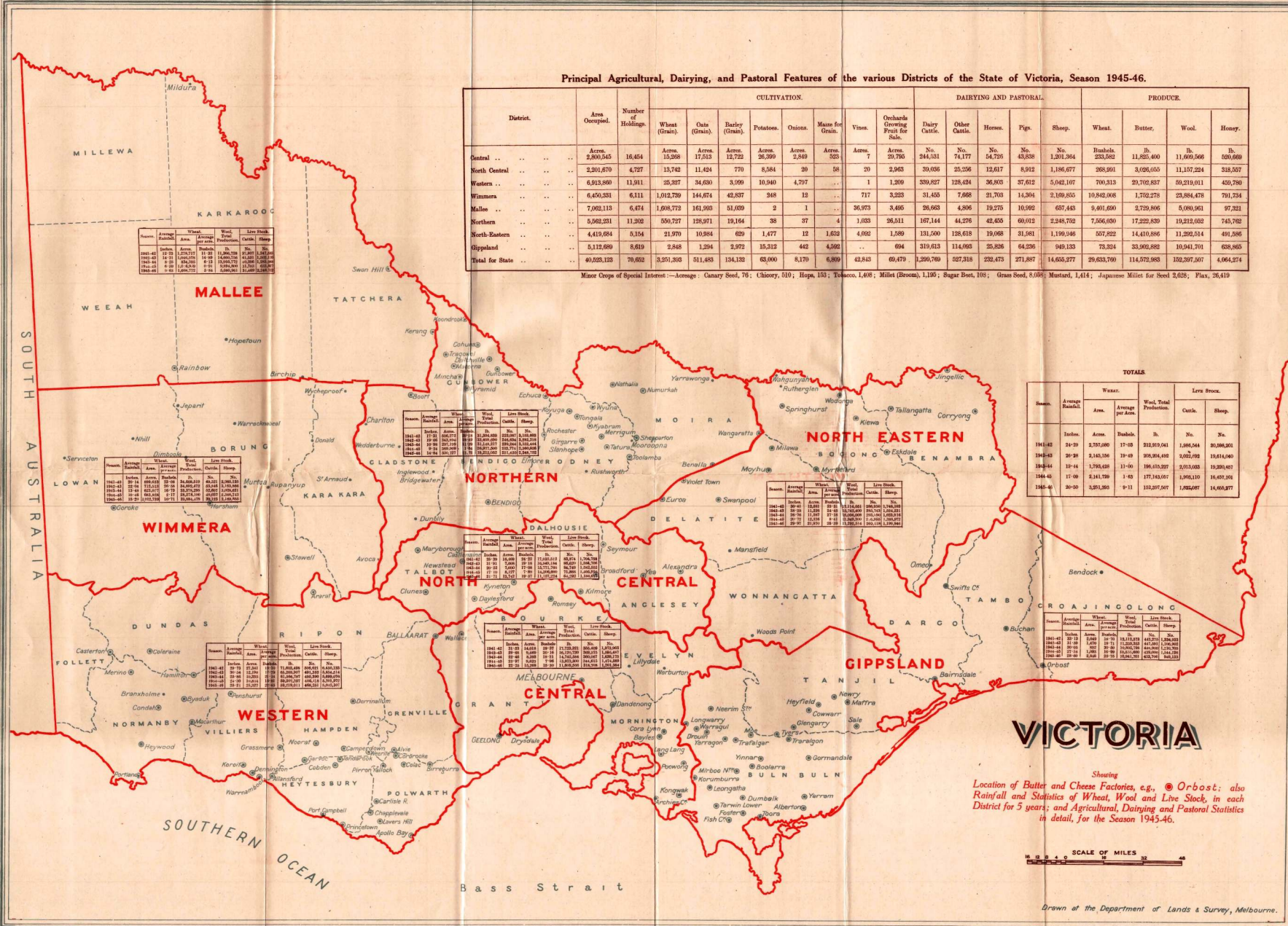


Principal Agricultural, Dairying, and Pastoral Features of the various Districts of the State of Victoria, Season 1945-46.

District.	Area Occupied.	Number of Holdings.	CULTIVATION.							DAIRYING AND PASTORAL.					PRODUCE.				
			Wheat (Grain).	Oats (Grain).	Barley (Grain).	Potatoes.	Onions.	Maise for Grain.	Vines.	Orchards Growing Fruit for Sale.	Dairy Cattle.	Other Cattle.	Horses.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Wheat.	Butter.	Wool.	Honey.
Central	Acres. 2,800,545	16,454	Acres. 15,268	Acres. 17,513	Acres. 12,722	Acres. 26,399	Acres. 2,849	Acres. 523	Acres. 7	Acres. 29,795	No. 244,331	No. 74,177	No. 54,726	No. 43,838	No. 1,201,364	Bushels. 233,582	Lbs. 11,825,400	Lbs. 11,609,566	Lbs. 620,669
North Central .. .	2,201,670	4,727	13,742	14,424	770	8,864	20	58	20	2,963	39,036	25,256	12,617	8,912	1,186,677	268,991	3,026,050	11,157,224	318,557
Western .. .	6,913,860	11,911	25,327	34,630	3,599	10,940	4,797	.. .	1	1,209	339,827	128,424	36,803	37,612	5,042,107	700,313	23,762,837	56,219,011	459,789
Wimmera .. .	6,450,331	6,111	1,012,739	144,674	42,837	948	12	.. .	717	3,223	31,453	7,668	21,703	14,304	2,169,855	10,842,008	1,752,278	23,884,478	791,734
Mallee .. .	7,062,113	6,474	1,698,773	161,993	51,059	2	1	.. .	36,973	3,456	36,663	4,806	19,576	10,592	637,443	9,461,690	5,739,896	5,080,961	97,231
Northern .. .	5,562,231	11,309	550,727	193,971	19,164	38	37	4	1,033	26,211	167,144	44,276	42,400	60,012	2,243,762	7,556,039	17,229,830	19,919,023	745,762
North-Eastern .. .	4,415,654	5,154	21,970	10,884	629	1,477	12	1,622	4,062	1,298	131,590	128,618	19,068	31,961	1,190,946	537,232	14,470,836	11,292,514	491,286
Hippland .. .	5,112,889	8,619	2,848	1,294	2,972	15,312	442	4,592	.. .	694	319,613	114,063	25,826	64,236	949,133	73,234	33,962,882	10,941,701	638,865
Total for State .. .	40,225,123	70,652	3,551,363	511,483	134,132	63,000	8,170	6,869	42,843	69,479	1,299,769	827,318	229,473	271,887	14,655,277	29,633,790	114,572,383	352,397,367	4,964,274

Minor Crops of Special Interest.—Acres: Canary Seed, 76; Chicory, 510; Hemp, 153; Tobacco, 1,408; Miles (Broom), 1,195; Sugar Beet, 103; Grass Seed, 5,095; Mustard, 1,414; Japanese Millet for Seed, 2,628; Flax, 26,419



Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat Area.	Wool Total Production.	Live Stock.
1941-42	17.2	2,575,711	11,212	14,200,000
1942-43	14.4	2,520,239	10,800	13,800,000
1943-44	17.2	2,520,239	10,800	13,800,000
1944-45	14.4	2,520,239	10,800	13,800,000
1945-46	17.2	2,520,239	10,800	13,800,000

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1942-43	14.4	2,520,239	10,800	13,800,000
1943-44	17.2	2,520,239	10,800	13,800,000
1944-45	14.4	2,520,239	10,800	13,800,000
1945-46	17.2	2,520,239	10,800	13,800,000

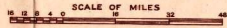
Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat Area.	Wool Total Production.	Live Stock.
1941-42	17.2	2,575,711	11,212	14,200,000
1942-43	14.4	2,520,239	10,800	13,800,000
1943-44	17.2	2,520,239	10,800	13,800,000
1944-45	14.4	2,520,239	10,800	13,800,000
1945-46	17.2	2,520,239	10,800	13,800,000

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1944-45	14.4	2,520,239	10,800	13,800,000
1945-46	17.2	2,520,239	10,800	13,800,000

Season.	Average Rainfall.	Wheat.		Live Stock.		
		Area.	Average per Acre.	Wool Total Production.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1941-42	17.2	2,575,711	17.0	11,212,000	1,466,341	20,086,201
1942-43	14.4	2,520,239	16.4	10,800,000	1,402,292	19,841,660
1943-44	17.2	2,520,239	16.0	10,800,000	1,391,033	19,290,467
1944-45	14.4	2,520,239	14.3	10,800,000	1,303,210	18,497,261
1945-46	17.2	2,520,239	17.1	11,212,000	1,466,341	20,086,201

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 1945-46.



Drawn at the Department of Lands & Survey, Melbourne.

PART IV.

LAND SETTLEMENT; AGRICULTURE; PASTORAL AND
DAIRYING; FORESTRY.

LAND AND SETTLEMENT.

The total area of the State is 56,245,760 acres. On 31st December, 1945, this comprised:—

	Acres.
Lands alienated in fee-simple	29,087,117
Lands in process of alienation	3,304,021
Crown lands	23,854,622
Total	56,245,760
The Crown lands comprise—	
Permanent forests (under Forests Act)	4,186,777
Timber reserves (under Forests Act)	717,582
State Forests and Timber reserves (under Land Act)	156,696
Water reserves	316,056
Reserves for Agricultural Colleges, &c.	8,434
Reserves in the Mallee	410,000
Other reserves	547,288
Roads	1,794,218
Water frontages, beds of rivers, lakes, &c.; unsold land in cities, towns, and boroughs	4,792,703
Land in occupation under—	
Perpetual leases	83,994
Agricultural College Leases	66,974
Other leases and licences	20,314
Temporary grazing licences	8,360,705
Unoccupied	2,392,881
Total	23,854,622

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 1940-45. 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, 1940
TO 1945.

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.	£
1940	4,028	36,512	40,540	350,722	215,008
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

From the period of the first settlement of the State to the end of 1945 the amount realized by the sale of Crown lands was £37,575,572. 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 1945 there were submitted 79 such applications in respect of land amounting in area to 1,797 acres, and in value to £114,104; while the land actually brought under the Act as a result of applications was 438 acres valued at £106,057. Up to the end of 1945 there had been brought under the Act 3,310,778 acres valued at £74,927,569. The area of land still under the Old Law System at the end of 1945 was 1,831,543 acres. A summary of dealings under the Transfer of Land Acts will be found in part "Accumulation" of the *Year Book*.

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £ on the value of the land covered by the application. During 1945-46 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, 1946, was £116,723. The amount paid up to 30th June, 1946, 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*.

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.

**Dissolution of
the Closer
Settlement
Commission.**

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, 1946.

Description of Works.	Capital Expenditure to 30th June, 1946.	Loan Redemption Paid.	Loan Liability at 30th June, 1946.
	£	£	£
Free Headworks	1,238,169	520	1,237,649
Capital Works and Charges not apportionable to Districts	2,057,202	359,176	1,698,026
Headworks Cost apportioned to Districts	10,883,165	131,187	10,751,978
Irrigation and Water Supply Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	6,239,605	104,859	6,134,746
Urban Divisions of Irrigation Districts	64,898	2,012	62,886
Waterworks Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	2,882,356	62,215	2,820,141
Urban Districts of Waterworks Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	2,560,626	52,010	2,508,616
Flood Protection and Drainage Districts	491,476	8,832	482,644
Waterworks Trusts and Local Governing Bodies	3,995,967	781,379	3,214,588
TOTAL	30,413,464	1,502,190	28,911,274

* 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.

Progress of Irrigation. 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, 1946.
Area of State artificially supplied with water (acres)	10,800,000	15,398,700
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	510,427
Area classified as irrigable.. .. (acres)	..	1,005,083
Area under Irrigated Culture .. (acres)	108,000	656,845
Rural Waterworks Districts (Domestic and Stock Supply)—		
Number of Districts administered	3	28
Annual Value for Rating purposes .. (£)	125,000	1,508,326
Urban Districts—		
Number of Districts administered	1	87
Annual Value for Rating purposes	5,600	852,824
Coliban System (Urban, Rural, Irrigation and Mining Supplies)—		
Annual Value for Urban Rating purposes (£)	317,750	427,883
Flood Protection Districts—		
Number of Districts administered .. ..	..	4
Drainage Districts—		
Number of Districts administered .. ..	..	14
Number of Assessments .. ..	..	10,004

PROGRESS IN IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT.

The area under irrigated culture for all kinds of crops has increased from 129,771 acres in 1909-10 to 656,845 acres in 1945-46.

VICTORIA—LANDS UNDER IRRIGATED CULTURE 1945-46.

