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# VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

FOR

1886-7.

(FOURTEENTH YEAR OF ISSUE.)

BY

HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER, C.M.G.,

GOVERNMENT STATIST OF VICTORIA;

OFFICER OF THE FRENCH ORDER OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION;

CHEVALIER OF THE ORDER OF THE CROWN OF ITALY;

Honorary Member of the Royal Statistical Society of London, of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, of the Statistical Association of Tokio, and of the Royal Society of Tasmania; Honorary Corresponding Member of the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce of London, of the Statistical Society of Manchester, of the Commercio-Geographical Society of Berlin, of the Geographical Society of Bremen, and of the Royal Society of South Australia; Honorary Foreign Member of the Société de Statistique of Paris; Fellow and Honorary Corresponding Secretary for Victoria of the Royal Colonial Institute; Representative Member for Victoria of the International Statistical Institute.



BY AUTHORITY.

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## P R E F A C E .

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THE present issue of the *Victorian Year-Book* contains information under the usual heads. This has been revised, amplified, and brought down to the end of 1886, and frequently—especially in the latter portions of the work—to much later dates. In the last Part, “Defences,” some particulars are given as late as December, 1887.

The work, moreover, contains upwards of 70 new tables, which are distributed throughout the volume, but more especially in Parts “Vital Statistics,” “Production,” “Accumulation,” and “Interchange.” In connexion with these, introductory and explanatory letter-press has been given in all cases.

The three folding sheets at the commencement of the volume have been brought on to the end of 1886 by the insertion of the figures for another year.

The adoption in England of a new system of classifying the causes of death has rendered necessary the introduction of a similar system here. A description of the system referred to will be found in the body of this work, commencing at paragraph 635. As a guide to this system, a Nosological Index has been compiled in this Department partly based upon a similar work compiled in 1862 by the present writer—acting under the direction of the then Registrar-General (Mr. W. H. Archer)—and since used in every one of the Australasian Colonies. A copy of the new Index will be found as an Appendix to this work. Other appendices are—(1) Australasian Statistics for the year 1886; (2) Revenue and Expenditure of Victoria in the last two financial years (1885–6 and 1886–7), and estimated revenue and expenditure during the current financial year (1887–8); (3) Statements respecting the demand for and prospects of labour

in different districts, supplied by the municipal authorities; (4) Tariffs of New South Wales and South Australia, which have been much altered since the last issue of the *Victorian Year-Book*; also descriptions of the few changes which have been made since then in the tariffs of the other Australasian Colonies.

A coloured map of Victoria is given, as usual, at the end of the volume. On this, the various railways existing, in progress, and authorized but not commenced, have been carefully marked, so as to give full information to the latest date.

Throughout the work the information has been obtained, wherever possible, from official documents; but when this has not been practicable, it has been taken from other works with due acknowledgment. In dealing with figures derived from unofficial sources, care has been taken to verify them, as far as possible, from other authority, and many errors have thus been discovered. From whatever source obtained, the form in which the particulars have been given has in almost all cases been re-arranged and simplified; it has, moreover, often been necessary to convert foreign moneys, weights, and measures into their British equivalents.

As in other years, every portion of the work has been carefully examined and verified by officers of this Department. Should, nevertheless, errors be detected, I shall feel obliged for information as to their nature and position.

HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER,  
Government Statist.

Office of the Government Statist,  
Melbourne, 22nd December, 1887.

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*Table*

# CONTENTS.

	PAGE
STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF VICTORIA (Folding sheet No. 1).	
SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS ( „ No. 2).	
„ AUSTRALASIAN „ ( „ No. 3).	
ERRATA ... ..	vi
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ... ..	1
PART I.—POPULATION ... ..	34
„ II.—FINANCE ... ..	111
„ III.—VITAL STATISTICS ... ..	215
„ IV.—PRODUCTION... ..	381
„ V.—ACCUMULATION ... ..	485
„ VI.—INTERCHANGE ... ..	530
„ VII.—LAW, CRIME, ETC. ... ..	685
„ VIII.—SOCIAL CONDITION ... ..	746
„ IX.—DEFENCES ... ..	808
AUSTRALASIAN STATISTICS, 1885 (Appendix A) ... ..	825
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF VICTORIA, 1885-6 TO 1887-8 (Appendix B)	840
LABOUR REPORTS (Appendix C) ... ..	846
NOSOLOGICAL INDEX (Appendix D) ... ..	850
TARIFFS OF AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES (Appendix E) ... ..	883
INDEX ... ..	899
MAP OF VICTORIA.	

*26*