

Principal Agricultural, Dairying, and Pastoral Features of the various Districts of the State of Victoria, Season 1946-47.

District.	Area Occupied.	Number of Holdings.	CULTIVATION.									DAIRYING AND PASTORAL.					PRODUCE.			
			Wheat (Grain).	Oats (Grain).	Barley (Grain).	Potatoes.	Onions.	Maize for Grain.	Vines.	Orchards Growing Fruit for Sale.	Dairy Cattle.	Other Cattle.	Horses.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Wheat.	Butter.	Wool.	Honey.	
	Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Bushels.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Central	2,775,761	16,425	32,151	18,751	16,968	24,617	2,478	507	3	30,181	271,629	106,779	54,614	44,683	1,444,556	641,244	13,792,473	15,116,221	1,074,104	
North Central .. .	2,195,897	4,693	26,416	11,433	986	10,833	10	31	49	3,085	45,377	35,193	10,721	1,389,154	547,830	4,426,712	16,731,023	936,511		
Western .. .	6,809,546	11,895	63,859	30,088	4,038	8,955	3,496	1	1,154	356,083	153,131	35,325	39,026	5,354,370	1,287,879	31,640,302	67,794,447	813,225		
Wimmera .. .	6,423,087	6,075	1,024,356	120,444	41,035	176	16	690	3,161	34,795	10,482	20,754	15,961	2,478,963	21,529,167	2,226,940	32,499,972	2,826,566		
Mallee .. .	7,086,854	6,481	1,621,694	146,923	49,707	..	11	37,163	3,490	29,729	6,548	18,278	16,151	976,663	14,365,401	3,414,229	9,326,254	310,769		
Northern .. .	5,572,915	11,329	689,384	116,766	21,378	29	10	22	1,007	27,809	186,048	48,411	41,644	66,243	2,598,625	9,649,101	22,183,453	29,148,278	1,722,035	
North-Eastern .. .	4,282,079	5,185	38,297	8,266	640	1,322	10	1,583	4,035	1,764	141,622	151,066	18,769	36,463	1,335,907	846,663	18,828,845	15,667,004	797,912	
Gippsland .. .	4,909,466	8,667	4,978	1,327	3,270	10,468	429	5,964	..	668	346,345	136,823	25,495	61,202	1,020,282	103,623	38,422,915	10,783,039	550,285	
Total for State .. .	40,055,605	70,750	3,501,135	453,898	138,022	56,400	6,460	8,107	42,948	71,312	1,411,628	648,433	227,164	290,450	16,598,490	48,970,908	134,935,869	197,076,238	9,031,407	

Minor Crops of Special Interest:—Acres: Canary Seed, 30; Chicory, 423; Hops, 183; Tobacco, 1,186; Millet (Broom), 458; Sugar Beet, 753; Grass Seed, 15,970; Mustard, 662; Japanese Millet for Seed 1,393; Flax, 12,041

Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat, Area.	Wheat, Average per acre.	Wool, Total Production.	Live Stock, Cattle.	Live Stock, Sheep.
1942-43	14-21	1,046,378	14-39	14,650,736	41,331	1,502,119
1943-44	8-25	524,295	8-13	13,995,772	40,295	1,583,396
1944-45	6-29	1,046,369	6-31	9,894,800	31,703	633,207
1945-46	9-62	1,098,772	9-84	9,980,961	31,469	2,248,732
1946-47	14-97	1,621,694	8-66	9,326,254	39,477	376,026

Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat, Area.	Wheat, Average per acre.	Wool, Total Production.	Live Stock, Cattle.	Live Stock, Sheep.
1942-43	22-01	712,513	20-28	34,992,472	33,848	3,103,396
1943-44	19-48	629,027	16-73	33,275,295	32,667	3,028,621
1944-45	10-46	683,828	2-17	28,278,09	40,057	2,346,723
1945-46	19-20	1,013,729	10-71	23,384,78	39,123	3,169,826
1946-47	22-07	1,021,396	21-02	32,499,972	40,277	2,478,963

Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat, Area.	Wheat, Average per acre.	Wool, Total Production.	Live Stock, Cattle.	Live Stock, Sheep.
1942-43	19-06	343,994	19-69	33,609,690	246,634	3,282,218
1943-44	10-98	297,169	11-29	31,148,217	239,244	2,122,444
1944-45	9-24	269,090	1-64	26,277,590	212,711	2,569,926
1945-46	14-84	550,727	13-72	19,212,092	211,420	2,248,732
1946-47	17-76	689,354	14-00	29,148,278	231,429	2,598,923

Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat, Area.	Wheat, Average per acre.	Wool, Total Production.	Live Stock, Cattle.	Live Stock, Sheep.
1942-43	21-91	7,508	19-18	16,849,184	86,620	1,584,706
1943-44	20-22	7,500	17-08	15,771,796	84,749	1,382,552
1944-45	17-10	8,127	7-90	14,296,690	71,888	1,405,916
1945-46	21-71	13,742	19-67	11,107,224	61,282	1,186,972
1946-47	22-86	26,416	20-74	16,721,023	80,590	1,389,184

Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat, Area.	Wheat, Average per acre.	Wool, Total Production.	Live Stock, Cattle.	Live Stock, Sheep.
1942-43	29-08	9,690	20-18	16,120,730	369,275	1,985,487
1943-44	22-46	8,308	18-51	14,742,084	360,067	1,629,175
1944-45	22-97	8,623	7-96	13,973,809	344,615	1,474,589
1945-46	22-25	12,268	19-30	11,669,566	318,798	1,201,264
1946-47	33-04	32,151	19-91	15,116,221	378,408	1,444,556

Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat, Area.	Wheat, Average per acre.	Wool, Total Production.	Live Stock, Cattle.	Live Stock, Sheep.
1942-43	30-54	12,198	17-79	65,299,907	691,232	5,834,314
1943-44	25-96	10,330	21-14	61,266,787	495,330	5,699,076
1944-45	24-39	10,214	18-81	59,297,267	486,128	5,791,972
1945-46	32-21	25,327	27-65	69,219,011	498,231	5,915,107
1946-47	40-29	63,859	20-17	67,794,447	50,214	5,284,370

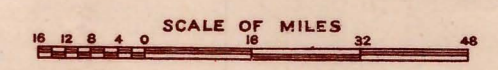
Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat, Area.	Wheat, Average per acre.	Wool, Total Production.	Live Stock, Cattle.	Live Stock, Sheep.
1942-43	28-28	11,226	24-46	15,742,480	285,743	1,521,231
1943-44	26-76	11,587	27-78	15,006,008	293,690	1,623,116
1944-45	20-72	12,326	8-11	13,949,200	276,955	1,388,972
1945-46	29-97	21,970	28-29	11,282,214	280,118	1,199,846
1946-47	39-85	38,297	22-11	15,677,994	292,688	1,325,907

Season.	Average Rainfall.	WHEAT.		Wool, Total Production.	LIVE STOCK.	
		Area.	Average per Acre.		Cattle.	Sheep.
1942-43	26-28	2,145,156	19-49	208,204,492	2,022,292	19,614,040
1943-44	19-44	1,793,128	11-00	196,415,227	2,013,033	19,220,457
1944-45	17-09	2,141,729	1-63	177,143,057	1,903,110	16,457,101
1945-46	20-50	3,251,393	9-11	152,397,507	1,827,087	14,655,277
1946-47	29-37	3,501,135	13-99	197,076,238	2,060,061	16,598,490

Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat, Area.	Wheat, Average per acre.	Wool, Total Production.	Live Stock, Cattle.	Live Stock, Sheep.
1942-43	31-39	1,470	18-71	11,239,253	447,291	1,106,902
1943-44	30-05	892	30-50	10,805,798	446,300	1,210,705
1944-45	27-24	1,093	18-99	10,553,690	429,000	1,144,126
1945-46	28-60	2,848	25-75	10,941,201	433,708	948,133
1946-47	41-19	4,978	20-82	10,783,029	483,168	1,020,282

VICTORIA

Showing Location of Butter and Cheese Factories, e.g., Orbest; also Rainfall and Statistics of Wheat, Wool and Live Stock, in each District for 5 years; and Agricultural, Dairying and Pastoral Statistics in detail, for the Season 1946-47.



Drawn at the Department of Lands & Survey, Melbourne.

PART II.

LAND SETTLEMENT; AGRICULTURE; PASTORAL AND
DAIRYING; FORESTRY.

LAND AND SETTLEMENT.

The total area of the State is 56,245,760 acres. On 31st December, 1946, this comprised:—

	Acres.
Lands alienated in fee-simple	29,351,435
Lands in process of alienation	3,158,905
Crown lands	23,735,420
Total	56,245,760

The Crown lands comprise—

Permanent forests (under Forests Act)	4,219,429
Timber reserves (under Forests Act)	717,458
Timber reserves (under Land Act)	156,695
Water reserves	316,012
Reserves for Agricultural Colleges, &c.	75,408
Reserves in the Mallee	410,000
Other reserves	549,131
Roads	1,794,218
Water frontages, beds of rivers, lakes, &c.; unsold land in cities, towns, and boroughs	4,811,631
Land in occupation under—	
Perpetual leases	83,994
Other leases and licences	20,354
Temporary grazing licences	8,505,758
Unoccupied	2,075,332
Total	23,735,420

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 1941-46. 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, 1941
TO 1946.

Year Ended 31st December.	Area of Crown Lands Sold.			Crown Lands alienated in Fee-simple.	
	Absolutely, at Auction, &c.	Conditionally to Selectors.	Total.	Area.	Purchase Money.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£
1941	4,912	23,882	28,794	308,882	205,293
1942	3,160	26,563	29,723	205,292	129,529
1943	3,770	11,474	15,244	168,423	107,407
1944	2,429	1,507	3,936	108,750	116,118
1945	1,991	139	2,130	183,342	98,315
1946	1,789	49	1,838	264,316	126,625

From the period of the first settlement of the State to the end of 1946 the amount realized by the sale of Crown lands was £37,762,197. Payment of a considerable portion of this amount extended over a series of years without interest, upon very easy terms.

The "Torrens System", whereby persons acquiring possession of land may receive a clear title, was introduced into Victoria in 1862. The system has been the means of simplifying procedure in connexion with the transfer of land, thereby reducing the cost of dealing in real estate, and giving a title to the transferee free of any latent defect. The Crown grant issues through the Titles Office.

In order to bring under the Transfer of Land Act land that was parted with prior to 1862 (5,142,321 acres), application must be made accompanied by strict proofs of the applicant's interest in the property.

During 1946 there were submitted 87 such applications in respect of land amounting in area to 1,136 acres, and in value to £121,247; while the land actually brought under the Act as a result of applications was 490 acres valued at £90,048. Up to the end of 1946 there had been brought under the Act 3,311,268 acres valued at £75,017,617. The area of land still under the Old Law System at the end of 1946 was 1,831,053 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 Commissioner of Titles is required to issue a perfect Title save as to any circumstances of which he has had notice. To assure and indemnify the Government in a case where the Supreme Court or some higher Tribunal has decided that some person other than the applicant has an interest in the property, and it has consequently been found necessary to compensate such other person, there has been constituted an Assurance Fund which is built up of contributions of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ on the value of the land covered by the application. During 1946-47 receipts of the Fund comprised contributions, £3,000, and interest on stock, £3,269. No claim was paid from the Fund during the year, but the sum of £5,095 was paid out in accordance with section 3 of the *Special Funds Act* 1920 to provide for the interest on loan moneys expended on University buildings. The balance at the credit of the Assurance Fund on 30th June, 1947, was £116,723. The amount paid up to 30th June, 1947, as compensation and for judgments recovered, including costs, was £11,386.

CLOSER SETTLEMENT AND DISCHARGED SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT.

The history of Closer Settlement and of Discharged Soldiers' Settlement in Victoria will be found in previous issues of the *Year-Book*.

Dissolution of the Closer Settlement Commission. The *Closer Settlement Act* 1938 which was passed in December, 1938, provided that the Closer Settlement Commission be dissolved and cease to exist, that the Board of Land and Works be deemed to be the successor in law of the Commission and that the Act be administered in the Department of Crown Lands and Survey.

Soldier Settlement Commission. The operations of the Soldier Settlement Commission constituted pursuant to section 5 of the *Soldier Settlement Act* 1945, No. 5107, will be described in detail in the next issue of the *Year-Book*.

WATERWORKS.

All Victorian waterworks are controlled by official bodies, either State or local. The following table shows State expenditure on works under the control of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, as well as grants and loans to local bodies. In addition to free grants to local bodies, large sums have been written off their liabilities. The following information has been taken from the Annual Report of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission.

VICTORIA—STATE EXPENDITURE AND LOAN LIABILITY ON WATERWORKS* TO 30TH JUNE, 1947.

Description of Works.	Capital Expenditure to 30th June, 1947.	Loan Redemption Paid.	Loan Liability at 30th June, 1947.
	£	£	£
Free Headworks	1,241,440	520	1,240,920
Capital Works and Charges not apportionable to Districts	2,427,378	360,430	2,066,948
Headworks Cost apportioned to Districts	11,314,587	134,975	11,179,612
Irrigation and Water Supply Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	6,430,700	105,475	6,325,225
Urban Divisions of Irrigation Districts	66,374	2,074	64,300
Waterworks Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	2,948,663	62,933	2,885,730
Urban Districts of Waterworks Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	2,663,629	53,130	2,610,499
Flood Protection and Drainage Districts	539,365	8,896	530,469
Waterworks Trusts and Local Governing Bodies	4,252,609	803,843	3,448,766
TOTAL	31,884,745	1,532,276	30,352,469

* 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.

IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT.

Prior to 1905 the management of irrigation in Victoria was in the hands of various Irrigation Trusts, which were financed by the State. These Trusts drifted into financial difficulties and the State was compelled to assume control. In the year mentioned, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was constituted and entrusted with the management of all irrigation works, except those controlled by the First Mildura Trust. This authority is embodied in the *Water Act* 1928, which consolidates the *Water Acts* of 1915, 1916, and 1918, and the *Ballarat Water Commissioners Act* 1921.

The particulars in the following statement, while not covering the whole of the activities of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, furnish a general idea of the development of water conservation and distribution, and of drainage and flood protection in districts under its administration :—

VICTORIA—WATER CONSERVATION AND DISTRIBUTION :
DRAINAGE AND FLOOD PROTECTION DISTRICTS.

—	At 30th June, 1907.	At 30th June, 1947.
Area of State artificially supplied with water (acres)	10,800,000	15,376,200
Capacity of reservoirs .. (acre feet)	474,000	1,969,970
Irrigation Districts—		
Number of Districts administered	10	28
Number of Districts having Water Rights ..	Nil	26
Total of such Water Rights (acre feet)	Nil	512,294
Area classified as irrigable.. (acres)	..	708,590
Area under Irrigated Culture .. (acres)	108,000	937,365
Rural Waterworks Districts (Domestic and Stock Supply)—		
Number of Districts administered	3	28
Annual Value for Rating purposes .. (£)	125,000	1,460,400
Urban Districts—		
Number of Districts administered	1	87
Annual Value for Rating purposes	5,600	867,155
Coliban System (Urban, Rural, Irrigation and Mining Supplies)—		
Annual Value for Urban Rating purposes (£)	At 30th June, 1910, 317,750	433,287
Flood Protection Districts—		
Number of Districts administered .. ..	..	4
Drainage Districts—		
Number of Districts administered .. ..	..	14
Number of Assessments .. ..	..	9,972

PROGRESS IN IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT.

The area under irrigated culture for all kinds of crops has increased from 129,771 acres in 1909-10 to 708,590 acres in 1946-47.

VICTORIA—LANDS UNDER IRRIGATED CULTURE 1946-47.

District.	Area Irrigated.
	Acres.
Katandra	6,628
North Shepparton	19,678
Shepparton	19,654
South Shepparton	7,443
Rodney	87,915
Tongala-Stanhope	41,944
Rochester	66,133
Dingee	4,424
Calivil	13,642
Tragowel Plains	44,120
Deakin	9,091
Boort	25,126
Cohuna	60,706
Koondrook	35,228
Swan Hill	21,672
Third Lake	4,501
Mystic Park	4,026
Tresco	1,053
Fish Point	2,483
Kerang	40,931
Murray Valley	32,330
Kerang North-West Lakes	5,197
Nyah	3,005
Red Cliffs	11,542
Merbein	7,965
East Loddon	1,492
Loddon	104
West Loddon	1,584
Coliban	7,148
Campaspe	1,112
Western Wimmera	2,665
Wimmera United	256
Bacchus Marsh	3,923
Werribee	8,214
Maffra-Sale	24,741
Lands outside constituted Districts	80,914
Total	708,590

The subjoined table shows the total extent of irrigated land in the State in each of the five years, 1943 to 1947, and the purposes for which the land was utilized. As a result of good rains in October and November of 1945 and in the autumn of 1946, the demand for water for the irrigation of native and annual pastures decreased, and consequently, the area irrigated was less than that in each of the two preceding drought years.

VICTORIA—IRRIGATED AREAS: HOW UTILIZED.

Crop.	Year ended 30th June—				
	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Cereals	26,301	42,114	62,942	72,956	83,263
Lucerne	69,257	64,041	64,286	67,309	69,700
Sorghum and other annual fodders	11,572	25,807	34,326	15,152	17,657
Pastures	412,256	443,223	411,018	407,415	440,879
Vineyards, Orchards, and Market Gardens	78,419	81,167	83,800	83,579	87,953
Fallow and Miscellaneous ..	8,952	8,892	8,838	10,434	9,138
Total	606,757	665,244	665,210	656,845	708,590

Of the total area irrigated in 1946-47—708,590 acres—the percentages devoted to different purposes were as follows:—Pastures, 62; lucerne, 10; vineyards, orchards, and gardens, 13; cereals, 12; sorghum and other annual fodder crops, 2; fallows and miscellaneous, 1.

Dairying is one of the principal industries in irrigation districts. Dairy herds grazed on irrigated pastures obtained prominent positions in the 1946-47 Standard Herd Test conducted by the Department of Agriculture.

The production of dried vine and tree fruits, of citrus, and of fruits for canning are established features in these districts. There has also been considerable expansion in vegetable growing and a development of the canning industry in relation thereto. The Victorian dried

Progress in
Irrigation
Areas,
1946-47.

vine-fruit crop amounted to 43,303 tons. The Victorian production of citrus fruits during the 1946-47 season amounted to 584,710 bushels—approximately 90 per cent. of which was grown within irrigation districts.

The Victorian production of canned apricots, peaches, and pears in the season 1946-47 was 857,455 cases, each of two dozen 30-oz. tins. This represented 71 per cent. of the Australian output of those fruits.

Extensive schemes for the supply of water for domestic, industrial, and stock purposes are under the control of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Altogether, the rural and urban area so supplied is approximately 20,247 square miles—23 per cent. of the total area of the State. The major portion of such area is in the Mallee and Wimmera districts.

The numbers of country centres supplied with water for domestic and industrial purposes are—127 by the Commission, 117 by Waterworks Trusts, and 15 by Local Government bodies.

The estimated population in country centres supplied with water in 1946-47 was 447,650 persons.

STORAGE AND SUPPLY SCHEMES.

In 1902 the capacity of storages in the State was 172,000 acre feet. The present capacity is 1,969,970 acre feet. The Hume Reservoir, designed to contain 2,000,000 acre feet (half of which can, subject to the provisions of the River Murray Agreement, be credited to the State of Victoria) now has a capacity of 1,250,000 acre feet. When the final stage of this work has been completed and when the Rocklands, Glenmaggie, Cairn Curran, and Lauriston Reservoirs are also completed, the combined storage capacity available to users in Victoria will be 2,778,470 acre feet.

EXISTING STORAGES.

						Capacities in Acre Feet.
<i>Goulburn System—</i>						
Goulburn Weir	..	..	..	..	..	20,700
Waranga	...	..	..	..	..	333,400
Eildon	..	..	..	..	..	306,000
						660,100

EXISTING STORAGES—*continued.*

<i>Murray-Loddon System—</i>	Capacities in Acre Feet.
Hume Reservoir (half share of 1,250,000 acre feet) ..	625,000
Yarrowonga Weir (half share of 95,120 acre feet) ..	47,560
Torrumbarry (half share of 28,900 acre feet) ..	14,450
Mildura (half share of 29,360 acre feet) ..	14,680
Wentworth (half share of 38,140 acre feet) ..	19,070
Euston Lock Weir (half share of 31,320 acre feet)	15,660
Kow Swamp	40,860
Laanecoorie	6,300
Kerang North-west Lakes	69,400
Lake Boga	29,650
Lake Cullulleraine	2,000
	884,630
 <i>Wimmera-Mallee System—</i>	
Fyans Lake	17,100
Lake Lonsdale	53,300
Wartook	23,800
Taylor's Lake	30,000
Pine Lake	52,000
Green Lake	6,600
Dock Lake	4,800
Moora	5,100
Lower Wimmera Weirs	2,870
Batyo Catyo (Avon Regulator)	5,000
Lake Whitton	1,300
Township Reservoirs, and Mallee Tanks	4,610
	206,480
 <i>Maffra-Sale System—</i>	
Glenmaggie Reservoir (part of 150,000 acre feet) ..	104,500
Stratford Service Basin	20
Heyfield Service Basin	20
	104,540
 <i>Coliban System—</i>	
Upper Coliban	25,700
Malmsbury	14,400
Lauriston	12,000
Spring Gully	2,000
Subsidiary Reservoirs	4,750
	58,850
 <i>Werribee System—</i>	
Pykes Creek	19,400
Melton	15,500
	34,900

EXISTING STORAGES—*continued.*

	Capacities in Acre Feet.
<i>Bellarine Peninsula System—</i>	
Wurdee Boluc	10,000
Service Basins	800
	10,800
<i>Mornington Peninsula System—</i>	
Lysterfield	3,400
Beaconsfield	740
Frankston	660
Mornington	260
Bittern	480
Service Basins	260
	5,800
<i>Otway System—</i>	
Service Reservoirs	1,080
<i>Miscellaneous—</i>	
Eppalock	1,200
Wonthaggi	1,550
Wonthaggi Service Basins	10
Newstead	30
	2,790
Total capacity of existing Storages	1,969,970

ADDITIONAL STORAGE BEING PROVIDED BY WORKS IN COURSE OF
CONSTRUCTION.