District.	Area Irrigated.
	Acres.
Katandra	8,483
North Shepparton	18,073
Shepparton	17,248
South Shepparton	7,158
Rodney	85,121
Tongala-Stanhope	41,041
Rochester	61,263
Dingee	3,964
Calivil	11,753
Tragowel Plains	44,508
Deakin	7,109
Boort	20,795
Cohuna	62,000
Koondrook	32,604
Swan Hill	21,522
Third Lake	4,201
Mystic Park	3,664
Tresco	1,121
Fish Point	2,092
Kerang	37,168
Murray Valley	21,338
Kerang North-West Lakes	3,960
Nyah	3,010
Red Cliffs	11,569
Merbein	7,961
Boort	650
East Loddon	734
Loddon	77
West Loddon	1,489
Coliban	6,166
Campaspe	1,116
Western Wimmera	2,423
Wimmera United	153
Bacchus Marsh	2,271
Werribee	7,938
Maffra-Sale	21,878
Lands outside constituted Districts	73,224
Total	656,845

The subjoined table shows the total extent of irrigated land in the State in each of the five years, 1942 to 1946, 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—				
	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Cereals	57,602	26,301	42,114	62,942	72,956
Lucerne	68,308	69,257	64,041	64,286	67,309
Sorghum and other annual fodders	18,951	11,572	25,807	34,326	15,152
Pastures	372,454	412,256	443,223	411,018	407,415
Vineyards, Orchards, and Market Gardens	74,739	78,419	81,167	83,800	83,579
Fallow and Miscellaneous	10,020	8,952	8,892	8,838	10,434
Total	602,074	606,757	665,244	665,210	656,845

Of the total area irrigated in 1945-46—656,845 acres—the percentages devoted to different purposes were as follows:—Pastures, 62; lucerne, 10; vineyards, orchards, and gardens, 13; cereals, 11; sorghum and other annual fodder crops, 2; fallows and miscellaneous, 2.

Dairying is one of the principal industries in irrigation districts. Dairy herds grazed on irrigated pastures obtained prominent positions in the 1945-46 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,
1945-46.

vine-fruit crop amounted to 49,430 tons. The Victorian production of citrus fruits during the 1945-46 season amounted to 765,025 bushels—approximately 90 per cent. of which was grown within irrigation districts.

The Victorian production of canned apricots, peaches, and pears in the season 1945-46 was 1,309,994 cases, each of two dozen 30-oz. tins. This represented 68 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 20,330 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—126 by the Commission, 116 by Waterworks Trusts, and 16 by Local Government bodies.

The estimated population in country centres supplied with water in 1945-46 was 447,320 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 (involving a further approval of the interested State Governments), and when the Rocklands, Glenmaggie, and Lauriston Reservoirs are also completed, the combined storage capacity available to users in Victoria will be 2,658,470 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.

	Capacities in Acre Feet.
<i>Murray-Loddon System—</i>	
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 Whittou	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

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						..	2,658,470

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 1946, together with the average rainfall covering a period of 30 years.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL IN DISTRICTS.

Year Ended 31st December.	Districts.							Whole State.	
	Mallee.	Wimmera.	North-ern.	North-Central.	North-Eastern.	Western.	Central.		Gipps-land.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	
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	13.55
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 ..	10.55	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	28.60	20.50
1946 ..	14.07	22.07	17.76	29.86	39.85	40.20	33.04	41.19	29.37
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	29·921	30·080	30·076
Monthly range of pressure of air—inches	·887	·765	·812	·975
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	75
Mean rainfall in inches	7·13	5·99	6·56	5·82
Mean number of days of rain	38	25	33	45
Mean amount of spontaneous evaporation in inches	10·23	17·20	7·96	3·73
Mean daily amount of cloudiness—Scale 0 to 10	6·0	5·2	5·9	6·4
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 1945 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.	Data for Year 1945.	Means Over Period of Years.			
		Number of Years Recorded.	Mean for Period.	Extremes between which the yearly mean values have oscillated during the number of years shown in second column.	
				Highest.	Lowest.
Mean atmospheric pressure (inches) ..	30·017	88	30·013	30·106	29·945
Highest „ „ „ ..	30·664	88	30·605	30·770	30·405
Lowest „ „ „ ..	29·369	88	29·252	29·495	28·942
Range (inches)	1·295	88	1·355	1·719	1·074
Mean temperature of air in shade (° Fahr.)	58·0	90	58·5	59·9	57·3
Mean daily maximum .. (° Fahr.)	67·0	90	67·4	69·4	65·4
Mean daily minimum .. „	49·0	90	49·5	51·2	47·2
Absolute maximum .. „	104·2	90	105·0	114·2	96·6
Absolute minimum .. „	30·5	90	31·0	34·2	27·0
Mean daily range	18·0	90	17·8	20·4	15·0
Absolute annual range .. „	73·7	90	74·1	84·1	66·0
Solar Radiation (mean maxima)	114·4	84	116·7	127·6	105·6
Terrestrial Radiation (mean minima)	45·8	85	44·0	46·8	39·5
Rainfall (in inches)	19·22	90	25·50	38·04	15·61
Number of wet days	152	90	141	187	102
Year's amount of free evaporation (in inches)	43·56	73	39·12	45·66	31·59
Percentage of humidity (saturation =100)	61	89	67	76	58
Cloudiness (scale 10 = overcast, 0 = clear)	6·4	88	5·9	6·7	4·8
Number of days of fog	24	88	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.

Inches.	Rainfall.					Area.
						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.

Research and experimental work are conducted at the Government Experimental Farms. 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 1932. 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 1945-46, 2,708,379 acres were topdressed as compared with 2,121,406 acres in 1944-45.

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 Bullarto, 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 1945-46 was 7,721,154 acres, as compared with 6,004,249 acres in the previous season, and an annual average of 5,977,754 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 91 years :—

VICTORIA—ACREAGE CULTIVATED ANNUALLY, 1856 TO 1946.

Period or Year (ended March).	Annual average area in each decennium, 1856 to 1925, and actual area each year 1926-1946, 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

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, 34 per cent. in the Wimmera, 42 per cent. in the Mallee, and 25 per cent. in the Northern districts were used for agriculture in 1945-46. In that year the area cultivated in these three districts was more than 84 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 74 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, 1942-1946.

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

VICTORIA—ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND AVERAGE YIELD OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 TO 1946.

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
1941-42 ..	2,757,080	421,942	204,279	33,392	1,007,979
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
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	5,696,134	1,772,099	167,965	1,242,808
1941-42 ..	46,953,840	8,149,277	4,792,040	118,454	1,443,505
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
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
1941-42 ..	17·03	19·31	23·46	3·55	1·43
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

* For grain.

**Growers of
certain crops,
season
1945-46.**

The following table shows the number of growers of certain primary products, in each statistical district of the State, for the season 1945-46.

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
1945-46.**

Crops Grown.	Growers in each Statistical District.								State Total.
	Central.	North-Central.	Western.	Wimmera.	Mallee.	Northern.	North-Eastern.	Gippsland.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Grain Crops—									
Wheat ..	419	337	544	3,955	3,543	3,941	434	87	13,260
Oats ..	567	451	996	2,477	1,866	2,778	437	69	9,641
Barley ..	452	54	245	726	572	739	56	144	2,988
Maize ..	59	12	..	..	..	1	189	341	602
Hay—									
Wheaten ..	381	389	338	1,533	447	1,830	277	124	5,319
Oaten ..	4,547	1,871	4,162	3,103	1,694	4,654	2,180	2,545	24,756
Lucerne ..	258	205	337	64	249	1,325	250	700	3,388
Meadow ..	2,643	711	3,945	77	34	1,433	2,013	3,470	14,326
Green Fodder—									
Maize ..	2,009	128	408	7	8	37	114	1,761	4,472
Lucerne ..	296	53	67	28	51	150	46	137	828
Millet ..	669	53	169	17	82	295	268	606	2,159
All other ..	372	54	138	3	37	179	116	221	1,120
Other—									
Potatoes ..	2,733	647	1,562	29	2	18	297	1,701	6,989
Onions ..	622	5	489	8	1	19	7	76	1,227
Other Vegetables	2,523	54	383	112	292	797	102	482	4,745
Orchards ..	2,437	227	233	269	861	1,112	286	173	5,598
Vineyards ..	3	6	1	61	2,025	180	79	..	2,355
Grass Seed ..	14	50	104	12	1	15	1	26	223
Tobacco ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	79	..	82
Flax ..	99	27	481	..	..	..	35	47	689

Area Cultivated
1945-46.

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	2,309	8,392	1,974	..	337	3,828	789	61,594
Grant	12,953	8,974	10,671	..	2,229	8,352	1,670	59,617
Mornington	2	98	4	523	70	9,637	385	47,261
Evelyn	4	49	73	..	52	4,582	5	9,125
North Central District—								
Anglesey	240	369	10	56	66	593	10	8,540
Dalhousie	913	2,071	179	2	10	2,306	9	13,441
Talbot	12,589	8,984	581	..	116	5,685	1	48,916
Western District—								
Grenville	3,824	4,052	1,428	..	816	828	2,374	28,202
Poiwarth	8	546	458	..	1,396	3,361	1,271	15,754
Heytesbury	36	22	27	..	65	412	1	18,106
Hampden	6,888	7,348	603	..	24	269	238	23,307
Ripon	13,009	13,240	381	..	165	734	33	24,099
Villiers	355	3,672	178	..	929	3,667	872	26,823
Normanby	273	1,200	623	..	1,132	1,352	8	24,063
Dundas	826	4,319	297	..	767	180	..	23,896
Follett	108	231	4	..	14	137	..	4,250
Wimmera District—								
Lowan	217,704	59,837	16,345	..	36	18	6	55,340
Borong	606,014	48,178	24,237	..	..	178	4	62,003
Kara Kara	189,021	36,659	2,255	..	..	52	2	25,988
Mallee District—								
Millewa	119,346	4,332	142	..	..	..	..	6,053
Weeah	174,882	25,826	10,547	..	..	..	..	12,805
Karkaroc	812,081	91,339	35,455	..	..	..	1	42,163
Tatchera	502,463	40,496	4,895	..	..	2	..	36,594
Northern District—								
Gunbower	27,846	7,251	6,266	..	4	..	..	25,666
Gladstone	131,300	39,806	2,610	..	..	1	..	29,888
Bendigo	96,496	19,727	2,101	..	..	15	20	43,980
Rodney	55,675	16,845	6,320	..	..	1	11	51,504
Moira	239,410	45,342	1,867	4	35	21	6	61,411
North-Eastern District—								
Delatite	2,146	4,016	253	710	23	1,059	8	33,769
Bogong	19,631	6,370	284	722	26	394	3	36,997
Benambra	193	598	92	167	6	18	1	8,848
Wonnangatta .. .. .	..	..	..	33	8	6	..	797
Gippsland District—								
Croajingolong .. .. .	..	..	..	884	18	64	3	2,074
Tambo	26	55	52	753	60	98	2	2,322
Dargo	151	124	210	1,247	54	153	1	3,057
Tanjil	2,249	725	2,215	1,605	63	861	6	25,934
Buln Buln	422	390	495	103	137	14,136	430	63,709
Total for State ..	3,251,393	511,483	134,132	6,809	8,658	63,000	8,170	1,060,496

of the State for the season 1945-46 is given in the following table:—
FOR THE SEASON 1945-46.

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.
768	4,088	29	..	..	11,783	10,515	1,092	107,498	31,364	138,862
1,784	1,562	87	..	.. 4	3,970	1,449	884	113,606	28,966	142,572
803	10,801	234	..	.. 3	7,748	11,289	1,295	89,950	10,752	100,702
..	1,508	20	..	..	3,773	6,542	400	26,196	2,709	28,905
10	604	..	..	..	34	13	9	10,554	2,154	12,708
340	646	255	..	..	20	26	46	20,264	1,484	21,748
398	1,248	1,345	..	.. 20	75	2,924	284	83,166	19,840	103,006
2,148	411	840	..	.. 1	307	266	199	45,696	6,868	52,564
1,477	1,286	1,024	..	..	1,165	172	235	28,153	2,191	30,344
61	863	..	..	..	87	36	210	19,926	1,823	21,749
4,099	306	52	..	..	152	11	204	43,501	3,338	46,839
5,208	246	227	..	..	7	6	160	58,115	13,187	71,302
1,915	1,418	535	..	..	908	7	8	42,271	2,886	45,157
2,010	1,065	215	..	..	958	644	832	34,375	2,953	36,428
2,221	706	1,248	..	..	125	23	348	34,956	6,231	41,187
111	64	..	..	..	7	43	258	5,227	1,200	6,427
..	108	1,250	..	.. 23	41	849	548	352,105	217,622	569,727
..	117	3	..	.. 649	497	2,091	427	744,398	476,553	1,220,951
..	143	..	..	.. 45	3	283	95	254,546	141,092	395,638
..	93	..	..	.. 49	25	53	80	130,173	22,255	152,428
..	120	..	..	..	..	..	2,824	227,004	128,465	355,469
..	529	..	..	.. 29,749	891	2,120	3,694	1,018,022	512,411	1,530,433
..	2,721	60	..	.. 7,175	1,635	1,322	1,125	598,488	294,365	892,853
..	4,222	37	12	18	286	1,165	2,293	75,066	23,756	98,822
..	1,380	20	..	.. 2	81	217	..	205,305	111,888	317,193
..	915	80	..	.. 40	1,283	2,078	70	166,805	85,122	251,927
5	1,739	63	..	.. 284	1,333	11,706	60	145,546	42,291	187,837
..	948	278	14	689	4,254	11,345	123	365,747	164,098	529,845
1,193	2,940	12	685	72	200	494	939	48,519	2,969	51,488
401	1,564	..	697	4,020	344	1,052	433	66,998	16,575	83,573
2	883	..	..	..	31	37	133	11,009	470	11,479
..	25	..	..	..	72	6	12	959	50	1,009
..	540	8	..	..	1,176	20	86	4,873	63	4,936
..	660	..	..	..	2,182	34	66	6,310	300	6,610
..	1,090	..	..	..	1,994	131	258	8,470	296	8,766
220	4,794	..	..	..	1,458	150	444	38,724	5,366	44,090
1,185	11,158	136	..	..	1,093	359	848	94,601	10,979	105,580
26,419	63,311	8,058	1,408	42,843	49,898	69,479	21,565	5,327,122	2,394,032	7,721,154

