

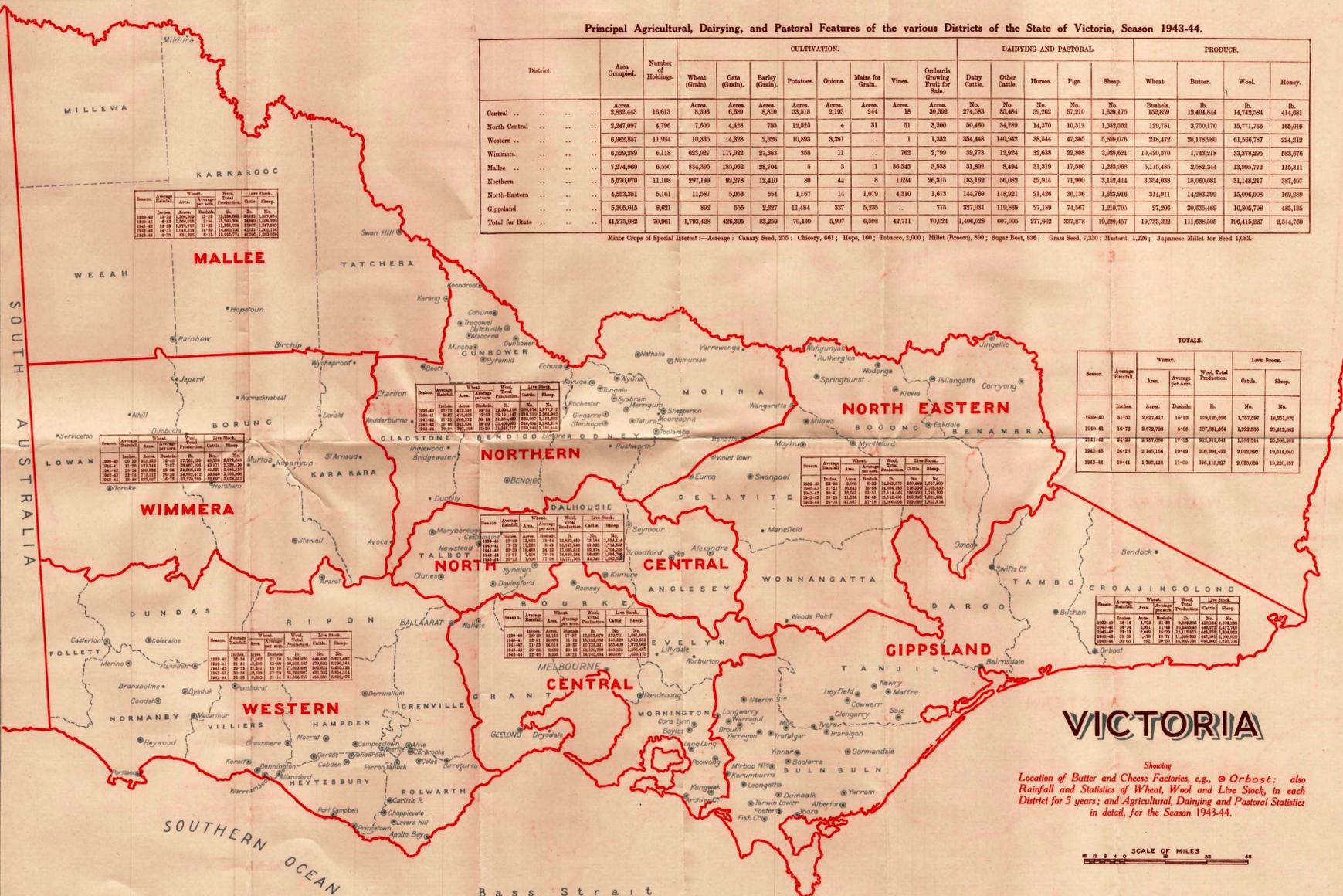
Principal Agricultural, Dairying, and Pastoral Features of the various Districts of the State of Victoria, Season 1943-44.

District.	Area Occupied.	Number of Holdings.	CULTIVATION.							DAIRYING AND PASTORAL.					PRODUCE.				
			Wheat (Orain).	Oats (Orain).	Barley (Orain).	Potatoes.	Onions.	Maize for Grain.	Vines.	Orchards Growing Fruit for Sale.	Dairy Cattle.	Other Cattle.	Horses.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Wheat.	Butter.	Wool.	Honey.
Central	Acres. 2,832,443	16,613	Acres. 8,308	Acres. 6,869	Acres. 8,810	Acres. 33,518	Acres. 2,193	Acres. 244	Acres. 18	Acres. 30,392	No. 274,583	No. 85,484	No. 59,262	No. 87,210	No. 1,639,176	Bushels. 12,404,844	Lb. 3,750,170	Lb. 14,742,284	Lb. 414,681
North Central .. .	2,947,097	4,796	7,600	4,428	765	12,525	4	81	51	3,300	50,460	34,289	14,370	10,312	1,683,532	129,781	3,750,170	15,771,706	166,619
Western .. .	6,962,857	11,994	10,353	14,228	2,226	10,863	3,261	..	1	1,332	334,448	140,942	88,544	47,265	5,666,076	218,472	28,178,986	61,566,787	224,212
Wimmera .. .	6,529,289	6,118	623,627	117,922	37,363	358	11	..	762	2,759	39,773	12,924	32,638	22,568	3,028,621	10,430,570	1,743,218	33,378,295	683,676
Mallee .. .	7,274,090	6,508	834,365	185,062	28,704	5	3	1	36,545	5,538	31,862	8,494	31,919	17,560	1,883,968	5,310,485	5,282,844	13,905,772	115,241
Northern .. .	5,079,070	11,168	297,196	92,378	13,410	80	44	8	1,024	2,613	183,162	56,028	32,914	17,900	3,122,444	3,354,088	15,060,681	31,148,217	367,407
North-Eastern .. .	4,553,251	11,016	11,287	9,978	5,954	1,767	14	1,079	4,310	1,673	144,789	148,921	21,436	36,136	1,683,916	3,418,299	15,006,938	163,239	
Gippsland .. .	5,306,015	8,621	892	555	2,267	11,484	237	5,285	..	775	337,081	119,869	27,180	14,567	1,210,705	27,206	30,635,469	10,806,738	485,135
Total for State .. .	41,375,082	70,961	1,795,428	426,306	83,259	70,430	5,007	6,268	43,711	70,024	1,406,028	607,000	277,692	337,878	16,289,437	19,733,532	111,638,506	196,415,227	2,544,760

Minor Crops of Special Interest—Acreage: Canary Seed, 255; Chionox, 661; Hops, 109; Tobacco, 2,000; Millet (Broom), 850; Sugar Beet, 836; Grass Seed, 7,500; Mustard, 1,226; Japanese Millet for Seed, 1,038.

TOTALS.

Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat.			Live Stock.		
		Area.	Average per Acre.	Wool Total Production.	Cattle.	Sheep.	
1939-40	31.37	3,927,417	19-33	179,128,295	1,287,297	18,261,209	
1940-41	16.73	3,672,239	9-06	187,822,254	1,292,256	20,412,262	
1941-42	24.28	2,725,086	17-05	213,919,041	1,394,244	20,595,351	
1942-43	30.28	2,145,156	19-49	206,304,492	2,023,292	19,614,640	
1943-44	19-14	1,795,428	13-00	196,415,227	2,512,033	15,280,477	



Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat Area.	Wool Production.	Live Stock.
1939-40	31.37	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1940-41	16.73	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1941-42	24.28	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1942-43	30.28	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1943-44	19-14	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000

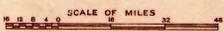
Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat Area.	Wool Production.	Live Stock.
1939-40	31.37	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1940-41	16.73	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1941-42	24.28	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1942-43	30.28	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1943-44	19-14	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000

Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat Area.	Wool Production.	Live Stock.
1939-40	31.37	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1940-41	16.73	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1941-42	24.28	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1942-43	30.28	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1943-44	19-14	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000

Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat Area.	Wool Production.	Live Stock.
1939-40	31.37	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1940-41	16.73	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1941-42	24.28	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1942-43	30.28	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1943-44	19-14	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000

Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat Area.	Wool Production.	Live Stock.
1939-40	31.37	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1940-41	16.73	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1941-42	24.28	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1942-43	30.28	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000
1943-44	19-14	1,000,000	10,000,000	1,000,000

Showing Location of Butter and Cheese Factories, e.g., @ Orbest: also Rainfall and Statistics of Wheat, Wool and Live Stock, in each District for 5 years; and Agricultural, Dairying and Pastoral Statistics in detail, for the Season 1943-44.



PART VII.

LAND SETTLEMENT ; AGRICULTURE ; PASTORAL AND DAIRYING ; FORESTRY.

LAND AND SETTLEMENT.

The total area of the State is 56,245,760 acres. On 31st December, 1943, this comprised :—

	Acres.
Lands alienated in fee-simple	28,795,025
Lands in process of alienation	3,646,721
Crown lands	23,804,014
Total	56,245,760

The Crown lands comprise—

Permanent forests (under Forests Act) ..	4,186,782
Timber reserves (under Forests Act) ..	717,582
State Forests and Timber reserves (under Land Act)	157,897
Water reserves	314,048
Reserves for Agricultural Colleges, &c. ..	88,586
Reserves in the Mallee	410,000
Other reserves	543,864
Roads	1,794,218
Water frontages, beds of rivers, lakes, &c. ; unsold land in cities, towns, and boroughs..	4,726,553
Land in occupation under—	
Perpetual leases	88,036
Other leases and licences	21,473
Temporary grazing licences	9,395,700
Unoccupied	1,359,275
Total	23,804,014

Alienation of land. 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 1938-40. 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, 1938
TO 1943.

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.	£
1938 ..	7,882	64,003	71,885	231,318	214,420
1939 ..	3,577	46,063	49,640	359,144	175,025
1940 ..	4,028	36,512	40,540	350,722	215,008
1941 ..	4,912	23,882	28,794	308,882	205,293
1942 ..	3,160	26,563	29,723	205,292	129,529
1943 ..	3,770	11,474	15,244	168,423	107,407

Amount realized by sale of Crown lands. From the period of the first settlement of the State to the end of 1943 the amount realized by the sale of Crown lands was £37,361,139. Payment of a considerable portion of this amount extended over a series of years without interest, upon very easy terms.

**Transfer of
Land Act.**

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 1943 there were submitted 81 such applications in respect of land amounting in area to 513 acres, and in value to £76,012; while the land actually brought under the Act as a result of applications was 1,440 acres valued at £394,108. Up to the end of 1943 there had been brought under the Act 3,308,972 acres valued at £74,704,748. The area of land still under the Old Law System at the end of 1943 was 1,833,349 acres. A summary of dealings under the Transfer of Land Acts will be found on page 242.

**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 1943-44 receipts of the Fund comprised contributions, £1,586, 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, 1944, was £114,950. The amount paid up to 30th June, 1944, 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.

DESTRUCTION OF VERMIN AND NOXIOUS WEEDS.

State expenditure on destruction of vermin and noxious weeds.

Active operations for the destruction of vermin and noxious weeds on Crown lands were first undertaken by the Government in 1880. Subsidies to Shire Councils for the destruction of wild animals are made from Consolidated Revenue Fund and advances to municipalities and farmers for the purchase of wire netting from Loan Funds. The following are the amounts spent during the last five years:—

VICTORIA—EXPENDITURE ON DESTRUCTION OF VERMIN AND NOXIOUS WEEDS, 1940 TO 1944.

Year ended 30th June.				From Consolidated Revenue.	Wire Netting Advances from Loan Funds.
				£	£
1940	..	..	..	79,477	12,325
1941	..	..	..	83,030	5,065
1942	..	..	..	51,242	1,008
1943	..	..	..	61,109	67
1944	..	..	..	76,540	60

WATERWORKS.

State Expenditure on 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, 1944.**

Description of Works.	Capital Expenditure to 30th June, 1944.	Loan Redemption Paid.	Loan Liability at 30th June, 1944.
	£	£	£
Free Headworks	1,231,081	515	1,230,566
Capital Works and Charges not apportionable to Districts	1,733,899	346,469	1,387,430
Headworks Costs apportioned to Districts ..	10,728,638	118,740	10,609,898
Irrigation and Water Supply Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	5,991,434	101,556	5,889,878
Urban Divisions of Irrigation Districts	64,051	1,834	62,217
Waterworks Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	2,782,665	49,992	2,732,673
Urban Districts of Waterworks Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	2,508,661	43,700	2,464,961
Flood Protection and Drainage Districts ..	456,608	7,805	448,803
Waterworks Trusts and Local Governing Bodies ..	3,931,308	753,618	3,177,690
TOTAL	29,428,345	1,424,229	28,004,116†

* 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.

† The net loan liability after deducting the amount in the National Debt Sinking Fund (£2,097,874) was £25,906,242.

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, 1944.
Area of State artificially supplied with water (acres)	10,800,000	15,166,950
Capacity of reservoirs .. (acre feet)	474,000	1,975,520
Irrigation Districts—		
Number of Districts administered ..	10	28
Number of Districts having Water Rights	Nil	26
Total of such Water Rights (acre feet)	Nil	505,545
Area under Irrigated Culture .. (acres)	108,000	665,244
Valuation for Rating purposes .. (£)	196,000	901,460
Rural Waterworks Districts (Domestic and Stock Supply)—		
Number of Districts administered ..	3	30
Valuation for Rating purposes .. (£)	125,000	1,505,743
Urban Districts—		
Number of Districts administered ..	1	90
Valuation for Rating purposes ..	5,600	812,342
Coliban System (Urban, Rural, Irrigation and Mining Supplies)—	At 30th June, 1910,	
Valuation for Urban Rating purposes (£)	317,750	417,110
Flood Protection Districts—		
Number of Districts administered ..	..	4
Drainage Districts—		
Number of Districts administered ..	..	14
Number of Assessments .. ..	..	9,977

PROGRESS IN IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT.

The area under irrigated culture for all kinds of crops has increased from 129,771 acres in 1909-10 to 665,244 acres in 1943-44.

VICTORIA—LANDS UNDER IRRIGATED CULTURE 1943-44.

District.	Area Irrigated.
	Acres.
Katandra	7,761
North Shepparton	13,734
Shepparton	17,114
South Shepparton	7,089
Rodney	101,961
Tongala-Stanhope	40,942
Rochester	73,001
Dingee	4,066
Calivil	13,113
Tragowel Plains	47,218
Deakin	8,373
Boort	24,843

VICTORIA—LANDS UNDER IRRIGATED CULTURE 1943-44—continued.

District.	Area Irrigated.
	Acres.
Cohuna	60,496
Koondrook	28,459
Swan Hill	20,213
Third Lake	4,345
Mystic Park	3,781
Tresco	1,058
Fish Point	1,689
Kerang	44,395
Murray Valley	15,001
Kerang North-West Lakes	4,273
Nyah	2,970
Red Cliffs	11,501
Merbein	7,995
Coliban	7,427
Campaspe	1,154
Western Wimmera	3,017
Wimmera United	137
Bacchus Marsh	3,327
Werribee	8,333
Maffra-Sale	22,953
Lands outside constituted Districts	53,505
Total	665,244

The subjoined table shows the total extent of irrigated land in the State in 1910 and in each of the five years, 1940 to 1944, and the purposes for which the land was utilized.

VICTORIA—IRRIGATED AREAS: HOW UTILIZED.

Crop.	Year ended 30th June—					
	1910.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Cereals	23,715	33,207	53,499	57,602	26,301	42,114
Lucerne	24,124	74,553	73,650	68,308	69,257	64,041
Sorghum and other annual fodders	8,094	14,528	32,159	18,951	11,572	25,807
Pastures	50,541	310,504	352,556	372,454	412,256	443,223
Vineyards, Orchards, and Market Gardens	17,524	72,969	72,403	74,739	78,419	81,167
Fallow	4,988	5,417	12,395	10,020	8,952	8,892
Miscellaneous	785	6,725				
Total	129,771	517,903	596,662	602,074	606,757	665,244

NOTE.—8,000 acres, details of which are not available, were irrigated by private diversion in 1909-10, making a total area for that year of 137,771 acres.

Of the total area irrigated in 1943-44—665,244 acres—the percentages devoted to different purposes were as follows :—Pastures, 67; lucerne, 10; vineyards, orchards, and gardens, 12; cereals, 6; sorghum and other annual fodder crops, 4; fallows and miscellaneous, 1.

**Progress in
Irrigation
Areas,
1943-44.**

Dairying is one of the principal industries in irrigation districts. Dairy herds grazed on irrigated pastures obtained prominent positions in the 1943-44 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 vine-fruit crop amounted to 58,838 tons. The Victorian production of citrus fruits during the 1943-44 season amounted to 799,798 bushels—approximately 90 per cent. of which was grown within irrigation districts.

The Victorian production of canned apricots, peaches, and pears in the season 1943-44 was 1,720,980 cases, each of two dozen 30-oz. tins. This represented 74.6 per cent. of the Australian output in that season.

**Supply of
water for
domestic and
stock purposes.**

Extensive schemes for the supply of water for domestic and stock purposes are under the control of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Altogether, the area so supplied is approximately 20,257 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 number of country centres supplied with water for domestic use is—126 by the Commission, 116 by Waterworks Trusts, and 16 by Local Government bodies.

The estimated population in country centres supplied with water in 1943-44 was 442,370 persons.

STORAGE AND SUPPLY SCHEMES.

