

Victorian Year-Book, 1922-23.

INTRODUCTION.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, AREA, AND CLIMATE.

Area of Victoria. Victoria is situated at the south-eastern extremity of the Australian continent, of which it occupies about a thirty-fourth part, and it contains about 87,884 square miles, or 56,245,760 acres. It is bounded on the north and north-east by New South Wales, from which it is separated by the River Murray, and by a straight 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 Strait, 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. Great Britain, exclusive of the islands in the British Seas, contains 88,756 square miles, and is therefore slightly larger than Victoria.

The southernmost point in Victoria, and in the whole of the Australian continent, is Wilson's Promontory, which lies in latitude 39 deg. 8 min. S., longitude 146 deg. 26 min. E.; the northernmost point is the place where the western boundary of the State meets the Murray, latitude 34 deg. 2 min. S., longitude 140 deg. 58 min. E.; the point furthest east is Cape Howe, situated in latitude 37 deg. 31 min. S., longitude 149 deg. 59 min. E.; the most westerly point is the line of the whole western frontier, which, according to the latest correction, lies upon the meridian 140 deg. 58 min. E., and extends from latitude 34 deg. 2 min. S. to latitude 38 deg. 4 min. S., a distance of 242 geographical miles.

Climate. From its geographical position, Victoria enjoys a climate more suitable to the European constitution than any other State upon the Continent of Australia. In the sixty-seven years ended with 1922 the maximum temperature in the shade recorded at the Melbourne Observatory and the Weather Bureau was 111·2 deg. Fahr., on the 14th January, 1862; the minimum was 27 deg., on the 21st July, 1869; and the mean was 58·4 deg. Upon the average, on only

four days during the year the thermometer rises above 100 deg. in the shade, and on nineteen days the temperature reaches 90 deg. or over; generally, on about two nights during the year it falls below freezing point. Sultry nights are of rare occurrence. It is only occasionally that a high minimum is recorded. The minimum reading approximates to 70 deg. on an average on only two nights in any one year. The maximum temperature in the sun ever recorded (*i.e.*, since 1859) was 178·5 deg., on the 4th January, 1862. The mean atmospheric pressure noted, first at the Observatory 91 feet above the sea level, and later at the Weather Bureau 115 feet above sea level, was, during the sixty-five years ended with 1922, 30·013 inches; the average number of days on which rain fell each year was 136, and the average yearly rainfall was 25·65 inches. The mean relative humidity of the atmosphere is 68 per cent.; on very warm days it is often 12 per cent., and it has been as low as 2 per cent. The severity of the heat is not so much felt as it would be if there were a relatively high wet bulb, as the temperature by such bulb seldom exceeds 75 deg. The average number of hours of sunshine daily is 6·3, and fogs occur, on an average, on only 18 days in the year.

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS, RIVERS AND LAKES.

Mountains and Hills.

The highest mountain in Victoria is Mount Bogong,* situated in the county of the same name, 6,509 feet above the sea-level; the next highest peaks are—Mount Feathertop, 6,306 feet; Mount Nelson, 6,170 feet; Mount Fainter, 6,160 feet; Mount Hotham, 6,100 feet; Mount McKay, 6,030 feet; and Mount Cope, 6,027 feet; all situated in the same county; also the Cobboras, 6,030 feet, situated between the counties of Benambra and Tambo. These, so far as is known, are the only peaks which exceed 6,000 feet in height; but, according to a list which appears in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, there are 39 peaks between 5,000 and 6,000 feet high, and 40 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.

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, the rivers of Victoria are not navigable except by boats. They, however, drain the watershed of large areas of country, and many of the streams are used as feeders to

* The highest mountain on the Australian Continent is Mount Kosciuszko, in New South Wales, one peak of which is 7,328 feet high.

permanent reservoirs for irrigation and water supply purposes. The Murray, which forms the northern boundary of the State, is the largest river in Australia. Its total length is 1,520 miles, for 1,200 of which it flows along the Victorian border. Several of the rivers in the north-western portion of the State have no outlet, but are gradually lost in the absorbent tertiary flat country through which they pass.

