

PART XI.

LAND SETTLEMENT; AGRICULTURE; PASTORAL AND DAIRYING; FORESTRY.

LAND AND SETTLEMENT.

The total area of the State is 56,245,760 acres. On 31st December, 1953 and 31st December, 1954 respectively, this comprised:—

	31st December, 1953.	31st December, 1954.
	Acres.	Acres.
Lands alienated in fee-simple ..	30,698,560	30,715,199
Lands in process of alienation ..	2,329,161	2,275,631
Crown lands	23,218,039	23,254,930
Total	56,245,760	56,245,760

The Crown lands comprise:—

Permanent forests (under Forests Act)	4,453,884	4,475,704
Timber reserves (under Forests Act)	717,351	717,633
State Forests and timber reserves (under Land Act)	175,177	175,155
Water reserves	318,434	318,239
Reserves in the Mallee	410,000	410,000
Other reserves	551,479	551,591
Roads	1,794,218	1,794,218
Water frontages, beds of rivers, lakes, &c., unsold land in cities, towns, and boroughs	4,045,371	4,309,706
Land in occupation under—		
Perpetual leases	72,075	60,911
Leases of former Agricultural College lands	37,085	33,138
Other leases and licences ..	19,906	19,826
Temporary grazing licences ..	7,372,248	6,252,978
Unoccupied	3,250,811	4,135,831
Total	23,218,039	23,254,930

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 1948-53. 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, 1948
TO 1953.**

Year Ended 31st December.	Area of Crown Lands Sold.		Crown Lands Alienated in Fee-simple.	
	Absolutely, at Auction, &c.	Total.	Area.	Purchase Money.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£
1948	3,450	3,450	169,258	197,367
1949	2,596	2,596	128,699	237,476
1950	2,557	2,557	108,142	278,913
1951	3,976	3,976	174,347	374,214
1952	3,993	3,993	308,744	440,529
1953	3,846	3,846	148,359	505,078

Amount Realized by Sale of Crown Lands. From the period of the first settlement of the State to the end of 1953 the amount realized by the sale of Crown lands was £39,896,909. 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 a person becomes registered as the proprietor of land by means of a Certificate of Title, indefeasible and guaranteed by the State, was introduced into Victoria in 1862. The system has been the means of simplifying procedure in, and reducing the cost of, dealing in real estate, and gives a title to the registered owner free of any latent defect. The original Crown grant or subsequent Certificate of Title in lieu thereof issues through the Titles Offices.

In order to bring under the Transfer of Land Act land that was alienated by the Crown prior to 1862 (5,142,321 acres), application must be made accompanied by the deeds in the claim of title or, if adverse possession is relied on, strict proofs of the applicant's interest in the property. During 1952 and 1953 there were submitted 287 such

applications in respect of land amounting in area to 7,568 acres, and in value to £926,596; while the land actually brought under the Act as a result of applications was 1,731 acres valued at £1,456,546. Up to the end of 1953 there had been brought under the Act 3,320,070 acres valued at £77,584,770. The area of land still under the Old Law System at the end of 1953 was 1,822,149 acres. A summary of dealings under the Transfer of Land Acts will be found in part "Accumulation" of the *Year-Book*.

Assurance Fund. In granting an application to have land brought under the *Transfer of Land Act* 1928, the Registrar 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 1951-52 receipts of the Fund comprised contributions, £2,780, and interest on stock, £3,269. Claims during the year amounted to £843, and 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, 1952, was £124,517. The amount paid up to 31st December, 1953, as compensation and for judgments recovered, including costs, was £12,315 in respect of 93 claims.

DISCHARGED SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT.

Soldier Settlement Commission. The *Soldier Settlement Act* 1945, No. 5107, *inter alia*, (a) authorized the ratification of an agreement between the State of Victoria and the Commonwealth of Australia relating to the settlement on land of discharged members of the forces; (b) provided for the constitution of a Soldier Settlement Commission consisting of three members to administer soldier settlement and the appointment of the necessary officers and employees of the Commission and local advisory committees; (c) provided for the raising of £15,000,000 towards soldier settlement and the application thereof; (d) prescribed the powers and functions of the Commission relating to the acquisition and setting apart of land for purposes of soldier settlement; (e) provided for the valuation of land and the determination of disputed claims for compensation; and (f) set out the general duties of the Commission as to the settlement of discharged soldiers on the land and the advances to such soldiers.

The *Soldier Settlement (Amendment) Act* 1946, No. 5133, (a) extended the powers of the Commission to subdivide land by enabling the setting aside of portions of the land for public purposes and the disposal of unsuitable positions; (b) provided for the appointment of assessors, two of whom will sit with the judge during hearings of disputed claims for compensation; and (c) extended the power of the Commission to make advances to discharged soldiers to include the making of "advances in kind" of stock, implements, and equipment.

Section 41 of the principal Act imposed the duty on the Commission to recommend such other legislation considered to be necessary or expedient in order to give effect to the War Service Land Settlement Agreement. The performance of this duty resulted in the *Soldier Settlement Act* 1946, No. 5179, which (a) legislated in detail for the subdivision of lands acquired for soldier settlement and the settling of discharged soldiers thereon; (b) authorized the making of advances to discharged soldiers in connexion with single-unit farms and for "carrying-on" expenses and for the purchase of stock, plant, equipment, &c.; and (c) contained miscellaneous administrative provisions and made consequential amendments to the Soldier Settlement Acts.

In October, 1951, the Soldier Settlement Acts were amended by Parliament. The amendment, in brief, increased the Loan Raising Authority for Soldier Settlement purposes, authorized the Registrar-General and the Registrar of Titles to make notations on memorials and titles that land has been vested in the Crown, and increased the rate of interest to be credited to amounts paid to Settlers' and Mortgagors' Credit accounts, from 2 per cent. per annum to a rate equal to that payable on Commonwealth Government Bonds of the longest term appertaining to the last Commonwealth Loan raised before the 30th June in each financial year.

The *Land Settlement Act* No. 5768 of 1953, which became operative from 1st July, 1954, made provision for a land settlement scheme which is not limited to registered ex-servicemen and which will enable the settlement on land of suitable applicants with farming experience who otherwise may not have the opportunity of becoming farmers in their own right. The Act, which is administered by the Soldier Settlement Commission, also contained certain amendments to existing soldier settlement legislation, such amendments including a provision to increase the maximum advance to assist a discharged soldier purchase a Single Unit Farm to £9,000.

Land Acquired. To 30th June, 1954, the Commission had acquired by voluntary negotiation or compulsory acquisition land as follows:—

	Acres.	Price Paid. £
Land acquired prior to 1st July, 1953 ..	911,509	10,910,242
Land acquired 1st July, 1953, to 30th June, 1954	49,152	1,174,176
	960,661	12,084,418

In addition to the land acquired, 107,370 acres of Crown Land have been set apart for settlement purposes to 30th June, 1954.

In order to maintain production from acquired properties, it is the policy of the Commission to lease the land back to the vendors or to other suitable tenants pending sub-division and allocation to Settlers.

Applications for Land. To 30th June, 1954, 16,415 ex-servicemen had lodged applications for classification as to eligibility and suitability.

Of this number, 14,708 have appeared before Classification Boards with the following results:—

Suitable for farm ownership	10,883
Suitable for further training	1,612
Unsuitable, withdrawn, deferred, and ineligible ..	2,213
	14,708

Land Allocated. Of the land acquired and set apart, 868,732 acres have been sub-divided into 2,199 holdings. These holdings were made available for application and to 30th June, 1954, 2,141 holdings, comprising 850,035 acres, have been allocated.

Development of Holdings. The War Settlement Land Agreement provides that the State shall, *inter alia*, develop and improve land to a stage when it can be brought into production within a reasonable time. This work envisaged the erection of residences, fencing, and improvements, clearing, provision of water points, pasture improvement, planting of orchards, vineyards, &c., construction of roads, and arrangements for electricity supply if available. During 1953-54, 281 new houses were built and 22 existing ones renovated. A total of 1,850 new houses has now been handed over for occupation by settlers and 146 existing houses have been renovated.

Close co-operation exists between the Commission, the Country Roads Board, and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission in connexion with the construction of necessary roads and the lay-out of irrigation farms, &c.

Single Unit Farms.

Financial assistance afforded to ex-servicemen to enable them to purchase farms of their own choosing is solely a State responsibility and is outside the terms of the War Service Land Settlement Agreement. The evidence to date shows that this form of re-habilitation has resulted in the settlement of more ex-servicemen than would have been physically possible if soldier settlement in Victoria had been confined to that provided under the agreement mentioned.

Financial assistance amounting to £9,254,213 has been approved for 2,434 ex-servicemen. In addition, advances were approved in some 176 cases where the applicants did not proceed with their purchases. As advances of up to 90 per cent. of the Commission's valuations of the farms are provided for under the Act it is expected that some losses must be incurred.

Commonwealth Agricultural Loans and Allowances.

The Commission as agent for the Commonwealth Government administers the *Re-Establishment and Employment Act 1945* as far as it relates to the granting of agricultural loans and allowances. Loans are limited to £1,000 in each case and all capital is provided and administrative expenses are borne by the Commonwealth Government.

Loans totalling £1,796,239 were made to 2,970 ex-servicemen during the year ended 30th June, 1954. Of this amount £1,311,403 had been repaid.

IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT.

General.

The State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, which was constituted by the Victorian *Water Act* of 1905, is responsible for the development of practically the whole of the water resources of the State, exclusive of the area controlled by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. The Commission's activities include the supply of water for irrigation, for domestic and stock purposes, and for urban systems; flood protection and drainage works; river improvement works; and sewerage in country cities and towns.

At the 30th June, 1953 (1954) the storages controlled by the Commission had a combined capacity of 2,373,680 (2,430,800) acre feet. Of this figure, 802,400 acre feet was Victoria's share of the River Murray storages, the water from which is shared with New South Wales and South Australia.

Water from these storages was used primarily to irrigate 755,030 (821,025) acres of land, mainly in the valleys of the Goulburn and Murray Rivers, with 916,079 (1,011,556) acre feet of water. Another large undertaking is the supply of water for domestic and stock purposes to more than 11,000 square miles of the Wimmera and Mallee.

In addition, the Commission was responsible at 30th June, 1953 (1954) for the supply of water to 268 (273) towns with a population of 545,000 (615,000) persons while the supervision of sewerage systems in the rural areas—approximately a quarter of the non-metropolitan population being served—is another important function.

VICTORIA—STATE EXPENDITURE AND LOAN LIABILITY OF WATERWORKS* TO 30TH JUNE, 1953 (1954).

Description of Works.	Capital Expenditure to 30th June, 1953. (1954).	Loan Redemption Paid. 1953. (1954).	Loan Liability at 30th June, 1953. (1954).
	£	£	£
Free Headworks	1,259,826 (1,263,206)	3,422 (3,422)	1,256,404 (1,259,784)
Capital Works and Charges not apportionable to Districts	5,927,231 (6,092,311)	447,118 (471,076)	5,480,113 (5,621,235)
Headworks Costs not yet apportioned to District	20,405,886 (26,964,838)	42,199 (163,102)	20,363,687 (26,801,736)
Irrigation and Water Supply Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	18,189,977 (18,739,862)	192,316 (198,383)	17,997,661 (18,541,479)
Urban Divisions of Irrigation Districts	114,132 (120,346)	2,459 (2,530)	111,673 (117,816)
Waterworks Districts (inclusive of Headworks Costs)	5,223,957 (5,278,625)	94,885 (96,028)	5,129,072 (5,182,597)
Urban Districts of Waterworks Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	5,772,399 (6,091,953)	83,541 (90,689)	5,688,858 (6,001,264)
Flood Protection and Drainage Districts	571,368 (592,108)	10,265 (11,347)	561,103 (580,761)
Waterworks Trusts and Local Governing Bodies	7,856,006 (8,333,022)	1,044,257 (1,078,311)	6,811,749 (7,254,711)
River Improvement Trusts	69,488 (145,065)	248 (403)	69,240 (144,661)
Latrobe Valley Drainage	18,921 (289,026)	.. .. . .. .. .	18,921 (289,026)
Total	65,409,190 (73,910,362)	1,920,710 (2,115,291)	63,488,480 (71,795,071)

* 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.

Storage Capacity.

In 1906, the storages throughout the State had a combined capacity of 280,000 acre-feet. At 30th June, 1953 (1954) this figure had risen to 2,373,680 (2,430,800) acre-feet. The additional capacity to be provided by works then under construction—notably by the enlargement of Eildon Reservoir on the Goulburn River from 306,000 to 2,750,000 acre-feet—will raise the total capacity to 5,360,680 (5,362,800) acre-feet.

The table below gives the principal storages excluding those which supply water to Melbourne. Figures for 1953-54 shown in brackets.

EXISTING STORAGES—CAPACITY.

<i>Goulburn System—</i>	Acre-feet	Acre-feet
Eildon	306,000	
	(361,000)	
Waranga	333,400	
Goulburn Weir	20,700	
	—————	660,100
		(715,100)
 <i>Murray-Loddon System—</i>		
Hume	691,000*	
Yarrawonga Weir	47,560*	
Other Murray storages	63,860*	
Kow Swamp	40,860	
Other Loddon storages	107,350	
	—————	950,630
 <i>Wimmera-Mallee System—</i>		
Rocklands	272,000	
Toolondo	58,000	
	(60,000)	
Lake Lonsdale	53,300	
Pine Lake	52,000	
Other Storages	101,560	
	—————	536,860
		(538,900)

* The figures shown for the capacity of the River Murray storages represent Victoria's half share of the total capacity of those storages. Under the River Murray Agreement of 1915, a body representing the Commonwealth and the States of Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia is responsible for the control of the River Murray waters. *Inter alia*, the Agreement provides for the water to be shared equally between New South Wales and Victoria, after setting aside a fixed volume for South Australian needs.

EXISTING STORAGES—CAPACITY—*continued.*

<i>Gippsland System—</i>	Acre-feet	Acre-feet
Glenmaggie	106,000	106,040*
 <i>Other Systems—</i>		
Coliban System	62,730	
Werribee—Bacchus Marsh System ..	34,900	
Bellarine Peninsula System	10,850	
Mornington Peninsula System	5,800	
Otway System	1,080	
Miscellaneous	4,690	
	<hr/>	
Total capacity of existing Storages ..	2,373,680	(2,430,800)
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* Includes Service Basins, 40 acre-feet.

Further capacity will be provided by the enlargement of Eildon Reservoir mentioned above, the construction of Cairn Curran Reservoir on the Loddon River (capacity 120,000 acre-feet) and the enlargement of Hume Reservoir to 2,000,000 acre-feet and Glenmaggie Reservoir to 154,000 acre-feet.

Irrigation. At the inception of the Commission in 1905, the area irrigated was estimated at about 105,000 acres, half of this being under native grasses, and the remainder mainly devoted to growing lucerne, cereals and fodder crops. Since that date the area irrigated has grown to 755,030 (821,025) acres in 1952-53 (1953-54.) The most notable development has been the extensive use of sown pastures since 1925. These now comprise 472,400 (523,000) acres or 63 (64) per cent. of the area now under irrigation. Another feature has been the five-fold increase in the area of orchards, vineyards and market gardens.

The following table gives details of the distribution and extent of irrigation in the State:—

STATE RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION

LANDS UNDER IRRIGATED CULTURE, 1952-53

System or District.	Total Area.	Area classified as irrigable.	Area Irrigated (Acres).							
			Pastures.		Lucerne, Sorghum, etc.	Vine-yards.	Orchards.	Market Gardens.	Other.	Total.
			Native.	Sown.						
	Acres.	Acres.								
Goulburn System	1,257,715	670,102	31,326	259,344	23,499	237	19,138	4,960	14,752	353,256
River Murray System—										
Torrumbarry System	378,031	164,282	50,360	119,168	7,780	5,576	2,053	1,634	14,895	201,466
Murray Valley District	268,782	173,353	3,102	36,544	13,809	50	3,029	781	285	57,600
Pumped Supply (a)	76,669	40,310	60	297	877	35,028	2,255	244	318	39,077
Total River Murray	721,462	377,945	53,522	156,009	22,466	40,652	7,337	2,659	15,498	298,143
Other Northern Systems	19,736	14,220	1,512	5,785	991	..	4,087	1,062	3,323	16,760
Werribee-Bacchus Marsh	16,456	11,456	752	4,370	1,109	..	553	3,786	243	10,813
Gippsland	131,375	31,673	306	24,390	1,183	..	..	8	115	26,002
Other Southern Systems .. .. .	..	..	..	..	30	..	..	1,260	359	1,649
Private Diversions (b) .. .. .	..	..	5,995	22,542	4,519	2,605	3,001	3,155	6,590	48,407
Total	2,146,744 (c)	1,105,396 (c)	93,413	472,440	53,797	48,494	34,116	16,890	40,880	755,030

(a) Including the First Mildura Irrigation Trust, an area of 15,000 irrigable acres outside the control of the Commission.

(b) Area authorized to be irrigated. Excludes 22,098 acres irrigated by private diverters in the Torrumbarry System.

(c) Plus a few thousand acres in "Other Northern Systems" and "Other Southern Systems".

STATE RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION

LANDS UNDER IRRIGATED CULTURE, 1953-54.

System or District.	Total Area.	Area Classified as Irrigable.	Area Irrigated (Acres).							
			Pastures.		Lucerne, Sorghum, etc.	Vine-yards.	Orchards.	Market Gardens.	Other.	Total.
			Native.	Sown.						
	Acres.	Acres.								
Goulburn System	1,257,683	670,107	27,736	271,640	23,510	299	18,805	2,936	18,630	363,556
River Murray System—										
Torrumbarry System	377,678	164,662	47,872	135,626	8,141	5,588	2,191	835	19,561	219,814
Murray Valley District	267,012	187,365	2,457	46,127	15,727	52	3,227	686	44	68,320
Pumped Supply (a)	76,658	40,319	60	293	889	35,236	2,533	241	90	39,342
Total River Murray	721,348	392,346	50,339	182,046	24,757	40,876	7,951	1,762	19,695	327,476
Other Northern Systems	19,736	14,225	3,552	9,031	1,837	19	4,238	914	6,241	25,832
Werribee-Bacchus Marsh	16,446	11,446	635	5,108	1,160		551	3,047	275	10,782
Gippsland	131,409	33,559	485	27,145	887			9	72	28,548
Other Southern Systems					30			1,260	359	1,649
Private Diversions (b)			6,667	28,037	5,996	3,264	4,853	3,679	10,686	63,182
Total	2,146,622	1,121,683	89,414	523,007	58,183	44,458	36,398	13,607	55,958	821,025
	(c)	(c)								

(a) Including the First Mildura Irrigation Trust, an area of 15,000 irrigable acres outside the control of the Commission.

(b) Area authorized to be irrigated. Excludes 26,425 acres irrigated by private diverters in the Torrumbarry System.

(c) Plus a few thousand acres in "Other Northern Systems" and "Other Southern Systems".

The value of irrigation to the State is reflected in the production from the irrigation areas. From an area of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the State comes approximately 15 per cent. of its total primary production. Contrary to popular belief, livestock products contribute nearly two-thirds of the value of this production from 200,000 dairy cattle, 45,000 beef cattle, 50,000 pigs and 1,500,000 sheep and lambs. However, horticulture is also of great importance to the State, notably the vine and citrus areas around Mildura and the canning and fresh fruits in the Goulburn System near Shepparton. Output of canning fruits is normally about two-thirds of the Australian total. Further substantial contributions are being made by the orchards in the new Murray Valley District, and the new vineyards at Robinvale.

Supply of Water for Domestic and Stock Purposes.

The Commission controls extensive areas for the supply of water for domestic and stock purposes. The most notable system is that by which more than 11,000 square miles of land in the arid Wimmera and Mallee areas are supplied each year with about 70,000 acre feet of water. This is distributed from the Grampian storages mentioned earlier—Rocklands, Toolondo, Lake Lonsdale, &c.—in the winter time and early spring through 6,500 miles of Commission channels and 3,000 miles of farm channels, into the farmers' dams. The Commission requires every farmer taking water from the system to construct a storage with a capacity of at least 3,000 cubic yards to provide him with enough water for stock and home use.

During 1952-53, Rocklands Reservoir was opened. This storage has a capacity of 272,000 acre feet, 42 per cent. more than the capacity of the system before it was constructed. Toolondo Reservoir, completed in the same year, added a further 60,000 acre feet of capacity, so that the storage capacity available for the Wimmera Mallee System has doubled. Not only will this give greater assurance to domestic and stock users, but it will also permit a small amount of irrigation.

Urban Supplies. When the Commission first began its activities, 111 towns outside Melbourne with a population of 260,000 persons had a reticulated water supply. At the 30th June, 1953 (1954) the following position had been attained:—

	No of Towns	Populations
Controlled by Commission ..	130 (130)	162,000 (175,000)
Controlled by Waterworks Trusts	123 (127)	295,000 (339,000)
Controlled by Local Governing Bodies	15 (16)	88,000 (101,000)
	<hr/> 268 (273)	<hr/> 545,000 (615,000)

Areas of special importance supplied by the Commission include the City of Bendigo and surrounding towns supplied from the Coliban System; the rapidly-expanding Mornington and Bellarine Peninsulas; and the urban population of 40,000 persons served in the principal towns of the Wimmera and Mallee districts.

Sewerage. When the Commission began its operations, sewerage outside the metropolitan area was unknown. At 30th June, 1953 (1954) however, the Commission was controlling the operations of systems in 30 towns with a population of 188,000 (229,000) persons. This figure is about a quarter of the population outside Melbourne.

Drainage and Flood Protection. Drainage works are important in all irrigation districts, but apart from this aspect of the drainage problem the most important single work of the Commission is the area of 80,000 acres along the seaboard of Westernport which was once known as the Kooweerup Swamp. This fertile district now yields primary products worth about £2,000,000 annually. Other important works are the Loch Garry and Kanyapella Flood Protection Districts which protect some 60,000 acres of land along the Goulburn River in time of flood, while the drainage of an area of 18,500 acres near Carrum along Port Phillip Bay is also significant.

River Improvement. In recent years, interest in river improvement has increased greatly owing to a succession of years with above-average rainfall, and this work cannot fail to grow in importance.

River improvement in Victoria takes two forms. Firstly there is the work of the River Improvement Trusts which are local bodies with power to levy rates and carry out works with the money so obtained. At 30th June, 1953 (1954) there were nine (eleven) of these Trusts in operation, two being drainage Trusts. Secondly there is the Rivers and Streams Fund comprising fees paid for the use of river frontage reserves. Grants are made from the Fund to subsidize local contributions for works of river improvement, the work being carried out by local bodies such as shire councils.

METEOROLOGY.

Particulars in regard to climate and weather conditions have been furnished by the Meteorological Bureau, 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 1955, together with the average rainfall covering a period of 30 years:—

VICTORIA—RAINFALL IN DISTRICTS.

Year Ended 31st December.	Districts.								Whole State.
	Mallee.	Wimmera.	North-ern.	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	17.32	28.00	33.56	28.54	31.29	30.02	23.49
1905	12.01	18.40	16.39	25.36	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	26.19	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	29.79	33.24	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	25.99	31.38	33.37	25.43
1921	16.29	19.99	23.69	31.75	39.57	27.36	31.13	31.73	25.35
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	27.30	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	27.24	29.28	31.13	32.36	22.00
1930	15.32	20.94	19.68	30.59	32.49	29.43	30.85	33.66	25.76
1931	14.86	19.25	21.77	31.20	43.18	28.79	32.88	32.65	26.97
1932	14.96	18.90	20.60	29.63	34.33	31.85	32.91	34.19	26.34
1933	14.13	20.96	20.25	31.09	32.09	26.87	27.56	30.65	24.47
1934	13.21	16.64	21.01	28.57	42.81	29.20	35.60	43.39	27.60
1935	10.84	17.71	19.53	29.14	35.86	30.49	34.23	42.53	26.63
1936	14.39	19.41	19.50	28.47	35.52	26.91	30.24	36.38	25.63
1937	12.69	17.19	13.70	20.08	26.25	26.39	25.20	28.33	21.02
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	29.78	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
1945	9.63	15.20	14.84	21.72	29.97	25.21	22.25	28.60	20.50
1946	14.07	22.07	17.76	29.86	39.85	40.20	33.04	41.19	29.37
1947	15.16	22.71	20.35	32.93	40.91	33.80	33.00	36.10	28.46
1948	11.29	19.15	16.46	24.82	31.98	28.37	25.93	34.37	23.61
1949	11.80	16.67	20.45	31.35	33.72	26.91	32.62	36.72	25.05
1950	17.57	20.04	23.67	31.63	35.03	24.01	30.82	36.65	26.52
1951	12.09	19.61	20.26	31.87	37.45	33.32	34.71	41.78	27.91
1952	15.22	21.87	21.86	35.56	46.24	39.30	40.66	48.71	32.75
1953	12.27	19.62	16.81	28.69	35.57	30.40	30.75	35.29	25.38
1954	13.41	17.68	21.22	29.88	35.58	25.92	30.93	34.02	25.02
1955	17.68	22.44	26.00	49.05	35.99	32.40	34.12	33.86	30.24
Averages*	12.49	17.52	18.09	28.16	34.81	27.59	28.89	33.47	24.30

* Averages for a standard 30 years' period 1911-1940.

