VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK 1917-18.

A. M. LAUGHTON,
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Victorian Year-Book

By

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PREFACE.

THIS is the thirty-eighth 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. 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 shows the progress of the State since the early days of settlement, and contains a description of the Constitution, as well as an epitome of Acts passed during 1917 by the State Parliament, lists of members of Parliament, &c. Parts II., III., V., VI. and X. 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 IV., VII. and VIII. will be found statistics relating to births, marriages and deaths, crime, education, charitable institutions, and other cognate subjects. In Part IX. a detailed account is given of the agricultural and other production of the State, and of its manufactures. The various parts were issued as soon as completed.

The information in all parts has been brought up to the latest possible date—on many subjects to the middle of the year 1918, and in a few instances to a later date.

There is a considerable reduction in the size of the volume as compared with that for the previous year, this being rendered advisable by reason of the necessity for economy in the use of paper. The particulars in regard to the Commonwealth which have hitherto appeared in the first part have been omitted, as well as certain statistical tables in other

parts relating to other States and countries. Also much information which has appeared in previous issues with slight alterations from year to year has been omitted or given in an abridged form. When matter which has not ceased to be of interest has been deleted a reference is made to the last volume in which it appears.

Care has been taken to avoid the elimination of matter the retention of which is necessary to show the resources and activities of the State and the conditions affecting the social and communic welfare of the people.

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 material in each part of the book have been carefully examined and checked. If, however, any errors should be detected, I shall be pleased to receive information as to their nature and position.

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Office of the Government Statist, Melbourne, 30th January, 1919.