<i>Wimmera-Mallee System—</i>	
Rocklands	264,000
<i>Murray-Loddon System—</i>	
Cairn Curran	120,000

FURTHER STORAGE WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED BY COMPLETION OF
EXISTING WORKS.

<i>Maffra-Sale System—</i>	
Glenmaggie Reservoir (balance of 150,000 acre feet) ..	45,500
<i>Murray System—</i>	
Hume Reservoir, at junction with Mitta River (half share of balance of 2,000,000 acre feet)	375,000
<i>Coliban System—</i>	
Lauriston (to 16,000 acre feet)	4,000
	424,500
Total capacity of storages when works are completed ..	2,778,470

Detailed descriptions of the various systems which have been instituted for irrigation and for supplying water for domestic and stock purposes appear in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29 (pp. 526 to 534).

METEOROLOGY.

Particulars in regard to climate and weather conditions 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 1947, together with the average rainfall covering a period of 30 years.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL IN DISTRICTS.

Year Ended 31st Decem-ber.	Districts.								Whole State.
	Mallee.	Wim-mera.	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	29.73	31.53	33.13	24.29
1942 ..	14.31	22.04	19.66	31.91	38.28	30.54	29.68	31.59	26.28
1943 ..	8.25	13.48	10.98	20.22	26.76	25.86	22.46	30.05	19.44
1944 ..	6.59	10.46	9.24	17.10	20.72	24.30	23.97	27.54	17.09
1945 ..	9.63	15.20	14.84	21.72	29.97	25.21	22.25	28.00	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
Ave- rages*	12.49	17.52	18.09	27.06	34.81	27.58	29.64	33.47	24.28

* 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	29.919	30.079	30.077
Monthly range of pressure of air—inches	0.866	0.768	0.816	0.974
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	7.11	6.07	6.54	5.82
Mean number of days of rain	38	25	33	45
Mean amount of spontaneous evaporation in inches	10.25	17.27	7.99	3.76
Mean daily amount of cloudiness—Scale 0 to 10	6.0	5.2	5.9	6.5
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 1946 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 1946.	Number of Years Recorded.	Means Over Period of Years.		
			Mean for Period.	Extremes between which the yearly mean values have oscillated during the number of years shown in second column.	
				Highest.	Lowest.
Mean atmospheric pressure (inches) ..	29.951	89	30.012	30.106	29.945
Highest " " " ..	30.457	89	30.603	30.770	30.405
Lowest " " " ..	29.213	89	29.251	29.495	28.942
Range (inches)	1.244	89	1.355	1.719	1.074
Mean temperature of air in shade (° Fahr.)	57.8	91	58.5	59.9	57.3
Mean daily maximum .. (° Fahr.)	66.3	91	67.4	69.4	65.4
Mean daily minimum .. "	49.3	91	49.5	51.2	47.2
Absolute maximum .. "	105.7	91	105.0	114.1	96.6
Absolute minimum .. "	32.3	91	31.0	34.2	27.0
Mean daily range	17.0	91	17.8	20.4	15.0
Absolute annual range .. "	73.4	91	74.1	84.1	66.0
Terrestrial Radiation (mean minima)	45.8	86	44.0	46.8	39.5
Rainfall (in inches)	29.80	91	25.54	38.04	15.61
Number of wet days	177	91	141	187	102
Year's amount of free evaporation (in inches)	39.96	74	39.27	45.66	31.59
Percentage of humidity (saturation =100)	63	90	67	76	58
Cloudiness (scale 10 = overcast, 0 = clear)	6.7	89	5.9	6.7	4.8
Number of days of fog	10	89	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.						Squares Miles
Under 15	..	..	..	..	..	18,701
15 to 20	..	..	..	..	..	13,800
20 to 25	..	..	..	..	..	13,551
25 to 30	..	..	..	..	..	14,528
30 to 40	..	..	..	..	..	15,802
40 to 50	..	..	..	..	..	6,671
50 to 60	..	..	..	..	..	2,660
Over 60	..	..	..	..	..	2,171

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

This Department is controlled by a Minister of the **Department of Agriculture.** Crown, under whom there is a staff of experts with the Director of Agriculture as permanent head. These officers are actively engaged in supervising all matters relating to agricultural and pastoral industries of the State, and in giving advice to those engaged therein. The Department publishes a monthly journal.

Government Experimental Farms. Research and experimental work are conducted at the State Research Farm at Werribee, the Mallee Research Station at Walpeup, the Horticultural Research Station at Tatura, the Rutherglen State Farm, the Longerenong Agricultural College, the Dookie Agricultural College, the School of Dairy Technology and Dairy Research Institute, Werribee, and at the School of Primary Agriculture, Burnley. A Potato Experimental Station is being established at Toolangi and a second Horticultural Research Station at Scoresby. In addition, experiments and demonstrations are conducted on many selected private farms throughout the State and, in conjunction with the Victorian Pasture Improvement League, on some 80 pasture experiment plots.

At the State Research Farm, Werribee, experiments are undertaken for the improvement of wheat and other cereals, grasses, clovers, and various economic plants, and investigations made into the methods and problems relating to irrigated agriculture and the breeding and feeding of dairy cattle, horses, sheep, and poultry. At the School of Dairy Technology the higher training of dairy factory operatives and research and investigation into problems arising in the manufacture of dairy produce are undertaken.

Work at the Rutherglen Farm, which serves as a research station for the North-East, includes various aspects of cereal growing and pasture improvement. It was here that the initial experiments were conducted (1911-1918) which resulted in the widespread practice of

the topdressing of pastures with phosphates. The Mallee Research Station was established in 1922. In addition to cereal and grazing investigations, an important feature of the work at this station is research concerning various grasses with the view to producing a pasture which will thrive under Mallee conditions. Special attention is being paid to the problem of sand drift. At Longerenong and Dookie, experiments are conducted on wheat and oat cultivation for Wimmera and north-eastern conditions respectively. At the School of Primary Agriculture, Burnley, in addition to instruction in, and study of, horticultural problems, research work on the breeding and selection of grasses and clovers is carried on; a Plant Research Laboratory mainly devoted to plant pathological and entomological research has also been established.

The Horticultural Research Station at Tatura was recently established as a research centre for the purpose of improving varieties of fruits. Officers are now engaged in the study of irrigation and soil fertility in the Goulburn Valley in relation to the production of canning fruits.

The work at the Government experimental plots on selected farms embraces investigations into pasture improvement, grazing trials, and the cultivation of wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, tobacco, maize, broom millet, and vegetables.

The pasture experiments are largely responsible for advances made in pasture improvement throughout Victoria. It is estimated that topdressing results in an increase in carrying capacity of about 50 per cent. above pastures not similarly treated. During the season 1946-47, 3,374,996 acres were topdressed as compared with 2,708,379 acres in 1945-46.

Agricultural Colleges. An Act for the establishment of Agricultural Colleges was passed in 1884, and 14,458 acres, comprising 5,955 acres at Dookie; 2,386 acres at Longerenong; 2,500 acres at Gonyah Gonyah; 2,800 acres at Olangolah, and 817 acres at Eullarto, were reserved as sites for colleges and experimental farms. Only the lands at Dookie and Longerenong are being used for college purposes and in 1944 all the other areas reverted to the Crown under the provisions of the *Agricultural Colleges Act 1944*. This Act, which also abolished the Council of Agricultural Education, provided that the two colleges should be controlled by the State through the medium of the Minister of Agriculture. The fee for students in residence at the agricultural colleges is £50 per annum for maintenance. No charge is made for instruction. Accommodation is provided at Dookie for 130 and at Longerenong for 70 students. At Dookie a special annexe has been established for the training of discharged servicemen. Provision has been made for 200 students and it is expected that the work will be carried on for several years.

Inspection of Orchards, Nurseries, &c. The orchards, nurseries, and gardens of the State are systematically inspected by officers of the Horticultural Division of the Department of Agriculture. All plant material entering Victoria, whether from other Australian States or overseas, is subject to strict inspection and measures are taken when necessary either to free such material of disease or to have it destroyed.

Melbourne University School of Agriculture. Melbourne University has a well-equipped School of Agriculture, for the maintenance of which a special grant is provided by the State. This School affords opportunity for the training of students in science as applied to practical agriculture and kindred industries. The course occupies four years. The first is devoted to pure science; during the second the students are in residence at the Dookie Agricultural College, engaged in practical farming with lectures on preparatory subjects, and the remaining two years are devoted to a more specialized study of agriculture and allied subjects on a scientific basis. A large number of graduates of this school is employed, mostly in the Victorian Department of Agriculture, on field advisory work and laboratory investigations.

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

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

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

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

AGRICULTURE.

In all divisions of the State there are areas suitable for cultivation. The area cultivated in 1946-47 was 7,563,330 acres, as compared with 7,721,154 acres in the previous season, and an annual average of 5,977,754 acres for the seasons 1941-45, 7,179,443 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 92 years:—

VICTORIA—ACREAGE CULTIVATED ANNUALLY, 1856 TO 1947.

Period or Year (ended March).	Annual average area in each decennium, 1856 to 1925, and actual area each year 1926-1947, under—		
	Crop.	Fallow.	Total Cultivation.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1856-65	325,676	12,146	337,822
1866-75	624,377	57,274	681,651
1876-85	1,306,920	137,536	1,444,456
1886-95	2,109,326	364,282	2,473,608
1896-1905	3,022,914	524,197	3,547,111
1906-15	3,756,211	1,276,148	5,032,359
1916-25	4,594,244	1,852,145	6,446,389
1926	4,433,492	2,457,136	6,890,628
1927	4,735,173	2,569,021	7,304,194
1928	4,942,258	2,692,044	7,634,302
1929	5,505,651	2,683,462	8,189,113
1930	5,579,258	2,482,662	8,061,920
1931	6,715,660	2,590,629	9,306,289
1932	5,407,109	2,145,819	7,552,928
1933	5,115,745	2,633,287	7,749,032
1934	5,266,913	2,543,043	7,809,956
1935	4,677,683	2,216,464	6,894,147
1936	4,438,761	2,358,777	6,797,538
1937	4,407,312	2,483,163	6,890,475
1938	4,662,354	2,604,556	7,266,910
1939	5,019,299	2,543,225	7,562,524
1940	5,002,362	2,377,405	7,379,767
1941	4,467,191	1,887,418	6,354,609
1942	4,731,712	2,101,360	6,833,072
1943	3,838,415	1,660,171	5,498,586
1944	3,478,889	1,719,363	5,198,252
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

It will be seen from these tables that the proportion of cultivation to land occupied is much larger in the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern than in other districts. Of the occupied land in each of these districts, 33 per cent. in the Wimmera, 41 per cent. in the Mallee, and 26 per cent. in the Northern districts were used for agriculture in 1946-47. In that year the area cultivated in these three districts was more than 85 per cent. of the total cultivation in Victoria. In the North-Central, Western, and North-Eastern districts, the land occupied is largely devoted to grazing. Gippsland, Western, and Central are the chief dairying districts, and contain 76 per cent. of the sown pastures of the State.

To illustrate the uses to which the land was applied in 1925, 1929, 1934, and 1938, information relating to holdings of different sizes of privately-owned land and Crown land held in conjunction therewith, appears in tables given on pages 436 to 438 of the 1938-39 issue of the *Year-Book*.

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

The number of holdings of privately-owned land of over 10,000 acres was 104 in 1938, 97 in 1934, 105 in 1929, 104 in 1925, 152 in 1919, 151 in 1913, 175 in 1910, and 195 in 1906, and the aggregate areas comprised therein in the corresponding years were 1,684,969 acres, 1,562,013 acres, 1,587,345 acres, 1,576,942 acres, 2,638,307 acres, 2,652,966 acres, 3,298,227 acres, and 4,134,067 acres. The reduction in the period of 32 years between 1906 and 1938 was equivalent to 47 per cent. in the number, and 62 per cent. in the acreage of such estates. Most of this reduction took place between the years 1906 and 1913, and 1919 and 1925, the periods of active Closer Settlement and of Soldier Settlement respectively.

The following table shows the annual average area, production and yield per acre during each decennium, 1855 to 1935, and the actual area, production and yield per acre for the principal crops (excluding vegetables and fruit) during each of the five seasons, 1943-1947.

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

VICTORIA—ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND AVERAGE YIELD
OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 TO 1947.

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
1942-43 ..	2,145,156	428,043	77,842	51,757	788,792
1943-44 ..	1,793,428	426,305	83,259	70,430	740,672
1944-45 ..	2,141,729	722,169	129,054	83,238	901,983
1945-46 ..	3,251,393	511,483	134,132	63,000	1,060,496
1946-47 ..	3,501,135	453,898	138,022	56,400	677,787
ANNUAL PRODUCTION.					
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1855-65 ..	2,198,874	2,068,648	103,575	62,723	111,806
1865-75 ..	4,385,814	2,636,747	390,337	111,800	153,852
1875-85 ..	8,593,308	3,297,468	799,938	135,614	276,771
1885-95 ..	12,268,905	4,649,393	1,187,007	170,905	547,092
1895-1905 ..	14,032,145	6,649,453	947,580	134,357	672,982
1905-15 ..	22,906,743	7,342,468	1,243,442	158,445	1,084,726
1915-25 ..	39,171,358	7,965,864	1,923,654	169,864	1,511,298
1925-35 ..	38,661,077	5,666,134	1,772,099	167,965	1,242,808
1942-43 ..	41,803,107	6,637,944	1,273,704	195,138	1,051,107
1943-44 ..	19,733,322	3,704,985	1,078,128	217,380	963,103
1944-45 ..	3,497,677	1,335,429	359,536	305,216	704,246
1945-46 ..	29,633,760	7,401,816	1,743,754	230,749	1,444,250
1946-47 ..	48,870,908	6,401,430	2,321,912	223,782	985,224
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
1942-43 ..	19·49	15·51	16·36	3·77	1·33
1943-44 ..	11·00	8·69	12·95	3·09	1·30
1944-45 ..	1·63	1·85	2·79	3·67	·78
1945-46 ..	9·11	14·47	13·00	3·66	1·36
1946-47 ..	13·99	14·10	16·82	3·97	1·45

* For grain.

**Growers of
certain crops,
season
1946-47.**

The following table shows the number of growers of certain primary products, in each statistical district of the State, for the season 1946-47.

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

**VICTORIA—GROWERS OF CERTAIN CROPS—SEASON
1946-47.**

Crops Grown.	Growers in each Statistical District.								State Total.
	Central.	North- Central.	Wes- tern.	Wim- mera.	Mallee.	Nor- thern.	North- East- tern.	Gipps- land.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Grain Crops—									
Wheat ..	573	465	768	4,043	3,481	4,366	505	99	14,300
Oats ..	499	415	719	2,287	1,759	2,377	361	45	8,462
Barley ..	445	73	192	616	504	726	49	122	2,727
Maize ..	52	6	..	..	..	4	170	332	564
Hay—									
Wheaten ..	261	250	180	1,440	258	1,227	186	73	3,875
Oaten ..	2,727	1,288	2,438	2,202	1,369	2,800	1,357	1,518	15,699
Lucerne ..	253	215	244	72	232	1,297	235	695	3,243
Meadow ..	2,928	803	3,814	158	28	1,245	1,423	3,380	13,779
Green Fodder—									
Maize ..	1,338	81	288	7	5	31	99	1,306	3,155
Lucerne ..	190	56	61	19	23	145	43	109	646
Millet ..	494	48	153	6	68	287	197	634	1,887
All other ..	213	49	87	11	15	109	96	177	757
Other—									
Potatoes ..	2,134	622	1,155	23	..	12	262	1,242	5,450
Onions ..	458	6	398	7	2	6	6	57	940
Other Vegetables	2,301	52	268	138	300	1,006	98	367	4,530
Orchards ..	2,518	241	233	262	878	1,133	299	173	5,737
Vineyards ..	3	7	1	58	2,060	183	80	..	2,392
Grass Seed ..	19	84	168	13	1	17	5	27	334
Tobacco ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	79	..	83
Flax ..	37	2	252	..	..	1	22	31	345

Area Cultivated
1946-47.

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 ..	9,024	8,967	2,884	2	234	3,512	725	46,174
Grant ..	23,115	9,655	13,960	..	1,843	9,491	1,418	35,685
Mornington ..	8	26	14	505	52	7,401	333	33,663
Evelyn ..	4	103	110	..	2	4,213	2	7,326
North Central District—								
Anglesey ..	917	484	52	31	133	705	..	5,330
Dalhousie ..	1,908	1,946	68	..	9	2,653	4	8,784
Talbot ..	23,591	9,003	866	..	96	7,475	6	30,270
Western District—								
Grenville ..	10,686	5,552	1,435	..	1,079	862	1,669	19,607
Polwarth ..	529	629	717	..	921	2,848	1,013	8,388
Heytesbury ..	3	37	29	..	22	176	1	12,853
Hampden ..	13,062	4,942	655	..	24	180	165	16,856
Ripon ..	35,871	13,803	420	..	5	787	1	16,503
Villiers ..	449	838	166	..	1,122	2,974	645	19,679
Normanby ..	538	559	338	..	669	980	2	13,419
Dundas ..	2,668	3,708	278	..	975	100	..	13,759
Follett ..	53	20	..	..	..	48	..	2,059
Wimmera District—								
Lowan ..	234,905	53,369	17,101	..	272	25	4	31,176
Borong ..	595,941	36,634	22,504	..	..	119	12	39,233
Kara Kara ..	193,510	30,441	1,430	..	..	32	..	13,225
Mallee District—								
Millewa ..	142,923	4,943	50	..	..	..	..	6,676
Weeah ..	180,670	20,844	12,849	..	..	..	..	10,722
Karkaroc ..	806,489	78,739	33,167	..	..	..	..	32,529
Tatchera ..	491,612	42,397	3,641	..	..	..	11	22,108
Northern District—								
Gunbower ..	34,970	6,217	7,500	6	..	..	..	17,652
Gladstone ..	157,434	41,683	3,169	..	1	2	..	12,287
Bendigo ..	131,434	21,167	2,266	..	..	16	6	24,482
Rodney ..	78,390	16,699	6,805	1	1	..	1	33,872
Moira ..	287,156	31,000	1,638	15	56	11	3	29,899
North-Eastern District—								
Delatite ..	5,025	3,168	261	743	2	920	2	19,648
Bogong ..	33,108	4,621	221	692	18	380	7	16,202
Benambra ..	164	477	158	118	..	13	1	5,189
Wonnangatta ..	..	..	..	30	..	9	..	352
Gippsland District—								
Croajingolong ..	..	..	..	1,026	17	40	12	1,772
Tambo ..	16	51	43	1,333	33	55	2	1,688
Dargo ..	85	110	397	1,463	12	147	2	1,835
Tanjil ..	4,670	761	2,618	2,101	116	659	3	17,370
Buln Buln ..	207	305	212	41	57	9,567	410	49,515
Total for State ..	3,501,135	453,898	138,022	8,107	7,771	56,400	6,460	677,787

of the State for the season 1946-47 is given in the following table :—
FOR THE SEASON 1946-47.