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	29·920	30·079	30·077
Monthly range of pressure of air—inches	·886	·768	·816	·974
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	74
Mean rainfall in inches	7·27	6·09	6·59	5·83
Mean number of days of rain	40	25	34	44
Mean amount of spontaneous evaporation in inches	10·25	17·35	8·05	3·79
Mean daily amount of cloudiness—Scale 0 to 8	4·8	4·2	4·7	5·1
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 1952–53 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 1952.	Mean for Year 1953.	Means Over Period of Years.			
			Number of Years Recorded.	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)	29·968	30·012	96	30·012	30·106	29·945
Highest atmospheric pressure (inches)	30·540	30·555	96	30·603	30·770	30·405
Lowest atmospheric pressure (inches)	29·287	29·070	96	29·251	29·495	28·942
Range (inches)	1·253	1·485	96	1·354	1·719	1·074
Mean temperature of air in shade (° Fahr.)	58·2	58·9	98	58·5	59·9	57·0
Mean daily maximum (° Fahr.)	66·7	68·0	98	67·4	69·4	65·4
Mean daily minimum (° Fahr.)	49·5	49·9	98	49·5	51·2	47·2
Absolute maximum (° Fahr.)	109·7	107·7	98	104·9	114·1	96·6
Absolute minimum (° Fahr.)	32·4	33·6	98	31·0	34·2	27·0
Mean daily range (° Fahr.)	17·3	18·1	98	17·9	20·4	15·0
Absolute annual range (° Fahr.)	77·1	74·1	98	73·9	84·1	66·0
Terrestrial radiation (mean minima) (° Fahr.) ..	45·4	46·0	93	44·0	47·1	39·5
Rainfall (in inches) ..	34·39	28·38	98	25·78	38·04	15·61
Number of wet days ..	177	148	98	143	187	102
Year's amount of free evap- oration (in inches) ..	38·53	44·60	81	39·44	45·66	31·59
Percentage of humidity (sat- uration = 100) ..	66	65	97	67	76	58
Cloudiness (scale 8 = over- cast, 0 = clear) ..	5·4	4·8	96	4·7	5·4	3·8
Number of days of fog ..	13	10	96	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 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
10 to 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,686
15 to 20	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,358
20 to 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,731
25 to 30	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,819
30 to 40	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,150
Over 40	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,140

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. The Department is actively engaged in research, advisory and regulatory activities relating to the agricultural, horticultural, and live stock industries of the State.

Research Stations. Research and experimental work is conducted at the State Research Farm, Werribee, the Rutherglen Research Station, the Mallee Research Station, Walpeup, the Horticultural Research Stations at Tatura and Scoresby, the Potato Research Station, Healesville, the Tobacco Research Station, Myrtleford, the School of Dairy Technology and Dairy Research Institute, Werribee, and the Plant Research Laboratory, Burnley. A Pasture Research Station and Plant Breeding Centre are also situated at Burnley. Cereal experimental centres are located at Longerenong and Dookie Agricultural Colleges. The Department is developing a property at Ellinbank, near Warragul, as a Dairy Cattle Research Station, and an Animal Husbandry Research Institute is being established at Werribee. Crop and pasture investigations have been initiated at Glenormiston in the Western District and experimental work and demonstrations are also conducted on numerous selected private farms and orchards throughout the State.

The work in progress at the State Research Farm, Werribee, is directed towards the production of improved varieties of wheat, oats, barley, flax, and other crops. Investigations are also being undertaken into soil fertility problems, irrigated pastures, and the breeding, feeding, and management of dairy cattle, sheep, and poultry. At the School of Dairy Technology, the training of dairy factory operatives and research and investigation into problems arising in the manufacture of dairy products are carried out.

Work at the Rutherglen Research Station, which serves as a research centre for the North-East, includes investigations into various aspects of cereal growing, pasture improvement, and fat lamb raising. It was here that the initial experiments were conducted (1911-1918) which resulted in the widespread practice of the top-dressing of pastures with superphosphate. Clover ley farming was developed also from this centre.

The Mallee Research Station was established in 1932. In addition to cereal and fat lamb investigations, an important feature of the work on this Station is the testing of various species of grasses, clovers, and other legumes with a view to developing types especially suitable for Mallee conditions. Special attention is being paid to the problem of sand drift control.

At Longerenong and Dookie experimental work relating to cereal production in these districts is undertaken.

The Horticultural Research Station at Tatura serves as a research centre for investigation of problems associated with fruit growing in the Goulburn Valley district while the Research Station at Scoresby is engaged in experimental work associated with fruit and vegetable production under southern Victorian conditions.

At the Plant Research Laboratory, Burnley, plant pathological and entomological research is undertaken. Also situated at Burnley is the School of Horticulture and Primary Agriculture which provides a two year course for the Certificate of Competency in Horticulture and part-time classes for Home Gardeners and persons engaged in the horticultural industry.

The work being undertaken on the departmental experimental plots on private farms and orchards embraces investigations into pasture improvement and the cultivation of various crops including cereals, flax, linseed, potatoes, tobacco, maize, oil-seed crops, fruit, and vegetables.

Agricultural Colleges. The Dookie and Longerenong Agricultural Colleges, which are administered by the Agricultural Education Division of the Department, provide a three-year course for the Diploma of Agriculture. Accommodation is provided at Dookie for 130 and at Longerenong for 70 students. The fee for students in residence at the Agricultural Colleges is £60 10s. per

annum for maintenance. No charge is made for instruction. At Dookie a special annexe which was established for the training of discharged servicemen is now used for farmers' classes, women's classes, and other similar short term instruction.

A property at Glenormiston in the Western District is being developed as an Agricultural College where it is intended that specialized training in dairying will be provided.

Advisory and Extension Services. The Department is actively engaged in bringing the results of scientific research and investigation prominently before primary producers with a view to reducing the lag in time between the discovery of new facts and their being put into practice and in this regard, the advisory services of the Department play an important part. A number of officers is engaged full time on advisory duties; these include expert officers in a number of branches of animal and crop husbandry and also District Agricultural officers who are stationed in a number of country districts and undertake general agricultural advisory duties in those districts. In addition to these full time extension officers, approximately 150 officers including Veterinary Officers, Stock Inspectors, Dairy Supervisors, and Orchard Supervisors, undertake advisory work in conjunction with their inspection duties.

Methods adopted by the Department in bringing up to date technical information to primary producers include the publication of advisory pamphlets, the holding of farmers' field days, agricultural competitions, lectures, and demonstrations. A Mobile Extension Unit also undertakes tours throughout the State. The Department has a well equipped film production branch and operates two mobile film units in country districts.

Melbourne University School of Agriculture. The School of Agriculture at the University of Melbourne, for the maintenance of which a special grant is provided by the State, provides a four year degree course in Agricultural Science. The first year is devoted to pure science; during the second year students are in residence at the Dookie Agricultural College and receive practical farm training together with lectures on preparatory subjects. The remaining two years at the University are devoted to a more specialized study of agriculture and allied subjects on a scientific basis. A large number of graduates of this School is employed in the Victorian Department of Agriculture on research and advisory work. The School of Agriculture also carries out research on special agricultural projects.

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization. The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization was established on 19th May, 1949, when the *Science and Industry Research Act 1949* was proclaimed. Under that Act the Organization took the place of the existing Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, which in turn had in 1926 taken the place of the former Institute of Science and Industry.

The powers and functions of the Organization are similar to those of the Council and include the initiation and carrying out of research in connexion with, or for the promotion of, primary and secondary industries in the Commonwealth or any territory of the Commonwealth, or in connexion with any matter referred to the Organization by the Minister; the training of research workers; the making of grants in aid of pure scientific research; the testing and standardization of scientific apparatus and instruments, and the carrying out of scientific investigations connected with standardization; the collection and dissemination of information relating to scientific and technical matters; the publication of scientific and technical reports and periodicals; and acting as a means of liaison with other countries in matters of scientific research.

**Bureau of
Agricultural
Economics.** The Commonwealth Bureau of Agricultural Economics was established in August, 1945, in order to meet the need for a Commonwealth research and investigating authority in the fields of agricultural economics and rural policy.

The Bureau was developed from the rural division of the Ministry of Post-War Reconstruction in which Department it was first established. In 1946, it was transferred to the Department of Commerce and Agriculture, and is comprised of the following sections:—(1) General and Statistics; (2) Agricultural Commodities; (3) Land Use; and (4) Wool.

No administrative functions are vested in the Bureau. It is specifically a service institution charged with the duty of undertaking fact-finding researches, studying and interpreting the facts and making the results available to all concerned, including Commonwealth and State Departments, semi-governmental and private institutions and individuals.

Reference to the activities of the wool section of the Bureau appears on page 722 of this issue of the *Year-Book*.

AGRICULTURE.

**Progress of
Cultivation.** In all divisions of the State there are areas suitable for cultivation. In 1953-54 the area cultivated was 6,766,658 acres and in 1952-53 6,580,661 acres. This compares with 6,297,477 acres in the previous season, and an annual average of 7,346,711 acres for the seasons 1946-50, 5,977,754 acres for the seasons 1941-45, 7,779,443 acres for the seasons 1936-40, 7,739,251 acres for the seasons 1926-35, 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 99 years:—

VICTORIA—ACREAGE CULTIVATED ANNUALLY, 1856 TO 1954.

Period or Year (ended March).	Annual average area in each decennium, 1856 to 1925, and actual area each year 1928-1954, 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
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
1945	4,310,152	1,694,097	6,004,249
1946	5,327,122	2,394,032	7,721,154
1947	5,102,980	2,460,350	7,563,330
1948	5,023,149	2,527,306	7,550,455
1949	4,644,841	2,343,685	6,988,526
1950	4,480,202	2,429,888	6,910,090
1951	4,351,220	2,153,611	6,504,831
1952	4,270,512	2,026,965	6,297,477
1953	4,285,770	2,294,891	6,580,661
1954	4,479,568	2,287,090	6,766,658

Size of Holdings Showing Areas Cultivated and Grazed.

The following table is a classification of rural holdings in Victoria (including Crown lands held) in which sizes of holdings together with areas under wheat and numbers of stock carried are shown. More detailed information in respect of earlier years appears on pages 436 to 438 of the 1938-39 Year-Book.

VICTORIA—SIZE OF HOLDINGS SHOWING AREAS UNDER WHEAT AND STOCK DEPASTURED, MARCH, 1948.

Size of Holdings (Including Crown Lands Held).	Number of Holdings.	Area Occupied.	Wheat 1947-48.	Sheep.	Dairy Cattle.	Beef-cattle.	Pigs.
Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1- 19..	9,031	88,300	76	6,111	21,814	1,751	8,622
20- 49..	8,087	254,641	1,476	26,918	53,392	4,395	12,206
50- 99..	7,692	555,551	7,194	94,277	165,765	11,651	29,249
100- 199..	11,521	1,635,705	40,153	413,987	417,074	39,190	70,121
200- 299..	6,356	1,543,814	55,901	641,809	243,915	43,030	40,857
300- 399..	5,251	1,783,528	120,947	932,934	168,517	45,301	30,149
400- 499..	3,233	1,444,597	131,476	849,165	92,899	39,975	16,223
500- 599..	2,635	1,435,835	151,991	832,256	59,185	37,653	11,400
600- 699..	3,252	2,084,106	319,137	1,070,259	52,912	38,042	10,886
700- 799..	1,895	1,416,178	177,530	835,474	33,602	34,932	6,714
800- 899..	1,487	1,252,002	168,006	773,377	21,217	22,491	4,596
900- 999..	1,447	1,376,205	210,929	781,922	17,980	18,290	3,384
1,000- 1,999..	5,995	8,251,645	1,169,743	4,441,713	71,489	123,118	15,789
2,000- 4,999..	2,345	6,711,384	576,066	3,478,018	28,789	105,102	5,559
5,000- 9,999..	445	2,980,900	80,330	1,538,023	6,688	44,553	797
10,000-19,999..	144	2,005,186	13,331	756,703	1,828	30,601	183
20,000-49,999..	70	2,155,521	1,678	352,568	2,749	39,719	88
50,000-99,999..	15	917,872	618	16,690	292	3,659	232
100,000 and over	9	1,451,632	580	34,458	117	6,070	24
Totals ..	70,910	39,344,602	3,227,162	17,876,662	1,460,224	689,523	267,079

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 1945, and the actual area, production and yield per acre for the principal crops (excluding vegetables and fruit) during each of the four seasons, 1951-1954 :—

VICTORIA—ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND AVERAGE YIELD
OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 TO 1955.

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
1935-45 ..	2,448,954	493,634	141,836	48,060	982,276
1950-51 ..	2,735,473	527,217	217,096	52,482	557,454
1951-52 ..	2,463,574	676,503	186,224	42,108	640,418
1952-53 ..	2,232,097	756,129	234,597	52,851	752,932
1953-54 ..	2,389,304	583,075	374,555	52,745	807,223
1954-55 ..	2,390,173	644,444	280,595	44,075	739,099
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

* For grain.

VICTORIA—ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND AVERAGE YIELD
OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 TO 1955—*continued.*

Period or Season.	Wheat.*	Oats.*	Barley*	Potatoes.	Hay.
ANNUAL PRODUCTION— <i>continued.</i>					
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
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
1935-45 ..	31,723,840	5,144,194	2,126,636	165,756	1,145,099
1950-51 ..	51,235,929	9,034,005	4,510,079	139,391	894,585
1951-52 ..	45,994,752	11,151,260	3,619,576	178,399	1,046,764
1952-53 ..	50,334,634	12,599,050	4,734,175	133,148	1,245,217
1953-54 ..	53,697,611	9,851,708	7,932,103	213,714	1,360,662
1954-55 ..	48,484,543	10,020,742	4,945,720	206,577	1,207,679
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
1935-45 ..	12·95	10·42	14·99	3·45	1·17
1950-51 ..	18·73	17·14	20·77	2·66	1·60
1951-52 ..	18·67	16·48	19·44	4·24	1·63
1952-53 ..	22·55	16·66	20·18	2·52	1·65
1953-54 ..	22·47	16·90	21·18	4·05	1·69
1954-55 ..	20·28	15·55	17·63	4·69	1·63

* For grain.

Growers of Certain Crops, Season 1952-53. The following table shows the numbers of growers of certain primary products, in each statistical district of the State, for the season 1952-53.

The information has no relation to the number of rural holdings in the State, as numbers of occupiers engaged in the cultivation of more than one of the crops enumerated :—

VICTORIA—GROWERS OF CERTAIN CROPS—SEASON 1952-53.

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 ..	309	258	463	3,712	2,932	3,108	361	13	11,156
Oats ..	232	273	574	2,539	2,233	2,523	404	13	8,796
Barley ..	567	79	221	828	1,031	673	35	74	3,508
Maize ..	5	2	..	..	1	..	74	210	292
Hay—									
All kinds ..	5,003	1,988	5,823	3,021	971	5,072	2,821	4,883	29,582
Green Fodder—									
Maize ..	646	45	163	6	2	18	74	823	1,777
Lucerne ..	85	33	37	15	23	103	21	34	351
Millet ..	288	37	131	6	37	167	187	428	1,281
All other ..	178	120	184	12	8	37	61	160	760
Other—									
Potatoes ..	2,117	596	898	36	8	65	225	953	4,898
Onions ..	354	1	303	6	5	30	2	18	719
Other Vegetables	1,605	26	107	108	289	706	53	129	3,023
Orchards ..	2,110	175	112	202	1,037	1,070	196	77	4,979
Vineyards ..	2	2	..	24	2,238	133	42	..	2,441
Grass and Clover Seed..	11	26	58	9	3	20	19	4	150
Tobacco ..	..	..	..	1	..	8	91	..	100*
Flax ..	2	2	52	..	..	..	33	1	90

* Excluding Share-farmers.

Area Cultivated
1952-53.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, &c.).
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Peas.			
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Central District—								
Bourke	4,962	3,517	5,137	..	144	4,063	379	39,441
Grant	6,506	6,523	20,104	..	1,975	8,294	588	47,825
Mornington	11	5	2	45	150	7,895	273	37,867
Evelyn .. ..	..	21	105	2	30	3,678	5	7,387
North-Central District—								
Anglesey	318	522	74	2	172	798	15	5,953
Dalhousie	501	886	32	..	4	2,549	..	10,137
Talbot	10,674	6,804	1,912	..	274	6,686	..	39,785
Western District—								
Grenville	2,662	3,148	1,901	..	716	593	1,141	27,272
Polwarth	12	184	673	..	495	3,298	593	10,725
Heytesbury .. ..	..	1	4	..	..	163	1	15,857
Hampden	3,604	4,471	970	..	4	147	60	27,579
Ripon	21,061	13,433	1,387	..	58	405	..	29,153
Villiers	780	1,606	183	..	995	2,752	594	25,180
Normanby	446	327	602	..	259	714	..	18,155
Dundas	762	2,919	158	..	281	17	..	18,304
Follett	433	215	60	..	..	169	..	2,693
Wimmera District—								
Lowan	156,067	71,210	20,357	..	30	20	1	25,772
Borong	469,718	68,970	31,337	..	30	143	10	31,184
Kara Kara	119,716	51,863	5,662	..	..	36	..	13,377
Mallee District—								
Millewa	48,090	12,694	382	..	..	3	..	931
Weeah	113,827	41,067	29,203	..	..	..	..	3,781
Karkaroc	594,775	159,792	66,936	..	..	15	4	11,845
Tatchera	341,494	123,715	15,046	1	1	5	7	9,668
Northern District—								
Gunbower	10,633	6,889	8,335	..	4	37	..	17,137
Gladstone	82,966	53,640	3,064	..	..	1	..	14,207
Bendigo	54,458	28,935	5,405	..	..	5	3	22,656
Rodney	33,731	20,768	11,634	..	2	33	5	44,222
Moira	135,192	59,116	589	..	13	113	27	41,984
North-Eastern District—								
Delatite	2,595	4,238	142	582	56	882	1	29,601
Bogong	15,664	8,236	192	333	33	388	1	24,531
Benambra	108	236	91	24	4	7	..	6,187
Wonnangatta	21	..	..	21	..	1	..	701
Gippsland District—								
Croajingolong .. ..	..	..	15	721	30	35	..	1,239
Tambo .. ..	..	46	24	1,143	72	36	..	1,903
Dargo	10	..	13	882	22	147	..	2,478
Tanjil	286	108	2,603	1,412	71	765	4	26,312
Buln Buln	14	24	213	2	115	7,958	154	59,903
Total for State ..	2,232,097	756,129	234,597	5,175	6,040	52,851	3,866	752,932

of the State for the season 1952-53 is given in the following table :—
FOR THE SEASON 1952-53.

Flax.	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.	Acres.
43	1,995	88	..	..	12,188	8,231	1,207	81,395	21,897	103,292
..	1,320	140	..	..	1,812	1,017	190	96,294	21,556	117,850
..	4,379	96	..	..	5,645	10,152	877	67,397	8,908	76,305
..	723	..	..	2	2,650	5,736	540	20,879	3,301	24,180
..	531	27	..	..	36	9	18	8,475	1,836	10,311
25	1,092	143	..	40	12	4	3	15,428	1,383	16,811
2	2,137	717	..	3	37	2,759	279	72,069	16,447	88,516
..	348	1,008	..	..	62	131	139	39,150	5,602	44,752
28	1,256	1,494	..	..	630	77	40	19,505	1,463	20,968
25	797	..	..	..	5	28	205	17,086	5,786	22,872
525	430	613	..	..	30	4	195	38,632	10,786	49,418
542	162	464	..	..	19	4	216	66,904	7,149	74,053
8	539	81	..	..	14	..	265	32,997	5,164	38,161
301	1,338	33	..	..	28	552	654	23,409	5,220	28,629
197	816	612	..	..	..	23	422	24,511	9,257	33,768
112	319	..	..	..	..	33	78	4,112	1,230	5,342
..	249	629	..	8	24	945	386	275,698	161,670	437,368
..	304	..	3	653	423	3,235	350	606,360	452,456	1,058,816
..	103	20	..	40	..	155	65	191,037	131,136	322,173
..	35	..	..	422	119	139	758	63,573	27,320	90,893
..	17	230	..	..	..	..	15,719	203,844	120,292	324,136
..	476	..	..	33,282	1,357	3,227	12,722	884,481	534,567	1,419,048
..	815	..	..	7,302	1,846	1,591	1,594	503,085	307,236	810,321
..	1,906	55	57	14	244	971	1,071	47,353	17,974	65,327
..	553	..	..	..	29	152	14	154,626	94,576	249,202
..	383	115	..	20	1,095	1,531	67	114,673	77,720	192,393
..	1,962	8	..	196	2,283	10,746	75	125,665	39,883	165,548
..	1,224	479	19	646	3,773	13,583	92	256,850	164,697	421,547
433	2,197	599	757	111	74	568	531	43,367	3,725	47,092
459	1,015	227	777	3,229	254	1,250	182	56,776	9,707	66,483
..	460	..	..	..	2	8	76	7,203	514	7,717
..	31	60	..	..	..	1	..	886	47	883
..	300	..	..	..	118	14	181	2,653	162	2,815
..	757	1	..	..	511	15	206	4,714	1,619	6,333
..	617	..	..	..	542	59	143	4,913	1,804	6,717
..	2,073	..	..	..	53	68	118	33,873	5,457	39,330
111	6,644	3	..	..	228	216	362	75,947	15,344	91,291
2,840	40,303	7,942	1,613	45,968	36,143	67,234	40,040	4,285,770	2,294,891	6,580,661

**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	73,499	63,604	89,828	..	4,718	13,852
Grant	132,848	141,859	629,117	..	55,626	20,037
Mornington	194	F	22	700	9,644	20,667
Evelyn .. .. .	..	414	1,336	65	1,625	11,848
North-Central District—						
Anglesey	7,149	15,544	1,468	104	5,056	2,111
Dalhousie	12,629	22,739	362	..	112	5,416
Talbot	224,507	170,277	63,606	..	9,247	16,567
Western District—						
Grenville	27,041	35,522	37,161	..	17,977	1,136
Polwarth	158	1,226	11,519	..	9,359	8,979
Heytesbury .. .. .	..	6	38	..	..	211
Hampden	36,258	51,916	15,307	..	31	231
Ripon	381,312	270,436	39,286	..	1,317	789
Villiers	14,080	7,881	4,660	..	34,550	3,817
Normanby	6,940	4,291	17,926	..	5,332	1,614
Dundas	6,848	22,272	2,668	..	4,634	28
Follett	220	2,054	87	..	..	346
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	3,910,809	1,280,735	398,340	..	115	8
Borong	13,791,741	1,245,343	633,384	..	1,457	206
Kara Kara	3,487,917	1,058,670	122,926	..	..	74
Mallee District—						
Millewa	526,697	132,850	6,178	..	..	10
Weeah	1,827,557	510,934	501,469	..	..	..
Karkaroc	11,364,769	2,118,356	1,144,115	..	..	47
Tatchera	7,534,188	1,911,004	261,427	30	3	19
Northern District—						
Gunbower	202,953	136,736	180,052	..	465	121
Gladstone	1,874,715	1,119,632	66,811	..	..	F
Bendigo	1,119,044	602,103	123,120	..	..	42
Rodney	794,906	443,715	293,529	..	93	101
Moira	2,663,840	1,004,071	11,071	..	1,435	317
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	49,236	71,805	3,264	16,270	1,349	1,288
Bogong	252,978	148,807	3,449	9,121	3,342	812
Benambra	1,794	2,677	2,699	1,110	9	13
Wonnangatta	372	..	..	400	..	1
Gippsland District—						
Craoingolong .. .. .	..	..	238	33,144	211	93
Tambo .. .. .	..	752	247	45,044	4,278	116
Dargo .. .. .	..	..	247	28,914	2,712	390
Tanjil	7,218	569	65,040	68,515	1,705	1,839
Buln Buln	74	250	2,178	10	12,307	20,002
Total for State	50,334,634	12,599,050	4,734,175	203,427	188,709	133,148

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

of the principal crops for the season 1952-53 :—

CROPS FOR THE SEASON 1952-53.

Onions.	Hay (Wheaten, Oaten, Lucerne, Grass, &c.).	Grass and Clover for Seed.	Tobacco.	Wine Made.	Dried Vine-Fruits.		
					Raisins.	Sultanas.	Currants.
Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Gallons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
2,412	66,624	212	..	} 2,266,446	..	..	..
2,657	80,936	255	..		..	..	..
1,309	65,332	62	..		..	..	..
21	12,277	..	..		..	..	..
..
64	10,958	18	..		..	..	..
..	18,240	216	..		..	..	..
..	74,354	909	..		..	..	..
..
7,314	45,170	1,117	..		..	..	..
4,528	17,487	2,226	..		..	..	..
3	26,813	..	..		..	..	..
315	48,478	1,239	..		..	..	..
..	52,422	475	..		..	..	..
3,774	40,212	206	..		..	..	..
..	27,875	31	..		..	..	..
..	26,676	680	..		..	..	..
..	4,617	..	..		..	..	..
..
2	35,266	980	..		..	..	..
47	45,059	..	4	..	..	..
..	19,706	1	..	..	..	..
..	
..	826	..	..	..	75	349	47
..	3,501	268	..	..	..	..	..
2	11,110	..	..	..	6,168	41,289	6,196
28	13,428	..	..	..	794	6,408	345
..
..	24,954	70	549	..	..	..	..
..	20,134	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	32,699	160	..	..	..	..	..
19	69,641	6	..	..	13	..	..
77	67,662	740	126	..	2	..	1
..
2	57,419	600	6,482	..	..	..	..
6	44,148	319	5,981	..	..	..	..
..	12,100	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1,350	71	..	..	..	..	..
..
..	1,891	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	3,224	4	..	..	..	..	..
..	4,785	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	47,392	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,096	110,401	5	..	..	..	..	..
23,690	1,245,217	10,870	13,142	2,266,446	7,052	48,046	6,589

Area Cultivated
1953-54.