Yields of
Principal Crops.The table which follows shows the yields, in Counties,
VICTORIA—YIELDS OF PRINCIPAL

Districts and Counties.	Grain Crops.					Potatoes.
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Peas.	
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.
Central District—						
Bourke	40,262	370,933	45,744	..	4,073	17,023
Grant	193,224	315,896	266,846	..	37,417	36,375
Mornington	18	622	57	24,399	2,821	28,775
Evelyn	78	1,220	2,205	..	1,160	17,623
North Central District—						
Anglesey	7,591	11,730	214	2,592	2,495	2,758
Dalhousie	25,943	69,668	5,219	20	205	11,727
Talbot	235,457	280,248	13,665	..	1,671	36,701
Western District—						
Grenville	91,095	147,553	53,916	..	15,587	3,352
Polwarth	268	15,882	9,964	..	15,670	9,936
Heytesbury	1,026	695	610	..	5,099	424
Hampden	221,861	309,648	18,941	..	434	444
Ripon	352,959	547,224	10,465	..	1,457	4,097
Villiers	7,585	98,669	6,419	..	16,325	11,053
Normanby	7,007	41,513	16,935	..	18,275	801
Dundas	16,772	129,048	7,735	..	15,618	124
Pollett	1,740	3,286	101	..	217	95
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	2,568,418	848,779	194,644	..	217	18
Borong	6,224,821	413,755	227,389	..	..	523
Kara Kara	2,048,769	450,227	28,656	..	..	321
Mallee District—						
Millewa	474,292	12,912	368	..	..	..
Weeah	1,067,548	99,695	80,368	..	..	..
Karkaroc	4,623,941	389,821	260,993	..	..	..
Tatchera	3,235,909	263,177	49,326	..	..	1
Northern District—						
Gunbower	221,437	109,580	116,819	..	62	..
Gladstone	1,545,502	505,385	37,153	..	..	2
Bendigo	1,164,692	316,793	31,619	..	..	53
Rodney	801,512	320,449	126,535	..	..	6
Moir	3,822,887	998,702	36,793	120	474	59
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	61,774	110,388	7,573	25,658	443	5,287
Bogong	492,072	171,816	7,434	35,649	344	2,000
Benambra	3,976	13,632	2,574	7,068	37	51
Wonnangatta .. ..	..	..	..	395	205	15
Gippsland District—						
Croajingalong .. ..	..	..	..	45,843	310	147
Tambo	457	695	623	39,334	1,107	359
Dargo	2,089	2,774	4,871	52,007	1,692	624
Tanji	62,205	18,189	60,948	70,653	1,522	2,632
Buln Buln	8,573	11,212	10,032	4,196	3,503	37,343
Total for State	29,633,760	7,401,816	1,743,754	307,934	148,440	230,749

of the principal crops for the season, 1945-46.

CROPS FOR THE SEASON, 1945-46.

Onions.	Hay (Wheat, 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.
5,329	84,210	35	..	1,915,705	..	..	..
5,850	93,979	40	..		..	..	..
2,094	75,046	323	..		..	..	..
12	15,074	27	..		..	..	..
20	14,690	..	..		..	..	..
18	23,251	330	..		..	..	..
3	84,861	1,121	..		..	..	..
13,765	47,100	1,061	..		..	..	..
10,176	26,696	1,243	..		..	..	..
3	29,370	..	..		..	..	..
1,169	41,598	73	..		..	..	..
186	44,419	155	..		..	..	..
5,390	48,214	670	..		..	..	..
38	42,230	319	..		..	..	..
..	39,243	4,707	..		..	..	..
..	6,902	..	..	..	..	..
21	58,511	746	..	1,915,705	..	..	..
18	52,433	10	..		1	1	1
5	25,360	..	..		..	..	..
..	1,932	..	..		6	24	9
..	5,721	..	..		..	..	..
3	17,624	..	..		4,351	33,180	6,261
..	26,217	96	..		512	4,915	163
..	31,509	39	29		..	..	..
..	32,573	36	..		..	..	..
109	48,435	58	..		..	..	..
49	64,605	97	..		..	..	..
22	76,047	380	39		3	2	..
23	56,338	16	1,981		..	..	..
15	50,030	..	1,795		..	..	..
4	16,208	..	..		..	..	..
..	1,357	..	..	..	..	..
12	4,137	9	..	..	..	..
8	4,192	..	..	..	..	..
3	4,668	..	..	..	..	..
16	40,987	..	..	..	..	..
1,977	108,433	173	..	..	..	..
46,338	1,444,250	11,764	3,844	1,915,705	4,873	38,122	6,435

**Area, Yield
and Gross
Value of
Crops, Season
1945-46.**

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 1945-46.

**VICTORIA—AREA, YIELD, AND GROSS VALUE OF CROPS,
1945-46.**

Crop.	Area.	Yield.	Gross Value.*
	Acres.		£
Wheat	3,251,393	29,633,760 bushels	9,913,133†
Oats	511,483	7,401,816 bushels	1,272,834†
Barley—			
Malting (2 row)	117,774	1,480,394 bushels	415,227†
Other (6 row)	16,358	263,360 bushels	49,669
Maize	6,809	307,934 bushels	126,015
Rye	7,698	37,320 bushels	13,995
Hay—			
Wheaten	114,165	120,780 tons	486,671
Oaten	607,451	884,611 tons	3,684,401
Lucerne, &c.	47,862	76,035 tons	384,535
Meadow	231,018	362,824 tons	1,543,102
Straw		27,500 tons	116,188
Grass Seed	8,058	11,764 cwt.	45,438
Canary Seed	76	187 cwt.	269
Peas for Grain	8,658	148,440 bushels	72,306
Green Fodder	63,311		167,115
Potatoes	63,000	230,749 tons	2,496,050‡
Onions	8,170	46,338 tons	677,693
Other Vegetables	49,898		4,423,635
Sugar Beet	108	975 tons of beet (fodder)	2,633
Turnips, Beet, &c., for fodder	2,061	7,803 tons	62,424
Mangolds	999	4,793 tons	23,965
Tobacco	1,408	3,844 cwt.	45,146
Hops	153	1,936 cwt.	25,294
Broom Millet	1,195	{ 7,307 cwt. fibre	22,188
Chicory	510	{ 5,783 cwt. seed	3,254
Flax	26,419	764 tons	47,368
Orchards—		18,798 tons of straw	174,316
Productive	56,512		3,284,198
Unproductive	12,967		
Grapes—			
Table	1,546	4,133 tons	123,990
Wine	6,315	13,236 tons	131,535
Drying	33,607	Wine made amounted to 1,915,705 gallons	
Vines, unproductive	1,375	197,186 tons producing	2,356,133
Other Crops	8,765	38,122 tons of sultanas	269,628
		4,873 tons of raisins	337,737
		6,435 tons of currants	
Total Crops	5,327,122		33,156,746

* 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 payments and Flour Tax.

‡ Includes Drought Relief 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 1945-46 amounted to 19,239,874 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	2,959	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 1945-46 these districts were responsible for 94 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 1945-46 was 29,633,760 bushels, or an average yield per acre of 9·11 bushels in comparison with an average of 1·63 bushels in 1944-45 and an average of 11·00 bushels in 1943-44. The area sown and the production of wheat for grain in different counties for each of the three seasons, 1944-46, are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—WHEAT AREAS AND YIELDS IN COUNTIES FOR THE THREE SEASONS, 1944-1946.

Districts and Counties.	Year ended March.								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1944.	1945.	1946.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bus.	Bus.	Bus.	
Central—									
Bourke ..	1,371	1,252	2,309	28,042	15,268	40,262	20·45	12·19	17·44
Grant ..	7,004	7,371	12,953	124,359	53,358	193,224	17·76	7·24	14·92
Mornington ..	13	..	2	318	..	18	24·46	..	9·00
Evelyn ..	5	..	4	110	..	78	22·00	..	19·50
Total ..	8,393	8,623	15,268	152,859	68,626	233,582	18·21	7·96	15·30
North-Central—									
Anglesey ..	279	213	240	6,937	1,297	7,591	24·86	6·09	31·63
Dalhousie ..	176	313	913	3,290	3,406	25,943	18·69	10·88	28·42
Talbot ..	7,145	7,601	12,589	119,554	58,706	235,457	16·73	7·72	18·70
Total ..	7,600	8,127	13,742	129,781	63,409	268,991	17·08	7·80	19·57
Western—									
Grenville ..	1,411	1,482	3,824	30,175	26,198	91,095	21·39	17·68	23·82
Polwarth ..	45	7	8	603	121	268	13·40	17·29	33·50
Heytesbury ..	..	2	36	..	30	1,026	..	15·00	28·50
Hampden ..	1,669	2,414	6,888	24,887	55,598	221,861	14·91	23·03	32·21
Ripon ..	6,546	6,305	13,009	151,053	109,474	352,959	23·08	17·36	27·13
Villiers ..	197	119	355	3,513	2,112	7,585	17·83	17·75	21·37
Normanby ..	79	80	273	903	2,124	7,007	11·43	23·60	25·67
Dundas ..	387	405	326	7,298	7,523	16,772	18·86	19·56	20·31
Follett ..	1	20	108	40	424	1,740	40·00	21·20	16·11
Total ..	10,335	10,844	25,327	218,472	204,004	700,313	21·14	18·81	27·65
Wimmera—									
Lowan ..	138,531	135,460	217,704	3,130,625	661,201	2,568,418	22·60	4·88	11·80
Borong ..	379,087	423,361	606,014	5,933,389	713,262	6,224,821	15·65	1·69	10·27
Kara Kara ..	105,409	125,007	189,021	1,356,556	107,283	2,048,769	12·87	0·86	10·84
Total ..	623,027	683,828	1,012,739	10,420,570	1,481,746	10,842,008	16·73	2·17	10·71

VICTORIA—WHEAT AREAS AND YIELDS IN COUNTIES FOR THE THREE SEASONS, 1944-1946—*continued.*

Districts and Countries.	Year ended March.								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1944.	1945.	1946.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1944	1945.	1946.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bus.	Bus.	Bus.
Mallee—									
Millewa ..	30,325	71,022	119,346	230	2,885	474,292	0·01	0·14	3·97
Weeah ..	104,327	117,299	174,882	817,871	296,370	1,067,548	7·84	2·53	6·10
Karkaroc ..	444,630	529,470	812,081	3,169,419	604,285	4,623,941	7·13	1·14	5·69
Tatchera ..	255,113	329,178	502,463	1,127,965	47,492	3,235,909	4·42	0·14	6·44
Total ..	834,395	1,046,969	1,608,772	5,115,485	951,032	9,401,690	6·13	0·91	5·84
Northern—									
Gunbower ..	14,096	16,742	27,846	52,491	5,581	221,437	3·72	0·33	7·95
Gladstone ..	71,461	86,843	131,300	783,694	87,407	1,545,502	10·97	1·01	11·77
Bendigo ..	59,638	68,636	96,496	560,081	90,006	1,164,692	9·39	1·31	12·07
Rodney ..	27,715	34,817	55,675	376,294	62,554	801,512	13·58	1·80	14·40
Moirá ..	124,289	162,871	239,410	1,581,478	361,061	3,822,887	12·72	2·22	15·97
Total ..	297,199	369,909	550,727	3,354,038	606,609	7,556,030	11·29	1·64	13·72
North-Eastern—									
Delatite ..	966	1,087	2,146	29,186	12,338	61,774	30·21	11·85	28·79
Bogong ..	10,397	11,032	19,631	280,945	87,891	492,072	27·02	7·97	25·07
Benambra ..	164	157	193	3,556	2,366	3,976	21·68	15·07	20·60
Wonnangatta ..	60	60	..	1,224	1,091	..	20·40	18·18	..
Total ..	11,587	12,336	21,970	314,911	103,636	557,822	27·18	8·41	25·39
Gippsland—									
Croajingolong ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tambo ..	..	33	26	..	376	457	..	11·39	17·58
Dargo ..	17	35	151	383	739	2,089	22·53	21·11	13·83
Tanjil ..	842	877	2,249	26,327	15,268	62,205	31·27	17·41	27·66
Buln Buln ..	33	148	422	496	2,182	8,573	15·03	14·74	20·32
Total ..	892	1,093	2,848	27,206	18,565	73,324	30·50	16·99	25·75
Total (State)	1,793,428	2,141,729	3,251,393	19,733,322	3,497,677	29,633,760	11·00	1·63	9·11

The production of wheat in the other Australian States in 1945-46 was as follows:—New South Wales, 62,520,000 bushels; South Australia, 21,033,841 bushels; Western Australia, 20,929,000 bushels; Queensland, 8,187,687 bushels; and Tasmania, 66,637 bushels. The total production for the Commonwealth was 142,409,556 bushels.

