanently engaged. Such wages amounted to £2,654,600.

In the next table will be found particulars of the rates of wages paid (with rations) upon rural holdings during 1947-48. The information has been furnished by the occupiers of holdings.

VICTORIA—RATES OF WAGES ON RURAL HOLDINGS, 1947-48.

Occupations.	Prevailing Rate.	Range.
Ploughmen	106s. 6d. per week	60s. to 140s. per week
Farm labourers	107s. 6d. per week	60s. to 200s. per week
Threshing machine hands	3s. 2d. per hour	2s. 3d. to 5s. per hour
Harvest hands	26s. per day	19s. to 40s. per day
Milkers	102s. 6d. per week	70s. to 145s. per week
Maize pickers (without rations)	1s. 6d. per bag of cobs	1s. to 2s. per bag of cobs
Married couples	128s. per week	98s. to 200s. per week
Female servants	56s. per week	30s. to 110s. per week
Shearers, hand (without rations)	55s. 6d. per 100 sheep	44s. to 75s. per 100 sheep
„ machine (without rations)	58s. per 100 sheep	43s. to 105s. per 100 sheep
Gardeners, market	122s. 6d. per week	100s. to 140s. per week
„ orchard	111s. per week	80s. to 120s. per week
Vineyard hands	117s. 6d. per week	100s. to 130s. per week

In recent years legislative provision has been made by both the Commonwealth and State Parliaments for granting financial relief to primary producers. These provisions have been described in previous issues of the *Year-Book*.

Financial Assistance to Primary Producers.

PASTORAL AND DAIRYING INDUSTRIES.

Live Stock. The pastoral and dairying industries have always been important sources of wealth to the State, and the indications are that both pastures and stock are, on the whole, steadily improving. The next table, which shows the number of horses, dairy cows, other cattle, sheep and pigs, illustrates the progress of stock breeding in Victoria.

LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA, 1861 TO 1948.

At 1st March—	Horses (including Foals).	Cattle—		Sheep.	Pigs.
		Dairy Cows.*	Other.		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1861	76,536	197,332	525,000	5,780,896	61,259
1871	209,025	212,193	564,534	10,477,976	180,109
1881	275,516	329,198	957,069	10,360,285	241,936
1891	436,469	395,192	1,387,689	12,692,843	282,457
1901	392,237	521,612	1,080,772	10,841,790	350,370
1911	472,080	668,777	878,792	12,882,665	333,281
1921	487,503	620,005	955,154	12,171,084	175,275
1931	379,872	669,132	760,788	16,477,995	281,245
1941	318,441	942,107	980,229	20,412,362	397,945
1944 at 31st March ..	277,662	938,484	1,074,549	19,220,457	337,878
1945 " " ..	253,782	925,307	977,803	16,457,101	296,232
1946 " " ..	232,473	882,646	944,441	14,655,277	271,887
1947 " " ..	227,164	956,140	1,103,921	16,598,490	290,450
1948 " " ..	221,454	975,338	1,198,865	17,931,173	271,492

* Includes cows (in milk and dry), and springing heifers.

While the preceding table shows the actual number of live stock each year, it is difficult to determine the progress or otherwise of the pastoral industry unless the total number of live stock is brought to a common denomination. In the table which follows an arbitrary equivalent of ten sheep to each head of the larger kinds of live stock (omitting pigs) has been adopted and the total live stock grazed expressed as sheep:—

VICTORIA—LIVE STOCK GRAZED, 1861-1948.

Year.	Equivalent in Sheep of Live Stock Grazed.	Year.	Equivalent in Sheep of Live Stock Grazed.
	No.		No.
1861	13,769,576	1931	34,575,915
1871	20,335,496	1941	42,820,132
1881	25,978,115	1944	42,127,407
1891	34,886,343	1945	38,026,021
1901	30,788,000	1946	35,250,877
1911	33,079,155	1947	39,470,740
1921	32,797,704	1948	41,887,743

When making comparisons of the figures in the foregoing table, consideration should be given to the varying acreage under cultivation as shown on page 69.

Size of holdings and numbers of live stock. A table showing the sizes of holdings and the numbers of live stock thereon as at March, 1938, appeared on page 742 of the 1938-39 issue of the *Year-Book*.

Live stock in Australia. In the following statement are given the numbers of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs in the various Australian States at 31st March, 1948:—

LIVE STOCK IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1948.

State.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Victoria	221,454	2,174,203	17,931,173	271,492
New South Wales	376,043	3,129,740	46,065,000	365,171
Queensland	335,581	5,975,460	16,742,629	378,102
South Australia	100,619	445,287	9,055,237	100,343
Western Australia	74,537	815,610	10,443,798	93,180
Tasmania	23,125	244,107	2,086,528	45,149
Northern Territory	32,318	991,429	19,058	680
Australian Capital Territory	973	8,748	215,227	566
Total	1,164,650	13,784,584	102,558,650	1,254,683

Agriculture in Victoria and Great Britain. The figures relating to agriculture and live stock in Victoria and Great Britain (England, Wales, and Scotland) are, for comparative purposes, given in the table which follows:—

AGRICULTURE AND LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

	Victoria. (1945-46.)	Great Britain. (1943-44.)
Total area acres	56,245,760	56,208,959
Wheat bushels	29,633,760	117,003,000
Oats "	7,401,816	144,144,000
Barley "	1,743,754	77,818,000
Potatoes tons	230,749	8,026,000
Turnips and Swedes "	7,803*	11,906,000
Mangolds "	4,793	5,543,000
Hay "	1,444,250	4,987,000
Horses No.	232,473	829,079
Cattle "	1,827,087	8,615,580
Sheep "	14,655,277	19,435,396
Pigs "	271,887	1,630,515

* Includes beet, carrots, and parsnips.

Distribution
of Live Stock.

The next table contains particulars of Live Stock

VICTORIA—DISTRIBUTION

Statistical Districts and Counties.	Horses.	Dairy Cattle.					
		Cows.		Springing Heifers.	Other Heifers for Dairying.	Calves.	Bulls.
		Milking.	Dry.				
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District—							
Bourke	26,235	29,563	13,322	3,543	10,920	8,543	1,393
Grant	9,519	16,047	6,868	1,755	6,795	6,270	1,061
Mornington	13,533	74,480	23,453	5,698	23,014	23,761	3,724
Evelyn	4,451	9,652	4,663	1,051	4,468	3,982	606
North Central District—							
Anglesey	2,581	5,539	3,233	964	2,489	2,793	353
Dalhousie	3,275	3,832	1,744	561	1,598	2,324	300
Talbot	6,364	9,200	3,247	1,033	3,614	4,166	657
Western District—							
Grenville	5,019	10,541	9,871	2,378	4,948	4,025	800
Polwarth	3,244	20,745	9,299	2,863	7,787	7,661	1,262
Heytesbury	3,604	34,531	15,983	3,289	11,330	12,137	1,977
Hampden	4,263	23,211	15,498	4,173	10,885	9,095	1,624
Ripon	3,172	3,511	1,969	550	1,868	1,736	339
Villiers	5,322	23,080	16,006	4,693	10,289	8,451	1,454
Normanby	4,990	15,056	12,662	3,361	5,333	7,314	1,219
Dundas	3,648	4,648	5,871	1,557	2,469	2,728	508
Follett	1,280	2,028	2,140	763	548	1,019	174
Wimmera District—							
Lowan	7,351	4,792	3,224	934	1,511	2,393	568
Borung	8,455	6,145	2,990	869	1,728	3,053	687
Kara Kara	3,973	2,513	1,309	316	990	1,280	225
Mallee District—							
Millewa	986	435	176	56	89	174	50
Weeah	1,386	932	441	160	251	407	121
Karkaroc	7,075	3,784	1,476	424	679	1,622	339
Tatchera	7,478	8,042	2,885	1,219	2,959	3,740	587
Northern District—							
Gunbower	5,134	24,663	6,639	3,292	8,323	9,908	1,297
Gladstone	4,551	2,356	1,148	236	901	1,070	184
Bendigo	8,289	13,186	3,528	774	4,936	5,302	753
Rodney	8,013	34,392	7,149	2,497	12,520	13,569	1,850
Moira	14,421	14,409	6,934	2,202	6,593	7,244	1,277
North-Eastern District—							
Delatite	6,327	16,306	8,835	3,916	4,976	8,993	1,187
Bogong	8,096	30,195	10,939	5,474	8,338	12,504	1,599
Benambra	3,835	15,511	4,365	1,790	3,719	5,803	633
Wonnangatta	286	570	279	91	114	163	32
Gippsland District—							
Croajingolong	1,189	7,103	1,364	485	2,013	3,470	259
Tambo	1,718	5,576	1,509	392	1,581	2,132	240
Dargo	1,558	4,900	1,410	476	1,549	2,220	239
Tanjil	5,100	33,247	11,670	4,007	11,458	11,025	1,545
Buln Buln	15,733	124,358	33,708	10,610	36,539	41,476	6,183
Total for State	221,454	639,079	257,807	78,452	220,122	243,613	37,306

in each County of the State as at March, 1948.