**Water
Storages in
State.**

In 1902 the capacity of storages in the State was 172,000 acre feet. The present capacity is 1,975,520 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 (involving a further approval of the interested State Governments), and when the Rocklands, Glenmaggie, and Lauriston Reservoirs are also completed, the combined storage capacity available to users in Victoria will be 2,664,020 acre feet.

EXISTING STORAGES.						Capacities in Acre Feet.
<i>Goulburn System—</i>						
Goulburn Weir	..	..	..	..	..	20,700
Waranga	..	..	..	..	..	333,400
Eildon	..	..	..	..	..	306,000
						660,100
<i>Murray-Loddon System—</i>						
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	..	..	..	..	..	6,650
Kerang North-west Lakes	..	..	..	..	..	69,400
Lake Boga	..	..	..	..	..	29,650
Lake Cullulleraine	..	..	..	..	..	2,000
						884,980
<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	..	..	..	..	..	4,610
						206,480
<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	..	..	..	..	..	21,000
Melton	..	..	..	..	..	19,100
						40,100

EXISTING STORAGES—*continued.*

						Capacities in Acre Feet.		
<i>Bellarine Peninsula System—</i>								
Wurdee Boluc	..	..	..	..	..	10,000	
Service Basins	..	..	..	..	..	800	
							10,800	
<i>Mornington Peninsula System—</i>								
Lysterfield	..	..	..	..	..	3,400	
Beaconsfield	..	..	..	..	..	740	
Frankston	..	..	..	..	..	660	
Mornington	..	..	..	..	..	260	
Bittern	..	..	..	..	..	480	
Service Basins	..	..	..	..	..	260	
							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	
							2,790	
Total capacity of existing Storages						1,975,520

ADDITIONAL STORAGE BEING PROVIDED BY WORKS IN COURSE OF
CONSTRUCTION.

<i>Wimmera-Mallee System—</i>							
Rocklands	..	..	..	..	..		264,000

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	
							424,500	
Total capacity of storages when works are completed						2,664,020

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 Meteorological have been furnished by the Commonwealth Meteorologist, 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 1944, together with the mean rainfall covering a period of 74 years.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL IN DISTRICTS.

Year ended 31st December.	Districts.								Whole State.
	Mallee.	Wimmera.	North-eastern.	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	17.82	28.00	35.56	28.54	31.29	30.02	23.49
1905 ..	12.01	18.40	16.39	25.38	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	26.49	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	29.70	35.24	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	22.96
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	27.36	31.13	31.73	25.35
1921 ..	16.29	19.99	23.69	31.75	39.57	27.36	31.38	33.37	25.43
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	27.80	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	27.94	29.28	31.13	32.36	22.00
1930 ..	15.32	20.94	19.68	30.59	32.40	29.43	30.85	33.66	25.76
1931 ..	14.86	19.25	21.77	31.20	43.18	28.79	32.91	34.19	26.34
1932 ..	14.96	18.90	20.60	29.63	34.33	31.85	32.87	30.65	24.47
1933 ..	14.13	20.96	20.25	31.09	32.09	26.87	27.56	43.39	27.60
1934 ..	13.21	16.64	21.01	28.57	42.81	29.20	34.23	42.53	26.63
1935 ..	10.84	17.71	19.53	29.14	35.86	30.49	34.23	36.38	25.63
1936 ..	14.39	19.41	19.50	28.47	35.62	26.91	30.24	28.33	21.02
1937 ..	12.69	17.19	13.70	20.08	26.25	26.39	25.20	26.39	16.28
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	26.94	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
Means for 74 years	13.00	18.27	18.29	26.79	33.21	28.11	29.56	34.17	24.45

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	29·921	30·080	30·076
Monthly range of pressure of air—inches	0·887	0·765	0·812	0·975
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	75
Mean rainfall in inches	7·18	6·04	6·55	5·85
Mean number of days of rain ..	38	25	33	45
Mean amount of spontaneous evaporation in inches	10·23	17·20	7·96	3·73
Mean daily amount of cloudiness—Scale 0 to 10	6·0	5·1	5·8	6·4
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 1943 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 1943.	Number of Years Recorded.	Means Over Period of Years.			
			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)	29.983	86	30.013	30.106	29.945	
Highest „ „ „	30.572	86	30.604	30.770	30.405	
Lowest „ „ „	29.209	86	29.251	29.495	28.942	
Range (inches)	1.363	86	1.356	1.719	1.074	
Mean temperature of air in shade (°Fahr.)	57.5	88	58.5	59.9	57.3	
Mean daily maximum .. (°Fahr.)	66.6	88	67.4	69.4	65.4	
Mean daily minimum .. „	48.3	88	49.6	51.2	47.2	
Absolute maximum .. „	107.4	88	105.0	114.1	96.6	
Absolute minimum .. „	31.8	88	31.0	34.2	27.0	
Mean daily range .. „	18.3	88	17.8	20.4	15.0	
Absolute annual range .. „	75.6	88	74.1	84.1	66.0	
Solar Radiation (mean maxima)	115.5	82	116.7	127.6	105.6	
Terrestrial Radiation (mean minima)	44.9	83	43.9	46.8	39.5	
Rainfall (in inches)	18.80	88	25.62	38.04	15.61	
Number of wet days	150	88	141	187	102	
Year's amount of free evaporation (in inches)	37.04	71	39.12	45.66	31.59	
Percentage of humidity (saturation =100)	63	87	67	76	58	
Cloudiness (scale 10 = overcast, 0 = clear)	6.0	86	5.9	6.4	4.8	
Number of days of fog	18	86	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.		Square 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.

Department of Agriculture. This Department is controlled by a Minister of the 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.

Government Experimental Farms. Research and experimental work are conducted at the 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. 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 1943-44, 2,034,698 acres were topdressed as compared with 2,140,314 acres in 1942-43. The decrease was due almost entirely to the shortage of superphosphate, although manpower problems no doubt contributed.

**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. (Further details of the Act appear on page 53 of this volume.) 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 100 and at Longerenong for 50 students.

**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. Advice is given on the control of pests and diseases when detected, and action is taken where necessary to enforce compliance therewith.

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. A large number of graduates of this school is employed, mostly in the Victorian Department of Agriculture, on field advisory work and laboratory investigations. The course occupies four years. The first is devoted to pure science; during the second the students are in residence at the State Research Farm, Werribee, 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.

Commonwealth Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

One of the principal functions of the Council is to initiate and carry out scientific researches. So far as primary industries are concerned the main branches of the work of the Council are in relation to plant, soil and entomological problems, animal nutrition and diseases, forest products, food preservation and transport, and fisheries. In the field of secondary industries the attention of the Council will first be given to the establishment of—(i) an Information Section, (ii) a National Standards Laboratory, (iii) an Aeronautical Laboratory (in which engineering research other than that required by the aeronautical industry could be undertaken), and (iv) the development of laboratories for general secondary industry research.

The headquarters of the Council are located at 314 Albert-street, East Melbourne. Two of the Council's Divisions—the Division of Forest Products and the Division of Animal Health and Nutrition—also have their headquarters in Victoria. Researches into timber seasoning, preservation, identification, mechanics, physics, chemistry, and general utilization are carried out by the former Division. The Victorian work of the Division of Animal Health and Nutrition is concentrated mainly on problems of cattle diseases, e.g., pleuropneumonia, mastitis, and bovine haematuria.

At Merbein there is a station where research is conducted into the problems associated with the dried vine-fruits industry.

State Committees have been formed whose main function is to advise the Council as to matters that may affect their respective States.

AGRICULTURE.

Progress of cultivation. In all divisions of the State there are areas suitable for cultivation. The area cultivated in 1943-44 was 5,198,252 acres, as compared with 5,498,586 acres in the previous season, and an annual average of 7,179,443 acres for the seasons 1936-40, 7,862,470 acres for the seasons 1931-35, 7,616,031 acres for the seasons 1926-30, 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 89 years :—

VICTORIA—ACREAGE CULTIVATED ANNUALLY, 1856 TO 1944.

Period or Year (ended March).	Annual average area in each decennium, 1856 to 1925, and actual area each year 1926-1944, 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

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, 24 per cent. in the Wimmera, 26 per cent. in the Mallee, and 15 per cent. in the Northern districts were used for agriculture in 1943-44. In that year the area cultivated in these three districts was over 82 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 77 per cent. of the sown pastures of the State.

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

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*.

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 thirty-two 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.

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

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, 1940-1944.

VICTORIA—ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND AVERAGE YIELD
OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 TO 1944.

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
1939-40 ..	2,827,417	439,555	204,239	32,177	1,204,810
1940-41 ..	2,762,728	559,200	187,649	44,195	672,955
1941-42 ..	2,757,080	421,942	204,279	33,392	1,007,979
1942-43 ..	2,145,156	428,043	77,842	51,757	788,792
1943-44 ..	1,793,428	426,305	83,259	70,430	740,672
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
1939-40 ..	45,054,592	8,280,602	3,738,113	87,931	1,820,878
1940-41 ..	13,521,422	2,624,298	1,186,979	216,568	580,237
1941-42 ..	46,953,840	8,149,277	4,792,040	118,454	1,443,505
1942-43 ..	41,803,107	6,637,944	1,273,704	195,138	1,051,107
1943-44 ..	19,733,322	3,704,985	1,078,128	217,380	963,103
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
1939-40 ..	15·93	18·84	18·30	2·73	1·51
1940-41 ..	5·06	4·69	6·33	4·90	0·86
1941-42 ..	17·03	19·31	23·46	3·55	1·43
1942-43 ..	19·49	15·51	16·36	3·77	1·33
1934-44 ..	11·00	8·69	12·95	3·09	1·30

* For grain.

**Growers of
certain crops,
season
1943-44.**

The following table shows the number of growers of certain primary products, in each statistical district of the State, for the season 1943-44.

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
1943-44.**

Crops Grown.	Growers in each Statistical District.								State Total.
	Central.	North-Central.	Western.	Wimmera.	Mallee.	Northern.	North-Eastern.	Gippsland.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Grain Crops—									
Wheat ..	254	221	317	3,594	3,092	3,092	314	43	10,927
Oats ..	323	218	569	2,216	1,840	1,967	271	31	7,435
Barley ..	365	60	180	640	431	631	58	115	2,480
Maize ..	34	2	..	..	1	4	134	386	561
Hay—									
Wheaten ..	303	268	189	1,460	221	1,299	180	86	4,006
Oaten ..	3,398	1,422	3,426	2,285	1,305	2,831	1,549	2,062	18,278
Lucerne ..	254	225	299	65	178	1,098	205	603	2,927
Meadow ..	2,569	695	3,728	114	10	878	1,857	3,167	13,018
Green Fodder—									
Maize ..	1,724	93	307	15	11	67	111	1,593	3,921
Lucerne ..	209	49	59	27	34	179	43	117	717
Millet ..	417	30	110	14	113	425	139	453	1,681
All other ..	842	132	242	107	198	584	186	615	2,906
Other—									
Potatoes ..	3,421	822	2,039	61	4	29	372	1,971	8,719
Onions ..	634	4	447	9	3	29	12	67	1,205
Other Vegetables	3,096	70	663	153	293	919	111	738	6,043
Orchards ..	2,582	254	264	286	863	1,153	316	197	5,915
Vineyards ..	6	7	2	59	2,027	151	84	..	2,336
Grass Seed ..	21	55	108	12	..	7	2	35	240
Tobacco ..	..	..	..	1	..	3	95	..	99
Flax ..	206	37	447	1	..	5	39	125	860

Area Cultivated
1943-44.

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, etc.).
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Peas.			
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Central District—								
Bourke ..	1,371	3,065	1,201	8	337	4,843	656	39,889
Grant ..	7,004	3,469	7,512	4	1,668	10,473	1,271	40,311
Mornington ..	13	112	2	232	44	12,952	241	33,174
Evelyn ..	5	43	95	..	54	5,250	25	6,318
North Central District—								
Anglesey ..	279	49	45	31	25	824	..	4,910
Dalhousie ..	176	262	31	..	8	3,177	..	8,208
Talbot ..	7,145	4,117	679	..	213	8,524	4	32,986
Western District—								
Grenville ..	1,411	1,586	870	..	379	1,074	1,456	18,802
Polwarth ..	45	132	164	..	317	2,992	1,007	10,157
Heytesbury ..	..	40	12	..	10	464	2	15,125
Hampden ..	1,669	2,869	507	..	..	400	218	16,836
Ripon ..	6,546	5,727	339	..	39	946	1	16,605
Villiers ..	197	1,351	119	..	400	3,685	699	22,662
Normanby ..	79	797	220	..	844	1,106	7	17,824
Dundas ..	387	1,555	105	..	600	61	1	18,677
Follett ..	1	271	..	..	..	165	..	2,866
Wimmera District—								
Lowan ..	138,531	37,057	8,840	..	73	6	4	44,487
Borong ..	379,087	53,636	16,334	..	23	280	4	45,206
Kara Kara ..	105,409	27,229	2,189	..	..	72	3	19,285
Mallee District—								
Millewa ..	30,325	1,595	25	..	..	..	..	7,537
Wecah ..	104,327	24,068	6,481	..	..	..	..	9,723
Karkaroc ..	444,630	99,583	20,109	..	..	..	..	33,313
Tatchera ..	255,113	59,806	2,089	1	30	5	3	29,641
Northern District—								
Gumbower ..	14,096	3,882	3,144	..	..	1	1	14,035
Gladstone ..	71,461	31,681	1,812	..	..	11	3	12,936
Bendigo ..	59,638	17,250	1,444	2	1	23	13	19,337
Rodney ..	27,715	12,949	4,336	..	10	1	7	30,571
Moira ..	124,289	26,516	1,674	6	611	44	20	42,863
North-Eastern District—								
Delatite ..	966	1,334	239	353	19	1,036	3	23,282
Bogong ..	10,397	3,518	270	508	32	474	10	20,905
Benambra ..	164	201	45	147	..	36	1	5,959
Wonnangatta ..	60	..	..	71	19	21	..	397
Gippsland District—								
Croajingolong ..	..	1	..	1,144	224	95	3	2,580
Tambo ..	..	..	30	1,076	36	103	7	1,713
Dargo ..	17	117	148	1,236	45	167	1	2,260
Tanjil ..	842	333	1,959	1,727	49	527	1	18,507
Buln Buln ..	33	104	190	52	49	10,592	325	45,780
Total for State ..	1,793,428	426,305	83,259	6,598	6,159	70,430	5,997	740,672

of the State for the season 1943-44 is given in the following table :—

FOR THE SEASON 1943-44.

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.
4,953	64	..	..	15,410	10,532	3,729	86,058	25,231	111,289
2,591	190	..	16	4,758	1,574	3,266	84,107	20,997	105,104
9,885	77	..	..	10,848	11,379	2,514	81,473	10,990	92,463
1,483	4	..	2	4,926	6,907	428	25,540	1,642	27,182
431	..	..	..	143	24	16	6,777	884	7,661
836	239	..	30	98	39	424	13,528	2,449	15,977
2,436	1,528	..	21	184	3,137	921	61,895	14,134	76,029
351	856	..	1	637	273	1,823	29,519	5,679	35,198
1,500	1,742	..	..	1,840	175	2,585	22,656	1,568	24,224
587	..	..	..	123	46	349	16,763	1,531	18,294
271	155	..	..	96	18	4,331	27,370	2,516	29,886
396	112	..	..	35	40	4,198	34,984	7,262	42,246
794	249	..	..	1,432	8	1,910	33,506	2,254	35,760
1,575	241	..	..	2,500	702	2,531	28,426	2,704	31,130
445	336	..	..	358	21	2,871	25,417	3,209	28,626
89	..	..	..	38	49	82	3,561	154	3,715
2,081	1,138	..	25	47	580	526	233,395	145,959	379,354
6,458	..	5	670	552	1,928	109	504,292	405,333	909,625
179	5	..	67	2	291	43	154,774	111,085	265,859
232	..	..	35	4	24	3	39,780	39,052	78,832
5,811	..	..	..	..	..	1,086	151,496	99,576	251,072
2,752	..	..	29,255	957	2,005	1,484	639,093	369,407	1,008,500
9,306	..	..	7,255	1,126	1,509	526	366,410	186,703	553,113
12,279	15	19	18	443	1,126	1,187	50,246	12,491	62,737
1,896	..	..	3	82	245	78	120,208	66,866	187,074
5,768	97	..	45	1,876	2,258	19	107,771	38,085	145,856
6,611	14	..	301	1,144	11,564	15	95,238	21,820	117,058
3,758	40	24	657	6,901	11,122	270	218,795	91,022	309,817
2,490	33	974	74	233	486	1,491	33,013	3,497	36,510
2,027	..	978	4,236	445	1,133	984	45,917	9,841	55,758
712	..	..	..	46	43	97	7,451	842	8,293
85	..	..	..	14	11	15	693	325	1,018
1,244	..	..	..	1,325	16	67	6,699	281	6,980
741	..	..	..	2,225	39	150	6,120	465	6,585
1,623	..	..	..	1,933	135	504	8,186	756	8,942
6,698	..	..	..	1,656	165	1,818	34,282	4,325	38,607
11,506	215	..	..	2,029	420	2,155	73,450	8,428	81,878
112,880	7,350	2,000	42,711	66,471	70,024	44,605	3,478,889	1,719,363	5,198,252

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	28,042	99,584	21,001	20	4,963	16,852
Grant	124,389	99,237	178,572	20	28,640	28,831
Mornington ..	318	1,283	21	5,851	1,752	40,561
Evelyn	110	790	2,507	..	806	19,309
North Central District—						
Anglesey	6,937	1,252	697	735	670	2,869
Dalhousie ..	3,290	7,729	951	..	233	4,963
Talbot	119,554	71,078	15,989	..	3,800	22,102
Western District—						
Grenville	30,175	44,366	26,185	..	6,708	2,982
Polwarth	603	1,352	3,550	..	4,188	13,158
Heytesbury ..	..	566	342	..	775	1,267
Hampden	24,887	74,750	6,863	..	..	1,319
Ripon	151,053	213,379	10,399	..	682	2,129
Villiers	3,513	35,102	2,602	..	7,211	11,641
Normanby	903	18,183	5,736	..	18,116	3,471
Dundas	7,298	36,324	2,835	..	6,904	137
Pollett	40	3,144	..	..	..	308
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	3,130,625	610,980	148,395	..	443	9
Borong	5,933,389	419,850	165,428	..	84	696
Kara Kara ..	1,356,556	216,507	13,055	..	..	126
Mallee District—						
Millewa	230	F	F	..	..	..
Weeah	817,871	128,151	78,848	..	..	..
Karkaroo ..	3,169,419	522,433	165,518	..	..	..
Tatchera ..	1,127,965	120,131	8,505	20	465	19
Northern District—						
Gunbower	52,491	25,172	42,233	..	..	1
Gladstone ..	783,694	213,790	15,535	..	..	6
Bendigo	560,081	136,307	12,346	35	15	44
Rodney	376,294	139,419	54,738	..	F	1
Moira	1,581,478	318,857	24,851	25	5,565	60
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	29,186	33,686	6,545	3,838	654	1,824
Bogong	280,945	96,478	6,030	7,583	323	941
Benambra ..	3,556	3,975	947	2,725	..	52
Wonmangatta ..	1,224	..	..	1,050	350	33
Gippsland District—						
Croajalingong ..	..	16	..	37,198	3,531	131
Tambo .. ..	..	..	570	36,368	1,159	200
Dargo	383	2,544	3,568	26,391	905	420
Tambl	26,327	7,262	49,536	28,140	1,166	1,729
Buln Buln ..	496	1,308	3,230	434	884	39,189
Total for State ..	19,733,322	3,704,985	1,078,128	150,433	100,992	217,380

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

of the principal crops for the season, 1943-44.

