

# VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK, 1890-91.

## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

1. Victoria, so named after Her Most Gracious Majesty, although the smallest, is probably the richest and most prosperous of the various colonies situated on the Australian Continent, of which it occupies the south-eastern portion. It is bounded on the north and north-east by the colony of New South Wales, from which it is separated by the River Murray, and by a right line running in a south-easterly direction from a place near the head waters of that stream, called The Springs, on Forest Hill, to Cape Howe. On the west it is bounded by South Australia, the dividing line being about 242 geographical miles in length, approximating to the position of the 141st meridian of east longitude, and extending from the River Murray to the sea. On the south and south-east its shores are washed by the Southern Ocean, Bass's Straits, and the Pacific Ocean. It lies between the 34th and 39th parallels of south latitude, and the 141st and 150th meridians of east longitude. Its extreme length from east to west is about 420, its greatest breadth about 250, and its extent of coast-line nearly 600 geographical miles.

Position and  
boundaries  
of Victoria.

2. There can be little doubt that the land now embraced within the limits of the colony of Victoria was first discovered by Captain James Cook, of the Royal Navy, in command of His Majesty's ship *Endeavour*. This vessel had been sent to Tahiti to observe the transit of Venus over the sun's disc, and Cook, who was in command, having accomplished that object, and having also made a survey of New Zealand, continued his course westward in order to explore the eastern coast of "Terra Australis Incognita." He made the land on the 19th April, 1770, and estimated a prominent point—which he named after the first discoverer, Lieutenant Hicks, one of the officers of his vessel—to be in latitude  $38^{\circ}$  S., longitude  $211^{\circ} 7'$  W. ( $148^{\circ} 53'$  E.);\* he, however, did not attempt to land, but rounding Cape Howe, passed on to the east coast, and carefully examined portions of it, especially

Discovery of  
Victoria.

\* The latitude of Cape Everard, according to present computations, is  $37^{\circ} 49'$  S., and the longitude  $149^{\circ} 17'$  E.

Botany Bay, near to which Sydney, the present capital of New South Wales, is situated. It may be observed that Point Hicks appears to be identical with the present Cape Everard, in Gippsland, situated about midway between Cape Howe and the mouth of the Snowy River.

3. On his return to England, Cook reported Botany Bay to be a suitable place for colonization, and this led to a party of convicts being despatched there in 1788, under Captain Arthur Phillip, R.N. On the shores of Port Jackson, a few miles to the north of Botany Bay, Phillip established a permanent settlement, but for nearly ten years afterwards nothing was done towards the exploration of the southern shores of Australia. At length George Bass, a surgeon in the Royal Navy, started in a whale-boat, manned by six seamen, and, passing Cape Howe, coasted along that part of Victoria now called Gippsland, and, rounding Wilson's Promontory—the southernmost point on the Australian Continent—entered Western Port on the 4th June, 1798. He, however, returned to Sydney without discovering Port Phillip Bay, which was first entered on the 5th January, 1802, by Acting-Lieutenant John Murray, in command of the armed brig *Lady Nelson*. In the month of October, in the following year, an attempt was made to colonize the territory by Lieutenant-Colonel David Collins, of the Royal Marines, in command of a party of convicts. Collins, however, after the expiration of three months, abandoned Port Phillip as unfit for settlement, and for the next twenty years the district attracted but little attention, when two explorers—Hume and Hovell—made their way overland from Sydney, and, on their return, gave a satisfactory report of the country, the result being that a convict establishment was soon afterwards founded on Western Port Bay, which, however, was in a short time abandoned, apparently on economic grounds. The first permanent settlement in Victoria was formed at Portland Bay, by Mr. Edward Henty, from Van Diemen's Land—as Tasmania was then called—who landed on the 19th November, 1834, and soon commenced to till the soil, run and breed stock, and carry on whaling operations. Others followed, but the absence of good land in the immediate vicinity of the port, and the openness of the bay, which rendered it unsafe for shipping during the prevalence of certain winds, caused it to be considered an unsuitable site for a capital, which was eventually founded at the northern end of Port Phillip Bay by two parties—one led by John Batman, who landed on the 29th May, 1835, and the other by John Pascoe Fawkner, whose party arrived at the site of Melbourne on the

