

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

1918-19.

A. M. LAUGHTON,

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

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Victorian Year-Book

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By

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THIRTY-NINTH ISSUE.

By Authority :

ALBERT J. MULLETT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

[2s. 6d.]

CONTENTS.

	PAGES
MAP OF VICTORIA.	
INTRODUCTION	1 to 11
CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT	11 to 44
FINANCE	45 to 94
POPULATION	95 to 128
ACCUMULATION	129 to 160
VITAL STATISTICS—	
MARRIAGES	161 to 174
BIRTHS	174 to 184
DEATHS	184 to 236
MUNICIPAL STATISTICS	237 to 282
LAW AND CRIME	283 to 318
SOCIAL CONDITION	319 to 394
MAP ILLUSTRATING THE PRODUCTION OF EACH DISTRICT.	
PRODUCTION—	
LAND SETTLEMENT, WATER SUPPLY, ETC.	395 to 417
AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL PURSUITS	417 to 473
MINING	473 to 485
MANUFACTURES	486 to 526
INTERCHANGE	527 to 572
STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR VICTORIA, 1836 TO 1918	573 to 615
APPENDIX	616
GENERAL INDEX	617 to 641

P R E F A C E .

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

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

The first part shows the progress of the State since the early days of settlement, and contains a description of the Constitution, as well as an epitome of Acts passed during 1918 by the State Parliament, lists of members of Parliament, &c. Parts II., III., IV., VI., and X. deal with the wealth and progress of the community, as indicated by the growth of population, and by increases in bank deposits, in amounts assured with life offices, in volume of trade, &c., and details are given of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, and of municipalities. In Parts V., VII., and VIII. will be found statistics relating to births, marriages and deaths, crime, education, charitable institutions, and other cognate subjects. In Part IX. a detailed account is given of the agricultural and other production of the State, and of its manufactures. The various parts were issued as soon as completed.

The information in all parts has been brought up to the latest possible date—on many subjects to the middle of the year 1919, and in a few instances to a later date.

The new matter appearing in the volume includes the following:—Statistics showing the death rates from Influenza during a series of years and some of the special features of the epidemic of 1919; a statement of the amounts contributed in Victoria to the various Patriotic Funds to 31st December, 1918; and a series of tables showing,

according to size of holdings, the land occupied in the State in March, 1919, and the cultivation and live stock thereon.

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

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

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Office of the Government Statist,
Melbourne, 19th January, 1920.