CROPS FOR THE SEASON, 1943-44.

Onions.	Hay (Wheaten, Oaten, Lucerne, Grass, etc.).	Grass and Clover for Seed.	Tobacco.	Wine Made.	Dried Vine-Fruits.		
					Raisins.	Sultanas.	Currants.
Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Gallons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
4,303	58,732	57	}	County particulars not available.			
4,176	64,339	154					
1,471	54,609	145					
90	10,099	8					
..	8,114	..					
..	12,374	212					
17	53,887	1,976					
8,173	32,921	1,359					
6,665	15,801	2,188					
12	24,899	..					
1,340	29,242	161					
4	29,767	128					
3,904	42,230	459					
27	31,568	232					
3	30,950	1,271					
..	5,308	..					
5	52,836	1,193					
6	39,803	..					
9	14,279	5					
..	85	..					
..	4,814	..					
..	16,096	..					
5	11,310	..					
4	14,645	22					
2	10,761	..					
34	16,752	190					
9	31,587	18					
97	40,247	18					
4	39,971	47					
15	35,016	..					
1	10,521	..					
..	596	..					
6	5,418	..					
11	2,816	..					
2	3,353	..					
3	33,156	..					
1,805	74,201	267					
32,203	963,103	10,110	13,785	1,319,630	5,896	42,955	9,987

Area, Yield
and Gross
Value of
Crops, Season
1943-44.

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 1943-44.

VICTORIA—AREA, YIELD, AND GROSS VALUE OF CROPS,
1943-44.

Crop.	Area.	Yield.	Gross Value.*
	Acres.		£
Wheat	1,793,428	19,733,322 bushels	4,434,749†
Oats	426,305	3,704,985 "	523,643
Barley—			
Malting (2 row) ..	70,341	914,958 "	230,646
Other (6 row) ..	12,918	163,170 "	35,014
Maize	6,598	150,433 "	57,837
Rye	2,919	13,323 "	2,498
Hay—			
Wheaten	71,467	78,351 tons	369,491
Oaten	448,315	529,246 "	2,553,071
Lucerne, &c. ..	37,946	62,176 "	390,085
Meadow	182,944	293,330 "	1,132,147
Straw		20,000 "	95,800
Grass Seed	7,350	10,110 cwt.	40,693
Canary Seed	255	1,686 "	3,394
Peas for grain ..	6,159	100,992 bushels	53,021
Green Fodder ..	112,880		278,683
Potatoes	70,430	217,380 tons	2,308,993‡
Onions	5,997	32,203 "	470,969
Other Vegetables ..	66,471		4,225,813
Sugar Beet	836	6,975 tons of beet valued at factory at £17,438. (Sugar extracted amounted to 704 tons)	17,438
Turnips, Beet, &c., for Fodder	1,868	7,737 tons	61,896
Mangolds	766	2,709 "	10,836
Tobacco	2,000	13,785 cwt.	172,882
Hops	160	1,323 "	16,052
Broom Millet ..	890	3,534 " fibre	12,407
Chicory	661	1,832 " seed	992
Flax	31,567	649 tons	44,781
Orchards—		40,937 " of straw	318,260
Productive	57,023		3,522,400
Unproductive ..	13,001		
Grapes—			
Table	1,517	4,067 tons	122,010
Wine	5,691	8,415 " valued at winery at £65,416. Wine made amounted to 1,319,630 gallons	65,416
Drying	34,077	232,410 tons producing—	
		42,955 tons of sultanas	2,453,372
		5,896 tons of raisins	308,200
		9,987 tons of currants	483,586
Vines, unproductive ..	1,426		
Other Crops	4,683		210,026
Total Crops	3,478,889		25,027,101

* 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.

† Includes amount allocated from Flour Tax £344,028

‡ 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 in 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 1943-44 amounted to 14,100,061 bushels.

**Wheat
Licences—
Season
1941-42.**

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.

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 bush.) ..	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 1943-44 these districts were responsible for nearly 96 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 1943-44 was 19,733,322 bushels, or an average yield per acre of 11·00 bushels in comparison with an average of 19·49 bushels in 1942-43 and an average of 17·03 bushels in 1941-42. The area sown and the production of wheat for grain in different counties for each of the three seasons, 1942-44, are shown in the following table :

VICTORIA—WHEAT AREAS AND YIELDS IN COUNTIES
FOR THE THREE SEASONS, 1942-1944.

Districts and Counties.	Year ended March.								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1942.	1943.	1944.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1942.	1943.	1944.
acres.	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bush.	bush.	bush.	
Central—									
Bourke ..	2,276	1,276	1,371	40,505	21,394	28,042	17·80	16·77	20·45
Grant ..	11,677	8,374	7,004	229,874	173,066	124,389	19·68	20·67	17·76
Mornington ..	64	19	13	1,106	468	318	17·28	24·63	24·46
Evelyn ..	1	..	5	27	..	110	27·27	..	22·00
Total ..	14,018	9,669	8,393	271,512	194,928	152,859	19·37	20·16	18·21
North-Central—									
Anglesey ..	369	246	279	8,336	5,074	6,937	22·60	20·63	24·86
Dalhousie ..	702	167	176	14,032	12,787	3,290	19·98	16·69	18·69
Talbot ..	15,398	7,195	7,145	376,586	138,064	119,554	24·45	19·19	16·73
Total ..	16,469	7,608	7,600	398,954	145,925	129,781	24·42	19·18	17·08
Western—									
Grenville ..	3,994	1,730	1,411	63,321	36,962	30,175	15·85	21·37	21·39
Polwarth ..	25	17	45	148	490	603	5·93	28·82	13·40
Heytesbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hampden ..	5,965	2,792	1,669	97,930	45,952	24,887	16·42	16·46	14·91
Ripon ..	15,441	6,992	6,546	308,975	126,093	151,053	20·01	18·03	23·08
Villiers ..	440	136	197	6,414	1,414	3,513	14·58	10·40	17·83
Normanby ..	160	115	79	2,324	1,640	903	14·52	14·26	11·43
Dundas ..	1,271	391	387	15,526	3,935	7,298	12·21	10·06	18·86
Follett ..	45	25	1	306	459	40	6·80	18·36	40·00
Total ..	27,341	12,198	10,335	494,944	216,945	218,472	18·10	17·79	21·14
Wimmera—									
Lowan ..	197,254	163,245	138,531	4,167,532	3,879,186	3,130,625	21·13	23·76	22·60
Borong ..	528,894	434,785	379,087	12,410,289	12,288,171	5,933,389	23·46	23·26	15·65
Kara Kara ..	173,485	114,483	105,409	4,186,412	2,768,214	1,356,556	24·13	24·18	12·87
Total ..	899,633	712,513	623,027	20,764,233	18,935,571	10,420,570	23·08	26·58	16·73

VICTORIA—WHEAT AREAS AND YIELDS IN COUNTIES FOR THE THREE SEASONS, 1942-1944—*continued.*

Districts and Counties.	Year ended March.								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1942.	1943.	1944.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1942.	1943.	1944.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bush.	bush.	bush.
Mallee—									
Millewa ..	97,256	71,161	30,325	902,937	794,180	230	9·23	11·16	·01
Weeah ..	149,109	126,179	104,327	2,057,352	1,760,832	817,871	13·80	13·96	7·84
Karkaroc ..	629,974	532,122	444,630	8,127,266	8,207,400	3,169,419	12·90	15·42	7·13
Tatchera ..	402,378	317,116	255,113	3,389,282	4,817,024	1,127,965	8·42	15·19	4·42
Total ..	1,278,717	1,046,578	834,395	14,476,837	15,579,436	5,115,485	11·32	14·89	6·13
Northern—									
Gunbower ..	22,491	16,544	14,096	279,339	243,576	52,491	12·42	14·72	3·72
Gladstone ..	124,561	84,524	71,461	2,430,554	1,684,353	783,694	19·51	19·93	10·97
Bendigo ..	95,841	65,859	59,638	1,594,449	1,206,402	560,081	16·63	18·32	9·39
Rodney ..	57,152	33,909	27,715	1,154,109	609,892	376,294	20·19	17·99	13·58
Moira ..	206,227	143,058	124,289	4,757,376	2,684,060	1,581,478	23·07	18·76	12·72
Total ..	506,272	343,894	297,199	10,215,827	6,428,233	3,354,038	20·18	18·69	11·29
North-Eastern—									
Delatite ..	1,217	836	966	29,382	12,913	29,186	24·14	15·45	30·21
Bogong ..	11,269	10,275	10,397	262,131	259,192	280,945	23·26	25·23	27·02
Benambra ..	93	107	164	1,627	2,166	3,556	17·49	20·24	21·68
Wonnangatta	2	8	60	73	245	1,224	36·36	30·63	20·40
Total ..	12,581	11,226	11,587	293,213	274,516	314,911	23·31	24·45	27·18
Gippsland—									
Croajingolong	..	5	..	..	92	..	..	18·40	..
Tambo ..	8	5	..	212	122	..	26·51	24·40	..
Dargo ..	54	39	17	1,363	722	383	25·25	18·51	22·53
Tanjil ..	1,759	1,355	842	34,045	25,618	26,327	19·35	18·91	31·27
Buln Buln ..	228	66	33	2,700	949	496	11·84	14·38	15·03
Total ..	2,049	1,470	892	33,320	27,503	27,206	18·70	18·71	30·50
Total (State)	2,757,080	2,145,156	1,793,428	46,953,840	41,803,107	19,733,322	17·03	19·49	11·00

The production of wheat in the other Australian States in 1943-44 was as follows:—New South Wales, 47,500,000 bushels; South Australia, 20,691,000 bushels; Western Australia, 16,550,000 bushels; Queensland, 5,084,000 bushels; and Tasmania, 122,000 bushels. The total production for the Commonwealth was 109,720,000 bushels.

Monthly Rainfall and Average Yields of Wheat 1933 to 1944. In the following table the average yield per acre in each of the main wheat growing counties for the seasons 1933-34 to 1944-45 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.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1933-34 TO 1944-45.

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.	Bushels.
Lowan—															
1933	137	2	82	135	367	104	92	194	286	82	337	225	2,043	1,095	17·01
1934	36	37	39	203	5	79	149	190	229	362	267	38	1,634	1,276	15·35
1935	64	10	167	129	158	232	288	237	239	92	97	72	1,785	1,185	20·12
1936	161	11	68	42	157	287	401	260	98	220	34	265	2,004	1,300	22·01
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	13·44
1939	161	123	23	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	1,195	22·60
1944	39	62	26	161	213	45	122	19	66	189	77	139	1,158	518	4·88
Boring—															
1933	178	..	71	127	281	113	188	186	270	87	219	299	2,019	1,063	20·78
1934	55	95	20	168	5	50	172	171	171	360	345	32	1,644	1,269	17·60
1935	36	26	118	147	92	144	299	201	281	136	48	71	1,599	1,109	23·29
1936	224	5	45	29	215	190	471	219	55	180	28	268	1,929	1,143	24·41
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	38	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	28·20
1943	68	90	16	119	78	150	178	200	184	102	42	38	1,265	856	15·65
1944	53	61	22	143	178	27	142	7	52	142	69	156	1,052	439	1·69
Kara Kara—															
1933	160	..	53	132	261	120	277	175	245	104	295	424	2,246	1,216	19·25
1934	66	159	20	163	1	51	206	187	167	395	307	50	1,772	1,313	15·53
1935	76	43	113	212	98	142	377	189	294	226	37	71	1,878	1,285	25·08
1936	227	3	21	46	151	168	500	252	47	199	36	269	1,919	1,202	23·14
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	96	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	8·86

Land Settlement, etc.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1933-34 TO 1944-45—*continued.*

County and Year.	Approximate Mean Rainfall each Month.												Total for Year.	Total Wheat-growing Period.	Average Wheat Yield per Acre.
	Wheat-growing Months.														
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.			
Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Bushels.
Millewa—															
1933	153	1	19	21	114	23	121	144	143	59	213	142	1,153	604	5·76
1934	57	61	56	48	..	31	71	63	84	239	146	29	935	538	1·23
1935	51	5	74	110	40	62	100	71	121	130	4	59	827	524	3·23
1936	426	16	43	58	114	64	245	55	19	74	12	162	1,288	571	7·20
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	·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	·42
1941	284	9	49	10	18	154	140	101	90	157	92	35	1,139	660	9·23
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	·01
1944	35	15	5	18	98	16	58	14	13	65	74	74	485	264	·04
Weeah—															
1933	141	..	45	48	192	33	122	147	150	68	127	185	1,258	712	8·36
1934	69	64	34	95	..	31	105	105	114	323	191	32	1,163	678	6·52
1935	26	2	67	98	72	121	142	114	138	183	31	52	1,046	770	10·03
1936	431	11	50	64	101	122	334	95	24	160	18	207	1,617	836	11·08
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	34	40	118	25	62	72	769	315	5·31
1941	275	12	100	51	23	225	171	64	198	194	32	32	1,427	875	13·80
1942	66	32	13	103	186	187	158	220	123	129	139	33	1,389	1,003	13·96
1943	41	70	8	85	35	101	83	132	107	151	32	62	957	609	7·84
1944	35	15	22	57	143	8	92	7	35	79	71	101	665	364	2·53
Karkaroo—															
1933	117	..	27	33	154	40	200	134	148	66	168	252	1,339	742	8·96
1934	41	144	46	100	1	41	111	78	100	305	214	16	1,197	636	5·75
1935	38	9	70	93	46	107	136	74	145	173	18	69	978	681	9·65
1936	315	4	23	54	120	132	329	93	25	128	11	186	1,420	827	13·26
1937	179	36	55	12	83	175	62	179	41	235	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	658	307	2·73
1941	239	15	73	23	21	139	169	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

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1933-34 TO 1944-45—continued.