28th August of the same year. Both of these were from Van Diemen's Land, and they were soon followed by others from the same island, and from Sydney, who brought stock with them, and commenced to push their way into the interior. These were met by Major (afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel Sir) Thomas Mitchell, who, entering from New South Wales on the north, and traversing a considerable portion of the, as yet, unknown territory, was so struck with its wondrous capabilities that he named it *Australia Felix*—a title the aptness of which a subsequent knowledge of the geniality of its climate, the excellence of its soil, and the then unsuspected richness of its mineral treasures, has proved to be fully justified. The reports of Sir Thomas Mitchell, and the success of the first settlers, caused great excitement, not only in Australian settlements but in the mother-country. Herds of sheep and cattle, driven overland from New South Wales, speedily occupied the best parts of the new territory. Every available craft capable of floating was put into requisition to bring passengers and stock from Van Diemen's Land, and after a time shiploads of emigrants began to arrive from the United Kingdom. Regular government was first established under Captain William Lonsdale, who, having been sent from Sydney to take charge of the district, landed on the 29th September, 1836; and on the 2nd of March of the following year Sir Richard Bourke, the Governor of New South Wales, visited it, and named the metropolis Melbourne. Mr. Charles Joseph La Trobe arrived on the 30th September, 1839, having been appointed to the principal official position in the settlement under the title of Superintendent, which was changed to that of Lieutenant-Governor, when on the 1st July, 1851, it was separated from New South Wales, and created into a separate colony under the name of Victoria. Shortly afterwards rich deposits of gold were discovered, the fame of which soon spread throughout the world, and led to a great influx of population. After a time some discontent arose amongst the diggers in consequence of the oppressive character of the mining regulations, which culminated in riots, which occurred on the Ballarat gold-fields towards the end of 1854. The disturbance was soon quelled, with some bloodshed on both sides, and the grievances complained of were afterwards redressed. A new constitution, giving responsible Government to the colony, was proclaimed on the 23rd November, 1855, and since then, although political struggles have been frequent and party feeling has at times run high, these circumstances have had no permanent effect in setting class against class, or in any way lessening the good feeling which exists between all sections of the community. At times commerce

has been depressed, but this has soon revived, and the material prosperity the colony has, upon the whole, enjoyed is, perhaps, without a parallel in the history of any country.

4. When the Constitution was proclaimed the population of the colony numbered 364,000, it now numbers 1,137,000; the land in cultivation amounted to 115,000 acres, it now amounts to over 2,600,000 acres; the bushels of wheat grown in a year numbered 1,150,000, they now exceed 13,000,000, and in one year (1883-4) they amounted to 15,500,000; the sheep numbered 4,600,000, they now number 11,000,000; the cattle numbered 530,000, they now number 1,400,000; the horses numbered 33,000, they now number not less than 330,000; the public revenue amounted to £2,728,000, it now amounts to over £8,500,000; the total value of imports and exports was £25,500,000, it now exceeds £36,000,000; and this, although the export of gold has fallen off from £11,000,000 in the former to a little over £2,280,000 in the past year. For further evidences of progress the reader is referred to the statistics given throughout this work.

5. The following are the dates of some of the principal events connected with the discovery and history\* of Victoria:—

1770. April 19th.—Victorian land first discovered by Capt. James Cook, R.N., in command of His Majesty's ship *Endeavour*.—"Point Hicks," believed to be the present Cape Everard in Gippsland.)
1798. June 4th.—Western Port discovered and entered by Surgeon George Bass, R.N.
- „ Nov. and Dec.—The existence of a strait between Australia and Tasmania proved by Midshipman Matthew Flinders, R.N., who, accompanied by Bass, sailed round the latter island in the sloop *Norfolk*.
1800. Dec. 4th to 9th.—Bass's Straits first sailed through from the westward by Lieutenant James Grant, R.N., in H.M.S. *Lady Nelson*, a gun brig of sixty tons burthen, bound from England to Port Jackson. On this occasion Grant discovered and gave the present names to Capes Bridgewater, Nelson, and Sir William Grant, Portland Bay, the Lawrence and Lady Julia Percy Islands, Capes Otway, Patton, Liptrap, etc.
1802. January 5th.—Entrance to Port Phillip Bay discovered by Acting-Lieutenant John Murray, R.N., in the *Lady Nelson*. Heads entered by the launch on 2nd February, and by the vessel on 15th February.
- „ April 26th.—Port Phillip Bay entered and examined by Flinders, who had been promoted to the rank of Commander. He was not aware that the Bay had been previously discovered by Murray.