In the following table the average yield per acre in each of the main wheat growing counties for the seasons 1935-36 to 1946-47 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 1935 to 1946.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1935-36 TO 1946-47.

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.	Bushell.	
Lowan—																
1935 ..	64	10	167	129	158	232	288	237	239	92	97	72	1,785	1,185	20-12	
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	
Boerung—																
1935 ..	36	26	118	147	92	144	299	201	281	136	48	71	1,599	1,109	23-29	
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	
Kara Kara—																
1935 ..	76	43	113	212	98	142	377	189	294	226	37	71	1,878	1,265	25-08	
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	8-88	
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	99	33	189	265	155	326	192	176	49	1,982	1,303	24-13	
1942 ..	100	50	77	90	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	

Land Settlement, etc.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1935-36 TO 1946-47—*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.	Busheis.	
Millewa—															
1935 ..	51	5	74	110	40	62	100	71	121	130	4	59	827	524	3.23
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	..	1,325	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	390	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	759	584	3.97
1946 ..	125	218	88	48	80	131	153	40	22	38	187	91	1,221	464	3.45
Weeah—															
1935 ..	26	2	67	98	72	121	142	114	138	183	31	52	1,046	770	10.03
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	769	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
Karkaroc—															
1935 ..	38	9	70	93	46	107	136	74	145	173	18	69	978	681	9.65
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	163	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	133	99	7	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	7	148	74	54	914	705	5.69
1946 ..	213	275	101	29	134	133	131	92	33	44	115	68	1,368	567	9.18

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1935-36 TO 1946-47—*continued.*

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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—																
1935 ..	73	59	60	150	41	90	194	66	202	287	29	41	1,292	880	12-39	
1936 ..	210	10	6	43	138	144	393	113	25	142	8	189	1,421	955	15-44	
1937 ..	156	43	14	11	82	128	46	148	38	302	11	91	1,070	744	11-32	
1938 ..	100	49	1	42	17	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	11	117	119	10	70	5	26	75	68	106	636	305	0-14	
1945 ..	17	28	13	..	54	276	95	162	39	219	112	44	1,059	845	6-44	
1946 ..	271	313	99	28	132	145	124	105	27	50	120	75	1,489	583	9-35	
Gunbower—																
1935 ..	87	121	68	190	69	109	250	89	240	254	30	79	1,586	1,011	17-45	
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	56	22	2	43	209	124	215	49	175	122	37	1,108	815	7-95	
1946 ..	227	338	77	34	109	112	131	85	29	67	148	39	1,396	533	6-95	
Gladstone—																
1935 ..	90	62	87	185	92	146	371	161	275	247	22	73	1,811	1,292	22-29	
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	293	208	127	272	97	76	303	15	2,232	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	355	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	828	467	1-01	
1945 ..	47	110	18	4	100	345	165	250	83	130	132	29	1,413	1,073	11-77	
1946 ..	290	305	140	67	129	152	222	111	60	96	116	86	1,774	770	14-30	

Land Settlement, &c.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1935-36 TO 1946-47—*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—																
1935 ..	120	116	66	237	63	114	335	119	259	308	34	66	1,837	1,198	19-84	
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	693	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	
Rodney—																
1935 ..	107	173	78	346	63	138	324	142	301	270	35	45	2,022	1,238	21-37	
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	23	85	118	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	17-99	
1943 ..	168	34	4	100	73	127	169	136	164	116	64	24	1,179	785	13-58	
1944 ..	13	28	47	165	231	42	126	2	35	114	63	82	948	550	1-80	
1945 ..	146	52	12	4	66	244	173	322	85	217	141	34	1,496	1,107	14-40	
1946 ..	264	372	121	89	94	139	222	114	33	121	188	71	1,828	723	16-32	
Molra—																
1935 ..	115	133	106	380	57	153	300	160	253	316	24	113	2,110	1,239	22-67	
1936 ..	165	36	23	223	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	

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
Bencubbin	147,786	5.11	194,952	5.80	299,205	8.39
Regalla	73,129	2.53	135,037	4.01	172,871	4.85
Dundee	179,024	6.20	78,241	2.33	75,437	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
Glueclub	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
Insignia					4,076	0.11
Turvey	8,017	0.28	5,628	0.17	3,678	0.10
Pinnacle					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
Ford	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.
Bencubbin ..	45.70	Quadrat ..	26.89	Bencubbin ..	23.40	Bencubbin ..	33.50
Ford ..	10.80	Ghurka ..	20.30	Ranee ..	9.60	Bungulla ..	21.90
Dundee ..	4.70	Pindar ..	9.77	Waratah ..	5.83	Glucub ..	18.10
Eureka ..	4.10	Magnet ..	9.11	Sword ..	5.78	Ranee ..	4.30
Bordan ..	3.40	Ranee ..	8.79	Dundee ..	5.38	Merredin ..	3.80
Ranee ..	3.20	Bencubbin ..	8.39	Gluyas ..	4.81	Waratah ..	2.00
Waratah ..	2.70	Regalia ..	4.85	Bobin ..	3.79	Nabawa ..	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),
1945-46.

The total seed used for grain and hay areas amounted to 3,494,086 bushels, and total fertilizers to 48,813 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 1945-46.
(GRAIN AND HAY.)

District.	Area Sown.	Seed Used.		Fertilizers Used.
		Per Acre.	Total.	
	Acres.	lb.	Bushels.	Tons.
Central	24,471	88	35,891	712
North-Central .. .	20,824	80	27,765	586
Western	32,244	85	45,679	1,250
Wimmera	1,042,515	70	1,216,268	17,894
Mallee	1,626,903	54	1,464,213	15,076
Northern	588,205	68	666,632	12,346
North-Eastern .. .	26,012	73	31,648	833
Gippsland	4,384	82	5,990	116
Total State .. .	3,365,558	62	3,494,086	48,813

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 2,394,032 acres in fallow during the season 1945-46 957,496 were in the Mallee, 835,267 in the Wimmera, and 427,155 in the Northern districts. The total area of fallow in these three districts—2,219,918 acres—represented 94 per cent. of the land fallowed in the State.

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

VICTORIA—LAND IN FALLOW AND WHEAT SOWN.

Season.			Land in Fallow.	Season.			Area Sown to Wheat.
			Acres.				Acres.
1901-02	..	..	681,778	1902-03	..	..	2,155,928
1911-12	..	..	1,469,608	1912-13	..	..	2,471,586
1921-22	..	..	2,052,964	1922-23	..	..	2,857,533
1931-32	..	..	2,145,819	1932-33	..	..	3,320,504
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				

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, 1937-38 to 1946-47 :—

Season.			Weight of Bushel of Wheat, f.a.q.	Season.			Weight of Bushel of Wheat, f.a.q.
			lb.				lb.
1937-38	..	..	63½	1942-43	..	..	64¼
1938-39	..	..	64½	1943-44	..	..	65
1939-40	..	..	63½	1944-45	..	..	63½
1940-41	..	..	64¼	1945-46	..	..	62½
1941-42	..	..	63¾	1946-47	..	..	63½

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 1940-41 TO 1945-46.

1940-41.	1941-42	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
11,972	Not tabulated.	Not tabulated.	9,859	10,433	11,813

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 1945-46) for hay was 667,451 acres, and for grain 511,483 acres, which produced 884,611 tons of hay, and 7,401,816 bushels of grain respectively. The area of oats sown for grazing purposes amounted to 88,794 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 1945-46, as shown in the table on page 154, 667,451 acres under oats produced 884,611 tons; 114,165 acres under wheat produced 120,780 tons; 44,416 acres under lucerne produced 71,781 tons; 3,446 acres under barley and rye produced 4,254 tons; and 231,018 acres under grass and clover produced 362,824 tons; the yields per acre of these kinds of hay were 1·06, 1·33, 1·62, 1·23, 1·57 tons respectively.

The quantities of hay (in districts) held on rural holdings on the 31st March, 1944, 1945, and 1946, are shown in the following table:—

STOCKS OF HAY HELD ON FARMS.

District.	At 31st March, 1944.	At 31st March, 1945.	At 31st March, 1946.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Central	122,661	84,009	179,435
North-Central	49,011	24,938	79,718
Western	169,926	132,517	227,746
Wimmera	149,958	34,490	98,034
Mallee	74,683	14,079	35,769
Northern	128,238	59,078	188,934
North-Eastern	74,441	31,214	89,493
Gippsland	90,384	80,044	127,452
State	859,302	460,369	1,026,581

Barley. The area under barley for grain in 1945-46 was 134,132 acres, of which 117,774 were under malting (2 row), and 16,358 under feed (6 row) barley. Although barley is grown generally throughout the State, 97,255 acres, or 72 per cent. of the total area for the season 1945-46, 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 1941-42 to 1945-46.

VICTORIA—BARLEY PRODUCTION, 1941-42 TO 1945-46.

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.
1942 ..	179,125	25,154	4,175,468	616,572	23·31	24·51	23·46
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

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 1945-46 were 6,809 acres for grain, and 17,407 acres for green fodder. The area, production, and average yield for each of the five seasons, 1941-42 to 1945-46, are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MAIZE PRODUCTION, 1941-42 TO 1945-46.

Season.	For Green Fodder.	For Grain.		
		Area.	Production.	Yield per Acre.
	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1941-42	20,693	9,594	305,875	31·88
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

The annual average yield of the last five seasons was 34·63 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 176,067 acres planted in 1945-46 to potatoes, 63,000 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, 1941-42 to 1945-46 :—

VICTORIA—POTATO PRODUCTION, 1941-42 TO 1945-46.

Season.	Area.	Production.*	Average Yield.	Gross Value.
	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	£
1941-42	33,392	118,454	3.55	1,773,849
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

* Includes amounts held on farms for seed, stock feed, &c., as follow :—23,997 tons in 1941-42, 43,062 tons in 1942-43, 45,682 tons in 1943-44, 74,060 tons in 1944-45, and 44,077 tons in 1945-46.

Onions. Onions are grown in nearly every county south of the Dividing Range. The returns for the season 1945-46 show that in Bourke the yield was 5,329 tons from 789 acres; in Grant 5,850 tons from 1,670 acres; in Grenville 13,765 tons from 2,374 acres; in Polwarth 10,176 tons from 1,271 acres; in Villiers 5,390 tons from 872 acres; and in Buln Buln 1,977 tons from 430 acres. The following statement shows the area, yield, and value for each of the last five years :—

VICTORIA—ONION PRODUCTION, 1941-42 TO 1945-46.

Season—				Area.	Production.	Average Yield.	Gross Value.
				Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	£
1941-42	..	..	..	4,497	23,420	5.21	374,880
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

Wholesale prices of agricultural and pastoral products.

The prices which appear below are the average prices realized for the marketed produce of the seasons enumerated. Average monthly prices, but not taking into account the quantities sold, are shown on pages 210 and 211.

VICTORIA—AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES REALIZED FOR AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL PRODUCE, 1936-37 TO 1945-46.

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.
1936-37 ..	5 5½	2 8	4 3½	5 6	72 6	146 0	1 4.39
1937-38 ..	4 1	3 3½	3 10	4 11½	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 11¼	6 1	8 5	150 0	292 6	1 3.00

* 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 1945-46 amounted to 49,430 tons, as compared with a production of 39,935 tons for the previous season. This far exceeds the requirements for home consumption. Overseas exports of Victorian produce for the season 1945-46 amounted to 36,195 tons.

Australian production of dried vine-fruits for the season 1945-46 amounted to approximately 70,000 tons, of which the Victorian portion represented over 71 per cent.

Particulars of vine production for the five seasons 1941-42 to 1945-46 are given in the following table :—

VICTORIA—VINE-FRUIT PRODUCTION, 1941-42 TO 1945-46.

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.
1941-42 ..	2,418	40,778	1,776	4,629,926	1,161,888	103,191	847,197	174,764
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	784,886	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

* Not compiled.

Of the total quantity of grapes gathered in 1945-46, it is estimated that 264,723 cwt. were used for making wine and spirits, 3,943,711 cwt. for raisins and currants, and 82,671 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 1945-46 crop amounted to 3,844 cwt., which was obtained from 1,408 acres.

The following table furnishes details of the area, production, and average yield in each of the five seasons, 1941-42 to 1945-46 :—

VICTORIA—TOBACCO PRODUCTION, 1941-42 TO 1945-46.

Season—	Area.	Production.	Produce per Acre.	Gross Value.
	Acres.	Cwt. (dry).	Cwt. (dry).	£
1941-42 ..	2,232	19,877	8·91	250,456
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

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 1941-42 to 1945-46. Australian imports of certain flax products for each of the years ended 30th June, 1942 to 1946 are also shown.