0579/45—23

County and Year.	Approximate Mean Rainfall each Month.												Total for Year.	Total Wheat-growing Period.	Average Wheat Yield per Acre.	
	Wheat-growing Months.															
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.				
Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Bushels.	
Tatchera—																
1933	121	1	37	29	153	97	235	138	181	84	119	316	1,511	888	11' 25	
1934	47	226	40	135	..	43	120	116	89	323	266	29	1,434	691	6' 42	
1935	73	59	60	150	41	90	194	66	202	287	29	41	1,292	880	12' 39	
1936	210	10	6	43	138	144	393	113	25	142	8	189	1,421	955	15' 44	
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	394	34	165	247	154	99	178	87	54	220	4	1,855	819	17' 03	
1940	48	15	11	130	15	22	84	40	187	9	62	23	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	.. 14	
Gunbower—																
1933	91	..	72	30	157	183	236	199	193	109	186	286	1,742	1,077	14' 82	
1934	110	261	51	153	..	54	149	166	83	314	261	51	1,653	766	8' 59	
1935	87	121	68	190	69	109	250	89	240	254	30	79	1,586	1,011	17' 45	
1936	168	24	12	83	121	164	431	162	38	158	16	271	1,648	1,074	16' 37	
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	.. 33	
Gladstone—																
1933	153	..	44	103	226	145	315	200	236	105	259	419	2,205	1,227	17' 01	
1934	79	188	22	173	..	60	223	156	142	416	293	53	1,805	997	12' 06	
1935	90	62	87	185	92	146	371	161	275	247	22	73	1,811	1,292	22' 29	
1936	196	5	13	44	157	143	548	191	40	194	24	207	1,762	1,273	19' 20	
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	208	127	272	97	76	303	15	252	1,073	20' 35		
1940	73	21	18	173	24	45	122	41	187	31	62	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	63	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	.. 01	

Land Settlement, &c.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1933-34 TO 1944-45—*continued.*

County and Year.	Approximate Mean Rainfall each Month.												Total for Year.	Total Wheat-growing Period.	Average Wheat Yield per Acre.	
	Wheat-growing Months.										Nov.	Dec.				
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.						
Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Bushels.	
Bendigo—																
1933	173	..	74	43	200	185	327	228	205	106	249	311	2,101	1,251	17.13	
1934	128	184	28	127	2	64	169	136	94	390	292	66	1,650	855	10.60	
1935	120	116	66	237	63	114	335	119	259	308	34	66	1,837	1,198	19.84	
1936	127	19	10	78	164	147	454	177	40	192	29	261	1,698	1,174	19.09	
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	16.63	
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	88	1,035	668	9.39	
1944	30	23	29	155	177	15	107	10	31	94	45	78	794	434	1.31	
Rodney—																
1933	89	..	104	13	210	209	303	170	226	171	134	228	1,857	1,289	18.46	
1934	290	265	58	151	1	65	181	186	102	403	332	122	2,156	938	12.74	
1935	107	173	78	346	63	138	324	142	301	270	35	45	2,022	1,238	21.37	
1936	182	28	6	176	86	179	451	225	67	217	49	281	1,947	1,235	21.75	
1937	164	73	19	51	159	131	163	107	203	14	94	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	89	52	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	
Moirs—																
1933	93	2	70	37	194	202	247	163	261	149	142	206	1,856	1,216	17.83	
1934	431	221	163	218	..	77	207	234	118	436	391	140	2,636	1,072	14.29	
1935	115	133	106	380	57	153	300	180	253	316	24	113	2,110	1,239	22.67	
1936	165	36	23	228	81	256	454	271	79	191	50	256	2,090	1,332	20.97	
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	129	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	62	163	270	51	129	2	36	100	86	148	1,058	588	2.22	

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 1940-41, 1941-42, and 1945-46. 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. The information was not collected for three seasons following season 1941-42.

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, 1940-41, 1941-42, AND 1945-46.

Variety (in order of Popularity, Season 1945-46).	1940-41.		1941-42.		1945-46.	
	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.
	Acres.		Acres.		Acres.	
Ghurka	1,317,786	47·58	1,521,877	52·66	836,021	24·84
Quadrat .. ..	..	..	4,269	0·15	649,118	19·29
Pindar .. ..	..	..	1,384	0·05	246,379	7·32
Ranee	559,198	20·19	526,544	18·22	223,290	6·64
Magnet	10,644	0·38	42,973	1·49	210,730	6·26
Beneubbin ..	145,680	5·26	147,786	5·11	194,952	5·80
Regalia	52,365	1·89	73,129	2·53	135,037	4·01
Dundee	236,810	8·55	179,024	6·20	78,241	2·33
Bobin	57,350	2·07	56,304	1·95	38,103	1·13
Free Gallipoli	161,190	5·82	144,951	5·02	34,439	1·02
Baldmin	23,294	0·84	25,270	0·87	31,940	0·95
Sepoy	39,625	1·43	41,982	1·45	19,002	0·56
Rajah	37,686	1·36	24,917	0·86	13,926	0·41
Gluchub	4,037	0·15	6,586	0·23	5,977	0·18
Major	11,652	0·42	8,648	0·30	5,897	0·18
C.M.G.	3,396	0·12	3,973	0·14	5,806	0·17
Turvey	9,426	0·34	8,017	0·28	5,628	0·17
Nabawa	16,380	0·59	10,240	0·35	4,380	0·13
Mac's White ..	11,825	0·43	9,028	0·31	3,778	0·11
Waratah	6,103	0·22	3,760	0·13	3,010	0·09
Nizam	11,949	0·43	9,947	0·34	2,722	0·08
Warden	5,336	0·21	2,248	0·08	2,493	0·07
Seagul	1,596	0·06	2,087	0·07	2,181	0·06
Gular	5,360	0·19	1,684	0·06	2,141	0·06
Federation ..	5,991	0·22	3,875	0·13	2,054	0·06
Ford	3,835	0·14	2,874	0·10	1,609	0·05
Sewari	830	0·03	1,194	0·04	1,002	0·03
Mogul	4,180	0·15	2,197	0·08	864	0·03
Bena	1,243	0·05	499	0·02	718	0·02
Gluyas	1,212	0·04	1,035	0·04	654	0·02
Baringa	4,121	0·15	2,562	0·09	610	0·02
Gearyling ..	85	0·00	141	0·00	600	0·02
Other Varieties	18,995	0·69	18,848	0·65	602,256*	17·89
Total	2,769,580	100·00	2,889,853	100·00	3,365,558	100·00

* Mainly mixed or unknown varieties from silos.

It will be noted from the foregoing statement that changes have occurred in the leading varieties during the seasons shown. Bencubbin, the leading variety in all other States, now occupies sixth place on the list. Quadrat and Pindar varieties have been sown on approximately 900,000 acres which was previously devoted to Ghurka and Rancee.

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 seventh place on the list, with only 3·44 per cent. of the area sown in 1941. In South Australia the area sown with the varieties Bencubbin, Rancee, and Dundee was only 19·02 per cent. of the total area sown in 1935-36, but the area now sown with these varieties amounts to 45·59 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.

PRINCIPAL VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN AUSTRALIAN STATES, 1941-42.

New South Wales.		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.
Not tabulated, 1941-42		Ghurka ..	52·66	Bencubbin	18·45	Bencubbin	35·63
		Rancee ..	18·22	Rancee ..	15·15	Gluclub ..	20·67
		Dundee ..	6·20	Dundee ..	11·99	Merridin ..	6·04
		Bencubbin	5·11	Sword ..	6·12	Noongaar ..	4·66
		Free Gallipoli	5·02	Nabawa ..	5·48	Rancee ..	4·29
		Regalia ..	2·53	Waratah ..	5·25	Dundee ..	4·11
		Bobin ..	1·95	Gluyas ..	5·00	Nabawa ..	3·44
		All others ..	8·31	All others..	32·56	All others..	21·16
		Total ..	100·00	..	100·00	..	100·00

Seed and Fertilizers used on Wheat Areas (grain and hay).

The total seed used for grain and hay areas amounted to 1,951,253 bushels, and total fertilizers to 27,113 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. On 384,387 acres sown to wheat, of which 262,802 acres were in the Mallee district, no manure at all was used.

SEED AND FERTILIZERS USED ON WHEAT AREAS (GRAIN AND HAY).

District.	Area Sown.	Seed Used.	Fertilizers Used.
	acres.	bushels.	tons.
Central	13,795	20,233	295
North-Central	12,140	16,187	275
Western	13,468	19,079	463
Wimmera	647,512	755,431	10,764
Mallee	841,317	757,185	8,289
Northern	321,023	363,826	6,592
North-Eastern	13,752	16,732	409
Gippsland	1,888	2,580	26
Total State	1,864,895	1,951,253	27,113

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 1,719,363 acres in fallow during the season 1943-44 694,738 were in the Mallee, 662,377 in the Wimmera, and 230,284 in the Northern districts. The total area of fallow in these three districts—1,587,399 acres—represented 92 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
1932-33	..	..	2,633,287	1933-34	..	..	3,208,619
1933-34	..	..	2,543,043	1934-35	..	..	2,576,019
1934-35	..	..	2,216,464	1935-36	..	..	2,401,548
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				

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.

Wheat standard.

The following table shows the standard determined in Victoria for each of the ten seasons, 1935-36 to 1944-45:—

Season.	Weight of Bushel of Wheat, f.a.q.	Season.	Weight of Bushel of Wheat, f.a.q.
	lb.		lb.
1935-36	63½	1940-41	64¼
1936-37	62	1941-42	63¾
1937-38	63½	1942-43	64¼
1938-39	64½	1943-44	65
1939-40	63½	1944-45	63½

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 1938-39 TO 1943-44.

1938-39.	1939-40.	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.
12,305	12,065	11,972	Not tabulated.	Not tabulated.	9,859

Oats. Oats are grown in Victoria both for hay and for grain. The area harvested (season 1943-44) for hay was 448,315 acres, and for grain 426,305 acres, which produced 529,246 tons of hay, and 3,704,985 bushels of grain respectively. About 93 per cent. of the area for grain was in the Mallee, Northern, and Wimmera districts, but the area for hay was spread over all districts. 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 1943-44, as shown in the table on page 294, 448,315 acres under oats produced 529,246 tons; 71,467 acres under wheat produced 78,351 tons; 36,040 acres under lucerne produced 60,069 tons; 1,906 acres under barley

and rye produced 2,107 tons ; and 182,944 acres under grass produced 293,330 tons ; the yields per acre of these kinds of hay were 1·18, 1·10, 1·67, 1·11, and 1·60 tons respectively.

The quantities of hay (in districts) held on rural holdings on the 31st March, 1943, 1944, and 1945, are shown in the following table :—

STOCKS OF HAY HELD ON FARMS.

District.	At 31st March, 1943.	At 31st March, 1944.	At 31st March, 1945.
	tons.	tons.	tons.
Central	137,744	122,661	84,009
North-Central	55,080	49,011	24,938
Western	149,116	169,926	132,517
Wimmera	236,585	149,958	34,490
Mallee	143,640	74,683	14,079
Northern	220,085	128,238	59,078
North-Eastern	75,558	74,441	31,214
Gippsland	89,329	90,384	80,044
State	1,107,137	859,302	460,369

Barley. The area under barley for grain in 1943-44 was 83,259 acres, of which 70,341 were under malting (2 row), and 12,918 under feed (6 row) barley. Although barley is grown generally throughout the State, 59,276 acres, or 71 per cent. of the total area for the season 1943-44, were sown in the counties of Grant, Lowan, Borung, Weeah, and Karkaroc. The average yield per acre in Grant was 23·77 bushels. The figures in the subjoined table show the acreage, production, and yield per acre, for each of the five seasons 1939-40 to 1943-44 :—

VICTORIA—BARLEY PRODUCTION, 1939-40 TO 1943-44.

Year ended March—	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.
1940 ..	179,552	24,687	3,205,069	533,044	17·85	21·59	18·30
1941 ..	161,733	25,916	955,454	231,525	5·91	8·93	6·33
1942 ..	179,125	25,154	4,175,468	616,572	23·31	24·51	23·46
1943 ..	62,413	15,429	997,952	275,752	15·99	17·87	16·36
1944 ..	70,341	12,918	914,958	163,170	13·01	12·63	12·95

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 1943-44 were 6,598 acres for grain, and 17,641 acres for green fodder. The area, production, and average yield for each of the five seasons, 1939-40 to 1943-44, are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MAIZE PRODUCTION, 1939-40 TO 1943-44.

Season.	For Green Fodder.	For Grain.		
		Area.	Production.	Yield per Acre.
	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
1939-40	20,457	18,963	380,698	20·08
1940-41	25,848	15,382	702,956	45·70
1941-42	20,693	9,594	305,875	31·88
1942-43	17,051	7,131	271,321	38·05
1943-44	17,641	6,598	150,433	22·80

The annual average yield of the last five seasons was 31·41 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 largest potato-producing State in the Commonwealth. Out of a total area of 192,075 acres planted in 1943-44 to potatoes, 70,430 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, 1939-40 to 1943-44:—

VICTORIA—POTATO PRODUCTION, 1939-40 TO 1943-44.

Season.	Area.	Production.*	Average Yield.	Gross Value.
	acres.	tons.	tons.	£
1939-40 ..	32,177	87,931	2·73	934,267
1940-41 ..	44,195	216,568	4·90	958,313
1941-42 ..	33,392	118,454	3·55	1,773,849
1942-43 ..	51,757	195,138	3·77	2,162,955
1943-44 ..	70,430	217,380	3·09	2,308,993

* Includes amounts held on farms for seed, stock feed, &c., as follow:—21,919 tons in 1939-40; 55,144 tons in 1940-41; 23,997 tons in 1941-42, 43,062 tons in 1942-43, and 45,682 tons in 1943-44.

Onions. Onions are grown in nearly every county south of the Dividing Range. The returns for the season 1943-44 show that in Bourke the yield was 4,303 tons from 656 acres; in Grant 4,176 tons from 1,271 acres; in Grenville 8,173 tons from 1,456 acres; in Polwarth 6,665 tons from 1,007 acres; in Villiers 3,904 tons from 699 acres; and in Buln Buln 1,805 tons from

325 acres. The following statement shows the area, yield, and value for each of the last five years:—

VICTORIA—ONION PRODUCTION, 1939-40 TO 1943-44.

Season—				Area.	Production.	Average Yield.	Gross Value.
				acres.	tons.	tons.	£
1939-40	..	..	..	4,503	27,400	6·08	203,445
1940-41	..	..	..	5,004	25,004	5·00	350,056
1941-42	..	..	..	4,497	23,420	5·21	374,880
1942-43	..	..	..	5,741	36,500	6·36	533,812
1943-44	..	..	..	5,997	32,203	5·37	470,969

Wholesale prices of agricultural and pastoral products.

The prices which appear below are the average prices realized for the marketed produce of the seasons enumerated. Average monthly prices, but not taking into account the quantities sold, are shown on pages 352 and 353.

VICTORIA—AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES REALIZED FOR AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL PRODUCE, 1934-35 TO 1943-44.

Average Prices Realized for Produce of Season—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley (Malting).	Maize.	Potatoes.	Onions.	Wool.* (Clipped, and on Skins.)
	per bushel.	per bushel.	per bushel.	per bushel.	per ton.	per ton.	per lb.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1934-35	3 3¼	2 3½	2 10½	4 4	175 0	143 9	0 9·52
1935-36	4 1	2 2½	2 9½	5 1	158 9	180 0	1 1·96
1936-37	5 5½	2 8	4 3½	5 6	72 6	146 0	1 4·39
1937-38	4 1	3 3½	3 10	4 11¼	145 0	109 6	1 0·77
1938-39	2 7½	3 6	3 4	5 3½	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 0¼†	2 7	3 3½	8 4	320 0	320 0	1 2·20
1942-43	3 11¼†	2 10	4 7¾	8 1	214 5	292 6	1 4·40
1943-44	3 11¼†	3 1¼	5 0½	8 3	149 0	292 6	1 4·24

* Victorian production only. † Since June, 1942, the price of wheat for flour for home consumption has been fixed at 3s. 11¼d. per bushel.

Vine Production. The production of dried vine-fruits for the season 1943-44 amounted to 58,838 tons, as compared with a production of 55,059 tons for the previous season. This far exceeds the requirements for home consumption. Overseas exports of Victorian produce for the season 1943-44 amounted to 39,266 tons. Australian production of dried vine-fruits for the season 1943-44 amounted to approximately 104,261 tons, of which the Victorian portion represented over 56 per cent.

Particulars of vine production for the five seasons 1939-40-1943-44 are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—VINE-FRUIT PRODUCTION, 1939-40 TO 1943-44.

Season.	Number of Growers.	Area.		Produce.				
		Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Grapes gathered.	Wine made.	Dried Fruits.		
						Raisins.		Currants.
						Lexias.	Sultanas.	
		acres.	acres.	cwt.	gallons.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
1939-40..	2,405	40,321	2,273	4,869,991	1,126,350	108,403	838,149	212,841
1940-41..	2,398	40,980	2,258	4,063,343	1,208,452	115,137	711,700	132,580
1941-42..	2,418	40,778	1,776	4,629,926	1,161,888	103,191	847,197	174,764
1942-43..	*	41,207	1,427	4,609,829	1,381,936	114,860	813,920	172,400
1943-44..	2,336	41,285	1,426	4,897,836	1,319,630	117,920	859,100	199,740

* Not compiled.

Of the total quantity of grapes gathered in 1943-44, it is estimated that 168,294 cwt. were used for making wine and spirits, 4,648,202 cwt. for raisins and currants, and 81,340 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 1943-44 crop amounted to 13,785 cwt., which was obtained from 2,000 acres.

The following table furnishes details of the area, production, and average yield in each of the five seasons, 1939-40 to 1943-44:—

VICTORIA—TOBACCO PRODUCTION, 1939-40 TO 1943-44.

Season—	Area.	Production.	Produce per Acre.	Gross Value.
	acres.	cwt. (dry).	cwt. (dry).	£
1939-40	2,018	9,805	4·86	99,449
1940-41	1,926	10,689	5·55	135,757
1941-42	2,232	19,877	8·91	250,456
1942-43	1,850	9,084	4·91	112,786
1943-44	2,000	13,785	6·89	172,882

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 1938-39 to 1943-44. Australian imports of certain flax products for each of the years ended 30th June, 1939, to 1944 are also shown.

VICTORIAN FLAX PRODUCTION AND AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS OF FLAX PRODUCTS, 1938-39 TO 1943-44.

Season.	Area.	Straw delivered at Mills.	Produce Obtained.		Australian Imports (year ended 30th June).		
			Fibre.	Linseed.	Fibre.	Linseed.	Linseed Oil.
1938-39 ..	acres. 1,260	tons. 950	cwt. 1,080	cwt. 960	cwt. 3,286	cwt. 635,196	gallons. 188,629
1939-40 ..	2,116	2,487	4,080	5,340	3,595	721,137	75,513
1940-41 ..	12,086	8,622	6,500	17,560	40	687,112	21,352
1941-42 ..	25,527	31,657	15,180	48,760	..	793,686	5,823
1942-43 ..	26,173	27,529	15,000	35,500	..	647,858	312
1943-44 ..	31,567	40,937	38,860	41,600	..	537,162	2

Orchards.