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\* A detailed statement of the Discovery and Early History of the territory now embraced within the limits of the Colony of Victoria was given in the *Victorian Year-Book*, 1884-5, page 10 *et. seq.*

1803. Jan. and Feb.—Port Phillip Bay surveyed and the Yarra and Saltwater Rivers discovered by Charles Grimes, Surveyor-General of New South Wales, and party.
- „ October 7th.—Attempt to colonize Port Phillip by Colonel David Collins in charge of a party of convicts.
1804. January 27th.—Port Phillip abandoned by Collins as unfit for settlement.
1824. Decem. 16th.—Hume and Hovell arrived at Corio Bay, having travelled overland from Sydney.
1826. ... .. Attempt made early in the year to colonize Western Port, on its eastern side, near the site of the present township of Corinella, by Captain S. Wright, of H.M. 3rd Regiment, the Buffs, in charge of a party of convicts. This expedition was sent from New South Wales in consequence of a report that the French contemplated a settlement on the south coast of Australia. This apprehension having been found to be groundless, and the locality being sterile and scrubby, the establishment was withdrawn early in 1828.
1834. Novem. 19th.—Permanent settlement founded at Portland Bay by Edward Henty.
1835. May 29th.—John Batman arrived in Port Phillip and made a treaty with the natives for a grant of 600,000 acres of land. This treaty was afterwards disallowed by the Imperial Government.
- „ August 28th.—John Pascoe Fawkner's party sailed up the Yarra in the *Enterprise* and founded Melbourne on the site previously selected by Batman. (Fawkner followed shortly after, and landed on the 18th October.)
1836. April to Oct.—Major (afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel Sir) Thomas Livingstone Mitchell made extensive explorations in the Port Phillip District, the western portion of which he named Australia Felix.
- „ Septem. 29th.—Regular Government established under Captain William Lonsdale, who was sent from Sydney to act as Resident Magistrate of the Port Phillip District.
1837. March 2nd.—Governor Sir Richard Bourke arrived from Sydney and gave the name of Melbourne to the metropolis of the new settlement.
- „ June 1st.—First sale of Crown lands took place in Melbourne. Average price of half-acre town lots, £35.
1838. Septem. 12th.—First census of the colony. Population enumerated, 3,511, viz., 3,080 males and 431 females.
1839. Septem. 30th.—Mr. Charles Joseph La Trobe arrived from Sydney and took charge of the Port Phillip District under the title of Superintendent. The territory over which he exercised jurisdiction was much smaller than the present colony of Victoria, being bounded on the east and west by the 146th and 141st meridians and on the north by the 36th parallel. (For boundaries of Victoria see paragraph 1 *ante*.)
1841. March 2nd.—Second census. Population enumerated, 11,738, viz., 8,274 males and 3,464 females.
1842. August 12th.—Melbourne incorporated as a Town by Act of the Legislature of New South Wales 6 Vict. No. 7.
1846. March 2nd.—Third census. Population enumerated, 32,879, viz., 20,184 males and 12,695 females.