OF LIVE STOCK, 1948.

Beef Cattle.				Total Cattle (Dairy and Beef).	Pigs.	Sheep.		
Cows.	Calves (under Twelve Months).	Bulls.	Other Cattle.			Sheep.	Lambs.	Total.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
10,339	4,257	326	8,692	90,898	14,811	420,203	102,862	523,065
10,164	6,287	759	8,086	64,092	5,219	556,969	175,399	732,368
21,749	8,975	390	18,493	203,737	17,024	166,583	59,326	225,909
4,999	2,512	170	4,468	36,571	4,254	38,825	17,044	53,869
6,392	4,418	209	7,814	34,204	4,507	392,888	79,315	472,203
2,754	1,758	149	4,784	19,804	1,412	391,849	95,164	487,013
3,412	3,424	175	6,092	35,020	4,576	405,135	143,649	548,784
2,399	1,320	86	5,006	41,374	5,095	555,241	157,715	712,956
3,925	2,085	106	4,770	60,503	8,357	124,845	47,257	172,102
2,184	1,199	91	3,739	86,460	4,905	46,504	9,690	56,194
10,289	5,193	332	12,848	93,148	3,656	673,890	229,054	902,944
3,293	2,071	105	2,331	17,773	1,014	730,463	217,937	948,400
19,877	10,492	615	15,246	110,203	1,517	716,446	231,077	947,523
12,377	7,623	421	9,187	74,553	6,158	555,752	152,080	707,832
5,685	3,738	260	5,147	32,611	1,998	749,675	189,709	939,384
5,396	3,187	167	3,000	18,422	841	224,048	53,258	277,306
1,920	2,027	127	1,563	19,059	3,257	960,874	283,481	1,244,355
729	1,125	95	1,654	19,075	6,891	661,367	205,644	867,011
808	906	45	1,506	9,898	2,369	444,313	149,491	593,804
121	127	12	117	1,357	525	79,697	21,887	101,584
48	145	7	130	2,642	1,044	99,242	25,439	124,681
377	585	44	888	10,218	3,731	406,391	113,968	520,359
1,583	1,448	48	2,379	24,890	7,402	324,559	97,445	422,004
3,683	4,012	95	5,605	67,517	16,649	242,903	85,513	328,416
393	725	38	1,309	8,360	2,733	336,526	134,772	471,298
2,083	2,181	65	3,120	35,928	11,038	366,867	149,000	509,867
4,261	3,928	148	5,537	85,851	22,377	408,229	161,258	569,487
5,294	5,222	253	9,247	58,675	11,074	755,466	232,018	987,484
15,367	10,294	535	24,804	95,213	9,220	560,485	168,414	728,899
17,194	12,169	473	18,983	117,868	19,836	302,290	78,681	380,971
23,966	15,635	725	15,376	87,523	7,802	200,026	65,699	265,725
1,534	1,088	55	2,168	6,094	177	35,820	10,921	46,741
4,251	2,392	113	2,758	24,208	5,771	36,061	11,997	48,058
8,900	5,524	221	2,514	28,589	3,175	91,200	24,799	115,999
4,551	3,067	106	3,730	22,248	3,180	74,880	23,511	98,391
11,429	8,076	297	15,928	108,742	9,245	286,223	84,282	370,505
22,934	13,853	641	30,573	320,875	38,652	329,289	96,393	425,682
256,660	163,068	8,504	269,592	2,174,203	271,492	13,746,024	4,185,149	17,931,173

Dairying. The dairying industry is one of the principal sources of the wealth of the community. The gross value of dairy produce in the season 1947-48 was £23,547,860 as compared with £21,525,932 in 1946-47, £18,866,694 in 1945-46, £17,864,037 in 1944-45, and £16,997,685 in 1943-44. The following table shows the numbers of cow-keepers and cows and the estimated total production of milk for each of the last five years :—

VICTORIA—DAIRYING, 1943-44 TO 1947-48.

As at 31st March—	Number of Cow-keepers.	Number of Dairy Cows.*	Estimated Total Production of Milk for all Purposes (Year ended 30th June).
			1,000 Gallons.
1944	53,371	938,484	360,532
1945	53,024	925,307	360,501
1946	52,377	882,646	375,639
1947	Not tabulated	956,140	445,536
1948	52,881	975,338	419,925

* Includes Cows (in milk and dry) and Springing Heifers.

Butter, Cheese, Condensed Milk and Casein.

The quantities of butter, cheese, condensed and powdered milk, &c., and casein made during the last three years were as follow :—

VICTORIA—BUTTER, CHEESE, CONDENSED AND POWDERED MILK, CASEIN MADE ETC., 1945-46, 1946-47, AND 1947-48.

Year Ended 30th June—	Butter.*	Cheese.*	Condensed and Full-Cream Powdered Milk.	All Other Milk Products.	Casein.
	1,000lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1946	114,573	33,504	109,419	16,360	2,809
1947	134,936	39,526	104,898	22,753	5,135
1948	128,968	36,239	107,755	32,861	5,365

* Including that made on farms.

Numbers and
Sizes of
Dairy Herds.

The following table shows the number of dairy herds in Victoria, grouped, according to size, for each of the five years, 1944-48 :—

VICTORIA—DAIRY HERDS, CONTAINING FIVE COWS OR MORE, GROUPED ACCORDING TO SIZE.

As at March—	Number of Herds.							Total.
	5 to 9 Cows.	10 to 14 Cows.	15 to 19 Cows.	20 to 29 Cows.	30 to 49 Cows.	50 to 99 Cows.	100 and Over.	
1944 ..	9,381	4,569	2,787	4,282	6,117	4,352	683	32,171
1945 ..	8,455	4,094	2,541	4,154	6,066	4,428	699	30,437
1946 ..	7,839	3,605	2,368	3,970	5,883	4,293	652	28,610
1947 ..	Not tabulated							
1948 ..	7,986	3,563	2,313	4,028	6,622	5,024	751	30,287

The numbers of farmers with less than five cows were :—21,200 in 1944, 22,587 in 1945, 23,767 in 1946, and 22,594 in 1948. These numbers were excluded from the foregoing table as the groups were considered too small to be classed as dairy herds.

Regulation,
Control and
Distribution
of the
Metropolitan
Milk Supply.

Information in respect of the regulation, control, and distribution of the Metropolitan Milk Supply appears on pages 335 to 337 of the 1943-44 *Year-Book*.

Pigs.

The number of pigs in Victoria at 31st March, 1948, was 271,492. About 73 per cent. of these are held in the Central, Western, Northern, and Gippsland districts which are so largely devoted to dairying. In the following table a classification (in counties) of pigs together with the numbers of pig-keepers is shown :—

VICTORIA—PIGS AND PIG-KEEPERS—MARCH 31ST, 1948.