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, &c.)
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Peas.			
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Central District—								
Bourke	5,282	3,827	10,589	..	250	4,318	409	36,032
Grant	10,596	5,243	29,241	..	2,597	7,730	659	40,417
Mornington	7	25	101	213	47	8,210	228	41,019
Evelyn	2	51	42	6	20	4,217	5	7,596
North-Central District—								
Anglesey	208	477	40	3	145	837	3	7,523
Dalhousie	850	725	66	..	25	2,546	..	9,373
Talbot	14,729	8,228	1,860	..	285	6,539	..	30,412
Western District—								
Grenville	6,744	4,588	3,550	..	744	513	1,086	26,128
Polwarth	202	490	1,174	..	391	3,533	542	12,353
Heytesbury .. ..	..	10	..	..	..	141	..	18,705
Hampden	6,151	7,107	2,081	..	20	127	70	31,267
Ripon	27,465	14,960	2,499	..	133	413	1	29,441
Villiers	919	2,348	912	1	1,167	2,194	473	30,723
Normanby	372	785	515	..	182	674	1	22,230
Dundas	754	4,876	538	..	459	28	..	21,742
Follett	57	305	20	..	..	67	..	3,966
Wimmera District—								
Lowan	146,544	50,199	30,759	..	10	36	1	37,815
Borong	456,484	50,487	46,038	..	63	99	12	31,431
Kara Kara	136,176	31,986	10,830	..	7	38	..	14,338
Mallee District—								
Millewa	48,529	10,140	1,123	..	..	2	..	1,171
Weeah	109,623	30,629	38,964	..	..	..	..	5,041
Karkaroc	581,637	112,485	109,502	..	6	34	4	11,316
Tatchera	353,687	100,833	25,776	2	..	30	..	12,416
Northern District—								
Gunbower	13,460	5,740	13,979	..	..	..	19	19,200
Gladstone	102,758	44,936	8,375	..	..	..	..	12,824
Bendigo	79,141	23,799	8,637	4	..	20	2	21,440
Rodney	43,396	16,627	17,994	2	4	18	34	44,917
Moira	207,421	40,155	2,467	..	10	233	30	53,347
North-Eastern District—								
Delatite	4,645	4,609	339	779	28	914	..	30,769
Bogong	28,982	5,369	518	201	17	274	3	28,082
Benambra	40	5153	96	41	5	31	..	9,299
Wonnangatta .. ..	..	15	..	13	..	6	..	658
Gippsland District—								
Croajingolong	14	..	1	1,029	45	51	..	2,017
Tambo	8	67	12	1,233	100	40	..	2,559
Dargo	28	69	18	811	100	130	..	3,111
Tanjil	2,282	407	5,132	1,268	49	615	2	29,841
Buln Buln	111	325	767	7	56	8,068	76	66,704
Total for State ..	2,389,304	583,075	374,555	5,613	6,965	52,745	3,641	807,223

of the State for the season 1953-54 is given in the following table:—
FOR THE SEASON 1953-54.

Flax.	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.	Acres.
17	2,240	14	..	..	11,051	8,247	1,281	83,557	22,687	106,244
749	1,805	375	..	..	1,967	973	333	102,685	21,839	124,524
16	5,110	87	..	..	4,998	10,161	1,033	71,255	9,735	80,990
..	1,455	..	..	1	2,068	5,677	591	21,731	2,901	24,632
..	708	16	..	..	40	13	27	10,040	1,573	11,613
..	1,764	99	..	110	1	3	7	15,569	1,164	16,733
174	2,647	1,037	..	3	34	2,753	378	69,079	15,193	84,272
271	814	730	..	..	76	96	307	45,647	4,789	50,436
436	2,476	1,376	..	..	800	71	316	24,160	1,235	25,395
65	1,552	..	..	..	5	24	300	20,802	5,732	26,534
1,856	1,098	1,183	..	..	17	4	1,032	52,013	7,618	59,631
1,196	307	128	..	..	12	2	233	76,790	9,547	86,337
320	1,133	56	..	..	12	1	417	40,675	4,553	45,228
937	3,160	..	..	..	50	497	526	29,980	3,770	33,700
698	1,319	325	..	..	..	22	229	30,990	4,512	35,502
219	629	..	..	..	..	42	122	5,427	632	6,059
..	1,068	1,083	..	7	12	863	260	268,657	154,430	423,087
..	354	90	3	654	264	3,040	299	589,318	472,951	1,062,269
..	80	..	..	42	..	114	50	193,661	125,138	318,799
..	80	..	..	530	155	154	672	62,556	26,915	89,471
..	42	180	..	..	..	..	15,134	199,613	120,180	319,793
..	97	..	..	33,068	1,156	3,239	9,567	862,105	563,817	1,425,922
..	1,591	..	10	7,183	1,035	1,648	1,354	505,571	321,034	826,605
..	3,174	80	98	18	140	979	574	57,461	17,254	74,715
..	431	..	..	..	16	171	79	169,590	90,602	260,192
..	505	215	..	14	621	1,434	20	135,852	73,400	209,252
..	1,656	..	..	171	1,403	10,140	4	136,366	35,567	171,933
..	962	878	38	632	2,643	13,723	51	322,590	140,536	463,126
978	2,399	772	1,085	108	35	508	245	48,491	2,954	51,445
965	991	169	1,012	3,236	215	1,210	252	71,562	6,505	78,067
..	541	..	..	..	7	9	66	10,288	240	10,528
..	17	30	..	..	..	1	..	740	109	849
..	301	..	..	..	57	20	258	3,793	102	3,895
..	827	..	..	..	395	15	305	5,561	270	5,831
..	547	..	..	..	483	57	124	5,478	524	6,002
91	2,956	..	..	..	53	71	67	42,834	3,695	46,529
562	9,374	2	..	..	422	198	459	87,131	13,387	100,518
9,550	56,210	8,925	2,246	45,777	30,243	66,180	36,972	4,479,568	2,287,090	6,766,658

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	152,680	120,889	322,104	..	6,070	18,242
Grant	281,489	142,984	1,055,512	..	75,482	32,386
Mornington	121	190	1,582	5,683	1,398	36,624
Evelyn	29	717	1,536	160	914	18,583
North-Central District—						
Angelsey	3,458	10,229	1,070	122	3,323	2,847
Dalhousie	19,154	20,477	1,774	..	400	6,871
Talbot	425,452	239,180	70,232	..	6,578	26,740
Western District—						
Grenville	184,605	146,150	125,008	..	25,138	2,137
Polwarth	6,286	10,804	32,214	..	12,124	17,283
Heytesbury .. .. .	..	63	..	..	..	675
Hampden	111,557	220,290	57,387	..	310	496
Ripon	781,372	527,417	69,768	..	1,820	1,012
Villiers	17,830	48,689	25,757	..	31,142	9,122
Normanby	6,770	14,236	15,989	(F)	4,743	2,908
Dundas	10,656	70,569	11,304	..	7,803	119
Follett	971	3,590	370	..	..	353
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	3,702,088	924,193	619,584	..	217	146
Borung	13,123,025	841,944	895,965	..	1,594	330
Kara Kara	3,553,437	584,372	176,277	..	189	136
Mallee District—						
Millewa	496,057	91,103	18,072	..	..	12
Weeah	1,603,234	320,999	602,104	..	..	..
Karkaroc	10,519,417	1,296,785	1,832,384	..	..	147
Tatchera	7,100,157	1,294,108	449,081	25	124	55
Northern District—						
Gunbower	277,244	112,095	334,675	..	..	34
Gladstone	2,346,255	836,793	185,777	..	..	..
Bendigo	2,046,501	508,125	238,849	350	..	68
Rodney	1,164,566	364,351	528,074	90	28	57
Moira	4,938,085	860,933	55,551	..	189	653
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	96,834	80,229	6,228	30,013	446	2,412
Bogong	662,800	138,471	14,232	8,096	431	969
Benambra	1,313	2,171	2,834	2,180	93	92
Wonnangatta .. .. .	..	449	..	410	..	10
Gippsland District—						
Croajingolong	425	..	16	69,799	729	194
Tambo	327	1,611	464	68,866	2,077	136
Dargo	681	1,504	522	47,942	3,540	641
Tanjil	61,151	10,441	169,067	64,242	2,154	1,744
Buln Buln	1,584	4,557	10,740	66	1,172	29,480
Total for State	53,697,611	9,851,708	7,932,103	298,044	190,228	213,714

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

of the principal crops for the season 1953-54 :—
CROPS FOR THE SEASON 1953-54.

Onions.	Hay (Wheaten, Oaten, Lucerne, Grass, &c.).	Grass and Clover for Seed.	Tobacco.	Wine Made.	Dried Vine-Fruits.		
					Raisins.	Sultanas.	Currants.
Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Gallons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
2,564	62,591	17	..	2,327,302	..	..	..
3,515	68,394	277	..		..	..	..
1,095	71,378	17	..		..	..	..
22	12,222	..	..		..	..	..
..	12,341	26	..		..	..	..
..	15,663	120	..		..	..	..
..	57,413	1,701	..		..	..	..
7,314	48,834	875	..		..	..	..
3,927	24,097	2,265	..		..	..	..
..	34,589	..	..		..	..	..
482	59,401	668	..		..	..	..
5	57,370	122	..		..	..	..
3,147	55,794	93	..		..	..	..
6	39,410	..	..		..	..	..
..	33,667	528	..		..	..	..
..	7,321	..	..		..	..	..
1	47,153	1,957	..		..	..	..
30	43,845	80	5		..	..	..
..	20,876	..	..		..	..	..
..	959	96	386
..	4,434	124
11	9,389	..	..	..	6,428	37,727	4,432
..	13,915	..	54	..	584	5,848	194
..	26,702	143	719	..	..	..	..
..	16,748	..	..	..	..	..	..
6	31,021	439	..	..	..	..	..
82	71,177	..	..	..	..	..	..
102	86,990	493	302	..	3	1	..
..	58,664	585	9,852	..	..	..	..
11	53,401	40	8,305	..	..	..	..
..	19,903	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1,210	24	..	..	..	..	..
462	3,553	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	4,603	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	6,566	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	56,761	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	122,307	2	..	..	..	..	..
22,733	1,360,662	10,646	19,237	2,327,302	7,111	43,962	4,669

The following tables show the area under, the yield from, and the gross value of each of the principal crops in Victoria for the seasons 1952-53 and 1953-54:—

VICTORIA—AREA, YIELD, AND GROSS VALUE OF CROPS,
1952-53.

Crop.	Area.	Yield.	Gross Value.(a)
	Acres.		£
Cereals for Grain—			
Barley—			
2 row	205,960	4,202,643 bushels	3,233,406
6 row	28,637	531,532 bushels	324,747
Maize	5,175	203,427 bushels	169,687
Oats	756,129	12,599,050 bushels	3,931,954
Rye	31,690	257,409 bushels	183,404
Wheat	2,232,097	50,334,634 bushels	39,269,962
Hay—			
Barley and Rye	1,137	1,486 tons	13,704
Lucerne	44,907	91,354 tons	1,111,663
Meadow	454,888	786,418 tons	7,806,465
Oaten	219,448	315,193 tons	3,212,361
Wheaten	32,552	50,766 tons	489,908
Green Fodder	40,303	.. .. .	198,458
Straw .. .. .	.. .. .	30,000 tons	287,850
Grass and Clover Seed	7,942	10,870 cwt.	138,120
Industrial Crops—			
Broom Millet	285	1,441 cwt., fibre	10,347
Flax	2,840	796 cwt., seed	758
Linseed	1,063	4,379 tons of straw	70,301
Hops	367	7,036 bushels	11,082
Mustard	160	5,202 cwt.	191,786
Tobacco	1,613	529 cwt.	3,532
		13,142 cwt.	613,293
Vegetables—			
Onions	3,866	23,690 tons	598,173
Potatoes	52,851	133,148 tons	4,641,187
Other	36,143	197,980 tons	9,713,718
Stock Fodder—			
Grey and Other Field Peas	6,040	188,709 bushels	183,048
Pumpkins	321	1,711 tons	20,052
Turnips, Beet, &c.	1,538	8,883 tons	146,570
Vineyards—			
Grapes—			
Table	1,569	5,835 tons	326,760
Wine	5,435	11,403 tons	244,544
Drying	35,706	Wine made 2,266,446 gallons 238,735 tons producing—	
		48,046 tons of sultanas	5,648,808
		7,052 tons of raisins	812,714
		6,589 tons of currants	707,219
Vines, unproductive	3,258	.. .. .	.. .. .
Orchards—			
Productive	52,729	.. .. .	8,482,854
Unproductive	14,505	.. .. .	.. .. .
All Other Crops	4,616	.. .. .	551,296
Total Crops	4,285,770	.. .. .	93,349,731

(a) 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.

VICTORIA—AREA, YIELD, AND GROSS VALUE OF CROPS,
1953-54.

Crop.	Area.	Yield.	Gross Value (a).
Cereals for Grain—	Acres.		£
Barley—			
2 row	344,346	7,360,055 bushels	3,894,695
6 row	30,209	572,043 bushels	269,339
Maize—Hybrid	4,238	242,913 bushels	270,235
Not Hybrid	1,375	55,131 bushels	
Oats	583,075	9,851,708 bushels	3,608,681
Rye	27,754	200,907 bushels	107,988
Wheat	2,389,304	53,697,611 bushels	37,009,282
Hay—			
Barley and Rye	2,137	2,792 tons	25,719
Lucerne	48,674	95,155 tons	1,124,341
Meadow	476,588	835,464 tons	7,922,664
Oaten	240,031	366,109 tons	3,559,067
Wheaten	39,793	61,142 tons	563,785
Green Fodder	56,210	.. ..	267,920
Straw .. ..	..	30,000 tons	251,700
Grass and Clover Seed	8,925	10,646 cwt.	164,799
Industrial Crops—			
Broom Millet	139	698 cwt. fibre	4,872
Flax	9,550	225 cwt. seed	248
Linseed	1,226	12,984 tons of straw	230,585
Hops	344	8,072 bushels	13,965
Mustard	250	5,517 cwt.	212,412
Tobacco	2,246	925 cwt.	9,022
Chicory	210	19,237 cwt.	1,062,459
.. ..	..	180 tons	17,010
Vegetables—			
Onions	3,641	22,783 tons	769,017
Potatoes	52,745	213,714 tons	4,087,124
Other	30,243	.. ..	8,011,744
Stock Fodder—			
Grey and Other Field Peas	6,965	190,223 bushels	175,657
Pumpkins	394	1,557 tons	31,140
Turnips, Beet, &c.	2,697	15,512 tons	387,800
Vineyards—			
Grapes—			
Table	1,740	5,834 tons	373,376
Wine	5,318	11,755 tons	209,832
Drying	35,735	Wine made 2,327,302 gallons	
.. ..	..	222,821 tons producing—	
.. ..	..	43,962 tons of sultanas	4,512,882
.. ..	..	7,111 tons of raisins	640,331
.. ..	..	4,669 tons of currants	470,013
Vines, unproductive	2,984	.. ..	..
Orchards—			
Productive	52,519	.. ..	8,516,538
Unproductive	13,661	.. ..	..
All Other Crops	4,302	.. ..	592,133
Total Crops	4,479,568	.. ..	89,374,395

(a) 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.

The following table shows the number of growers of certain primary products, in each statistical district of the State, for the season 1953-54.

The information has no relation to the number of rural holdings in the State, as numbers of occupiers engaged in the cultivation of more than one of the crops enumerated:—

VICTORIA—GROWERS OF CERTAIN CROPS—SEASON
1953-54.

Crops Grown.	Growers in each Statistical District.								State Total.
	Central.	North-Central.	Wes-tern.	Wim-mera.	Mallee.	Nor-thern.	North-East-ern.	Gipps-land.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Grain Crops—									
Wheat	371	299	635	3,767	2,915	3,501	470	58	12,016
Oats	301	318	845	2,153	1,903	2,290	400	40	8,250
Barley	708	88	335	1,050	1,350	943	59	119	4,652
Maize	17	3	1	..	2	2	101	256	382
Hay—									
All kinds	5,108	1,958	6,420	3,124	1,041	5,626	3,064	5,332	31,673
Green Fodder—									
Maize	736	54	242	4	3	15	70	963	2,087
Lucerne	82	32	60	20	19	93	28	35	369
Millet	343	37	206	17	47	237	183	489	1,559
All other	239	176	346	23	23	63	79	202	1,151
Other—									
Potatoes	2,099	605	943	39	15	89	217	982	4,989
Onions	382	1	291	10	5	28	2	16	735
Other Vegetables	1,601	19	122	80	262	554	38	127	2,803
Orchards	2,110	179	107	203	1,102	1,084	202	84	5,071
Vineyards	1	2	..	19	2,230	129	39	..	2,420
Grass and Clover Seed	11	31	54	13	2	26	25	2	164
Tobacco .. .. .	..	..	..	1	1	11	131	..	144*
Flax	21	9	181	..	..	..	63	26	300

* Excluding Share-farmers.

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 (increased to £4,500,000 by legislation in 1950.)

When a contract for the erection of 48 additional country elevators is completed, the scheme will comprise 186 country elevators with a total storage capacity of 26,186,000 bushels serving a terminal at Geelong. That terminal has a storage capacity of 22,050,000 bushels and is designed to receive wheat from railway trucks at the rate of 44,400 bushels per hour and to load into ships at 60,000 bushels per hour.

In addition to the elevators within the scheme, fourteen mill silos are leased by the Board and these provide a further storage capacity of 1,979,000 bushels. The total country storage capacity provided by the Board is 28,165,000 bushels.

Receipts for the seasons 1952-53, 1953-54 and 1954-55 amounted to 46,349,479, 49,957,863 and 44,390,148 bushels respectively.

Wheat Growing in Counties. The principal wheat-growing areas are in the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern districts. In the season 1953-54 these districts were responsible for 95 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 1953-54 was 53,697,611 bushels, or an average yield per acre of 22.47 bushels in comparison with an average of 22.55 bushels in 1952-53 and an average of 18.67 bushels in 1951-52. The area sown and the production of wheat for grain in different counties for each of the three seasons, 1952-54, are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—WHEAT AREAS AND YIELDS IN COUNTIES FOR THE THREE SEASONS, 1952-1954.

Districts and Counties.	Year ended March.								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1952.	1953.	1954.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1952.	1953.	1954.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.
Central—									
Bourke ..	3,408	4,962	5,282	57,837	73,499	152,680	16·97	14·81	28·91
Grant ..	7,622	6,506	10,596	122,591	132,848	281,489	16·08	20·42	26·57
Mornington ..	..	11	7	..	194	121	..	17·64	17·29
Evelyn ..	..	..	2	..	..	29	..	..	14·50
Total ..	11,030	11,479	15,887	180,428	206,541	434,319	16·36	17·99	27·34
North-Central—									
Anglesey ..	162	318	208	3,772	7,149	3,458	23·28	22·48	16·63
Dalhousie ..	167	501	850	2,900	12,629	19,154	17·36	25·21	22·53
Talbot ..	10,849	10,674	14,729	175,467	224,507	425,452	16·95	21·03	28·89
Total ..	10,678	11,493	15,787	182,139	244,285	448,064	17·06	21·26	28·88
Western—									
Grenville ..	2,278	2,662	6,744	38,433	27,041	184,605	16·87	10·16	27·37
Polwarth ..	33	12	202	433	158	6,286	13·12	13·17	31·12
Heytesbury	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hampden ..	3,773	3,604	6,151	73,793	36,258	111,557	19·56	10·06	18·14
Ripon ..	19,906	21,061	27,465	407,159	381,312	781,372	20·45	18·11	28·45
Villiers ..	378	780	919	7,833	14,080	17,830	20·72	18·05	19·40
Normanby ..	122	446	372	2,391	6,940	6,770	19·60	15·56	18·20
Dundas ..	338	762	754	3,321	6,848	10,656	9·82	8·99	14·13
Follett ..	57	433	57	727	220	971	12·75	0·51	17·03
Total ..	26,885	29,760	42,664	534,090	472,857	1,120,047	19·87	15·89	26·25
Wimmera—									
Lowan ..	175,090	156,067	146,544	3,834,735	3,910,809	3,702,088	21·90	25·06	25·26
Borong ..	523,465	469,718	456,484	13,181,539	13,791,741	13,123,025	25·18	29·36	28·75
Kara Kara	629,861	594,775	581,637	9,075,901	11,364,769	10,519,417	14·41	19·11	18·09
Total ..	838,405	745,501	739,204	20,245,300	21,190,467	20,378,550	24·15	28·42	27·67
Mallee—									
Millewa ..	42,662	48,090	48,529	570,052	526,697	496,057	13·36	10·95	10·22
Weeah ..	133,309	113,827	109,623	1,645,775	1,827,557	1,603,234	12·36	16·06	14·62
Karkaroc ..	629,861	594,775	581,637	9,075,901	11,364,769	10,519,417	14·41	19·11	18·09
Tatchera ..	362,223	341,494	353,687	6,633,418	7,534,188	7,100,157	18·31	22·06	20·07
Total ..	1,168,055	1,098,186	1,093,478	17,925,146	21,253,211	19,718,865	15·35	19·35	18·03

VICTORIA—WHEAT AREAS AND YIELDS IN COUNTIES FOR THE THREE SEASONS, 1952-1954—continued.

Districts and Counties.	Year ended March.								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1952.	1953.	1954.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1952.	1953.	1954.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bus.	Bus.	Bus.
Northern—									
Gunbower ..	8,903	10,633	13,460	128,396	202,953	277,244	14·42	19·09	20·60
Gladstone ..	86,937	82,066	102,758	1,490,960	1,874,715	2,346,255	17·15	22·60	22·83
Bendigo ..	60,623	54,458	79,141	851,115	1,119,044	2,046,501	14·04	20·55	25·86
Rodney ..	26,458	33,731	43,396	401,817	794,906	1,164,566	15·10	23·57	26·84
Moira ..	194,118	135,192	207,421	3,471,977	2,663,840	4,938,085	17·89	19·70	23·81
Total ..	377,039	316,980	446,176	6,344,265	6,655,458	10,772,651	16·83	21·00	24·14
North Eastern—									
Delatite ..	3,303	2,595	4,645	65,769	49,236	96,834	19·91	18·97	20·85
Bogong ..	26,469	15,664	28,982	490,657	252,978	662,800	18·54	16·15	22·87
Benambra ..	41	108	40	724	1,794	1,313	17·66	16·61	32·83
Wonnangatta ..	..	21	..	..	372	..	..	17·71	..
Total ..	29,813	18,388	33,667	557,150	304,380	760,947	18·69	16·55	22·60
Gippsland—									
Croajingolong ..	..	..	14	..	..	425	..	..	30·36
Tambo ..	..	..	8	..	..	327	..	..	40·88
Dargo ..	13	10	28	121	143	681	9·31	14·30	24·32
Tanjil ..	1,598	286	2,282	25,822	7,218	61,151	16·16	25·24	26·80
Buln Buln ..	58	14	111	291	74	1,584	5·02	5·29	14·27
Total ..	1,669	310	2,443	26,234	7,435	64,168	15·72	23·98	26·27
Total (State) ..	2,463,574	2,232,097	2,389,304	45,994,752	50,334,634	53,697,611	18·67	22·55	22·47

The production of wheat in the other Australian States in 1953-54 was as follows:—New South Wales, 63,681,000 bushels; South Australia, 30,409,000 bushels; Western Australia, 39,700,000 bushels; Queensland, 10,180,000 bushels; and Tasmania, 263,000 bushels. The total production for the Commonwealth was 197,960,000 bushels.

In the following table the average yield per acre in each of the main wheat growing counties for the seasons 1943-44 to 1954-55 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:—

Monthly
Rainfall and
Average Yields
of Wheat 1943-
44 to 1954-55.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1943-44 TO 1954-55.

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Victorian Year-Book, 1952-53 and 1953-54.