1847. June 26th.—Royal Letters Patent erecting the Town of Melbourne into a City signed at this date; gazetted in Sydney on the 5th February, 1848.
1849. October 12th.—Geelong incorporated as a Town by Act of the Legislature of New South Wales 13 Vict. No. 40.
1851. March 2nd.—Fourth census. Population enumerated, 77,345, viz., 46,202 males and 31,143 females.
- „ July 1st.—Port Phillip separated from New South Wales and erected into an independent colony under the name of Victoria.
- „ July and Aug.—Discovery of gold in Victoria.
1853. February 8th.—Road districts (the origin of the present shires) established by Act 16 Vict No. 40.
1854. April 26th.—Fifth census. Population enumerated 236,798, viz., 155,887 males and 80,911 females.
- „ Nov. and Dec.—Riots on Ballarat gold-field. (Eureka Stockade taken on the 3rd December.)
- „ Decem. 29th.—Municipal institutions (the origin of the present cities, towns, and boroughs) established by Act 18 Vict. No. 15.
1855. Nov. 23rd.—Constitution proclaimed in Victoria.
1856. March 19th.—The ballot as a means of electing members of both Houses of Parliament prescribed by Act 19 Vict. No. 12.
1857. March 29th.—Sixth census. Population enumerated, 410,766, viz., 264,334 males and 146,432 females.
- „ August 27th.—Property qualification of members of the Legislative Assembly abolished by Act 21 Vict. No. 12.
- „ Novem. 24th.—Universal suffrage for electors of the Legislative Assembly made law by Act 21 Vict. No. 33.
1858. Decem. 17th.—Number of members of the Legislative Assembly increased to 78, to be returned for 49 Electoral Districts.
1861. April 7th.—Seventh census. Population enumerated, 540,322, viz., 328,651 males and 211,671 females.
- „ October ... Conference, attended by representatives of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia, met in Melbourne for the purpose of endeavouring to secure uniformity in the collection and compilation of their annual statistics.
1867. February 6th.—Customs tariff imposing import duties on a number of articles with the view of affording protection to native industry came into operation under Act 31 Vict. No. 306.
1869. January 1st.—Property qualification of members and electors of the Legislative Council reduced by Act 32 Vict. No. 334.
1871. April 2nd.—Eighth census. Population enumerated, 731,528, viz., 401,050 males and 330,478 females.
- „ May 17th.—Import duties on many articles increased under Act 35 Vict. No. 400, with the view of affording further protection to native industry.
1875. January 15th.—Conference in Hobart Town, convened for the purpose of endeavouring to secure uniformity in statistical collection and compilation, held its first meeting. Representatives of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania attended. Conference closed 26th January.

1876. Novem. 2nd.—Number of members of the Legislative Assembly increased to 86, and boundaries of Electoral Districts altered so as to increase the number to 55, by Act 40 Vict. No. 548.
1878. Decem. 28th.—The Hon. Graham Berry, Premier, and Professor C. H. Pearson, member of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, with Mr. H. H. Hayter as secretary, started for England on a mission from the Victorian to the Imperial Government, the object being to endeavour to induce the latter to amend the *Victorian Constitution Act* in regard to certain matters (affecting chiefly the relations between the two Houses of the Legislature) in which the Constitution had been found to be unworkable. The mission, which was only partially successful, returned to Victoria about the middle of 1879.
1880. February 6th.—Fortnightly mail contract service between Victoria and England commenced.
- „ October 1st.—First Victorian International Exhibition opened in Melbourne. It was closed 30th April, 1881.
1881. April 3rd.—Ninth census of Victoria and first simultaneous census of all the Australasian Colonies. Population enumerated—in Victoria, 862,346, viz., 452,083 males and 410,263 females; in all the Australasian Colonies, 2,815,924, viz., 1,526,121 males and 1,289,803 females.
- „ Novem. 28th.—Property qualification of members and electors of the Legislative Council further reduced, number of provinces increased to 14, number of members increased to 42, and tenure of seats shortened by Act 45 Vict. No. 702.
1884. February 1st.—Victorian Railways placed under the control and management of three Commissioners, under Act 47 Vict. No. 767.
- „ Decem. 31st.—Patronage in the public service abolished with respect to appointments and promotions, and “a just and equitable system in lieu thereof, which will enable all persons who have qualified themselves in that behalf to enter the public service without favour or recommendation other than their own merits and fitness for the position,” established under Act 47 Vict. No. 773, which Statute also provided for the appointment of a Public Service Board, consisting of three members, to administer its provisions.
1885. December 9th.—Imperial Act constituting a Federal Council of Australasia brought into operation in respect to Victoria by Act 49 Vict. No. 843. First meeting of Federal Council opened in Tasmania, 25th January, 1886.
1887. April 4th.—Conference between representatives of the principal colonies of the Empire and the Imperial Government, summoned chiefly for the purpose of considering questions of defence and postal and telegraphic communication, held its first meeting in London, Victoria sending four representatives. Conference closed 9th May.
1888. January 18th.—Hundredth anniversary of the first settlement in Australia. Governors, ministers, members of Parliament, and corporation officials of all the Australasian Colonies, together with a large number of citizens, proceeded to Sydney to join in celebrating the occasion.
- „ February 1st.—Weekly mail contract service between Australia and England commenced, by means of vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental, and Orient services running alternately.