Districts and Counties.	Boars.	Breeding Sows.	Baconers and Porkers.	Back-fatters.	Stores.	Suckers, Weaners, Slips.	Total Pigs.	Pig-Owners. (1948)
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District—								
Bourke	155	1,501	5,492	154	3,434	4,075	14,811	263
Grant	124	638	1,352	53	1,079	1,973	5,219	364
Mornington	419	2,236	3,683	89	4,337	6,260	17,024	757
Evelyn	114	644	1,046	13	707	1,730	4,254	280
North Central District—								
Anglesey	95	640	905	4	1,050	1,813	4,507	173
Dalhousie	33	165	249	5	188	772	1,412	120
Talbot	92	502	1,286	29	1,023	1,644	4,576	380
Western District—								
Grenville	83	409	1,210	13	1,683	1,697	5,095	218
Polwarth	189	950	1,808	40	1,866	3,504	8,357	438
Heytesbury	158	634	668	19	1,590	1,836	4,905	249
Hampden	96	419	845	16	1,030	1,250	3,656	140
Ripon	26	112	232	..	275	369	1,014	58
Villiers	36	170	245	13	520	533	1,517	105
Normanby	147	814	10,89	18	1,200	2,800	6,158	433
Dundas	50	208	505	10	554	671	1,998	172
Follett	30	90	256	8	172	285	841	51
Wimmera District—								
Lowan	101	323	1,383	37	332	1,081	3,257	453
Borong	170	713	2,205	42	1,110	2,651	6,891	660
Kara Kara	47	244	704	40	319	1,015	2,369	218
Mallee District—								
Millewa	14	68	181	5	49	208	525	45
Weeah	33	121	305	9	143	433	1,044	99
Karkaroc	99	378	938	32	741	1,543	3,731	309
Tatchera	146	801	1,431	31	3,018	1,975	7,402	445
Northern District—								
Gunbower	381	1,933	4,258	38	5,720	4,319	16,649	659
Gladstone	47	307	865	17	350	1,147	2,733	213
Bendigo	182	1,122	2,516	66	2,797	4,355	11,038	461
Rodney	465	2,544	6,591	74	5,491	7,212	22,377	892
Moira	275	1,332	2,942	25	2,456	4,044	11,074	621
North-Eastern District—								
Delatite	223	1,021	1,692	67	2,498	3,719	9,220	527
Bogong	398	2,193	4,882	72	4,400	7,891	19,836	824
Benambra	182	972	2,029	27	2,232	2,360	7,802	318
Wonnangatta	5	25	17	1	77	52	177	18
Gippsland District—								
Croajingolong	90	722	786	9	2,129	2,035	5,771	132
Tambo	82	438	706	4	726	1,219	3,175	157
Dargo	76	375	635	9	809	1,276	3,180	103
Tanjil	241	1,075	1,595	74	3,265	2,995	9,245	346
Buln Buln	930	4,401	7,995	178	12,599	12,549	38,652	1,849
Total for State ..	6,034	31,240	65,527	1,341	72,059	95,291	271,492	13,615*

* Of this number 4,289 had herds of under 5 pigs, 5,185 herds of 5 and under 21 pigs, and 4,141 herds of 21 pigs and over.

Sheep. The numbers of sheep in Victoria in various years since 1861 are shown in the table on page 108. Sheep are depastured in practically all districts of the State, but are relatively more numerous in the Wimmera, Western and Northern districts. The distribution of all live stock is shown in table on page 110.

Factors such as seasonal conditions, prices of wool, mutton, and lamb and, to a less degree, wheat, affect the number of sheep in the State in any given year. In an adverse season flocks may be reduced by mortality due to lack of fodder or water, by the increase in the slaughtering of fat stock or by the decrease in lambing. Decreased imports from other States is another factor. In addition to the seasonal movements of sheep from New South Wales and South Australia for agistment, there is a regular importation of sheep from those States for slaughtering purposes.

Lambing. Climatical conditions also play a large part in determining the proportion of lambs dropped to ewes mated, and thus the natural increase from season to season may vary considerably. The following table shows the numbers of ewes mated and lambs dropped, in each of the six years, 1943 to 1948.

VICTORIA—LAMBING, 1943 TO 1948.

Season.	Lambs Marked.	Ewes Mated to produce such Lambs.	Proportion of Lambs Marked to Ewes Mated.
	No.	No.	%
1943	7,251,821	9,843,352	73·7
1944	6,086,522	8,975,270	67·8
1945	3,503,096	7,116,912	49·2
1946	5,936,792	7,328,321	81·0
1947	6,939,854	8,243,066	84·2
1948	7,086,995	8,623,790	82·2

Flocks of Sheep in Districts. The following table contains a classification of the flocks of sheep in each district of Victoria as at March, 1943. Sheep travelling on roads or located in cities or towns are excluded. The classification discloses that, although the four groups with sheep under 500 comprise 63·53 per cent. of the owners, the number of sheep in those groups was only 20·43 per cent. of the total sheep in the State.

FLOCKS OF SHEEP IN

Size of Flock.	Total in Victoria.				Districts.			
	Flocks.		Sheep.		Central.		North-Central.	
	No.	Per-centage to Total.	No.	Per-centage to Total.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.
					No.	No.	No.	No.
Under 50	3,734	11.91	82,321	.42	571	12,085	246	5,990
50 and under 100	2,398	7.65	172,557	.88	363	26,291	245	18,036
100 ..	250	6.385	1,078,400	5.51	869	141,993	568	95,938
250 ..	500	7.397	2,663,592	13.62	660	235,912	611	220,557
500 ..	1,000	6.557	4,554,785	23.28	530	361,975	560	384,910
1,000 ..	2,000	3.266	4,442,366	22.71	253	349,845	274	367,826
2,000 ..	3,500	1.024	2,622,986	13.41	70	180,454	99	246,764
3,500 ..	5,000	.257	1,057,207	5.40	18	73,468	25	100,613
5,000 ..	7,500	.171	1,033,427	5.28	11	65,341	13	72,983
7,500 ..	10,000	.074	640,870	3.28	5	44,618	4	33,392
10,000 ..	15,000	.058	676,412	3.46	3	31,377	3	37,175
15,000 ..	20,000	.013	216,769	1.11	2	33,399	..	..
20,000 and over ..	12	.04	320,558	1.64	..	..	..	..
Totals	31,346	100.00	19,562,250	100.00	3,355	1,556,758	2,638	1,584,184

Breeds of
Sheep
as at March,
1947.

Although the principal breed of sheep in the State is the "Merino," the percentage of pure Merino sheep is only 32, as compared with 72 in New South Wales. Merino Comebacks, the progeny of Crossbred ewes mated to Merino rams, number 18 per cent., other crossbreeds 42 per cent. and other British and Australasian breeds 8 per cent. of the sheep of Victoria.

Australasian breeds are the Polwarth and the Corriedale. The Polwarth is a Merino-Lincoln cross (approximately three-quarters Merino and one-quarter Lincoln). It was evolved to meet the conditions of light wool-growing localities found to be too wet and cold for the pure merino. The Corriedale was evolved by heavily culling the

VICTORIA AS AT MARCH, 1943.

Districts—continued.

Western.		Wimmera.		Mallee.		Northern.		North-Eastern.		Gippsland.	
Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1,018	21,420	240	6,068	113	2,517	415	9,867	427	9,032	704	15,342
460	32,555	270	19,979	125	8,612	379	27,633	274	19,826	282	19,625
857	139,873	940	162,555	817	141,010	1,313	225,643	531	90,439	490	80,949
842	304,561	1,220	441,318	1,145	413,081	1,772	637,394	703	252,476	444	158,293
1,182	843,247	1,180	817,189	692	462,762	1,429	985,628	625	442,098	369	256,976
858	1,182,884	583	793,723	214	280,672	616	827,791	292	393,281	176	246,344
363	934,223	192	492,487	34	87,480	108	276,518	83	214,003	75	191,057
116	480,989	37	152,779	12	50,637	24	97,415	11	45,386	14	55,920
101	620,077	18	105,251	3	18,770	12	72,567	6	36,029	7	42,409
42	364,945	15	132,248	..	..	5	41,785	1	8,185	2	15,697
43	504,799	2	22,377	1	11,532	3	32,767	1	12,380	2	24,005
9	152,215	1	15,943	..	..	1	15,212	..	..	..	..
10	269,171	..	..	1	24,874	1	26,513	..	..	..	..
5,901	5,850,959	4,698	3,161,917	3,157	1,501,947	6,078	3,276,733	2,954	1,523,135	2,565	1,106,617

progeny of Lincoln rams and Merino ewes and by judicious mating over several years. The Corriedale is a dual purpose sheep, being favoured by many breeders both for lamb raising and for wool production.