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.
96	2,597	72	..	..	11,153	10,561	1,231	97,232	32,794	130,026
735	752	183	..	1	3,536	1,449	274	102,097	36,102	138,199
315	7,309	251	..	..	6,479	11,548	1,246	69,150	12,790	81,940
..	1,068	40	..	2	2,857	6,623	465	22,815	4,159	26,974
..	535	6	..	..	62	13	5	8,273	1,344	9,617
26	469	576	..	30	5	21	196	16,695	2,054	18,749
..	1,113	3,038	..	19	75	3,051	344	78,947	19,614	98,561
1,020	153	1,447	..	1	251	252	253	44,267	10,663	54,930
1,410	989	3,639	..	..	1,047	145	545	22,820	2,475	25,295
..	648	..	..	..	123	28	119	14,039	2,485	16,524
1,850	302	508	..	..	218	15	73	38,850	5,889	44,739
2,040	113	262	..	..	6	5	156	69,972	16,061	86,033
738	662	557	..	..	593	9	350	28,782	3,657	32,439
651	1,167	544	..	..	344	637	711	20,559	4,146	24,705
1,258	252	1,324	..	..	99	26	283	24,730	5,013	29,743
52	123	400	..	..	..	37	167	2,959	1,171	4,130
..	252	1,699	..	20	47	933	586	340,389	210,374	550,763
..	152	420	..	623	516	1,986	354	698,494	494,387	1,192,881
..	107	..	..	47	6	242	67	239,107	160,012	399,119
..	4	..	..	86	76	54	144	154,956	30,768	185,724
..	60	..	..	..	..	..	2,330	227,475	132,242	359,717
..	119	..	..	29,699	811	2,185	2,279	986,017	500,617	1,486,634
..	1,717	30	..	7,378	1,548	1,251	438	572,131	292,164	864,295
30	4,547	190	2	14	279	1,240	1,472	74,119	25,042	99,161
..	482	20	..	..	76	203	9	215,366	118,697	334,063
..	868	126	..	36	1,899	2,018	18	184,396	77,956	262,352
..	1,857	140	..	269	1,686	12,424	21	152,106	48,764	200,870
..	890	177	15	688	3,586	11,924	32	367,090	166,365	533,455
889	2,647	119	609	72	192	502	457	35,256	4,281	39,537
380	1,462	..	560	3,963	366	1,226	314	63,520	14,651	78,171
..	581	..	..	..	27	31	57	6,816	854	7,670
..	64	..	..	..	45	5	9	514	103	617
..	433	10	..	..	944	8	42	4,304	178	4,482
..	730	..	..	..	1,701	24	59	5,735	395	6,130
..	1,042	6	..	..	1,847	132	205	7,283	824	8,107
12	3,844	..	..	..	380	142	928	33,604	5,685	39,289
539	9,549	186	..	..	551	362	614	72,115	15,574	87,689
12,041	49,659	15,970	1,186	42,948	43,431	71,312	16,853	5,102,980	2,460,350	7,563,330

Yields of
Principal Crops.

The table which follows shows the yields, in Counties,

VICTORIA—YIELDS OF PRINCIPAL

Districts and Counties.	Grain Crops.					Potatoes. Tons.
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Peas.	
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	
Central District—				150	3,810	14,875
Bourke	172,581	298,825	65,120	..	34,177	39,911
Grant	468,474	281,098	378,073	..	921	25,631
Mornington	126	307	214	19,933	..	18,290
Evelyn	63	2,623	3,595	..	37	..
North-Central District—				975	2,216	3,095
Anglesey	25,485	13,714	1,267	..	124	9,683
Dalhousie	35,592	54,990	1,199	..	1,631	35,600
Talbot	486,753	250,367	24,344	..	..	..
Western District—				..	17,788	3,702
Grenville	190,194	136,604	36,126	..	15,289	11,860
Polwarth	4,266	13,452	13,491	..	2,232	365
Heytesbury	54	177	820	..	465	610
Hampden	265,941	116,187	14,639	..	93	3,980
Ripon	801,963	405,706	10,023	..	20,680	8,109
Villers	4,965	14,896	3,111	..	8,689	2,878
Normanby	7,179	10,592	6,652	..	8,259	92
Dundas	12,939	37,967	2,536	..	..	128
Follett	378	411	..	..	..	..
Wimmera District—				..	248	F
Lowan	5,785,629	1,016,253	319,208	..	..	263
Borung	11,972,703	519,678	337,718	..	..	115
Kara Kara	3,770,835	421,834	18,315	..	..	..
Mallee District—				..	..	..
Millewa	492,429	16,148	29	..	..	..
Weeah	1,871,346	181,754	180,763	..	..	..
Karkaroo	7,402,656	697,124	410,534	..	..	..
Tatchera	4,598,970	240,359	47,091	..	..	..
Northern District—				200	..	..
Gunbower	243,126	90,079	144,950	..	31	3
Gladstone	2,251,371	414,156	38,086	..	..	21
Bendigo	1,604,484	228,885	26,167	..	F	..
Rodney	1,278,456	272,679	116,674	20	..	50
Moira	4,271,664	468,502	16,619	310	4,154	..
North-Eastern District—				24,225	31	3,866
Delatite	116,943	71,988	5,338	28,803	288	1,733
Bogong	726,759	94,168	4,347	6,473	..	50
Benambra	2,961	6,589	3,270	1,062	..	18
Wonnangatta .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gippsland District—				49,923	701	110
Croajingalong .. ..	..	..	..	76,654	301	141
Tambo	342	638	1,520	62,527	288	712
Dargo	1,209	2,067	6,958	84,359	2,740	2,623
Tanjil	99,483	13,266	79,334	1,284	1,578	35,268
Buh Buh	2,589	7,347	3,781	..	..	..
Total for State	48,970,908	6,401,430	2,321,912	356,898	126,771	223,782

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

of the principal crops for the season 1946-47.

CROPS FOR THE SEASON 1946-47.

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.	
3,821	84,715	100	..	3,081,622	..	..	..
3,928	60,487	300	..		..	..	..
1,408	57,254	430	..		..	..	..
4	12,943	27	..		..	..	..
..	8,044	5	..		..	..	..
7	13,832	983	..		..	..	..
14	54,886	4,097	..		..	..	..
7,477	32,057	2,027	..		..	..	..
6,260	13,669	5,988	..		..	..	..
2	20,658	..	..		..	..	..
623	29,140	623	..		..	..	..
4	30,330	320	..		..	..	..
3,082	32,959	1,042	..		..	..	..
7	21,138	1,019	..		..	..	..
..	18,342	3,303	..		..	..	..
..	3,094	640	..		..	..	..
5	42,691	2,412	..		..	..	3
41	49,225	95	..		..	..	6
..	15,884	..	..		..	..	..
..	2,597	11	43	14
..	7,676
..	20,651	3,874	30,056	5,852½
27	18,545	24	285	2,938	210
..	24,219	339	8	
..	13,967	16
25	26,832	244
3	42,014	148
8	32,218	223	125		..	4	3½	2½
4	31,385	76	5,142	
27	22,261	..	4,431	
3	8,603	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	577	..	..	..	..	..	..
36	3,964	11	..	..	..	..	..
6	3,015	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	3,310	9	..	..	..	..	..
7	33,742	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,410	88,300	269	..	..	..	..	..
28,244	985,224	24,770	9,706	3,081,622	4,174	33,041	6,088	

Area, Yield
and Gross
Value of
Crops, Season
1946-47.

The following table shows the area under, the yield from, and the gross value of each of the principal crops in Victoria for the season 1946-47.

VICTORIA—AREA, YIELD, AND GROSS VALUE OF CROPS,
1946-47.

Crop.	Area.	Yield.	Gross Value.*
	Acres.		£
Wheat	3,501,135	48,970,908 bushels	19,790,625†
Oats	453,898	6,401,430 bushels	1,379,949†
Barley—			
Malting (2 row)	124,079	2,106,595 bushels	756,159†
Other (6 row)	13,943	215,317 bushels	55,158†
Maize	8,107	356,898 bushels	146,416
Rye	6,237	29,841 bushels	14,921
Hay—			
Wheaten	65,354	78,957 tons	311,312
Oaten	356,442	468,558 tons	1,908,025
Lucerne, &c.	42,492	77,287 tons	394,851
Meadow	213,499	360,422 tons	1,508,582
Straw		27,500 tons	116,188
Grass Seed	15,970	24,770 cwt.	116,729
Canary Seed	30	63 cwt.	127
Peas for Grain	7,771	126,771 bushels	68,700
Green Fodder	49,659	.. .. .	126,598
Potatoes	56,400	223,782 tons	2,479,641‡
Onions	6,460	28,244 tons	452,435
Other Vegetables	43,431	.. .. .	4,187,443
Sugar Beet	753	9,170 tons of beet (1,014 tons of sugar)	27,052
Turnips, Beet, &c., for fodder	1,357	4,924 tons	39,392
Mangolds	575	3,734 tons	18,670
Tobacco	1,186	9,706 cwt.	147,815
Hops	183	2,342 cwt.	36,616
Broom Millet	458	{ 2,358 cwt. fibre	8,423
Chicory	423	{ 1,190 cwt. seed	663
Flax	12,041	413 tons	25,606
Orchards—		13,858 tons of straw	111,054
Productive	56,869	.. .. .	3,311,622
Unproductive	14,443	.. .. .	..
Grapes—			
Table	1,507	3,537 tons	123,795
Wine	6,236	13,919 tons	205,351
Drying	33,808	Wine made 3,081,622 galls. 172,430 tons producing— 33,041 tons of sultanas	2,170,977
		4,174 tons of raisins	288,439
		6,088 tons of currants	360,583
Vines, unproductive	1,397	.. .. .	..
Other Crops	6,837	.. .. .	366,044
Total Crops	5,102,980	.. .. .	41,055,961

* The gross value is based on the wholesale price realized in the principal markets. The places where primary products are absorbed locally or where they become raw materials for a secondary industry are presumed to be the principal markets.

† Includes Drought Relief, Marginal Area, and Flour Tax payments.

‡ Includes subsidies.

THE GRAIN ELEVATOR SYSTEM FOR THE BULK HANDLING OF WHEAT IN VICTORIA.

The *Grain Elevator Act* 1934 provided for the handling of grain in bulk, for wheat within defined areas to be delivered to elevators, and for the constitution of the Grain Elevators Board. It also empowered the Board to borrow money to the extent that the money owing at any one time shall not exceed £2,000,000. Amending legislation passed in 1940 increased the borrowing powers to £2,500,000.

Except for the Williamstown Terminal, the construction of elevators has been completed. The scheme comprises 138 country elevators, with a total storage capacity of 14,951,000 bushels, serving terminals at Geelong and Williamstown. These terminals, which have storage capacities of 4,050,000 bushels and 2,600,000 bushels respectively, are designed to receive wheat from railway trucks at the rate of 20,000 bushels per hour and to load into ships at 64,000 bushels per hour.

In addition to the elevators within the scheme nine mill silos were leased by the Board in 1942-43 and these provided a further storage capacity of 1,688,000 bushels. The total country storage capacity was therefore increased to 16,639,000 bushels.

The Geelong section, which embraces the western portion of the State bounded on the east by the Melbourne-Mildura railway line, came into operation at the beginning of the 1939-40 season.

Receipts for the season 1946-47 amounted to 36,254,911 bushels.

From data obtained from the Wheat Industry Stabilization Board, the Commonwealth Statistician has compiled tables showing the number of licences issued to wheat growers within various acreage groups.

The table which follows shows the number of licences issued in Victoria and the area licensed for wheat for grain. Although the area licensed is shown as 2,878,000 acres, the actual area sown was 2,757,080 acres. The number of licences issued does not necessarily indicate the total number of wheat growers as original licences only were tabulated, the share-farming licences being omitted. The actual number of holdings on which wheat for grain was grown was not tabulated for the season 1941-42

**Wheat
Licences—
Season
1941-42.**

VICTORIA—WHEAT (FOR GRAIN) LICENCES AND AREA
LICENSED—SEASON 1941-42.

	Acreage Groups.								Total.	
	Under 50 Acres.	50 and under 100.	100 and under 150.	150 and under 200.	200 and under 250.	250 and under 300.	300 and under 500.	500 and under 1,000.		1,000 and over.
Number of Licences Issued	1,929	2,043	2,045	1,648	1,918	1,125	2,507	760	53	14,028*
Area Licensed (1,000 Acres)	50	146	241	269	410	296	927	466	73	2,878

* Excluding 3,914 Share-farmers.

**Wheat
Deliveries
in Size
Groups—
Season
1942-43.**

The number of growers who delivered wheat from the 1942-43 season's harvest and their deliveries in Victoria are classified in the following table according to size groups. Wheat grown in one State and delivered in another has been tabulated according to State of delivery, hence particulars of a number of growers in New South Wales are included therein. Wheat grown in New South Wales and delivered in Victoria amounted to 1,529,000 bushels. The statement shows that 58 per cent. of the growers delivered wheat up to 3,000 bushels and that such wheat was approximately 26 per cent. of total deliveries. For the whole of Australia the percentages were 62 and 30 respectively.

VICTORIA—GROWERS DELIVERING WHEAT AND
QUANTITY DELIVERED—SEASON 1942-43.

	Size Groups in Bushels.									Total.
	Up to 1,000 Bushels.	1,001 to 1,500.	1,501 to 2,000.	2,001 to 2,500.	2,501 to 3,000.	3,001 to 4,000.	4,001 to 5,000.	5,001 to 6,000.	6,001 Bushels and over	
Number of Growers ..	2,692	1,312	1,240	1,000	1,069	1,749	997	650	1,798	12,507
Wheat delivered (1,000 bushels)	1,521	1,632	2,155	2,254	2,950	5,943	4,482	3,574	16,402	40,922

**Wheat
growing in
counties.**

The principal wheat-growing areas are in the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern districts. In the season 1946-47 these districts were responsible for 93 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 1946-47 was 48,970,908 bushels, or an average yield per acre of 13·99 bushels in comparison with an average of 9·11 bushels in 1945-46 and an average of 1·63 bushels in 1944-45. The area sown and the production of wheat for grain in different counties for each of the three seasons, 1945-47, are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—WHEAT AREAS AND YIELDS IN COUNTIES
FOR THE THREE SEASONS, 1945-1947.

Districts and Counties.	Year ended March.								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1945.	1946.	1947.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1945.	1946.	1947.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bus.	Bus.	Bus.
Central—									
Bourke ..	1,252	2,309	9,024	15,268	40,262	172,581	12·19	17·44	19·12
Grant ..	7,371	12,953	23,115	53,358	193,224	468,474	7·24	14·92	20·27
Mornington ..	..	2	8	..	18	126	..	9·00	15·75
Evelyn ..	..	4	4	..	78	63	..	19·50	15·75
Total ..	8,623	15,268	32,151	68,626	233,582	641,244	7·96	15·30	19·94
North-Central—									
Anglesey ..	213	240	917	1,297	7,561	25,485	6·09	31·63	27·79
Dalhousie ..	313	913	1,908	3,406	25,943	35,592	10·88	28·42	18·65
Talbot ..	7,601	12,589	23,591	58,706	235,457	486,753	7·72	18·70	20·63
Total ..	8,127	13,742	26,416	63,409	268,991	547,830	7·80	19·57	20·74
Western—									
Grenville ..	1,482	3,824	10,686	26,198	91,095	190,194	17·68	23·82	17·80
Polwarth ..	7	8	529	121	268	4,266	17·29	33·50	8·06
Heytesbury ..	2	36	3	30	1,026	54	15·00	28·50	18·00
Hampden ..	2,414	6,888	13,062	55,598	221,861	265,941	23·03	32·21	20·36
Ripon ..	6,305	13,009	35,871	109,474	352,959	801,963	17·36	27·13	22·36
Vilhiers ..	119	355	449	2,112	7,585	4,965	17·75	21·37	11·06
Normanby ..	90	273	538	2,124	7,007	7,179	23·60	25·67	13·34
Dundas ..	405	826	2,668	7,923	16,772	12,939	19·56	20·31	4·85
Follett ..	20	108	53	424	1,740	378	21·20	16·11	7·13
Total ..	10,844	25,327	63,859	204,004	700,313	1,287,879	18·81	27·65	20·17
Wimmera—									
Lowan ..	135,460	217,704	234,905	661,201	2,568,418	5,785,629	4·88	11·80	24·63
Borong ..	423,361	606,014	595,941	713,262	6,224,821	11,972,703	1·69	10·27	20·09
Kara Kara ..	125,007	189,021	193,510	107,283	2,048,769	3,770,835	0·86	10·84	19·49
Total ..	683,828	1,012,739	1,024,356	1,481,746	10,842,008	21,529,167	2·17	10·71	21·02

VICTORIA—WHEAT AREAS AND YIELDS IN COUNTIES FOR THE THREE SEASONS, 1945-1947—*continued.*

Districts and Counties.	Year ended March.								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1945.	1946.	1947.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1945.	1946.	1947.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bus.	Bus.	Bus.
Mallee—									
Millewa ..	71,022	119,346	142,923	2,885	474,292	492,429	0·14	3·97	3·45
Weeah ..	117,299	174,882	180,670	296,370	1,067,548	1,871,346	2·53	6·10	10·36
Karkaroc ..	529,470	812,081	806,489	604,285	4,623,941	7,402,656	1·14	5·69	9·18
Tatchera ..	329,178	502,463	491,612	47,492	3,235,909	4,598,970	0·14	6·44	9·35
Total ..	1,046,969	1,608,772	1,621,694	951,032	9,401,690	14,365,401	0·91	5·84	8·86
Northern—									
Gunbower ..	16,742	27,846	34,970	5,581	221,437	243,126	0·33	7·95	6·95
Gladstone ..	86,843	131,300	157,434	87,407	1,545,502	2,251,371	1·01	11·77	14·30
Bendigo ..	68,636	96,496	131,494	90,006	1,164,602	1,604,484	1·31	12·07	12·20
Rodney ..	34,817	55,675	78,330	62,554	801,512	1,278,456	1·80	14·40	16·32
Moira ..	162,871	239,410	287,156	361,061	3,822,887	4,271,664	2·22	15·97	14·88
Total ..	369,909	550,727	689,384	606,609	7,556,030	9,649,101	1·64	13·72	14·00
North-Eastern—									
Delatite ..	1,087	2,146	5,025	12,338	61,774	116,943	11·35	28·79	23·27
Bogong ..	11,032	19,631	33,108	87,891	492,072	726,759	7·97	25·07	21·95
Benambra ..	157	193	164	2,366	3,976	2,961	15·07	20·60	18·05
Wonnangatta ..	60	..	..	1,091	..	..	18·18	..	..
Total ..	12,336	21,970	38,297	103,686	557,822	846,663	8·41	25·39	22·11
Gippsland—									
Croajingolong ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tambo ..	33	26	16	376	457	342	11·39	17·58	21·38
Dargo ..	35	151	85	739	2,089	1,209	21·11	13·83	14·22
Tanjil ..	877	2,249	4,670	15,268	62,205	99,483	17·41	27·66	21·30
Buln Buln ..	148	422	207	2,182	8,573	2,589	14·74	20·32	12·51
Total ..	1,093	2,848	4,978	18,565	73,324	103,623	16·99	25·75	20·82
Total (State)	2,141,729	3,251,393	3,501,135	3,497,677	29,633,760	48,970,908	1·63	9·11	13·99

The production of wheat in the other Australian States in 1946-47 was as follows:—New South Wales, 15,682,000 bushels; South Australia, 27,906,000 bushels; Western Australia, 23,800,000 bushels; Queensland, 705,000 bushels; and Tasmania, 139,000 bushels. The total production for the Commonwealth was 117,262,000 bushels.

In the following table the average yield per acre in each of the main wheat growing counties for the seasons 1936-37 to 1947-48 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 1936 to 1947-48.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1936-37 TO 1947-48.