1888. August 1st.—Second Victorian International Exhibition opened in Melbourne. It was closed 31st January, 1889.
- „ August 28th.—First meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. Held in Sydney.
- „ Decem. 22nd.—Number of members of the Legislative Council increased to 48 by Act 52 Vic. No. 995. Number of members of the Legislative Assembly increased to 95, and boundaries of Electoral Districts altered so that their number should be 84, and so that—with a few exceptions—only one member should represent each constituency, by Act 52 Vict. No. 1,008.
1890. January 7th.—Second meeting of Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. Held in Melbourne.
- „ February 6th.—Australasian Federation Conference, at which representatives from the seven principal Australasian colonies were present, held its first meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the best interests of the Australian colonies would be promoted by their early union under one Legislative and Executive Government; and that the legislatures of the respective colonies should be invited to appoint, during the present year, delegates to a National Australasian Convention, consisting of delegates empowered to report upon a scheme for a Federal Constitution. Conference closed 14th February.
- „ March 3rd.—Conference held in Hobart, convened for the purpose of arranging for the collection and compilation of the returns of the census of 1891 upon a uniform principle, held its first meeting under the presidency of the Government Statist of Victoria. Representatives of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand attended. Conference closed 18th March.
1891. January 15th.—Third meeting of Australasian Association for the advancement of Science. Held in Christchurch, N.Z.
- „ March 2nd.—National Australasian Convention held in Sydney, at which a Draft Bill “To constitute the Commonwealth of Australia” was framed and adopted. The Convention also recommended that provision be made by the Parliaments of the several colonies for submitting for the approval of the people of the colonies respectively the constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia as framed by the Convention. Delegates from the seven principal Australasian Colonies were present at the meetings of the Convention, which closed on the 9th April.
- „ April 5th.—Tenth census of Victoria, and second simultaneous census of all the Australasian colonies. For population enumerated, see subsequent portions of this work.

Area of  
Victoria.

6. Victoria occupies about a thirty-fourth part of the surface of the Australian continent, and contains about 87,884 square miles, or 56,245,760 acres. Great Britain, exclusive of the Islands in the British seas, contains 88,006 square miles, and is therefore slightly larger than Victoria.

7. The area of the Australian continent is estimated to be somewhat under three million square miles ; but that area, added to the areas of Tasmania and New Zealand, amounts to nearly three million one hundred thousand square miles. The following are the areas of the different colonies, which, except the area of New Zealand, in which case the official estimate furnished by the colony has been retained, were computed by the late Surveyor-General of Victoria, Mr. A. J. Skene, from the map of Continental Australia compiled and engraved under his direction—the calculations being based on latitude and longitude and the generally-accepted figure of the earth :—

AREAS OF AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

	Square Miles.
Victoria ... ..	87,884
New South Wales ... ..	309,175
Queensland ... ..	668,224
South Australia ... ..	903,425*
Western Australia ... ..	975,920
Total Australia ... ..	2,944,628†
Tasmania ... ..	26,375
New Zealand ... ..	104,235
Total Australasia ... ..	3,075,238

Areas of Australasian colonies.

8. It will be noticed that Victoria is by far the smallest colony on the Australian continent, and the smallest of the group except Tasmania. If the whole continent were to be divided into 100 equal parts, the area of Victoria would embrace 3 such parts, that of New South Wales 10, that of Queensland 23, that of South Australia 30, and that of Western Australia 34. Victoria is thus less than a third of the size of New South Wales, little more than an eighth of that of Queensland, about a tenth of that of South Australia, and less than an eleventh of that of Western Australia.

Area of Victoria and other colonies.

9. It may be mentioned that the area of Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand is less by 680,764 square miles than the area of the Continent of Europe (3,756,002 square miles), but exceeds by 47,647

Area of Australasia, Europe, and United States.

\* Inclusive of the Northern Territory, estimated to contain 523,620 square miles.

