

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

1921-22.

A. M. LAUGHTON,

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

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Victorian Year-Book

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By

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CONTENTS.

	PAGES
MAP OF VICTORIA.	
INTRODUCTION	1 to 13
CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT	13 to 46
FINANCE	47 to 88
VITAL STATISTICS—	
MARRIAGES	89 to 100
BIRTHS	100 to 107
DEATHS	107 to 154
MUNICIPAL STATISTICS	155 to 204
ACCUMULATION	205 to 240
LAW AND CRIME	241 to 272
POPULATION	273 to 306
SOCIAL CONDITION	307 to 378
INTERCHANGE	379 to 424
MAP ILLUSTRATING THE PRODUCTION OF EACH DISTRICT.	
PRODUCTION—	
LAND SETTLEMENT, WATER SUPPLY, ETC.	425 to 449
AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL PURSUITS	450 to 500
MINING	500 to 511
MANUFACTURES	512 to 554
STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR VICTORIA, 1836 TO 1921	555 to 578
APPENDIX	579 to 580
GENERAL INDEX	581 to 604

P R E F A C E .

THIS is the forty-second 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 the particulars appertaining to that year are compared with those relating to previous years. An endeavour is made to present such information 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 1921 by the State Parliament, lists of members of Parliament, &c. Parts II., IV., V., VII., and IX. 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. Parts III., VI., and VIII. contain statistics relating to births, marriages and deaths, crime, education, charitable institutions, and other cognate subjects. In Part X. a detailed account is given of the agricultural, 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 1922, and in a few instances to a later date.

Since the last *Year-Book* was prepared much statistical information based on particulars obtained at the 1921 census has been made available. Where in recording statistics their relation to persons living

is shown it has been found possible in nearly all cases to use as the basis of comparison the census figures of 1921 instead of those of 1911. In part "Production" a description is given of the steps which have recently been taken by the Government to extend the area available for settlement, especially in irrigation districts.

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 book. 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, 16th February, 1923.