Lakes. 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, and is quite salt, notwithstanding that 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, $10\frac{1}{2}$ square miles 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 separated from the sea by only a narrow belt of sand. Lake Wellington, the largest of the Gippsland lakes, lies to the westward of Lakes Victoria and King, and is united to the first-named by a narrow channel. South-east of Geelong is Lake Connewarre, connected with the sea at Point Flinders.

A list of mountains and hills, rivers and lakes in Victoria appears in the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1915–16. This was revised by the Surveyor-General, Mr. A. B. Lang, and contains information in regard to heights, lengths, and areas respectively.

FLORA OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Flora of Victoria" by the late J. R. Tovey appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1921–22 on pages 3 to 8.

ADDENDUM TO THE ABOVE ARTICLE.

By J. W. Audas, F.L.S., F.R.M.S. (*National Herbarium, Melbourne.*)

The "Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act" of 21st November, 1922, is a most comprehensive measure, and, if strictly enforced, will serve a very useful purpose in coping with the all too evident increase of these pests. It has divided the State into six districts, the municipalities of each being represented by delegates, who, in conference, will recommend to the Minister of Lands the vermin or weeds which should be proclaimed for their particular districts.

A number of species new to Science have been added to the Flora during the year 1921–22:—*Frankenia foliosa*, J. M. Black (*Frankenia cææ*), a small plant indigenous to Victoria and South Australia;

Helichrysum Gatesii, H. B. Williamson (*Compositæ*), a small "everlasting" of about 8 inches in height, endemic to Victoria; *Pultenæa prolifera*, H. B. Williamson, collected in the Otway Forest; *Pultenæa Readeriana*, H.B.W., from the Grampians and Dandenong Ranges; *Pultenæa D'Altoni*, H.B.W., from Nhill (*Leguminosæ*).

During the year several species previously considered varieties or synonyms have been raised to specific rank, viz.:—*Correa glabra*, Lind. (*Correa speciosa*, Ait. var. *glabra*, Lindl.) (*Rutaceæ*); *Leptospermum coriaceum*, Cheel. (*L. lævigatum*, F.v.M. var. *minus*, F.v.M.); *Eucalyptus albens*, Miq. (*E. hemiphloia*, F.v.M. var. *microcarpa*, Maiden). *Eucalyptus microcarpa*, Maiden (*E. hemiphloia* var. *microcarpa*, Maiden).

A number of changes in the names of the Victorian Flora have been made in accordance with the Vienna Botanical Rules of Nomenclature, viz.:—*Alectryon subcinereum*, Radlk. (*Nepheleium leiocarpum*, F.v.M.) (*Sapindaceæ*); *Stenanthemum leucophractum*, Reiss. (*Cryptandra leucophracta*, Schl.) (*Rhamnaceæ*); *Brasenia Schreberi*, Gmel. (*Cabomba peltata*, F.v.M.) (*Nymphaeaceæ*); *Elytranthe Exocarpi*, Behr. Engl. (*Loranthus Exocarpi*, Behr.) (*Loranthaceæ*); *Themeda triandra*, Forsk. (*Anthistiria imberbis*, Retz.) and *Themeda avenacea* (F.v.M.) Maid. and Belche. (*A. avenacea*, F.v.M.) (*Gramineæ*); the "Kangaroo Grasses," well known as fodder plants.

NATURALIZED ALIENS.

Of the above only two were recorded, namely:—

Solanum triflorum, Nutt. (*Solanaceæ*) "Three-flowered Nightshade." This troublesome annual was found in the Black Mountains, 83 miles from Bairnsdale. The plant has large black berries of a poisonous nature. It has been proclaimed under the Thistle Act for the whole State. Native of North America.

Solanum rostratum, Dunal. (*Solanaceæ*) "The Buffalo Burr or Pin-cushion Nightshade," an annual plant, with berry-like fruit growing up to 2 feet in height.

EXOTICS.