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.	Points.	Bushels.
Lowan—															
1936 ..	161	11	68	42	157	287	401	260	98	220	34	265	2,004	1,300	22.01
1937 ..	226	87	114	55	155	93	107	256	205	152	43	247	1,740	856	23.92
1938 ..	119	152	33	236	27	212	189	88	78	27	80	20	1,261	674	12.44
1939 ..	161	123	28	187	201	194	122	389	126	115	253	50	1,949	1,199	20.05
1940 ..	85	16	30	257	115	67	200	82	92	72	177	109	1,302	690	14.01
1941 ..	436	29	223	171	56	174	317	117	313	146	77	41	2,100	1,144	21.13
1942 ..	87	88	38	117	385	306	266	335	282	242	184	59	2,389	1,615	23.76
1943 ..	57	123	18	163	85	206	227	242	256	109	95	52	1,633	1,135	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
Borong—															
1936 ..	224	5	45	29	215	190	471	219	55	180	28	268	1,929	1,143	24.41
1937 ..	193	99	87	21	114	128	77	187	145	291	42	278	1,662	870	25.67
1938 ..	168	89	13	132	38	183	211	62	42	15	59	7	1,019	572	10.59
1939 ..	97	208	12	261	267	172	120	308	95	76	273	25	1,914	1,044	18.01
1940 ..	69	9	15	236	70	38	147	50	88	48	145	97	1,012	516	6.35
1941 ..	343	28	180	126	44	218	259	103	322	165	133	45	1,966	1,200	23.46
1942 ..	93	55	44	142	356	262	179	360	222	237	198	51	2,199	1,458	28.26
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
Kara Kara—															
1936 ..	227	3	21	46	151	168	500	252	47	199	36	269	1,919	1,202	23.14
1937 ..	222	95	42	19	129	98	76	229	135	332	26	258	1,661	896	21.99
1938 ..	132	86	13	123	28	225	201	68	37	16	55	4	988	602	8.38
1939 ..	93	293	32	518	279	191	118	323	107	88	280	25	2,347	1,107	22.91
1940 ..	83	12	16	197	42	49	157	43	135	47	81	84	946	512	2.73
1941 ..	306	34	167	90	33	189	265	155	326	192	176	49	1,982	1,303	24.13
1942 ..	100	50	77	99	373	260	188	371	214	240	181	44	2,197	1,454	24.18
1943 ..	79	96	14	104	81	146	203	193	187	84	52	31	1,270	865	12.87
1944 ..	37	37	52	165	178	26	162	10	63	131	57	135	1,053	449	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	138	91	110	93	141	2,161	878	19.49
1947 ..	11	118	317	93	48	234	298	176	157	378	169	228	2,227	1,412	18.39

Land Settlement, &c.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1936-37 TO 1947-48—*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—																
1936 ..	426	16	43	58	114	64	245	55	19	74	12	162	1,288	571	7.20	
1937 ..	196	10	47	30	71	185	68	191	36	163	30	127	1,154	714	9.67	
1938 ..	122	37	2	63	34	26	186	45	5	29	10	..	559	325	0.95	
1939 ..	6	367	37	34	126	118	69	154	67	87	259	1	1,325	621	9.20	
1940 ..	34	7	4	131	22	10	64	34	89	22	54	34	505	241	0.42	
1941 ..	284	9	49	10	18	154	140	101	90	157	92	35	1,139	660	9.28	
1942 ..	19	43	9	121	174	178	112	179	36	211	45	29	1,156	890	11.16	
1943 ..	7	36	3	38	23	33	43	93	81	52	59	66	534	325	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	
Weeah—																
1936 ..	431	11	50	64	101	122	334	95	24	160	18	207	1,617	836	11.08	
1937 ..	139	43	101	11	63	135	92	211	63	215	36	196	1,305	779	12.75	
1938 ..	123	85	..	158	6	85	189	57	10	7	44	8	772	354	6.87	
1939 ..	32	214	6	103	119	131	77	187	36	27	221	5	1,158	577	7.71	
1940 ..	45	17	12	246	35	13	84	40	118	25	62	72	789	315	5.31	
1941 ..	275	12	100	51	23	225	171	64	198	194	82	32	1,427	875	13.80	
1942 ..	66	32	13	103	186	187	158	220	123	129	139	33	1,389	1,003	13.96	
1943 ..	41	70	8	85	35	101	83	132	107	151	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	
Karkaroc—																
1936 ..	315	4	23	54	120	132	329	93	25	128	11	186	1,420	827	13.26	
1937 ..	179	36	55	12	83	175	62	179	41	285	26	176	1,309	825	13.97	
1938 ..	102	49	4	60	20	78	175	61	6	25	17	1	598	365	3.89	
1939 ..	24	375	34	135	169	149	85	173	59	45	234	2	1,484	680	12.93	
1940 ..	48	15	8	151	26	11	67	34	153	16	74	55	658	307	2.73	
1941 ..	239	15	73	23	21	139	159	64	163	162	117	39	1,214	708	12.90	
1942 ..	40	37	20	110	216	199	140	224	75	165	130	26	1,382	1,019	15.42	
1943 ..	34	42	5	61	38	88	88	133	99	94	56	35	773	540	7.13	
1944 ..	22	15	8	95	121	7	74	7	29	73	71	88	610	311	1.14	
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	587	9.18	
1947 ..	6	176	221	55	24	117	168	108	98	195	159	145	1,472	710	10.51	

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1936-37 TO 1947-48—*continued.*

4563/48—4

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—																
1936 ..	210	10	6	43	138	144	393	113	25	142	8	189	1,421	955	15.44	
1937 ..	156	43	14	11	32	128	46	148	38	302	11	91	1,070	744	11.32	
1938 ..	100	49	1	42	37	117	165	68	5	15	13	1	593	387	2.46	
1939 ..	19	394	34	165	247	154	99	178	87	54	220	4	1,655	819	17.03	
1940 ..	48	15	11	130	15	22	84	40	187	9	62	28	651	357	1.61	
1941 ..	211	19	69	13	27	77	175	62	168	137	120	32	1,110	646	8.42	
1942 ..	41	89	48	93	219	213	119	230	59	134	142	32	1,419	974	15.19	
1943 ..	15	36	4	63	27	90	88	121	93	107	43	28	715	526	4.42	
1944 ..	20	9	1	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	
Gunbower—																
1936 ..	168	24	12	83	121	164	431	162	38	158	16	271	1,648	1,074	16.37	
1937 ..	138	46	5	44	89	95	44	158	77	215	11	79	1,001	678	10.79	
1938 ..	104	66	1	39	17	157	184	60	9	6	27	1	671	433	1.94	
1939 ..	12	400	85	200	192	176	105	203	96	94	235	8	1,806	866	18.14	
1940 ..	35	10	14	155	10	29	112	36	199	18	76	62	756	404	1.28	
1941 ..	300	13	95	12	35	98	236	58	158	123	69	22	1,219	708	12.42	
1942 ..	65	76	142	54	252	191	146	249	96	138	106	35	1,550	1,072	14.72	
1943 ..	88	32	7	66	46	78	105	79	94	91	50	34	770	493	3.72	
1944 ..	31	13	33	138	156	19	89	4	26	85	66	88	748	379	0.33	
1945 ..	54	26	22	2	43	209	124	215	49	175	122	37	1,108	815	7.95	
1946 ..	227	398	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	
Gladstone—																
1936 ..	196	5	13	44	157	143	548	191	40	194	24	207	1,762	1,273	19.20	
1937 ..	209	75	27	34	103	93	57	196	103	333	21	193	1,444	885	19.33	
1938 ..	103	56	8	91	30	193	211	72	25	13	39	4	845	544	6.19	
1939 ..	72	350	38	431	298	208	127	272	97	76	303	15	2,282	1,073	20.05	
1940 ..	73	21	18	173	24	45	122	41	187	31	52	60	847	450	2.42	
1941 ..	270	34	143	60	27	147	226	109	238	190	123	34	1,601	937	19.51	
1942 ..	74	57	78	68	358	261	168	335	156	173	198	35	1,961	1,451	19.93	
1943 ..	88	54	10	89	62	120	199	158	134	87	50	36	1,087	760	10.97	
1944 ..	21	26	34	149	154	23	129	9	46	106	48	83	823	467	1.01	
1945 ..	47	110	13	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	

Land Settlement, &c.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1936-37 TO 1947-48—*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—																
1936 ..	127	19	10	78	164	147	454	177	40	192	29	261	1,698	1,174	19.09	
1937 ..	128	93	8	111	116	94	61	176	97	192	13	99	1,188	736	16.34	
1938 ..	98	63	6	54	30	208	188	49	10	7	35	2	750	492	3.36	
1939 ..	55	400	109	412	221	231	104	261	93	106	244	17	2,253	1,016	18.46	
1940 ..	49	24	27	186	24	51	145	38	196	26	50	56	872	480	3.92	
1941 ..	245	31	157	41	23	121	208	59	211	153	120	28	1,397	775	16.63	
1942 ..	82	130	133	70	352	242	152	293	116	232	155	25	1,982	1,387	18.32	
1943 ..	150	41	5	76	55	96	167	101	130	119	57	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	91	225	53	29	126	263	130	157	331	118	234	1,762	1,036	16.31	
Rodney—																
1936 ..	182	28	6	176	86	179	451	225	67	217	49	281	1,947	1,225	21.75	
1937 ..	164	73	19	51	159	131	78	163	107	203	14	94	1,256	841	17.29	
1938 ..	120	104	5	55	32	275	151	80	14	10	30	2	878	562	3.62	
1939 ..	45	481	212	621	200	311	139	388	132	153	236	25	2,943	1,323	17.30	
1940 ..	24	16	48	191	47	50	167	55	204	32	52	89	975	555	4.69	
1941 ..	516	28	234	28	85	113	226	73	169	159	114	47	1,792	825	20.19	
1942 ..	87	260	166	70	371	213	180	293	120	208	117	55	2,140	1,385	17.59	
1943 ..	168	34	4	100	73	127	169	136	164	116	64	24	1,179	785	13.98	
1944 ..	13	28	47	165	231	42	126	2	35	114	63	82	948	650	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	1,823	723	16.32	
1947 ..	14	98	225	72	44	132	303	171	208	357	120	339	2,083	1,215	17.71	
Moir—																
1936 ..	165	36	23	228	81	256	454	271	79	191	50	256	2,090	1,332	20.97	
1937 ..	206	68	33	58	145	148	91	204	121	278	43	102	1,497	987	19.13	
1938 ..	96	71	3	83	54	292	170	149	27	13	9	3	970	705	8.72	
1939 ..	22	548	297	676	120	401	165	459	150	271	221	20	3,350	1,566	12.94	
1940 ..	24	5	19	260	65	55	159	64	224	35	74	127	1,111	602	8.99	
1941 ..	539	46	432	18	81	155	243	76	156	150	99	56	2,051	861	23.07	
1942 ..	108	176	143	82	355	236	143	255	102	177	237	69	2,083	1,268	18.76	
1943 ..	140	32	12	129	72	114	153	154	168	126	58	12	1,170	787	12.72	
1944 ..	5	16	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	

Wheat Growing in conjunction with Sheep Grazing and Dairying.

On pages 455 and 456 of the 1938-39 issue of the *Year-Book*, tables appeared showing (a) the extent to which mixed farming was practised in conjunction with wheat growing and (b) the wheat productivity of the State in bag series per acre for the season 1935-36.

Varieties of Wheat.

The following statement shows the areas under the principal varieties of wheat, including wheat for hay, for the seasons 1941-42, 1945-46, and 1946-47. Varieties are tabulated in order of popularity for the last-mentioned season. The percentages shown indicate the fluctuation which has taken place amongst the popular varieties. The information was not collected for three seasons following season 1941-42.

Over 100 varieties of wheat were sown. The number which was tried in the Mallee greatly exceeded that experimented with in any other district. A more extended list showing the area and percentage of each variety, and the ten principal varieties grown in the wheat-growing districts, may be obtained on application to the Government Statist.

VICTORIA—VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN EACH OF THE SEASONS, 1941-42, 1945-46, AND 1946-47.

Variety (in order of Popularity, Season 1946-47).	1941-42.		1945-46.		1946-47.	
	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.
	Acres.		Acres.		Acres.	
Quadrat	4,269	0.15	649,118	19.29	959,167	26.89
Ghurka	1,521,877	52.66	836,021	24.84	724,048	20.30
Pindar	1,384	0.05	246,379	7.32	348,358	9.77
Magnet	42,973	1.49	210,730	6.26	324,983	9.11
Ranee	526,544	18.22	223,290	6.64	313,345	8.79
Benecubbin	147,786	5.11	194,952	5.80	299,205	8.39
Regalia	73,129	2.53	135,037	4.01	172,871	4.85
Dundee	179,024	6.20	78,241	2.33	73,437	2.06
Bobin	56,304	1.95	38,103	1.13	50,401	1.41
Baldmin	25,270	0.87	31,940	0.95	42,165	1.18
Free Gallipoli	144,951	5.02	34,439	1.02	26,273	0.74
Rajah	24,917	0.86	13,926	0.41	23,618	0.66
Sepoy	41,982	1.45	19,002	0.56	14,617	0.41
Glucub	6,586	0.23	5,977	0.18	8,814	0.25
Mac's White	9,028	0.31	3,778	0.11	6,601	0.19
Nabawa	10,240	0.35	4,380	0.13	4,293	0.12
C.M.G.	3,973	0.14	5,806	0.17	4,251	0.12
Insingia .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	4,076	0.11
Turvey	8,017	0.28	5,628	0.17	3,678	0.10
Pinnacde .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	3,189	0.09
Waratah	3,760	0.13	3,010	0.09	2,484	0.07
Major	8,648	0.30	5,897	0.18	2,420	0.07
Seagull	2,087	0.07	2,181	0.06	1,566	0.04
Gular	1,684	0.06	2,141	0.06	1,221	0.03
Nizam	9,947	0.34	2,722	0.08	837	0.02
Eureka	125	0.00	316	0.01	781	0.02
Fori	2,874	0.10	1,609	0.05	735	0.02
Golden Drop	110	0.00	217	0.01	726	0.02
Sewari	1,194	0.04	1,002	0.03	701	0.02
Sword	1,677	0.06	277	0.01	671	0.02
Other Varieties	29,493	1.03	609,439*	18.10	146,957*	4.13
Total	2,889,853	100.00	3,365,558	100.00	3,566,489	100.00

*Mainly mixed or unknown varieties from silos.

It will be noted from the foregoing statement that changes have occurred in the leading varieties during the seasons shown. For the first season *Quadrat* became the variety most widely sown and it is expected to become even more popular. Two new varieties, *Insignia* and *Pinnacle*, were released from the Research Station at Werribee for 1945-46 sowing and are expected to make rapid headway.

Many changes have also taken place in the leading varieties of wheat in other Australian wheat-growing States during recent years. In New South Wales, *Bencubbin* has displaced *Ford* as the leading variety. In 1935-36 only 0·6 per cent. of the area was sown with *Bencubbin*. In Western Australia, *Bencubbin* has also displaced *Nabawa*, which was the leading variety with 47 per cent. of the total area sown in 1929. *Nabawa* has now declined to seventh place on the list, with only 1·5 per cent. of the area sown in 1946. In South Australia the area sown with *Bencubbin* was only ·66 per cent. of the total area sown in 1935-36, but the area now sown with this variety amounts to 23·40 per cent., of the total area sown. *Free Gallipoli* became the leading variety in Victoria in 1929-30, and continued as such until the season 1934-35, when it was superseded by *Ghurka*. This variety continued as the most popular until it was displaced by *Quadrat* at the 1946 sowing.

PRINCIPAL VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN AUSTRALIAN STATES, 1946-47.

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.
<i>Bencubbin</i> ..	45·70	<i>Quadrat</i> ..	26·89	<i>Bencubbin</i> ..	23·40	<i>Bencubbin</i> ..	33·50
<i>Ford</i> ..	10·80	<i>Ghurka</i> ..	20·30	<i>Ranee</i> ..	9·60	<i>Bungulla</i> ..	21·90
<i>Dundee</i> ..	4·70	<i>Pindar</i> ..	9·77	<i>Waratah</i> ..	5·83	<i>Glucclub</i> ..	18·10
<i>Eureka</i> ..	4·10	<i>Magnet</i> ..	9·11	<i>Sword</i> ..	5·78	<i>Ranee</i> ..	4·30
<i>Bordan</i> ..	3·40	<i>Ranee</i> ..	8·79	<i>Dundee</i> ..	5·38	<i>Merredin</i> ..	3·80
<i>Ranee</i> ..	3·20	<i>Bencubbin</i> ..	8·39	<i>Gluyas</i> ..	4·81	<i>Waratah</i> ..	2·00
<i>Waratah</i> ..	2·70	<i>Regalia</i> ..	4·85	<i>Bobin</i> ..	3·79	<i>Nabawa</i> ..	1·50
All others ..	25·40	All others ..	11·90	All others ..	41·41	All others ..	14·90
Total ..	100·00		100·00		100·00		100·00

Seed and Fertilizers used on Wheat Areas (grain and hay), 1946-47.

The total seed used for grain and hay areas amounted to 3,738,957 bushels, and total fertilizers to 74,762 tons. The average rate of sowing in the principal wheat-growing counties, ranged from 40 lb. of seed per acre in the County of Millewa to 88 lb. in Ripon.

SEED AND FERTILIZERS USED ON WHEAT AREAS
SEASON 1946-47.
(GRAIN AND HAY.)

District.	Area Sown.	Seed Used.		Fertilizers Used.
		Per Acre.	Total.	
	Acres.	lb.	Bushels.	Tons.
Central	39,122	88	57,379	1,487
North-Central	30,728	80	40,971	1,147
Western	66,491	85	94,196	3,042
Wimmera	1,043,512	70	1,217,431	25,702
Mallee	1,631,451	54	1,468,306	22,714
Northern	708,276	68	802,713	19,023
North-Eastern	40,982	73	49,861	1,439
Gippsland	5,927	82	8,100	208
Total State	3,566,489	63	3,738,957	74,762

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 2,460,350 acres in fallow during the season 1946-47 955,791 were in the Mallee, 864,773 in the Wimmera, and 436,824 in the Northern districts. The total area of fallow in these three districts—2,257,388 acres—represented 92 per cent. of the land fallowed in the State.

The following table shows the acreage in fallow in various years, together with the area sown to wheat in each succeeding season :—

VICTORIA—LAND IN FALLOW AND WHEAT SOWN.

Season.			Land in Fallow.	Season.			Area Sown to Wheat.
			Aeres.				Aeres.
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
1934-35	..	..	2,216,464	1935-36	..	..	2,401,548
1935-36	..	..	2,358,777	1936-37	..	..	2,466,664
1936-37	..	..	2,483,163	1937-38	..	..	2,776,301
1937-38	..	..	2,604,556	1938-39	..	..	3,007,201
1938-39	..	..	2,543,225	1939-40	..	..	2,923,027
1939-40	..	..	2,377,405	1940-41	..	..	2,769,580
1940-41	..	..	1,887,418	1941-42	..	..	2,889,853
1941-42	..	..	2,101,360	1942-43	..	..	2,212,915
1942-43	..	..	1,660,171	1943-44	..	..	1,864,895
1943-44	..	..	1,719,363	1944-45	..	..	2,246,217
1944-45	..	..	1,694,097	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

The weight of an imperial bushel of wheat is 60 lb., but the actual weight of a bushel of Victorian wheat of fair average quality standard is determined annually by the Chamber of Commerce.

Wheat standard.

The following table shows the standard determined in Victoria for each of the ten seasons, 1938-39 to 1947-48 :—

Season.			Weight of Bushel of Wheat, l.a.q.	Season.			Weight of Bushel of Wheat, l.a.q.
			lb.				lb.
1938-39	..	..	64½	1943-44	..	..	65
1939-40	..	..	63½	1944-45	..	..	63½
1940-41	..	..	64¼	1945-46	..	..	62½
1941-42	..	..	63¾	1946-47	..	..	63½
1942-43	..	..	64¼	1947-48	..	..	60½

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 1941-42 TO 1946-47.

1941-42	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Not tabulated.	Not tabulated.	9,859	10,433	11,813	13,155

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. The area harvested (season 1946-47) for hay was 356,442 acres, and for grain 453,898 acres, which produced 468,558 tons of hay, and 6,401,430 bushels of grain respectively. The area of oats sown for grazing purposes amounted to 87,029 acres. More than 60 varieties of oats are generally sown, but Algerian, with nearly 88 per cent. of the area, predominates.

Hay. Of the total area under hay in 1946-47, as shown in the table on page 54, 356,442 acres under oats produced 468,558 tons; 65,354 acres under wheat produced 78,957 tons; 41,330 acres under lucerne produced 75,887 tons; 1,162 acres under barley and rye produced 1,400 tons; and 213,499 acres under grass and clover produced 360,422 tons; the yields per acre of these kinds of hay were 1·31, 1·21, 1·84, 1·20, 1·69 tons respectively.

The quantities of hay (in districts) held on rural holdings on the 31st March, 1945, 1946, and 1947, are shown in the following table:—

STOCKS OF HAY HELD ON FARMS.

District.	At 31st March, 1945.	At 31st March, 1946.	At 31st March, 1947.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Central	84,009	179,435	186,614
North-Central	24,938	79,718	71,716
Western	132,517	227,746	184,792
Wimmera	34,490	98,034	130,075
Mallee	14,079	35,769	48,819
Northern	59,078	188,934	184,728
North-Eastern	31,214	89,493	79,733
Gippsland	80,044	127,452	133,251
State	460,369	1,026,581	1,019,728

Barley. The area under barley for grain in 1946-47 was 138,022 acres, of which 124,079 were under malting (2 row), and 13,943 under feed (6 row) barley. Although barley is grown generally throughout the State, 99,581 acres, or 72 per cent. of the total area for the season 1946-47, 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 1942-43 to 1946-47.

VICTORIA—BARLEY PRODUCTION, 1942-43 TO 1946-47.

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.
1943 ..	62,413	15,429	997,952	275,752	15·99	17·87	16·36
1944 ..	70,341	12,918	914,958	163,170	13·01	12·63	12·95
1945 ..	105,945	23,109	286,600	72,936	2·71	3·16	2·79
1946 ..	117,774	16,358	1,480,394	263,360	12·57	16·10	13·00
1947 ..	124,079	13,943	2,106,595	215,317	16·98	15·44	16·82

Maize.

Maize for grain is cultivated mainly in Gippsland, but one or two thousand acres are regularly grown in the Mornington and the North-Eastern districts. It is grown in Victoria both for grain and for green fodder. The areas for 1946-47 were 8,107 acres for grain, and 12,245 acres for green fodder. The area, production, and average yield for each of the five seasons, 1942-43 to 1946-47, are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MAIZE PRODUCTION, 1942-43 TO 1946-47.

Season.	For Green Fodder.	For Grain.		
		Area.	Production.	Yield per Acre.
	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1942-43	17,051	7,131	271,321	38·05
1943-44	17,641	6,598	150,433	22·80
1944-45	17,307	4,544	165,347	36·39
1945-46	17,407	6,809	307,934	45·22
1946-47	12,245	8,107	356,898	44·02

The annual average yield of the last five seasons was 37·72 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. Out of a total area of 144,729 acres planted in 1946-47 to potatoes, 56,400 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, 1942-43 to 1946-47:—

VICTORIA—POTATO PRODUCTION, 1942-43 TO 1946-47.

Season.	Area.	Production.*	Average Yield.	Gross Value.
	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	£
1942-43	51,757	195,138	3.77	2,162,955
1943-44	70,430	217,380	3.09	2,308,993
1944-45	83,238	305,216	3.67	3,574,332
1945-46	63,000	230,749	3.66	2,496,050
1946-47	56,400	223,782	3.97	2,479,641

* Includes amounts held on farms for seed, stock feed, &c., as follow:—43,062 tons in 1942-43, 45,682 tons in 1943-44, 74,060 tons in 1944-45, 44,077 tons in 1945-46, and 49,753 tons in 1946-47.