The extent of cultivation of each important class of fruit on holdings of one acre and upwards during the seasons 1940-41 and 1943-44 is shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—FRUIT TREES, PLANTS, ETC., IN ORCHARDS AND GARDENS, 1940-41 AND 1943-44.

Fruit.	Number of Trees, Plants, &c.					
	1940-41.			1943-44.		
	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.
Apples	2,063,809	309,800	2,373,609	1,958,264	225,082	2,183,346
Pears	955,409	338,910	1,294,319	1,044,914	274,397	1,319,311
Quinces	55,126	14,913	70,039	59,416	16,633	76,049
Plums	247,640	44,194	291,834	253,903	40,960	294,863
Prunes	38,068	6,071	44,139	38,695	9,365	48,060
Cherries	90,806	44,838	135,644	100,891	43,754	144,645
Peaches	982,991	400,649	1,383,640	1,106,554	344,637	1,451,191
Apricots	335,673	106,346	442,019	376,963	97,212	474,175
Nectarines	15,525	13,201	28,726	23,999	8,504	32,503
Oranges	334,498	76,777	411,275	347,548	98,836	446,384
Lemons	99,678	63,651	163,329	109,331	78,072	187,403
Loquats	1,794	455	2,249	not	collected.	..
Figs	26,254	3,818	30,072	22,254	3,140	25,394
Persimmons ..	466	56	522	not	collected.	..
Total Large Fruits	5,247,737	1,423,679	6,671,416	5,442,732	1,240,592	6,683,324
Raspberries	279,558	..	279,558	292,822	25,968	318,790
Loganberries ..	114,229	..	114,229	136,856	6,652	143,508
Strawberries ..	4,422,122	..	4,422,122	3,329,792	305,835	3,635,627
Gooseberries ..	82,988	5,106	88,094	93,386	8,083	101,469
Mulberries	635	67	702	not	collected.	..
Currants (Red, White, and Black)	9,296	3,144	12,440	not	collected.	..
Olives	2,441	376	2,817	2,335	15,138	17,473
Plassion-fruit	67,665	11,925	79,590	28,374	8,729	37,103
Almonds	30,308	12,144	42,452	36,413	10,225	46,638
Walnuts	7,254	2,556	9,810	7,098	3,428	10,526
Filberts	3,067	217	3,284	3,194	214	3,408
Chestnuts	459	126	585	not	collected.	..
Total Nuts	41,088	15,043	56,131	46,705	13,867	60,572

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	695	10,532	291,330	282,663	263,562	44,224
Grant	200	1,574	68,035	7,540	5,287	57,164
Mornington	869	11,379	896,735	79,403	21,410	12,631
Evelyn	818	6,907	285,276	60,216	56,348	7,500
North Central District—						
Anglesey	20	24	1,453	132	73	26
Dalhousie	15	39	2,828	270	2	
Tabbot	219	3,137	224,696	63,118	2,578	1,405
Western District—						
Grenville	37	273	8,481	909	141	13,824
Folwarth	42	175	11,984	945	37	767
Heytesbury	19	46	3,132	107	20	30
Hampden	8	18	926	185	36	38
Ripon	8	40	3,215	393	144	35
Villiers	8	8	212	24	11	357
Normanby	111	702	62,149	1,390	85	357
Dundas	18	21	641	106	92	155
Follett	13	49	4,008	154	23	61
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	47	580	5,308	645	1,965	6,517
Borong	180	1,928	55,072	25,691	31,061	32,336
Kara Kara	59	291	19,522	1,302	1,163	789
Mallee District—						
Millewa	2	24	..	..	..	..
Weeah .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Karkaroc	581	2,005	463	2,236	1,886	6,112
Tatchera	280	1,509	1,421	965	1,943	11,108
Northern District—						
Gunbower	103	1,126	2,514	893	599	965
Gladstone	42	245	14,677	2,565	2,264	660
Bendigo	220	2,258	65,523	37,561	23,491	11,855
Rodney	377	11,564	7,068	400,973	577,323	134,182
Moira	411	11,122	14,997	341,204	455,415	129,377
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	104	486	18,737	593	854	182
Bogong	178	1,133	59,856	2,733	1,526	481
Benambra	28	43	1,221	157	262	78
Wonnangatta	6	11	292	33	13	2
Gippsland District—						
Croajingolong	13	16	273	24	49	26
Tambo	36	39	659	231	176	260
Dargo	35	135	8,442	334	521	266
Tanjil	25	165	11,075	2,692	109	274
Buln Buln	88	420	31,125	831	722	403
Total for State	5,915	70,024	2,183,346	1,319,311	1,451,191	474,175

in the following table, where the number of growers, the area under given :—

Plums.	Prunes.	Cherries.	Quinces.	Nec- tarines.	Figs.	Oranges.	Man- darins.	Grape- fruit.	Lemons and Limes.
trees	trees	trees	trees	trees	trees	trees	trees	trees	trees
41,273	55	35,170	27,673	18,721	5,721	98	7	135	75,058
7,631	310	1,701	1,325	126	193	19	..	4	883
45,523	137	22,699	5,587	1,581	164	181	6	125	25,457
98,018	39	62,384	15,455	6,025	497	158	7	59	32,245
171	7	28	25	13	23	1	..	..	7
82	..	3	13	..	2	2	..	..	1
17,627	81	6,522	3,618	17	51	7	..	2	279
1,425	6	14	216	1	3	2	..	..	3
878	..	67	87	4	18	..	..	..	3
160	3	2	53	4	14	..	..	..	..
206	2	8	11	7	5	..	..	..	1
135	1	7	37	..	4	..	..	..	4
35	3	7	15	7	3	..	..	..	1
509	20	25	71	30	20	8	..	2	7
128	17	25	51	30	29	11	..	..	8
64	6	5	38	5	13	2	..	..	1
871	8,157	16	273	82	83	195	14	72	100
6,186	7,442	2,290	4,833	457	753	516	27	6	627
719	39	1,075	93	123	134	24	1	..	9
..	..	..	..	..	..	1,844	..	345	202
1,341	1,208	7	321	380	993	118,025	4,078	9,671	7,367
923	1,439	148	457	281	492	80,036	2,403	4,251	4,968
351	463	90	108	104	165	84,705	1,701	4,062	3,880
367	5	404	99	29	326	266	6	6	61
10,121	5,138	1,515	3,165	43	2,808	33,648	216	1,013	7,605
13,032	12,622	108	5,509	2,659	9,828	21,924	82	220	6,281
42,142	9,583	6,062	5,978	1,464	1,823	67,918	1,314	2,628	20,184
377	84	882	233	31	100	668	13	207	206
3,037	948	2,237	383	127	988	2,825	48	34	893
161	23	61	55	41	38	105	1	2	42
30	1	15	5	6	2	2	..	..	3
40	7	28	20	7	6	15	1	..	6
226	20	44	51	17	15	95	3	1	257
126	78	408	29	32	31	29	..	..	466
197	27	40	23	32	31	54	2	1	117
751	89	548	89	17	20	73	1	151	171
294,863	48,060	144,645	76,049	32,503	25,394	413,456	9,931	22,997	187,403

The next three tables show the numbers of growers (in counties) of each kind of fruit and nuts grown in the State:—

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	..	..	..	..
Hampden	3	5	1	3	..	1	..	..	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 .. .. .	..	3	3	33	3	19	14	61	3	10	5	15
Karkaroc .. .. .	..	25	..	20	5	33	42	73	1	20	6	14
Tatchera	4	28	3	53	8	52	56	134	4	30	11	29
Northern District—												
Gumbower	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	..	..
Wonnangatta	1	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	96	125	11	49	9	28	..	16	2	38	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—												
Bourke	143	40	94	141	85	99	38	23	..	1	..	4
Grant	9	11	1	32	..	4	1	4	..	2	..	..
Mornington	76	19	15	44	4	17	..	13	..	9	..	5
Evelyn	198	25	42	92	22	57	4	6	10	6	..	3
	426	95	152	309	111	177	43	35	23	18	..	12
North Central District—												
Anglesey .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dalhousie .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Talbot	26	12	6	18	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..
	26	13	6	18	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..
Western District—												
Grenville .. .. .	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polwarth .. .. .	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Heytesbury .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hampden .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ripon .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Villiers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Normanby .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Dundas .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Follett .. .. .	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	..	4	..	14	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..
Wimmera District—												
Lowan .. .. .	..	1	..	5	..	3	..	2	..	..	1	1
Borong	11	11	10	43	1	13	2	20	..	4	1	9
Kara Kara	5	7	..	3	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	1
	16	19	10	51	1	19	3	22	5	4	2	11
Mallee District—												
Millewa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Weeah .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Karkaroc .. .. .	..	..	..	1	4	3	20	..	1	254	244	..
Tatchera .. .. .	..	3	..	9	1	4	3	5	1	107	59	..
	..	3	..	13	2	8	6	25	1	2	363	303
Northern District—												
Gunbower .. .. .	..	2	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	59	16	..
Gladstone	2	3	..	4	..	1	9	..	..	1	..	..
Bendigo	10	7	9	26	..	9	13	..	..	50	21	..
Rodney	1	1	13	12	11	9	16	8	..	2	37	21
Moira	7	8	19	29	8	9	7	27	3	1	85	36
	20	21	41	71	19	19	33	59	3	3	232	94
North-Eastern District—												
Delatite	5	2	1	4	..	..	1	18	..	2	5	..
Bogong	6	2	..	8	..	2	4	12	2	1	9	31
Benambra .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wonnangatta .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	11	5	1	13	..	2	4	13	20	1	11	37
Gippsland District—												
Croajlong .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tambo .. .. .	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	1
Dargo	3	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	1	..	..
Tanjil .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	3
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.	Mandarins.		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	1	11	1	12
Evelyn .. .. .	..	..	..	1	96	129	1	5	7	25
	..	..	1	5	395	305	3	28	8	59
North Central District—										
Anglesey .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dalhousie .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	6	..	5
Talbot .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	6	..	8
	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	6	..	8
Western District—										
Grenville .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Polwarth .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Heytesbury .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Hampden .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Ripon .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Villiers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Normanby .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dundas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Follett .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	16
Wimmera District—										
Lowan .. .. .	..	..	1	1	..	1	5	7	..	3
Borong .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	17	13	32	1	14
Kara Kara .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	..	9
	..	2	..	1	..	18	20	44	1	26
Mallee District—										
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
	7	100	29	126	38	117	35	149	5	119
Northern District—										
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
	14	33	26	52	93	102	35	69	1	62
North-Eastern District—										
Delatite .. .. .	..	..	1	1	..	4	3	6	15	38
Bogong .. .. .	..	1	..	..	1	18	16	14	3	30
Benambra .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	8
Wonnangatta .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
	..	1	1	1	1	23	19	22	19	78
Gippsland District—										
Croajingolong .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Tambo .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	1	..	8
Dargo .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	2	13
Tanjil .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	6
Buln Buln .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	4	..	..	3	15
	..	..	1	..	4	10	..	3	6	45
Total	21	186	58	185	533	575	112	323	40	413

Fruit growing
1938-39 to
1943-44.

The principal fruits grown in the State are apples, pears, peaches, and citrus. The apple and pear crops for the season 1943-44 amounted to 2,326,224 and 1,421,706 bushels respectively.

A considerable quantity of apricots, peaches, and pears is grown, mostly in irrigated areas, for canning purposes. The total output of 1,720,980 cases of canned fruits for the 1944 season comprised apricots, 181,997 cases; peaches, 1,038,415 cases; and pears, 500,568 cases. This output represented 75 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 1943-44 was £3,522,400 as compared with £2,512,355 in 1942-43.

VICTORIA—FRUIT GROWING, 1938-39 TO 1943-44.

	1938-39.	1939-40.	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.
Number of Growers ..	6,476	6,318	6,221	6,220	6,155	5,915
Area	acres. 71,300	acres. 70,315	acres. 69,756	acres. 69,413	acres. 69,776	acres. 70,024
Kind of Fruit—	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
Apples	1,574,916	1,603,043	2,497,277	1,603,273	845,184	2,326,224
Pears	1,204,340	1,298,787	1,677,504	1,232,723	1,581,841	1,421,706
Quinces	45,415	43,814	60,791	72,151	55,131	63,208
Apricots	251,028	485,612	388,361	434,552	422,100	464,934
Cherries	40,888	23,891	47,741	48,285	47,081	64,689
Nectarines	18,371	9,965	8,935	20,374	12,577	23,383
Peaches	1,653,792	1,201,378	1,479,866	1,291,756	1,178,242	1,469,813
Plums	106,650	150,385	240,351	189,778	210,383	187,977
Prunes	39,597	51,230	41,702	46,834	37,032	58,415
Lemons	162,428	121,134	130,670	163,378	128,210	162,000
Oranges	700,990	544,208	729,970	614,670	556,500	637,798
Figs	15,019	17,382	17,220	17,565	15,686	13,096
Passion-fruit ..	21,094	11,512	26,520	14,971	10,779	8,431
Other Large Fruits..	2,737	5,119	2,445	4,059	4,649	1,985
Blackberries ..	cwt. 315	cwt. 881	cwt. 1,136	cwt. 1,402	cwt. 732	cwt. Not collected.
Cape Gooseberries ..	167	95	124	96	13	”
Currants	171	156	142	104	86	”
Gooseberries	2,762	2,250	2,787	3,204	2,257	3,041
Loganberries	1,290	2,417	2,932	3,067	2,527	3,196
Mulberries	17	35	27	23	20	Not collected.
Raspberries	1,520	1,544	3,133	2,908	2,690	2,908
Strawberries	2,772	5,216	6,768	6,302	3,372	4,054
Almonds	lb. 98,498	lb. 92,717	lb. 87,068	lb. 163,819	lb. 123,737	lb. 116,604
Chestnuts	21,954	16,855	15,580	17,257	18,885	Not collected.
Filberts	518	3,321	3,512	4,612	4,625	6,580
Walnuts	74,807	39,056	68,444	96,802	76,111	72,937

**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 318.

VICTORIA—DRIED TREE-FRUITS, 1939-40 TO 1943-44.

Year ended June—	Apples.	Apricots.	Figs.	Necta- rines.	Peaches.	Pears.	Prunes.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1940 ..	2,855	135,597	2,903	104	148,135	40,460	659,736	989,790
1941 ..	13,790	124,319	3,594	322	290,024	100,076	581,863	1,113,988
1942 ..	16,241	201,028	3,779	484	300,807	156,800	970,801	1,649,940
1943 ..	189	203,840	3,543	1,033	255,360	150,080	638,400	1,252,445
1944 ..	2,594	210,560	7,240	46	425,600	286,720	705,600	1,638,360

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 1943-44 was 66,471 acres and the gross value of the estimated production therefrom was £4,225,813.

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

	acres.		acres.
Carrots	5,310	Beans, French ..	4,873
Parsnips	1,251	Beans, Navy ..	5,037
Beetroot	2,011	Peas, green ..	16,153
Cabbage	5,079	Peas, blue ..	4,379
Cauliflower ..	3,099	Silver beet ..	450
Lettuce	2,420	Cucumber ..	277
Tomatoes	7,142	Marrows ..	352
Pumpkins	3,136	Melons ..	683
Turnips	3,423		

Minor Crops. There are other crops cultivated in Victoria in addition to those enumerated on pages 298 and 299. 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. since July, 1941). 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.	
1901-02	}	556,777	23,535	
1911-12		2,676,408	82,581	
1921-22		3,848,184	150,012	
1931-32		3,927,208	163,234	
1934-35		4,939,170	211,657	
1939-40	}	Crops 34,901	4,119,706	169,092
		Pastures 25,615	3,218,761	171,541
1940-41	}	Crops 33,013	3,671,693	151,345
		Pastures 25,302	3,305,382	170,869
1941-42	}	Crops } Not	3,650,339	145,245
		Pastures } tabulated			3,290,142	167,418
1942-43	}	Crops } Not	2,444,332	90,033
		Pastures } tabulated			2,140,314	94,762
1943-44	}	Crops 28,841	2,060,274	79,102
		Pastures 23,161	2,034,698	84,588

Machinery used on Holdings. The numbers of the different kinds of serviceable farming implements, &c., on rural holdings in Victoria on 31st March, 1944, are shown in the following table:—

**VICTORIA—MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS IN USE ON
RURAL HOLDINGS AT 31st MARCH, 1944.**

	Number.
Milking machines—Number of units	34,382
Shearing machines—Number of stands	14,286
Ploughs—	
Single furrow	44,392
Multiple furrow	42,171
Cultivators (including scarifiers, harrows, &c.)—	
Tandem Disc	5,128
Other	11,919
Spring tooth	15,288
Rigid tine	11,115
Harrows—Number of leaves	184,008
Rotary Hoes	1,162
Other	10,590
Fertilizer distributors and broadcasters	11,536
Grain drills—	
Combine type	16,658
Other types	10,889
Maize or cotton planters	1,121
Harvesting machinery—	
Headers, strippers, and harvesters	15,321
Reapers and binders	19,193
Mowers	17,471
Hay rakes	13,969
Hay presses	1,750
Chaff cutters	23,406
Spraying plants	4,010
Fruit graders	785
Motor trucks, utilities or motor lorries	17,385
Tractors—	
Wheeled type	10,806
Crawler or track type	505
Stationary engines	33,222
Producer gas units, fitted to—	
Tractors	144
Motor trucks, utilities or motor lorries	1,629

**Persons
employed on
Rural
Holdings.**

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 out-doors, are primarily engaged in domestic duties. The large increase in the number of females employed as at 31st March, 1943, is due to war-time conditions causing a shortage of male labour. Particulars for the years 1937-38 to 1943-44 are as follow:—

VICTORIA—PERSONS PERMANENTLY ENGAGED ON RURAL HOLDINGS, INCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS, ETC., BUT EXCLUDING CASUAL AND SEASONAL WORKERS, 1937-38 TO 1943-44.

