

Victorian Year-Book, 1917-18.

INTRODUCTION.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, AREA, AND CLIMATE.

Area of Victoria. Victoria is situated at the south-eastern extremity of the Australian continent, of which it occupies about a thirty-fourth part, and it contains about 87,884 square miles, or 56,245,760 acres. It is bounded on the north and north-east by New South Wales, from which it is separated by the River Murray, and by a straight line running in a south-easterly direction from a place near the head-waters of that stream, called The Springs, on Forest Hill, to Cape Howe. On the west it is bounded by South Australia, the dividing line being about 242 geographical miles in length, approximating to the position of the 141st meridian of east longitude, and extending from the River Murray to the sea. On the south and south-east its shores are washed by the Southern Ocean, Bass Strait, and the Pacific Ocean. It lies between the 34th and 39th parallels of south latitude, and the 141st and 150th meridians of east longitude. Its extreme length from east to west is about 420, its greatest breadth about 250, and its extent of coast-line nearly 600 geographical miles. Great Britain, exclusive of the islands in the British Seas, contains 88,756 square miles, and is therefore slightly larger than Victoria.

The southernmost point in Victoria, and in the whole of Australia, is Wilson's Promontory, which lies in latitude 39 deg. 8 min. S., longitude 146 deg. 26 min. E.; the northernmost point is the place where the western boundary of the State meets the Murray, latitude 34 deg. 2 min. S., longitude 140 deg. 58 min. E.; the point furthest east is Cape Howe, situated in latitude 37 deg. 31 min. S., longitude 149 deg. 59 min. E.; the most westerly point is the line of the whole western frontier, which, according to the latest correction, lies upon the meridian 140 deg. 58 min. E., and extends from latitude 34 deg. 2 min. S. to latitude 38 deg. 4 min. S., or 242 geographical miles.

Climate. From its geographical position, Victoria enjoys a climate more suitable to the European constitution than any other State upon the Continent of Australia. In the sixty-one years ended with 1917 the maximum temperature in the shade recorded at the Melbourne Observatory was 111·2 deg. Fahr., viz., on the 14th January, 1862; the minimum was 27 deg., viz., on the 21st July, 1869; and the mean was 57·4 deg. Upon the average, on four days during the year the thermometer rises above 100 deg. in the shade; and, generally, on about three nights during the year it falls below freezing point.

The maximum temperature in the sun ever recorded (*i.e.*, since 1857) was 178·5 deg., *viz.*, on the 4th January, 1862. The mean atmospheric pressure noted at an Observatory 91 feet above the sea level was, during the sixty-one years ended with 1917, 29·93 inches; the average number of days on which rain fell was 137, and the average yearly rainfall was 25·56 inches.

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS, RIVERS AND LAKES.

The highest mountain in Victoria is Mount Bogong,*
Mountains and Hills. situated in the county of the same name, 6,509 feet above the sea-level; the next highest peaks are—Mount Feathertop, 6,306 feet; Mount Nelson, 6,170 feet; Mount Fainter, 6,160 feet; Mount Hotham, 6,100 feet; Mount McKay, 6,030 feet; and Mount Cope, 6,027 feet; all situated in the same county; also the Cobboras, 6,030 feet, situated between the counties of Benambra and Tambo. These, so far as is known, are the only peaks which exceed 6,000 feet in height; but, according to a list, which appears in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, there are 39 peaks between 5,000 and 6,000 feet high, and 40 between 4,000 and 5,000 feet high; it is known, moreover, that there are many peaks rising to upwards of 4,000 feet above the level of the sea whose actual heights have not yet been determined.

Rivers. With the exception of the Yarra, on the banks of which the metropolis is situated; the Goulburn, which empties itself into the Murray about eight miles to the eastward of Echuca; the La Trobe and the Mitchell, with, perhaps, a few other of the Gippsland streams; and the Murray itself, the rivers of Victoria are not navigable except by boats. They, however, drain the watershed of large areas of country, and many of the streams are used as feeders for permanent reservoirs for irrigation and water supply purposes for factories. The Murray, which forms the northern boundary of the State, is the largest river in Australia. Its total length is 1,520 miles, for 1,200 of which it flows along the Victorian border. Several of the rivers in the north-western portion of the State have no outlet, but are gradually lost in the absorbent tertiary flat country through which they pass.