Tables showing the breeds of sheep in Victoria and in Australia appear on page 120 of this issue of the *Year-Book*.

The following table sets out the numbers of rams, ewes, wethers and lambs depastured on rural holdings in each county of the State as at March, 1948, also the numbers of ewes mated, classified according to whether the progeny is intended for wool or for fat lamb production. The breeds of rams are also shown.

Rams, Ewes, &c., in Counties at March, 1948.

VICTORIA—RAMS, EWES, ETC.; EWES MATED;
TRAVELLING SHEEP AND SHEEP

Statistical Districts and Counties.	Rams.	Ewes.		Wethers.	Lambs.	Total Sheep and Lambs.
		Breeding. (Mated and not mated.)	Other.			
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Ro.
Central District—						
Bourke	6,827	265,250	27,544	120,582	102,862	523,065
Grant	8,188	352,696	45,113	150,972	175,399	732,368
Mornington	3,761	133,802	13,550	15,470	59,326	225,900
Evelyn	1,221	31,589	678	5,337	17,044	55,869
North Central District—						
Anglesey	5,513	217,603	15,676	154,096	79,315	472,203
Dalhousie	5,439	238,999	15,173	132,238	95,164	487,013
Talbot	7,892	303,746	13,388	80,109	143,649	548,784
Western District—						
Grenville	10,452	301,832	44,668	198,289	157,715	712,956
Polwarth	2,741	83,880	8,754	29,470	47,257	172,102
Heytesbury	1,029	41,075	1,647	2,753	9,690	56,194
Hampden	13,804	430,104	56,469	173,513	229,054	902,944
Ripon	10,661	395,197	74,611	249,994	217,937	948,400
Villiers	10,783	386,140	68,225	251,298	231,077	947,523
Normanby	6,669	286,183	52,709	210,191	152,080	707,832
Dundas	8,926	364,040	77,740	298,969	189,709	939,384
Follett	2,678	106,394	9,432	105,544	53,258	277,306
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	12,540	529,581	66,006	352,747	283,481	1,244,355
Borong	10,207	419,329	37,344	194,487	205,644	867,011
Kara Kara	8,459	279,745	31,735	124,374	149,491	593,804
Mallee District—						
Millewa	1,082	59,912	3,785	14,918	21,887	101,584
Weeah	1,514	81,757	2,051	13,920	25,439	124,681
Karkaroc	6,076	350,115	3,690	46,510	113,968	520,359
Tatchera	5,697	286,429	2,746	29,687	97,445	422,004
Northern District—						
Gunbower	5,350	208,283	4,512	24,758	85,513	328,416
Gladstone	5,467	247,137	10,378	73,544	134,772	471,298
Bendigo	6,900	291,174	17,113	45,680	149,000	509,867
Rodney	8,809	336,884	10,778	51,758	161,258	569,487
Moirs	15,667	642,109	14,213	83,477	232,018	987,484
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	10,182	437,894	13,575	98,834	168,414	728,899
Bogong	6,184	242,573	11,469	42,064	78,681	380,971
Benambra	3,059	135,116	7,095	54,756	65,699	265,725
Wonnangatta	520	20,332	1,541	13,427	10,921	46,741
Gippsland District—						
Croajlong	476	20,049	6,060	9,476	11,997	48,058
Tambo	1,275	62,787	3,945	23,193	24,799	115,999
Dargo	919	47,433	4,962	21,566	23,511	98,391
Tanjil	3,595	176,792	14,355	91,481	84,282	370,505
Buln Buln	4,743	198,786	20,167	105,593	96,393	425,682
Total	225,305	9,012,747	812,897	3,695,075	4,185,149	17,931,173

BREEDS OF RAMS IN EACH COUNTY (EXCLUSIVE OF IN TOWNS) AS AT MARCH, 1948.

Ewes Mated (for Lambing during Season 1948).		Breeds of Rams (as at March, 1948).						
To Merino, Corriedale or Polwarth Rams (Wool Production).	To Rams of British Breeds (Fat-lamb Production).	Merino.	Corriedale.	Polwarth.	Border Leicester.	South-down.	Dorset Horn.	Other.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
39,246	215,950	185	800	180	1,097	1,429	1,853	1,283
163,912	167,615	1,918	1,649	587	1,280	278	1,639	837
5,957	122,827	7	365	4	513	1,470	446	956
7,460	23,134	21	106	105	63	360	86	480
82,851	124,510	1,351	817	131	227	1,819	478	690
85,838	146,754	1,156	677	93	1,157	893	1,037	426
129,406	162,030	2,368	1,642	68	1,686	188	902	1,038
182,572	89,534	6,356	1,111	1,041	743	258	456	487
33,164	45,421	11	380	1,183	337	383	109	338
2,039	38,103	..	25	17	62	699	45	181
289,149	110,057	4,468	3,645	2,578	378	731	528	1,476
290,011	70,882	7,363	1,374	279	575	72	582	416
273,323	81,305	4,269	2,540	1,618	501	241	217	1,397
172,032	92,744	1,532	2,377	377	421	201	345	1,416
244,465	93,384	4,339	1,925	340	573	181	448	1,120
42,207	60,691	360	520	63	320	210	160	1,045
367,472	135,297	7,583	1,696	132	968	273	656	1,232
209,121	195,057	4,167	1,324	138	2,336	168	1,389	685
153,703	117,420	4,687	571	295	1,846	46	733	281
30,444	28,628	612	69	8	160	..	186	47
30,413	50,990	193	439	25	349	40	401	76
34,553	314,393	136	608	30	3,424	45	1,480	363
15,138	269,569	96	286	9	4,075	140	587	504
36,186	168,466	823	378	15	1,681	311	1,508	634
118,952	121,624	2,116	671	64	1,806	141	308	361
63,315	221,084	794	694	33	2,957	300	1,275	837
51,285	279,060	323	969	29	3,271	1,037	2,310	870
75,997	558,739	499	1,509	72	4,291	4,488	3,380	1,428
135,831	288,191	1,006	1,672	209	2,166	2,043	797	2,289
55,770	180,904	628	616	163	2,698	870	358	851
57,814	71,879	826	395	50	435	283	414	656
9,995	9,414	96	166	27	25	12	19	175
7,688	8,524	249	34	1	96	1	2	93
35,147	24,904	231	449	39	143	58	70	285
25,654	19,236	312	172	..	147	62	47	179
77,982	89,294	1,034	482	94	196	94	896	799
48,212	141,272	497	438	15	871	747	854	1,321
3,684,304	4,939,486	62,612	33,582	10,112	43,874	20,572	27,001	27,552

AUSTRALIA—BREEDS OF SHEEP—31st MARCH, 1947.

Breed.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	A.C.T. and Northern Territory.	Australia.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Merino ..	31,067,510	5,265,808	15,872,429	5,926,462	8,323,849	280,313	224,707	66,961,078
Other Pure Breeds ..	2,139,893	1,407,349	23,795	342,187	488,975	456,411	8,160	4,866,770
Merino Come-back ..	2,059,812	3,001,730	89,132	274,068	*	282,300	5,269	5,712,311†
Crossbreeds ..	7,837,785	6,923,603	98,984	1,415,902	974,178	914,308	17,805	18,182,565
	43,105,000	16,598,490	16,084,340	7,958,619	9,787,002	1,933,332	255,941	95,722,724

* Included with Crossbreeds.

† Incomplete by reason of *.

VICTORIA—BREEDS OF SHEEP—31st MARCH, 1947.

Breed.	Central District.	North Central District.	Western District.	Wimmera District.	Mallee District.	Northern District.	North-East District.	Gippsland District.	State.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Merino ..	198,765	384,939	2,206,705	1,570,166	183,557	380,533	210,115	131,028	5,265,808
Other Pure Breeds ..	142,786	102,285	698,826	134,568	46,357	146,685	86,106	49,736	1,407,349
Merino Come-back ..	274,584	280,235	968,798	243,314	258,916	359,597	259,005	357,281	3,001,730
Crossbreeds ..	828,421	621,695	1,480,041	530,915	487,803	1,711,810	780,681	482,237	6,923,603

Statistics of wool production are obtained direct from the growers, from fellmongeries and, in respect of wool exported on skins, from the Customs Department.