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—															
1943	57	123	18	163	85	206	227	242	256	109	95	52	1,633	1,135	22-60
1944	39	62	26	161	213	45	122	19	66	189	77	139	1,158	518	4-88
1945	74	224	18	11	148	180	124	307	134	199	155	104	1,678	1,099	11-80
1946	293	447	359	57	123	221	421	174	120	90	76	190	2,571	1,102	24-63
1947	28	149	317	117	82	272	408	232	212	304	200	317	2,638	1,628	17-24
1948	17	65	23	425	165	226	151	173	141	368	181	199	2,134	1,240	23-60
1949	74	311	33	14	202	74	138	75	139	314	258	17	1,649	998	25-56
1950	13	175	261	96	329	90	120	165	227	114	81	65	1,736	797	20-82
1951	77	170	16	170	337	224	270	287	79	306	71	161	2,168	1,237	21-90
1952	300	116	50	122	295	354	175	172	179	160	252	87	2,262	1,292	25-06
1953	107	6	18	113	91	358	313	315	234	191	212	142	2,100	1,623	25-26
1954	131	4	34	371	88	182	175	186	112	174	144	182	1,783	973	25-27
Borong—															
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
1945	67	227	18	10	87	251	161	268	93	125	134	49	1,490	1,032	10-27
1946	291	359	273	70	134	200	296	139	102	77	81	111	2,133	895	20-09
1947	19	112	300	90	47	215	288	168	169	311	181	228	2,128	1,332	19-38
1948	15	40	10	265	157	233	150	88	127	401	116	189	1,791	1,115	25-86
1949	31	310	67	11	170	65	181	60	160	336	192	21	1,604	994	25-95
1950	6	321	279	146	331	66	156	153	224	148	113	70	2,013	860	22-64
1951	58	219	26	131	240	234	267	245	65	270	45	106	1,906	1,126	25-18
1952	143	99	73	110	306	301	123	192	139	277	286	82	2,131	1,318	29-36
1953	148	16	10	109	72	309	293	273	199	137	243	105	1,914	1,454	28-75
1954	158	14	38	368	82	121	147	190	97	170	173	280	1,838	898	22-66
Kara Kara—															
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	0-86
1945	49	107	13	8	85	318	182	254	95	133	135	33	1,412	1,117	10-84
1946	330	340	256	87	129	185	261	133	91	110	93	141	2,161	878	19-49
1947	11	118	317	93	43	234	298	176	157	378	169	228	2,227	1,412	18-39
1948	40	64	9	195	143	203	158	94	118	358	103	97	1,537	1,034	21-28
1949	28	316	146	11	159	77	201	53	146	337	253	22	1,759	1,077	24-76
1950	5	340	319	149	323	72	200	192	291	189	135	77	2,292	1,079	22-26
1951	68	323	12	134	269	274	279	259	46	319	45	83	2,111	1,222	23-09
1952	115	89	77	172	354	342	116	216	161	288	328	99	2,357	1,451	29-13
1953	93	22	11	114	88	291	262	288	250	168	226	100	1,913	1,485	26-09
1954	136	21	50	294	76	115	154	199	117	182	199	362	1,905	966	21-35

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1943-44 TO 1954-55—*continued.*

County and Year.	Approximate Mean Rainfall each Month.												Total for Year.	Total Wheat-growing Period.	Average Wheat Yield per Acre.	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	Wheat-growing Months.						Nov.	Dec.				
					May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.						
Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Bushels.	
Millewa—																
1943	7	36	3	38	23	33	43	93	81	52	59	66	534	325	0-01	
1944	35	15	5	18	98	16	58	14	13	65	74	74	485	264	0-04	
1945	4	12	4	1	56	176	82	89	39	142	65	69	739	584	3-97	
1946	125	218	88	48	80	131	153	40	22	38	187	91	1,221	464	3-45	
1947	13	211	250	30	2	107	123	92	106	153	84	135	1,306	583	3-15	
1948	9	2	1	143	60	140	69	76	23	186	62	80	851	554	5-94	
1949	34	103	57	10	262	27	69	20	136	181	47	12	958	695	8-16	
1950	..	434	369	15	113	31	88	72	70	123	109	48	1,472	497	8-47	
1951	29	23	13	76	128	331	102	154	83	104	11	12	1,066	902	13-36	
1952	139	45	72	72	300	63	48	62	58	244	177	17	1,297	775	10-95	
1953	80	47	1	20	19	110	118	159	297	119	98	35	1,103	822	10-22	
1954	70	3	5	203	39	38	80	193	44	120	183	168	1,146	514	10-52	
Weeah—																
1943	41	70	8	85	35	101	83	132	107	151	82	62	957	609	7-84	
1944	35	15	22	57	143	8	92	7	35	79	71	101	665	364	2-53	
1945	10	64	6	5	77	198	88	126	77	135	90	86	962	701	6-10	
1946	147	306	154	36	77	127	140	105	51	45	105	70	1,363	545	10-36	
1947	3	180	196	38	35	103	181	139	135	183	132	179	1,504	776	8-68	
1948	4	29	5	195	106	159	104	68	47	313	131	144	1,305	797	11-84	
1949	20	112	28	3	163	29	88	30	167	262	87	12	1,001	739	13-63	
1950	1	382	304	51	249	60	77	86	168	101	109	57	1,645	741	12-31	
1951	66	51	14	47	121	281	152	199	47	155	13	74	1,220	955	12-36	
1952	177	51	82	80	235	162	79	106	76	192	190	31	1,461	850	16-06	
1953	136	22	7	46	53	212	188	190	132	110	141	80	1,317	885	14-62	
1954	146	3	11	314	68	83	115	164	49	129	118	243	1,443	608	16-04	
Karkaroc—																
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	
1945	20	51	6	4	55	239	85	136	42	148	74	54	914	705	5-69	
1946	213	275	101	29	134	133	131	92	33	44	115	68	1,368	567	9-18	
1947	6	176	221	55	24	117	168	108	98	195	159	145	1,472	710	10-51	
1948	6	21	2	133	96	155	67	38	42	285	94	91	1,030	683	10-32	
1949	27	181	89	10	251	27	113	30	121	246	90	12	1,197	788	15-58	
1950	1	373	341	33	195	55	106	82	120	139	123	62	1,630	697	15-61	
1951	49	68	5	54	168	244	147	170	42	141	22	36	1,146	912	14-41	
1952	99	42	90	138	295	164	64	98	71	248	228	29	1,566	940	19-11	
1953	120	40	4	41	37	154	154	177	220	112	127	38	1,224	854	18-09	
1954	128	22	15	223	53	52	99	184	67	132	127	229	1,331	587	17-03	

Land Settlement, &c.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1943-44 TO 1954-55—*continued.*

County and Year.	Approximate Mean Rainfall each Month.												Total for Year.	Total Wheat-growing Period.	Average Wheat Yield per Acre.	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	Wheat-growing Months.						Nov.	Dec.				
					May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.						
Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Bushels.	
Tatchera—																
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	0.14	
1945 ..	17	28	13	..	54	276	95	162	39	219	112	44	1,059	845	6.44	
1946 ..	271	313	99	28	132	145	124	105	27	50	120	75	1,489	583	9.35	
1947 ..	15	159	237	49	25	127	174	96	105	228	172	137	1,524	755	11.44	
1948 ..	9	55	2	107	118	130	55	29	64	279	79	94	1,021	675	8.38	
1949 ..	15	155	253	22	231	46	159	32	106	278	116	9	1,422	852	18.74	
1950 ..	1	344	373	63	208	81	137	83	140	178	139	50	1,797	827	19.26	
1951 ..	59	132	5	84	240	289	167	190	23	96	34	20	1,339	1,005	18.31	
1952 ..	61	21	94	182	306	176	61	96	83	242	187	44	1,553	964	22.06	
1953 ..	114	40	6	67	36	144	114	193	159	134	126	31	1,164	780	20.07	
1954 ..	144	22	18	201	48	57	96	150	80	152	159	261	1,388	583	18.58	
Gunbower—																
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	0.33	
1945 ..	54	56	22	2	43	209	124	215	49	175	122	37	1,108	815	7.95	
1946 ..	227	338	77	34	109	112	131	85	29	67	148	39	1,396	533	6.95	
1947 ..	10	116	205	52	21	89	253	118	130	304	144	232	1,674	915	12.10	
1948 ..	13	86	1	149	147	189	71	31	74	259	89	104	1,213	771	9.39	
1949 ..	20	233	314	24	120	85	183	49	146	381	196	17	1,768	964	21.32	
1950 ..	2	180	543	107	202	89	153	91	191	180	161	70	1,969	906	18.90	
1951 ..	110	359	..	58	262	312	170	185	17	94	33	33	1,633	1,040	14.42	
1952 ..	50	19	65	216	297	226	78	78	107	268	247	62	1,713	1,054	19.09	
1953 ..	114	40	6	109	42	162	129	224	160	180	116	25	1,307	897	20.60	
1954 ..	189	48	14	166	61	65	93	156	100	139	225	279	1,535	614	16.62	
Gladstone—																
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	1.01	
1945 ..	47	110	18	4	100	345	165	250	83	130	132	29	1,413	1,073	11.77	
1946 ..	290	305	140	67	129	152	222	111	60	96	116	86	1,774	770	14.30	
1947 ..	4	102	292	82	37	190	297	147	150	347	169	200	2,017	1,168	16.55	
1948 ..	35	138	4	135	160	194	118	65	90	342	113	130	1,524	969	16.05	
1949 ..	20	304	276	9	151	60	165	46	136	349	289	22	1,827	907	21.60	
1950 ..	6	372	406	141	297	68	214	176	246	206	140	76	2,348	1,207	19.28	
1951 ..	66	325	2	91	281	311	241	252	34	198	51	47	1,899	1,317	17.15	
1952 ..	103	55	79	206	348	306	109	177	138	245	303	74	2,143	1,323	22.60	
1953 ..	102	34	3	89	48	228	198	231	207	162	170	65	1,537	1,074	22.82	
1954 ..	132	25	27	237	81	107	140	215	126	168	213	364	1,835	837	20.85	

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1943-44 TO 1954-55—*continued.*

County and Year.	Approximate Mean Rainfall each Month.												Total for Year.	Total Wheat-growing Period.	Average Wheat Yield per Acre.	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	Wheat-growing Months.						Nov.	Dec.				
					May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.						
Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Bushels.	
Bendigo—																
1943	150	41	5	76	55	96	167	101	190	119	57	38	1,035	668	9-39	
1944	30	23	29	155	177	15	107	10	31	94	45	78	794	434	1-31	
1945	63	81	19	2	71	267	161	266	66	151	101	32	1,280	982	12-07	
1946	197	294	102	76	114	113	199	88	34	99	131	85	1,532	647	12-20	
1947	5	225	53	29	126	263	130	157	331	118	234	1762	1,036	16-31		
1948	20	200	1	172	174	221	119	40	81	250	97	125	1,509	885	15-26	
1949	21	361	333	144	100	54	180	49	153	438	387	25	2,115	974	19-46	
1950	7	298	517	194	220	76	192	124	264	194	180	88	2,354	1,070	17-79	
1951	81	589	3	87	304	340	199	205	18	138	52	44	2,060	1,204	14-04	
1952	94	21	48	198	330	278	108	122	134	239	272	66	1,910	1,211	20-55	
1953	115	53	1	72	42	183	182	227	213	186	158	38	1,470	1,033	25-86	
1954	249	79	21	176	73	86	137	227	128	149	234	341	1,900	800	23-65	
Rodney																
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	
1945	146	52	12	4	66	244	173	322	85	217	141	34	1,496	1,107	14-40	
1946	264	372	121	89	94	139	222	114	33	121	188	71	1,828	723	16-32	
1947	14	98	225	72	44	132	303	171	208	357	120	339	2,083	1,215	17-71	
1948	25	252	218	180	279	147	54	114	234	126	145	145	1,774	1,008	19-15	
1949	29	232	354	29	108	79	239	64	177	550	479	36	3,426	1,217	22-42	
1950	6	208	831	199	194	70	170	119	218	190	116	106	2,427	961	19-70	
1951	123	370	2	121	341	391	247	228	28	194	57	57	2,159	1,429	15-19	
1952	72	10	74	220	288	327	142	105	162	298	345	111	2,154	1,322	23-57	
1953	203	50	10	77	70	225	212	301	253	258	134	26	1,819	1,319	26-84	
1954	450	54	14	164	95	108	127	258	161	154	326	408	2,319	903	25-76	
Molra—																
1943	140	32	12	129	72	114	153	154	168	126	58	12	1,170	787	12-72	
1944	5	16	52	163	270	51	129	2	36	100	86	148	1,058	588	2-22	
1945	222	31	4	17	55	264	164	298	92	252	180	34	1,613	1,125	15-97	
1946	216	442	137	91	98	150	267	133	33	113	236	60	1,976	794	14-88	
1947	20	117	263	52	48	155	342	185	185	284	122	348	2,121	1,199	18-39	
1948	18	198	1	173	213	253	106	66	129	243	208	223	1,831	1,010	18-05	
1949	51	175	326	43	171	120	163	52	173	484	352	23	2,133	1,163	20-12	
1950	6	294	691	160	176	92	166	91	188	237	145	80	2,326	950	19-26	
1951	121	288	8	151	302	318	271	229	68	208	65	46	2,075	1,396	17-89	
1952	33	13	81	247	354	362	175	120	183	309	402	154	2,433	1,503	19-70	
1953	133	81	24	79	114	244	184	322	263	288	131	14	1,877	1,415	23-81	
1954	510	53	14	151	94	170	110	232	126	157	384	427	2,428	889	23-92	

Land Settlement, &c.

The following statement shows the areas under the principal varieties of wheat, including wheat for hay, for the seasons 1952-53 and 1953-54. 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.

Over 60 varieties of wheat were sown. 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 1952-53 AND 1953-54.

Variety (in order of Popularity, Season 1953-54.)	1952-53.		1953-54.	
	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.
	Acres.		Acres.	
Insignia	866,728	38.27	995,189	40.97
Quadrat	725,901	32.05	641,622	26.42
Pinnacle	403,338	17.81	519,747	21.40
Magnet	62,286	2.75	66,550	2.74
Bencubbin	54,786	2.42	56,340	2.32
Baldmin	29,534	1.30	38,301	1.58
Gabo	37,408	1.65	36,554	1.50
Pindar	20,518	0.91	16,847	0.69
Ghurka	13,620	0.60	10,046	0.41
Koorda	7,381	0.33	7,992	0.33
Diadem	9,765	0.43	6,859	0.28
Bungulia	2,421	0.11	3,534	0.15
Javelin	2,750	0.12	3,165	0.13
Kendee	1,974	0.09	2,858	0.12
Blue Stem	998	0.04	2,231	0.09
Ranee	2,964	0.13	1,970	0.08
Regalia	2,625	0.12	1,563	0.06
Turvey	903	0.04	1,396	0.06
Celebration	1,984	0.09	1,228	0.05
Glucub	1,932	0.09	1,059	0.04
Bobin	970	0.04	877	0.04
Rajah	794	0.04	789	0.03
Gluyas	596	0.03	748	0.03
Dundee	515	0.02	716	0.03
Federation	520	0.02	621	0.03
Bordan .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	536	0.02
Warigo	1,220	0.05	517	0.02
Insignia 49 .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	377	0.02
All other varieties	10,218	0.45	8,865	0.36
Total	2,264,649	100.00	2,429,097	100.00

It will be noted from the foregoing statement that changes have occurred in the leading varieties during the seasons shown. Free Gallopoli became the leading variety in Victoria in 1929-30, and continued as such until the season 1934-35, when it was superseded by Ghurka. This variety continued as the most popular until it was displaced by Quadrat at the 1946 sowing. Quadrat increased in favour until in the season 1948-49, 47·20 per cent. of wheat sown was of that variety. Due to the rapid headway made by the varieties Insignia and Pinnacle, which were openly released from the Werribee Research Station in 1946 and 1947, the percentage of area sown with Quadrat has declined and was 32·05 in the 1952-53 season, falling further to 26·42 in 1953-54. The varieties Insignia and Pinnacle have increased in popularity to the extent that in 1952-53 their percentages of the area sown were 38·27 and 17·81 respectively, whilst in 1953-54 they had advanced to 40·97 and 21·40 respectively.

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 and Gabo are now the leading varieties. In South Australia the area sown with Gabo was only ·05 per cent. of the total area sown in 1947-48, but the area now sown with this variety amounts to 22·9 per cent., of the total area sown. In Western Australia, Bungulla, Bencubbin, Kondut, Wongoondy, and Gluclub occupy 73 per cent. of the area sown.

PRINCIPAL VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN AUSTRALIAN STATES, 1952-53.

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.
Bencubbin ..	38·4	Insignia ..	38·3	Gabo ..	23·3	Bungulla ..	26·6
Gabo ..	15·8	Quadrat ..	32·1	Bencubbin ..	12·5	Bencubbin ..	22·4
Kendee ..	7·2	Pinnacle ..	17·8	Quadrat ..	4·2	Kondut ..	10·6
Charter ..	5·4	Magnet ..	2·8	Scimitar ..	4·1	Gluclub ..	7·7
Ford ..	5·2	Bencubbin ..	2·4	Insignia ..	3·9	Wongoondy ..	7·4
Celebration ..	4·6	Gabo ..	1·6	Dirk 48 ..	3·8	Eureka 2 ..	3·7
Bordan ..	3·4	Baldmin ..	1·3	Warigo ..	3·8	Gabo ..	3·4
Glen Wari ..	2·2	Pindar ..	0·9	Reldep ..	3·3	Bluclub ..	3·0
Koala ..	2·1	Ghurka ..	0·6	Dirk ..	2·7	Koorda ..	2·7
Quadrat ..	1·8	Diadem ..	0·4	Waratah ..	2·7	Insignia ..	2·5
All others ..	13·9	All others ..	1·8	All others ..	35·7	All others ..	10·0
Total ..	100·0		100·0		100·0		100·0

PRINCIPAL VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN AUSTRALIAN
STATES, 1953-54.

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.
Bencubbin ..	38.2	Insignia ..	41.0	Gabo ..	22.9	Bungulla ..	25.6
Gabo ..	15.8	Quadrat ..	26.4	Bencubbin ..	9.9	Bencubbin ..	21.8
Kendee ..	7.6	Pinnacle ..	21.4	Insignia ..	6.1	Kondut ..	10.4
Ford ..	4.5	Magnet ..	2.7	Dirk 48 ..	5.0	Wongoondy ..	8.9
Bordan ..	4.2	Bencubbin ..	2.3	Bencubbin 48 ..	4.9	Glucub ..	6.4
Celebration ..	3.3	Baldmin ..	1.6	Insignia 49 ..	4.2	Gabo ..	5.7
Charter ..	3.2	Gabo ..	1.5	Quadrat ..	3.7	Insignia ..	4.5
Glen Wari ..	3.1	Pindar ..	0.7	Scimitar ..	3.5	Eureka 2 ..	4.0
Koala ..	2.2	Ghurka ..	0.4	Pinnacle ..	3.0	Koorda ..	2.4
Quadrat ..	2.2	Koorda ..	0.3	Dirk ..	2.9	Blucub ..	2.3
Insignia ..	1.7	Diadem ..	0.3	Reldep ..	2.3	Ranee 4H ..	1.2
Magnet ..	1.6	Bungulla ..	0.2	Warigo ..	2.3	Regalia ..	1.1
All others ..	12.4	All others ..	1.2	All others ..	29.3	All others ..	5.7
Total ..	100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0

NOTE.—The percentages of the principal varieties of wheat sown in Victoria in 1954-55 were:—Insignia 45.78; Pinnacle 24.81; Quadrat 20.54.

Wheat Growing in conjunction with Sheep Grazing and Dairying.

For the season 1947-48, statistics showing the extent to which mixed farming was practised in conjunction with wheat growing were compiled in respect of each State in the Commonwealth. The tabulations were prepared by the Commonwealth Statistician from data prepared by each State.

An analysis of the tables for the State of Victoria for that season discloses that wheat for grain was grown on 13,836 holdings, and the area sown with wheat for grain 3,227,162 acres. On 10,526 holdings, or 76.1 per cent. of the total growing wheat for grain, there were 6,114,977 sheep, or 34.1 per cent. of the State's total of 17,931,173 sheep at 31st March, 1948.

On 10,827 of the holdings growing wheat for grain, or 78·3 per cent. of the total, there were 126,078 dairy cattle at 31st March, 1948. Pigs numbering 42,801 were held on 3,198 holdings which also grew wheat for grain.

The following table shows the total area of holdings growing wheat for grain with particulars of wheat growing, sheep, dairy cattle, and pigs thereon :—

VICTORIA—HOLDINGS GROWING WHEAT FOR GRAIN TOGETHER WITH SHEEP, DAIRY CATTLE, AND PIGS THEREON, SEASON 1947-48.

Area under Wheat for Grain.	Holdings Growing Wheat.		Sheep.		Dairy Cattle.		Pigs.	
	Number.	Total Area under Wheat.	Holdings With.	Total.	Holdings With.	Total.	Holdings With.	Total.
Acres.		Acres.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1- 19	1,133	11,250	767	472,472	1,043	25,620	402	7,109
20- 49	1,295	41,216	966	624,595	1,080	20,547	334	6,187
50- 99	1,750	124,510	1,332	844,231	1,340	18,920	357	6,563
100- 199	3,164	448,128	2,372	1,328,432	2,322	23,459	662	9,084
200- 299	2,314	544,665	1,726	889,242	1,756	14,554	518	5,217
300- 399	1,646	540,386	1,269	621,127	1,238	9,235	366	3,489
400- 499	994	422,612	794	456,467	781	5,074	214	1,624
500- 599	523	276,117	432	252,356	426	2,810	102	813
600- 699	403	251,335	328	178,485	317	2,208	80	1,057
700- 799	216	157,119	185	126,805	182	1,279	53	437
800- 899	150	123,955	133	101,122	131	903	46	498
900- 999	92	85,725	79	67,224	76	465	27	331
1,000-1,999	149	184,429	136	142,637	128	924	36	355
2,000 and over ..	7	15,715	7	9,782	7	80	1	37
Total ..	13,836	3,227,162	10,526	6,114,977	10,827	126,078	3,198	42,801

Seed and Fertilizers used on Wheat Areas (grain and hay), 1953-54.

The total seed wheat used for grain and hay areas amounted to 2,667,508 bushels, and estimated total fertilizers to 79,550 tons. The average rate of sowing in the principal wheat-growing counties ranged from 44 lb. of seed per acre in the County of Millewa to 90 lb. in Ripon.

SEED AND FERTILIZERS USED ON WHEAT AREAS
SEASON 1953-54.
(GRAIN AND HAY.)

District.	Area Sown.	Seed Used.		Fertilizers Used. (Estimated).
		Per Acre.	Total.	
	Acres.	lb.	Bushels.	Tons.
Central	19,461	88	28,543	880
North-Central	17,090	85	24,211	739
Western	46,162	86	66,166	2,409
Wimmera	757,092	73	921,129	27,739
Mallee	1,095,864	57	1,041,071	29,224
Northern	455,959	71	539,552	16,931
North-Eastern	34,445	75	43,056	1,495
Gippsland	3,024	75	3,780	133
Total State	2,429,097	66	2,667,508	79,550

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 2,287,090 acres in fallow during the season 1953-54, 1,031,946 were in the Mallee, 752,519 in the Wimmera, and 357,359 in the Northern districts. The total area of fallow in these three districts—2,141,824 acres—represented 94 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
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	1945-46	3,365,558
1945-46	2,394,032	1946-47	3,566,489
1946-47	2,460,350	1947-48	3,279,182
1947-48	2,527,306	1948-49	3,033,395
1948-49	2,343,685	1949-50	2,867,390
1949-50	2,429,888	1950-51	2,770,549
1950-51	2,153,611	1951-52	2,498,538
1951-52	2,026,965	1952-53	2,264,649
1952-53	2,294,891	1953-54	2,429,097
1953-54	2,287,090	1954-55	2,430,155

Wheat standard.

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.

The following table shows the standard determined in Victoria for each of the ten seasons, 1944-45 to 1953-54 :—

Season.			Weight of Bushel of Wheat, f.a.q.	Season.			Weight of Bushel of Wheat, f.a.q.
			lb.				lb.
1944-45	..	..	63½	1949-50	..	..	64
1945-46	..	..	62½	1950-51	..	..	62½
1946-47	..	..	63½	1951-52	..	..	64
1947-48	..	..	60½	1952-53	..	..	64½
1948-49	..	..	63	1953-54	..	..	64½

**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 1948-49 TO 1953-54.

1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
12,105	11,491	11,203	10,076	10,049	10,900

Oats.

Oats may be cut for hay, stripped for grain or fed off to stock. The proportion of the oat crop used for each of the above purposes varies according to seasonal conditions. Oats as hay or grain form a very suitable fodder reserve on Mallee farms. For many years past, increasing areas of oats have been sown with the object of providing feed for sheep during the winter and early spring months. Some varieties of oats show high powers of recovery, particularly for a grain yield, after such grazing. More than 40 varieties are generally sown, but Algerian, with 49 per cent., Orient, with 24 per cent., and Algeribee, with 11 per cent. of the area predominate. The area harvested (season 1952-53) for hay was 219,448 acres, and for grain 756,129 acres, which produced 315,193 tons of hay, and 12,599,050 bushels of grain respectively. The area of oats sown for grazing purposes amounted to 179,235 acres. The figures for the 1953-54 season were :—Hay, 240,031 acres (366,109 tons), grain, 583,075 acres (9,851,708 bushels), and for grazing, 219,194 acres.

Hay. Particulars of areas harvested and production of the several kinds of hay appear in the following table:—

VICTORIA—HAY PRODUCTION, 1952-53 and 1953-54.

Kind.			Area.	Production.	Average Yield.
			Acres.	Tons.	Tons.
Wheaten .. ..	..	1952-53	32,552	50,766	1.56
		1953-54	39,793	61,142	1.54
Oaten .. ..	..	1952-53	219,448	315,193	1.44
		1953-54	240,031	366,109	1.53
Lucerne .. ..	..	1952-53	44,907	91,354	2.03
		1953-54	48,674	95,155	1.95
Barley, rye, &c. ..	..	1952-53	1,137	1,486	1.31
		1953-54	2,137	2,792	1.31
Grasses and clovers	..	1952-53	454,888	786,418	1.73
		1953-54	476,588	835,464	1.75
Totals .. ..	..	1952-53	752,932	1,245,217	1.65
		1953-54	807,223	1,360,662	1.69

The quantities of hay (in districts) held on rural holdings on the 31st March, 1952, 1953, and 1954, are shown in the following table:—

STOCKS OF HAY HELD ON FARMS.

District.	At 31st March—		
	1952.	1953.	1954.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Central	162,365	200,236	203,235
North-Central	64,963	91,812	93,465
Western	265,972	266,787	320,905
Wimmera	135,713	162,046	164,642
Mallee	44,755	49,403	48,418
Northern	189,090	264,760	293,804
North-Eastern	116,977	140,314	159,782
Gippsland	149,328	172,005	195,048
State	1,129,163	1,347,363	1,479,299

Barley. The area under barley for grain in 1953-54 was 374,555 acres, of which 344,346 were under malting (2 row), and 30,209 under feed (6 row) barley. Although barley is grown generally throughout the State, 254,502 acres, or 68 per cent. of the total area for the season 1953-54, were sown in the counties of Grant, Lowan, Borung, Weeah, and Karkaroc. The figures in the subjoined table show the acreage, production, and yield per acre, for each of the five seasons 1949-50 to 1953-54.

VICTORIA—BARLEY PRODUCTION, 1949-50 TO 1953-54.

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.
1950 ..	211,852	24,271	4,406,009	470,171	20·80	19·37	20·65
1951 ..	196,253	20,843	4,080,473	429,606	20·79	20·61	20·77
1952 ..	160,702	25,522	3,146,415	473,161	19·58	18·54	19·44
1953 ..	205,960	28,637	4,202,643	531,532	20·41	18·56	20·18
1954 ..	344,346	30,209	7,360,055	572,048	21·37	18·94	21·18

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 area, production, and average yield for each of the five seasons, 1949-50 to 1953-54, are given in the following table :—

VICTORIA—MAIZE PRODUCTION, 1949-50 TO 1953-54.

Season.	For Green Fodder.	For Grain.		
		Area.	Production.	Yield per Acre.
	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1949-50	8,311	5,136	194,121	37·80
1950-51	6,753	4,089	186,672	45·65
1951-52	7,943	4,115	167,942	40·81
1952-53	7,019	5,175	203,427	39·31
1953-54	8,621	5,613	298,044	53·10

The annual average yield of the last five seasons was 43·53 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 chief potato-producing State in the Commonwealth. Of a total area of 128,367 acres planted in 1953-54 to potatoes, 52,745 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, 1949-50 to 1953-54 :—

VICTORIA—POTATO PRODUCTION, 1949-50 TO 1953-54.

Season.		Area.	Production.*	Average Yield.	Gross Value.
		Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	£
1949-50	.. ..	50,651	167,881	3·31	3,259,460
1950-51	.. ..	52,482	139,391	2·66	3,661,748
1951-52	.. ..	42,108	178,399	4·24	5,512,002
1952-53	.. ..	52,851	133,148	2·52	4,641,187
1953-54	.. ..	52,745	213,714	4·05	4,087,124

* Includes amounts held on farms for seed, stock feed, &c., as follow :—38,374 tons in 1949-50; 27,102 tons in 1950-51; 30,620 tons in 1951-52; 26,177 tons in 1952-53; and 45,176 tons in 1953-54.

Onions. Onions are grown in nearly every county south of the Dividing Range. The returns for the season 1953-54 shows that in Bourke the yield was 2,564 tons from 409 acres; in Grant 3,515 tons from 659 acres; in Mornington 1,095 tons from 228 acres; in Grenville 7,314 tons from 1,086 acres; in Polwarth

3,927 tons from 542 acres; in Villiers 3,147 tons from 473 acres; and in Buln Buln 462 tons from 76 acres. The following statement shows the area, yield, and value for each of the last five years:—

VICTORIA—ONION PRODUCTION, 1949-50 TO 1953-54.