Onions. Onions are grown in nearly every county south of the Dividing Range. The returns for the season 1946-47 show that in Bourke the yield was 3,821 tons from 725 acres; in Grant 3,928 tons from 1,418 acres; in Grenville 7,477 tons from 1,669 acres; in Polwarth 6,260 tons from 1,013 acres; in Villiers 3,082 tons from 645 acres; and in Buln Buln 1,410 tons from 410 acres. The following statement shows the area, yield, and value for each of the last five years:—

VICTORIA—ONION PRODUCTION, 1942-43 TO 1946-47.

Season—				Area.	Production.	Average Yield.	Gross Value.
				Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	£
1942-43	..	..	..	5,741	36,500	6.36	533,812
1943-44	..	..	..	5,997	32,203	5.37	470,969
1944-45	..	..	..	7,905	55,158	6.98	806,686
1945-46	..	..	..	8,170	46,338	5.67	677,693
1946-47	..	..	..	6,460	28,244	4.37	452,435

Wholesale prices of agricultural and pastoral products.

The prices which appear below are the average wholesale prices in Melbourne for the marketed produce of the seasons enumerated. Average monthly prices are shown on pages 111 and 112.

VICTORIA—AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES REALIZED FOR AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL PRODUCE, 1937-38 TO 1946-47.

Average Prices Realized for Produce of Season—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley (Malting).	Maize.	Potatoes.	Onions.	Wool* (Clipped, and on Skins.)
	Per bushel.	Per bushel.	Per bushel.	Per bushel.	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per lb.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1937-38 ..	4 1	3 3½	3 10	4 11¼	145 0	109 6	1 0.77
1938-39 ..	2 7½	3 6	3 4	5 3¼	289 0	380 0	0 10.59
1939-40 ..	3 8½	2 1	3 7½	6 0	230 0	148 6	1 2.06
1940-41 ..	3 9	3 6	4 2½	4 3½	105 0	280 0	1 2.21
1941-42 ..	4 0½†	2 7	3 3½	8 4	320 0	320 0	1 2.20
1942-43 ..	3 11¼†	2 10	4 7¾	8 1	214 5	292 6	1 4.40
1943-44 ..	3 11¼†	3 1¼	5 0½	8 3	149 0	292 6	1 4.24
1944-45 ..	3 11¼†	3 11½	6 0	8 4	150 0	292 6	1 4.06
1945-46 ..	3 11¼†	3 11½	6 1	8 5	150 0	292 6	1 3.00
1946-47 ..	3 11¼†	4 4	6 1	8 6	150 0	305 6	1 10.78

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

Vine Production. The production of dried vine-fruits for the season 1946-47 amounted to 43,303 tons, as compared with a production of 49,430 tons for the previous season. This far exceeds the requirements for home consumption. Overseas exports of Victorian produce for the season 1946-47 amounted to 29,880 tons.

Australian production of dried vine-fruits for the season 1946-47 amounted to approximately 56,000 tons, of which the Victorian portion represented over 77 per cent.

Particulars of vine production for the five seasons 1942-43 to 1946-47 are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—VINE-FRUIT PRODUCTION, 1942-43 TO 1946-47.

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.
1942-43 ..	*	41,207	1,427	4,609,829	1,381,936	114,860	813,920	172,400
1943-44 ..	2,336	41,285	1,426	4,897,836	1,319,630	117,920	859,100	199,740
1944-45 ..	2,364	41,626	1,288	3,386,399	734,886	106,961	554,566	137,167
1945-46 ..	2,355	41,468	1,375	4,291,105	1,915,705	97,457	762,438	128,701
1946-47 ..	2,392	41,551	1,397	3,797,935	3,081,622	83,484	660,826	121,751

* Not compiled.

Of the total quantity of grapes gathered in 1946-47, it is estimated that 278,382 cwt. were used for making wine and spirits, 3,448,590 cwt. for raisins and currants, and 70,743 cwt. for table consumption.

Tobacco. The imposition of emergency tariff rates about 1931 greatly stimulated the growing of tobacco in Victoria and, as a result, the area planted increased in the 1932-33 season to 13,418 acres. Due, however, to economic circumstances and to disease in the crops, the acreage subsequently declined. The 1946-47 crop amounted to 9,706 cwt., which was obtained from 1,186 acres.

The following table furnishes details of the area, production, and average yield in each of the five seasons, 1942-43 to 1946-47:—

VICTORIA—TOBACCO PRODUCTION, 1942-43 TO 1946-47.

Season—	Area.	Production.	Produce per Acre.	Gross Value.
	Acres.	Cwt. (dry).	Cwt. (dry).	£
1942-43 ..	1,850	9,084	4.91	112,786
1943-44 ..	2,000	13,785	6.89	172,882
1944-45 ..	1,500	5,128	3.42	53,242
1945-46 ..	1,408	3,844	2.73	45,146
1946-47 ..	1,186	9,706	8.18	147,815

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 1942-43 to 1946-47. Australian imports of certain flax products for each of the years ended 30th June, 1943 to 1947 are also shown.

VICTORIAN FLAX PRODUCTION AND AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS OF FLAX PRODUCTS, 1942-43 TO 1946-47.

Season.	Area.	Straw delivered at Mills.	Produce Obtained.		Australian Imports (year ended 30th June).		
			Fibre.	Linseed.	Fibre.	Linseed.	Linseed Oil.
	Acres.	Tons.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Gallons.
1942-43 ..	26,173	27,529	15,000	35,500	..	647,858	312
1943-44 ..	31,567	40,937	38,860	41,600	..	537,162	2
1944-45 ..	38,459	17,035	39,781	39,109	..	869,956	1,216
1945-46 ..	26,419	18,798	32,340	15,360	..	750,554	..
1946-47 ..	12,041	13,858	28,240	16,036	241	318,670	86,392

Orchards. The extent of cultivation of each important class of fruit on holdings of one acre and upwards during the seasons 1943-44 and 1946-47 is shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—FRUIT TREES, PLANTS, ETC., IN ORCHARDS AND GARDENS, 1943-44 AND 1946-47.

Fruit.	Number of Trees, Plants, &c.					
	1943-44.			1946-47.		
	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.
Apples	1,958,264	225,082	2,183,346	1,812,605	230,609	2,043,214
Pears	1,044,914	274,397	1,319,311	1,131,658	191,488	1,323,146
Quinces	59,416	16,633	76,049	53,524	19,543	73,067
Plums	253,903	40,960	294,863	228,346	67,593	295,939
Prunes	38,695	9,365	48,060	36,274	10,947	47,221
Cherries	100,891	43,754	144,645	98,708	67,844	166,552
Peaches	1,106,554	344,637	1,451,191	1,163,870	334,546	1,498,416
Apricots	376,963	97,212	474,175	394,048	112,443	506,491
Nectarines	23,999	8,504	32,503	30,133	11,583	41,716
Oranges	347,548	98,836	446,384	355,337	111,211	466,548
Lemons	109,331	78,072	187,403	120,550	73,640	194,190
Loquats	not collected.			not collected.		
Figs	22,254	3,140	25,394	17,959	2,200	20,159
Persimmons	not collected.			not collected.		
Total Large Fruits	5,442,732	1,240,592	6,683,324	5,443,012	1,233,647	6,676,659
Raspberries	292,822	25,968	318,790	303,526	46,263	349,789
Loganberries	136,856	6,652	143,508	119,861	9,312	129,173
Strawberries	3,329,792	305,835	3,635,627	4,532,309	631,586	5,163,895
Gooseberries	93,386	8,083	101,469	69,208	11,708	80,916
Mulberries	not collected.			not collected.		
Currants (Red, White and Black)	not collected.			not collected.		
Olives	2,335	15,138	17,473	1,606	55,806	57,412
Passion-fruit	28,374	8,729	37,103	22,197	13,614	35,811
Almonds	36,413	10,225	46,638	40,590	26,927	67,517
Walnuts	7,098	3,423	10,526	5,903	4,580	10,483
Filberts	3,194	214	3,408	2,800	830	3,630
Chestnuts	not collected.			not collected.		
Total Nuts	46,705	13,867	60,572	49,293	32,337	81,630

The distribution of the fruit industry over the State is set out fruit and the number of trees of each kind in each county are

Statistical Districts and Counties.	Growers.	Area.	Apples.	Pears.	Peaches.	Apricots.
	No.	Acres.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.
Central District—						
Bourke	700	10,561	267,748	290,852	262,467	46,951
Grant	184	1,449	59,858	7,322	4,458	54,320
Mornington	889	11,548	889,426	80,470	28,584	10,774
Evelyn	745	6,623	240,544	54,231	56,654	8,401
North Central District—						
Anglesey	18	13	515	84	84	31
Dalhousie	14	21	1,084	129	51	16
Talbot	209	3,051	209,623	65,077	2,262	1,578
Western District—						
Grenville	32	252	7,332	992	109	13,085
Polwarth	50	145	10,727	931	54	577
Heytesbury	10	28	2,337	76	11	63
Hampden	6	15	871	126	34	58
Ripon	3	5	270	68	24	9
Villiers	8	9	210	40	14	22
Normanby	101	637	60,550	965	70	263
Dundas	14	26	733	72	46	892
Follett	9	37	2,972	111	18	50
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	44	933	3,085	377	1,593	7,477
Borong	171	1,986	44,737	17,946	41,024	30,582
Kara Kara	47	242	18,324	1,390	1,418	657
Mallee District—						
Millewa	3	54	..	17	..	..
Weeah .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Karkaroc	609	2,185	462	1,866	2,312	7,074
Tatchera	266	1,251	912	517	1,596	10,455
Northern District—						
Gunbower	92	1,240	2,256	881	433	772
Gladstone	35	203	13,577	2,091	1,293	641
Bendigo	198	2,018	55,386	35,991	24,079	10,328
Rodney	371	12,424	7,343	407,400	584,650	145,109
Moira	437	11,924	14,672	346,262	480,326	154,355
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	83	502	19,802	637	1,102	392
Bogong	193	1,226	62,217	2,600	1,385	507
Benambra	19	31	1,004	137	183	63
Wonnangatta	4	5	211	34	5	4
Gippsland District—						
Croajingolong	8	8	71	37	20	10
Tambo	14	24	477	175	78	152
Dargo	46	132	6,854	230	497	155
Tanjil	33	142	9,659	1,933	435	300
Buln Buln	72	362	27,365	1,079	1,047	368
Total for State	5,737	71,312	2,043,214	1,323,146	1,498,416	506,491

in the following table, where the number of growers, the area under given for the season 1946-47 :-

Plums.	Prunes.	Cherries.	Quinces.	Nectarines.	Figs.	Oranges.	Mandarins.	Grapefruit.	Lemons and Limes.
Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.
38,327	19	36,182	25,810	22,617	4,858	85	5	225	83,577
5,979	211	1,808	1,148	331	175	11	..	5	972
44,410	348	27,229	5,414	2,933	153	229	3	112	25,215
97,036	437	78,896	11,490	8,618	412	114	4	155	34,869
112	9	15	23	10	19	8	..	1	9
68	2	5	11	..	6	2	..	..	64
12,415	34	5,273	1,731	41	63	2	..	1	123
1,200	5	21	195	2	3	1	..	1	2
1,169	3	71	66	9	9	2	..	1	8
111	..	2	24	1	2	..	..	..	1
130	4	4	5	6	7	2	..	..	4
13	..	..	5	..	1	..	..	..	..
45	3	7	11	10	4	..	..	..	..
397	28	37	69	30	23	12	..	2	19
84	94	26	18	16	16	6	..	..	8
46	7	4	8	6	10	..	..	..	1
761	9,286	34	236	70	127	148	16	4	59
5,817	6,568	3,038	4,729	603	681	475	20	17	1,427
356	32	959	56	93	58	..	..	..	10
..	..	..	..	..	..	2,659	..	441	252
1,006	960	23	468	292	905	127,770	4,019	11,091	7,378
487	2,653	103	246	381	200	75,177	637	4,435	4,495
206	412	60	68	131	93	96,857	2,356	5,866	3,423
221	1	318	33	37	302	336	7	6	51
8,725	5,899	820	3,250	98	1,998	28,930	171	813	7,570
15,212	10,287	105	7,527	2,155	8,309	15,977	105	152	4,350
54,724	8,583	6,102	9,493	2,866	798	77,483	1,207	4,410	17,842
349	78	1,162	395	48	60	898	19	213	180
5,052	1,047	2,768	347	145	759	2,502	54	48	1,244
113	12	48	42	40	19	54	5	1	15
26	..	14	12	9	1	5	6	..	3
20	4	14	7	10	5	18	4	..	6
70	14	56	24	12	23	19	1	2	149
172	28	461	29	44	24	35	2	..	570
260	59	292	29	27	17	28	2	3	93
820	94	595	48	25	19	5	..	50	201
295,939	47,221	166,552	73,067	41,716	20,159	429,850	8,643	28,055	194,190

The next three tables show the numbers of growers (in counties) of each kind of fruit and nuts grown in the State for the season 1943-44 :

Districts and Counties.	Apples.		Pears.		Peaches.		Apricots.		Plums.		Prunes.	
	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.
Central District—												
Bourke	360	87	362	66	325	21	100	80	154	133	..	1
Grant	93	70	25	60	17	27	101	48	30	61	1	3
Mornington	705	86	220	131	52	31	46	82	167	146	..	3
Evelyn	370	130	146	86	119	65	24	72	304	188	..	1
	1,528	373	753	343	513	144	271	282	655	528	1	6
North Central District—												
Anglesey	2	18	..	4	..	2	..	..	..	3	..	..
Dalhousie	8	5	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Talbot	184	28	125	39	10	15	6	15	56	48	..	2
	194	51	125	49	10	17	6	15	56	54	..	2
Western District—												
Grenville	14	13	3	13	..	5	23	3	5	12	..	..
Polwarth	19	21	3	10	..	..	2	1	4	10	..	..
Heytesbury	8	11	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	5	..	..
Hampden	3	5	1	3	..	1	..	2	1	5	..	..
Ripon	3	5	1	3	1	2	..	..	..	4	..	..
Villiers .. .. .	..	8	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Normanby	73	36	6	17	..	2	..	10	..	16	..	..
Dundas	1	16	..	3	..	2	..	4	..	5	..	..
Follett	7	6	..	7	..	2	..	3	..	2	..	..
	128	121	14	59	1	14	25	26	10	59	..	..
Wimmera District—												
Lowan	11	13	2	10	4	11	20	9	2	11	15	4
Borong	69	56	56	59	62	49	74	39	26	56	16	20
Kara Kara	37	15	3	25	3	14	2	13	1	18	..	..
	117	84	61	94	69	74	96	61	29	85	31	24
Mallee District—												
Millewa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Weeah .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Karkaroo .. .. .	..	3	3	33	3	19	14	61	3	10	5	15
Tatchera	4	25	..	20	5	33	42	73	1	20	6	14
	4	28	3	53	8	52	56	134	4	30	11	29
Northern District—												
Gunbower	3	33	3	15	1	10	1	12	..	8	1	..
Gladstone	21	13	5	9	4	7	3	6	1	10	..	1
Bendigo	74	38	73	33	42	34	37	49	36	46	9	10
Rodney	15	41	268	24	288	7	230	26	33	25	12	6
Moira	57	71	235	19	238	29	231	32	118	46	24	5
	170	196	584	100	573	87	502	125	188	135	46	22
North-Eastern District—												
Delatite	24	46	3	8	5	5	..	4	..	12	..	4
Bogong	68	57	8	35	3	19	..	10	2	20	2	3
Benambra	3	17	..	5	1	4	..	2	..	6	..	..
Wonnangatta	1	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	96	125	11	49	9	28	..	16	2	38	2	7
Gippsland District—												
Croajingolong	1	8	..	4	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..
Tambo	1	24	1	4	..	5	1	5	1	5	..	..
Dargo	14	12	1	6	2	4	1	4	..	4	..	2
Tanjil	9	13	2	5	..	3	1	1	..	6	..	1
Buln Buln	23	44	2	12	1	4	1	4	2	15	..	1
	48	101	6	27	3	17	4	16	3	30	..	4
Total	2,285	1,079	1,557	774	1,186	433	960	675	947	959	91	94

Number of Growers—continued.

Districts and Counties.	Cherries.		Quinces.		Nectarines.		Figs.		Passion Fruit.		Oranges.	
	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 vines and over.	10 and under 100 vines.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.
Central District—	143	40	94	141	85	99	38	23	..	1	..	4
Bourke	9	11	1	32	..	4	1	4	..	2	..	..
Grant	76	19	15	44	4	17	..	2	13	9	..	5
Mornington	198	25	42	92	22	57	4	6	10	6	..	3
Evelyn .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	426	95	152	309	111	177	43	35	23	18	..	12
North Central District—	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anglesy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dalhousie	26	12	6	18	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..
Talbot .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	26	13	6	18	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..
Western District—	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grenville .. .. .	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Polwarth .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heytesbury .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hampden .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ripon .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Villiers .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Normanby .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dundas .. .. .	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Follett .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	..	4	..	14	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..
Wimmera District—	..	1	..	5	..	3	..	2	..	..	1	1
Lowan	11	11	10	43	1	13	2	20	5	4	1	9
Borong	5	7	..	3	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	1
Kara Kara .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	16	19	10	51	1	19	3	22	5	4	2	11
Mallee District—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Millewa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Weeah .. .. .	..	..	..	4	1	4	3	20	..	1	254	244
Karkaroo .. .. .	..	3	..	9	1	4	3	5	1	1	107	59
Tatchera .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	..	3	..	13	2	8	6	25	1	2	363	303
Northern District—	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	59	16
Gunbower	2	3	..	4	..	..	1	9	..	..	1	..
Gladstone	10	7	9	26	..	..	9	13	..	..	50	21
Bendigo	1	1	13	12	11	9	16	8	..	2	37	21
Rodney	7	8	19	29	8	9	7	27	3	1	85	36
Moira .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	20	21	41	71	19	19	33	59	3	3	232	94
North-Eastern District—	5	2	1	4	..	..	..	1	18	..	2	5
Delatite	6	2	..	8	..	2	4	12	2	1	9	31
Bogong .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Benambra .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wonnangatta .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	11	5	1	13	..	2	4	13	20	1	11	37
Gippsland District—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croajingolong .. ..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1
Tambo .. .. .	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	1	..	..
Dargo	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tanjil .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	3
Buln Buln	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	9	2	..	..	1
	4	4	..	3	..	1	..	2	14	4	..	5
Total	503	164	210	492	133	228	89	159	66	34	608	462

Number of Growers—*continued.*

Districts and Counties.	Mandarins.		Grapefruit.		Lemons.		Almonds.		Walnuts.	
	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.
Central District—										
Bourke .. .. .	..	..	1	1	229	109	..	2	..	7
Grant .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	10	..	15
Mornington .. .. .	..	..	..	3	69	66	1	11	1	12
Evelyn .. .. .	..	..	..	1	96	129	1	5	7	25
	..	..	1	5	395	305	3	28	8	59
North Central District—										
Anglesey .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dalhousie .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	6	..	5
Talbot .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	6	..	8
Western District—										
Grenville .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Polwarth .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Heytesbury .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Hampden .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Ripon .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Villiers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Normanby .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dundas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Follett .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	16
Wimmera District—										
Lowan .. .. .	..	1	..	1	..	1	5	7	..	3
Borong .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	17	13	32	1	14
Kara Kara .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	5	..	9
	..	2	..	1	..	18	20	44	1	26
Mallee District—										
Millewa .. .. .	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Weeah .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Karkaroo	6	87	21	102	18	78	11	74	5	89
Tatchera	1	13	7	24	19	39	24	75	..	30
	7	100	29	126	38	117	35	149	5	119
Northern District—										
Gunbower	7	10	14	14	14	17	3	12	..	11
Gladstone .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	1
Bendigo .. .. .	..	6	1	10	22	27	15	15	..	16
Rodney .. .. .	..	3	1	6	14	15	7	18	..	19
Moir	7	14	10	22	43	42	10	22	1	15
	14	33	26	52	93	102	35	69	1	62
North-Eastern District—										
Delatite .. .. .	..	..	1	1	..	4	3	6	15	38
Bogong .. .. .	..	1	..	..	1	18	16	14	3	30
Benambra .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	1	8
Wonnangatta .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	..	1	1	1	1	23	19	22	19	78
Gippsland District—										
Croajingolong .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Tambo .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	1	..	8
Dargo .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	2	13
Tanjil .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	6
Buln Buln .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	4	..	..	3	15
	..	..	1	..	4	10	..	3	6	45
Total	21	136	58	185	533	575	112	323	40	413

The principal fruits grown in the State are apples, pears, peaches, and citrus. The apple and pear crops for the season 1946-47 amounted to 1,111,780 and 2,215,592 bushels respectively.

A considerable quantity of apricots, peaches, and pears is grown, mostly in irrigated areas, for canning purposes. The total output of 1,857,455 cases of canned fruits for the 1947 season comprised apricots, 124,079 cases; peaches, 1,067,806 cases; and pears, 655,570 cases. This output represented 71 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 1946-47 was £3,311,622 as compared with £3,284,198 in 1945-46.

