

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

1939-40

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Victorian Year-Book

1939 - 40

By

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SIXTIETH ISSUE

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P R E F A C E .

THIS is the sixtieth 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, towards this end, the particulars appertaining to that year are compared with the years preceding. An endeavour is made to present such information as will assist legislators, publicists, and others in formulating policy for the future development of the natural resources of the State and for promoting the welfare of the people.

The first part contains a reference to the Constitution, an epitome of Acts passed by the State Parliament in the year 1939, lists of members of Parliament, and details of Parliamentary Elections. Parts V., VII., and IX. deal with the wealth and progress of the community, as indicated by increases in bank deposits, in amounts assured with life offices, and the growth of the population &c. In Parts VIII. and IV. details are given of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, of Local Government, Semi-Governmental and other Authorities. Parts II., III., and VI. contain statistics relating to law, crime, births, marriages and deaths, education, charitable institutions, and other cognate subjects. In Part X. a detailed account is given of the agricultural, dairying, pastoral, mineral, manufacturing, and other productions of the State. 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 1940, and in a few instances to a later date.

Some limit is placed upon the manner of presentation of statistics in the *Year-Book* by the desire to preserve comparability with former issues. If changes are made, due regard is paid to this feature, which is preserved, as far as practicable, or discarded only because a new form of presentation possesses merits which outweigh the advantage of comparability.

Modifications which have been made on this occasion are as follows :—

A more comprehensive table showing, in Statistical Districts and Counties, the number and kinds of live stock in Victoria.

The numbers of ewes mated for the 1940 season, together with the breeds of rams, are shown in tabular form.

Tables relating to wholesale and retail prices have been enlarged in scope.

Matter appearing for the first time includes :—

- (1) An article on "Insects of Victoria" Part III. (Butterflies), by Mr. J. Clark, Entomologist, National Museum of Victoria ;
- (2) Constitutional history of Victoria.

Although there has been no publication of the Statistical Register since the year 1916, the annual compilation of most of the matter formerly contained therein has been continued and it is therefore possible to supply much statistical information in greater detail than appears in this *Year-Book*.

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

The publication in this volume of some information has been restricted by censorship. In particular, statistics of trade usually published in Part IX. do not appear.

Many persons have co-operated in the preparation of this book, and to all of them I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks and appreciation. In particular I desire to acknowledge the whole-hearted co-operation of the Commonwealth Statistician and his staff.

Responsible officers of Commonwealth and State Government Departments, Boards, Commissions, and Municipal and Semi-Government Authorities have supplied information and in many ways assisted. The Police of Victoria, by whom the annual collection of statistics relating to primary and secondary industries is effected, have carried out their task in a highly satisfactory manner. Primary producers, manufacturers and Heads of Banks and Insurance Companies and many others have shown, by their ready willingness to furnish particulars relating to their industries, their appreciation of the value to the community of the publication of reliable statistics.

Finally, I must pay a tribute to the members of my staff for their valuable work in the assembly, preparation, and checking of the material and supervision of the publication of this work.

O. GAWLER,

Government Statist.

Office of the Government Statist,

Melbourne, 23rd September, 1941.