VICTORIAN FLAX PRODUCTION AND AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS
OF FLAX PRODUCTS, 1941-42 TO 1945-46.

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.
1941-42 ..	25,527	31,657	15,180	48,760	..	793,686	5,823
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	..

Orchards. The extent of cultivation of each important class of fruit on holdings of one acre and upwards during the seasons 1940-41 and 1943-44 is shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—FRUIT TREES, PLANTS, ETC., IN ORCHARDS
AND GARDENS, 1940-41 AND 1943-44.

Fruit.	Number of Trees, Plants, &c.					
	1940-41.			1943-44.		
	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.
Apples	2,063,809	309,800	2,373,609	1,958,264	225,082	2,183,346
Pears	955,409	338,910	1,294,319	1,044,914	274,397	1,319,311
Quinces	55,126	14,913	70,039	59,416	16,633	76,049
Plums	247,640	44,194	291,834	253,903	40,960	294,863
Prunes	38,068	6,071	44,139	38,695	9,365	48,060
Cherries	90,806	44,838	135,644	100,891	43,754	144,645
Peaches	982,991	400,649	1,383,640	1,106,554	344,637	1,451,191
Apricots	335,673	106,346	442,019	376,963	97,212	474,175
Nectarines	15,525	13,201	28,726	23,999	8,504	32,503
Oranges	334,498	76,777	411,275	347,548	98,836	446,384
Lemons	99,678	63,651	163,329	109,331	78,072	187,403
Loquats	1,794	455	2,249	not collected.		
Figs	26,254	3,818	30,072	22,254	3,140	25,394
Persimmons	466	56	522	not collected.		
Total Large Fruits	5,247,737	1,423,679	6,671,416	5,442,732	1,240,592	6,683,324
Raspberries	279,558	..	279,558	292,822	25,968	318,790
Loganberries	114,229	..	114,229	136,856	6,652	143,508
Strawberries	4,422,122	..	4,422,122	3,329,792	305,835	3,635,627
Gooseberries	82,988	5,106	88,094	93,386	8,083	101,469
Mulberries	635	67	702	not collected.		
Currants (Red, White and Black)	9,296	3,144	12,440	not collected.		
Olives	2,441	376	2,817	2,335	15,138	17,473
Passion-fruit	67,665	11,925	79,590	28,374	8,729	37,103
Almonds	30,308	12,144	42,452	36,413	10,225	46,638
Walnuts	7,254	2,556	9,810	7,098	3,428	10,526
Filberts	3,067	217	3,284	3,194	214	3,408
Chestnuts	459	126	585	not collected.		
Total Nuts	41,088	15,043	56,131	46,705	13,867	60,572

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	695	10,532	291,330	282,663	263,562	44,224
Grant	200	1,574	68,035	7,540	5,287	57,164
Mornington	869	11,379	896,735	79,403	21,410	12,631
Evelyn	818	6,907	285,276	60,216	56,348	7,500
North Central District—						
Anglesey	20	24	1,453	132	73	26
Dalhousie	15	39	2,828	270	2	..
Talbot	219	3,137	224,696	63,118	2,578	1,405
Western District—						
Grenville	37	273	8,481	909	141	13,824
Polwarth	42	175	11,984	945	37	767
Heytesbury	19	46	3,132	107	20	80
Hampden	8	18	926	185	36	38
Ripon	8	40	3,215	393	144	35
Villiers	8	8	212	24	11	35
Normanby	111	702	62,149	1,390	85	357
Dundas	18	21	641	106	92	155
Follett	13	49	4,008	154	23	61
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	47	580	5,308	645	1,965	6,517
Borong	180	1,928	55,072	25,691	31,061	32,336
Kara Kara	59	291	19,522	1,302	1,163	789
Mallee District—						
Millewa	2	24	..	..	..	..
Weeah .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Karkaroc	581	2,005	463	2,256	1,886	6,112
Tatchera	280	1,509	1,421	965	1,943	11,108
Northern District—						
Gunbower	103	1,126	2,514	893	599	965
Gladstone	42	245	14,677	2,568	2,264	660
Bendigo	220	2,258	65,523	37,561	23,491	11,855
Rodney	377	11,564	7,068	400,973	577,323	134,182
Moira	411	11,122	14,997	341,294	455,415	129,377
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	104	486	18,737	593	854	182
Bogong	178	1,133	59,856	2,733	1,526	481
Benambra	28	43	1,221	157	262	78
Wonnangatta	6	11	292	33	13	2
Gippsland District—						
Croajingolong	13	16	273	24	49	26
Tambo	36	39	659	231	176	260
Dargo	35	135	8,442	334	521	266
Tanjil	25	165	11,075	2,692	109	274
Buln Buln	88	420	31,125	851	722	403
Total for State ..	5,915	70,024	2,183,346	1,319,311	1,451,191	474,175

in the following table, where the number of growers, the area under given for the season 1943-44 :—

Plums.	Prunes.	Cherries.	Quinces.	Nectarines.	Figs.	Oranges.	Mandarins.	Grapefruit.	Lemons and Limes.
Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.
41,273	55	35,170	27,673	18,721	5,721	98	7	135	75,058
7,631	310	1,701	1,325	126	193	19	..	4	883
45,523	137	22,699	5,587	1,581	164	181	6	125	25,457
98,018	39	62,384	15,455	6,025	497	158	7	59	32,245
171	7	28	25	13	23	1	..	..	7
82	..	3	13	..	..	2	..	..	1
17,627	81	6,522	3,618	17	51	7	..	2	279
1,425	6	14	216	1	3	2	..	..	3
878	..	67	87	4	18	..	..	..	3
160	3	2	53	4	14	..	..	..	..
206	2	8	11	7	5	..	..	..	1
135	1	7	37	..	4	..	..	..	4
35	3	7	15	7	3	..	..	..	1
509	20	25	71	30	20	8	..	2	7
123	17	25	51	30	29	11	..	..	8
64	6	5	38	5	13	2	..	..	1
871	8,157	16	273	82	83	195	14	72	100
6,186	7,442	2,290	4,883	457	753	516	27	6	627
719	39	1,075	93	123	134	24	1	..	9
..	..	..	..	..	..	1,844	..	345	202
1,341	1,208	7	321	380	993	118,025	4,078	9,671	7,367
923	1,439	148	457	281	492	80,036	2,403	4,251	4,968
351	463	90	108	104	165	84,705	1,701	4,062	3,880
367	5	404	99	29	326	266	6	6	61
10,121	5,138	1,515	3,165	43	2,808	33,648	216	1,013	7,605
13,032	12,622	108	5,509	2,659	9,828	21,924	82	220	6,281
42,142	9,583	6,062	5,978	1,464	1,823	67,918	1,314	2,628	20,184
377	84	882	233	31	100	668	13	207	206
3,037	948	2,237	383	127	988	2,825	48	34	893
161	23	61	55	41	38	105	1	2	42
30	1	15	5	6	2	2	..	..	3
40	7	28	20	7	6	15	1	..	6
226	20	44	51	17	15	95	3	1	257
126	78	408	29	32	31	29	..	..	466
197	27	40	23	32	31	54	2	1	117
751	89	548	89	17	20	73	1	151	171
294,863	48,060	144,645	76,049	32,503	25,394	413,456	9,931	22,997	187,403

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	43	30	61	1	1
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	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	5	..	..
Hampden	3	5	1	3	..	1	..	2	1	5	..	..
Ripon	3	5	1	3	1	2	..	..	4	..	..	..
Villiers .. ..	..	8	..	1	..	..	..	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 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Karkaroc .. ..	..	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—												
Gumbower	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	..	..	..	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.		Nec- tarines.		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	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anglesey .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dalhousie	26	12	6	18	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..
Talbot .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	26	13	6	18	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..
Western District—	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grenville .. .. .	..	2	..	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
Karkaroc .. .. .	..	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
Moirá .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	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 .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wonnangatta .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	11	5	1	13	..	2	4	13	20	1	11	37
Gippsland District—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croajingolong .. .. .	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1
Tambo .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
Dargo	3	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	1	..	..
Tanjil .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	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
North Cenral District—			1	5	395	305	3	28	8	59
Anglesey	3
Dalhousie
Talbot	2	..	..	6	..	5
Western District—					2	..	..	6	..	8
Grenville	1
Polwarth	2
Heytesbury	2
Hampden	1	..	1
Ripon	1	..	2
Villiers	1
Normanby	3
Dundas	2
Follett	2
Wimmera District—								2	..	16
Lowan	1	1	..	1	5	7	..	3
Borong	1	..	..	17	13	32	1	14
Kara Kara	2	5	..	9
Mallee District—		2	..	1	..	18	20	44	1	26
Millewa	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Weeah
Karkaroc	6	87	21	102	18	78	11	74	5
Tatchera	1	13	7	24	19	39	24	75	..
	..	7	100	29	126	38	117	35	149	5
Northern District—										
Gunbower	7	10	14	14	14	17	3	12	..
Gladstone	1	..	2	..
Bendigo	6	1	10	22	27	15	15	..
Rodney	3	1	6	14	15	7	18	..
Moira	7	14	10	22	43	10	22	1
	..	14	33	26	52	93	102	35	69	1
North-Eastern District—										
Delatite	1	1	..	4	3	6	15
Bogong	1	..	..	1	18	16	14	3
Benambra	1	..	2	1
Wonnangatta	2
Gippsland District—										
Croajingolong	1
Tambo	1	3	..	1	..
Dargo	3	..	..	1	2
Tanjil	3	..	1	..
Buln Buln	1	..	..	4	..	..	3
	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 1945-46 amounted to 2,597,618 and 1,464,075 bushels respectively.

A considerable quantity of apricots, peaches, and pears is grown, mostly in irrigated areas, for canning purposes. The total output of 1,309,994 cases of canned fruits for the 1946 season comprised apricots, 99,430 cases; peaches, 657,202 cases; and pears, 553,312 cases. This output represented 68 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 1945-46 was £3,284,198 as compared with £3,329,194 in 1944-45.

VICTORIA—FRUIT GROWING, 1940-41 TO 1945-46.

	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Number of Growers ..	6,221	6,220	6,155	5,915	5,706	5,598
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Area	69,756	69,413	69,776	70,024	68,245	69,479
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Kind of Fruit—						
Apples	2,497,277	1,603,273	845,184	2,326,224	1,138,801	2,597,618
Pears	1,677,504	1,232,723	1,581,841	1,421,706	1,750,802	1,464,075
Quinces	60,791	72,151	55,131	63,208	61,532	65,341
Apricots	388,361	434,552	422,100	464,934	366,000	336,871
Cherries	47,741	48,285	47,081	64,689	52,929	44,064
Nectarines	8,935	20,374	12,577	23,383	24,011	22,196
Peaches	1,479,866	1,291,756	1,178,242	1,460,813	1,404,870	1,086,841
Plums	240,351	189,778	210,383	187,977	156,391	189,155
Prunes	41,702	46,834	37,032	58,415	33,709	39,548
Lemons	130,670	163,378	128,210	162,000	100,897	109,463
Oranges	729,970	614,670	556,500	637,798	663,418	655,562
Figs	17,220	17,565	15,686	13,096	11,537	14,701
Passion-fruit ..	26,520	14,971	10,779	8,431	6,254	3,523
Other Large Fruits ..	2,445	4,059	4,649	1,985	2,157	2,113
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Blackberries	1,136	1,402	732	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.
Cape Gooseberries ..	124	96	13	"	"	"
Currants	142	104	86	"	"	"
Gooseberries	2,787	3,204	2,257	3,041	2,423	1,639
Loganberries	2,932	3,067	2,527	3,196	3,017	2,688
Mulberries	27	23	20	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.
Raspberries	3,133	2,908	2,690	collected.	2,950	2,397
Strawberries	6,768	6,302	3,372	4,054	3,561	3,027
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Almonds	87,068	163,819	128,737	116,604	122,766	131,299
Chestnuts	15,580	17,257	18,885	Not collected.	Not collected.	Not collected.
Filberts	3,512	4,612	4,625	6,580	9,572	4,970
Walnuts	68,444	96,802	76,111	72,937	86,987	63,310

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 178.

**Dried fruit
(exclusive of
Raisins and
Currants).**

VICTORIA—DRIED TREE-FRUITS, 1941-42 TO 1945-46.

Year ended June—	Apples.	Apricots.	Figs.	Nectarines.	Peaches.	Pears.	Prunes.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1942 ..	16,241	201,028	3,779	484	300,807	156,800	970,801	1,649,940
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

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 1945-46 was 49,898 acres and the gross value of the estimated production therefrom was £4,423,635.