Several plants have been recorded as introductions for the first time, viz.:—

Paulownia tomentosa, Steud. (*Paulownia imperialis*, Siebold and Zucc.) (*Scrophulariaceæ*); "Downy or Imperial Paulownia." Native of Japan. *Scorzonera laciniata*, L. (*Compositæ*). "Torn Vipers Grass." Originally from the Mediterranean Regions and the Caucasus.

Plantago patagonica, Jacq. (*Plantago aristata*, Michx.) (*Plantaginaceæ*) "Bracted Plantain." In North America, the home of this plant, it is regarded as a particularly bad weed.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Physical Geography and Geology of Victoria," by W. Baragwanath, Esq., Director of Victorian Geological Survey, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, on pages 3 to 13, and an addendum thereto in the *Year-Book* for 1921-22.

THE FAUNA OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Fauna of Victoria," by the late T. S. Hall, M.A., D.Sc. (University of Melbourne), and J. A. Kershaw, Esq., F.Z.S., Curator of the National Museum, Melbourne, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, and addenda thereto by Mr. Kershaw in the *Year-Books* for 1918-19 and 1920-21.

THE HISTORY OF VICTORIA.

An article on this subject contributed by Ernest Scott, Professor of History in the University of Melbourne, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 1 to 31.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF LEADING EVENTS.

The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contained, on pages 31 to 50, a chronological table of leading events in Victorian history for the years 1770 to 1900 inclusive, and of leading events in Victorian and other history for the years 1901 to 1916 inclusive. The leading events in the five years 1917 to 1921 were given in the volumes relating to those years.

Some of the principal events in Victorian and other history during 1922 are given in the table which follows:—

1922.	7th	January.—The Irish Treaty with England ratified by Dail Eireann by 64 votes to 57, and a provisional Government constituted.
	10th	January.—Death of the Hon. F. G. Tudor, leader of the Federal Labour party in the House of Representatives.
	12th	January.—It was announced that the embargo on importations into Australia from Germany, Austria, Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria would be lifted from 1st August 1922.
	22nd	January.—Death of Pope Benedict XV.
	28th	January.—Death of Sir Joseph Hood, ex-Judge of the Victorian Supreme Court.

- 31st January.—Mr. J. R. MacFarlan, K.C., appointed to a vacancy on the Supreme Court Bench.
- 6th February.—Selection of Cardinal Achilles Ratti, formerly Archbishop of Milan, as Supreme Pontiff under the title of Pope Pius XI.
- 7th February.—Sir John Gellibrand, K.C.B., D.S.O., resigned his position as Chief Commissioner of Police.
- 15th February.—Enthronement of the Rev. H. C. Lees, M.A., ex-vicar of Swansea, Wales, as Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne.
- 22nd February.—It was announced that the Victorian Government loan of £4,000,000, bearing interest at 5½ per cent. and issued at 99, had been fourteen times over-subscribed in London.
- 28th February.—Marriage of Princess Mary, daughter of the King, to Viscount Lascelles.
- 29th March.—Death of Mr. C. E. Norman, formerly Chief Commissioner of the Victorian Railways.
- 2nd April.—Superintendent Nicholson appointed Chief Commissioner of Police.
- 13th April.—Sir Ross Smith and Lieutenant Bennett, the famous Australian aviators, killed at Brooklands, England, while testing a new flying machine in which it was proposed to make an aerial tour round the world.
- 31st May.—Elections for the Legislative Council.
- 26th June.—Appointment of Sir John Quick and Mr. Noel Webb as Deputy Presidents of the Federal Arbitration Court.
- 22nd July.—Death at Manilla of Rear Admiral Dumaresq, formerly commander of the Royal Australian Navy.
- 14th August.—Death in London of Lord Northcliffe, proprietor of the *London Times* and other newspapers, aged 57 years.
- 2nd September.—Death at Abbotsford, Sydney, of Henry Lawson, Australian poet, aged 53 years.
- 27th September.—Jubilee Exhibition of Victorian State schools opened by the State Governor.
- 15th November.—Elections for the British Parliament held. Mr. Lloyd George's Ministry defeated and the Conservatives, led by Mr. Bonar Law, returned to power.
- 7th December.—Liquor referendum taken in New Zealand. Majority against prohibition, 16,138.
- 16th December.—Elections for the Federal Parliament held throughout Australia.