VICTORIA—SHEEP AND LAMBS SHORN (IN DISTRICTS), SEASON 1947-48.

Statistical District.	Shorn.		Wool Clipped (including Crutchings).		Average.	
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep's.	Lambs'.	Per Sheep.	Per Lamb.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Central ..	1,204,332	376,409	10,999,630	1,050,289	9.13	2.79
North-Central ..	1,354,222	363,977	12,290,788	956,460	9.08	2.63
Western ..	5,183,243	1,482,660	49,350,717	4,051,787	9.52	2.73
Wimmera ..	2,420,374	737,162	24,152,836	2,142,564	9.98	2.91
Mallee ..	893,170	247,401	8,521,990	628,922	9.54	2.54
Northern ..	2,296,172	807,549	20,448,883	2,248,337	8.91	2.78
North-Eastern ..	1,285,723	419,491	11,145,150	1,035,252	8.67	2.47
Gippsland ..	914,524	303,941	8,117,122	726,023	8.88	2.39
State Total ..	15,551,760	4,738,590	145,027,116	12,839,634	9.33	2.71

VICTORIA—SHEEP SHORN AND WOOL CLIPPED.

Season.	Shorn.		Wool Clipped (including Crutchings).		Average.	
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep's.	Lambs'.	Per Sheep.	Per Lamb.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1942-43	18,517,675	4,346,985	163,250,178	10,794,985	8·82	2·48
1943-44	18,335,678	4,980,781	151,995,096	11,843,481	8·29	2·38
1944-45	17,343,470	3,668,790	134,236,931	8,378,726	7·74	2·28
1945-46	13,826,939	2,543,969	103,669,755	5,566,385	7·50	2·19
1946-47	14,033,081	4,130,818	139,885,117	10,922,452	9·97	2·64
1947-48	15,551,760	4,738,590	145,027,116	12,839,634	9·33	2·71

VICTORIA—WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE.

Season.	Clip.	Stripped from and Exported on Skins, &c. (Greasy).	Total Quantity. (Greasy).	Gross Value.	Average Price per lb.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	£	d.
1942-43	174,045,163	34,159,329	208,204,492	14,223,964	16·40
1943-44	163,838,577	32,576,650	196,415,227	13,290,073	16·24
1944-45	142,615,657	34,527,400	177,143,057	11,856,369	16·06
1945-46	109,236,140	43,161,367	152,397,507	9,527,048	15·00
1946-47	150,807,569	46,268,669	197,076,238	18,708,593	22·78
1947-48	157,866,750	33,137,130	191,003,880	29,851,792	37·51

The annual collection of statistics is carefully and efficiently carried out by the police. It is realized, however, that the wool clip as recorded is not likely to cover the whole clip, which was shorn some months prior to the collection. After investigation, and examination of the results of investigations elsewhere, it is considered that the quantity not recorded does not exceed 5 per cent. of the Victorian clip.

There is some uncertainty also associated with skin wool. Allowance is made for skins from other States which are exported from Victoria, so that they are not included in Victorian production. The Victorian figures do, however, include skin wool from all sheep and lambs slaughtered in Victoria, even though some of such sheep were brought over from other States for slaughter.

**Economic
Wool
Research.**

A Wool Section of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, whose activities are mentioned on page 68 of this issue of the *Year-Book*, has been developed in order to discharge the Bureau's responsibility for economic wool research under the *Wool Use Promotion Act* of 1945 and is financed from the Wool Research Trust Account. Briefly, under this Act, the proceeds from the wool tax of 2s. per bale are paid into the Wool Use Promotion Fund, which is available to the Wool Board for promoting the use of wool throughout the world. The Commonwealth Government pays a similar amount from Consolidated Revenue into the Wool Research Trust Account to be used in scientific, economic, and cost research and in the co-ordination and application of the results of such research. The C.S.I.R. is responsible for biological and textile research and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics for economic research. The two organizations work in co-operation in their wool research programme.

The work of the Wool Section falls into two main categories—Farm Production economics (dealing with the economics of wool growing and sheep station management) and Marketing economics (dealing with the economic aspects of wool marketing both within Australia and overseas).

**Marketing
of Wool.**

The open public auctions which operated during the season 1946-47 were continued during 1947-48. Gratifying as were the financial results of the first year (1946-47) of the return to public auctions, following a seven-year period of determining individual clip values by appraisalment methods, they sink into secondary importance when compared with the figures established in the season 1947-48.

An insatiable world-wide demand for wool, particularly in respect of the finer descriptions, was responsible for creating the most remarkable range of values in wool trade history.

Oversea buyers gave sustained support and local buyers bought with more freedom than ever before, aided as they were by a Government subsidy on wools bought for local manufacture. The highest price for merino wool (138½d. per lb.) fell short of the 153d. per lb. established in 1946-47 at the Tasmanian sales.

The highest prices obtained for wool sold in Victoria and in Australia during each season from 1926-27 to 1947-48 are shown hereunder. Average weighted prices for wool of Victorian production appear on page 95 of this issue of the *Year-Book*.

Season.	Victoria.	Australia.	Season.	Victoria.	Australia.
	d.	d.		d.	d.
1926-27 ..	41¾	41¾	1937-38 ..	33½	33½
1927-28 ..	44¾	45½	1938-39 ..	26¼	28
1928-29 ..	47	47	1939-40 ..	31	33¼
1929-30 ..	37¼	37¼	1940-41 ..	33¼	33¼
1930-31 ..	31¼	31¼	1941-42 ..	33½	34½
1931-32 ..	38¼	38¼	1942-43 ..	39	39½
1932-33 ..	22½	28½	1943-44 ..	40¾	40¾
1933-34 ..	36¼	42	1944-45 ..	39	40¾
1934-35 ..	22¼	24½	1945-46 ..	41¼	41¼
1935-36 ..	29¼	35½	1946-47 ..	121½	153
1936-37 ..	36¼	46¾	1947-48 ..	135	138½

The following information as to the average prices of wool per lb. which have prevailed during the last three seasons has been obtained from Victorian wool brokers. These prices are for wool *appraised* or auctioned in Victoria. Wool from the Riverina and the south-east of South Australia is included in Victorian appraisements or sales.

Prices of
Wool.

PRICES OF WOOL IN VICTORIA, 1945-46
TO 1947-48.

Class of Wool.	Average Price per lb. in—		
	1945-46.*	1946-47.	1947-48.
GREASY MERINO.			
Extra Super (Western District) ..	34 to 41	100 to 122	111 to 135
Super	27 to 33	70 to 99	90 to 110
Good	22 to 26	50 to 69	64 to 89
Average	16 to 20	30 to 49	44 to 63
Wasty and Inferior	10 to 15	15 to 29	20 to 40
Extra Super Lambs	26 to 29	60 to 85	100 to 123
Super Lambs	22 to 25	40 to 59	80 to 99
Good Lambs	16 to 21	25 to 39	40 to 75
Average Lambs	12 to 15	15 to 24	20 to 35
Inferior Lambs	8 to 11	11 to 14	15 to 19
GREASY CROSSBRED.			
Extra Super Comebacks	25 to 28	50 to 61	70 to 94
Super Comebacks	21 to 24	40 to 49	50 to 69
Fine Crossbred	14 to 23	26 to 36	30 to 56
Medium Crossbred	14 to 22	20 to 30	22 to 40
Coarse Crossbred and Lincoln ..	13 to 25	18 to 26	18 to 36
Super Fine Crossbred Lambs ..	18 to 21	30 to 44	40 to 54
Good Crossbred Lambs	13 to 16	19 to 29	22 to 36
Coarse and Lincoln Lambs	12 to 15	16 to 20	20 to 24
SCOURED.			
Extra Super Fleece	30 to 33	76 to 81	90 to 100
Super Fleece	26 to 29	60 to 75	70 to 80
Good Fleece	21 to 25	50 to 59	60 to 65
Average Fleece	19 to 20	36 to 49	50 to 56
RECORD PRICES FOR THE SEASON.			
Greasy Merino Fleece	41 $\frac{1}{4}$	121 $\frac{1}{2}$	135
„ Comeback Fleece	28	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ Merino Lambs	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{4}$	123
„ Comeback Lambs	25	62	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
Scoured Fleece	33 $\frac{1}{4}$	81	99

* Appraisal prices—subject to addition of 13·9 per cent.