† Including islands and inland lakes. The area of Australia, as here given, is less by 2,063 square miles, but that of Tasmania is greater by 160 square miles, than the areas derived from the returns furnished officially by the various Governments, which are as follow :—

Victoria .. ..	87,884	Square Miles.
New South Wales .. ..	310,700	"
Queensland .. ..	668,497	"
South Australia .. ..	903,690	"
Western Australia .. ..	975,920	"
Total Australia .. ..	2,946,691	"
Tasmania .. ..	26,215	"

square miles the area of the United States, exclusive of the Alaska territory (3,027,591 square miles).

Extreme points of Victoria.

10. The southernmost point in Victoria, and consequently in the whole of Australia, is Wilson's Promontory, which lies in latitude  $39^{\circ} 8' S.$ , longitude  $145^{\circ} 26' E.$ ; the northernmost point is the place where the western boundary of the colony meets the Murray, latitude  $34^{\circ} 2' S.$ , longitude  $140^{\circ} 58' E.$ ; the point furthest east is Cape Howe, situated in latitude  $37^{\circ} 31' S.$ , longitude  $149^{\circ} 59' E.$ ; the most westerly point is the line of the whole western frontier, which, according to the latest correction, lies upon the meridian  $140^{\circ} 58' E.$ , and extends from latitude  $34^{\circ} 2' S.$  to latitude  $38^{\circ} 4' S.$ , or 242 geographical miles.

Position of Melbourne.

11. The Melbourne Observatory is a building specially erected for observatory purposes in the Government reserve, on the south side of the River Yarra. According to the latest computation, its latitude is  $37^{\circ} 49' 53''$  south, and its longitude  $144^{\circ} 58' 32''$  east.\*

Positions of Australasian capitals.

12. According to the latest and most reliable information, the following are the latitudes and longitudes of the capital cities of the different Australasian colonies, the positions being the observatories at Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide, the Barracks Observatory at Hobart, the Survey Office Observatory at Wellington, and the Government House at Perth:—

#### LATITUDES AND LONGITUDES OF CAPITALS OF AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

Colony.	Capital City.								
	Name.	Latitude S.			Longitude E.				
		°	'	"	°	'	"		
Victoria ... ..	Melbourne ... ..	37	49	53	144	58	32		
New South Wales ... ..	Sydney ... ..	33	51	41	151	12	23		
Queensland ... ..	Brisbane ... ..	27	28	0	153	1	36		
South Australia ... ..	Adelaide ... ..	34	55	34	138	35	4		
Western Australia ... ..	Perth ... ..	31	57	24	115	52	42		
Tasmania ... ..	Hobart ... ..	42	53	25	147	19	57		
New Zealand ... ..	Wellington ... ..	41	16	25	174	46	38		

General description of Victoria.

13. Victoria is traversed, with more or less regularity, throughout its entire length from east to west by a chain of mountains and lesser hills completely dividing it into two parts, and known as the Dividing

\* For latitudes and longitudes of principal towns in, and most prominent places on the coast of, Victoria, see Vol. I., paragraph 12, of the *Victorian Year-Book*, 1889-90.

Range. The summit of this range runs generally at a distance of 60 or 70 miles from the coast. The streams to the north of it flow towards the River Murray, and those to the south of it towards the sea. The eastern part of the range, which divides the Gippsland district from that of the Murray, is named the Australian Alps; and that part which separates the county of Ripon from that of Borung, and extends into the county of Kara Kara, is named the Pyrenees. The higher peaks of the Dividing Range are covered with snow for several months in the year. The mountainous country is, for the most part, densely wooded to the very summits with fine timber, but the peaks above the winter snow-line are quite bare, or only partially covered with dwarfed trees or shrubs. From near Kilmore eastward, a distance of 200 miles, the mountains are generally so steep and inaccessible as to present a considerable barrier between the parts of the colony north and south of them, and they can only be traversed with great labour by the few passes that exist. From Kilmore westward the range rapidly dwindles, so that, although presenting in places points of considerable height—such as Mount William and Mount Macedon—it is easily crossed. From Mount Macedon it becomes, as it stretches away to the Western district, a chain of hills, in parts only of considerable altitude, and offering no serious obstructions to crossing in very many places. That portion of the Murray basin commencing at Wodonga on the east as a point, and extending in the form of a regular triangle to a width of 200 miles along the western boundary of Victoria, has almost a flat surface, with a very slight inclination towards the Murray. The remaining country north and south of the Dividing Range and its spurs is moderately undulating; it is in some parts destitute of timber, but closely wooded in others. Besides the main Dividing Range, there are also other ranges extending in different parts of the country, many of them being spurs of the main chain; the highest peaks, however, are found in the Dividing Range and its offshoots between St. Clair and the eastern boundary of Victoria.