PROGRESS OF STATE SINCE 1842.

The following table has been prepared to illustrate the advance made by the State since 1842, the year of the introduction of representative government into New South Wales, which then included the Port Phillip district. Figures are given for the year 1850, as this was the year immediately preceding the separation of the Colony

STATISTICS OF VICTORIAN PROGRESS, 1842 TO 1922.

	1842.	1850.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1922.
Population, 31st December ..	23,790	76,162	541,800	747,412	879,886	1,157,678	1,209,900	1,339,915	1,590,512
Revenue .. £	87,296	259,433	2,592,101	3,734,422	5,186,011	8,343,588	7,712,099	9,204,503	20,357,733
Expenditure from Revenue .. £	124,631	196,440	3,092,021	3,659,534	5,108,642	9,128,699	7,672,780	9,194,157	20,297,279
Public Funded Debt .. £	..	..	6,345,060	11,994,800	22,426,502	43,638,897	49,546,275	57,983,764	109,099,199
Gold produced .. oz.	..	..	1,967,453	1,355,477	858,850	576,400	789,562	542,074	120,590
Wool produced .. lbs.	2,752,330	16,345,468	22,640,745	37,177,646	45,970,560	76,503,635	73,235,138	101,803,644	103,512,777
Butter produced .. "	..	..	..	..	..	16,703,786	..	70,603,787	82,981,570
Agriculture—									
Land in cultivation .. acres	8,124	52,341	427,241	793,918	1,582,998	2,512,593	3,647,459	5,886,247	6,583,276
Wheat .. bushels	55,360	556,167	3,607,727	4,500,795	8,714,377	13,679,268	12,127,382	34,813,019	43,867,596
Oats .. "	66,100	99,535	2,136,430	3,299,889	3,612,111	4,455,551	6,724,900	9,699,127	6,082,258
Wine .. gallons	..	4,621	47,568	713,589	539,191	1,554,130	1,981,475	1,362,420	1,335,606
Live Stock—Horses .. No.	4,065	21,219	84,057	181,643	278,195	440,696	392,237	472,080	496,124
" Cattle .. "	100,792	378,806	628,092	799,509	1,286,677	1,812,104	1,602,384	1,547,569	1,750,369
" Sheep .. "	1,404,833	6,032,783	6,239,258	10,002,381	10,267,265	12,028,148	10,841,790	12,882,665	12,325,818
" Pigs .. "	..	9,260	43,480	177,447	239,926	286,780	350,370	333,281	230,770
Total Imports—Value .. £	277,427	744,925	13,532,452	12,341,995	16,718,521	21,711,608	18,927,340	28,150,198*	..
" Exports—Value .. £	198,783	1,041,796	13,828,606	14,557,820	16,252,103	16,006,743	18,646,007	29,896,275*	..
Imports, Oversea—Value .. £	..	..	10,991,377	9,201,912	11,481,567	13,802,598	12,686,880	21,839,224	26,352,056
Exports .. £	..	..	12,209,794	12,843,451	12,918,128	11,403,922	13,075,259	18,924,277	34,644,182
Shipping .. tonnage	78,025	195,117	1,090,002	1,355,025	2,411,902	4,715,109	6,715,491	9,907,046	11,024,510
Railways open .. miles	..	214	..	276	1,247	2,764	3,238	3,496	4,324
Telegraph wire .. "	..	2,586	..	3,472	6,626	13,989	15,356	16,405	31,839
Postal business—Letters .. No.	97,490	381,651	6,109,929	11,716,166	26,308,347	62,526,448	83,973,499	143,843,191	170,337,926
" Newspapers .. "	147,160	381,158	4,277,179	5,172,970	11,440,732	22,729,005	27,104,344	..	31,293,920
Savings Bank Deposits .. £	..	52,697	582,796	1,117,761	2,569,438	5,715,687	..	18,213,040	51,734,499†
Factories—									
Number of .. "	..	..	531	1,740	2,488	3,141	3,249	4,873	6,753
Hands employed .. "	..	..	4,395	19,468	43,209	52,225	66,529	102,176	144,876
Value of machinery, plant, land, and buildings .. £	..	..	..	4,725,125	8,044,296	16,472,859	12,298,500	16,613,348	40,992,280
Value of articles produced .. £	..	..	..	..	13,370,836	22,390,251	19,478,780	36,660,854	106,243,181
State Education—									
Number of Primary schools ..	..	61	671	988	1,757	2,233	1,967	2,050	2,333
Expenditure on Education .. £	..	..	162,547	274,384	546,285	726,711	701,034	1,052,418	2,459,659
Total value of rateable property in municipalities .. £	..	..	29,638,091	50,166,078	87,642,459	203,351,860	185,101,993	265,082,727	426,485,383
Friendly Societies—									
Number of Members .. "	..	..	7,166	35,706	47,908	89,269	101,045	139,308	143,421
Total funds .. £	..	..	..	213,004	475,954	961,933	1,370,604	2,122,802	3,375,050