**Prices of
Live Stock.**

In the subjoined table will be found a statement of the average prices of live stock ruling in metropolitan saleyards at Newmarket during the five years 1943-44 to 1947-48. The averages stated are the mean of the monthly prices

realized. Prices of live stock vary each year under the influence of seasonal conditions, prices of wool, &c. During periods of dry weather, stock are hastened to market and consequently prices decline but, with the advent of relief rains, stock are withheld for fattening, breeding, &c., and prices rise.

VICTORIA—PRICES OF LIVE STOCK, 1943-44 TO 1947-48.

Stock.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.
	Average.	Average.	Average.	Average.	Average.
<i>Fat Cattle.</i>					
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bullocks—					
Extra prime	24 6 0	24 3 7	25 19 4	24 9 8	28 1 9
Prime	22 4 11	22 0 0	23 14 5	23 7 6	25 18 1
Good	20 5 6	20 7 11	21 8 6	20 19 9	23 12 10
Good light and handy weights	16 19 9	17 9 11	18 4 3	18 5 11	20 19 3
Second	12 12 11	13 4 0	15 5 3	14 17 7	Not available.
Cows—					
Best	15 13 3	15 9 9	16 17 9	17 1 2	17 11 6
Others	9 7 2	8 18 7	10 4 3	9 17 1	11 10 10
<i>Dairy Cattle</i>					
Milkers (best)	19 14 4	19 19 1	23 4 4	22 3 6	24 5 0
Springers (best)	13 16 5	14 11 6	18 5 8	17 1 10	19 5 9
<i>Fat Sheep.</i>					
Crossbred Wethers—					
Extra prime	1 14 6	1 14 4	2 2 9	2 5 11	2 14 3
Prime	1 11 4	1 11 2	1 19 1	2 0 8	2 8 3
Good	1 7 5	1 6 11	1 14 7	1 15 3	2 1 11
Crossbred Ewes—					
Extra prime	1 5 5	1 5 0	1 11 11	1 13 11	2 1 0
Prime	1 1 9	1 1 11	1 8 0	1 8 6	1 15 2
Good	0 16 2	0 17 6	1 2 8	1 1 3	1 5 6
Merino Wethers—					
Extra prime	1 10 2	1 8 11	1 16 11	2 0 1	2 6 7
Prime	1 7 8	1 6 10	1 13 8	1 16 5	2 2 2
Good	1 3 2	1 2 4	1 8 7	1 8 6	Not available.
<i>Fat Lambs.</i>					
Extra prime	1 11 10	1 12 10	1 19 11	2 5 0	2 11 5
Prime	1 8 7	1 9 2	1 15 6	1 19 1	2 4 9
Good	1 4 6	1 4 9	1 11 1	1 13 6	1 17 0
<i>Pigs.</i>					
Back Fatters—					
Extra heavy prime	11 17 1	11 16 10	14 16 3	16 14 2	19 11 6
Prime medium and weighty ..	9 12 5	9 15 4	12 7 3	13 8 5	15 7 5
Baconers—					
Medium and heavy	5 15 4	6 9 6	6 13 5	7 9 6	8 12 5
Light	4 11 6	5 6 11	5 9 0	6 1 2	7 0 5
Porkers	3 12 0	3 17 8	4 8 5	4 18 0	5 6 11

Stock Slaughtered. The following table shows the number of slaughtering establishments and of the stock slaughtered in the State during each of the five years, 1944-48:—

VICTORIA—STOCK SLAUGHTERED, 1944 TO 1948.

Kind of Stock.	Stock Slaughtered in Establishments and on Farms and Stations.				
	Year Ended June—				
	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.*
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Sheep	5,079,169	5,059,831	2,861,651	2,896,162	2,642,377
Lambs	4,221,903	4,127,769	2,195,031	3,409,202	3,599,560
Bullocks	165,001	161,022	122,864	160,023	179,604
Cows	223,245	235,155	176,326	205,012	227,070
Young cattle	75,502	77,349	43,418	48,162	55,914
Calves	304,641	334,777	230,844	265,373	285,804
Pigs	388,905	415,638	316,300	359,346	377,366
Number of Slaughterhouses ..	555	526	521	500	509

* Average dressed weights per carcass during 1947-48 were: Sheep 43·19 lbs.: Lambs 35·15 lbs.: Bullocks 626·03 lbs.: Cows 400·40 lbs.: Young Cattle 247·44 lbs.; Calves 55·73 lbs.: Pigs 161·07 lbs.

Frozen Mutton and Lamb Exported. The importance of the mutton and lamb export trade to sheep owners is indicated by the export figures for the years 1941 to 1948 as shown in the statement hereunder.

FROZEN MUTTON AND LAMB EXPORTED FROM VICTORIAN PORTS.

(Exports from all Australian ports are shown in parentheses.)

Year Ended 30th June.	Carcasses Exported (<i>exclusive of certain service requirements consumed outside Australia</i>).			
	Mutton.		Lamb.	
	Number.	Average Weight.	Number.	Average Weight.
		lb.		lb.
1941	76,964 (391,766)	53 (46)	3,286,685 (7,053,976)	31 (31)
1942	88,947 (207,259)	53 (49)	2,740,423 (5,176,722)	33 (32)
1943	151,283 (429,823)	48 (45)	2,747,120 (5,307,531)	35 (35)
1944	287,331 (609,767)	43 (43)	2,382,018 (4,162,862)	32 (32)
1945	353,557 (728,514)	41 (41)	2,004,964 (3,480,887)	31 (31)
1946	127,579 (322,354)	44 (42)	561,578 (1,197,419)	34 (34)
1947	623,151 (1,063,095)	53 (49)	1,948,097 (2,801,618)	39 (38)
1948	283,934 (483,151)	52 (48)	1,628,867 (2,544,966)	38 (38)

Cattle. Cattle-raising has always been one of the more important primary industries in this State, despite the gradual increase in the areas devoted to dairy farming, sheep-raising, and cultivation. This has been due mainly to the considerable improvement in methods of pasture management, including the practice of top-dressing. Vigilant inspection of stock and the rigid quarantine of stock imported from overseas have kept herds in Victoria free from many forms of contagious diseases and animal pests with which stock in other countries are afflicted. The numbers of live stock in each county of the State will be found on page 110 of this issue.

Silage. Ensilage, an economical and safe method of conserving fodder in a succulent form, is relished by stock during dry periods. Expensive precautions against damage by fire, rodents and stock, required for other fodders, are not necessary in the case of silage.

The following table gives particulars of the silage made in Victoria during the seasons 1943-44 to 1947-48 :—

SILAGE IN VICTORIA, 1943-44 TO 1947-48.

Season ended March.	Farms on which Silage Made.	Silage Made.	Districts in which Made.							
			Central.	North Central.	Western.	Wimmera.	Mallee.	Northern.	North Eastern.	Gippsland
	No.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1944	*	27,108	5,465	414	5,969	155	139	937	3,911	10,118
1945	454	19,993	5,279	390	1,002	27	58	417	1,014	11,806
1946	639	31,576	7,433	570	1,988	173	..	893	6,428	14,091
1947	504	24,644	7,190	899	1,766	526	72	496	3,774	9,921
1948	440	21,873	6,072	654	1,897	274	135	1,286	5,244	6,311

* Not tabulated.