14. The highest mountain in Victoria is the Bogong Range, Mountains. situated in the county of that name, 6,508 feet above the sea level; \* the next highest peaks are Mount Feathertop, 6,303 feet; Mount Hotham, 6,100 feet; the Pilot Range, 6,020 feet; and Mount Cope, 6,015 feet; all situated in the same county; also the Cobberas,

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\* The highest mountain on the Australian continent is Mount Kosciusko, situated in New South Wales close to the Victorian frontier, one peak of which was set down by Neumayer as 7,175 feet, and by Mueller as 7,171 feet in height; a recent observer, however (Dr. Lendenfield, of the Australian Museum, Sydney), states he found the height of this peak to be 7,256 feet.

6,025 feet, situated in the county of Tambo. Other lofty peaks are Mount Buller, 5,934 feet; Gibbo Range, 5,764 feet; Mount Wills, 5,758 feet; Mount Howitt, 5,715 feet; Mount Buffalo, 5,645 feet; The Twins, 5,575 feet; Mount Tamboritha, 5,381 feet; Mount Wellington, 5,363 feet; Mount Cobbler, 5,342 feet; Mount Kent, 5,129 feet; and Mount Torbreck, 5,001 feet. So far as is at present known by observation, there are at least fifteen peaks between 5,000 and 6,000 feet high, and thirteen between 4,000 and 5,000 feet high; it is known, moreover, that there are many peaks rising to upwards of 4,000 feet above the level of the sea, whose actual heights have not yet been determined.\*

## Rivers.

15. The rivers in Victoria are, for the most part, inconsiderable; many of them are liable to be partially dried up during the summer months, so as to be reduced at that season to mere chains of pools or waterholes. With the exception of the Yarra, on the banks of which the metropolis is situated; the Goulburn, which empties itself into the Murray about eight miles to the eastward of Echuca; the La Trobe and the Mitchell, with, perhaps, a few other of the Gippsland streams; and the Murray itself, not one of them is navigable except by boats. As, however, they drain the watershed of large areas of country, some have already been, and others will ultimately be, made feeders to permanent reservoirs for the purposes of irrigation, gold washing, and manufactures. The Murray, which forms the northern boundary of the colony, is the largest river in Australia. Its total length is 1,300 miles, for 980 of which it flows along the Victorian border. † The names and lengths of the other principal Victorian rivers are as follow:—The Goulburn, 345 miles; the Snowy, 300 miles, 180 of which are in New South Wales; the Glenelg, 281 miles; the Wimmera, 228 miles; the Loddon, 225 miles; the Mitta Mitta, 175 miles; the Avoca, 163 miles; the Hopkins, 155 miles; the Campaspe, the Wannon, and the Yarra Yarra, each 150 miles; the Ovens, 140 miles; the La Trobe, 135 miles; the Tambo, 120 miles; the Mitchell, 80 miles. ‡

## Lakes.

16. Victoria contains numerous salt and fresh water lakes and lagoons; but many of these are nothing more than swamps during dry seasons. Some of them are craters of extinct volcanoes. Lake Corangamite, the largest inland lake in Victoria, covers 90 square miles,

\* For a complete list of the mountains and hills in Victoria, with the approximate heights of the most important peaks, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1887-8, paragraph 12.

† From the source of its longest tributary, the Darling, to the Murray mouth, the total length of this river is 2,345 miles.