Season.			Area.	Production.	Average Yield.	Gross Value.
			Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	£
1949-50	..	..	4,093	25,436	6·21	558,886
1950-51	..	..	4,148	18,182	4·38	571,142
1951-52	..	..	4,745	31,150	6·56	946,181
1952-53	..	..	3,866	23,690	6·13	598,173
1953-54	..	..	3,641	22,783	6·26	769,017

Vine Production. The production of dried vine-fruits for the season 1953-54 amounted to 55,742 tons, as compared with a production of 61,687 tons for the previous season. This far exceeds the requirements for home consumption. Overseas exports of Victorian produce for the season 1953-54 amounted to 45,837 tons and 50,255 tons in 1952-53.

Australian production of dried vine-fruits for the season 1953-54 was 89,914 (100,733) tons, of which the Victorian portion represented 62 (61) per cent. (1952-53 figures shown in brackets).

Particulars of vine production for the five seasons 1949-50 to 1953-54 are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—VINE-FRUIT PRODUCTION, 1949-50 TO 1953-54.

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.		
1949-50 ..	2,468	42,552	2,834	4,101,620	3,230,129	87,421	756,458	138,600
1950-51 ..	2,467	42,204	3,109	3,097,254	2,357,716	74,194	485,936	121,611
1951-52 ..	2,409	42,812	2,455	4,391,017	3,472,352	105,113	791,552	77,165
1952-53 ..	2,441	42,710	3,258	5,119,464	2,266,446	141,036	960,917	131,787
1953-54 ..	2,420	42,793	2,984	4,808,185	2,327,302	142,222	879,240	93,377

Of the total quantity of grapes gathered in 1953-54, it is estimated that 235,091 cwt. were used for making wine and spirits, 4,456,422 cwt. for raisins and currants, and 116,672 cwt. for table consumption. The figures for 1952-53 were 228,052 cwt., 4,774,709 cwt., and 116,703 cwt. respectively.

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 following table furnishes details of the area, production, and average yield in each of the five seasons, 1949-50 to 1953-54:—

VICTORIA—TOBACCO PRODUCTION, 1949-50 TO 1953-54.

Season.			Area.	Production.	Produce per Acre.	Gross Value.
			Acres.	Cwt. (dry).	Cwt. (dry).	£
1949-50	..	..	919	5,967	6.49	163,939
1950-51	..	..	1,021	8,138	7.97	336,099
1951-52	..	..	1,500	12,329	8.22	463,159
1952-53	..	..	1,613	13,142	8.08	613,293
1953-54	..	..	2,246	19,237	8.57	1,062,459

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 1949-50 to 1953-54. Australian imports of certain flax products for each of the years ended 30th June, 1949 to 1954 are also shown:—

**VICTORIAN FLAX PRODUCTION AND AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS
OF FLAX PRODUCTS, 1949-50 TO 1953-54.**

Season.	Area.	Straw Delivered at Mills.	Produce Obtained.		Australian Imports (Year ended 30th June).		
			Fibre.	Seed.	Fibre.	Linseed.	Linseed Oil.
	Acres.	Tons.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Gallons.
1949-50 ..	5,261	6,925	15,020	17,771	..	388,631	1,498,572
1950-51 ..	3,633	5,071	14,107	11,664	..	274,531	2,104,712
1951-52 ..	2,821	4,065	17,387	9,433	804	40,319	4,598,718
1952-53 ..	2,840	4,379	16,891	13,706	9,932	5,000	1,487,008
1953-54 ..	9,550	12,984	16,900	13,498	5,821	..	3,567,404

Linseed.

Linseed oil is one of the chief components of paints, varnishes, and linoleum, and has many other industrial uses. The presscake or meal, which remains after the oil has been extracted from the ground and partly-cooked seed, is a valuable stock food.

The area sown to linseed in Victoria for the season 1953-54 was 1,226 acres which produced 8,072 bushels valued at £13,985 (gross.) Figures for 1952-53 were 1,063 acres, 7,036 bushels and gross value £11,082.

Orchards.

The extent of cultivation of each important class of fruit on holdings of one acre and upwards during the seasons 1949-50 and 1952-53 is shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—FRUIT TREES, PLANTS, ETC., IN ORCHARDS
AND GARDENS, 1949-50 AND 1952-53.

Fruit.	Number of Trees, Plants, &c.					
	1949-50.			1952-53.		
	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.
Apples	1,677,923	290,612	1,968,535	1,548,037	355,595	1,903,632
Pears	1,087,865	178,737	1,266,602	1,119,195	174,878	1,294,073
Quinces	49,968	21,665	71,633	47,569	15,117	62,686
Plums	213,366	87,630	300,996	201,660	63,045	264,705
Prunes	26,735	14,540	41,275	29,912	15,263	45,175
Cherries	108,696	76,374	185,070	113,649	57,078	170,727
Peaches	1,123,251	290,123	1,413,374	988,675	214,262	1,202,937
Apricots	400,453	116,757	517,210	402,902	95,311	498,213
Nectarines	27,376	7,793	35,169	24,100	3,555	27,655
Oranges	336,213	118,540	454,753	371,481	102,156	473,637
Mandarins	7,322	1,272	8,594	6,497	2,249	8,746
Grapefruit	20,090	11,957	32,047	26,647	3,457	30,104
Lemons	124,427	51,894	176,321	117,908	27,927	145,835
Figs	14,906	3,268	18,174	10,102	1,303	11,405
Total Large Fruits	5,218,591	1,271,162	6,489,753	5,008,334	1,131,196	6,139,530
Raspberries	333,912	44,252	378,164	254,170	26,152	280,322
Loganberries	114,347	19,931	134,278	97,793	13,586	111,379
Strawberries	5,208,842	447,550	5,656,392	3,727,540	405,870	4,133,410
Gooseberries	72,172	29,462	101,634	55,818	6,597	62,415
Olives	3,609	96,197	99,806	14,377	88,451	102,828
Passion-fruit	18,891	10,588	29,479	15,496	15,023	30,519
Almonds	42,552	36,688	79,240	41,025	16,681	57,706
Walnuts	7,966	3,643	11,609	9,250	3,534	12,784
Filberts	4,584	2,174	6,758	3,777	2,875	6,652
Total Nuts	55,102	42,505	97,607	54,052	23,090	77,142

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.
	No.	Acres.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.
Central District—					
Bourke	572	8,231	256,098	230,592	168,296
Grant	126	1,017	47,156	5,346	3,065
Mornington	738	10,152	840,378	53,734	20,703
Evelyn	674	5,736	203,223	43,731	44,888
North-Central District—					
Anglesey	4	9	381	159	13
Dalhousie	3	4	230	23	
Talbot	168	2,759	193,521	63,621	1,695
Western District—					
Grenville	18	131	4,182	379	23
Polwarth	18	77	6,192	404	22
Heytesbury	7	28	1,875	116	5
Hampden	2	4	162	30	7
Elpon	2	4	182	64	16
Villiers					
Normanby	49	552	51,312	1,022	45
Dundas	8	23	429	89	8
Follett	8	33	2,649	109	12
Wimmera District—					
Lowan	38	945	1,446	293	750
Borong	135	3,235	40,119	16,199	31,104
Kara Kara	29	155	9,314	971	490
Mallee District—					
Millewa	15	139	..	..	..
Weeah					
Karkaroc	742	3,227	1,095	1,988	5,235
Tatchera	280	1,591	7,031	1,380	4,266
Northern District—					
Gunbower	75	971	2,665	496	976
Gladstone	22	152	10,115	1,753	1,950
Bendigo	148	1,531	38,947	29,972	14,186
Rodney	338	10,746	33,038	421,092	424,812
Moira	487	13,583	49,659	417,969	477,198
North-Eastern District—					
Delatite	69	568	15,929	291	1,526
Bogong	120	1,250	58,934	973	799
Benambra	6	8	444	18	88
Wonnangatta	1	1	..	..	..
Gippsland District—					
Croajingolong	12	14	189	49	36
Tambo	10	15	506	174	138
Dargo	22	59	2,809	82	130
Tanjil	11	68	5,347	384	93
Buln Buln	22	216	18,075	570	362
Total for State ..	4,979	67,234	1,903,632	1,294,073	1,202,937

in the following table, where the number of growers, the area under given for the season 1952-53 :—

Apricots.	Plums.	Cherries.	Quinces.	Oranges.	Mandarins.	Grape-fruit.	Lemons and Limes.
Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.
43,487	26,331	28,539	17,785	151	1	70	61,083
35,216	4,470	704	615	2	..	1	840
4,043	29,686	27,165	4,839	72	2	14	17,390
5,920	80,428	91,530	8,032	61	4	70	30,301
8	363	5	69	2	..	..	1
731	11,220	4,812	2,126	1	..	..	54
4,513	1,004	109	126	..	..	..	..
165	218	3	28	..	..	..	..
8	80	2	9	..	..	..	..
20	25	1	10	2	..	..	5
4	6	1	4	..	..	..	1
112	188	5	25	..	..	..	1
330	40	..	3	..	..	..	1
38	34	..	7	1	..	..	2
7,614	389	49	131	19	..	..	4
25,964	4,067	2,963	3,809	168	3	..	455
487	210	963	37	..	..	..	4
80	..	..	..	10,507	168	1,020	560
10,683	950	57	642	203,984	6,306	15,352	7,980
26,738	2,847	132	379	81,627	217	4,129	3,025
1,790	69	11	43	73,923	498	4,535	1,767
528	161	245	23	61	6	5	28
10,050	13,491	381	4,632	16,386	12	496	3,265
143,956	20,789	146	8,649	11,373	32	120	2,460
174,153	61,942	6,024	10,264	71,861	1,377	4,042	15,334
948	197	2,131	102	1,796	61	164	789
160	4,583	4,024	87	1,554	50	27	267
11	101	3	3	14	4	..	9
..
23	59	24	15	18	..	2	9
100	66	54	18	9	1	1	16
121	100	317	29	18	2	6	41
98	145	68	34	20	2	..	36
114	426	259	111	7	..	50	109
498,213	264,705	170,727	62,686	473,637	8,746	30,104	145,835

The following tables show the numbers of growers (in counties) of

Districts and Counties.	Apples.		Pears.		Peaches.	
	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	316	75	329	47	327	39
Grant	68	53	21	42	14	24
Mornington	670	74	175	103	72	26
Evelyn	275	91	101	62	136	49
North-Central District—						
Anglesey	2	4	..	2	..	1
Dalhousie .. .. .	..	5	..	..	..	14
Talbot	167	12	114	35	10	..
Western District—						
Grenville	10	7	3	11	..	2
Polwarth	13	15	2	6	..	1
Heytesbury	3	5	..	1	..	..
Hampden	1	..	..	1	..	..
Ripon	1	1	..	1	..	1
Villiers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Normanby	57	13	3	12	..	1
Dundas	3	6	..	3	..	2
Follett	5	3	1	1	..	..
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	8	12	..	10	3	7
Borong	53	43	46	52	56	35
Kara Kara	24	9	3	15	3	10
Mallee District—						
Millewa .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..
Weeah .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Karkaroo	1	12	4	22	11	34
Tatchera	4	22	1	17	6	34
Northern District—						
Gunbower	5	13	1	11	3	6
Gladstone	14	7	2	7	4	6
Bendigo	55	41	61	25	37	38
Rodney	29	34	263	19	270	8
Moira	96	75	294	22	313	34
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	23	35	1	7	4	9
Bogong	62	55	4	23	2	18
Benambra	2	9	..	3	..	4
Wonnangatta	1	3	..	..	..	..
Gippsland District—						
Crosajngolong .. .. .	..	18	..	1	..	2
Tambo	3	17	..	7	1	2
Dargo	7	18	..	6	..	5
Tanjil	6	11	2	3	1	3
Buln Buln	11	20	2	3	2	..
Total	1,995	818	1,433	581	1,275	415

each kind of fruit and nuts grown in the State for the season 1949-50 :—

Apricots.		Plums.		Cherries.		Quinces.		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.
92	80	131	141	121	70	80	93	..	1	..	2
78	44	18	50	7	6	8	17	1	..	1	..
24	59	149	127	100	33	17	35	7	6	..	4
23	50	273	173	223	45	29	59	7	7	..	1
..
..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	18	48	36	22	17	5	14	..	..	..	..
..
17	3	7	7	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	..
1	2	2	11	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..
..	6	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	3	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..
23	9	2	8	..	1	..	4	..	..	1	1
70	42	21	40	9	12	8	33	..	3	1	6
3	6	1	3	3	8	..	1	..	..	..	..
..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1
..
27	62	1	14	..	1	1	5	3	4	238	246
61	74	5	23	..	2	..	10	1	..	90	48
..
..	7	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	63	7
..	4	..	5	1	3	..	..	..	..	1	1
33	38	37	34	3	12	13	22	..	..	32	15
252	20	52	21	1	3	22	6	..	..	26	19
306	29	200	69	9	8	43	47	5	1	96	37
..
3	6	..	7	4	9	1	2	16	3	3	7
..	7	2	14	6	3	..	2	2	..	8	31
..	1	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
..
..	1	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
..	3	..	6	1	2	..	..	1	1	..	..
..	5	..	5	1	4	..	2	4	2	..	1
1	1	2	4	..	1	..	..	2	1	..	1
1	1	..	4	1	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
1,021	585	952	829	512	244	222	360	52	30	617	430

Number of Growers—*continued.*

Districts and Counties.	Man-darins.		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	228	100	1	7	1	..
Grant	1	1	3	16	..	3
Mornington	1	66	57	1	11	..	3
Evelyn	111	101	2	7	3	6
North-Central District—										
Anglesey	1	..	1
Dalhousie	1	1	..	..
Talbot	3	1	3	..	..
Western District—										
Grenville
Polwarth
Heytesbury
Hampden
Ripon
Villiers
Normanby
Dundas
Follett
Wimmera District—										
Lowan	1	..	..	..	1	4	4	..	..
Borong	1	16	10	24	..	1
Kara Kara	1	1	..	..
Mallee District—										
Millewa	1	1	5	1	1	..	..	..	..
Weeah
Karkaroo	8	82	34	126	21	76	19	93	..	11
Tatchera	3	10	12	24	14	36	39	73	..	3
Northern District—										
Gunbower	5	11	24	17	11	17	4	9	..	..
Gladstone	1	..	1	..	2
Bendigo	1	1	5	14	13	13	13	..	2
Rodney	1	2	3	7	15	12	16	..	2
Molra	5	17	9	31	39	55	16	33	1	6
North-Eastern District—										
Delatite	1	1	..	2	1	10	10	10
Bogong	1	..	1	2	17	17	16	6	7
Benambra	1	3
Wonnangatta	1
Gippsland District—										
Croajingolong	1	1	2
Tambo	1	..	..
Dargo	1	2	3	1	..	2	2
Tanjil	2	..	4	..	..
Buln Buln	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	3
Total	21	125	86	216	519	518	146	344	26	66

The principal fruits grown in the State are apples, pears, peaches, and citrus. The apple and pear crops for the season 1953-54 amounted to 2,338,903 and 3,152,432 bushels respectively.

A considerable quantity of apricots, peaches, and pears is grown, mostly in irrigated areas, for canning purposes. The total output of 3,734,000 cases of canned fruits for the 1954 season comprised apricots, 579,000 cases; peaches (including 98,000 cases of mixed fruits), 1,753,000 cases; and pears, 1,402,000 cases. This output represented 66 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 1952-53 was £8,482,854 and in 1953-54, £8,516,538.

VICTORIA—FRUIT GROWING, 1949-50 TO 1953-54.

—	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Number of Growers	5,482	5,541	5,117	4,979	5,071
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Area	71,046	69,911	68,715	67,234	66,180
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Kind of Fruit—					
Apples	810,836	1,987,059	1,579,123	1,962,604	2,338,903
Pears	1,884,012	2,515,219	2,538,109	2,438,616	3,152,432
Quinces	47,005	60,184	72,755	43,231	36,888
Apricots	608,515	387,650	519,190	399,813	583,695
Cherries	44,359	59,673	69,919	60,753	81,834
Nectarines	17,940	25,531	8,473	13,223	21,573
Peaches	1,236,733	1,359,951	1,590,702	1,419,969	1,804,896
Plums	151,157	206,085	168,535	166,813	173,925
Prunes	17,933	26,287	22,057	26,376	34,979
Lemons	142,887	150,934	182,682	154,715	151,022
Oranges	638,816	744,930	484,235	579,151	678,064
Mandarins	13,852	16,259	15,784	18,014	16,623
Grapefruit	52,953	44,757	48,610	46,133	52,289
Figs	12,825	11,330	7,048	7,740	6,087
Passion-fruit	6,894	5,878	5,687	6,989	6,721
Other Large Fruits	1,142	1,764	1,761	1,776	3,371
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Gooseberries	1,469	1,761	1,841	1,643	1,509
Loganberries	2,528	2,386	2,667	2,213	2,025
Raspberries	3,186	2,947	2,569	2,879	2,390
Strawberries	4,077	5,048	4,799	4,162	3,447
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Almonds	146,081	134,656	89,329	128,197	129,165
Filberts	18,028	19,536	6,955	8,522	6,545
Walnuts	59,109	73,580	148,398	81,464	116,385

**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 686 :—

VICTORIA—DRIED TREE-FRUITS, 1949-50 TO 1953-54.

Year ended June—	Apples.	Apricots.	Figs.	Nectarines.	Peaches.	Pears.	Prunes.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1950 ..	72	230,771	4,112	28	334,194	133,059	301,865	1,004,101
1951 ..	799	56,000	4,862	1,021	257,600	179,200	448,018	947,500
1952 ..	550	46,450	4,147	363	318,686	105,005	381,135	856,336
1953 ..	200	71,756	5,322	21	189,999	94,684	445,191	807,173
1954 ..	66	177,237	6,687	120	124,280	111,809	688,652	1,108,851

**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 1 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 1952-53 was 36,143 acres and the gross value of the estimated production therefrom was £9,713,718. The relative figures for 1953-54 were 30,242 acres and £8,011,744.

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

	Acres.			Acres.	
	1952-53	1953-54		1952-53	1953-54
Carrots	1,917	1,736	Beans, Broad	56	55
Parsnips	988	843	Peas, green	8,024	7,240
Beetroot	684	605	Peas, blue	80	30
Cabbage	2,379	2,081	Asparagus	1,710	1,819
Cauli- flower	3,581	3,289	Brussels Sprouts	899	916
Lettuce	2,217	2,146	Silver beet	38	43
Tomatoes	6,561	3,695	Cucumber	256	214
Pump- kins	2,543	1,864	Marrows	186	139
Turnips	408	341	Melons	398	351
Beans, French	2,662	2,239	Other	556	596

Minor Crops. There are other crops cultivated in Victoria in addition to those enumerated on pages 658 to 665. 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. in July, 1941, and then increased to 19 per cent. in October, 1946, 21 per cent. in December, 1947, and 22 per cent. in September, 1948). 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.	
1947-48	Crops	30,853	3,769,125	157,816
	Pastures	29,056	4,461,025	244,826
1948-49	Crops	29,634	3,654,753	158,889
	Pastures	31,047	5,513,693	308,801
1949-50	Crops	35,418	3,839,023	175,559
	Pastures	35,444	6,726,723	374,461
1950-51	Crops	30,930	3,616,640	168,891
	Pastures	34,284	7,185,111	394,195
1951-52	Crops	33,098	3,378,601	163,205
	Pastures	34,755	7,453,543	415,817
1952-53	Crops	39,839	3,702,344	185,285
	Pastures	39,200	7,946,709	434,042
1953-54	Crops	33,416	3,555,999	170,168
	Pastures	36,782	7,554,522	422,236
1954-55	Crops	34,034	3,608,540	176,132
	Pastures	38,484	8,118,147	459,158

Machinery used on Holdings. Statistics in respect of most kinds of serviceable farming implements for the year 1950 are shown in the table which follows. From 1951 the collection was confined to milking plants, shearing plants, rotary hoes, and tractors.

VICTORIA—MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS IN USE ON
RURAL HOLDINGS AT 31st MARCH, 1950 TO 1954.

	Number.				
	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.
Milking machines—Number of units	54,180	60,339	63,066	65,932	70,845
Shearing machines—Number of stands	20,485	24,755	26,512	27,455	28,688
Tractors—					
Wheeled type	23,235	28,132	33,678	37,484	41,953
Crawler or track type	884	926	1,187	1,271	1,214
Ploughs—					
Single furrow	32,753				
Multiple furrow	43,428				
Cultivators (including scarifiers, harrows)—					
Tandem Disc	7,607	} Not collected			
Other Disc	14,569				
Spring tooth	13,996				
Rigid time	5,120				
Scarifiers	18,988				
Harrows—Number of leaves	191,776				
Rotary Hoes	3,345	} 3,867	} 5,235	} 6,054	} 7,025
Other	1,138				
Fertilizer distributors and broadcasters	18,935				
Grain drills—					
Combine type	16,145				
Other types	9,781				
Maize planters	2,988*				
Harvesting machinery—					
Headers, strippers, and harvesters	14,471	} Not collected			
Binders	16,979				
Mowers	22,059				
Hay rakes	17,133				
Hay pressers and balers	3,973				
Potato diggers	914				
Chaff cutters	20,324				
Spraying plants	3,428				
Fruit graders	920				
Motor trucks, utilities or motor lorries	27,838				
Stationary engines	39,549				
Electric motors ($\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. and over)	12,827				

* Seed Planters.

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. Particulars for the years 1946-47 to 1953-54 are as follows:—

Persons
employed on
Rural
Holdings.

VICTORIA—PERSONS PERMANENTLY ENGAGED ON RURAL HOLDINGS, INCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS, ETC., BUT EXCLUDING CASUAL AND SEASONAL WORKERS, 1946-47 TO 1953-54.

Year ending March.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
1947	92,533	8,784	101,317
1948	92,178	7,353	99,531
1949	88,728	6,509	95,237
1950	86,943	7,676	94,619
1951	89,917	6,380	96,297
1952	88,663	5,814	94,477
1953	91,376	7,017	98,393
1954	92,323	6,896	99,219

NOTE.—Information relating to wages of males temporarily employed was collected in addition to the numbers of those permanently engaged. Such wages amounted to £5,058,642, £6,943,195, £7,463,662 and £8,114,226 during the seasons 1950-51, 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54 respectively.

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 1952-53 and 1953-54. The information has been furnished by the occupiers of holdings:—

VICTORIA—RATES OF WAGES ON RURAL HOLDINGS, 1952-53 AND 1953-54.

Occupations.	Prevalling Rate.	Range.									
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.				
Ploughman per week	1952-53	13	0	0	10	10	0	to	15	0	0
	1953-54	12	0	0	8	10	0	to	13	0	0
Farm Labourers per week	1952-53	13	0	0	10	0	0	to	17	10	0
	1953-54	12	0	0	8	10	0	to	15	0	0
Threshing machine hands per hour	1952-53	6	0	0	5	0	0	to	7	0	0
	1953-54	7	0	0	5	0	0	to	10	0	0
Harvest hands per day	1952-53	2	15	0	2	0	0	to	4	0	0
	1953-54	3	0	0	2	0	0	to	3	10	0
Milkers per week	1952-53	13	0	0	11	10	0	to	15	0	0
	1953-54	12	0	0	10	0	0	to	13	0	0
Maize pickers (without rations) per bag of cobs	1952-53	2	0	0	..	..	..	to	..	..	..
	1953-54	3	0	0	..	..	..	to	..	..	..
Married couples per week	1952-53	19	0	0	15	10	0	to	21	0	0
	1953-54	14	0	0	12	0	0	to	17	0	0
Female servants per week	1952-53	8	0	0	6	0	0	to	9	10	0
	1953-54	6	0	0	4	0	0	to	8	0	0
Shearers, hand (without rations) per 100	1952-53	8	7	0	7	10	0	to	10	0	0
	1953-54	7	15	0	7	3	0	to	7	16	0
Shearers machine (without rations) per 100	1952-53	8	0	0	7	0	0	to	11	0	0
	1953-54	7	0	0	6	15	0	to	10	0	0
Gardeners, market per week	1952-53	12	10	0	..	..	..	to	..	..	..
	1953-54	10	0	0	..	..	..	to	..	..	..
,, orchard per week	1952-53	12	0	0	..	..	..	to	..	..	..
	1953-54	11	0	0	..	..	..	to	..	..	..
Vineyard hands per week	1952-53	12	10	0	..	..	..	to	..	..	..
	1953-54	11	10	0	..	..	..	to	..	..	..

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 the indications are 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 1954.

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	167,220	197,814	523,282	10,761,887	130,946
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
1941	318,441	942,107	980,229	20,412,362	397,945
1950 at 31st March	200,143	1,036,370	1,194,578	19,161,043	212,901
1951 " " ..	186,415	1,021,249	1,195,004	20,011,933	237,127
1952 " " ..	169,246	993,201	1,221,329	21,537,229	213,670
1953 " " ..	153,662	1,024,303	1,272,905	21,368,196	182,824
1954 " " ..	140,818	1,074,573	1,295,611	21,438,007	232,384

* 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, 1861-1954.

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	1941	42,820,132
1881	25,978,115	1950	43,471,953
1891	34,886,343	1951	44,038,613
1901	30,788,000	1952	45,374,989
1911	33,079,155	1953	45,876,896
1921	32,797,704	1954	46,548,027

When making comparisons of the figures in the foregoing table, consideration should be given to the varying acreage under cultivation as shown on page 651.

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, 1948, appears on page 654 of this 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, 1953 and 1954:—

LIVE STOCK IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

1953.

State.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
	('000.)	('000.)	('000.)	No.
Victoria	154	2,297	21,368	182,824
New South Wales	298	3,649	57,461	298,690
Queensland	282	6,751	17,030	335,809
South Australia	57	483	12,036	58,657
Western Australia	50	846	12,475	76,195
Tasmania	18	275	2,421	39,378
Northern Territory	35	936	34	799
Australian Capital Territory	1	10	247	180
Total	895	15,247	123,072	992,532

1954.