Apiculture. Prior to the season 1936, the statistics of honey and beeswax were based on returns received from apiarists who were permanent occupiers of holdings of one acre and upwards. As a consequence, production was understated because of the exclusion of (a) hives on areas of less than one acre, and (b) travelling beekeepers who were not occupiers of rural holdings. Commencing with the season 1935-36, all beekeepers have been required to furnish returns. Particulars relating to apiculture for the five years 1944-48 are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—BEE-HIVES, HONEY, AND BEESWAX, 1943-44
TO 1947-48.

Season Ended May—	Bee-keepers.*	Hives.	Production.		Gross Value.	
			Honey.	Beeswax.	Honey.	Beeswax.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	£	£
1944	1,944	90,010	2,544,760	33,796	79,524	4,225
1945	1,658	76,257	4,260,657	49,119	133,146	6,140
1946	1,644	83,719	4,064,274	43,777	127,009	5,472
1947	1,600	95,195	9,031,407	95,524	282,231	11,941
1948	1,603	108,896	6,934,219	70,851	216,694	8,856

* Apiarists with 20 hives and over numbered 803 in 1944, 691 in 1945, 767 in 1946, 838 in 1947 and 919 in 1948.

Poultry Census. A table showing the number of poultry owners and of poultry in Victoria, as at the date of the Census in each of the years 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1933 was published on page 488 of the 1938-39 issue of the *Year-Book*.

Establishment of Marketing Boards. A summary of the principal legislative provisions of the *Marketing of Primary Products Act* 1935 was published on pages 446 to 448 of the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1934-35.

Pursuant to such Act, Marketing Boards have been constituted for onions, chicory, maize, and eggs and egg pulp.

**Wholesale
Prices of
Principal
Products.**

The following table gives the monthly average of the Melbourne wholesale prices of the principal agricultural, dairying, and pastoral food products for the year ended June, 1948 :—

MELBOURNE—WHOLESALE PRICES—YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1948.

	1947.						1948.					
	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.
	<i>s. d.</i>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Agriculture—												
Wheat .. per bushel	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	5 5½	6 3	6 3	6 3	6 3	6 3
Barley—												
English	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 10	6 10	6 10	6 10	6 10	6 10
Cape	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1
Oats, Milling	4 10	4 7	4 8½	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6
Maize	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6
	£ <i>s. d.</i>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bran per ton	6 15 3	6 15 3	6 15 3	6 15 3	6 15 3	6 15 3	6 19 8	7 15 3	7 15 3	7 15 3	7 15 3	7 16 0
Pollard	6 15 3	6 15 3	6 15 3	6 15 3	6 15 3	6 15 3	6 19 8	7 15 3	7 15 3	7 15 3	7 15 3	7 16 0
Flour (first quality)*	13 14 0	13 14 0	13 14 0	13 14 0	13 14 0	13 14 0	14 8 3	16 18 3	16 18 3	16 18 3	16 18 3	16 10 9
Chaff	7 12 6	7 12 6	7 12 6	7 12 6	7 12 6	7 15 0	8 0 0	8 10 0	9 10 0	9 15 0	9 15 0	9 10 0
Potatoes	7 10 0	7 10 0	9 12 6	9 12 6	9 12 6	9 12 6	9 12 6	9 12 6	9 12 6	9 12 6	9 12 6	9 12 6
Onions	16 2 6	16 2 6	16 2 6	16 2 6	16 2 6	16 2 6	16 5 10	16 17 3	16 17 6	16 17 6	16 17 6	16 17 6
Dairy and Farmyard Produce—												
Butter .. per lb.	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 8½	1 8½	1 8½	1 8½	1 8½	1 8½	1 8½
Bacon	1 3½	1 3½	1 3½	1 3½	1 4	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½
Ham	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7½	1 9	1 9	1 9	1 9	1 9	1 9	1 9
Cheese (matured) ..	1 4	1 4	1 4	1 4	1 4	1 4	1 4	1 4	1 4	1 4	1 4	1 4½
Honey	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½
Eggs per doz.	2 2½	2 0	1 9	1 9	1 9	1 9	2 0½	2 1½	2 1½	2 2½	2 10	3 0
Butchers' Meat—												
Beef, prime .. per 100 lb.	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 15 7	2 15 7	2 15 7	2 15 7	2 15 7	2 15 7	2 15 7	2 15 7	2 15 7
	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>dd.</i>	<i>d.</i>	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Mutton .. per lb.	6-05	6-05	6-05	6-05	6-05	6-05	6-05	6-05	6-05	6-05	6-05	6-05
Veal	6-08	6-08	6-08	6-08	6-08	6-54	6-54	6-54	6-54	6-54	6-54	6-54
Pork	9-69	9-69	9-69	9-69	9-69	9-69	9-69	9-69	9-69	9-69	9-69	9-69
Lamb	10-55	10-55	10-55	10-55	10-55	10-55	10-55	10-55	10-55	10-55	10-55	10-55

* Price quoted includes Flour Tax.

Retail
Prices.

The following table gives the monthly average of the Melbourne retail prices of certain items of groceries, &c., for the year ended June, 1948:—

MELBOURNE—RETAIL PRICES—YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1948.

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Victorian Year-Book, 1947-48.

Article.	Unit.	1947.						1948.					
		July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.
Groceries, &c.—		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	<i>d.</i>
Bread	2 lb.	5-55	6-00	6-00	6-00	6-00	6-00	6-00	7-00	7-00	7-00	7-00	7-00
Flour, self-raising	"	7-45	7-45	7-90	7-90	8-00	8-00	7-90	9-15	9-15	9-15	9-05	9-05
Tea	lb.	33-00	33-00	33-00	33-00	33-00	33-00	33-00	33-00	33-00	33-00	33-00	33-00
Sugar	lb.	4-00	4-00	4-00	4-00	4-00	4-50	4-50	4-50	4-50	4-50	4-50	4-50
Jam, plum	1½ lb.	13-85	13-85	13-80	13-85	13-85	13-95	13-95	15-17	16-00	16-10	16-40	16-30
Oats, flaked	lb.	4-34	4-31	4-31	4-31	4-34	4-38	4-38	4-38	4-38	4-44	4-50	4-56
Rasins, seeded	"	14-13	14-63	14-61	14-94	14-72	14-83	15-00	15-00	14-88	15-00	15-21	16-10
Currants	"	11-63	12-08	12-06	12-06	12-13	12-13	12-38	12-50	12-36	12-44	12-31	12-31
Apricots, dried	"	25-09	25-09	25-09	25-09	25-09	25-09	25-09	25-09	25-09	25-09	25-17	25-17
Peaches, canned	30 oz.	16-00	15-89	15-78	15-65	15-60	15-60	15-83	16-00	16-38	17-75	17-71	17-71
Pears, canned	"	17-25	17-17	17-06	17-05	17-05	16-90	17-06	17-11	17-50	19-00	19-00	19-00
Potatoes	7 lb.	10-24	10-50	10-50	10-50	10-50	10-50	10-50	10-50	10-50	10-50	10-45	10-50
Onions, brown	lb.	2-69	2-69	2-69	4-30	3-33	3-42	3-33	2-93	2-67	2-67	2-79	2-79
Dairy Produce—													
Butter, factory	lb.	20-50	20-50	20-50	20-50	20-50	23-70	23-70	23-70	23-70	23-70	23-75	23-75
Eggs, new laid	doz.	31-00	28-00	23-80	23-90	26-00	28-00	29-50	31-00	33-00	35-40	37-00	41-00
Bacon, rashers	lb.	23-61	23-56	24-83	25-00	25-00	26-61	26-83	26-83	27-00	27-00	27-00	27-00
Milk, fresh	quart	7-45	7-45	7-45	8-43	8-43	8-43	8-43	8-43	8-43	8-43	8-43	8-43
Meat—													
Beef, sirloin	lb.	14-10	14-10	14-20	14-55	14-55	14-60	14-60	14-70	14-60	14-60	15-20	15-75
" rib	"	11-70	11-70	11-70	12-30	12-30	12-40	12-40	12-40	12-40	12-40	12-70	13-30
" steak, rump	"	21-70	21-70	21-70	22-40	22-40	22-50	22-50	22-50	22-40	22-40	23-20	24-30
" chuck	"	10-35	10-35	10-35	10-60	10-60	10-70	10-70	10-70	10-60	10-60	10-85	11-30
" sausages	"	8-20	8-15	8-25	8-80	8-80	8-80	8-80	8-80	8-80	8-80	9-95	9-95
" corned silverside	"	13-30	13-30	13-30	13-95	14-00	14-10	14-10	14-10	14-10	14-10	14-10	14-55
" brisket	"	8-95	9-05	9-05	9-44	9-50	9-50	9-50	9-50	9-50	9-50	9-50	9-89
Mutton, leg	"	12-22	12-22	12-22	12-13	12-13	12-13	12-13	12-13	12-13	12-13	12-25	13-63
" forequarter	"	7-22	7-22	7-28	7-19	7-19	7-19	7-13	7-13	7-19	7-13	7-38	8-00
" loin	"	10-89	10-89	10-89	11-00	11-13	11-13	11-38	11-38	11-13	11-13	11-13	12-25
" chops, loin	"	11-67	11-67	11-67	11-75	11-88	11-88	11-88	11-88	11-88	11-88	11-88	13-13
" leg	"	12-56	12-56	12-56	12-63	12-50	12-63	12-50	12-50	12-63	12-63	12-63	14-63
Pork, leg	"	16-81	17-29	17-57	17-57	17-29	18-00	18-00	17-83	18-20	18-00	18-00	18-00
" chops	"	18-75	19-50	19-64	19-64	19-64	20-08	20-08	20-08	19-80	19-80	19-80	19-80