VICTORIA—FRUIT GROWING, 1941-42 TO 1946-47.

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Number of Growers ..	6,220	6,155	5,915	5,706	5,598	5,737
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Area	69,413	69,776	70,024	68,245	69,479	71,312
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Kind of Fruit—						
Apples	1,603,273	845,184	2,326,224	1,138,801	2,597,618	1,111,780
Pears	1,232,723	1,581,841	1,421,706	1,750,802	1,464,075	2,215,592
Quinces	72,151	55,131	63,208	61,532	65,341	46,730
Apricots	434,552	422,100	464,934	366,000	336,871	429,951
Cherries	48,285	47,081	64,689	52,929	44,064	43,446
Nectarines	20,374	12,577	23,383	24,011	22,196	20,176
Peaches	1,291,756	1,178,242	1,460,813	1,404,870	1,086,841	1,350,113
Plums	189,778	210,383	187,977	156,391	189,155	135,653
Prunes	46,834	37,032	58,415	33,709	39,548	35,597
Lemons	163,378	128,210	162,000	100,897	109,463	117,936
Oranges	614,670	556,500	637,798	663,418	655,562	466,774
Figs	17,565	15,686	13,096	11,537	14,701	15,859
Passion-fruit ..	14,971	10,779	8,431	6,254	3,523	7,283
Other Large Fruits ..	4,059	4,649	1,985	2,157	2,113	724
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Blackberries	1,402	732	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.
Cape Gooseberries ..	96	13	"	"	"	"
Currants	104	86	"	"	"	"
Gooseberries	3,204	2,257	3,041	2,423	1,639	2,427
Loganberries	3,067	2,527	3,196	3,017	2,688	3,320
Mulberries	23	20	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.
Raspberries	2,908	2,690	2,908	2,950	2,397	3,278
Strawberries	6,302	3,372	4,054	3,561	3,027	5,007
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Almonds	163,819	128,737	116,604	122,766	131,299	154,063
Chestnuts	17,257	18,885	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.
Filberts	4,612	4,625	6,580	9,572	4,970	7,219
Walnuts	96,802	76,111	72,937	86,987	63,310	85,303

**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 78.

VICTORIA—DRIED TREE-FRUITS, 1942-43 TO 1946-47.

Year ended June—	Apples.	Apricots.	Figs.	Nectarines.	Peaches.	Pears.	Prunes.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1943 ..	189	203,840	3,543	1,033	255,360	150,080	638,400	1,252,445
1944 ..	2,594	210,560	7,240	46	425,600	286,720	705,600	1,638,360
1945 ..	76	215,040	8,196	27	683,200	304,640	456,960	1,668,139
1946 ..	4,508	103,040	8,153	149	465,920	176,960	432,320	1,191,050
1947 ..	61	78,400	..	1,120	436,800	241,920	465,920	1,224,221

Vegetable growing.

Prior to the season 1942-43, statistics relating to vegetable growing were collected only from those market gardeners who cropped an area of 1 acre or more. Only the surface area employed for vegetable growing was tabulated and, as a consequence, due to double-cropping, the actual area utilized was understated. Furthermore, vegetables grown between trees and vines in orchards and vineyards were not recorded.

From the season 1942-43, however, particulars were obtained of all vegetables grown on areas of $\frac{1}{4}$ acre and upwards, including those grown in orchards and vineyards, and allowance was made for double cropping. These changes in practice therefore invalidate any comparison with previous years.

Excluding potatoes and onions, which are shown under separate headings in this issue of the *Year-Book*, the area sown to vegetables in Victoria for the season 1946-47 was 43,431 acres and the gross value of the estimated production therefrom was £4,187,443.

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

	Acres.		Acres.
Carrots	2,175	Beans, French ..	4,979
Parsnips	951	Beans, Navy ..	42
Beetroot	858	Peas, green ..	10,680
Cabbage	2,486	Peas, blue ..	1,259
Cauliflower ..	2,931	Silver beet ..	175
Lettuce	1,973	Cucumber ..	196
Tomatoes	7,945	Marrows ..	160
Pumpkins	2,173	Melons ..	585
Turnips	642	Other ..	3,221

Minor Crops. There are other crops cultivated in Victoria in addition to those enumerated on pages 56 and 57. 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 July, 1946). 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.
1940-41	Crops 33,013	3,671,693	151,345
		Pastures 25,302	170,869
1941-42	Crops } Not tabulated {	3,650,339	145,245
		Pastures } 3,290,142	167,418
1942-43	Crops } Not tabulated {	2,444,332	90,033
		Pastures } 2,140,314	94,762
1943-44	Crops 28,841	2,060,274	79,102
		Pastures 23,161	84,588
1944-45	Crops 30,905	2,445,339	89,989
		Pastures 23,917	96,469
1945-46	Crops 32,148	3,383,072	114,541
		Pastures 25,019	133,484
1946-47	Crops 30,471	3,536,941	137,662
		Pastures 26,763	183,430

Machinery used on Holdings. Statistics in respect of most kinds of serviceable farming implements were last collected in 1946. In 1947 the collection was confined to Milking Plants, Shearing Plants, and Tractors. The information is shown in the following table:—

Financial Assistance to Primary Producers. 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*.

VICTORIA—MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS IN USE ON
RURAL HOLDINGS AT 31st MARCH, 1946 AND 1947.

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 1947.

At 1st March—	Horses (including Foals).	Cattle—		Sheep.	Pigs.
		Dairy Cows.*	Other.		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1861	76,536	197,332	525,000	5,780,896	61,259
1871	209,025	212,193	564,534	10,477,976	180,109
1881	275,516	329,198	957,069	10,360,285	241,936
1891	436,469	395,192	1,387,689	12,692,843	282,457
1901	392,237	521,612	1,080,772	10,841,790	350,370
1911	472,080	668,777	878,792	12,882,665	333,281
1921	487,503	620,005	955,154	12,171,084	175,275
1931	379,872	669,132	760,788	16,477,995	281,245
1941	318,441	942,107	980,229	20,412,362	397,945
1943 at 31st March ..	292,534	937,164	1,085,728	19,614,040	307,929
1944 " " ..	277,662	938,484	1,074,549	19,220,457	337,878
1945 " " ..	253,782	925,307	977,803	16,457,101	296,232
1946 " " ..	232,473	882,646	944,441	14,655,277	271,887
1947	227,164	956,140	1,103,921	16,598,490	290,450

* 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, 1861-1947.

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	1943	42,768,300
1891	34,886,343	1944	42,127,407
1901	30,788,000	1945	38,026,021
1911	33,079,155	1946	35,250,877
1921	32,797,704	1947	39,470,740

VICTORIA—PERSONS PERMANENTLY ENGAGED ON RURAL HOLDINGS, INCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS, ETC., BUT EXCLUDING CASUAL AND SEASONAL WORKERS, 1940-41 TO 1946-47.

Year ending March.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	No.	No.	Nb.
1941 and 1942 .. ..	..	Not tabulated	..
1943	84,045	16,352	100,397
1944	85,074	13,207	98,281
1945	87,418	12,064	99,482
1946	89,867	10,209	100,076
1947	92,533	8,784	101,317

NOTE.—Information relating to wages of males temporarily employed during 1946-47 was collected in addition to the numbers of those permanently engaged. Such wages amounted to £2,654,600.

In the next table will be found particulars of the rates of wages paid (with rations) upon rural holdings during 1946-47. The information has been furnished by the occupiers of holdings.

VICTORIA—RATES OF WAGES ON RURAL HOLDINGS, 1946-47.

Occupations.	Prevailing Rate.	Range.
Ploughmen	85s. per week	50s. to 120s. per week
Farm labourers	83s. per week	50s. to 130s. per week
Threshing machine hands ..	2s. 6d. per hour	1s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per hour
Harvest hands	21s. 6d. per day	15s. to 30s. per day
Milkers	83s. per week	60s. to 120s. per week
Maize pickers (without rations) ..	1s. 2d. per bag of cobs	9d. to 2s. per bag of cobs
Married couples	124s. 6d. per week	80s. to 160s. per week
Female servants	48s. per week	25s. to 90s. per week
Shearers, hand (without rations) ..	49s. per 100 sheep	40s. to 64s. per 100 sheep
„ machine (without rations)	52s. per 100 sheep	36s. 6d. to 86s. per 100 sheep
Gardeners, market	89s. per week	60s. to 110s. per week
„ orchard	92s. 6d. per week	60s. to 100s. per week
Vineyard hands	92s. 6d. per week	75s. to 110s. per week

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*.

Financial Assistance to Primary Producers.

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 1947.

At 1st March—	Horses (including Foals).	Cattle—		Sheep.	Pigs.
		Dairy Cows.*	Other.		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1861	76,536	197,332	525,000	5,780,896	61,259
1871	209,025	212,193	564,534	10,477,976	180,109
1881	275,516	329,198	957,069	10,360,285	241,936
1891	436,469	395,192	1,387,689	12,692,843	282,457
1901	392,237	521,612	1,080,772	10,841,790	350,370
1911	472,080	668,777	878,792	12,882,665	333,281
1921	487,503	620,005	955,154	12,171,084	175,275
1931	379,872	669,132	760,788	16,477,995	281,245
1941	318,441	942,107	980,229	20,412,362	397,945
1943 at 31st March ..	292,534	937,164	1,085,728	19,614,040	307,929
1944 " " ..	277,662	938,484	1,074,549	19,220,457	337,878
1945 " " ..	253,782	925,307	977,803	16,457,101	296,232
1946 " " ..	232,473	882,646	944,441	14,655,277	271,887
1947	227,164	956,140	1,103,921	16,598,490	290,450

* 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—1947.

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	1943	42,768,300
1891	34,886,343	1944	42,127,407
1901	30,788,000	1945	38,026,021
1911	33,079,155	1946	35,250,877
1921	32,797,704	1947	39,470,740

When making comparisons of the figures in the foregoing table, consideration should be given to the varying acreage under cultivation as shown on page 51.

Size of holdings and numbers of live stock. A table showing the sizes of holdings and the numbers of live stock thereon as at March, 1938, appeared on page 742 of the 1938-39 issue of the *Year-Book*.

Live stock in Australia. In the following statement are given the numbers of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs in the various Australian States at 31st March, 1947:—

LIVE STOCK IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1947.

State.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Victoria	227,164	2,060,061	16,598,490	290,450
New South Wales	379,774	2,983,093	43,105,000	358,417
Queensland	343,172	5,945,285	16,084,340	340,150
South Australia	109,274	423,980	7,958,619	134,033
Western Australia	80,746	811,949	9,787,002	101,719
Tasmania	23,925	220,119	1,933,332	47,407
Northern Territory	30,019	972,990	28,005	208
Australian Capital Territory	1,101	9,169	227,936	627
Total	1,195,175	13,426,646	95,722,724	1,273,011

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

AGRICULTURE AND LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

	Victoria. (1945-46.)	Great Britain. (1943-44.)
Total area acres	56,245,760	56,208,959
Wheat bushels	29,633,760	117,003,000
Oats "	7,401,816	144,144,000
Barley "	1,743,754	77,818,000
Potatoes tons	230,749	8,026,000
Turnips and Swedes "	7,803*	11,906,000
Mangolds "	4,793	5,543,000
Hay "	1,444,250	4,987,000
Horses No.	232,473	829,079
Cattle "	1,827,087	8,615,580
Sheep "	14,655,277	19,435,396
Pigs "	271,887	1,630,515

* Includes beet, carrots, and parsnips.

Distribution
of Live Stock.

The next table contains particulars of Live Stock

VICTORIA—DISTRIBUTION

Statistical Districts and Counties.	Horses.	Dairy Cattle.					
		Cows.		Springing Heifers.	Other Heifers for Dairying.	Calves.	Bulls.
		Milking.	Dry.				
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District—							
Bourke	26,433	30,586	11,751	3,281	7,779	9,241	1,311
Grant	9,913	16,455	5,649	2,190	4,791	6,865	969
Mornington	13,902	74,120	21,798	6,393	18,130	24,181	3,598
Evelyn	4,366	9,338	3,730	1,212	3,502	4,191	568
North Central District—							
Anglesey	2,538	5,716	2,955	1,172	2,128	2,725	344
Dalhousie	3,242	4,139	1,411	630	1,102	2,490	295
Talbot	6,505	9,321	2,387	1,136	2,371	4,431	624
Western District—							
Grenville	5,158	12,449	7,800	2,064	4,039	4,167	785
Polwarth	3,234	21,098	7,715	2,485	6,387	6,930	1,149
Heytesbury	3,787	35,013	15,163	2,972	10,531	11,847	1,970
Hampden	4,394	24,667	14,326	3,818	9,129	8,727	1,626
Ripon	3,313	3,754	1,496	540	1,081	1,852	342
Villiers	5,437	24,396	15,512	4,026	8,816	8,079	1,452
Normanby	5,064	16,168	11,644	3,073	5,001	7,564	1,120
Dundas	3,653	5,059	5,582	1,525	1,781	2,620	546
Follett	1,285	1,886	1,928	706	508	1,018	142
Wimmera District—							
Lowan	7,631	5,297	2,462	912	1,272	2,587	523
Borong	9,082	6,575	2,570	821	1,457	3,237	658
Kara Kara	4,041	2,782	1,049	322	647	1,407	217
Mallee District—							
Millewa	1,001	386	124	54	98	213	43
Weeah	1,538	1,027	325	109	198	454	111
Karkaroc	7,878	3,961	1,262	308	699	1,828	322
Tatchera	7,861	8,125	2,432	1,102	2,212	3,761	375
Northern District—							
Gunbower	5,313	24,161	6,022	2,928	6,639	10,484	1,217
Gladstone	4,685	2,622	914	244	576	1,286	192
Bendigo	8,376	13,043	2,946	808	3,568	5,627	719
Rodney	8,217	31,944	6,492	2,997	9,161	13,517	1,712
Moira	15,053	14,695	6,274	1,955	4,448	7,653	1,204
North-Eastern District—							
Delatite	6,249	17,638	7,642	3,401	3,771	9,964	1,150
Bogong	8,321	31,132	9,340	5,175	6,162	12,166	1,471
Benambra	3,861	15,901	3,546	2,418	2,760	5,909	584
Wonmangatta	338	515	389	149	146	266	27
Gippsland District—							
Croajingolong	1,241	6,608	1,283	335	2,140	2,553	253
Tambo	1,819	4,947	1,702	619	1,487	1,971	232
Dargo	1,517	4,521	1,414	565	1,229	1,703	198
Tanjil	5,151	33,504	10,033	4,314	9,787	11,188	1,411
Buln Buln	15,767	123,274	31,314	12,176	28,663	41,072	5,849
Total for State	227,164	646,823	230,382	78,935	174,196	245,783	35,509

in each County of the State as at March, 1947.

OF LIVE STOCK, 1947.

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.
10,224	4,687	349	8,401	87,610	14,984	395,442	95,985	491,427
10,629	6,182	663	7,533	61,926	6,524	537,318	148,176	685,494
20,334	7,944	264	17,289	194,051	19,511	154,230	55,540	209,770
4,378	2,539	137	5,206	34,821	3,664	37,226	20,639	57,865
6,055	3,740	177	7,153	32,165	4,263	370,626	80,071	450,697
2,644	1,741	84	2,969	17,505	1,502	361,803	92,020	453,823
2,938	2,988	173	4,531	30,900	4,956	363,239	121,395	484,634
2,511	1,363	84	4,136	39,398	6,693	520,971	141,578	662,549
4,158	2,015	73	4,722	56,732	8,560	425,580	33,000	158,580
2,245	910	53	2,764	83,468	6,157	46,548	10,180	56,728
8,866	3,980	277	16,541	91,957	4,064	679,059	194,619	873,678
2,866	1,816	100	2,890	16,737	1,183	701,483	177,051	878,534
16,488	8,878	566	14,979	103,192	2,025	716,275	203,465	919,740
10,365	6,478	357	8,259	70,029	7,389	521,679	140,802	662,481
5,223	3,320	192	5,845	31,702	2,169	728,836	160,949	889,785
4,116	2,655	142	2,898	15,999	786	211,875	40,420	252,295
1,627	1,798	99	1,109	17,686	4,690	885,533	232,687	1,118,220
389	1,271	74	1,161	18,213	8,488	640,585	179,883	820,468
565	1,011	34	1,344	9,378	2,783	413,175	127,100	540,275
16	51	1	43	1,029	623	50,690	19,335	70,025
70	158	5	68	2,525	1,407	81,945	26,806	108,751
265	540	32	475	9,692	5,086	328,714	88,317	417,031
1,326	1,267	29	2,202	23,031	9,035	277,704	103,122	380,826
3,036	4,028	122	4,750	63,387	18,654	229,034	81,617	310,651
342	779	59	755	7,769	3,185	295,436	113,191	408,627
1,506	2,534	62	2,065	32,878	11,115	336,013	113,546	449,559
3,686	4,063	111	4,041	77,724	21,494	372,778	144,878	517,656
4,593	5,188	182	6,509	52,701	11,795	685,126	227,006	912,132
13,768	10,249	506	22,727	90,816	8,594	520,689	163,791	684,480
16,732	11,475	491	16,648	110,792	19,759	278,802	72,763	351,565
21,424	15,060	682	15,079	83,363	7,912	194,096	58,285	252,381
2,822	1,355	71	1,977	7,717	198	35,421	12,060	47,481
3,762	1,949	102	3,618	22,603	4,944	36,274	10,926	47,200
8,684	5,321	235	4,127	29,325	2,839	90,177	25,239	115,416
4,672	2,699	116	2,857	19,974	3,402	77,164	24,180	101,344
10,600	6,917	287	15,123	103,164	8,921	234,869	83,461	368,330
19,741	12,243	500	33,270	308,102	41,096	294,971	93,021	387,992
233,666	151,192	7,511	256,064	2,060,061	290,450	12,881,386	3,717,104	16,598,490

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 1946-47 was £21,525,932 as compared with £18,866,694 in 1945-46, £17,864,037 in 1944-45, £16,997,685 in 1943-44, and £15,351,192 in 1942-43. 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, 1942-43 TO 1946-47.

As at 31st March—	Number of Cow-keepers.	Number of Dairy Cows.*	Estimated Total Production of Milk for all Purposes (Year ended 30th June).
			1,000 Gallons.
1943	Not tabulated.	937,164	381,640
1944	53,371	938,484	360,532
1945	53,024	925,307	360,501
1946	52,377	882,646	375,639
1947	Not tabulated	956,140	434,230

* 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 three years were as follow :—

VICTORIA—BUTTER, CHEESE, CONDENSED AND POWDERED MILK, CASEIN MADE, ETC., 1944-45, 1945-46, AND 1946-47.

Year Ended 30th June—	Butter.*	Cheese.*	Condensed and Full-Cream Powdered Milk.	All Other Milk Products.	Casein.
	1,000lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1945	106,518	27,462	103,706	12,921	3,136
1946	114,573	33,504	109,419	16,360	2,809
1947	134,936	39,526	104,898	22,753	5,135

* Including that made on farms.

Numbers and
Sizes of
Dairy Herds.

The following table shows the number of dairy herds in Victoria, grouped, according to size, for each of the seven years, 1941-47 :—

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.	
1941 ..	9,911	4,984	3,101	4,830	6,080	3,987	639	33,532
1942-43 ..	Not tabulated							
1944 ..	9,381	4,569	2,787	4,282	6,117	4,352	683	32,171
1945 ..	8,455	4,094	2,541	4,154	6,066	4,428	699	30,437
1946 ..	7,839	3,605	2,368	3,970	5,883	4,293	652	28,610
1947 ..	Not tabulated							

The numbers of farmers with less than five cows were :—21,765 in 1941, 21,200 in 1944, 22,587 in 1945, and 23,767 in 1946. 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*.

Pigs.

The number of pigs in Victoria at 31st March, 1947, was 290,450. About 73 per cent. of these are held in the Central, Western, Northern, and Gippsland districts which are so largely devoted to dairying. In the following table a classification (in counties) of pigs together with the numbers of pig-keepers is shown :—

VICTORIA—PIGS AND PIG-KEEPERS—MARCH 31st, 1947.