State.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
	('000.)	('000.)	('000.)	No.
Victoria	141	2,370	21,438	232,384
New South Wales	280	3,554	59,639	371,608
Queensland	273	7,086	18,194	384,453
South Australia	52	491	11,838	60,619
Western Australia	49	830	13,087	100,912
Tasmania	17	295	2,465	46,256
Northern Territory	37	966	31	1,132
Australian Capital Territory	1	9	252	276
Total	850	15,601	126,944	1,197,640

The next table contains particulars of Live Stock
Distribution 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	23,110	25,235	12,336	3,353	8,571	6,730	1,281
Grant	6,568	15,677	7,363	1,753	5,839	5,645	1,125
Mornington	10,598	82,919	22,968	5,483	20,101	20,006	4,004
Evelyn	3,645	9,886	3,510	970	3,889	3,933	686
North-Central District—							
Anglesey	2,229	3,793	3,205	974	1,413	1,734	283
Dalhousie	2,526	3,300	1,595	333	1,332	1,264	240
Talbot	4,224	9,602	3,502	935	3,402	3,741	661
Western District—							
Grenville	3,651	9,349	9,908	2,194	3,921	3,275	841
Polwarth	2,495	21,684	9,860	1,932	6,806	6,379	1,282
Heytesbury	3,047	34,084	20,927	3,953	10,107	9,877	2,149
Hampden	3,768	25,052	18,746	3,134	9,836	8,599	1,755
Ripon	2,142	3,525	1,979	536	1,413	1,700	371
Villiers	4,448	21,945	18,023	3,958	8,855	7,552	1,533
Normanby	3,820	13,646	14,108	2,959	5,315	6,914	1,235
Dundas	2,919	3,641	5,192	1,368	1,382	2,226	416
Follett	1,111	1,548	2,052	552	286	1,004	149
Wimmera District—							
Lowan	3,300	3,961	2,676	904	1,255	2,139	581
Borong	3,783	5,513	2,696	789	1,489	2,612	690
Kara Kara	1,919	1,987	1,208	263	649	998	205
Mallee District—							
Millewa	491	378	176	46	75	162	47
Weeah	545	773	436	86	192	370	112
Karkaroc	3,263	3,405	1,226	402	697	1,611	312
Tatchera	3,413	8,325	2,572	1,254	2,548	3,487	585
Northern District—							
Gunbower	3,085	25,937	5,771	2,202	7,156	9,126	1,231
Gladstone	2,182	2,063	1,122	295	686	855	208
Bendigo	4,709	13,654	3,509	1,561	3,813	4,957	788
Rodney	4,822	41,748	8,105	3,948	11,094	13,776	2,078
Moira	8,092	22,930	8,295	3,836	7,599	10,681	1,704
North-Eastern District—							
Delatite	4,906	15,212	11,111	4,263	5,590	8,162	1,196
Bogong	5,938	26,686	17,033	6,817	7,204	11,628	1,622
Benambra	3,214	14,065	5,832	2,215	3,286	4,651	631
Wonnangatta	300	738	342	83	149	218	42
Gippsland—							
Croajingolong	1,028	6,120	1,619	473	1,752	1,874	288
Tambo	1,422	4,942	1,868	468	1,463	1,811	284
Dargo	1,262	5,293	1,417	741	1,873	2,024	285
Tanjil	3,790	38,612	11,037	3,527	10,413	10,277	1,619
Buln Buln	11,897	146,747	29,761	8,682	31,690	38,275	6,744
Total for State ..	153,662	673,975	273,086	77,242	193,141	220,273	39,263

in each County of the State as at March, 1953 :—

OF LIVE STOCK, 1953.

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.
11,995	5,965	389	9,899	85,754	14,491	509,204	84,807	594,011
13,602	8,044	855	7,899	67,802	4,711	710,479	157,765	868,244
25,669	10,736	641	14,700	207,227	11,525	219,766	61,149	280,915
5,463	3,147	227	4,639	36,350	6,665	46,412	13,222	59,634
9,607	6,002	380	8,621	36,012	1,878	457,494	67,565	525,059
4,908	3,268	247	4,622	21,109	803	459,462	76,072	535,534
4,582	3,816	278	5,332	35,851	2,819	492,228	124,749	616,977
4,684	2,328	150	5,240	41,890	3,073	682,876	144,130	827,006
5,207	2,745	173	4,491	60,559	6,643	144,968	45,621	190,589
3,921	2,086	174	2,736	90,014	3,340	76,689	22,933	99,622
15,723	8,688	641	13,506	105,680	1,874	842,359	247,859	1,090,218
4,623	2,714	188	3,156	20,205	727	946,303	209,252	1,155,555
21,929	13,186	746	11,754	109,481	1,156	852,653	254,343	1,106,996
13,366	9,060	587	8,203	75,398	2,929	682,550	193,651	876,201
10,318	6,808	447	6,923	38,721	1,118	945,626	238,391	1,184,017
6,606	4,079	299	2,335	18,910	154	241,933	56,686	298,619
2,836	2,298	134	1,641	18,425	1,103	1,271,860	315,597	1,587,457
789	1,224	96	1,850	17,748	3,600	831,700	193,434	1,025,134
1,063	941	57	1,349	8,720	972	552,376	128,123	680,499
128	202	14	72	1,300	193	99,347	34,662	134,009
209	200	18	116	2,512	399	118,496	30,762	149,258
668	710	43	685	9,759	2,238	450,736	112,930	563,666
1,891	1,898	71	2,137	24,768	5,087	414,315	109,963	524,278
5,511	4,763	215	6,434	68,346	12,316	347,956	101,137	449,093
521	649	39	815	7,253	994	423,467	110,299	533,766
3,143	2,872	130	3,050	37,477	7,481	491,245	145,465	636,710
6,262	4,961	264	6,120	98,356	15,169	508,988	173,438	682,426
9,414	7,413	543	10,287	82,702	11,998	1,002,363	246,001	1,248,364
20,349	13,011	744	26,532	106,170	5,970	681,072	159,358	840,430
21,824	14,398	734	17,382	125,323	10,312	386,653	83,702	470,355
28,404	18,673	1,014	17,208	95,979	5,040	242,182	53,830	296,012
1,892	1,143	82	1,756	6,445	152	46,218	8,677	54,895
4,239	2,343	139	2,199	21,046	3,459	42,813	8,730	51,543
10,167	5,605	275	3,652	30,535	1,951	107,128	23,675	130,803
6,940	3,802	191	4,118	26,684	1,646	85,073	19,588	104,661
17,949	11,219	589	16,861	122,103	3,750	310,136	78,807	388,943
25,854	16,432	898	29,506	334,589	25,088	410,222	96,475	506,697
332,256	207,429	12,712	267,831	2,297,208	182,824	17,135,348	4,232,848	21,368,196

Distribution
of Live Stock.The next table contains particulars of Live Stock
VICTORIA—DISTRIBUTION

Statistical Districts and Counties.	Horses.	Dairy Cattle.					
		Cows.		Spring- ing Heifers.	Other Heifers for Dairy- ing.	Calves	Bulls.
		Milk- ing.	Dry.				
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
Central District—							
Bourke	22,285	25,429	13,097	2,642	8,051	6,902	1,283
Grant	6,158	16,514	7,187	1,861	5,520	5,787	1,147
Mornington .. .	9,497	82,179	26,037	7,161	19,596	20,460	4,113
Evelyn	3,518	10,103	4,009	1,107	4,272	3,696	683
North-Central District —							
Anglesey	2,095	3,827	3,161	861	1,414	1,612	302
Dalhouse	2,252	3,537	1,799	417	1,277	1,519	276
Talbot	3,726	9,239	4,480	1,101	3,465	3,932	675
Western District—							
Greenville	3,309	9,978	9,182	2,155	4,482	3,437	884
Polwarth	2,272	22,492	10,193	2,919	6,771	7,280	1,315
Heytesbury .. .	2,842	37,547	18,729	4,797	10,347	9,819	2,176
Hampden	3,584	24,502	19,900	3,608	10,573	8,751	1,821
Ripon	1,975	3,538	2,270	511	1,624	1,691	391
Villiers	4,178	21,653	18,825	4,187	9,399	7,298	1,596
Normanby	3,568	13,290	15,568	3,273	6,078	6,522	1,263
Dundas	2,633	3,177	5,421	1,180	1,915	1,913	435
Follett	1,032	1,188	2,225	600	820	675	140
Wimmera District —							
Lowan	2,980	4,204	3,109	864	1,549	2,080	597
Borong	3,274	5,621	2,879	696	1,855	2,778	723
Kara Kara	1,679	2,087	1,198	261	681	990	204
Mallee District—							
Millewa	416	382	195	71	102	108	45
Weeah	382	867	329	72	174	321	96
Karkaroc	2,591	3,345	1,328	294	728	1,584	317
Tatchera	2,886	8,616	2,718	1,356	2,656	3,268	537
Northern District—							
Gunbower	2,874	25,304	7,073	2,236	7,743	8,463	1,270
Gladstone	1,857	2,087	1,042	240	686	1,045	204
Bendigo	4,263	15,080	3,617	1,720	3,979	5,212	847
Rodney	4,237	44,901	9,341	4,814	12,203	14,592	2,249
Moir	7,297	26,328	10,495	3,761	8,773	11,612	2,044
North-Eastern District—							
Delatite	4,472	13,633	13,656	4,086	5,530	8,504	1,225
Bogong	5,463	24,857	20,607	7,076	6,846	11,516	1,715
Benambra	3,103	13,413	8,515	2,511	3,307	5,031	709
Wonnangatta .. .	268	581	512	46	208	188	34
Gippsland District—							
Croajingolong .. .	961	5,942	1,221	424	1,624	2,323	319
Tambo	1,239	5,822	1,584	582	1,975	2,007	292
Dargo	1,134	5,446	1,690	718	1,782	2,069	277
Tanjil	3,516	39,092	12,335	4,061	10,247	11,138	1,736
Bulu Bulu	11,002	148,373	36,734	12,959	31,152	39,705	7,011
Total for State .. .	140,818	685,084	302,261	87,228	199,404	225,802	40,951

in each County of the State as at March, 1954 :—
OF LIVE STOCK, 1954 :—

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.	
12,093	5,673	394	12,325	87,889	17,466	516,539	109,239	625,778	
14,248	8,081	735	7,248	68,338	5,518	713,151	189,446	902,597	
22,787	10,507	660	14,850	208,350	15,051	232,432	74,807	307,039	
5,293	2,394	250	4,543	36,850	10,043	46,505	14,529	61,034	
9,756	6,462	362	8,647	36,404	2,649	439,010	73,495	512,505	
4,990	3,463	208	4,956	22,442	1,365	455,024	84,716	539,740	
4,532	3,444	232	6,214	37,314	3,752	492,649	146,355	639,004	
4,266	1,858	158	4,907	41,307	3,803	685,038	144,991	830,029	
5,414	2,575	142	3,706	62,807	8,529	143,317	46,721	190,038	
3,658	1,932	191	3,342	92,538	4,096	82,456	17,930	100,386	
16,486	9,475	668	11,981	107,729	2,511	836,263	220,894	1,057,157	
5,223	3,204	235	3,391	22,078	763	981,020	210,321	1,191,341	
23,096	13,201	828	12,782	112,865	1,138	864,013	242,923	1,106,941	
15,120	8,997	643	10,141	80,895	3,449	725,384	180,601	905,985	
11,112	6,578	452	7,769	39,952	1,014	933,773	226,686	1,210,459	
6,796	3,531	258	2,413	18,646	198	232,317	55,044	287,361	
3,744	2,562	160	2,670	21,539	1,342	1,309,324	283,326	1,592,650	
867	860	87	2,440	18,806	3,195	802,983	205,736	1,008,719	
1,026	841	46	1,617	8,951	1,001	527,997	126,133	654,130	
136	91	18	205	1,353	259	102,563	31,737	134,300	
90	85	5	260	2,299	538	115,936	32,522	148,458	
972	693	41	1,245	10,547	2,875	879,542	122,448	501,990	
1,985	1,802	90	2,293	25,121	6,235	332,957	114,838	447,795	
5,531	4,205	219	7,645	69,689	15,583	338,285	111,836	450,121	
497	488	35	930	7,254	1,285	398,645	111,936	510,581	
3,219	2,578	105	3,728	40,085	8,611	472,455	165,991	638,446	
6,491	5,102	284	7,531	107,508	22,097	482,491	188,323	670,819	
10,072	7,346	477	11,751	92,659	17,663	1,015,508	306,295	1,321,803	
18,623	12,352	745	23,664	102,023	7,815	689,335	163,302	852,337	
21,795	13,583	681	17,671	126,347	12,764	377,775	95,853	473,628	
23,575	17,619	996	16,701	97,382	5,988	241,543	52,112	293,655	
1,943	1,090	81	1,373	6,056	146	43,412	8,680	52,092	
4,347	2,622	130	3,248	22,200	4,643	42,137	7,827	49,964	
9,648	5,445	294	3,807	31,456	2,603	105,176	29,073	134,254	
6,769	4,152	233	4,949	28,085	2,065	87,099	21,415	108,514	
18,220	11,323	547	19,705	129,804	5,259	299,380	96,939	396,319	
24,448	15,396	880	27,953	344,616	29,072	409,732	120,006	529,738	
333,873	202,410	12,570	280,601	2,370,184	232,384	17,003,166	4,434,841	21,438,007	

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 1953-54 was £57,730,000 as compared with £51,865,000 in 1952-53 and £47,285,000 in 1951-52. The following table shows the numbers of cow-keepers and cows and the estimated total production of milk for each of the last five years:—

VICTORIA—DAIRYING, 1949-50 TO 1953-54.

As at 31st March—	Number of Cow-keepers.	Number of Dairy Cows.*	Estimated Total Production of Milk for all Purposes (Year ended 30th June).
			'000 Gallons.
1950	Not tabulated	1,036,370	469,253
1951	51,497	1,021,249	445,671
1952	50,635	993,201	446,818
1953	50,492	1,024,303	436,417
1954	50,402	1,074,573	474,358

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

Butter, Cheese, Condensed Milk and Casein.

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

VICTORIA—BUTTER, CHEESE, CONDENSED AND POWDERED MILK, CASEIN MADE, ETC., 1949-50 TO 1953-54.

Year Ended 30th June—	Butter.*	Cheese.*	Condensed and Full-Cream Powdered Milk.	Casein.	Other Milk Products and By-Products
	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	'000 lb.
1950	144,827	47,492	122,997	7,077	39,889
1951	132,263	50,573	116,255	8,657	41,238
1952	135,167	49,852	115,081	8,436	63,896
1953	128,072	49,495	120,664	4,817	70,056
1954	144,247	58,211	109,551	7,682	79,167

* Including that made on farms.

AUSTRALIA—MILK PRODUCTION.

Australian Milk Production.

Victoria is the principal milk-producing State, and in 1952-53 the Victorian output (436.4 million gallons) represented 35.8 per cent. of the Australian production.

The statistics over the last five years are as follow :—

PRODUCTION OF WHOLE MILK.
(’000 gallons.)

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Aust. Cap. Terr.	Total.
1949-50 ..	469,253	311,580	281,125	89,388	49,476	40,243	694	1,241,759
1950-51 ..	445,671	298,159	278,111	83,545	52,407	41,136	687	1,199,716
1951-52 ..	446,818	241,209	181,148	86,482	48,937	46,100	593	1,051,287
1952-53 ..	436,417	317,385	285,757	84,249	49,830	44,269	688	1,218,595
1953-54 ..	472,296	277,747	251,010	85,584	50,582	52,415	781	1,190,415

Numbers and Sizes of Dairy Herds.

The following table shows the number of dairy herds in Victoria, grouped, according to size, for each of the four years, 1951-54 :—

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.	
1951 ..	6,703	2,944	2,021	3,741	6,779	5,780	874	28,842
1952 ..	6,395	2,775	1,959	3,666	6,601	5,698	816	27,910
1953 ..	6,563	2,952	2,004	3,683	6,858	5,863	874	28,797
1954 ..	6,421	3,058	1,969	3,816	7,020	6,410	913	29,607

The numbers of farmers with less than five cows were :—22,655 in 1951, 22,725 in 1952, 21,695 in 1953, and 20,795 in 1954. 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.

Information in respect of the regulation, control, and distribution of the Metropolitan Milk Supply appears on pages 335 to 337 of the 1943-44 *Year-Book*.

Herds of
Dairy Cattle.

In the following table, dairy cattle (as distinct from into herds which are depastured on the differently sized

HERDS OF DAIRY CATTLE IN

Total Area of Holding.	Total in Victoria.				Size of Herd.			
	Herds.		Dairy Cattle.		Number. 1 to 4.		Number. 5 to 9.	
	No.	Percentage to Total.	No.	Percentage to Total.	Herds.	Dairy Cattle.	Herds.	Dairy Cattle.
Under 10	1,880	3.54	7,096	0.47	1,418	2,954	338	2,125
10 and under 25	3,832	7.21	22,393	1.48	2,313	4,610	767	5,128
25 .. 50	3,694	6.95	44,053	2.92	1,586	3,190	533	3,601
50 .. 100	6,167	11.60	175,426	11.62	1,188	2,636	628	4,256
100 .. 150	5,742	10.80	243,961	16.17	645	1,475	444	3,008
150 .. 250	7,369	13.86	366,369	24.23	874	2,077	563	3,769
250 .. 500	8,838	16.62	365,681	24.23	2,026	5,011	1,271	8,512
500 .. 750	5,396	10.15	124,624	8.26	1,951	5,034	1,338	8,817
750 .. 1,000	2,999	5.64	51,262	3.40	1,206	3,149	825	5,464
1,000 .. 1,500	3,299	6.21	47,583	3.15	1,409	3,627	1,018	6,732
1,500 .. 2,500	2,332	4.39	32,513	2.15	1,047	2,772	710	4,698
2,500 .. 5,000	1,129	2.12	16,277	1.08	461	1,218	353	2,336
5,000 .. 10,000	347	0.65	7,031	0.47	89	233	110	719
10,000 .. 20,000	92	0.17	1,886	0.13	27	69	21	135
20,000 and over ..	46	0.09	2,873	0.19	18	46	10	65
Totals ..	53,162	100.00	1,509,028	100.00	16,258	38,101	8,929	59,365

Pigs.

The numbers of pigs in Victoria at 31st March, 1952, About 75 per cent. of these are held in the Central, to dairying. The following tables show classifications (in counties)

dairy cows shown in the table on page 707), have been classified holdings as set out :—

VICTORIA AS AT MARCH, 1950.

Size of Herd—*continued.*

Number. 10 to 14.		Number. 15 to 19.		Number. 20 to 29.		Number. 30 to 49.		Number. 50 to 99.		Number. 100 and over.	
Herts.	Dairy Cattle.	Herts.	Dairy Cattle.	Herts.	Dairy Cattle.	Herts.	Dairy Cattle.	Herts.	Dairy Cattle.	Herts.	Dairy Cattle.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
79	892	24	397	12	285	5	179	4	264	..	..
375	4,401	198	3,337	131	3,054	41	1,477	7	386	..	..
380	4,520	339	5,733	463	11,112	330	12,071	62	3,722	1	104
440	5,265	401	6,818	744	18,099	1,596	62,365	1,140	72,557	30	3,430
248	2,948	263	4,476	518	12,669	1,267	50,850	2,166	146,442	191	22,093
361	4,267	299	5,174	547	13,372	1,137	45,112	2,879	207,028	709	85,570
658	7,760	395	6,630	577	13,973	907	35,562	1,845	132,560	1,159	155,673
507	5,896	238	3,949	268	6,388	310	12,043	463	33,224	321	49,273
303	3,532	140	2,347	116	2,734	125	4,714	181	13,207	103	16,115
342	3,920	115	1,906	108	2,543	79	2,937	116	8,233	112	17,685
243	2,815	86	1,430	69	1,589	61	2,368	57	4,164	59	12,677
121	1,424	58	949	53	1,247	21	774	31	2,320	31	6,009
57	665	23	378	31	716	13	474	12	866	12	2,980
11	130	15	249	4	98	8	327	3	223	3	655
4	48	2	33	2	45	2	75	2	132	6	2,429
4,129	48,483	2,596	43,806	3,643	87,924	5,902	231,328	8,968	625,328	2,737	374,693

1953, and 1954 were 213,670, 182,824, and 232,384 respectively. Western, Northern, and Gippsland districts which are so largely devoted to pigs together with the numbers of pig-keepers :—

VICTORIA—PIGS AND PIG-KEEPERS—MARCH 31st, 1953.

Districts and Counties.	Boars.	Breeding Sows.	All Other.	Total Pigs.	Pig-Owners.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District—					
Bourke		1,580	12,746	14,491	192
Grant	165	652	3,909	4,711	283
Mornington	150	1,865	9,264	11,525	635
Evelyn	396	1,154	5,325	6,665	316
	186				
North-Central District—					
Anglesey	60	324	1,494	1,878	108
Dalhousie	20	107	676	803	67
Talbot	87	408	2,324	2,819	243
Western District—					
Grenville	55	267	2,751	3,073	126
Polwarth	195	999	5,449	6,643	346
Heytesbury	137	565	2,638	3,340	192
Hampden	58	289	1,527	1,874	98
Ripon	22	80	625	727	45
Villiers	34	169	953	1,156	77
Normanby	101	445	2,383	2,929	267
Dundas	34	149	935	1,118	104
Follett	7	25	122	154	18
Wimmera District—					
Lowan	60	159	884	1,103	273
Borong	130	476	2,994	3,600	427
Kara Kara	24	128	820	972	91
Mallee District—					
Millewa	13	36	144	193	30
Weeah	19	91	289	399	66
Karkaroc	64	350	1,824	2,238	222
Tatchera	130	650	4,307	5,087	321
Northern District—					
Gunbower	365	1,853	10,008	12,316	525
Gladstone	26	172	796	994	105
Bendigo	166	949	6,366	7,481	326
Rodney	392	2,092	12,685	15,169	618
Moira	336	1,830	9,832	11,998	593
North-Eastern District—					
Delatite	193	913	4,864	5,970	391
Bogong	323	1,642	8,347	10,312	578
Benambra	130	666	4,244	5,040	224
Wonnangatta	8	48	96	152	19
Gippsland District—					
Croajingolong	83	625	2,751	3,459	113
Tambo	89	303	1,559	1,951	128
Dargo	42	251	1,353	1,646	124
Tanjil	108	631	3,011	3,750	198
Buln Buln	719	3,613	20,756	25,088	1,291
Total for State ..	5,127	26,556	151,141	182,824	9,780*

* Of this number 3,275 had herds of under 5 pigs, 1,634 herds of 5 and under 10 pigs, 2,057 herds of 10 and under 20 pigs, and 2,814 herds of 20 pigs and over.

VICTORIA—PIGS AND PIG-KEEPERS—MARCH 31st, 1954.

Districts and Counties.	Boars.	Breeding Sows.	All Other.	Total Pigs.	Pig-Owners.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District—					
Bourke	254	1,927	15,285	17,466	251
Grant	135	860	4,523	5,518	308
Mornington	439	2,480	12,132	15,051	700
Evelyn	240	1,893	7,910	10,043	396
North-Central District—					
Anglesey	70	424	2,155	2,649	135
Dalhousie	25	141	1,199	1,365	75
Talbot	106	583	3,063	3,752	287
Western District—					
Grenville	64	420	3,319	3,803	148
Polwarth	215	1,447	6,867	8,529	395
Heytesbury	147	788	3,161	4,096	186
Hampden	74	414	2,023	2,511	105
Ripon	22	105	636	763	48
Villiers	32	180	926	1,138	81
Normanby	125	605	2,719	3,449	314
Dundas	34	163	817	1,014	97
Follett	8	43	147	198	22
Wimmera District—					
Lowan	68	240	1,034	1,342	273
Borong	130	549	2,516	3,195	424
Kara Kara	28	150	823	1,001	104
Mallee District—					
Millewa	15	52	192	259	33
Weeah	22	106	410	538	59
Karkaroc	89	490	2,286	2,875	275
Tatchera	166	951	5,118	6,235	360
Northern District—					
Gunbower	432	2,523	12,628	15,583	563
Gladstone	40	207	1,038	1,285	126
Bendigo	193	1,222	7,196	8,611	345
Rodney	509	3,596	17,992	22,097	701
Moira	484	3,112	14,067	17,663	739
North-Eastern District—					
Delatite	233	1,468	6,114	7,815	437
Bogong	363	2,226	10,175	12,764	631
Benambra	167	1,006	4,815	5,983	261
Wonnangatta	6	28	112	146	14
Gippsland District—					
Croajingolong	88	719	3,836	4,643	111
Tambo	76	477	2,050	2,603	143
Dargo	68	421	1,576	2,065	139
Tanjil	132	873	4,254	5,259	223
Buln Buln	788	5,022	23,262	29,072	1,344
Total for State ..	6,097	37,911	188,376	232,384	10,853*

* Of this number 3,330 had herds of under 5 pigs, 1,727 herds of 5 and under 10 pigs, 2,266 herds of 10 and under 20 pigs, and 3,530 herds of 20 pigs, and over.

The following tabulation shows the number of dairy herds (in size groups) separated into those where pigs are held in conjunction therewith, and those where no pigs are held. The sizes of pig herds are also shown:—

VICTORIA—PIG-KEEPING IN CONJUNCTION WITH DAIRYING AS AT MARCH, 1948.

Size of Dairy Cattle Herd.	Size of Pig Herd.								Holdings with Pigs.	Holdings with no Pigs.	Holdings with Dairy Cattle.
	Number. 1-4.	Number. 5-9.	Number. 10-14.	Number. 15-19.	Number. 20-29.	Number. 30-49.	Number. 50-99.	Number. 100 and over.			
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1-4 ..	786	119	90	56	56	49	39	35	1,230	15,103	16,333
5-9 ..	1,037	191	122	62	77	68	42	19	1,618	7,547	9,165
10-14 ..	628	126	114	26	64	39	30	11	1,038	3,409	4,447
15-19 ..	355	132	94	52	53	33	15	6	740	2,044	2,784
20-29 ..	506	270	182	102	115	66	20	9	1,270	2,677	3,947
30-49 ..	529	610	425	293	336	213	57	16	2,479	3,631	6,110
50-99 ..	333	499	575	483	769	770	324	49	3,802	4,527	8,329
100 and over	61	47	92	86	177	308	253	73	1,097	1,407	2,504
Totals ..	4,235	1,994	1,694	1,160	1,647	1,546	780	218	13,274	40,345	53,619

Sheep.