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

	Acres.		Acres.
Carrots	2,528	Beans, French ..	3,948
Parsnips	976	Beans, Navy ..	58
Beetroot	1,630	Peas, green ..	14,377
Cabbage	3,888	Peas, blue ..	416
Cauliflower ..	2,925	Silver beet ..	144
Lettuce	2,166	Cucumber ..	138
Tomatoes	6,339	Marrows ..	220
Pumpkins	2,719	Melons ..	824
Turnips	1,338	Other ..	5,264

Minor Crops. There are other crops cultivated in Victoria in addition to those enumerated on pages 156 and 157. 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.	
1901-02	} Crops and Pastures	11,439	556,777	23,535
1911-12		26,159	2,676,408	82,581
1921-22		37,835	3,848,184	150,012
1931-32		38,844	3,927,208	163,234
1934-35		43,482	4,939,170	211,657
1941-42	} Crops	} Not tabulated	3,650,339	145,245
			3,290,142	167,418
1942-43	} Pastures	} Not tabulated	2,444,332	90,033
			2,140,314	94,762
1943-44	} Crops	28,841	2,060,274	79,102
		23,161	2,034,698	84,588
1944-45	} Pastures	30,905	2,445,339	89,989
		23,917	2,121,406	96,469
1945-46	} Crops	32,148	3,383,072	114,541
		25,019	2,708,379	133,484

Machinery used on Holdings. The numbers of the different kinds of serviceable farming implements, &c., on rural holdings in Victoria on 31st March, 1946, are shown in the following table :—

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

—	Number.
Milking machines—Number of units	38,639
Shearing machines—Number of stands	15,136
Ploughs—	
Single furrow	37,599
Multiple furrow	42,758
Cultivators (including scarifiers, harrows, &c.)—	
Tandem Disc	4,492
Other Disc	14,045
Spring tooth	15,245
Rigid time	5,117
Scarifiers	19,495
Harrows—Number of leaves	189,216
Rotary Hoes	1,423
Other	1,615
Fertilizer distributors and broadcasters	14,158
Grain drills—	
Combine type	16,887
Other types	10,321
Maize planters	1,339
Harvesting machinery—	
Headers, strippers, and harvesters	15,048
Binders	18,649
Mowers	19,138
Hay rakes	15,526
Hay presses and balers	2,785
Chaff cutters	23,013
Spraying plants	3,209
Fruit graders	835
Motor trucks, utilities or motor lorries	19,824
Tractors—	
Wheeled type	13,599
Crawler or track type	584
Stationary engines	33,682

Information is collected annually as to the number of persons ordinarily engaged in farm work on rural holdings of one acre or more. Persons absent from their farms for the greater portion of the year following other occupations, as well as temporary hands engaged in harvesting, &c., are excluded from the tabulation. In respect of female employees, it is evident that numbers of occupiers misinterpret the questions and wrongly include those who, though they may give some assistance out-doors, are primarily engaged in domestic duties. The large increase in the number of females employed as at 31st March, 1943, was due to wartime conditions causing a shortage of male labour. Particulars for the years 1939-40 to 1945-46 are as follow:—

**Persons
employed on
Rural
Holdings.**

VICTORIA—PERSONS PERMANENTLY ENGAGED ON RURAL HOLDINGS, INCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS, ETC., BUT EXCLUDING CASUAL AND SEASONAL WORKERS, 1939-40 TO 1945-46.

Year ending March.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
1940	100,184	8,126	108,310
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

NOTE.—The wages of males temporarily employed during 1945-46 was collected in addition to the numbers of those permanently engaged. Such wages amounted to £2,335,800.

In the next table will be found particulars of the rates of wages paid (with rations) upon rural holdings during 1945-46. The information has been furnished by the occupiers of holdings.

Rates of
Wages—
Rural
Holdings.

VICTORIA—RATES OF WAGES ON RURAL HOLDINGS, 1945-46.

Occupations.	Prevailing Rate.	Range.
Ploughmen	81s. 6d. per week	50s. to 120s. per week
Farm labourers	78s. 6d. per week	40s. to 120s. per week
Threshing machine hands	2s. 6d. per hour	1s. 6d. to 3s. per hour
Harvest hands	20s. 6d. per day	10s. to 30s. per day
Milkers	74s. per week ..	40s. to 100s. per week
Maize pickers (without rations) ..	1s. 3d. per bag of cobs	1s. to 2s. per bag of cobs
Married couples	103s. 6d. per week	60s. to 140s. per week
Female servants	45s. 6d. per week	20s. to 80s. per week
Shearers, hand (without rations) ..	46s. 9d. per 100 sheep	41s. to 60s. per 100 sheep
„ machine (without rations)	50s. per 100 sheep	40s. to 100s. per 100 sheep
Gardeners, market	87s. 6d. 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 105s. 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 their increasing values in recent years indicate 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 1946.

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
1942	302,401	954,493	1,032,051	20,598,201	285,227
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

* 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, 1861-1946.

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	1942	43,487,651
1891	34,886,343	1943	42,768,300
1901	30,788,000	1944	42,127,407
1911	33,079,155	1945	38,026,021
1921	32,797,704	1946	35,250,877

When making comparisons of the figures in the foregoing table, consideration should be given to the varying acreage under cultivation as shown on page 151.

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, 1946:—

LIVE STOCK IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1946.

State.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Victoria	232,473	1,827,087	14,655,277	271,887
New South Wales	403,645	3,116,834	44,076,000	432,412
Queensland	367,357	6,538,067	18,943,762	415,411
South Australia	115,949	374,096	6,786,538	119,986
Western Australia	88,180	833,567	9,765,983	137,872
Tasmania	24,863	216,306	1,925,604	46,915
Northern Territory	31,883	960,039	18,561	407
Australian Capital Territory	1,048	7,867	224,680	619
Total	1,265,398	13,873,863	96,396,405	1,425,509

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.	Dairy Cattle.						
	Horses.	Cows.		Springing Heifers.	Other Heifers for Dairying.	Calves.	Bulls.
		Milking.	Dry.				
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District—							
Bourke	26,540	29,806	10,969	2,740	8,918	5,407	1,417
Grant	10,283	15,179	4,612	1,655	5,949	4,111	987
Mornington	13,747	71,966	16,916	5,854	18,103	17,029	3,429
Evelyn	4,156	8,933	2,862	953	3,473	2,272	536
North Central District—							
Anglesey	2,614	5,409	1,988	752	2,349	2,129	371
Dalhousie	3,163	3,495	1,017	400	1,708	1,324	281
Talbot	6,840	8,344	2,077	698	3,377	2,656	661
Western District—							
Grenville	5,384	12,221	6,462	1,933	4,315	2,780	786
Poiwarth	3,480	21,669	6,467	2,489	6,628	5,260	1,164
Heytesbury	3,926	37,693	12,168	3,165	10,835	10,216	1,905
Hampden	4,615	26,191	11,519	3,648	9,992	7,352	1,617
Ripon	3,496	3,480	1,440	356	1,615	1,280	329
Villiers	5,663	27,020	10,933	3,971	8,680	6,789	1,433
Normanby	5,292	17,513	9,173	2,430	6,061	6,099	1,102
Dundas	3,682	5,739	4,088	1,285	2,057	2,227	511
Follett	1,265	1,981	1,601	460	727	839	133
Wimmera District—							
Lowan	7,975	4,989	2,005	729	1,853	1,846	543
Borong	9,545	6,323	1,872	874	1,929	2,151	647
Kara Kara	4,183	2,502	821	290	958	888	235
Mallee District—							
Millewa	1,009	328	146	51	91	86	33
Weeah	1,774	946	277	108	254	270	95
Karkaroc	8,384	3,832	965	355	872	1,222	324
Tatchera	8,108	7,327	1,918	1,220	2,553	2,883	507
Northern District—							
Gunbower	5,498	21,814	5,220	2,906	7,692	7,713	1,214
Gladstone	4,719	2,296	768	221	881	765	191
Bendigo	8,491	10,946	2,886	882	4,632	3,950	726
Rodney	8,659	27,449	5,862	2,960	11,242	9,772	1,622
Moira	15,088	13,461	4,755	2,273	5,585	5,247	1,213
North-Eastern District—							
Delatite	6,498	16,608	5,277	3,719	6,324	6,063	1,154
Bogong	8,284	28,814	7,465	4,773	9,671	9,634	1,557
Benambra	3,902	15,382	2,932	2,158	3,432	4,473	572
Wonmangatta	384	649	315	46	194	258	30
Gippsland District—							
Croajingolong	1,298	6,404	1,170	572	2,566	1,850	238
Tambo	1,800	4,970	1,359	525	1,775	1,548	226
Dargo	1,565	4,349	1,100	556	1,408	1,473	204
Tanjil	5,316	32,266	8,601	3,589	10,422	8,861	1,361
Buln Buln	15,847	120,752	22,347	9,651	31,734	31,992	5,744
Total for State	232,473	629,046	182,353	71,247	200,855	181,170	35,098

in each County of the State as at March, 1946.

OF LIVE STOCK, 1946.

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.
5,844	2,031	218	5,668	73,018	15,392	315,366	55,868	371,234
9,709	5,026	657	5,731	53,616	5,238	499,593	80,951	580,544
12,695	4,343	343	13,938	164,616	19,547	149,195	50,855	200,050
3,231	1,362	151	3,230	27,458	3,661	36,253	13,283	49,536
3,628	2,234	130	6,882	25,872	3,643	360,957	39,002	399,959
1,660	962	83	2,669	13,599	1,406	340,606	37,436	378,042
2,245	1,407	165	3,191	24,821	3,863	359,011	49,665	408,676
1,847	665	82	2,470	33,561	6,091	509,772	85,752	595,524
2,993	1,232	95	4,848	52,845	8,489	123,347	34,330	157,677
2,390	932	48	2,993	82,345	6,882	47,901	13,521	61,422
10,486	3,754	248	10,093	84,850	3,474	655,395	167,630	823,025
2,301	1,297	112	1,370	13,580	978	677,883	96,753	774,636
13,687	7,050	400	13,756	93,719	1,624	693,377	192,951	886,328
9,166	5,456	368	8,694	66,062	7,086	544,424	115,421	659,845
4,218	2,493	167	5,083	27,868	2,115	715,213	118,750	833,963
3,455	1,968	151	2,106	13,421	873	213,190	36,497	249,687
1,160	977	81	939	15,122	4,890	865,174	122,067	987,241
515	715	64	1,220	16,310	7,375	604,748	95,734	700,482
526	345	77	1,049	7,691	2,039	423,895	58,237	482,132
26	36	5	62	864	307	31,680	2,861	34,541
23	80	6	108	2,167	1,126	67,634	6,522	74,156
350	320	29	628	8,897	3,372	247,723	29,277	277,005
777	643	47	1,666	19,541	6,187	233,358	38,383	271,741
2,426	2,103	86	5,579	56,753	17,554	218,064	48,989	267,053
155	267	23	1,144	6,711	2,085	310,301	39,716	350,017
1,339	1,241	79	2,577	29,258	8,661	335,146	54,465	389,611
4,210	2,391	130	5,501	71,139	20,689	350,384	89,142	439,526
3,983	3,159	280	7,603	47,559	11,023	673,600	128,945	802,545
10,638	5,826	511	21,635	77,755	7,162	517,108	83,378	600,486
14,040	6,901	427	17,488	100,770	17,442	281,566	43,815	325,381
18,083	10,340	722	16,693	74,787	7,205	192,647	39,564	232,211
2,096	1,162	68	1,988	6,806	172	33,628	8,240	41,868
3,482	1,576	97	3,826	21,781	4,545	39,333	8,308	47,641
8,336	4,490	234	2,983	26,446	3,257	89,212	26,613	115,825
4,093	2,350	94	3,545	19,172	3,333	72,013	21,920	93,933
8,240	5,384	256	12,779	91,759	9,480	267,826	63,690	331,516
15,606	7,872	525	28,325	274,548	43,621	298,832	61,386	360,218
189,609	100,390	7,259	230,060	1,827,087	271,887	12,395,360	2,259,917	14,655,277

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 1945-46 was £18,866,694 as compared with £17,864,037 in 1944-45, £16,997,685 in 1943-44, £15,351,192 in 1942-43, and £15,567,176 in 1941-42. 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, 1941-42 TO 1945-46.

As at 1st March—	Number of Cow-keepers.	Number of Dairy Cows.*	Estimated Total Production of Milk for all Purposes (Year ended 30th June).
			1,000 Gallons.
1942	Not tabulated.	954,493	428,691
1943 at 31st March .. .. .	.. .. .	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

* 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 two years were as follow:—

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

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

* Including that made on farms.

The following table shows the number of dairy herds in Victoria, grouped, according to size, for each of the seven years, 1940-46 :—

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.	
1940 ..	9,792	5,032	3,193	4,674	5,920	3,651	650	32,912
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

The numbers of farmers with less than five cows were :—22,526 in 1940, 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, 1946, was 271,887. About 76 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, 1946.