‡ For a complete list of the rivers in Victoria, with their approximate lengths, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1887-8, paragraph 13.

and is quite salt, notwithstanding it receives the flood waters of several fresh-water streams. It has no visible outlet. Lake Colac, only a few miles distant from Lake Corangamite, is a beautiful sheet of water,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  miles square in extent, and quite fresh. Lake Burrumbeet is also a fine sheet of fresh water, embracing 8 square miles. The Gippsland lakes—Victoria, King, and Reeve—are situated close to the coast, and are only separated from the sea by a belt of sand through which a permanent entrance navigable for vessels has recently been made. Lake Wellington, the largest of all the Gippsland lakes, lies more inland than the others, and is united with Lake Victoria by a narrow channel, called McLellan's Straits. South-east of Geelong is Lake Connewarre, connected with the sea at Point Flinders.\*

17. The principal inlet on the coast of Victoria is Port Phillip Bay, which is an inland sea of an extreme length of over 30 geographical miles from north to south, and about 35 from east to west. The entrance is about two miles across, and a short distance within it are sandbanks and islands, which, whilst they act as an excellent breakwater to the shipping, do not, as there are well-buoyed channels between them, seriously obstruct the navigation. In Port Phillip Bay are two minor bays, viz., Hobson's Bay, which is the anchorage of the Port of Melbourne, and the point at which the River Yarra, on which Melbourne is situated, empties itself; and Corio Bay, which is the anchorage of the port of Geelong. The next inlet in point of natural importance to Port Phillip is Western Port, in part of which there is anchorage with good shelter in all winds. Corner Inlet, and the adjacent harbour of Welshpool, situated to the north of Wilson's Promontory in Gippsland, also possess considerable capabilities. The other bays and inlets are either roadsteads affording only partial shelter, or are small in extent, or so obstructed by sandbanks as to be suitable for small vessels only. Some of the roadsteads are now being improved by the construction of breakwaters. Towards the eastern part of the coast is a sandy beach, extending for 90 miles without an inlet, except one leading into the Gippsland lakes, which was formerly liable to be closed at intervals; extensive works have, however, been carried on at this spot, and a new entrance has been formed which there is every reason to believe will be permanent.†

18. A glance at the map of Victoria will show that the coast line projects considerably to the south in two directions, one being to the

\* For a complete list of the lakes in Victoria, with their approximate areas, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1887-8, paragraph 14.

† For a complete list of the bays and inlets on the coast of Victoria, with their positions, see *Victorian Year-Book* 1887-8, paragraph 15.

west and the other to the east of the entrance to Port Phillip Bay. The extreme point of the western projection is Cape Otway, that of the eastern one Wilson's Promontory, the latter being, as has been already stated, the southernmost point on the continent of Australia. Besides these, there is a projection of less extent to the west of Portland Bay, the southernmost point of which is Cape Nelson. Other important points are Capes Bridgewater and Sir William Grant, situated upon the same promontory as Cape Nelson; Points Lonsdale and Nepean, the first at the western, the second at the eastern, side of the entrance to Port Phillip Bay; Cape Schanck, situated between Port Phillip and Western Port; Cape Liptrap, situated between Western Port and Wilson's Promontory; Cape Everard—the Point Hicks of Captain Cook—situated midway between the mouth of the Snowy River and Cape Howe; and Cape Howe itself, being the point at which the dividing line between Victoria and New South Wales meets the sea.\*

Climate.

19. From its geographical position, Victoria enjoys a climate more suitable to the European constitution than any other colony upon the continent of Australia, resembling that of the more favoured portions of Southern Europe. In the thirty-two years ended with 1890, the maximum temperature in the shade was  $111\cdot2^{\circ}$  Fahr., viz., on the 14th January, 1862; the minimum was  $27^{\circ}$ , viz., on the 21st July, 1869; and the mean was  $57\cdot4^{\circ}$ . Upon the average, on four days during the year the thermometer rises above  $100^{\circ}$  in the shade; and generally on about three nights during the year it falls below freezing point. The maximum temperature in the sun ever recorded (*i.e.*, since 1857) was  $178\cdot5^{\circ}$ , viz., on the 4th January, 1862. The mean atmospheric pressure, noted at an Observatory 91 feet above the sea-level, was, in the twenty-seven years ended with 1890,  $29\cdot94$  inches; the average number of days on which rain fell was 131, and the average yearly rainfall was  $25\cdot51$  inches.†

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\* For a complete list of the capes, points, etc., along the coast of Victoria, with their positions, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1887-8, paragraph 16.

† For further information respecting the meteorological observations, not only for Melbourne, but also for other parts of the colony, see part Vital Statistics, *post*. A chapter on Meteorology and Climate was given in the *Victorian Year-Book*, 1874.

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