Districts and Counties.	Boars.	Breeding Sows.	Baconers and Porkers.	Back-fatters.	Stores.	Stickers, Weaners, Slips.	Total Pigs.	Pig-Owners. (1946)
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District—								
Bourke	145	1,785	5,389	219	2,475	4,971	14,984	288
Grant	136	785	1,592	49	1,478	2,484	6,524	422
Mornington	492	2,678	4,280	150	4,903	6,999	19,511	851
Evelyn	95	582	708	18	599	1,662	3,664	254
North Central District—								
Anglesey	92	634	1,008	29	1,046	1,454	4,263	158
Dalhousie	40	217	346	7	205	687	1,502	138
Talbot	112	574	1,512	70	887	1,801	4,956	399
Western District—								
Grenville	126	571	1,456	55	2,226	2,259	6,693	284
Polwarth	196	1,093	1,642	85	2,137	3,407	8,560	477
Heytesbury	183	760	974	21	1,911	2,308	6,157	355
Hampden	94	474	944	23	1,232	1,297	4,064	146
Ripon	41	149	469	15	194	315	1,183	85
Villiers	46	248	339	6	741	645	2,025	99
Normanby	186	991	1,358	30	1,227	3,597	7,389	516
Dundas	80	301	502	8	453	825	2,169	192
Follett	32	117	138	..	232	267	786	48
Wimmera District—								
Lowan	136	535	1,571	38	676	1,734	4,690	516
Borong	191	1,001	2,744	71	903	3,578	8,488	760
Kara Kara	65	356	557	23	551	1,231	2,783	213
Mallee District—								
Millewa	12	66	105	3	198	239	623	37
Weeah	37	169	514	5	246	436	1,407	99
Karkaroc	112	568	1,246	31	914	2,215	5,086	336
Tatchera	174	1,003	2,187	19	3,031	2,621	9,035	428
Northern District—								
Gunbower	407	2,171	5,331	80	5,705	4,960	18,654	704
Gladstone	56	354	804	15	336	1,620	3,185	240
Bendigo	188	1,283	2,755	57	2,404	4,428	11,115	440
Rodney	455	2,582	6,046	142	5,362	6,907	21,494	881
Moira	276	1,499	2,648	46	2,766	4,560	11,795	642
North-Eastern District—								
Delatite	222	1,104	1,599	27	2,153	3,489	8,594	501
Bogong	411	2,423	4,448	101	4,901	7,475	19,759	832
Benambra	187	1,007	1,879	10	1,988	2,841	7,912	311
Wonnamagatta	5	27	43	12	16	95	198	18
Gippsland District—								
Croajingolong	87	649	1,097	22	1,413	1,676	4,944	112
Tambo	70	411	664	63	595	1,036	2,839	148
Dargo	74	442	751	13	1,045	1,077	3,402	167
Tanjil	234	1,240	1,688	49	3,000	2,710	8,921	371
Buln Buln	1,081	5,277	7,257	151	13,671	13,659	41,096	2,048
Total for State ..	6,576	36,126	68,591	1,772	73,820	103,565	290,450	14,516*

* Of this number 4,924 had herds of under 5 pigs, 2,332 herds of 5 and under 9 pigs, 2,984 herds of 10 and under 19 pigs, and 4,366 herds of 20 pigs and over.

Sheep. The numbers of sheep in Victoria in various years since 1861 are shown in the table on page 90. Sheep are depastured in practically all districts of the State, but are relatively more numerous in the Wimmera, Western and Northern districts. The distribution of all live stock is shown in table on page 92.

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. Climatological 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, 1942 to 1947.

VICTORIA—LAMBING, 1942 TO 1947.

Season.	Lambs Marked.	Ewes Mated to produce such Lambs.	Proportion of Lambs Marked to Ewes Mated.
	No.	No.	%
1942	7,129,692	9,602,120	74·3
1943	7,251,821	9,843,352	73·7
1944	6,086,522	8,975,270	67·8
1945	3,503,096	7,116,912	49·2
1946	5,936,792	7,328,321	81·0
1947	6,939,854	8,243,066	84·2

Flocks of Sheep in Districts.

The following table contains a classification of the flocks of sheep in each district of Victoria as at March, 1943. Sheep travelling on roads or located in cities or towns are excluded. The classification discloses that, although the four groups with sheep under 500 comprise 63·53 per cent. of the owners, the number of sheep in those groups was only 20·43 per cent. of the total sheep in the State.

FLOCKS OF SHEEP IN

Size of Flock.	Total in Victoria.				Districts.			
	Flocks.		Sheep.		Central.		North-Central.	
	No.	Per-centage to Total.	No.	Per-centage to Total.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.
				No.	No.	No.	No.	
Under 50	3,734	11·91	82,321	·42	571	12,085	246	5,990
50 and under 100	2,398	7·65	172,557	·88	363	26,291	245	18,036
100 ,, 250	6,385	20·37	1,078,400	5·51	869	141,993	568	95,938
250 ,, 500	7,397	23·60	2,663,592	13·62	660	235,912	611	220,557
500 ,, 1,000	6,557	20·91	4,554,785	23·28	530	361,975	550	384,910
1,000 ,, 2,000	3,266	10·42	4,442,366	22·71	253	349,845	274	367,826
2,000 ,, 3,500	1,024	3·27	2,622,986	13·41	70	180,454	99	246,764
3,500 ,, 5,000	257	·82	1,057,207	5·40	18	73,468	25	100,613
5,000 ,, 7,500	171	·54	1,033,427	5·28	11	65,341	13	72,983
7,500 ,, 10,000	74	·24	640,870	3·28	5	44,618	4	33,392
10,000 ,, 15,000	58	·19	676,412	3·46	3	31,377	3	37,175
15,000 ,, 20,000	13	·04	216,769	1·11	2	33,399	..	..
20,000 and over ..	12	·04	320,558	1·64	..	..	..	..
Totals	31,346	100·00	19,562,250	100·00	3,355	1,556,758	2,638	1,584,184

Breeds of
Sheep
as at March,
1947.

Although the principal breed of sheep in the State is the "Merino," the percentage of pure Merino sheep is only 32, as compared with 72 in New South Wales. Merino Comebacks, the progeny of Crossbred ewes mated to Merino rams, number 18 per cent., other crossbreeds 42 per cent. and other British and Australasian breeds 8 per cent. of the sheep of Victoria.

Australasian breeds are the Polwarth and the Corriedale. The Polwarth is a Merino-Lincoln cross (approximately three-quarters Merino and one-quarter Lincoln). It was evolved to meet the conditions of light wool-growing localities found to be too wet and cold for the pure merino. The Corriedale was evolved by heavily culling the

VICTORIA AS AT MARCH, 1943.

Districts—continued.

Western.		Wimmera.		Mallee.		Northern.		North-Eastern.		Gippsland.	
Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1,018	21,420	240	6,068	113	2,517	415	9,867	427	9,032	704	15,342
460	32,555	270	19,979	125	8,612	379	27,633	274	19,826	282	19,625
857	139,873	940	162,555	817	141,010	1,313	225,643	531	90,439	490	80,949
842	304,561	1,220	441,318	1,145	413,081	1,772	637,394	703	252,476	444	158,293
1,182	843,247	1,180	817,189	692	462,762	1,429	985,628	625	442,098	369	256,976
858	1,182,884	583	793,723	214	280,672	616	827,791	292	393,281	176	246,344
363	934,223	192	492,487	34	87,480	108	276,518	83	214,003	75	191,057
116	480,989	37	152,779	12	50,637	24	97,415	11	45,386	14	55,920
101	620,077	18	105,251	3	18,770	12	72,567	6	36,029	7	42,409
42	364,945	15	132,248	..	..	5	41,785	1	8,185	2	15,697
43	504,799	2	22,377	1	11,532	3	32,767	1	12,380	2	24,005
9	152,215	1	15,943	..	..	1	15,212	..	..	..	..
10	269,171	..	..	1	24,874	1	26,513	..	..	..	..
5,901	5,850,959	4,698	3,161,917	3,157	1,501,947	6,078	3,276,733	2,954	1,523,135	2,565	1,106,617

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 102 of this issue of the *Year-Book*.

The following table sets out the numbers of rams, ewes, wethers and lambs depastured on rural holdings in each county of the State as at March, 1947, 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.

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

Statistical Districts and Counties.	Rams.	Ewes.		Wethers.	Lambs.	Total Sheep and Lambs.
		Breeding.	Other. (Not mated or intended to be bred from.)			
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District—						
Bourke	6,334	255,681	27,953	105,474	95,985	491,427
Grant	7,666	350,615	34,133	144,904	148,176	685,494
Mornington	3,798	122,048	10,450	17,034	55,540	209,770
Evelyn	900	31,399	439	4,488	20,639	57,865
North Central District—						
Anglesey	5,334	210,270	7,216	147,806	80,071	450,697
Dalhousie	5,143	232,827	11,456	112,377	92,020	453,823
Talbot	7,012	277,054	11,488	67,685	121,395	484,634
Western District—						
Grenville	10,642	296,800	35,958	177,571	141,578	662,549
Polwarth	2,452	83,902	10,223	29,003	33,000	158,580
Heytesbury	1,119	39,432	3,152	2,845	10,180	56,728
Hampden	14,706	427,479	53,065	183,890	194,619	873,678
Ripon	10,853	385,777	55,739	249,114	177,051	878,534
Villiers	11,093	379,673	68,905	256,604	203,465	919,740
Normanby	6,519	272,729	47,620	194,811	140,802	662,481
Dundas	8,428	359,199	67,067	294,142	160,949	889,785
Follett	2,408	100,018	13,230	96,219	40,420	252,295
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	10,999	509,274	54,645	310,615	232,687	1,118,220
Borong	9,415	420,101	31,130	179,939	179,883	820,468
Kara Kara	7,220	280,414	20,887	104,654	127,100	540,275
Mallee District—						
Millewa	708	40,379	2,190	7,413	19,335	70,025
Weeah	1,210	71,710	619	8,406	26,806	108,751
Karkaroo	5,085	279,659	6,139	37,831	88,317	417,031
Tatchera	4,428	241,074	5,686	26,516	103,122	380,826
Northern District—						
Gunbower	5,017	197,070	5,227	21,720	81,617	310,651
Gladstone	5,369	230,698	8,221	51,148	113,191	408,627
Bendigo	6,313	285,641	7,187	36,872	113,546	449,559
Rodney	8,440	317,002	7,086	40,250	144,878	517,656
Moira	14,294	594,090	19,930	62,812	227,006	912,132
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	9,572	417,625	10,834	82,658	163,791	684,480
Bogong	5,934	232,224	8,478	32,166	72,763	351,565
Benambra	2,772	132,214	7,839	51,271	58,285	252,381
Wonnangatta	507	22,946	1,696	10,272	12,060	47,481
Gippsland District—						
Croajingolong	394	20,725	4,306	10,849	10,926	47,200
Tambo	1,249	62,702	4,013	22,213	25,239	115,416
Dargo	899	46,999	9,156	20,110	24,180	101,344
Tanjil	3,562	180,118	11,492	89,697	83,461	368,330
Buln Buln	4,204	175,748	10,847	104,172	93,021	387,992
Total	211,998	8,584,216	689,702	3,395,470	3,717,104	16,598,490

BREEDS OF RAMS IN EACH COUNTY (EXCLUSIVE OF IN TOWNS) AS AT MARCH, 1947.

Ewes Mated (for Lambing during Season 1947).		Breeds of Rams (as at March, 1947).						
To Merino, Corriedale or Polwarth Rams (<i>Wool Production</i>).	To Rams of British Breeds (<i>Fat-lamb Production</i>).	Merino.	Corriedale.	Polwarth.	Border Leicester.	South-down.	Dorset Horn.	Other.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
35,947	206,509	110	723	174	990	1,398	1,581	1,358
158,532	177,149	1,801	1,324	615	1,323	239	1,636	728
9,606	108,740	4	714	61	529	1,426	245	819
5,691	24,826	24	40	52	158	229	113	284
79,452	126,475	1,013	934	141	268	1,864	384	730
79,904	146,397	1,098	731	91	1,066	802	867	488
124,908	155,785	2,002	1,454	66	1,534	166	819	971
183,384	93,881	6,560	1,185	1,005	866	268	303	455
28,559	48,331	..	276	939	405	350	144	338
847	37,780	1	8	24	58	570	75	383
284,428	111,653	4,983	3,840	2,558	428	828	489	1,580
290,689	70,408	7,808	1,114	215	630	53	591	442
260,519	86,566	4,445	2,595	1,421	537	270	165	1,660
156,579	94,120	1,596	2,107	342	462	273	399	1,340
244,382	87,874	3,689	2,342	277	601	196	440	883
35,754	62,229	255	527	12	292	181	162	979
341,718	143,959	6,517	1,501	122	936	315	676	932
197,184	204,038	3,682	1,408	86	2,134	222	1,288	595
152,915	116,717	3,990	353	297	1,603	19	542	416
22,600	16,377	426	51	..	86	1	99	45
27,775	42,982	132	365	36	229	18	363	67
20,993	256,514	48	475	21	2,903	36	1,292	310
11,388	226,127	93	183	5	3,251	104	482	310
25,114	169,571	627	260	5	1,776	333	1,500	516
105,973	120,139	1,898	824	59	1,637	135	262	554
64,178	214,594	759	588	18	2,792	314	1,086	756
40,671	270,764	244	715	11	3,199	1,264	2,078	929
65,606	522,068	411	1,362	44	3,782	4,607	3,002	1,086
118,469	290,687	886	1,637	130	1,937	2,141	598	2,243
48,152	177,509	560	551	117	2,785	763	348	810
57,008	71,355	721	396	36	441	263	352	563
12,641	9,158	92	175	41	39	10	13	137
9,621	7,480	187	16	5	82	2	2	100
32,352	28,030	191	445	22	133	78	61	319
23,838	20,121	294	176	2	100	52	40	235
73,377	96,140	964	430	95	278	160	935	700
36,670	132,589	254	604	7	773	709	717	1,140
3,467,424	4,775,642	58,365	32,429	9,152	41,043	20,659	24,149	26,201

AUSTRALIA—BREEDS OF SHEEP—31ST MARCH, 1947.

Breed.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	A.C.T. and Northern Territory.	Australia.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Merino ..	31,067,510	5,265,808	15,872,429	5,926,462	8,323,849	280,313	224,707	66,961,078
Other Pure Breeds ..	2,139,893	1,407,349	23,795	342,187	488,975	456,411	8,160	4,866,770
Merino Come-back ..	2,059,812	3,001,730	89,132	274,068	*	282,300	5,269	5,712,311†
Crossbreeds ..	7,837,785	6,923,603	98,984	1,415,902	974,178	914,308	17,805	18,182,565
	43,105,000	16,598,490	16,084,340	7,958,619	9,787,002	1,933,332	255,941	95,722,724

* Included with Crossbreeds.

† Incomplete by reason of *.

VICTORIA—BREEDS OF SHEEP—31ST MARCH, 1947.

Breed.	Central District.	North Central District.	Western District.	Wimmera District.	Mallee District.	Northern District.	North-East District.	Gippsland District.	State.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Merino ..	198,765	384,939	2,206,705	1,570,166	183,557	380,533	210,115	131,028	5,265,808
Other Pure Breeds ..	142,786	102,285	698,826	134,568	46,357	146,685	86,106	49,736	1,407,349
Merino Come-back ..	274,584	280,235	968,798	243,314	258,916	359,597	259,005	357,281	3,001,730
Crossbreeds ..	828,421	621,695	1,480,041	530,915	487,803	1,711,810	780,681	482,237	6,923,603

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 1946-47.

Statistical District.	Shorn.		Wool Clipped (including Crutchings).		Average.	
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep's.	Lambs'.	Per Sheep.	Per Lamb.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Central ..	1,055,486	323,911	10,628,107	939,106	10·07	2·90
North-Central ..	1,203,124	317,756	12,006,670	796,319	9·98	2·51
Western ..	4,865,496	1,264,150	48,456,382	3,421,591	9·96	2·71
Wimmera ..	2,163,531	625,787	23,160,526	1,709,249	10·70	2·73
Mallee ..	670,746	213,606	6,575,349	561,329	9·80	2·63
Northern ..	2,063,201	744,181	20,343,578	1,961,399	9·86	2·64
North-Eastern ..	1,169,159	374,585	11,120,197	876,231	9·51	2·34
Gippsland ..	842,338	266,842	7,594,308	657,138	9·02	2·46
State Totals ..	14,033,081	4,130,818	139,885,117	10,922,452	9·97	2·64

VICTORIA—SHEEP SHORN AND WOOL CLIPPED.

Season.	Shorn.		Wool Clipped (including Crutchings).		Average.	
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep's.	Lambs'.	Per Sheep.	Per Lamb.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1941-42	18,152,605	4,231,230	160,868,792	10,007,780	8·86	2·37
1942-43	18,517,675	4,346,985	163,250,178	10,794,985	8·82	2·48
1943-44	18,335,678	4,980,781	151,995,096	11,843,481	8·29	2·38
1944-45	17,343,470	3,668,790	134,236,931	8,378,726	7·74	2·28
1945-46	13,826,939	2,543,969	103,669,755	5,566,385	7·50	2·19
1946-47	14,033,081	4,130,818	139,885,117	10,922,452	9·97	2·64

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.
1941-42	170,876,572	42,042,469	212,919,041	12,593,512	14·20
1942-43	174,045,163	34,159,329	208,204,492	14,223,964	16·40
1943-44	163,838,577	32,576,650	196,415,227	13,290,073	16·24
1944-45	142,615,657	34,527,400	177,143,057	11,856,369	16·06
1945-46	109,236,140	43,161,367	152,397,507	9,527,048	15·00
1946-47	150,807,569	46,268,669	197,076,238	18,708,593	22·78

The annual collection of statistics is carefully and efficiently carried out by the police. It is realized, however, that the wool clip as recorded is not likely to cover the whole clip, which was shorn some months prior to the collection. After investigation, and examination of the results of investigations elsewhere, it is considered that the quantity not recorded does not exceed 5 per cent. of the Victorian clip.

There is some uncertainty also associated with skin wool. Allowance is made for skins from other States which are exported from Victoria, so that they are not included in Victorian production. The Victorian figures do, however, include skin wool from all sheep and lambs slaughtered in Victoria, even though some of such sheep were brought over from other States for slaughter.

Marketing of Wool. The 1946-47 wool selling season will long be remembered by those associated with the industry because its happenings have never previously been approached throughout the history of wool growing in Australia. There has never been a period during which wool has enjoyed such an overwhelming world-wide demand, nor when prices, starting off at previously unheard of levels, have tended so long and so steadily in the producers' favour. Seven successive seasons of appraisal methods established for growers a stabilized level of values well above the pre-war average, and there were many who would have preferred an extension of such methods during the inevitable transition period following the war, rather than a return to the public auction system while the world's textile mills were still disorganized and their capacity to absorb current production and accumulated surpluses more or less an unknown factor. There was the fear that the known accumulations of wool, however guardedly they were handled in conjunction with current production, would tend to curtail competition and depress market values. This fear has now been shown to have been groundless. The opening of the post-war wool auctions in Sydney in September, 1946, released a pent up demand for wool which completely flooded the market and forced auction prices to a level well above all previous ideas of values. The demand remained unabated throughout the whole season. Not only was it a seller's market with prices consistently on the up grade, but the volume of wool released to world users from current production and from the stocks of the Joint Organization was phenomenal. As a consequence the original estimate of the time it would take to dispose of the legacy of the war-time appraisal schemes in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa may possibly be reduced by half.

The average "reserve price" of 18·15d. per lb. which had been determined as a "floor" for the 1946-47 season had no effect upon the determination of values. Joint Organization representatives attended every auction in order to "protect" the market up to the reserve but they bought in less than 2 per cent. of the total offerings. The only wools that had to be bought in were excessively burry and inferior lines which buyers were inclined to neglect in the final stages of the season's operations.

All price records for Australian wool were shattered in the remarkable results of the 1946-47 season. The highest figure was reached in Tasmania where an American buyer operating on behalf of

U.S.A. mills engaged in the luxury trade paid 153d. per lb. for superfine merino in the greasy state. The best price obtained during the appraisalment period was 41½d. per lb. while the all-time Australian record price previously stood at 53½d. per lb. It is of interest to note that the grower of the wool which sold at 153d. per lb. was Mr. R. G. O'Connor of Cressy, Tasmania, and that this grower has either held alone or equalled the record price for the last seven successive seasons.

The highest prices obtained for wool sold in Victoria and in Australia during each season from 1926-27 to 1946-47 are shown hereunder. Average weighted prices for wool of Victorian production appear on page 77 of this issue of the *Year-Book*.

Season.	Victoria.	Australia.	Season.	Victoria.	Australia.
	d.	d.		d.	d.
1926-27 ..	41½	41½	1937-38 ..	33½	33½
1927-28 ..	44½	45½	1938-39 ..	26½	28
1928-29 ..	47	47	1939-40 ..	31	33½
1929-30 ..	37½	37½	1940-41 ..	33½	33½
1930-31 ..	31½	31½	1941-42 ..	33½	34½
1931-32 ..	38½	38½	1942-43 ..	39	39½
1932-33 ..	22½	28½	1943-44 ..	40½	40½
1933-34 ..	36½	42	1944-45 ..	39	40½
1934-35 ..	22½	24½	1945-46 ..	41½	41½
1935-36 ..	29½	35½	1946-47 ..	121½	153
1936-37 ..	36½	46½			

The following information as to the average prices of wool per lb. which have prevailed during the last three seasons has been obtained from Victorian wool brokers. These prices are for wool *appraised* or auctioned in Victoria. Wool from the Riverina and the south-east of South Australia is included in Victorian appraisements or sales.

Prices of Wool.

PRICES OF WOOL IN VICTORIA, 1944-45
TO 1946-47.

