

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK,

1912-13,

BY

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THIRTY-THIRD ISSUE.



BY AUTHORITY

MELBOURNE:

ALBERT J. MULLETT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

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No other amendments were made to this Product

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PREFACE.

THIS is the thirty-third issue of the *Victorian Year-Book*.

The general plan of the work is the same as in former years, but there are many alterations in the text due to changes in conditions. Much new matter has been added, and sections dealing with subjects that are of less public interest than formerly have been deleted or curtailed.

The main object of the work is to show the progress made by the State during the year under review, and with this end comparisons are instituted with former years, and with other States and countries. An endeavour is made to present such information as will enable investigators to ascertain the results of past legislation, and as will assist legislators, publicists, and others in forming an opinion in regard to the most suitable methods to be adopted in the future in developing the natural resources of the State and promoting the social welfare of the people.

The first part deals principally with the past history of the State and its constitutional progress. Its natural features, geology, fauna, and flora are also described. Parts II. to V. and Part VIII. deal with the wealth and progress of the community as indicated by the growth of population, and by increases in bank deposits, in amounts assured with life offices, in volume of trade, &c., and details are given of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, and of municipalities. In parts VI., VII., and IX. attention is given to matters affecting primarily the daily lives of the individuals of whom the community is composed, rather than the collective interests of the community itself. In these latter portions of the book will be found statistics relating to births, marriages and deaths, education, charitable institutions, crime, and other cognate subjects. In Part X. a detailed account is given of the agricultural and other production of the State, and of its manufactures. The various parts were distributed as soon as completed, the first being issued in May, and the last in November.

The information in all the parts has been brought up to the latest possible date—in many instances to the middle of the year 1913.

Of the new features appearing in the present volume the following may be mentioned :—

Tables showing the numbers of private dwellings in the State of different weekly rentals and the numbers of persons living in houses built of stone, brick, wood, &c. ; a statement of the rules according to which the property and effects, both real and personal, of persons dying intestate are by law distributed ; mortality rates of twenty-two metropolitan municipalities and seven country towns based upon the usual place of residence of the deceased persons ; a table showing the assistance rendered by public hospitals to people living in different portions of the State ; and statements in more detail than formerly of the principal articles imported from and exported to oversea countries.

The section relating to Defences has been re-written, and this includes a detailed statement of the steps which have been taken to inaugurate the Commonwealth Fleet Unit. A list is given of the duties of the recently constituted Country Roads Board, and there is a statement of the provision which has been made for obtaining the funds necessary to enable it to carry on these duties.

The Appendix contains information in regard to the land occupied in the State in March, 1913, and the cultivation and live stock thereon for holdings of various sizes, the holdings being arranged in an ascending scale in thirty groups. It also includes tables giving the average chest and cranial measurements of children of various ages. These are based on information collected by medical officers attached to the Education Department who have for some time past been continuously employed in examining school children throughout the State.

The discontinuance by the Commonwealth Government of the records of Inter-State trade, which has been referred to in previous *Year-Books*, has caused considerable inconvenience to the public. Frequent requests are received at this office for information which it is impossible to supply owing to particulars of that trade not being available.

I have to thank the heads of Government Departments and the various experts who have supplied information and in other ways assisted in the preparation of the work. I also take this opportunity of thanking the members of my staff for their hearty co-operation and for the valuable assistance received from them.

The figures and other matter contained in each part of the book have been carefully examined and checked. If, however, any error should be detected, I shall be pleased to receive information as to its nature and position.

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Office of the Government Statist,
Melbourne, 14th November, 1913.