Year ending March.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
1938	100,338	8,296	108,634
1939	100,155	8,026	108,181
1940	100,184	8,126	108,310
1941 and 1942 .. ..	..	Not tabulated.	..
1943	84,045	16,352	100,397
1944	85,074	13,207	98,281

NOTE.—The number of persons temporarily employed on 31st March, 1944, was collected in addition to those permanently engaged. These were males 8,881, females 1,591.

**Rates of
Wages—
Rural
Holdings.**

In the next table will be found particulars of the rates of wages paid (with rations) upon rural holdings during 1943-44. The information has been furnished by the occupiers of holdings.

VICTORIA—RATES OF WAGES ON RURAL HOLDINGS, 1943-44.

Occupations.	Prevailing Rate.	Range.
Ploughmen	75s. 6d. per week	40s. to 120s. per week
Farm labourers	76s. per week ..	35s. to 120s. per week
Threshing machine hands	2s. per hour ..	1s. 3d. to 3s. per hour
Harvest hands	19s. per day ..	10s. to 25s. per day
Milkers	73s. 3d. per week	40s. to 100s. per week
Maize pickers (without rations)	11d. per bag of cobs	9d. to 1s. 6d. per bag of cobs
Married couples	96s. per week ..	60s. to 130s. per week
Female servants	40s. per week ..	20s. to 70s. per week
Shearers, hand (without rations)	43s. 6d. per 100 sheep	38s. 6d. to 55s. per 100 sheep
„ machine (without rations)	45s. per 100 sheep	35s. to 75s. per 100 sheep
Gardeners, market	98s. per week ..	65s. to 120s. per week
„ orchard	97s. per week ..	60s. to 120s. per week
Vineyard hands	83s. 6d. per week	60s. to 100s. per week

**Financial
Assistance to
Primary
Producers.**

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*.

PASTORAL AND DAIRYING INDUSTRIES.**Live Stock.**

The pastoral and dairying industries have always been important sources of wealth to the State, and their increasing values in recent years indicate 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 1944.

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
1939	343,828	889,259	808,036	17,007,352	252,462
1940	326,217	917,051	870,546	18,251,870	297,655
1941	318,441	942,107	980,229	20,412,362	397,945
1942	302,401	954,493	1,032,051	20,598,201	285,227
1943 } at 31st March	{ 292,534	{ 937,164	{ 1,085,728	{ 19,614,040	{ 307,929
1944 }	{ 277,662	{ 938,484	{ 1,074,549	{ 19,220,457	{ 337,878

* 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, 1861-1944.

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	1939	37,418,582
1881	25,978,115	1940	39,390,030
1891	34,886,343	1941	42,820,132
1901	30,788,000	1942	43,487,651
1911	33,079,155	1943	42,768,300
1921	32,797,704	1944	42,127,407

When making comparisons of the figures in the foregoing table, consideration should be given to the varying acreage under cultivation as shown on page 291.

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 472 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, 1944:—

LIVE STOCK IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1944.

State.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Victoria	277,662	2,013,033	19,220,457	337,878
New South Wales	465,672	3,143,378	56,837,300	561,294
Queensland	387,018	6,524,553	23,255,584	450,391
South Australia	154,102	414,997	10,359,669	186,007
Western Australia	106,743	870,939	11,012,936	163,876
Tasmania	26,317	230,127	2,187,799	46,427
Northern Territory	30,534	978,569	25,575	191
Australian Capital Territory	1,151	8,083	274,642	657
Total	1,449,199	14,183,679	123,173,962	1,746,721

Agriculture in Victoria and Great Britain. The figures relating to agriculture and live stock in Victoria and Great Britain (England, Wales, and Scotland) in 1938 are, for comparative purposes, given in the table which follows:—

AGRICULTURE AND LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

	Victoria. (1938-39.)	Great Britain. (1937-38.)
Total area	56,245,760	56,208,959
Wheat	18,104,369	73,136,000
Oats	2,909,260	95,312,000
Barley	1,671,809	40,365,000
Peas	43,332	1,126,000
Potatoes	81,415	4,404,000
Turnips and Swedes	2,093*	10,605,000
Mangolds	3,537	3,689,000
Hay	892,975	5,302,000
Horses	343,828	1,001,500
Cattle	1,697,295	8,030,000
Sheep	17,007,352	25,882,000
Pigs	252,462	3,821,650

* 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	27,911	34,001	14,646	2,574	10,048	7,630	1,586
Grant	11,825	16,046	7,515	2,027	7,188	6,171	1,164
Mornington	14,776	69,480	21,941	5,399	21,733	19,741	3,553
Evelyn	4,750	9,397	3,915	860	3,950	3,398	620
North Central District—							
Anglesey	2,741	4,539	4,009	786	2,524	2,476	373
Dalhousie	3,690	4,003	2,402	408	1,966	2,267	343
Talbot	7,939	9,673	4,676	824	4,036	4,385	770
Western District—							
Grenville	5,782	10,819	10,445	2,633	4,613	3,643	907
Polwarth	3,497	20,449	9,052	2,286	6,751	5,982	1,396
Heytesbury	3,817	33,988	15,430	3,059	10,992	10,532	1,976
Hampden	4,913	23,318	15,697	3,946	9,381	8,386	1,658
Ripon	4,289	3,872	2,323	450	1,969	1,944	361
Villiers	5,732	24,732	13,864	4,074	8,826	8,415	1,585
Normanby	5,268	15,143	10,918	2,719	5,292	6,326	1,118
Dundas	4,003	5,428	5,373	1,529	1,866	2,790	511
Follett	1,243	2,933	1,556	556	393	1,011	132
Wimmera District—							
Lowan	11,406	5,118	3,227	810	1,735	2,660	592
Borong	14,867	7,034	3,451	856	2,265	3,615	780
Kara Kara	6,365	2,864	1,602	330	992	1,590	252
Mallee District—							
Millewa	2,036	410	331	60	116	325	68
Weeah	3,512	1,158	603	106	261	518	110
Karkaroc	14,056	4,571	2,083	348	1,077	2,258	395
Tatchera	11,715	7,459	2,810	700	2,321	3,163	551
Northern District—							
Gunbower	6,468	22,335	6,721	1,886	8,490	8,382	1,319
Gladstone	6,301	2,780	1,653	248	901	1,670	247
Bendigo	10,493	12,160	4,593	1,136	4,406	4,981	795
Rodney	10,522	28,158	7,542	2,035	10,418	10,907	1,621
Moira	19,130	13,317	8,698	1,800	5,892	6,742	1,329
North-Eastern District—							
Delatite	7,314	15,381	10,167	2,646	6,178	8,148	1,134
Bogong	9,414	29,630	14,550	3,842	9,117	12,407	1,540
Benambra	4,290	14,962	5,132	1,706	3,582	5,589	565
Wonnangatta	408	621	371	77	226	167	31
Gippsland District—							
Crosjingleong	1,350	6,337	1,214	168	2,166	2,206	209
Tambo	1,705	4,617	2,330	321	1,741	1,839	247
Dargo	1,663	4,290	1,806	441	1,653	1,533	198
Tanjil	6,433	30,665	10,653	3,112	10,938	10,308	1,417
Buln Buln	16,038	113,811	29,898	6,930	35,314	34,865	5,804
Total for State ..	277,662	611,599	263,197	63,688	211,317	218,970	37,257

in each County of the State as at March, 1944.

OF LIVE STOCK, 1944.

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.
7,137	2,585	253	7,477	87,937	19,077	426,904	94,298	521,202
8,423	4,267	519	9,728	63,048	9,531	585,792	160,018	745,810
16,638	5,062	327	12,990	176,864	23,099	208,866	88,123	296,989
4,047	2,354	132	3,545	32,218	5,503	56,381	18,793	75,174
4,152	3,281	161	6,765	29,066	3,561	406,812	82,713	489,525
2,229	1,866	95	3,883	19,462	1,490	411,570	99,559	511,129
3,549	3,308	201	4,799	36,221	5,261	439,722	142,176	581,898
2,736	1,226	101	3,749	40,872	7,829	523,194	128,651	651,845
3,956	1,973	61	4,784	56,690	10,827	145,299	42,524	187,823
2,234	1,117	66	3,036	82,430	9,095	55,800	16,921	72,721
9,164	4,540	267	14,128	90,485	4,294	678,058	207,965	886,023
3,286	1,987	111	2,551	18,854	1,497	787,640	185,828	973,468
14,324	7,437	421	12,754	96,432	2,617	738,425	220,813	959,238
8,796	5,937	343	8,095	64,687	7,872	590,749	150,598	741,347
5,044	3,445	168	4,710	30,864	2,389	783,290	158,328	941,618
3,503	2,411	148	2,333	14,076	945	245,131	39,862	284,993
1,560	1,764	116	1,596	19,178	7,887	1,087,794	284,961	1,372,755
957	1,804	99	2,178	23,039	11,911	817,951	213,387	1,031,338
558	974	45	1,273	10,480	3,010	488,322	136,206	624,528
58	106	8	103	1,585	650	81,044	21,253	102,297
80	225	19	205	3,285	1,829	115,080	34,675	149,755
902	1,137	77	1,123	13,971	6,786	428,569	133,444	562,013
1,074	1,222	51	2,104	21,455	8,315	352,857	117,046	469,903
3,052	3,688	132	7,093	63,098	19,559	295,690	101,974	397,664
575	775	36	1,258	10,143	2,925	389,368	125,690	515,058
2,004	2,303	79	3,412	35,869	9,858	446,504	149,027	595,531
4,315	3,390	133	6,165	74,684	24,100	443,797	160,204	604,001
4,219	4,588	274	8,591	55,450	15,458	804,559	235,631	1,040,190
13,722	9,556	404	23,676	91,012	8,174	589,973	173,075	763,048
15,911	11,350	428	17,727	113,502	18,808	355,132	105,347	460,479
19,611	14,718	645	15,426	81,936	8,454	265,461	83,847	349,308
2,323	1,104	62	2,258	7,240	700	39,156	11,925	51,081
4,160	1,976	98	4,315	22,849	5,001	45,471	10,091	55,562
7,297	4,194	196	3,002	25,784	4,341	102,293	31,261	133,554
3,268	2,389	80	2,245	17,903	3,946	83,457	27,835	111,292
7,381	4,933	230	16,565	96,202	11,836	314,951	96,436	411,387
14,865	9,421	551	32,703	284,162	49,443	393,437	105,473	498,910
207,110	134,413	7,137	258,345	2,013,033	337,878	15,024,499	4,195,958	19,220,457

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 1943-44 was £16,997,685 as compared with £15,351,192 in 1942-43, £15,567,176 in 1941-42, £15,529,932 in 1940-41, and £14,854,336 in 1939-40. The following table shows the numbers of cowkeepers and cows and the estimated total production of milk for each of the last five years:—

VICTORIA—DAIRYING, 1939-40 TO 1943-44.

As at 1st March—		Number of Cow-keepers.	Number of Dairy Cows.*	Estimated Total Production of Milk for all Purposes (Year ended 30th June).
				gallons.
1940	.. ..	55,438	917,051	456,918,000
1941	.. ..	55,297	942,107	447,874,000
1942	.. ..	Not tabulated.	954,493	428,691,000
1943	} at 31st March ..	{ " " "	937,164	381,640,000
1944			53,371	938,484	360,532,000

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

Butter, Cheese, Condensed Milk and Casein.

The quantities of butter, cheese, concentrated, condensed, and powdered milk, etc., and casein made during the last five years were as follow:—

VICTORIA—BUTTER, CHEESE, (CONCENTRATED, CONDENSED, AND POWDERED MILK) AND CASEIN MADE, 1940-1944.

Year Ended 30th June—		Butter.*	Cheese.*	Concentrated, Condensed, and Powdered Milk, etc.	Casein.
		lb.	lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1940	.. ..	164,826,094	24,495,121	61,762	5,331
1941	.. ..	156,345,602	18,376,904	76,621	4,493
1942	.. ..	140,816,692	22,518,272	114,570	4,593
1943	.. ..	125,675,000	25,266,000	105,929	4,097
1944	.. ..	111,639,000	26,660,000	109,629	2,740

* 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, during each of the seven years, 1938-44 :—

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.	
1938 ..	10,553	5,655	3,453	5,153	6,253	3,637	669	35,373
1939 ..	10,048	4,965	3,048	4,647	5,750	3,465	599	32,522
1940 ..	9,792	5,032	3,193	4,674	5,920	3,651	650	32,912
1941 ..	9,911	4,984	3,101	4,830	6,080	3,987	639	33,532
1942-43 ..	Not tabulated							
1944 ..	9,381	4,569	2,787	4,282	6,117	4,352	683	32,171

The numbers of farmers with less than five cows were :—21,756 in 1938, 23,290 in 1939, 22,526 in 1940, 21,765 in 1941, and 21,200 in 1944. 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.

The initial step towards the organization of the Metropolitan Milk supply was taken with the passing of the *Milk Board Act* 1932 (No. 4104), which made provision for the appointment of a Board to report and make recommendations on the regulation, control and distribution of the metropolitan milk supply.

This legislation was repealed by Act No. 4183 of 1933 under the provisions of which the "Metropolis" was defined as the Municipal Districts of the Municipalities specified in the Second Schedule to the *Milk and Dairy Supervision Act 1928* and includes any other municipal district or part thereof which is by proclamation of the Governor-in-Council declared to be included in the Metropolis.

The municipal districts specified in the Second Schedule to the *Milk and Dairy Supervision Act 1928* were :—

CITIES—

Box Hill	Footscray	Port Melbourne
Brighton	Hawthorn	Prahran
Brunswick	Heidelberg	Preston
Camberwell	Kew	Richmond
Caulfield	Malvern	St. Kilda
Coburg	Melbourne	Sandringham
Collingwood	Northcote	South Melbourne
Essendon	Oakleigh	Williamstown
Fitzroy		

SHIRES—

Blackburn and Mitcham (proclaimed City of Nunawading 10.4.45), Moorabbin (proclaimed City 10.10.34).

Under the provisions of the Act the following municipalities or parts thereof were proclaimed on and operated from the dates shown :—

—				Proclaimed.	Operated from.
CITIES.					
Bendigo	..	..	..	17.9.41	1.10.41
Chelsea	..	..	..	26.1.38	26.1.38
Mordialloc	..	..	..	17.10.34	1.11.34

	Proclaimed.	Operated from.
BOROUGHES.		
Eaglehawk	17.9.41	1.10.41
Ringwood	17.10.34	1.11.34
SHIRES.		
Braybrook	17.10.34	1.11.34
Broadmeadows (part)	17.10.34	1.11.34
Bulla	17.10.34	1.11.34
Dandenong	22.12.43	17.1.44
Doncaster and Templestowe (part)	17.10.34	1.11.34
Eltham (part)	17.10.34	1.11.34
Fern Tree Gully	29.3.44	1.4.44
Flinders	23.1.46	1.2.46
Frankston and Hastings (part)	26.1.38	26.1.38
Frankston and Hastings (part)	23.1.46	1.2.46
Huntly (part)	17.9.41	1.10.41
Keilor	17.10.34	1.11.34
Lillydale	28.2.45	1.3.45
Marong (part)	17.9.41	1.10.41
Mornington	23.1.46	1.2.46
Mulgrave	17.10.34	1.11.34
Strathfieldsaye (part)	17.9.41	1.10.41
Werribee (part)	17.10.34	1.11.34
Werribee (part)	28.2.45	1.3.45
Whittlesea (part)	17.10.34	1.11.34

Pigs. The number of pigs in Victoria at 31st March, 1944. was 337,878. About 75 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, 1944.