NOTE.—In a few instances in the earlier years, where it is not possible to give figures for the exact date or period shown, those for the nearest dates or periods are given. Gold was discovered in 1851, in which year the return was 145,137 oz. Butter figures were not collected prior to 1891.

* These figures relate to the calendar year 1909. Owing to the Commonwealth authorities having discontinued the keeping of records of Inter-State trade the value of the total imports and exports of the State are not available for a later year.

† Including deposits in the Commonwealth Savings Bank. ‡ Not available.

from New South Wales. The subsequent years are census years except the last:—

Progress of State.

The population of the State at the end of 1842 was 23,799; at the end of 1922 it had increased to 1,590,512. During the period 1842-1922 the revenue steadily increased from £87,296 to £20,357,733. There was no public debt until after separation. In 1861 the State indebtedness was £6,345,060; in 1922 the funded debt had reached £109,099,199, which has been spent on revenue-yielding and other works of a permanent character. The land in cultivation in 1842 was slightly over 8,000 acres; it now amounts to 6,583,276 acres. The value of oversea imports in 1861 was £10,991,377; in 1921-22 it was £36,352,056. Oversea exports amounted to £12,209,794 in 1861, and to £34,644,182 in 1921-22. No railways or telegraphs were in existence up to the end of 1855; in 1861 there were 214 miles of railway open, and in 1922 there were 4,324 miles; 2,586 miles of telegraph wires had been erected up to 1861, and 31,839 miles up to the 30th June, 1922. Postal business in letters and newspapers has expanded rapidly during the period covered by the table, and there has also been a large increase in Savings Bank deposits, which rose from £52,697 in 1850 to £51,734,499 in 1922.

The expenditure on education amounted to £162,547 in 1861, and had increased to £2,439,659 in 1921-22. Members of friendly societies numbered 7,166 in 1861 and 143,421 in 1921—the funds amounting to £213,000 in 1871 and £3,375,050 in 1921. Hands employed in factories rose from 19,468 in 1871 to 144,876 in 1921-22. The total value of rateable property in municipalities, which was £29,600,000 in 1861, was £126,485,383 in 1921-22.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

The Present Constitution.

After the establishment of the Federal Government it became evident that the representation of the States in the States Houses was excessive, and steps were taken to reform the States Constitutions. Accordingly an Act "to provide for the Reform of the Constitution" was passed in Victoria and reserved for the Royal assent on 7th April, 1903. After an interval of some months the Royal assent was proclaimed on 26th November, 1903. This Act, entitled *The Constitution Act 1903*, provided for a reduction in the number of responsible Ministers from ten to eight, and in their salaries from £10,400 to £8,400 (since increased to £10,000); and decreased the number of members of the Legislative Council from 48 to 35, including one special representative for the State railways and public servants; but increased the number of electoral provinces from fourteen to seventeen, each being now represented by two members elected for six years—one retiring every three years by rotation, except at a general election, when one-half of the members are to be elected for only three years. The property qualification of members of the Council was reduced from £100 to £50 as the annual value of the freehold, and that of electors

**Reform Act
1903.**