The numbers of sheep in Victoria in various years since 1861 are shown in the table on page 700. 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 tables on pages 702 to 705.

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. Climatical conditions also play a large part in determining the proportion of lambs dropped to ewes mated, and thus the natural increase from season to season may vary considerably. The following table shows the numbers of ewes mated and lambs dropped, in each of the six years 1949 to 1954:—

VICTORIA—LAMBING, 1949 TO 1954.

Season.	Lambs Marked.	Ewes Mated to produce such Lambs.	Proportion of Lambs Marked to Ewes Mated
	No.	No.	%
1949	6,995,650	8,558,079	81.7
1950	7,063,583	8,613,812	82.0
1951	7,054,934	8,908,544	79.2
1952	7,118,392	9,131,780	78.0
1953	6,969,950	9,256,489	75.3
1954	7,502,337	8,857,348	84.7

Flocks of Sheep in Districts.

The following table contains a classification of the flocks of sheep in each district of Victoria as at March, 1948. 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 63.28 per cent. of the owners, the number of sheep in those groups was only 21.44 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.	Percentage to Total.	No.	Percentage to Total.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.
Under 50	3,147	10.78	71,156	0.40	448	10,167	202	5,178
50 and under 100	2,106	7.22	153,219	0.86	274	20,968	209	14,923
100 .. 250	6,144	21.05	1,040,000	5.82	750	125,004	520	88,433
250 .. 500	7,069	24.23	2,568,710	14.37	702	252,439	635	231,130
500 .. 1,000	6,184	21.19	4,296,458	24.03	509	355,229	577	404,753
1,000 .. 2,000	3,150	10.79	4,277,266	23.93	259	355,453	259	355,465
2,000 .. 5,000	1,115	3.82	3,198,694	17.89	80	236,904	105	287,993
5,000 .. 10,000	207	0.71	1,387,366	7.76	12	78,434	12	81,236
10,000 .. 20,000	52	0.18	645,666	3.61	5	64,553	3	38,622
20,000 and over ..	9	0.03	238,127	1.33	..	..	..	..
Totals	29,183	100.00	17,876,662	100.00	3,039	1,499,151	2,522	1,507,733

Breeds of
Sheep as
at March,
1953.

Although the principal breed of sheep in the State is the "Merino", the percentage of pure Merino sheep, at the 31st March, 1953, was only 39 as compared with 76 in New South Wales. In 1950 the percentages were 36 in Victoria and 75 in New South Wales.

The method of collecting particulars of breeds was changed considerably in 1950 and, apart from Merinos, all comparison with breeds of previous years is nullified. Merino Comebacks were previously collected as a whole, irrespective of whether they were fine or coarse. The 1950 collection made provision for segregating those "finer than half-bred" while those not up to that standard were included with other crossbreds.

Similarly, it cannot be determined if any increase in the numbers of other Pure Breeds (British and Australasian) has occurred as another very important change in method was the substitution of the category "Other Recognized Breeds" in place of the former category "Other Pure Breeds". Other Pure Breeds in 1947 numbered 1,407,349 whereas in 1953 Other Recognized Breeds numbered

VICTORIA AS AT MARCH, 1948.

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.
818	17,033	286	8,117	108	2,814	326	7,735	460	9,630	499	10,482
374	27,320	335	24,471	144	10,564	341	24,779	202	14,029	227	16,165
759	123,278	1,060	182,699	735	127,135	1,369	233,210	501	84,348	450	75,893
855	316,801	1,164	432,575	939	336,768	1,724	619,148	611	222,187	439	157,062
1,229	886,174	1,016	689,506	581	382,945	1,282	885,199	612	432,320	378	260,332
961	1,315,420	464	632,706	140	180,274	524	700,848	312	424,114	231	312,986
490	1,456,109	180	500,750	32	83,744	98	277,631	65	179,459	65	176,104
130	876,260	25	173,183	3	22,322	10	63,953	7	41,069	8	45,904
36	449,696	5	58,734	..	..	2	22,601	1	11,460	..	..
7	192,825	..	..	1	21,602	1	23,700	..	..	..	..
5,659	5,660,916	4,535	2,702,741	2,683	1,168,168	5,677	2,863,809	2,771	1,418,616	2,297	1,055,528

5,220,326. Crossbreds, which numbered 6,923,603 in 1947 dropped to 5,625,483 in 1953 notwithstanding the inclusion of half-bred and coarser Merino Comebacks.

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 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.

Tables showing the breeds of sheep in Victoria and in Australia appear on page 720 of this issue of the *Year-Book*.

The following tables set out the numbers of rams, ewes, wethers and lambs depastured on rural holdings in each county of the State as at March, 1952, 1953, and 1954, also the numbers of ewes mated, classified according to whether the progeny is intended for wool or for fat lamb production. The breeds of rams are also shown.

Rams, Ewes,
&c., in
Counties at
March, 1952,
1953, and
1954.

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

Statistical Districts and Counties.	Rams.	Ewes.		Wethers.	Lambs.	Total Sheep and Lambs.
		Breeding. (Mated and not mated.)	Other.			
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District—						
Bourke	8,163	290,684	26,624	183,733	84,807	594,011
Grant	9,304	403,224	50,376	247,575	157,705	868,244
Mornington .. .	5,092	175,560	7,560	31,554	61,149	280,915
Evelyn	710	29,045	3,121	13,536	13,222	59,634
North-Central District—						
Anglesey	4,812	205,886	17,638	229,158	67,565	525,059
Dalhousie .. .	4,916	214,562	21,029	218,955	76,072	535,534
Talbot	8,489	305,112	26,469	152,158	124,749	616,977
Western District—						
Grenville	11,866	339,588	62,007	269,415	144,130	827,006
Polwarth	2,881	89,971	10,870	41,246	45,621	190,589
Heytesbury .. .	1,622	65,049	2,152	7,866	22,933	99,822
Hampden	15,218	474,959	72,033	280,144	247,859	1,090,218
Ripon	13,607	425,289	101,401	406,006	209,252	1,155,555
Villiers	11,935	451,999	69,252	319,467	254,343	1,100,996
Normanby .. .	7,748	325,695	59,400	239,707	193,651	876,201
Dundas	10,988	451,448	78,379	404,801	238,391	1,184,017
Follett	2,465	105,632	9,109	124,727	56,686	293,619
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	14,093	597,925	86,048	573,794	315,597	1,587,457
Borong	11,310	454,923	51,406	314,056	193,434	1,025,134
Kara Kara .. .	8,024	282,137	41,808	220,407	128,123	680,499
Mallee District—						
Millewa	1,465	69,779	3,329	24,774	34,662	134,009
Weeah	1,551	82,890	1,632	32,423	30,762	149,258
Karkaroc .. .	6,067	340,561	5,497	95,611	112,930	563,666
Tatchera .. .	6,800	350,637	6,201	50,627	109,963	524,278
Northern District—						
Gunbower	6,601	269,294	7,974	64,087	101,137	449,093
Gladstone .. .	5,430	242,949	28,537	146,551	110,299	533,766
Bendigo	8,689	339,180	14,430	128,946	145,465	636,710
Rodney	10,285	394,942	10,826	92,935	173,438	682,426
Moira	17,982	785,656	15,433	183,242	246,001	1,248,364
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	10,651	452,272	25,561	192,588	159,358	840,430
Bogong	6,523	283,324	14,172	82,634	83,702	470,355
Benambra .. .	2,881	136,659	10,732	91,850	53,830	296,012
Wonnangatta ..	470	24,249	1,909	19,590	8,677	54,895
Gippsland District—						
Croajingolong ..	394	16,225	8,132	18,062	8,730	51,543
Tambo	1,297	62,172	6,505	37,154	23,675	130,803
Dargo	825	43,793	6,035	34,362	19,588	104,661
Tanjil	3,534	169,663	17,844	119,095	78,907	383,943
Buln Buln .. .	5,716	246,353	21,543	136,610	96,475	506,997
Total	250,427	9,999,346	1,003,129	5,882,446	4,232,848	21,363,196

BREEDS OF RAMS IN EACH COUNTY (EXCLUSIVE
IN TOWNS) AS AT MARCH, 1953.

Ewes Mated (for Lambing during Season 1953).		Breeds of Rams (as at March, 1953).						
To Merino, Corriedale or Polwarth Rams (Wool Production).	To Rams of British Breeds (Fat-lamb Production).	Merino.	Corriedale.	Polwarth.	Border Leicester.	Dorset Horn.	South-down.	Other.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
67,170	209,101	722	1,337	213	604	3,026	1,156	1,105
225,532	137,235	2,306	2,290	1,112	699	1,832	363	702
21,590	146,236	65	775	38	405	818	1,557	1,434
7,904	18,846	40	147	34	52	90	163	184
98,036	94,591	1,463	879	189	88	597	1,240	356
91,012	103,362	1,590	547	133	515	1,243	635	253
175,675	112,348	3,361	1,938	121	1,031	1,268	95	675
243,134	54,619	7,443	1,625	1,427	224	666	119	362
45,874	37,185	47	378	1,512	82	118	248	496
5,091	58,194	13	65	28	55	142	882	437
366,044	62,560	6,505	3,734	3,238	112	436	348	845
358,337	30,798	11,756	747	281	149	479	69	126
344,582	53,770	5,640	3,157	1,800	239	273	176	650
239,384	48,453	2,979	2,802	593	95	374	128	777
545,260	39,441	6,164	3,285	348	44	461	249	447
57,423	39,102	563	730	145	113	211	48	655
454,579	71,899	9,996	2,177	103	146	793	96	782
279,586	145,414	5,011	2,170	100	1,439	1,516	264	810
174,963	74,940	5,357	834	41	1,001	639	4	148
54,158	10,829	1,137	156	50	66	76	1	29
46,975	34,265	476	465	50	206	296	31	27
101,498	234,678	751	1,108	67	2,138	1,723	11	269
70,981	273,348	558	677	53	3,541	1,521	101	344
102,831	161,612	1,703	1,144	143	1,082	1,877	200	452
153,984	75,930	2,783	999	29	1,028	323	24	244
132,247	194,450	2,520	1,419	78	2,540	1,626	83	423
92,748	290,285	723	1,656	66	2,688	2,901	1,080	1,171
178,656	586,878	1,004	2,905	257	3,613	5,092	3,578	1,533
187,084	244,606	2,265	1,739	398	1,568	1,246	1,641	1,704
84,475	187,173	799	1,009	253	2,274	798	632	758
68,601	52,033	968	542	121	221	512	140	387
13,938	8,502	115	86	71	15	59	24	100
7,633	6,029	196	41	1	52	15	..	89
40,304	16,159	575	281	115	78	68	32	148
25,729	12,017	381	172	26	95	49	23	132
92,834	57,474	1,537	473	191	105	586	104	538
72,585	158,690	700	1,015	43	489	1,474	891	1,104
6,113,437	4,143,052	90,162	45,504	13,423	28,892	35,224	16,436	20,786

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

Statistical Districts and Counties.	Rams.	Ewes.		Wethers.	Lambs.	Total Sheep and Lambs.
		Breeding. (Mated and not mated).	Other.			
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District—						
Bourke	7,868	274,266	26,927	207,478	109,239	625,778
Grant	9,004	375,368	48,114	280,665	189,446	902,597
Mornington	5,204	176,883	12,601	37,744	74,607	307,039
Evelyn	819	27,662	1,627	16,397	14,529	61,034
North-Central District—						
Anglesey	4,765	197,331	14,237	222,627	73,495	512,505
Dalhousie	4,876	209,929	21,892	218,327	84,716	539,740
Talbot	8,580	301,148	20,278	162,643	146,355	639,004
Western District—						
Grenville	11,313	328,472	64,642	280,611	144,991	830,029
Polwarth	2,869	91,765	13,763	34,920	46,721	190,038
Heytesbury	1,905	72,771	1,690	6,090	17,930	100,386
Hampden	14,776	475,612	67,308	278,567	220,894	1,057,157
Ripon	13,948	439,734	98,343	428,995	210,321	1,191,341
Villiers	12,953	452,442	77,820	320,798	242,928	1,106,941
Normanby	7,967	330,733	62,012	324,672	180,601	905,985
Dundas	10,874	454,407	81,319	437,173	226,686	1,210,459
Follett	2,546	101,579	10,023	118,169	55,044	287,361
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	14,278	568,677	107,112	619,257	283,326	1,592,650
Borong	10,475	407,644	54,839	330,025	205,736	1,008,719
Kara Kara	7,880	251,494	45,553	223,070	126,133	654,130
Mallee District—						
Millewa	1,343	66,462	5,842	28,916	31,737	134,300
Weeah	1,451	80,737	736	33,012	32,522	148,458
Karkaroo	5,935	280,692	10,298	82,617	122,448	501,990
Tatchera	6,257	274,367	5,423	46,910	114,838	447,795
Northern District—						
Gunbower	6,236	258,622	11,470	61,907	111,836	450,121
Gladstone	5,288	221,886	23,987	147,484	111,936	510,581
Bendigo	8,081	321,898	15,180	127,296	165,991	638,446
Rodney	9,696	362,092	17,217	93,486	188,328	670,819
Moira	18,308	773,406	27,737	196,057	306,295	1,321,803
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	10,355	449,975	22,342	206,663	163,302	852,637
Bogong	6,816	279,797	13,102	78,060	95,853	473,628
Benambra	2,767	131,472	10,893	96,411	52,112	293,655
Wonnangatta	438	22,764	2,332	17,878	8,680	52,092
Gippsland District—						
Croajlong	363	19,022	3,773	18,979	7,827	49,964
Tambo	1,432	63,837	5,772	34,135	29,078	134,254
Dargo	840	43,203	5,848	37,208	21,415	108,514
Tanjil	3,435	165,440	16,342	114,163	96,939	396,319
Buln Buln	5,804	251,216	17,171	135,541	120,006	529,738
Total	247,795	9,604,805	1,045,615	6,104,951	4,434,841	21,438,007

BREEDS OF RAMS IN EACH COUNTY (EXCLUSIVE IN TOWNS) AS AT MARCH, 1954.

Ewes Mated (for Lambing during Season 1954).		Breeds of Rams (as at March, 1954).						
To Merino, Corriedale or Polwarth Rams (Wool Production).	To Rams of British Breeds (Fat-lamb Production).	Merino.	Corriedale.	Polwarth.	Border Leicester.	Dorset Horn.	South-down.	Other.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
63,613	192,033	897	983	207	525	2,844	1,016	1,396
214,585	125,717	2,213	2,130	1,397	653	1,841	181	589
17,163	149,224	63	774	22	302	1,002	1,550	1,491
9,839	17,157	50	186	21	64	137	156	205
95,582	87,625	1,585	854	159	85	550	1,132	400
88,732	100,051	1,520	663	60	549	1,280	599	205
167,319	113,333	3,637	1,796	120	951	1,098	120	858
244,401	49,873	7,422	1,383	1,311	183	595	79	340
45,293	39,637	60	373	1,389	81	160	249	557
3,561	68,393	7	67	24	21	146	1,103	537
365,201	61,647	6,342	3,275	3,299	93	659	300	808
362,055	32,941	11,796	1,006	289	117	536	55	149
349,647	52,337	6,703	3,015	1,919	202	321	183	610
242,479	54,250	2,852	2,976	599	87	489	134	330
344,471	45,778	6,549	2,495	349	30	674	216	561
62,993	38,917	576	542	134	198	332	84	680
438,338	65,925	10,553	1,954	65	68	700	97	841
258,304	118,566	5,299	1,928	77	1,087	1,441	135	508
165,196	57,863	5,577	563	250	792	533	5	160
52,391	6,929	1,076	149	..	50	65	..	3
46,038	33,769	404	457	43	182	325	28	12
32,944	189,052	528	1,281	26	1,940	1,875	7	278
52,385	215,486	397	654	48	3,178	1,632	59	289
91,008	159,506	1,378	1,278	44	992	2,050	121	423
144,187	58,018	2,902	978	12	957	310	18	111
121,548	183,162	2,148	1,306	89	2,246	1,765	99	428
75,890	273,153	631	1,589	68	2,388	2,926	1,130	964
169,056	583,742	1,011	2,993	335	3,515	5,572	3,499	1,383
176,678	247,315	2,014	1,621	496	1,402	1,383	1,657	1,782
80,404	186,834	932	933	280	2,251	1,092	653	675
74,054	47,394	945	552	184	184	480	147	275
9,588	9,634	85	73	51	13	48	30	138
7,724	6,293	185	25	..	37	20	6	90
43,915	13,453	737	274	109	76	52	33	151
26,652	11,049	367	172	43	84	46	9	119
99,621	50,882	1,576	340	149	102	743	110	415
75,228	162,327	653	1,051	57	470	1,427	1,020	1,126
4,948,083	3,909,265	91,670	42,689	13,725	26,155	37,149	16,020	20,387

AUSTRALIA—BREEDS OF SHEEP—31st MARCH, 1953.

State.	Merino.	Other Recognized Breeds.	Merino Comeback (Finer than Half-bred).	Crossbred (including Half-bred and coarser Comebacks).	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales	43,713,685	3,541,545	4,141,779	6,063,991	57,461,000
Victoria	8,271,360	5,220,326	2,251,027	5,625,483	21,668,196
Queensland	16,775,974	54,165	50,063	149,421	17,029,623
South Australia	10,135,154	813,772	209,144	873,444	12,036,514
Western Australia	11,273,462	461,235	185,544	554,431	12,474,672
Tasmania	278,659	1,100,155	338,464	704,261	2,421,539
A.C.T. and Northern Territory	257,000	16,000	3,000	5,000	281,000
Australia	90,705,000	11,212,000	7,179,000	13,976,000	123,072,000

VICTORIA—BREEDS OF SHEEP—31st MARCH, 1953.

Statistical District.	Merino.	Other Recognized Breeds.	Merino Comeback (Finer than Half-bred).	Crossbred (including Half-bred and coarser Comebacks).
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central	320,426	554,488	163,732	764,158
North-Central	635,593	368,903	226,366	448,708
Western	3,037,881	2,400,363	640,216	709,363
Wimmera	2,369,406	439,574	133,912	359,198
Mallee	408,976	187,202	212,833	562,200
Northern	743,539	641,106	472,918	1,682,746
North-Eastern	379,384	398,932	182,933	700,393
Gippsland	326,105	229,758	218,067	403,717
State	8,271,360	5,220,326	2,251,027	5,625,483

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 1952-53.

Statistical District.	Shorn.		Wool Clipped (including Crutchings).		Average.	
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep's.	Lamb's.	Per Sheep.	Per Lamb.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Central	1,671,629	416,565	15,277,795	1,235,778	9.14	2.97
North-Central	1,667,215	350,646	14,770,472	949,421	8.86	2.71
Western	6,609,732	1,683,125	65,331,633	4,620,229	9.83	2.75
Wimmera	3,233,318	779,696	33,979,333	2,324,933	10.49	2.98
Mallee	1,295,103	364,703	13,259,437	1,064,736	10.24	2.92
Northern	3,419,320	959,609	31,532,095	2,853,633	9.22	2.97
North-Eastern	1,645,250	406,860	14,734,772	1,060,201	8.96	2.61
Gippsland	1,117,523	313,893	10,219,513	820,477	9.14	2.61
State Total	20,664,590	5,275,102	199,105,150	14,929,508	9.64	2.83

**VICTORIA—SHEEP AND LAMBS SHORN (IN DISTRICTS),
SEASON 1953-54.**

Statistical District.	Shorn.		Wool Clipped (including Crutchings).		Average.	
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep's.	Lamb's.	Per Sheep.	Per Lamb.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Central	1,590,476	444,854	14,223,086	1,198,225	8.94	2.69
North-Central	1,616,763	358,727	14,586,023	864,996	9.02	2.41
Western	6,512,076	1,538,684	57,855,422	3,637,685	8.89	2.36
Wimmera	3,171,835	732,100	30,496,744	1,910,951	9.61	2.61
Mallee	1,086,906	318,366	10,550,038	866,871	9.71	2.72
Northern	3,186,038	1,027,579	28,637,062	2,777,852	8.99	2.70
North-Eastern	1,594,545	412,536	13,544,956	995,028	8.49	2.41
Gippsland	1,041,730	337,186	9,198,341	840,266	8.83	2.49
State Total	19,800,369	5,170,032	179,091,672	13,091,874	9.04	2.53

VICTORIA—SHEEP SHORN AND WOOL CLIPPED.

Season.	Shorn.		Wool Clipped (including Crutchings).		Average.	
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep's.	Lamb's.	Per Sheep.	Per Lamb.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1949-50	16,922,401	5,322,921	158,500,000	15,367,000	9.37	2.89
1949-50	17,985,003	4,648,333	175,453,000	12,630,000	9.76	2.72
1950-51	18,039,029	5,054,730	178,898,000	14,313,000	9.92	2.88
1951-52	19,378,191	5,380,821	186,342,000	15,434,000	9.62	2.71
1952-53	20,664,590	5,275,102	199,105,000	14,929,000	9.64	2.83
1953-54	19,800,369	5,170,032	179,092,000	13,092,000	9.04	2.53

VICTORIA—WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE.

Season.	Clip.	Stripped from and Exported on Skins, &c. (Greasy).	Total Quantity (Greasy).	Gross Value.	Average Price per lb.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	£	d.
1948-49	173,867,000	30,212,458	204,079,458	38,894,704	45.74
1949-50	188,089,000	37,159,564	225,242,564	57,415,306	61.18
1950-51	193,211,000	25,055,009	218,266,009	132,945,656	146.18
1951-52	201,776,000	23,182,638	224,958,638	63,637,774	67.89
1952-53	214,034,658	38,160,707	252,195,365	78,760,501	74.95
1953-54	192,183,546	31,297,490	223,481,036	73,384,149	78.81

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.

**Economic
Wool
Research.**

A Wool Section of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, whose activities are mentioned on page 650 of this issue of the *Year-Book*, has been developed in order to discharge the Bureau's responsibility for economic wool research under the *Wool Use Promotion Act* of 1945 and is financed from the Wool Research Trust Account. Briefly, under this Act, the proceeds from the wool tax of 4s. per bale are paid into the Wool Use Promotion Fund, which is available to the Wool Board for promoting the use of wool throughout the world. The Commonwealth Government pays a similar amount from Consolidated Revenue into the Wool Research Trust Account to be used in scientific, economic, and cost research and in the co-ordination and application of the results of such research. The C.S.I.R.O. is responsible for biological and textile research and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics for economic research. The two organizations work in co-operation in their wool research programme.

The work of the Wool Section falls into two main categories—Farm Production economics (dealing with the economics of wool growing and sheep station management) and Marketing economics (dealing with the economic aspects of wool marketing both within Australia and overseas).

**Marketing
of Wool.**

The long established system of marketing wool by public auctions re-commenced in 1946-47. During the seasons 1939-40 to 1945-46 clip values were established on appraisalment methods under an agreement between the British and the Australian Governments.

Upon the resumption of open auction sales an insatiable world-wide demand for wool, particularly in respect of the finer descriptions, was responsible for creating the most remarkable range of values in wool trade history and demonstrated the fact that the world's supply of the finer descriptions of the staple is considerably short of trade requirements. The results achieved were not secured on any promise of lessened production, but in the face of normal full-clip figures, plus heavy offerings of old wool, the legacy of war-time appraisement.

The highest prices obtained for greasy merino fleece wool sold in Victoria and in Australia during each season from 1930-31 to 1953-54 are shown hereunder. Average weighted prices for wool of Victorian production appear on page 721 of this issue of the *Year-Book* :—

Season.	Victoria	Australia.	Season.	Victoria.	Australia.
	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1930-31 ..	31½	31½	1942-43 ..	39	39½
1931-32 ..	38½	38½	1943-44 ..	40¾	40¾
1932-33 ..	22½	28½	1944-45 ..	39	40¾
1933-34 ..	36½	42	1945-46 ..	41½	41½
1934-35 ..	22½	24½	1946-47 ..	121½	153
1935-36 ..	29½	35½	1947-48 ..	135	138½
1936-37 ..	36½	46¾	1948-49 ..	181	210
1937-38 ..	33½	33½	1949-50 ..	183	188
1938-39 ..	26½	28	1950-51 ..	351	354½
1939-40 ..	31	33½	1951-52 ..	244	287
1940-41 ..	33½	33½	1952-53 ..	264	367
1941-42 ..	33½	34½	1953-54 ..	250	255

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 auctioned in Victoria. Wool from the Riverina and the south-east of South Australia is included in Victorian sales:—

**PRICES OF WOOL IN VICTORIA, 1952-53
AND 1953-54.**

Class of Wool.	Average Price per lb. in—	
	1952-53.	1953-54.
GREASY MERINO.		
Extra Super (Western District)	160 to 264	150 to 250
Super	132 to 174	120 to 160
Good	100 to 130	103 to 124
Average	80 to 110	86 to 102
Wasty and Inferior	70 to 90	65 to 85
Extra Super Lambs	350 to 428½	330 to 570
Super Lambs	225 to 325	200 to 310
Good Lambs	85 to 110	75 to 110
Average Lambs	65 to 90	60 to 90
Inferior Lambs	40 to 60	45 to 65
GREASY CROSSBRED.		
Extra Super Comebacks	114 to 148½	120 to 146
Super Comebacks	90 to 138	95 to 125
Fine Crossbred	65 to 100	66 to 106
Medium Crossbred	56 to 90	60 to 94
Coarse Crossbred and Lincoln	52 to 80	54 to 82
Super Fine Crossbred Lambs	84 to 105	82 to 104
Good Crossbred Lambs	66 to 90	70 to 92
Coarse and Lincoln Lambs	60 to 75	65 to 82
SCOURED.		
Extra Super Fleece	160 to 210	160 to 200
Super Fleece	150 to 190	145 to 180
Good Fleece	130 to 170	125 to 165
Average Fleece	110 to 150	115 to 145
RECORD PRICES FOR THE SEASON.		
Greasy Merino Fleece	264	250
„ Comeback Fleece	148½	146
„ Merino Lambs	428½	570
„ Comeback Lambs	160	135
Scoured Fleece	210	200

In the following table will be found a statement of the average prices of live stock ruling in metropolitan saleyards at Newmarket during the years 1950-51 to 1953-54. The averages stated are the mean of the monthly prices

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, 1950-51 TO 1953-54.