Districts and Counties.	Boars.	Breeding Sows.	Baconers and Porkers.	Back-fatters.	Stores.	Suckers, Weaners, Slips.	Total Pigs.	Pig-Owners.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District—								
Bourke	184	1,989	8,124	120	3,010	5,650	19,077	411
Grant	183	1,054	2,885	77	1,915	3,417	9,531	637
Mornington ..	521	2,713	6,376	169	4,833	8,487	23,099	1,088
Evelyn	131	751	1,598	34	898	2,091	5,503	359
North-Central District—								
Anglesley ..	82	454	1,084	6	811	1,124	3,561	173
Dalhousie ..	41	158	398	25	360	508	1,490	162
Talbot	104	552	1,681	71	788	2,065	5,261	547
Western District—								
Grenville ..	145	731	1,530	222	2,430	2,771	7,829	366
Polwarth ..	255	1,314	2,398	164	2,447	4,249	10,827	554
Heyesbury ..	227	1,091	2,080	21	2,619	3,057	9,095	453
Hampden ..	93	468	801	16	1,317	1,599	4,294	203
Ripon	40	170	461	10	309	507	1,497	139
Villiers ..	62	324	575	20	663	973	2,617	149
Normanby ..	186	1,124	1,507	81	1,787	3,187	7,872	500
Dundas	60	311	559	92	443	918	2,389	213
Follett	24	126	338	4	80	373	945	49
Wimmera District—								
Lowan	211	832	2,570	113	1,170	2,991	7,887	619
Borung	277	1,290	3,660	110	1,829	4,745	11,911	988
Kara Kara ..	53	338	1,109	58	382	1,070	3,010	294
Mallee District—								
Millewa	23	99	201	24	61	242	650	76
Weeah	44	241	535	11	218	780	1,829	171
Karkaroc ..	181	849	2,079	41	835	2,801	6,786	566
Tatchera ..	174	935	2,443	65	1,993	2,705	8,315	554
Northern District—								
Gunbower ..	454	2,276	5,760	129	4,962	5,978	19,559	725
Gladstone ..	56	360	714	50	412	1,333	2,925	311
Bendigo	180	1,081	2,980	41	2,056	3,520	9,858	521
Rodney	466	2,580	7,211	141	6,391	7,311	24,100	959
Moira	327	1,690	4,969	108	3,115	5,249	15,458	776
North-Eastern District—								
Delatite	194	871	2,476	70	1,454	3,109	8,174	538
Bogong	420	2,220	4,505	136	4,677	6,850	18,808	828
Benambra ..	162	973	1,997	73	2,079	3,170	8,454	335
Wonnangatta ..	11	66	231	3	223	166	700	31
Gippsland District—								
Croajingolong ..	109	657	1,267	23	1,370	1,575	5,001	128
Tambo	99	552	844	33	1,139	1,674	4,341	176
Dargo	86	429	1,042	88	1,158	1,143	3,946	175
Tanjil	242	1,337	2,400	137	4,024	3,696	11,836	458
Bulu Bulu ..	1,176	5,702	10,220	276	15,262	16,807	49,443	2,293
Total for State ..	7,289	38,708	91,608	2,862	79,520	117,891	337,878	17,505*

* Of this number 6,210 had herds of under 5 pigs, 2,555 herds of 5 and under 9 pigs, 3,299 herds of 10 and under 19 pigs, and 5,441 herds of 20 pigs and over.

Sheep. The numbers of sheep in Victoria in various years since 1861 are shown in the table on page 330. 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 332.

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. Seasonal conditions also play a large part in determining the proportion of lambs dropped to ewes mated, and thus a wide variation from the average natural increase may be experienced in any particular season. The following table shows the numbers of ewes mated and lambs dropped, in each of the six years, 1939 to 1944.

VICTORIA—LAMBING, 1939 TO 1944.

Season.		Lambs Marked.	Ewes Mated to produce such Lambs.	Proportion of Lambs Marked to Ewes Mated.
		No.	No.	%
1939	.. ..	5,891,251	7,227,591	81·5
1940	.. ..	7,367,318	9,070,860	81·2
1941	.. ..	6,776,825	9,587,667	70·7
1942	.. ..	7,129,692	9,602,120	74·3
1943	.. ..	7,251,821	9,843,352	73·7
1944	.. ..	6,086,522	8,975,270	67·8

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	20·37	1,078,400	5·51	869	141,993	568	95,938
250 „ 500	7,397	23·60	2,663,592	13·62	660	235,912	611	220,557
500 „ 1,000	6,557	20·91	4,554,785	23·28	530	361,975	550	384,910
1,000 „ 2,000	3,266	10·42	4,442,366	22·71	253	349,845	274	367,826
2,000 „ 3,500	1,024	3·27	2,622,986	13·41	70	180,454	99	246,764
3,500 „ 5,000	257	·82	1,057,207	5·40	18	73,468	25	100,613
5,000 „ 7,500	171	·54	1,033,427	5·28	11	65,341	13	72,983
7,500 „ 10,000	74	·24	640,870	3·28	5	44,618	4	33,392
10,000 „ 15,000	58	·19	676,412	3·46	3	31,377	3	37,175
15,000 „ 20,000	13	·04	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

Although the principal breed of sheep in the State is the “Merino,” the percentage of pure Merino sheep is only 39, as compared with 85 in New South Wales. Merino Comebacks, the progeny of Crossbred ewes mated to Merino rams, number 34 per cent., other crossbreeds 24 per cent. and other British and Australasian breeds 3 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 progeny of

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

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.

A table showing the breeds of sheep for the years 1932 to 1936 appears on page 480 of the 1938-39 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, 1944, also the numbers of ewes mated, classified according to whether the progeny is intended for wool or fat lamb production. The breeds of rams are also shown.

Rams, Ewes,
&c., in
Counties at
March, 1944.

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

Statistical Districts and Counties.	Rams.	Ewes.		Wethers.	Lambs.	Total Sheep and Lambs.
		Breeding.	Dry (Not mated or intended to be bred from).			
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District—						
Bourke	7,959	267,676	28,286	122,983	94,298	521,202
Grant	8,404	334,530	65,243	177,615	160,018	745,810
Mornington	4,613	156,584	17,621	30,048	88,123	296,989
Evelyn	1,815	40,823	5,423	8,320	18,793	75,174
North Central District—						
Anglesey	4,812	188,655	37,630	175,715	82,713	489,525
Dalhousie	6,693	237,139	33,520	134,218	99,559	511,129
Talbot	8,100	308,005	35,324	88,293	142,176	581,898
Western District—						
Grenville	9,969	249,112	76,206	187,907	128,651	651,845
Polywarth	2,709	82,608	18,185	41,797	42,524	187,823
Heytesbury	1,332	44,678	1,952	7,838	16,921	72,721
Hampten	13,329	378,215	98,074	188,440	207,965	886,023
Ripon	10,770	343,298	135,811	297,761	185,828	973,468
Villiers	11,086	354,708	116,739	255,892	220,813	959,238
Normanby	6,716	252,106	85,634	246,293	150,598	741,347
Dundas	7,582	293,748	130,544	351,416	158,328	941,618
Follett	2,176	79,597	21,062	142,296	39,862	284,993
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	12,112	478,595	150,826	446,261	284,961	1,372,755
Borong	12,860	500,109	76,757	228,225	213,387	1,031,338
Kara Kara	8,298	285,778	59,574	134,672	136,206	624,528
Mallee District—						
Millewa	1,539	65,256	6,088	8,161	21,253	102,297
Weeah	2,340	99,729	917	12,094	34,675	149,755
Karkaroo	9,022	378,741	5,567	35,239	133,444	562,013
Tatchera	7,090	310,625	4,778	30,364	117,046	469,903
Northern District—						
Gunbower	6,991	235,721	14,107	38,871	101,974	397,664
Gladstone	6,559	265,841	31,670	85,298	125,690	515,058
Bendigo	9,040	343,685	23,412	70,367	149,027	595,531
Rodney	10,209	371,077	17,693	44,818	160,204	604,001
Molra	18,757	689,748	25,496	70,558	235,631	1,040,190
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	10,424	419,671	45,469	114,409	173,075	763,048
Bogong	6,697	264,610	30,803	53,022	105,347	460,479
Benambra	3,434	154,588	28,330	79,109	83,847	349,308
Wonnangatta	566	18,359	7,349	12,882	11,925	51,081
Gippsland District—						
Croajingolong	368	19,509	8,954	16,640	10,091	55,562
Tambo	1,240	55,260	14,579	31,214	31,261	133,554
Dargo	937	44,546	11,068	26,906	27,835	111,292
Tanjil	3,703	175,010	28,917	107,321	96,436	411,337
Buln Buln	5,540	187,330	38,030	162,537	105,473	498,910
Total	245,791	8,975,270	1,537,638	4,265,800	4,195,958	19,220,457

BREEDS OF RAMS IN EACH COUNTY (EXCLUSIVE OF IN TOWNS) AS AT MARCH, 1944.

Ewes Mated (for Lambing during Season 1944).		Breeds of Rams (As at March, 1942).						
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.
39,139	228,537	175	977	438	1,508	2,518	1,802	1,275
147,172	187,358	1,607	1,874	818	1,484	716	1,733	1,395
9,687	146,897	22	436	7	760	2,410	505	1,159
6,270	34,553	31	564	18	428	650	196	714
83,236	105,419	1,086	815	169	316	1,791	149	942
74,810	162,329	1,189	853	71	1,456	1,894	1,228	902
119,264	188,741	1,994	1,418	51	1,793	730	998	1,137
168,337	80,865	6,668	1,099	901	1,052	504	271	448
29,404	53,114	7	190	1,509	478	517	135	603
3,553	41,125	4	25	30	249	775	34	362
258,728	119,487	4,825	2,884	2,556	686	1,444	524	1,523
255,223	88,075	8,342	1,144	273	840	206	774	325
238,955	115,753	3,706	2,535	2,679	788	573	202	1,251
155,783	96,323	1,511	2,344	465	619	429	414	1,120
202,252	91,496	3,713	2,079	266	750	443	444	393
35,239	44,358	535	537	6	408	228	194	461
328,329	150,266	8,122	1,574	77	895	280	898	329
216,746	283,363	4,008	1,378	214	1,997	599	2,126	770
144,402	141,376	3,998	763	415	1,678	205	670	215
33,239	32,017	1,004	198	12	423	13	275	31
31,013	68,716	130	659	26	329	17	917	57
48,751	329,990	185	866	44	3,165	220	2,348	279
41,007	269,618	101	342	13	3,839	525	901	536
29,246	206,475	656	395	57	2,215	595	2,227	359
112,600	153,241	1,849	1,105	46	1,714	258	412	629
72,333	271,352	888	844	58	2,933	764	1,143	914
49,259	321,818	730	1,006	58	3,450	1,746	2,120	1,037
58,108	631,640	496	1,360	101	5,388	7,097	2,892	1,812
106,428	313,243	807	1,740	264	2,769	2,851	370	2,411
65,870	198,740	629	848	194	3,366	975	326	612
62,955	91,633	1,123	432	49	578	310	355	426
9,694	8,665	54	154	49	63	24	..	119
11,871	7,638	99	150	6	44	4	..	94
26,932	28,328	464	414	40	216	52	6	239
27,202	17,344	319	169	..	178	29	11	189
81,447	93,563	1,146	632	55	278	313	859	763
38,200	149,130	445	604	130	1,437	1,144	851	1,285
3,422,684	5,552,586	62,668	35,607	12,165	50,570	33,879	29,340	27,121

Production
of Wool.

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 1943-44.

Statistical District.	Shorn.		Wool Clipped (including Crutchings).		Average.	
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep's.	Lambs'.	Per Sheep.	Per Lamb.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Central	1,402,174	378,958	11,331,626	965,853	8·08	2·55
North-Central	1,532,554	376,432	12,303,220	852,747	8·03	2·27
Western	5,686,653	1,312,935	48,162,049	3,193,149	8·47	2·43
Wimmera	3,036,625	761,690	26,033,223	1,809,170	8·57	2·37
Mallee	1,266,091	418,950	10,690,960	983,567	8·44	2·35
Northern	2,938,820	1,001,724	23,635,063	2,347,118	8·04	2·34
North-Eastern	1,452,420	423,740	11,516,787	1,000,425	7·93	2·36
Gippsland	1,020,341	306,352	8,322,168	691,452	8·16	2·26
State Totals	18,335,678	4,980,781	151,995,096	11,843,481	8·29	2·38

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.
1939-40	15,724,115	3,532,198	139,334,257	8,422,321	8·86	2·38
1940-41	17,458,106	4,932,852	143,969,249	11,124,590	8·25	2·26
1941-42	18,152,605	4,231,230	160,868,792	10,007,780	8·86	2·37
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

VICTORIA—WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE.

Season.	Clip.	Stripped from and Exported on Skins, &c. (Greasy).	Total Quantity. (Greasy).	Gross Value.	Average Price per lb.
1939-40	147,756,578	31,368,948	179,125,526	10,497,141	14·06
1940-41	155,093,839	32,737,525	187,831,364	11,120,160	14·21
1941-42	170,876,572	42,042,469	212,919,041	12,593,512	14·20
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

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.

Marketing of Wool.

Under normal pre-war conditions of marketing, wool is sold by public auction at established "selling centres". These sales are attended by representatives of firms from practically every country in which woollen goods are manufactured extensively and also by buyers representing local woollen mills.

Wool is sold on a clean scoured basis. A light conditioned, high quality fleece would weigh a good deal less than a heavy conditioned, sandy, burry one. The extra weight compensates to some extent for the lower price received per lb. Some woolgrowers place importance on the price per lb. obtained for wool and others on the return per sheep.

When wool is sold at auction it is subject to the vagaries of fashion and competition, which make fluctuations inevitable. As a result, prices are sometimes more and sometimes less than the true market value. Some growers value their wool and set reserves thereon. Their valuations can only be approximations as the individual grower cannot be aware of all the factors which determine the prices realized.

Auction sales arranged for the sale of the 1939 clip were postponed owing to the international situation and, following the outbreak of war on the 3rd September, 1939, the Commonwealth Government two days later announced that the British Government would purchase the Australian wool clip for the duration of the war and for one full year thereafter.

A Central Wool Committee was appointed to control the receipts, storage, appraisal and shipment of wool to the United Kingdom and other destinations arranged by the United Kingdom. After negotiations, a flat price of 10½d. per lb. sterling, equivalent to 13·437d. per lb. Australian currency, in store at seaboard, was agreed upon. This purchase price operated until the 1942 clip when the purchase price was raised to 12·3625d. per lb. sterling or 15·453d. per lb. Australian currency. Since a flat price per lb., irrespective of type or quality would obviously be unfair, the clip receipts are being appraised by experts selected by the Wool Committee. Each type is given a standard specification and, if this is not fulfilled, the wool is reduced to a lower type level and consequently appraised at a lower price. As a result the factors which govern sales by auction cannot operate.

Approximately 1,500 different types or grades of wool have been established throughout Australia and, having regard to the fact that prices vary from a few pence to over thirty pence per lb., it is impossible, at the time of appraisal, to determine values so that the fixed average price over all would be obtained and therefore a conservative value is given which permits of a reasonable margin of safety. A final adjustment is then made at the end of each season.

The interests of Australian mills are safeguarded under the purchase arrangement and manufacturers have first choice of appraised wools to meet their full requirements for military and civil purposes and for combing for export by Australian topmakers. Manufacturers are charged appraisal prices plus a surcharge to cover any probable undervaluation at the time of appraisal. Up to the present time the surcharge made has not been sufficient to meet the actual value and consequently mills have obtained their supplies at a discount. In order to make up these deficiencies the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner determined that the surcharge for the 1943-44 season should be 10 per cent. for shorn and 5 per cent. for fellmongered wool. When supplies are obtained for export purposes a further charge of 25 per cent. is made.

Prices of Wool.

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*—not only for wool *grown*—in Victoria. Wool from the Riverina and the south-east of South Australia is included in Victorian appraisements.

PRICES OF WOOL APPRAISED IN VICTORIA,
1941-42 TO 1943-44.

Class of Wool.	Average Price per lb. in—		
	1941-42.*	1942-43.*	1943-44.*
GREASY MERINO.			
	Pence.	Pence.	Pence.
Extra Super (Western District) ..	27 to 33	33 to 39	35 to 41
Super	22 to 26	26 to 32	27 to 33
Good	18 to 21	21 to 25	22 to 26
Average	14 to 17	17 to 20	17 to 20
Wasty and Inferior	9 to 13	12 to 16	12 to 16
Extra Super Lambs	26 to 29	29 to 32	29 to 33
Super Lambs	20 to 25	25 to 28	25 to 28
Good Lambs	16 to 20	20 to 24	20 to 24
Average Lambs	12 to 15	15 to 19	15 to 19
Inferior Lambs	7 to 11	11 to 14	11 to 14
GREASY CROSSBRED.			
Extra Super Comebacks	21 to 24	24 to 28	24 to 28
Super Comebacks	17 to 20	20 to 24	20 to 24
Fine Crossbred	16 to 19	14 to 22	14 to 22
Medium Crossbred	15 to 18	13 to 21	13 to 21
Coarse Crossbred and Lincoln	13 to 16	13 to 24	14 to 24
Super Fine Crossbred Lambs	16 to 19	20 to 24	20 to 24
Good Crossbred Lambs	12 to 14	15 to 19	15 to 19
Coarse and Lincoln Lambs	11 to 13	13 to 14	12 to 14
SCOURED.			
Extra Super Fleece	29 to 31	31 to 35	31 to 35
Super Fleece	24 to 28	27 to 30	27 to 30
Good Fleece	21 to 23	22 to 26	22 to 26
Average Fleece	18 to 20	19 to 21	19 to 21
RECORD PRICES FOR THE SEASON.			
Greasy Merino Fleece	33½	39	40¼
„ Comeback Fleece	25	27¼	28
„ Merino Lambs	28¾	31½	32½
„ Comeback Lambs	23½	26½	26½
Scoured Fleece	30½	34½	34¾

* Appraisal prices—subject to addition of 9½ per cent. in 1941-42; 11 per cent. in 1942-43 and 11¼ per cent. in 1943-44.

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 1939-40 to 1943-44. The averages stated are the mean of the monthly prices

Prices of
Live Stock.

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, 1939-40 TO 1943-44.