Lakes. Victoria contains numerous salt and fresh water lakes and lagoons; but many of these are nothing more than swamps during dry seasons. Some of them are craters of extinct volcanoes. Lake Corangamite, the largest inland lake in Victoria, covers 90 square miles, and is quite salt, notwithstanding that it receives the flood waters of several fresh-water streams. It has no visible outlet. Lake Colac, only a few miles distant from Lake Corangamite, is a beautiful sheet of water, 10½ square miles in extent, and quite

* The highest mountain on the Australian Continent is Mount Kosciusko, in New South Wales, one peak of which is 7,328 feet high.

fresh. Lake Burrumbeet is also a fine sheet of fresh water, embracing 8 square miles. The Gippsland lakes—Victoria, King, and Reeve—are situated close to the coast, and are separated from the sea only by a narrow belt of sand. Lake Wellington, the largest of all the Gippsland lakes, lies to the westward of Lakes Victoria and King, and is united to the first-named by a narrow channel. South-east of Geelong is Lake Connewarre, connected with the sea at Point Flinders.

A list of mountains and hills, rivers and lakes in Victoria appears in the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1915-16. This was revised by the Surveyor-General, Mr. A. B. Lang, and contains information in regard to heights, lengths, and areas respectively.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF VICTORIA.

An article contributed by Mr. H. Herman, B.C.E., M.M.E., F.G.S., Director of Victorian Geological Survey, on the "Physical Geography and Geology of Victoria," appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17 on pages 54 to 61.

ADDENDUM TO ABOVE ARTICLE.

Supplied by Mr. Herman in June, 1918.

Since the 1916-17 article was written, Mr. Chapman has established the age of the Mansfield phosphate-rock series as Upper Cambrian; has fixed the age of portion of the limestones and shales of Limestone Creek in the Upper Murray district, where there has been a seeming conflict between palæontological and field evidence, as Middle Devonian; and has also obtained new evidence which helps to support McCoy's opinion that the Triassic is represented in the Bacchus Marsh area, some of the plant forms being identical with Queensland forms of that age. Lower Ordovician beds have been identified near Knockwood on the Upper Goulburn. The Mansfield Upper Cambrian phosphate beds, with *Salterella* and Crustaceans associated with Radiolarian cherts, contain graptolite types formerly considered to be distinct Lower Ordovician, in which system the beds described were accordingly placed in last year's article. Pending further research, it may be assumed that the graptolite species concerned existed in Upper Cambrian times.

FLORA AND FAUNA OF VICTORIA.

The following articles appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17:—

"The Flora of Victoria," by Alfred J. Ewart, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.L.S., Government Botanist and Professor of Botany and Plant Physiology, Melbourne University (pages 62 to 68).

"The Fauna of Victoria," by the late T. S. Hall, M.A., D.Sc. (University of Melbourne), and J. A. Kershaw, Curator of the National Museum, Melbourne (pages 68 to 78).

ADDENDUM TO ABOVE ARTICLE ON "THE FLORA OF VICTORIA."

Received from Professor Ewart in February, 1918.

During the period 1917-18 two foreign plants have succeeded in establishing themselves as naturalized aliens in Victoria. In addition, two other exotics have made their appearance for the first time, and may eventually establish themselves as aliens.

The following species have been added to the list of the native flora:—*Solanum violaceum*, R. Br. (*Solanaceæ*), previously recorded from New South Wales and Queensland; *Drakæa Huntiana*, F. v M., previously recorded from New South Wales; *Thelymitra canaliculata*, R. Br., previously recorded from Western Australia; *Thelymitra grandiflora*, Fitz., previously recorded from South Australia; *Thelymitra luteo-cilium*, Fitz., previously recorded from South Australia.

THE HISTORY OF VICTORIA.

An article on this subject contributed by Ernest Scott, Professor of History in the University of Melbourne, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 1 to 31.

The following are the headings of the sections into which the article is divided:—

Discovery—The finding of Victoria—The beginnings of settlement—Public policy—Self-Government—Responsible Government—Early constitutional changes—The constitutional quarrels—Industrial legislation—Political—Public policy—Victoria and the Commonwealth.

Included in the article are five maps or charts and one illustration as mentioned below:—

Grant's original chart of his discoveries on Victorian coast (1800).
Grimes's chart of Port Phillip.

Map showing routes of Hume and Hovell and other explorers.
Illustration of first house in Victoria (1826)—Sealer's hut at Western Port.

Mr. Bass's eye-sketch of Western Port (1798).

French map of "Terre Napoléon" showing the Victorian coast from Wilson's Promontory westward (1808).

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF LEADING EVENTS.

The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contained, on pages 31 to 50, a chronological table of leading events in Victorian history for the years 1770 to 1900 inclusive, and of leading events in Victorian and other history for the years 1901 to 1916 inclusive.