Class of Wool.	Average Price per lb. in—		
	1944-45.*	1945-46.*	1946-47.
GREASY MERINO.			
	Pence.	Pence.	Pence.
Extra Super (Western District) ..	33 to 39	34 to 41	100 to 122
Super	26 to 32	27 to 33	70 to 99
Good	21 to 25	22 to 26	50 to 69
Average	17 to 20	16 to 20	30 to 49
Wasty and Inferior	12 to 16	10 to 15	15 to 29
Extra Super Lambs	29 to 33	26 to 29	60 to 85
Super Lambs	25 to 28	22 to 25	40 to 59
Good Lambs	20 to 24	16 to 21	25 to 39
Average Lambs	15 to 19	12 to 15	15 to 24
Inferior Lambs	11 to 14	8 to 11	11 to 14
GREASY CROSSBRED.			
Extra Super Comebacks	24 to 27	25 to 28	50 to 61
Super Comebacks	20 to 24	21 to 24	40 to 49
Fine Crossbred	14 to 22	14 to 23	26 to 36
Medium Crossbred	13 to 21	14 to 22	20 to 30
Coarse Crossbred and Lincoln	14 to 24	13 to 25	18 to 26
Super Fine Crossbred Lambs	20 to 24	18 to 21	30 to 44
Good Crossbred Lambs	15 to 19	13 to 16	19 to 29
Coarse and Lincoln Lambs	12 to 14	12 to 15	16 to 20
SCOURED.			
Extra Super Fleece	30 to 33	30 to 33	76 to 81
Super Fleece	26 to 29	26 to 29	60 to 75
Good Fleece	21 to 25	21 to 25	50 to 59
Average Fleece	19 to 20	19 to 20	36 to 49
RECORD PRICES FOR THE SEASON.			
Greasy Merino Fleece	39	41 $\frac{1}{4}$	121 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ Comeback Fleece	27 $\frac{1}{4}$	28	60 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ Merino Lambs	33 $\frac{1}{4}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{4}$
„ Comeback Lambs	25	25	62
Scoured Fleece	33 $\frac{1}{4}$	33 $\frac{1}{4}$	81

* Appraisal prices—subject to addition of 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in 1944-45 and 13.9 per cent. in 1945-46.

In the subjoined table will be found a statement of the average prices of live stock ruling in metropolitan saleyards at Newmarket during the five years 1942-43 to 1946-47. The averages stated are the mean of the monthly prices

Prices of
Live Stock.

realized. Prices of live stock vary each year under the influence of seasonal conditions, prices of wool, &c. During periods of dry weather, stock are hastened to market and consequently prices decline but, with the advent of relief rains, stock are withheld for fattening, breeding, &c., and prices rise.

VICTORIA—PRICES OF LIVE STOCK, 1942-43 TO 1946-47.

Stock.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
	Average.	Average.	Average.	Average.	Average.
<i>Fat Cattle.</i>					
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bullocks—					
Extra prime	21 5 9	24 6 0	24 3 7	25 19 4	24 9 8
Prime	19 11 9	22 4 11	22 0 0	23 14 5	23 7 6
Good	17 17 6	20 5 6	20 7 11	21 8 6	20 19 9
Good light and handy weights	15 4 11	16 19 9	17 9 11	18 4 3	18 5 11
Second	12 9 6	12 12 11	13 4 0	15 5 3	14 17 7
Cows—					
Best	14 9 5	15 13 3	15 9 9	16 17 9	17 1 2
Others	8 10 6	9 7 2	8 18 7	10 4 3	9 17 1
<i>Dairy Cattle</i>					
Milkers (best)	17 8 10	19 14 4	19 19 1	23 4 4	22 3 6
Springers (best)	13 1 9	13 16 5	14 11 6	18 5 8	17 1 10
<i>Fat Sheep.</i>					
Crossbred Wethers—					
Extra prime	1 10 1	1 14 6	1 14 4	2 2 9	2 5 11
Prime	1 7 5	1 11 4	1 11 2	1 19 1	2 0 8
Good	1 3 10	1 7 5	1 6 11	1 14 7	1 15 3
Crossbred Ewes—					
Extra prime	1 0 7	1 5 5	1 5 0	1 11 11	1 13 11
Prime	0 18 0	1 1 9	1 1 11	1 8 0	1 8 6
Good	0 14 5	0 16 2	0 17 6	1 2 8	1 1 3
Merino Wethers—					
Extra prime	1 6 3	1 10 2	1 8 11	1 16 11	2 0 1
Prime	1 3 9	1 7 8	1 6 10	1 13 8	1 16 5
Good	0 19 4	1 3 2	1 2 4	1 8 7	1 8 6
<i>Fat Lambs.</i>					
Extra prime	1 8 3	1 11 10	1 12 10	1 19 11	2 5 0
Prime	1 5 4	1 8 7	1 9 2	1 15 6	1 19 1
Good	1 2 3	1 4 6	1 4 9	1 11 1	1 13 6
<i>Pigs.</i>					
Back Fatters—					
Extra heavy prime	12 12 1	11 17 1	11 16 10	14 16 3	16 14 2
Prime medium and weighty ..	10 10 1	9 12 5	9 15 4	12 7 3	13 8 5
Baconers—					
Medium and heavy	5 11 8	5 15 4	6 9 6	6 13 5	7 9 6
Light	4 10 9	4 11 6	5 6 11	5 9 0	6 1 2
Porkers	3 16 1	3 12 0	3 17 8	4 8 5	4 18 0

Stock Slaughtered.

The following table shows the number of slaughtering establishments and of the stock slaughtered in the State during each of the five years, 1943-47:—

VICTORIA—STOCK SLAUGHTERED, 1943 TO 1947.

Kind of Stock.	Stock Slaughtered in Establishments and on Farms and Stations.				
	Year Ended June—				
	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.*
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Sheep	4,272,102	5,079,169	5,059,831	2,861,651	2,896,162
Lambs	5,458,718	4,221,903	4,127,769	2,195,031	3,409,202
Bullocks	182,612	165,001	161,022	122,864	160,023
Cows	239,980	223,245	235,155	176,326	205,012
Young cattle	51,782	75,502	77,349	43,418	48,162
Calves	278,850	304,641	334,777	230,844	265,373
Pigs	439,917	388,905	415,638	316,300	359,346
Number of Slaughterhouses ..	581	555	526	521	500

* Average dressed weights per carcass during 1946-47 were: Sheep 44.55 lbs.: Lambs 35.54 lbs.: Bullocks 643.23 lbs.: Cows 406.70 lbs.: Young Cattle 252.75 lbs.: Calves 63.12 lbs.: Pigs 159.26 lbs.

Frozen Mutton and Lamb Exported.

The importance of the mutton and lamb export trade to sheep owners is indicated by the export figures for the years 1940 to 1947 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.
1940	119,030 (896,039)	51 (48)	2,933,079 (5,659,110)	38 (36)
1941	76,964 (391,766)	53 (46)	3,286,685 (7,053,976)	31 (31)
1942	88,947 (207,259)	53 (49)	2,740,423 (5,176,722)	33 (32)
1943	151,283 (429,623)	48 (45)	2,747,120 (5,307,531)	35 (35)
1944	287,331 (609,767)	43 (43)	2,382,018 (4,162,862)	32 (32)
1945	353,557 (728,514)	41 (41)	2,004,964 (3,480,887)	31 (31)
1946	127,579 (322,354)	44 (42)	561,578 (1,197,419)	34 (34)
1947	623,151 (1,063,095)	53 (49)	1,948,097 (2,801,618)	39 (38)

Cattle. Cattle-raising has always been one of the more important primary industries in this State, despite the gradual increase in the areas devoted to dairy farming, sheep-raising, and cultivation. This has been due mainly to the considerable improvement in methods of pasture management, including the practice of top-dressing. Vigilant inspection of stock and the rigid quarantine of stock imported from overseas have kept herds in Victoria free from many forms of contagious diseases and animal pests with which stock in other countries are afflicted. The numbers of live stock in each county of the State will be found on page 92 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 1942-43 to 1946-47:—

SILAGE IN VICTORIA, 1942-43 TO 1946-47.

Season ended March.	Farms on which Silage Made.		Districts in which Made.							
	No.	Tons.	Central.	North Central.	Western.	Wimmera.	Mallee.	Northern.	North Eastern.	Gippsland
1943	*	32,099	5,276	368	3,880	648	2,806	2,231	5,222	11,668
1944	*	27,108	5,465	414	5,969	155	139	937	3,911	10,118
1945	454	19,993	5,279	390	1,002	27	58	417	1,014	11,806
1946	639	31,576	7,433	570	1,988	173	..	893	6,428	14,091
1947	504	24,644	7,190	899	1,766	526	72	496	3,774	9,921

* Not tabulated.

Apiculture. Prior to the season 1936, the statistics of honey and beeswax were based on returns received from apiarists who were permanent occupiers of holdings of one acre and upwards. As a consequence, production was understated because of the exclusion of (a) hives on areas of less than one acre, and (b) travelling beekeepers who were not occupiers of rural holdings. Commencing with the season 1935-36, all beekeepers have been required to furnish returns. Particulars relating to apiculture for the five years 1943-47 are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—BEE-HIVES, HONEY, AND BEESWAX, 1942-43
TO 1946-47.

Season Ended May—	Bee-keepers.*	Hives.	Production.		Gross Value.	
			Honey.	Beeswax.	Honey.	Beeswax.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	£	£
1943	2,093	87,224	4,554,107	60,587	142,316	7,753
1944	1,944	90,010	2,544,760	33,796	79,524	4,225
1945	1,658	76,257	4,260,657	49,119	133,146	6,140
1946	1,644	83,719	4,064,274	43,777	127,009	5,472
1947	1,600	95,195	9,031,407	95,524	282,231	11,941

* Apiarists with 20 hives and over numbered 739 in 1943, 803 in 1944, 691 in 1945, 767 in 1946 and 838 in 1947.

Poultry Census. A table showing the number of poultry owners and of poultry in Victoria, as at the date of the Census in each of the years 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1933 was published on page 488 of the 1938-39 issue of the *Year-Book*.

Establishment of Marketing Boards. A summary of the principal legislative provisions of the *Marketing of Primary Products Act 1935* was published on pages 446 to 448 of the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1934-35.

Pursuant to such Act, Marketing Boards have been constituted for onions, chicory, maize, and eggs and egg pulp.

**Wholesale
Prices of
Principal
Products.**

The following table gives the average of the Melbourne wholesale prices of the principal agricultural, dairying, and pastoral food products for each month of the year ended June, 1947 :—

MELBOURNE—WHOLESALE PRICES—YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1947.

	1946.						1947.					
	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.
Agricultural Produce—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Wheat .. per bushel	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½	3 11½
Barley—												
English	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1
Cape	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4
Oats, Milling	3 10	3 10	3 10	3 10	3 10	4 4	4 4	4 10	4 9	4 10	4 7	4 10
Maize	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6
Peas	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	13 0	13 6
	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
Bran per ton	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 3 10	6 3 10	6 3 10	6 3 10	6 3 10	6 17 3
Pollard	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 3 10	6 3 10	6 3 10	6 3 10	6 3 10	6 17 3
Flour (first quality)* ..	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	13 0 10	13 0 10	13 0 10	13 0 10	13 0 10	13 0 10	13 0 10	13 14 0
Oatmeal (bulk)	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10	29 15 10	28 13 4	31 0 0	31 0 0
Potatoes	7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0
Onions	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 19 2	16 2 6	16 2 6	16 2 6	16 2 6	16 2 6
Butchers' Meat—												
Beef, prime .. per 100 lb.	2 9 11½	2 9 11½	2 9 11½	2 9 11½	2 9 11½	2 9 11½	2 9 11½	2 9 11½	2 11 10½	2 11 10½	2 11 10½	2 11 10½
	<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>
Mutton .. per lb.	5·67	5·04	5·04	5·04	6·17	6·17	5·54	5·54	6·05	6·05	6·05	6·05
Pork	9·69	9·69	9·69	9·69	9·69	9·69	9·69	9·69	9·69	9·69	9·69	9·69
Veal	6·08	6·08	6·08	6·08	6·08	6·08	6·08	6·08	6·08	6·08	6·08	6·08
Lamb	9·80	9·04	9·04	9·04	9·30	9·30	9·30	9·30	10·18	10·55	10·55	10·55
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Dairy and Farmyard Produce—												
Butter .. per lb.	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½
Bacon	1 3½	1 3½	1 3½	1 3½	1 3½	1 3½	1 3½	1 3½	1 3½	1 3½	1 3½	1 3½
Ham	1 6½	1 6½	1 6½	1 6½	1 6½	1 6½	1 6½	1 6½	1 6½	1 6½	1 7	1 7
Cheese (matured)	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4	1 4	1 4
Honey	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½
Eggs per doz.	2 0	1 9	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7½	1 9	2 0	2 3	2 3	2 3	2 3

* Price quoted includes Flour Tax.

The following table gives the average of the Melbourne retail prices of certain items of groceries, &c., for each month of the year ended June, 1947:—

MELBOURNE—RETAIL PRICES—YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1947.

Article.	Unit.	1946.						1947.					
		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.	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55	5·55
Flour, self-raising	"	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40	7·40
Tea	"	27·00	27·00	27·00	27·00	27·00	27·00	27·00	27·00	33·00	33·00	33·00	33·00
Jam, plum	lb.	11·60	11·60	11·60	11·60	11·60	11·60	11·60	11·60	11·60	13·25	13·85	13·85
Oats, flaked	1½ lb.	3·92	3·89	3·92	3·86	3·86	3·86	4·03	4·03	4·03	4·06	4·09	4·28
Raisins, seeded	lb.	13·11	13·11	13·11	13·22	13·22	13·22	13·10	13·10	13·10	13·10	13·15	13·40
Peaches, canned	30 oz.	14·50	14·38	14·38	14·38	14·38	14·33	14·33	14·33	14·33	14·38	14·50	15·50
Pears, canned	"	15·50	15·50	15·50	15·63	15·63	15·61	15·61	15·61	15·61	15·63	15·85	16·71
Salmon, in tins	lb.	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25	21·25
Potatoes	7 lb.	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·40	8·85
Onions, brown	lb.	2·50	2·56	2·50	2·50	2·50	2·88	3·10	3·00	2·81	2·81	2·69	2·69
Dairy Produce—													
Butter, factory	lb.	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50	20·50
Eggs, new laid	doz.	28·00	24·00	22·00	22·00	22·00	22·00	24·00	28·00	28·00	31·00	31·00	31·00
Bacon, rashers	lb.	22·72	22·72	22·72	22·72	22·72	22·72	22·75	22·72	22·72	23·50	23·33	23·56
Milk, fresh	quart	7·45	7·45	7·45	7·45	7·45	7·45	7·45	7·45	7·45	7·45	7·45	7·45
Meat—													
Beef, sirloin	lb.	13·15	13·10	13·10	13·10	13·05	13·05	13·05	13·00	13·70	14·10	14·00	14·00
" rib	"	10·75	10·65	10·65	10·70	10·70	10·70	10·80	10·60	11·30	11·70	11·70	11·70
" steak, rump	"	20·30	20·30	20·30	20·30	20·30	20·30	20·30	20·40	21·10	21·40	21·50	21·60
" chuck	"	9·70	9·60	9·85	9·80	9·85	9·85	9·95	9·90	10·20	10·15	10·15	10·25
" sausages	"	7·90	7·90	7·80	7·90	8·00	8·00	8·20	8·20	8·20	8·30	8·30	8·10
" corned silverside	"	11·45	11·40	11·75	11·70	12·15	12·15	12·15	12·15	12·85	13·30	13·30	13·40
" brisket	"	8·70	8·70	8·85	8·95	9·05	8·95	8·95	8·80	8·95	9·20	9·05	9·05
Mutton, leg	"	11·15	11·00	11·11	11·08	11·50	11·61	11·72	11·83	12·11	12·22	12·11	12·22
" forequarter	"	6·85	6·61	6·50	6·50	6·50	6·50	6·50	6·39	7·06	7·17	7·13	7·22
" loin	"	9·40	9·22	9·56	9·56	9·83	9·89	9·87	9·61	10·72	10·72	10·88	10·89
" chops, loin	"	10·50	10·28	10·39	10·17	10·78	11·06	10·89	10·94	12·00	12·11	11·69	11·67
" leg	"	11·40	11·33	11·39	11·39	11·61	11·72	11·78	12·22	12·00	12·44	12·63	12·56
Pork, leg	"	15·95	15·95	15·50	15·50	15·50	15·50	15·38	15·38	15·50	16·25	16·81	16·81
" chops	"	17·65	17·65	17·50	17·50	17·50	17·50	17·50	17·50	17·58	18·17	19·00	18·88

FORESTRY.

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

Area of Permanently Reserved Forest. At the 30th June, 1947, the area of permanently dedicated forest was 4,936,982 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 4,936,892 acres aforementioned, there were 156,695 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 more than 8,000,000 acres in occupation under grazing and other leases, much of the timber is of little or no commercial value because of remoteness, inaccessibility, or other causes.

Forests Output. The output of sawn timber from State Forests in 1946-47 was 21,194,502 cubic feet. In addition 29,818,198 cubic feet of fuel timber and 4,272,273 cubic feet of miscellaneous timber were produced.

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

Plantations of Exotic Timbers. The area planted during the 1946 planting season was 728 acres, comprising restocking cut-over areas, 13 acres; new planting 645 acres; and renewals 70 acres. The total plantation area at 30th June, 1947, was 47,115 acres and the species distribution was not materially altered from that shown on page 356 of the 1943-44 *Year-Book*, approximately 63 per cent. of the plantations being under *Pinus Radiata*.

Plantation Output. The plantation output of felled softwood timber, including pulpwood obtained from tops and small thinnings, in 1946-47, amounted to 12,351,836 superficial feet. The corresponding total for 1945-46 was 13,873,163 superficial feet.

**Other
Commercial
Softwood
Plantations.**

There are not many private commercial plantations of softwoods in Victoria. The largest is at Dartmoor, near the South Australian border, where a company holds 11,361 acres. Of this area 9,000 acres are in Victoria and approximately 6,000 acres thereof have been planted. The same company holds 1,200 acres at Rosebud (650 acres planted).

The Ballarat Water Commission has an area of approximately 3,500 acres available for afforestation, of which 1,000 acres are planted with conifers. Its present planting programme provides for 50,000 trees (100 acres) per annum.

Trees and forest thinnings, down to a diameter of about five inches are utilized in the Commission's case-making plant, the value of the output of which amounts approximately to £46,000 per annum. Smaller diameter thinnings are disposed of for paper pulping purposes.

Severe damage to the plantations was caused by the bush fires of 1939, about 240,000 trees being destroyed. This area has now been re-afforested. The number of effective conifers growing on the Commission's Reserves is 485,000.

**Timber
salvage from
burnt-out
areas.**

Following upon the disastrous bush fires of 1939 (references to which appeared on pages 5, 286, 494, and 495 of the 1938-39 issue of the *Year-Book*) it was estimated that of the 2,000,000,000 superficial feet of fire-killed timber, 916,000,000 superficial feet could be recovered. This target was attained by May, 1945. Under the provisions of the *State Forests (Timber Salvage) Loan and Application Act 1939*, salvage of Mountain Ash and Alpine Ash timber is still proceeding at a satisfactory rate and up to 30th June, 1947, 1,136,750,000 superficial feet of serviceable timber has been recovered.

Nurseries.

To encourage the growth of softwoods or conifers in both State and private plantations, three large nurseries have been established at Creswick, Macedon, and Broadford. In addition to providing trees for the plantations, the nurseries supply considerable numbers of plants at low rates to State schools, public bodies, and private applicants. This has proved of great benefit to the community by fostering an interest in tree planting generally, and especially by encouraging farmers to plant trees to afford protection to their homesteads and to provide shade and shelter for their flocks and herds.

Forestry Fund.

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 1946-47 was £641,405, and the expenditure £1,750,947—£561,032 of which was paid out of the Consolidated Revenue, £1,005,724 out of loan funds, and the balance—£184,191—from the Forestry Fund.

Silviculture of Indigenous Forests.

The various types of silvicultural operations in the indigenous forests over the period 1943-44 to 1946-47 are indicated in the following table:—

VICTORIA—SILVICULTURAL OPERATIONS IN STATE FORESTS, 1943-44 TO 1946-47.

Nature of Work.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
First thinning	Acres. 2,285	Acres. 3,043	Acres. 3,444	Acres. 5,330
Second or subsequent thinning	490	517	30	1,515
Regeneration or liberation treatment by ring-barking .. .. .	..	1,207	2,104	486
Removal of surplus coppice	87	..	1,800	7,120
Total area treated	2,862	4,767	7,378	14,451

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 abovementioned 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. During the year 1946-47, the quantities of pulp-wood obtained from the State forests totalled 2,192,249 cubic feet as compared with 1,812,293 cubic feet in 1945-46.

Eucalyptus Oil. Eucalyptus oil is not an exclusive product of the State forests, a large proportion of the annual Victorian output being distilled from the leaves of trees grown on private lands. Only a small proportion of the crude oil is refined in the stills by which it is produced.

Details of the production of crude eucalyptus oil are shown in the table hereunder :—

VICTORIA—PRODUCTION OF CRUDE EUCALYPTUS OIL.

Year Ended 30th June.						Crude Oil Produced.	Value.
						lb.	£
1942	..	..	..	..	..	487,596	56,789
1943	..	..	..	..	..	587,853	86,541
1944	..	..	..	..	..	518,010	72,731
1945	..	..	..	..	..	339,268	52,454
1946	..	..	..	..	..	504,036	82,279
1947	..	..	..	..	..	751,678	143,462