Stock.	1939-40. Average.	1940-41. Average.	1941-42. Average.	1942-43. Average.	1943-44. Average.
<i>Fat Cattle.</i>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bullocks—					
Extra prime	15 12 8	19 6 0	19 13 6	21 5 9	24 6 0
Prime	13 12 4	17 6 1	18 3 8	19 11 9	22 4 11
Good	12 9 4	15 3 2	15 15 2	17 17 6	20 5 6
Good light and handy weights	10 12 6	13 6 6	13 13 0	15 4 11	16 19 9
Second	10 3 4	10 18 8	11 2 7	12 9 6	12 12 11
Cows—					
Best	10 12 2	13 1 8	13 3 1	14 9 5	15 13 3
Others	6 8 3	7 9 7	8 3 9	8 10 6	9 7 2
<i>Dairy Cattle.</i>					
Milkers (best)	15 6 2	13 13 10	14 10 10	17 8 10	19 14 4
Springers (best)	11 15 9	11 1 6	11 11 2	13 1 9	13 16 5
<i>Fat Sheep.</i>					
Crossbred Wethers—					
Extra prime	1 7 3	1 5 2	1 6 5	1 10 1	1 14 6
Prime	1 4 5	1 2 1	1 3 4	1 7 5	1 11 4
Good	1 1 11	0 19 2	1 0 4	1 3 10	1 7 5
Crossbred Ewes—					
Extra prime	1 4 0	0 19 1	0 18 5	1 0 7	1 5 5
Prime	1 1 2	0 16 4	0 15 10	0 18 0	1 1 9
Good	0 18 4	0 13 2	0 12 8	0 14 5	0 16 2
Merino Wethers—					
Extra Prime	1 7 6	1 2 0	1 3 1	1 6 3	1 10 2
Prime	1 1 11	0 19 7	1 0 10	1 3 9	1 7 8
Good	0 19 5	0 16 6	0 17 6	0 19 4	1 3 2
<i>Fat Lambs.</i>					
Extra prime	1 5 5	1 3 2	1 4 1	1 8 3	1 11 10
Prime	1 2 11	1 0 1	1 1 2	1 5 4	1 8 7
Good	1 1 0	0 17 6	0 18 7	1 2 3	1 4 6
<i>Pigs.</i>					
Back Fattens—					
Extra heavy prime	9 0 11	6 14 2	8 16 4	12 12 1	11 17 1
Prime medium and weighty ..	7 7 0	5 4 6	7 2 6	10 10 1	9 12 5
Baconers—					
Medium and heavy	4 8 0	3 14 3	4 3 8	5 11 8	5 15 4
Light	3 13 4	3 1 9	3 7 5	4 10 9	4 11 6
Porkers	2 12 11	2 4 4	2 10 0	3 16 1	3 12 0

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, 1940-44:—

VICTORIA—STOCK SLAUGHTERED, 1940 TO 1944.

Kind of Stock.	Stock Slaughtered in Establishments and on Farms and Stations.				
	Year Ended June—				
	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.*
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Sheep	3,265,666	3,785,848	4,006,368	4,272,102	5,079,169
Lambs	3,725,080	4,587,329	4,628,241	5,458,718	4,221,903
Bullocks	175,550	159,707	155,461	182,612	165,001
Cows	169,328	167,183	232,685	239,980	223,245
Young cattle	61,746	64,039	68,329	51,782	75,502
Calves	330,636	331,675	297,342	278,850	304,641
Pigs	422,535	571,006	570,419	439,917	388,905
Number of Slaughterhouses	687	642	615	581	555

* Average dressed weights per carcass during 1943-44 were: Sheep 39·44 lbs.: Lambs 30·85 lbs.: Bullocks 587·09 lbs.: Cows 389·48 lbs.: Young Cattle 246·22 lbs.: Calves 60·98 lbs.: Pigs 155·52 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 1937 to 1944 as shown in the statement hereunder.

FROZEN MUTTON AND LAMB EXPORTED FROM VICTORIAN PORTS.

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

Year Ended 30th June.	Carcasses Exported (exclusive of certain service requirements consumed outside Australia).			
	Mutton.		Lamb.	
	Number.	Average Weight.	Number.	Average Weight.
		lb.		lb.
1937	258,178	43	3,210,123	33
	(927,315)	(42)	(5,141,370)	(32)
1938	321,709	41	3,178,920	31
	(1,038,040)	(39)	(5,194,819)	(31)
1939	349,995	40	2,764,031	30
	(680,700)	(40)	(4,959,360)	(31)
1940	119,030	51	2,933,079	38
	(896,039)	(48)	(5,659,110)	(36)
1941	76,964	53	3,286,685	31
	(391,766)	(46)	(7,053,976)	(31)
1942	88,947	53	2,740,423	33
	(207,259)	(49)	(5,176,722)	(32)
1943	151,283	48	2,747,120	35
	(429,623)	(45)	(5,307,531)	(35)
1944	287,331	43	2,382,018	32
	(609,767)	(43)	(4,162,862)	(32)

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 332 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 1939-40 to 1943-44:—

SILAGE IN VICTORIA, 1939-40 TO 1943-44.

Season ended March.	Farms on which Silage Made.		Districts in which Made.							
	No.	Tons.	Central.	North Central.	Western.	Wimmera.	Mallee.	Northern.	North Eastern.	Gippsland.
1940.. ..	1,292	78,193	19,673	1,989	9,503	859	1,045	3,450	22,318	19,356
1941.. ..	648	30,520	6,685	1,033	2,163	522	1,512	3,341	6,551	8,713
1942.. ..	*	34,109	8,814	1,113	4,021	916	502	4,242	5,890	8,611
1943.. ..	*	32,099	5,276	368	3,880	648	2,806	2,231	5,222	11,668
1944.. ..	*	27,108	5,465	414	5,969	155	139	937	3,911	10,118

* 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 1940-44 are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—BEE-HIVES, HONEY AND BEESWAX, 1939-40 TO 1943-44.

Season Ended May—	Bee-keepers.	Hives.	Production.		Gross Value.	
			Honey.	Beeswax.	Honey.	Beeswax.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	£	£
1940	2,281	70,092	2,752,125	35,630	74,537	2,969
1941	2,197	69,969	4,503,927	56,850	107,907	6,158
1942	2,414	85,744	5,496,851	64,484	148,873	7,523
1943	2,093	87,224	4,554,107	60,587	142,316	7,753
1944	1,944	90,010	2,544,760	33,796	79,524	4,225

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 average of the Melbourne wholesale prices of the principal agricultural, dairying, and pastoral food products for each month of the year ended June, 1944:—

MELBOURNE—WHOLESALE PRICES—YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1944.

	1943.						1944.					
	July.	August.	Sept.	October.	Nov.	Dec.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.
Agricultural—	<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.
Wheat .. per bushel	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½
Barley—												
English	5 0	5 1	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3
Cape	4 3	4 3½	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6
Oats, Milling	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3
Maize	7 8	7 9	7 9½	7 10½	7 10½	7 11½	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 4½	8 8
Peas	9 11½	9 6	9 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 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 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0
Pollard	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0
Flour (first quality)* ..	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6
Oatmeal (bulk)	20 5 4	20 5 4	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10
Potatoes	10 18 4	7 7 6	7 7 6	7 7 6	7 7 6	7 7 6	7 7 6	7 7 6	7 7 6	7 7 6	7 9 9	7 10 0
Onions	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6
Butchers' Meat—												
Beef, prime .. per 100 lb.	2 10 10	2 10 10	2 10 10	2 10 10	2 9 11½	2 9 11½	2 9 1½	2 8 3½	2 8 3½	2 8 3½	2 8 3½	2 8 3½
	<i>d.</i>	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Mutton per lb.	5·04	5·04	5·04	4·85	4·66	4·66	4·66	4·66	4·66	4·85	5·14	5·67
Pork	9·38	9·38	9·80	9·95	9·69	9·69	9·69	9·69	9·69	9·69	9·69	9·69
Veal	5·37	5·37	5·37	5·72	6·08	5·90	5·84	5·84	5·84	5·84	5·84	5·84
Lamb	8·46	8·46	8·46	8·00	7·54	7·54	7·54	7·54	7·54	7·79	8·34	9·29
Dairy and Farmyard Produce—	<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.
Butter per lb.	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½
Bacon	1 3½	1 2½	1 2½	1 2½	1 2½	1 2½	1 2½	1 2½	1 2½	1 2½	1 2½	1 2½
Ham	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7
Cheese (matured)	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½
Honey	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½
Eggs doz.	2 0	1 10½	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7½	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 0

* Price quoted includes Flour tax.

**Retail
Prices.**

The following table gives the average of the Melbourne retail prices of certain items of Groceries, &c., for each month of the year ended June, 1944:—

MELBOURNE—RETAIL PRICES—YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1944.

Article.	Unit.	1943.						1944.					
		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	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55
Flour, self-raising ..	..	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40
Tea ..	lb.	41·00	27·00	27·00	27·00	27·00	27·00	27·00	27·00	27·00	27·00	27·00	27·00
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	11·15	11·40	11·40	11·40	11·40	11·40	11·40	11·40	11·40	11·15	11·15	11·15
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	3·28	3·36	3·36	3·61	3·64	3·61	3·72	3·72	3·72	3·72	3·69	3·69
Raisins, seeded ..	..	12·13	12·22	12·28	12·55	12·70	12·80	12·80	12·80	12·80	12·80	12·78	13·00
Peaches, canned ..	30 oz.	12·63	12·63	12·63	13·00	13·13	13·00	13·00	13·00	13·00	13·00	13·00	13·00
Pears, canned ..	..	13·56	13·56	13·56	13·56	14·00	14·00	14·00	14·00	14·00	14·00	14·00	14·00
Salmon, in tins ..	lb.	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	13·14	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40
Onions, brown ..	lb.	2·63	2·63	2·63	2·69	2·69	2·50	2·50	2·50	2·50	2·50	2·50	2·50
Dairy Produce—													
Butter, factory ..	lb.	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	28·00	28·00	21·90	22·00	22·00	22·00	28·10	28·10	28·10	28·10	28·10	28·10
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	25·00	24·90	24·85	25·45	24·78	24·56	24·56	24·56	24·56	24·56	24·56	24·56
Milk, fresh ..	quart	7·35	7·35	7·35	7·35	7·35	7·35	7·35	7·35	7·35	7·35	7·35	7·35
Meat—													
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	13·80	13·90	13·90	14·00	14·00	14·00	14·00	13·50	13·50	13·60	13·60	13·70
" rib ..	..	11·35	11·45	11·45	11·55	10·95	10·85	10·65	10·45	10·45	10·45	10·55	11·00
" steak, rump ..	..	20·50	20·60	20·60	20·60	20·60	20·70	20·80	20·80	20·80	20·60	20·60	21·10
" chuck ..	..	9·75	9·85	9·85	9·85	9·85	9·85	9·75	9·65	9·70	9·60	9·60	9·90
" sausages ..	..	7·30	7·60	7·65	7·60	7·60	7·60	7·60	7·60	7·60	7·65	7·65	7·65
" corned silverside ..	..	11·75	11·90	12·15	12·15	12·15	12·15	12·15	12·15	12·15	12·15	12·15	12·40
" brisket ..	..	8·85	9·05	9·15	9·15	8·55	8·45	8·45	8·35	8·35	8·25	8·25	8·85
Mutton, leg ..	..	9·75	10·25	10·35	10·70	10·35	10·30	10·45	10·40	10·40	10·60	10·85	11·70
" forequarter ..	..	5·50	5·65	5·75	5·30	5·25	5·20	5·25	5·25	5·25	5·60	5·95	6·75
" loin ..	..	9·25	9·45	9·45	8·80	8·75	8·65	8·95	9·15	9·15	9·15	9·25	10·30
" chops, loin ..	..	10·40	10·50	10·55	9·65	9·55	9·50	9·60	9·90	9·90	9·95	10·05	11·05
" " leg ..	..	10·90	11·00	11·15	11·50	11·25	11·15	11·00	10·95	11·00	11·15	11·20	11·85
Pork, leg ..	..	16·45	15·95	15·95	15·95	15·95	15·95	15·95	15·95	15·95	15·95	15·95	15·95
" chops ..	..	17·75	17·65	17·65	17·65	17·65	17·65	17·65	17·65	17·65	17·65	17·65	17·65

Land Settlement, &c.

FORESTRY.

Administration. The State forests comprise both reserved and protected forests and are controlled by a Commission of three which was first appointed in 1919. Pursuant to the *Public Service (Transfer of Officers) Act* 1937 the staff of the Commission was transferred to the State Public Service.

For the purposes of administration, the State forests are divided into five inspectorates and 52 forest districts.

Area of Permanently Reserved Forest. At the 30th June, 1944, the forest area of the State was 4,904,364 acres, of which 4,186,782 acres were classified as permanent forests, and 717,582 acres as timber reserves. Survey assessments have been made of 2,772,657 acres, of which 1,267,266 acres have been brought under working plans for more intense management. The area of indigenous forest improved or regenerated was 1,049,867 acres.

Protected Forests. In addition to the 4,904,364 acres aforementioned, there were 157,897 acres reserved as State Forests and 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.

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. The Forestry Fund was established in 1918 by Act No. 2976, and made applicable only to expenditure on the improvements and reforestation of State Forests and the development of forestry. In each year the Treasurer makes a grant to the Fund of £40,000 (reduced to £32,000 under the provisions of the *Financial Emergency Act 1931*) out of the Consolidated Revenue, and also transfers half of the amount in excess of £80,000 received from royalties, leases, licences, and permits.

Revenue and Expenditure. The revenue derived from forest sources during the financial year 1943-44 was £838,729, and the expenditure £1,306,750—£872,845 of which was paid out of the Consolidated Revenue, £282,411 out of loan funds, and the balance—£151,494—from the Forestry Fund.

Forests Output. The output of sawn timber from State Forests in 1943-44 was 15,191,510 cubic feet. In addition, 26,448,360 cubic feet of fuel timber and 3,502,820 cubic feet of miscellaneous timber were produced.

Particulars of sawn timber and firewood, from all sources, will be found on pages 382 and 386 of this volume.

Silviculture of Indigenous Forests. The various types of silvicultural operations in the indigenous forests over the period 1940-41 to 1943-44 are indicated in the following table:—

VICTORIA—SILVICULTURAL OPERATIONS IN STATE FORESTS, 1940-41 TO 1943-44.

Nature of Work.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
First thinning	5,326	4,843	4,274	2,285
Second or subsequent thinning	3,632	5,091	1,836	490
Regeneration or liberation treatment by ring-barking	1,755	900	..	..
Artificial regeneration by sowing .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Removal of surplus coppice	70,437	17,842	3,737	87
Total area treated	81,150	28,676	9,847	2,862

**Plantations
of Exotic
Timbers.**

The total area planted during the 1943 planting season was 243 acres, comprising restocking cut-over areas, 24 acres; restocking burned areas, 186 acres; and renewals and conversion, 33 acres. The area planted according to species during the 1943 season and the total area of coniferous plantations at the end of that season are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—CONIFEROUS PLANTATIONS, 1943.

	Area Planted 1943 Season.	Total Area of Coniferous Plantations.
	Acres.	Acres.
Monterey Pine (<i>Pinus Radiata</i>)	209	29,294
Western Yellow Pine (<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>)	10	5,870
Douglas Fir (<i>Pseudotsuga taxifolia</i>) .. ..	..	2,712
Corsican Pine (<i>Pinus laricio</i>) .. ..	..	4,241
Maritime Pine (<i>Pinus Pinaster</i>) .. ..	..	2,852
Prickle Pine (<i>Pinus Muricata</i>) .. ..	..	} 1,394
Sitka Spruce (<i>Picea sitchensis</i>) .. ..	..
Other species	24	
	243	46,363

**Plantation
Output.**

The plantation output of felled softwood timber, including pulpwood obtained from tops and small thinnings, in 1943-44, amounted to 14,056,076 superficial feet. The corresponding total for 1942-43 was 13,084,962 superficial feet. The 1943-44 production (14,056,076 super. feet) was valued (f.o.r. Melbourne) at £102,700.

**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 25,000 trees (50 acres) per annum.

Trees and forest thinnings, down to a diameter of about 5 inches, are utilized in the Commission's case-making plant, the value of the output of which amounts approximately to £10,000 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. The loss, after making allowance for the timber salvaged, has been estimated at £10,000.

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." The agreement which is for fifty years provides *inter alia* that the Company (Australian Paper Manufacturers Limited) on its part shall, within three years of date of agreement, expend £300,000 in establishing the wood-pulp manufacturing industry and, on the part of the Forests Commission, the terms and conditions on which the Commission will provide the minimum annual supply to the Company of the variety of pulp-wood timber prescribed in the agreement. The Commission is required to provide and the Company to take, on an ascending yearly scale, such supply of pulp-wood as will produce, in the first year of commercial production, 10,000 tons of wood-pulp, increasing to 25,000 tons in the fifth year and thereafter.

The first manufacturing unit—the Pilot Mill—erected in accordance with the above-mentioned 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.

Consignment of pulp-wood from the State forests to the mill at Maryvale commenced in October, 1937. During the year 1943-44 the quantities of pulp-wood obtained from the State forests totalled 2,445,630 cubic feet as compared with 1,198,765 cubic feet in 1943-44.

The Wood-Pulp Agreement Act.

Production of wood-pulp.

Supply of pulp-wood from State forests.

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 by the stills by which it is produced.

Details of the 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	332,982	51,967

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. Under the provisions of the *State Forests (Timber Salvage) Loan and Application Act 1939*, salvage of Mountain Ash and Alpine Ash timber is proceeding. Up to the 30th June, 1944, the quantity salvaged amounted to 713,512,000 superficial feet.

Production of charcoal.

The necessity for maintaining essential road transport in operation in the face of drastically curtailed supplies of petrol resulted in an increased demand for charcoal. To insure that adequate charcoal should be available to meet all demands, the Commission installed plant capable of sustaining an output of from 8,000 to 10,000 tons per annum.

Charcoal, which was produced from State Forests and on which a royalty was received, amounted to 20,681 tons during the year 1943-44, as compared with 38,922 tons in 1942-43.