Districts and Counties.	Boars.	Breeding Sows.	Racooners and Porkers.	Back-fatters.	Stores.	Suckers, Weaners, Slips.	Total Pigs.	Pig-Owners. (1946)
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District—								
Bourke	151	1,423	6,471	73	3,017	4,257	15,392	288
Grant	119	598	1,639	48	1,082	1,752	5,238	422
Mornington ..	473	2,474	5,740	122	4,875	5,963	19,547	851
Evelyn	89	584	767	25	621	1,575	3,661	254
North-Central District—								
Anglesey	74	458	1,117	11	884	1,099	3,643	158
Dalhousie ..	32	143	610	13	130	478	1,406	138
Talbot	85	467	1,387	40	632	1,252	3,863	399
Western District—								
Grenville	130	511	1,497	13	2,082	1,858	6,091	284
Polwarth	181	1,045	2,576	93	1,947	2,647	8,489	477
Heytesbury ..	178	849	1,769	34	2,051	2,001	6,882	355
Hampden	86	403	797	21	1,140	1,027	3,474	146
Ripon	31	118	286	6	288	249	978	85
Villiers	46	211	285	6	636	440	1,624	99
Normanby ..	169	959	1,752	38	1,463	2,705	7,086	516
Dundas	65	257	652	50	456	635	2,115	192
Follett	26	103	356	6	100	282	873	48
Wimmera District—								
Lowan	127	594	1,646	51	668	1,804	4,890	516
Borong	182	899	2,446	44	912	2,892	7,375	760
Kara Kara ..	44	229	676	20	325	745	2,039	213
Mallee District—								
Millewa	11	39	136	2	8	111	307	37
Weeah	25	160	388	8	134	411	1,126	99
Karkaroc ..	103	519	739	10	563	1,438	3,372	336
Tatchera	143	806	1,481	18	1,813	1,926	6,187	428
Northern District—								
Gunbower ..	422	2,159	5,175	87	4,595	5,116	17,554	704
Gladstone ..	44	263	532	19	309	918	2,085	240
Bendigo	165	1,155	2,463	71	1,649	3,158	8,661	440
Rodney	426	2,210	6,288	239	5,549	5,977	20,689	881
Moira	267	1,359	3,225	164	2,602	3,406	11,023	642
North-Eastern District—								
Delatite	180	891	1,934	53	1,906	2,198	7,162	501
Bogong	342	2,105	4,742	72	4,501	5,680	17,442	832
Benambra ..	161	920	1,866	39	2,026	2,193	7,205	311
Wonnangatta ..	6	22	29	5	34	76	172	18
Gippsland District—								
Croajingolong ..	90	548	850	13	1,828	1,216	4,545	112
Tambo	78	415	1,031	9	766	958	3,257	148
Dargo	60	345	984	20	843	1,081	3,333	167
Tanjil	215	1,091	2,040	46	3,368	2,720	9,480	371
Buln Buln ..	1,061	4,832	11,412	374	13,234	12,708	43,621	2,048
Total for State ..	6,087	32,164	77,784	1,963	60,037	84,852	271,887	14,516*

* Of this number 4,924 had herds of under 5 pigs, 2,332 herds of 5 and under 9 pigs, 2,894 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 190. 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 192.

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. Seasonal conditions also play a large part in determining the proportion of lambs dropped to ewes mated, and thus a wide variation from the average natural increase may be experienced in any particular season. The following table shows the numbers of ewes mated and lambs dropped, in each of the six years, 1941 to 1946.

VICTORIA—LAMBING, 1941 TO 1946.

Season.	Lambs Marked.	Ewes Mated to produce such Lambs.	Proportion of Lambs Marked to Ewes Mated.
	No.	No.	%
1941	6,776,825	9,587,667	70·7
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

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 202 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, 1946, also the numbers of ewes mated, classified according to whether the progeny is intended for wool or 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. (Mated and not Mated).	Other.			
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District—						
Bourke	5,498	193,601	16,744	99,523	55,868	371,234
Grant	7,402	310,146	40,260	141,785	80,951	580,544
Mornington	3,320	113,659	5,989	26,227	50,855	200,050
Evelyn	812	28,423	1,292	5,726	13,283	49,536
North Central District—						
Anglesey	4,699	197,377	12,228	146,653	39,002	399,959
Dalhousie	4,956	204,621	12,197	118,832	37,436	378,042
Talbot	6,907	257,699	11,606	82,799	49,665	408,676
Western District—						
Grenville	9,520	270,140	45,233	184,879	85,752	595,524
Polwarth	2,455	78,865	9,522	32,505	34,330	157,677
Heytesbury	1,158	38,559	2,408	5,776	13,521	61,422
Hampden	12,731	412,818	53,889	175,957	167,630	823,025
Ripon	9,992	356,736	63,287	247,868	96,753	774,636
Vilhers	11,097	365,452	78,095	238,733	192,951	886,328
Normanby	6,384	258,773	55,157	224,110	115,421	659,845
Dundas	6,996	322,690	79,787	305,740	118,750	833,963
Foilett	2,236	83,760	16,313	110,881	36,497	249,687
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	10,495	459,436	65,248	329,995	122,067	987,241
Borong	8,816	369,153	33,019	193,760	95,734	700,482
Kara Kara	6,671	255,719	24,186	137,319	58,237	482,132
Mallee District—						
Millewa	678	25,218	847	4,937	2,861	34,541
Weeah	1,296	55,270	806	10,262	6,522	74,156
Karkaroc	4,571	197,943	3,016	42,198	29,277	277,005
Tatchera	3,889	183,813	1,868	43,788	38,383	271,741
Northern District—						
Gunbower	4,734	180,678	4,031	28,621	48,989	267,053
Gladstone	4,470	216,494	10,787	78,550	39,716	350,017
Bendigo	5,679	257,951	8,260	63,256	54,465	389,611
Rodney	7,313	286,444	4,370	52,257	89,142	439,526
Moira	14,194	548,926	12,494	97,986	128,945	802,545
North-Eastern District—						
Delatite	9,031	382,376	15,956	109,745	83,378	600,486
Bogong	5,548	213,203	12,072	50,743	43,815	325,381
Benambra	2,737	122,901	7,146	59,863	39,564	232,211
Wonnangatta	441	20,392	2,098	10,697	8,240	41,868
Gippsland District—						
Croajingolong	378	21,274	4,979	12,702	8,308	47,641
Tambo	1,245	61,828	4,378	21,761	26,613	115,825
Dargo	829	43,483	6,477	21,224	21,920	93,933
Tanjil	3,523	160,881	12,545	90,877	63,690	331,516
Buln Buln	4,205	155,031	13,229	126,367	61,386	360,218
Total	196,906	7,711,733	751,819	3,734,902	2,259,917	14,655,277

BREEDS OF RAMS IN EACH COUNTY (EXCLUSIVE OF IN TOWNS) AS AT MARCH, 1946.

Ewes Mated (for Lambing during Season 1946).		Breeds of Rams (as at March, 1946).						
To Merino, Corriedale or Polwarth Rams (Wool Production).	To Rams of British Breeds (Fat-lamb Production).	Merino.	Corriedale.	Polwarth.	Border Leicester.	South-down.	Dorset Horn.	Other.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
25,228	165,365	95	492	121	986	1,399	1,367	1,038
143,058	149,085	1,633	1,575	659	1,100	300	1,364	771
6,149	104,663	7	295	7	536	1,605	202	668
2,444	24,786	20	24	25	127	265	90	261
74,215	115,846	711	854	156	243	2,012	208	515
70,499	127,433	793	716	71	1,040	1,059	774	503
105,947	144,395	1,661	1,498	87	1,640	267	892	862
169,329	80,635	5,771	1,037	841	809	324	271	467
27,994	44,863	3	321	1,040	413	281	127	270
1,814	35,757	..	16	23	77	790	96	156
270,420	107,627	4,555	2,743	2,380	542	771	564	1,176
252,018	96,510	7,093	1,054	163	783	132	473	294
243,405	78,277	3,906	2,292	2,308	800	252	178	1,361
143,857	94,845	1,331	2,049	296	572	338	359	1,439
206,048	82,052	2,990	1,721	246	706	226	376	731
26,909	49,161	245	430	..	326	218	123	894
301,421	126,816	6,182	1,476	126	920	465	577	749
181,465	170,876	3,171	1,278	99	1,889	391	1,443	545
139,279	105,622	3,623	420	327	1,532	51	518	200
18,854	5,977	486	44	..	51	1	84	12
22,375	32,608	114	509	24	250	11	339	49
16,741	179,536	12	456	18	2,567	51	1,244	223
9,413	171,683	62	186	8	2,675	143	532	283
20,437	157,681	730	266	8	1,698	291	1,298	443
95,224	115,827	1,537	662	21	1,467	119	220	444
52,465	200,106	473	540	64	2,626	354	953	669
38,568	244,666	174	737	4	2,934	1,112	1,648	704
49,568	491,878	536	1,077	41	3,722	5,027	2,506	1,282
103,384	270,498	578	1,373	188	1,954	2,231	469	2,238
50,327	157,653	523	513	138	2,651	737	316	670
53,990	64,557	707	443	37	458	279	337	476
10,585	8,092	57	157	31	47	34	11	104
11,791	7,709	217	15	4	60	2	1	79
26,219	33,176	198	355	22	147	69	57	397
21,606	19,045	193	191	4	124	53	37	227
57,832	92,685	733	410	86	343	231	773	947
27,237	121,615	288	429	23	828	744	921	972
3,078,715	4,249,606	51,408	28,654	9,696	39,643	22,635	21,751	23,119

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†
Crossbreds ..	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 Crossbreds.

† 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
Crossbreds ..	828,421	621,695	1,480,041	530,915	487,803	1,711,810	780,681	482,237	6,923,603

Production of Wool.

Statistics of wool production are obtained direct from the growers, from fellmongeries and, in respect of wool exported on skins, from the Customs Department.

VICTORIA—SHEEP AND LAMBS SHORN (IN DISTRICTS), SEASON 1945-46.

Statistical District.	Shorn.		Wool Clipped (including Crutchings).		Average.	
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep's.	Lambs'.	Per Sheep.	Per Lamb.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Central ..	1,067,578	205,901	7,833,442	488,231	7.34	2.37
North-Central ..	1,157,508	130,820	7,733,092	264,344	6.68	2.02
Western ..	5,041,987	1,026,773	40,173,632	2,272,674	7.97	2.21
Wimmera ..	2,161,028	299,363	16,515,286	604,977	7.64	2.02
Mallee ..	485,598	65,556	3,487,995	154,010	7.18	2.35
Northern ..	1,879,065	367,614	12,919,357	851,737	6.88	2.32
North-Eastern ..	1,126,961	212,515	7,664,013	430,399	6.80	2.03
Gippsland ..	907,214	235,427	7,342,938	500,013	8.09	2.12
State Totals ..	13,826,939	2,543,969	103,669,755	5,566,385	7.50	2.19

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

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

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.

A notable chapter in the history of the Australian Wool Industry closed with the completion of the 1945-46 wool season. The Appraisal Scheme, which implemented the British Government's record wool purchase and details of which have appeared in previous issues of the *Victorian Year-Book*, functioned with the utmost smoothness throughout the whole period of its existence. The price, whilst not regarded as a lavish one, was reasonable and ensured stabilization throughout a great crisis. Despite a pronounced shortage of manpower at every stage from shearing shed to ship or storage, which necessarily had the effect of slowing down the realization process, it was found possible to make a full and satisfactory clearance of the final (1945-46) clip.

**Marketing
of Wool.**

The purchase by the British Government of the Australian and New Zealand wool clips for the seasons 1939-40 to 1945-46 inclusive was a wartime masterstroke, achieving a triple objective. In the first place it secured an ample and ever ready supply for England and her Allies of one of the most necessary of war commodities. Secondly, it placed the wool resources of the Empire out of bounds to the enemy, while finally, it ensured the solvency of both Dominions and saved the wool industry from disaster. The Wool Appraisalment Scheme was undoubtedly a great practical achievement. If anything, the experts who framed the Table of Limits, which provided the basis of value for each individual lot of wool in relation to the flat rate purchase price, inclined to over-efficiency.

Following the prolonged drought and its severe losses there was a definite falling-off in the volume of appraisements during the 1945-46 season with a corresponding drop in the aggregate wool cheque. The decline in the final receipts was solely due to the lighter clip, the purchase price continuing as previously at 15·453Id. per lb. Not only was the clip substantially reduced in volume, but the wool itself bore traces of the adverse seasonal conditions and, in many instances, failed to reach the same type in the Table of Limits as in previous seasons. Thus an equalization dividend of 13·9 per cent.—the highest of the Appraisalment Scheme—was needed to bring the average appraised price up to the flat rate purchase price.

Particulars of the volume of, and the average price obtained for, the Victorian clips for each of the five seasons 1941-42 to 1945-46 appear on page 203 of this issue of the *Year-Book*.

A new era in wool marketing will open with the Disposal Plan to take effect from the commencement of the 1946-47 wool selling season. The plan aims to regulate offerings of old and new wools—the legacy of the Appraisalment Scheme and current production—and to place a “floor” to the market. The accumulations and current clip will be made available for commercial buyers at auction, but with the safeguard to growers that the wool will not be sold below a reserve price. If the price fails to reach the reserve figure, the wool will be purchased by the Australian Wool Realization Commission on account of Wool Disposals Limited, subject to the owner’s approval, or it will be held by him, for subsequent re-offering. On the eve of the new departure in wool auction methods, there is a fairly widespread feeling that the world-wide demand for wool will readily absorb the offerings for some time to come, but the real test of the plan will come when more normal conditions prevail.