FORESTRY.

Administration. The forests of the State comprise both reserved and protected areas and are controlled by a Commission appointed in 1919.

Forest Area. At the 30th June, 1948, the area of reserved forest was 4,939,493 acres, much of which can be classed only as protection forest and is not strictly speaking timber producing. It is estimated that there are 10,000,000 acres of Crown lands in the State carrying merchantable timber.

Protected Forests. In addition to the 4,939,493 acres aforementioned, there were 161,943 acres reserved as Timber Reserves under the Land Acts. Including these reserves, but excluding areas reserved as sites for Gardens, Parks and Recreation Purposes, all remaining Crown lands have been proclaimed "Protected Forests". It should not be assumed, however, that all of these lands are "forests" as the term is generally understood, as over 6,000,000 acres comprise roads, water frontages, beds of rivers and lakes, and unsold land in cities, towns, and boroughs. In addition, on the area of more than 8,000,000 acres in occupation under grazing and other leases, much of the timber is of little or no commercial value because of remoteness, inaccessibility, or other causes.

Forests Output. The output of sawn timber from State Forests in 1947-48 was 22,941,652 cubic feet. In addition 29,449,260 cubic feet of fuel timber and 5,116,053 cubic feet of miscellaneous timber were produced.

Particulars of sawn timber and firewood, from all sources, will be found in part "Factories" etc., of the *Year Book*.

Softwood Plantations. The area planted during the 1947 planting season was 1,778 acres, comprising restocking cut-over areas, 86 acres; new planting 1,588 acres; and renewals 104 acres. The total plantation area at 30th June, 1948, was 48,703 acres.

Plantation Output. The output of plantation-grown softwood timber amounted to 13,484,030 superficial feet. The corresponding total for 1946-47 was 12,351,836 superficial feet.

**Other
Commercial
Softwood
Plantations.**

There are not many private commercial plantations of softwoods in Victoria. The largest is at Dartmoor, near the South Australian border, where a company holds 11,361 acres. Of this area 9,000 acres are in Victoria and approximately 6,000 acres thereof have been planted. The same company holds 1,200 acres at Rosebud (650 acres planted).

The Ballarat Water Commission has an area of approximately 3,500 acres available for afforestation, of which 1,000 acres are planted with conifers. Its present planting programme provides for 50,000 trees (100 acres) per annum.

Trees and forest thinnings, down to a diameter of about five inches are utilized in the Commission's case-making plant, the value of the output of which amounts approximately to £46,000 per annum. Smaller diameter thinnings are disposed of for paper pulping purposes.

Severe damage to the plantations was caused by the bush fires of 1939, about 240,000 trees being destroyed. This area has now been re-afforested. The number of effective conifers growing on the Commission's Reserves is 485,000.

**Timber
salvage from
burnt-out
areas.**

Following upon the disastrous bush fires of 1939 (references to which appeared on pages 5, 286, 494, and 495 of the 1938-39 issue of the *Year-Book*) it was estimated that of the 2,000,000,000 superficial feet of fire-killed timber, 916,000,000 superficial feet could be recovered. This target was attained by May, 1945. Under the provisions of the *State Forests (Timber Salvage) Loan and Application Act 1939*, salvage of Mountain Ash and Alpine Ash timber is still proceeding at a satisfactory rate and up to 30th June, 1947, 1,177,485,000 superficial feet of serviceable timber has been recovered.

Nurseries.

To encourage the growth of softwoods or conifers in both State and private plantations, three large nurseries have been established at Creswick, Macedon, and Broadford. In addition to providing trees for the plantations, the nurseries supply considerable numbers of plants at low rates to State schools, public bodies, and private applicants. This has proved of great benefit to the community by fostering an interest in tree planting generally, and especially by encouraging farmers to plant trees to afford protection to their homesteads and to provide shade and shelter for their flocks and herds.

Forestry Fund.

Particulars in respect of this fund (established in 1918) will be found on page 355 of the 1943-44 issue of the *Year-Book*.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue derived from forest sources during the financial year 1947-48 was £594,923, and the expenditure £1,756,462—£446,710 of which was paid out of the Consolidated Revenue, £1,116,876 out of loan funds, and the balance—£192,876—from the Forestry Fund.

Silviculture of Indigenous Forests.

The various types of silvicultural operations in the indigenous forests over the period 1944-45 to 1947-48 are indicated in the following table :—

VICTORIA—SILVICULTURAL OPERATIONS IN STATE FORESTS, 1944-45 TO 1947-48.

Nature of Work.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
First thinning	Acres. 3,043	Acres. 3,444	Acres. 5,330	Acres. 7,903
Second or subsequent thinning	517	30	1,515	1,826
Regeneration or liberation treatment by ring-barking	1,207	2,104	486	4,326
Removal of surplus coppice .. .. .	..	1,800	7,120	15,157
Total area treated	4,767	7,378	14,451	29,212

The Wood-Pulp Agreement Act.

The *Wood-Pulp Agreement Act* 1936 (No. 4451) passed on 27th December, 1936, is "an Act to ratify validate approve and otherwise give effect to an agreement between the Minister of Forests, the Forests Commission, and Australian Paper Manufacturers Limited with respect to the establishment of the wood-pulp industry". Details of the agreement will be found in previous issues of the *Year-Book*.

Production of wood-pulp.

The first manufacturing unit—the Pilot Mill—erected in accordance with the abovementioned agreement came into production in January, 1938, with a capacity production of 3,000 tons of air-dried pulp per annum. The main mill, which commenced production in October, 1939, has a capacity output of approximately 30,000 tons of kraft pulp per annum.

Supply of pulp-wood from State forests.

Consignment of pulp-wood from the State forests to the mill at Maryvale commenced in October, 1937. During the year 1947-48, the quantities of pulp-wood obtained from the State forests totalled 2,930,061 cubic feet as compared with 2,192,249 cubic feet in 1946-47.

Eucalyptus Oil. Eucalyptus oil is not an exclusive product of the State forests, a large proportion of the annual Victorian output being distilled from the leaves of trees grown on private lands. Only a small proportion of the crude oil is refined in the stills by which it is produced.

Details of the recorded production of crude eucalyptus oil are shown in the table hereunder:—

VICTORIA—PRODUCTION OF CRUDE EUCALYPTUS OIL.

Year Ended 30th June.						Crude Oil Produced.	Value.
						lb.	£
1942	..	..	..	..	..	487,596	56,789
1943	..	..	..	..	..	587,853	86,541
1944	..	..	..	..	..	518,010	72,731
1945	..	..	..	..	..	339,268	52,454
1946	..	..	..	..	..	504,036	82,279
1947	..	..	..	..	..	751,678	143,462
1948	..	..	..	..	..	450,282	71,235