

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK,

1913-14,

BY

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PREFACE.

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

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 IX. 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 VIII. attention is given to matters which have an important bearing on the progress of the community, though affecting primarily the daily lives of the individuals of whom the community is composed. 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 June and the last in December.

The information in all parts has been brought up to the latest possible date—in many instances to the middle of the year 1914. The Appendix contains the names of the members of the Federal Parliament elected on 5th September, and of the State Parliament elected on 26th November, 1914.

The sections dealing with many important subjects have been remodelled and amplified, especially in the part relating to "Production." Numerous alterations have been made in the text in this and other parts and much fresh matter has been added with a view to meeting the requirements of the public.

An epitome is given of the main provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act passed this year. Additional information relating to Closer Settlement is given, more especially, as regards its progress in irrigation areas, and its effect on production generally.

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, 10th December, 1914.