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*—not only for wool *grown*—in Victoria. Wool from the Riverina and the south-east of South Australia is included in Victorian appraisements.

Prices of
Wool.

**PRICES OF WOOL APPRAISED IN VICTORIA,
1943-44 TO 1945-46.**

Class of Wool.	Average Price per lb. in—		
	1943-44.*	1944-45.*	1945-46.*
GREASY MERINO.			
	Pence.	Pence.	Pence.
Extra Super (Western District) ..	35 to 41	33 to 39	34 to 41
Super	27 to 33	26 to 32	27 to 33
Good	22 to 26	21 to 25	22 to 26
Average	17 to 20	17 to 20	16 to 20
Wasty and Inferior	12 to 16	12 to 16	10 to 15
Extra Super Lambs	29 to 33	29 to 33	26 to 29
Super Lambs	25 to 28	25 to 28	22 to 25
Good Lambs	20 to 24	20 to 24	16 to 21
Average Lambs	15 to 19	15 to 19	12 to 15
Inferior Lambs	11 to 14	11 to 14	8 to 11
GREASY CROSSBRED.			
Extra Super Comebacks	24 to 28	24 to 27	25 to 28
Super Comebacks	20 to 24	20 to 24	21 to 24
Fine Crossbred	14 to 22	14 to 22	14 to 23
Medium Crossbred	13 to 21	13 to 21	14 to 22
Coarse Crossbred and Lincoln	14 to 24	14 to 24	13 to 25
Super Fine Crossbred Lambs	20 to 24	20 to 24	18 to 21
Good Crossbred Lambs	15 to 19	15 to 19	13 to 16
Coarse and Lincoln Lambs	12 to 14	12 to 14	12 to 15
SCOURED.			
Extra Super Fleece	31 to 35	30 to 33	30 to 33
Super Fleece	27 to 30	26 to 29	26 to 29
Good Fleece	22 to 26	21 to 25	21 to 25
Average Fleece	19 to 21	19 to 20	19 to 20
RECORD PRICES FOR THE SEASON.			
Greasy Merino Fleece	40½	39	41½
„ Comeback Fleece	28	27½	28
„ Merino Lambs	32½	33½	29½
„ Comeback Lambs	26½	25	25
Scoured Fleece	34½	33½	33½

* Appraisal prices—subject to addition of 11½ per cent. in 1943-44, 12½ 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 1941-42 to 1945-46. 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, 1941-42 TO 1945-46.

Stock.	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
	Average.	Average.	Average.	Average.	Average.
<i>Fat Cattle.</i>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bullocks—					
Extra prime	19 13 6	21 5 9	24 6 0	24 3 7	25 19 4
Prime	18 3 8	19 11 9	22 4 11	22 0 0	23 14 5
Good	15 15 2	17 17 6	20 5 6	20 7 11	21 8 6
Good light and handy weights	13 13 0	15 4 11	16 19 9	17 9 11	18 4 3
Second	11 2 7	12 9 6	12 12 11	13 4 0	15 5 3
Cows—					
Best	13 3 1	14 9 5	15 13 3	15 9 9	16 17 9
Others	8 3 9	8 10 6	9 7 2	8 18 7	10 4 3
<i>Dairy Cattle</i>					
Milkers (best)	14 10 10	17 8 10	19 14 4	19 19 1	23 4 4
Springers (best)	11 11 2	13 1 9	13 16 5	14 11 6	18 5 8
<i>Fat Sheep.</i>					
Crossbred Wethers—					
Extra prime	1 6 5	1 10 1	1 14 6	1 14 4	2 2 9
Prime	1 3 4	1 7 5	1 11 4	1 11 2	1 19 1
Good	1 0 4	1 3 10	1 7 5	1 6 11	1 14 7
Crossbred Ewes—					
Extra prime	0 18 5	1 0 7	1 5 5	1 5 0	1 11 11
Prime	0 15 10	0 18 0	1 1 9	1 1 11	1 8 0
Good	0 12 8	0 14 5	0 16 2	0 17 6	1 2 8
Merino Wethers—					
Extra prime	1 3 1	1 6 3	1 10 2	1 8 11	1 16 11
Prime	1 0 10	1 3 9	1 7 8	1 6 10	1 13 8
Good	0 17 6	0 19 4	1 3 2	1 2 4	1 8 7
<i>Fat Lambs.</i>					
Extra prime	1 4 1	1 8 3	1 11 10	1 12 10	1 19 11
Prime	1 1 2	1 5 4	1 8 7	1 9 2	1 15 6
Good	0 18 7	1 2 3	1 4 6	1 4 9	1 11 1
<i>Pigs.</i>					
Back Fatters—					
Extra heavy prime	8 16 4	12 12 1	11 17 1	11 16 10	14 16 3
Prime medium and weighty	7 2 6	10 10 1	9 12 5	9 15 4	12 7 3
Baconers—					
Medium and heavy	4 3 8	5 11 8	5 15 4	6 9 6	6 13 5
Light	3 7 5	4 10 9	4 11 6	5 6 11	5 9 0
Porkers	2 10 0	3 16 1	3 12 0	3 17 8	4 8 5

The following table shows the number of slaughtering establishments and of the stock slaughtered in the State during each of the five years, 1942-46 :—

VICTORIA—STOCK SLAUGHTERED, 1942 TO 1946.

Kind of Stock.	Stock Slaughtered in Establishments and on Farms and Stations.				
	Year Ended June—				
	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.*
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Sheep	4,006,368	4,272,102	5,079,169	5,059,831	2,861,651
Lambs	4,628,241	5,458,718	4,221,903	4,127,769	2,195,031
Bullocks	155,461	182,612	165,001	161,022	122,864
Cows	232,685	239,980	223,245	235,155	176,326
Young cattle	68,329	51,782	75,502	77,349	43,418
Calves	297,342	278,850	304,641	334,777	230,844
Pigs	570,419	439,917	388,905	415,638	316,300
Number of Slaughterhouses ..	615	581	555	526	521

* Average dressed weights per carcass during 1945-46 were; Sheep 42.73 lbs.: Lambs 33.39 lbs.: Bullocks 629.33 lbs.: Cows 400.02 lbs.: Young Cattle 231.54 lbs.; Calves 56.56 lbs.: Pigs 165.57 lbs.

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.

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 (207,250)	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 192 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 1941-42 to 1945-46 :—

SILAGE IN VICTORIA, 1941-42 TO 1945-46.

Season ended March.	Farms on which Silage Made.		Districts in which Made.							
	No.	Tons.	Central.	North Central.	Western.	Wimmera.	Mallee.	Northern.	North Eastern.	Gippsland
1942	*	34,109	8,814	1,113	4,021	916	502	4,242	5,890	8,611
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

* 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 1942-46 are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—BEE-HIVES, HONEY, AND BEESWAX, 1941-42
TO 1945-46.

Season Ended May—	Bee-keepers.*	Hives.	Production.		Gross Value.	
			Honey.	Beeswax.	Honey.	Beeswax.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	£	£
1942	2,414	85,744	5,496,851	64,484	148,873	7,523
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

* Apiarists with 20 hives and over numbered 788 in 1942, 739 in 1943, 803 in 1944, 691 in 1945 and 767 in 1946.

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, 1946 :—

MELBOURNE—WHOLESALE PRICES—YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1946.

	1945.						1946.					
	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.
	<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>
Agricultural—												
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	4 3½	4 3½	4 3½	4 3½	4 3½	3 10	3 8	3 7½	3 7½	3 7½	3 8	3 9
Maize	8 4	8 4	8 4	8 4	8 4	8 4	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6
Peas	10 6	10 6	0 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 6	10 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 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0
Pollard	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0
Flour (first quality)* ..	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6	12 17 6
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	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10	24 18 10
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 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6	14 12 6
Butchers' Meat—												
Beef, prime .. per 100 lb.	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11
	<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	5-67	5-54	5-17	5-17	5-17	5-17	5-17	5-67	5-67	5-67	5-67
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	5-84	5-84	5-84	5-84	5-84	5-84	5-84	5-84	5-84	5-84	5-84	5-84
Lamb	9-80	9-80	9-55	8-49	7-79	7-79	7-79	9-80	9-80	9-80	9-80	9-80
	<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 6½	1 6½
Cheese (matured)	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½
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 10½	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 8	1 9	1 11½	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 0

* Price quoted includes Flour Tax.

**Retail
Prices.**

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, 1946 :—

MELBOURNE—RETAIL PRICES—YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1946.

Article.	Unit.	1945.						1946.					
		July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.
Groceries, &c.—		<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>
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	lb.	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00
Jam, plum	1½ lb.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.35	11.35	11.35	11.35	11.35	11.35
Oats, flaked	lb.	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.75	3.75	3.72	3.81	3.81	3.94	3.94	3.92
Raisins, seeded .. .. .	.. .. .	13.11	13.11	13.11	13.11	13.22	13.22	13.11	13.11	13.11	13.11	13.11	13.11
Peaches, canned	30 oz.	13.06	13.06	13.05	13.05	14.28	14.35	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.33	14.33
Pears, canned .. .. .	.. .. .	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	15.17	15.30	15.45	15.45	15.45	15.45	15.44	15.44
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	8.40
Onions, brown	lb.	2.63	2.63	2.63	2.63	2.63	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
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	28.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	24.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00
Bacon, rashers	lb.	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
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.	13.90	13.90	14.00	14.00	13.80	13.80	13.80	13.70	13.60	13.70	13.40	13.40
.. rib .. .. .	.. .. .	11.70	11.70	11.80	11.80	11.40	11.35	11.35	11.30	11.30	11.30	11.10	11.10
.. steak, rump .. .. .	.. .. .	21.20	21.10	21.10	21.00	20.90	20.90	20.90	20.90	21.00	21.00	20.90	20.90
.. chuck .. .. .	.. .. .	10.05	10.05	10.15	10.20	10.15	10.15	10.15	10.15	10.15	10.15	10.15	10.15
.. sausages .. .. .	.. .. .	8.30	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.40	8.40	8.60	8.60	8.60	8.60	8.60	8.30
.. corned silverside .. .. .	.. .. .	12.60	12.60	12.70	12.70	12.45	12.45	12.45	12.35	12.35	12.35	12.25	12.15
.. brisket .. .. .	.. .. .	9.35	9.35	9.45	9.45	9.15	9.15	9.10	9.10	9.10	9.20	9.10	9.10
Mutton, leg .. .. .	.. .. .	11.61	11.60	11.70	11.40	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.45	11.45	11.45	11.45	11.45
.. forequarter .. .. .	.. .. .	6.95	7.00	7.00	6.90	6.75	6.70	6.60	6.60	6.75	6.85	6.85	7.00
.. loin .. .. .	.. .. .	9.60	9.80	9.90	9.90	9.55	9.55	9.60	9.55	10.00	10.15	10.15	10.10
.. chops, loin .. .. .	.. .. .	10.70	10.80	10.90	10.80	10.55	10.55	10.75	10.75	11.15	11.30	11.20	11.20
.. leg .. .. .	.. .. .	12.13	11.95	11.95	11.95	11.90	11.90	11.60	11.40	11.75	11.70	11.70	11.75
Pork, leg .. .. .	.. .. .	15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95
.. chops .. .. .	.. .. .	17.65	17.65	17.65	17.65	17.65	17.65	17.65	17.65	17.65	17.65	17.65	17.65

Land Settlement, &c.

FORESTRY.

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, 1946, the area of permanently dedicated forest was 4,904,364 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 4,904,364 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 1945-46 was 18,578,011 cubic feet. In addition 23,289,540 cubic feet of fuel timber and 3,797,498 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 1945 planting season was 158 acres, comprising restocking cut-over areas, 16 acres; new planting 52 acres; and renewals 90 acres. The total plantation area at 30th June, 1946, was 46,470 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 1945-46, amounted to 13,873,163 superficial feet. The corresponding total for 1944-45 was 13,741,677 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 it is estimated that 1,000,000,000 superficial feet should be utilized before the timber deteriorates to such an extent as to be unuseable.

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 1945-46 was £707,374, and the expenditure £1,310,998—£520,013 of which was paid out of the Consolidated Revenue, £658,163 out of loan funds, and the balance—£132,822—from the Forestry Fund.

Silviculture of Indigenous Forests. The various types of silvicultural operations in the indigenous forests over the period 1942-43 to 1945-46 are indicated in the following table :—

**VICTORIA—SILVICULTURAL OPERATIONS IN STATE
FORESTS, 1942-43 TO 1945-46.**

Nature of Work.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
First thinning	Acres. 4,274	Acres. 2,285	Acres. 3,043	Acres. 3,444
Second or subsequent thinning	1,836	490	517	30
Regeneration or liberation treatment by ring-barking .. .. .	..	..	1,207	2,104
Removal of surplus coppice	3,737	87	..	1,800
Total area treated	9,847	2,862	4,767	7,378

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 1945-46, the quantities of pulp-wood obtained from the State forests totalled 1,812,293 cubic feet as compared with 2,247,005 cubic feet in 1944-45.

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