Stock.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	Average.	Average.	Average.	Average.
<i>Fat Cattle.</i>				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bullocks—				
Extra prime	46 4 3	59 13 6	58 2 0	61 3 4
Prime	42 3 8	55 2 4	53 5 5	54 11 1
Good	38 2 10	50 4 4	48 9 4	48 16 3
Good light and handy weights	33 19 2	45 0 6	43 6 8	44 5 0
Second	Not Available	Not Available	37 9 10	37 0 8
Cows—				
Best	29 8 5	39 2 1	38 4 8	38 6 1
Others	24 0 11	33 11 10	32 16 0	32 7 0
<i>Dairy Cattle.</i>				
Milkers (best)	28 9 0	39 10 8	47 6 4	48 19 7
Springers (best)	24 18 6	32 3 0	39 16 3	43 1 7
<i>Fat Sheep.</i>				
Crossbred Wethers—				
Extra Prime	6 0 9	4 15 3	3 14 5	4 7 9
Prime	5 4 1	4 3 1	3 6 5	3 16 11
Good	4 8 3	3 12 5	2 16 10	3 3 0
Crossbred Ewes—				
Extra Prime	4 14 9	3 9 1	2 11 6	3 0 3
Prime	3 17 3	2 16 8	2 2 8	2 11 10
Good	2 12 4	2 1 9	1 8 7	1 12 11
<i>Fat Lambs.</i>				
Extra Prime	5 16 0	4 15 0	4 12 11	4 16 2
Prime	4 18 8	4 2 9	4 0 11	4 4 8
Good	3 15 3	3 8 8	3 3 0	3 6 4
<i>Pigs.</i>				
Back Fatters—				
Extra heavy prime	29 5 7	30 2 4	34 5 7	44 17 6
Prime medium and weighty	23 7 9	23 17 9	26 2 1	32 15 11
Baconers—				
Medium and heavy	13 18 10	17 9 10	19 18 6	21 15 1
Light	11 7 10	14 9 3	16 12 0	19 0 5
Porkers	8 16 6	10 15 11	12 4 6	13 10 4

The following table shows the number of slaughtering establishments and of the stock slaughtered in the State during each of the five years, 1950-54 :—

VICTORIA—STOCK SLAUGHTERED, 1950 TO 1954.

Kind of Stock.	Stock Slaughtered in Establishments and on Farms and Stations.				
	Year Ended June—				
	1950.	1951.	1952*	1953*	1954*
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Sheep	4,059,490	2,844,887	3,188,512	4,593,639	4,454,528
Lambs	4,315,233	3,008,921	2,845,674	3,810,855	3,254,271
Bullocks	567,940	597,901	602,326	558,574	646,632
Cows					
Young Cattle					
Calves	333,161	323,335	357,213	289,462	361,628
Pigs	299,753	312,334	337,864	296,962	297,891
Number of Slaughterhouses ..	449	444	412	412	392

* Average dressed weights per carcass during 1952-53 were : Sheep 44·97 lb. ; Lambs 35·00 lb. ; Bullocks, Cows and Young Cattle 439·75 lb. ; Calves 57·14 lb. ; Pigs 132·19 lb.

The Average weights in 1953-54 were : 43·90 lb., 33·26 lb., 442·83 lb., 56·72 lb, and 128·64 lb.

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 1947 to 1954 as shown in the statement hereunder :—

FROZEN MUTTON AND LAMB EXPORTED FROM VICTORIAN PORTS.

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

Year Ended 30th June.	Carcasses Exported (exclusive of certain service requirements consumed outside Australia).			
	Mutton.		Lamb.	
	Number.	Average Weight.	Number.	Average Weight.
		lb.		lb.
1947	623,151	53	1,948,097	39
	(1,063,095)	(49)	(2,801,618)	(38)
1948	283,934	50	1,628,867	38
	(483,151)	(48)	(2,544,966)	(38)
1949	258,110	49	1,154,564	38
	(567,115)	(48)	(2,281,531)	(37)
1950	881,724	54	2,217,789	37
	(1,313,036)	(53)	(3,331,843)	(37)
1951	58,770	53	710,575	38
	(149,832)	(52)	(1,192,311)	(37)
1952	80,740	54	426,420	41
	(105,682)	(56)	(581,017)	(40)
1953	789,000	56	1,309,000	38
	(1,496,000)	(54)	(2,235,000)	(37)
1954	447,000	51	700,000	34
	(1,008,000)	(51)	(1,312,000)	(34)

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 pages 702 to 705 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 1949-50 to 1953-54:—

SILAGE IN VICTORIA, 1949-50 TO 1953-54.

Season ended March.	Farms on which Silage Made.		Districts in which Made.							
			Central.	North Central.	Western.	Wimmera.	Mallee.	Northern.	North Eastern.	Gippsland.
	No.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1950 ..	596	25,687	6,523	826	1,704	604	614	1,248	2,873	11,295
1951 ..	590	26,105	6,481	576	2,191	932	354	1,990	2,985	10,596
1952 ..	611	24,591	5,323	481	4,193	745	402	1,554	2,815	9,078
1953 ..	890	45,643	9,583	1,451	7,716	2,013	605	2,646	7,599	14,030
1954 ..	1,245	69,830	15,672	1,197	11,897	3,194	391	3,168	10,108	24,203

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 1 acre and upwards. As a consequence, production was understated because of the exclusion of (a) hives on areas of less than 1 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 1950-54 are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—BEE-HIVES, HONEY, AND BEESWAX, 1949-50
TO 1953-54.

Season Ended May—	Bee-keepers.*	Hives.	Production.		Gross Value.	
			Honey.	Beeswax.	Honey.	Beeswax.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	£	£
1950	1,584	114,676	7,743,866	78,124	258,129	11,719
1951	1,562	115,976	8,087,654	90,605	286,438	27,182
1952	1,494	104,652	5,207,972	55,963	216,999	19,587
1953	1,382	109,120	6,234,904	71,536	285,766	19,672
1954	1,319	107,971	9,382,259	100,562	430,020	35,197

* Apiarists with 20 hives and over numbered 950 in 1950, 943 in 1951, 874 in 1952, 877 in 1953 and 874 in 1954.

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, eggs and egg pulp, and potatoes. The Potato Marketing Board was constituted on 17th November, 1948.

**Wholesale
Prices of
Principal
Products.**

The following table gives the monthly average of the Melbourne wholesale prices of the principal agricultural, dairying, and pastoral food products for the year ended June, 1953:—

MELBOURNE—WHOLESALE PRICES—YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1953.

	1952.						1953.					
	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.
Agriculture—												
Wheat .. per bushel	s. d. 10 9½	s. d. 10 9½	s. d. 10 9½	s. d. 10 9½	s. d. 10 9½	s. d. 10 9½	s. d. 12 8½	s. d. 12 8½	s. d. 12 8½	s. d. 12 8½	s. d. 12 8½	s. d. 12 8½
Barley—												
English	12 5	12 5	13 5½	13 5½	13 5½	13 5½	17 4½	17 4½	17 4½	17 4½	17 4½	17 4½
Cape	11 2¼	11 2¼	12 5¼	12 5¼	12 5¼	12 5¼	15 9	15 9	15 9	15 9	15 9	15 9
Oats, Milling	8 9	8 0	8 3	7 10	7 4	6 8	6 7	6 9	6 10½	7 0	6 10½	6 10
Maize	21 0	21 0	21 0	21 0	21 0	21 0	21 0	21 0	21 0	21 0	21 0	17 3
	£ s. d.	£ 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	20 18 3	20 18 3	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0
Pollard	20 18 3	20 18 3	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0
Flour (first quality) ..	24 13 1	24 13 1	24 2 0	24 2 0	24 2 0	28 3 0	28 3 0	28 3 0	28 3 0	28 3 0	28 3 0	28 3 0
Chaff	19 10 0	19 10 0	19 10 0	19 15 0	20 5 0	20 0 0	19 10 0	18 10 0	17 5 0	17 5 0	17 10 0	17 15 0
Potatoes	33 10 0	29 0 0	29 0 0	21 0 0	21 0 0	28 3 4	30 17 1	20 0 0	20 0 0	30 10 0	30 10 0	31 10 0
Onions	41 4 0	41 4 0	34 4 0	25 0 0	31 5 0	29 11 0	32 4 0	33 5 0	33 10 0	33 10 0	34 0 0	34 0 0
Dairy and Farmyard												
Produce—												
Butter .. per lb.	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½
Bacon	3 10	3 10	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 6	4 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	4 3
Ham	4 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	4 3	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 3	4 3	4 6
Cheese (matured) ..	2 9½	2 9½	2 9½	2 9½	2 9½	2 9½	2 9½	2 9½	2 9½	2 9½	2 9½	2 9½
Honey	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11
Eggs per doz.	5 1	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 6	4 10	5 1	5 1	5 1
Butchers' Meat—												
Beef, prime .. per 100 lb.	£ s. d. 7 17 6	£ s. d. 8 2 1	£ s. d. 7 10 5	£ s. d. 6 13 11	£ s. d. 6 5 0	£ s. d. 6 11 8	£ s. d. 6 2 6	£ s. d. 6 5 5	£ s. d. 6 1 3	£ s. d. 6 2 11	£ s. d. 6 5 10	£ s. d. 6 5 0
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Mutton .. per lb.	9-75	9-87	9-50	8-00	8-48	8-44	8-23	8-89	8-78	9-00	9-44	9-94
Veal	18-17	17-08	15-50	15-50	16-50	16-67	18-00	17-33	17-50	16-83	17-17	17-50
Pork	33-00	34-25	38-00	33-62	33-50	36-13	35-63	33-88	34-50	35-12	35-38	34-63
Lamb	22-50	21-50	19-75	18-25	17-69	19-50	19-00	23-50	25-25	26-00	26-25	28-00

The following table gives the monthly average of the Melbourne wholesale prices of the principal agricultural, dairying, and pastoral food products for the year ended June, 1954:—

MELBOURNE—WHOLESALE PRICES—YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1954.

	1953.						1954.					
	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.
Agriculture—												
Wheat .. per bushel	s. d. 12 8½	s. d. 12 8½	s. d. 12 8½	s. d. 12 8½	s. d. 12 8½	s. d. 12 8½	s. d. 14 1½	s. d. 14 1½	s. d. 14 1½	s. d. 14 1½	s. d. 14 1½	s. d. 14 1½
Barley—												
English .. "	17 4½	17 4½	17 4½	17 4½	17 4½	17 4½	13 8½	13 8½	13 8½	13 8½	13 8½	13 8½
Cape .. "	15 9	15 9	15 9	15 9	15 9	15 9	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0
Oats, Milling .. "	7 0	7 0	7 2	7 2	7 2	6 8	7 4	7 10	7 10	8 3	8 6	8 7
Maize .. "	17 0	18 6	18 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	18 3	18 3	18 3	19 6
	£ s. d.	£ 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	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	21 6 0	21 6 0	21 6 0	21 6 0
Pollard .. "	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	20 5 0	21 6 0	21 6 0	21 6 0	21 6 0
Flour (first quality) .. "	28 4 0	28 4 0	28 4 0	28 4 0	28 4 0	28 4 0	33 6 3	33 6 3	33 0 0	33 0 0	33 0 0	33 0 0
Chaff .. "	18 5 0	17 5 0	17 5 0	16 10 0	16 5 0	16 5 0	16 5 0	16 5 0	16 10 0	16 10 0	15 15 0	15 10 0
Potatoes .. "	37 10 0	60 0 0	62 10 0	68 0 0	55 0 0	55 0 0	32 0 0	32 12 6	26 10 0	26 10 0	24 0 0	17 10 0
Onions .. "	34 10 0	34 0 0	34 0 0	45 0 0	32 0 0	55 0 0	55 0 0	39 10 0	39 10 0	39 10 0	36 0 0	39 0 0
Dairy and Farmyard												
Produce—												
Butter .. per lb.	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½	s. d. 3 9½
Bacon .. "	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 5	4 4	4 4	4 3	4 3	4 3	4 3	4 0	4 0
Ham .. "	4 6	4 6	4 9	5 0	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 0	5 0	4 9	4 8
Cheese (matured) .. "	2 9½	2 9½	2 9½	2 11	2 11	2 11	2 11	2 11	2 11	2 11	2 11	2 11
Honey .. "	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11
Eggs .. per doz.	5 1	4 8	4 8	4 8	4 8	4 8	4 8	4 8	5 0	5 0	5 0	5 0
Butchers' Meat—												
Beef, prime .. per 100 lb.	£ s. d. 6 13 9	£ s. d. 7 10 9	£ s. d. 7 11 3	£ s. d. 7 5 10	£ s. d. 6 16 9	£ s. d. 6 14 1	£ s. d. 6 11 9	£ s. d. 6 18 9	£ s. d. 6 14 4	£ s. d. 6 15 11	£ s. d. 6 17 4	£ s. d. 7 1 1
Mutton .. per lb.	11·31	12·81	11·13	9·52	8·92	8·64	9·23	9·36	9·23	9·23	10·16	11·13
Veal .. "	17·83	17·83	17·50	17·50	17·00	18·00	17·33	19·50	18·50	18·00	18·67	18·00
Pork .. "	38·00	40·88	40·38	40·75	39·75	41·88	38·75	38·88	39·13	38·75	36·13	35·06
Lamb .. "	32·50	33·25	27·75	22·00	20·25	20·13	22·25	23·63	23·63	23·75	23·00	23·00

**Retail
Prices.**

The following table gives the monthly average of the Melbourne retail prices of certain items of groceries, &c., for the year ended June, 1953 :—

MELBOURNE—RETAIL PRICES—YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1953.

Article.	Unit.	1952.						1953.					
		July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.
		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Groceries, &c.—													
Bread	2 lb.	12-00	12-00	12-00	12-50	12-50	13-00	13-00	13-00	13-00	13-00	13-00	13-00
Flour, self-raising	"	15-00	15-00	15-00	15-00	15-00	15-40	16-00	15-95	15-95	15-95	15-95	15-95
Tea	lb.	47-74	47-63	47-06	47-58	47-20	47-22	47-10	47-10	47-10	47-10	47-10	55-55
Sugar	"	8-00	8-00	8-00	8-80	8-90	9-00	9-00	9-00	9-00	9-00	9-00	9-00
Jam, plum	1½ lb.	27-10	27-10	26-75	26-40	26-50	26-50	26-95	26-95	27-20	27-25	27-20	27-00
Oats, flaked	lb.	11-00	10-92	11-08	10-92	10-92	10-92	10-92	10-92	10-60	8-80	8-20	8-33
Raisins, seeded	"	31-72	31-61	31-72	31-72	31-50	31-55	31-70	31-70	31-70	31-70	31-89	31-89
Currants	"	21-57	21-57	21-57	21-65	22-13	22-19	21-71	21-64	21-86	22-57	22-69	22-71
Apricots, dried	"	56-13	59-50	59-50	59-50	59-50	59-60	59-60	59-60	59-38	59-38	59-38	60-42
Peaches, canned	30 oz.	33-60	33-10	32-50	32-80	33-40	33-40	33-11	33-30	33-35	33-45	33-45	33-55
Pears, canned	"	35-85	35-65	34-11	34-70	35-00	35-25	34-77	34-90	35-00	35-00	34-70	35-05
Potatoes	7 lb.	35-00	31-50	31-50	23-92	23-83	23-80	35-00	21-00	24-50	31-50	31-50	31-33
Onions, brown	lb.	6-00	5-90	5-90	4-60	4-90	5-00	5-00	4-90	5-00	5-00	5-00	5-00
Dairy Produce—													
Butter, factory	lb.	49-50	49-50	49-50	49-50	49-50	49-50	49-50	49-50	49-50	49-50	49-50	49-50
Eggs, new laid	doz.	59-00	58-90	59-00	58-90	58-90	58-90	58-90	61-70	65-50	66-00	69-00	69-00
Bacon, rashers	lb.	67-38	67-38	67-38	67-38	67-38	67-75	67-38	67-38	67-75	68-50	73-75	73-63
Milk, fresh	quart	17-50	17-50	17-00	17-00	17-00	17-00	17-00	17-00	17-00	18-50	18-50	18-50
Meat—													
Beef	lb.	September Quarter			December Quarter			March Quarter			June Quarter		
" rib	"	38-40			37-74			38-13			38-43		
" steak, rump	"	33-70			32-74			32-43			32-75		
" " chuck	"	48-43			48-17			48-33			48-33		
" " brisket	"	32-80			32-17			32-27			32-50		
" sausages	"	21-09			20-83			20-30			20-15		
" corned silverside	"	37-40			36-73			37-23			37-27		
" " brisket	"	29-80			28-57			28-97			28-66		
Mutton, leg	"	24-60			23-68			23-76			23-81		
" forequarter	"	16-55			14-96			14-67			15-05		
" loin	"	22-52			21-89			22-38			22-76		
" chops, loin	"	24-21			22-55			23-74			23-95		
" " leg	"	25-13			23-95			25-17			24-83		
Pork, leg	"	48-56			49-81			51-74			51-00		
" chops	"	49-58			50-37			52-40			51-87		

Land Settlement, &c.

Retail Prices.

The following table gives the monthly average of the Melbourne retail prices of certain items of groceries, &c., for the year ended June, 1954:—

MELBOURNE—RETAIL PRICES—YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1954.

Article.	Unit.	1953.						1954.						
		July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	
		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	
Groceries, &c.—														
Bread	2 lb.	13-00	13-00	13-00	13-00	13-00	14-00	14-00	14-00	14-00	14-00	14-00	14-00	
Flour, self-raising	"	15-95	16-00	16-00	16-00	16-00	17-50	17-50	17-50	17-50	17-50	17-50	17-50	
Tea	lb.	55-30	55-05	55-05	55-05	55-05	55-05	55-05	55-05	55-05	55-05	55-15	55-15	
Sugar	"	9-00	9-00	9-00	9-00	9-00	9-00	9-00	9-00	9-00	9-00	9-00	9-00	
Jam, plum	1½ lb.	27-20	27-10	27-10	27-10	27-10	27-20	27-20	27-20	27-20	27-20	27-30	27-30	
Oats, flaked	lb.	8-17	8-17	8-17	8-17	8-17	8-17	8-17	8-17	8-17	8-17	8-80	9-00	
Raisins, seeded	"	31-89	31-89	31-89	31-89	31-89	31-89	31-89	31-89	31-89	31-25	31-25	30-56	
Currants	"	22-79	22-83	22-83	22-83	22-83	22-83	22-75	22-75	22-75	22-69	22-69	22-56	
Apricots, dried	"	60-64	61-07	60-69	60-93	60-56	60-56	59-92	59-92	59-92	59-21	59-42	61-56	
Peaches, canned	30 oz.	33-50	33-50	33-50	33-50	33-50	33-50	33-45	33-50	33-50	33-50	33-55	33-60	
Pears, canned	"	35-00	35-05	35-05	35-05	34-70	34-70	34-75	34-90	35-05	35-05	35-60	35-75	
Potatoes	7 lb.	36-90	48-23	56-00	63-00	63-00	33-83	35-00	28-58	28-00	28-00	28-00	24-11	
Onions, brown	lb.	5-00	5-00	5-00	6-00	6-00	8-00	8-00	5-40	5-50	5-50	5-50	5-42	
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory	lb.	49-50	49-50	49-35	49-35	49-35	49-35	49-35	49-35	49-35	49-35	49-35	49-35	
Eggs, new laid	doz.	69-00	63-00	63-00	63-00	63-00	63-00	63-00	67-40	67-00	67-00	67-00	67-00	
Bacon, rashers	lb.	74-00	74-50	74-50	74-50	80-13	80-13	80-13	80-13	80-13	80-13	80-13	80-13	
Milk, fresh	quart	18-50	18-50	18-50	18-50	18-00	18-00	18-00	18-00	18-00	18-00	18-00	18-00	
Meat—														
		September Quarter				December Quarter			March Quarter			June Quarter		
Beef,	lb.	38-43	38-29	38-29	38-29	38-29	38-33	38-33	38-33	38-33	38-33	38-33	38-90	
" rib	"	32-53	33-03	33-03	33-03	33-03	33-32	33-32	33-32	33-32	33-32	33-60	33-60	
" steak, rump	"	48-40	49-35	49-35	49-35	49-35	49-37	49-37	49-37	49-37	49-37	49-43	49-43	
" " chuck	"	32-57	32-10	32-10	32-10	32-10	32-10	32-10	32-10	32-10	32-10	32-40	32-40	
" sausages	"	20-13	19-87	19-87	19-87	19-87	19-84	19-84	19-84	19-84	20-00	20-00	20-00	
" corned silverside	"	37-03	37-29	37-29	37-29	37-29	37-87	37-87	37-87	37-87	37-87	37-87	37-87	
" " brisket	"	28-53	27-60	27-60	27-60	27-60	28-17	28-17	28-17	28-17	28-17	28-33	28-33	
Mutton, leg	"	23-79	23-30	23-30	23-30	23-30	23-86	23-86	23-86	23-86	23-86	23-95	23-95	
" " forequarter	"	15-52	14-62	14-62	14-62	14-62	14-43	14-43	14-43	14-43	14-43	14-86	14-86	
" " loin	"	22-52	21-95	21-95	21-95	21-95	22-14	22-14	22-14	22-14	22-38	22-38	22-38	
" " chops, loin	"	24-09	22-95	22-95	22-95	22-95	23-19	23-19	23-19	23-19	23-43	23-43	23-43	
" " leg	"	25-33	24-98	24-98	24-98	24-98	25-43	25-43	25-43	25-43	26-57	26-57	26-57	
Pork, leg	"	55-58	58-56	58-56	58-56	58-56	59-88	59-88	59-88	59-88	58-85	58-85	58-85	
" " chops	"	56-60	59-77	59-77	59-77	59-77	60-22	60-22	60-22	60-22	59-40	59-40	59-40	

FORESTRY

Administration. The forests of the State comprise both reserved and protected areas and are controlled by a Commission appointed in 1919.

Forests Area. At the 30th June, 1954, the area of reserved forest was 5,183,337 acres, much of which can be classed only as protection forest and is not strictly speaking timber producing. It is estimated that there are 10,000,000 acres of Crown lands in the State carrying merchantable timber.

Protected Forests. In addition to the 5,183,337 acres aforementioned, there were 175,155 acres reserved as 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 6,250,000 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.

Forests Output. The following table shows the estimated production of sawn timber, fuel timber and miscellaneous timber during each of the years 1952-53 to 1954-55 :-

Year Ended June—	Sawn Timber. (a)	Fuel Timber. (b)	Miscellaneous Timber. (b)
	000's cubic feet.	000's cubic feet.	000's cubic feet.
1953	17,623	24,160	7,465
1954	19,057	23,400	6,636
1955	23,148	13,000	10,071

(a) These figures are estimates of sawn timber obtainable from the recorded volumes of logs cut.

(b) Volumes estimated from recorded quantities in various units (generally actual volumes are not recorded).

Particulars of sawn timber and firewood, from all sources, will be found in part "Factories" &c., of the *Year-Book*.

Softwood Plantations.

The total area planted during 1952-54 planting seasons was 931 acres, bringing the total area of softwood plantations at 30th June, 1955, to 56,218 acres.

Plantation Output.

The output of plantation-grown softwood logs, excluding pine pulpwood was :—

1952-53	..	..	15,377,240 superficial feet
1953-54	..	..	15,728,844 " "
1954-55	..	..	18,082,138 " "

Other Commercial Softwood Plantations.

Since 1952, there has been a marked increase in the area and number of private commercial softwood plantations established in Victoria.

The biggest contribution to this acreage was made by Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd., which has established 14,000 acres of softwood plantations in the South Gippsland area. Planting is continuing and is anticipated that the timber output from these plantations will supply most of the company's requirements of long-fibred pulp for its Maryvale paper mill near Morwell. This type of pulp is produced from softwood timber and is used in mixture to strengthen the shorter fibred pulp derived from native hardwood timbers.

Additional to the above new planting, several small plantation areas of 200 acres or less have been established for commercial purposes in southern Victoria by private individuals. The area planted by State Schools under the school endowment plantation scheme is 1,500 acres.

A recent census disclosed that the total area of private softwood plantations in Victoria to be almost 42,000 acres.

Nurseries.

To encourage tree planting in the rural areas of the State, the Forests Commission distributed plants from four main nurseries situated at Macedon, Creswick, Wail and Merbein. These nurseries supplied the main climatic zones and in addition to these, softwood plants (mainly pines) are available from eleven smaller nurseries attached to State plantations. Despatches of plants from all nurseries were :—1952-53, 686,870; 1953-54, 810,400; and 1954-55, 913,725.

Forestry Fund.

Particulars in respect of this fund (established in 1918) will be found on page 355 of the 1943-44 issue of the *Year-Book*.

Revenue and Expenditure. The revenue derived from forest sources during the financial year 1953-54 was £2,351,706, and the expenditure £2,991,772—£1,170,085 of which was paid out of the Consolidated Revenue, £899,825 out of loan funds, and the balance (£921,862) from the Forestry Fund.

Silviculture of Indigenous Forests. The various types of silvicultural operations in the indigenous forests over the period 1951-52 to 1954-55 are indicated in the following table:—

VICTORIA—SILVICULTURAL OPERATIONS IN STATE FORESTS, 1951-52 TO 1954-55.

Nature of Work.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
First thinning	7,127	3,828	3,080	5,195
Second or subsequent thinning ..	6,646	2,370	6,906	6,266
Regeneration or liberation treatment	4,177	4,539	7,896	16,694
Coppice treatment	5,883	4,606	10,593	13,154
Total area treated	23,833	15,343	28,475	41,309

The Wood-Pulp Agreement Act. 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”. Details of the agreement will be found in previous issues of the *Year-Book*.

Production of wood-pulp. 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.

**Supply of
pulp-wood
from State
forests.**

Consignment of pulp-wood from the State forests to the mill at Maryvale commenced in October, 1937. The quantities of pulp-wood obtained from the State forests during each of the years 1952-53 to 1954-55 were as follows:—1952-53, 3,191,585 cubic feet; 1953-54, 2,784,785 cubic feet; and 1954-55, 4,523,375 cubic feet.

Australian Paper Manufacturers Limited extended operations by its contractor in both green and fire-killed mountain ash and alpine ash, the bulk of procurement being from fire-killed stands. There was a small increase in pulpwood obtained from pine plantations and in the output from mixed foot-hill forests.