Some of the principal events in Victorian and other history during 1917 are given in the table which follows:—

1917. 1st	January.—Daylight saving introduced throughout the Commonwealth for the summer months. All clocks were advanced one hour.
" "	" British transport <i>Ivernia</i> (14,278 tons) was sunk in the Mediterranean. Eighty-five persons were missing.
" 7th	January.—Owing to the failure of the brakes an electric tramcar jumped the points at Burwood and overturned. One boy was killed and over twenty persons were injured.
" 18th	January.—It was announced that a German raider had been operating in the South Atlantic during December and January. Twenty-six vessels had been sunk or captured, thirteen of which were British.
" 22nd and 23rd	January.—Engagement between ten British and twelve German destroyers off the Dutch coast. One British and two German boats were sunk.
" 3rd	February.—Diplomatic relations with Germany broken off by the United States of America in consequence of Germany's proposals in regard to the ruthless submarine campaign.
" 9th	February.—The <i>Aurora</i> arrived at Wellington, having rescued the seven surviving members of the Ross Sea party of the Shackleton Expedition.
" 17th	February.—A coalition Government was formed and sworn in under the leadership of Mr. Hughes, Prime Minister.
" 24th	February.—Kut-el-amara recaptured from the Turks, and 12,000 prisoners taken.
" 25th	February.—Kentish coast bombarded by German destroyers. Two persons were killed but the material damage was slight.
" 9th	March.—It was announced that a German raider had been operating on Australian trade routes in the Indian Ocean.
" 10th	March.—United States decided to arm merchant ships.
" 11th	March.—Bagdad occupied by the British.
" 15th	March.—It was announced that a revolution had occurred in Russia. The Duma had taken control. Czar Nicholas II. abdicated his throne.
" 17th	March.—Bapaume captured by the British as the first result of the offensive on the west front.
" 18th	March.—Nesle, Chaunes and Peronne captured by the British.
" 28th	March.—Sensational aviation tragedy near Point Cook. The Victorian aviator, Basil Watson, killed by a fall of 2,000 feet caused by the collapse of his bi-plane.
" 6th	April.—United States of America declared war on Germany.
" 9th	April.—Vimy ridge captured by the British.
" 17th	April.—The hospital ships <i>Donegal</i> (1,885 tons) and <i>Lanfranc</i> (6,287 tons) torpedoed without warning, and sunk whilst transporting wounded to British ports. Seventy-nine lives were lost, of whom fifteen were wounded German prisoners.

1917. 21st April.—Naval action off Dover. British destroyers *Swift* and *Broke* fought six German destroyers, and sank two of them. The British sustained only slight damage.
- „ 25th •April.—The Australian transport *Ballarat* (11,120 tons) torpedoed and sunk in the English Channel. There were 1,600 troops on board, all of whom were saved.
- „ 6th May.—Death of Dr. Carr, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, at the age of 77.
- „ 12th May.—Bullecourt captured from the Germans after intense fighting, in which the Australians took part.
- „ 23rd May.—Twenty miles of Turkish railway south-east of Beersheba destroyed by Anzac and Imperial forces.
- „ 25th May.—A squadron of enemy aeroplanes, numbering about sixteen, attacked the south-east coast of England, causing great loss of life and extensive damage to property. The casualties were—killed, 76; injured, 174. Three of the enemy aeroplanes were brought down.
- „ 28th May.—An Italian offensive was commenced on the Carso front. The prisoners for three days numbered 13,795.
- „ 7th to 11th June.—Serious floods occurred in north-eastern towns on the Ovens, Goulburn and King Rivers. Six persons were drowned in flood waters at Wangaratta, and much damage was done to property.
- „ 7th June.—New British offensive begun in Belgium with Anzac troops participating. Wytschaete and Messines were captured. The first day's fighting resulted in 5,000 prisoners being taken.
- „ „ „ Disastrous earthquake and volcanic eruption in the Republic of Salvadore. The capital city, San Salvadore, was destroyed, and other towns were damaged.
- „ 13th June.—It was announced that King Constantine of Greece had abdicated the throne in favour of his second son, Prince Alexander.
- „ „ „ Sensational daylight air raid on London by about fifteen aeroplanes. One enemy aeroplane was brought down. The casualties were—deaths, 108; seriously injured, 154; slightly injured, 269.
- „ 6th July.—The s.s. *Cumberland* was seriously damaged by an internal explosion in the hold whilst a few miles off Gabo Island.
- „ 7th July.—About twenty German aeroplanes raided London, causing much damage to property. Fifty-nine persons were killed and 193 injured. Seven of the raiders were brought down.
- „ 9th July.—The tug *Nyora* foundered off the South Australian coast during a gale whilst engaged in towing the *Astoria* (1,500 tons) from Port Pirie to Sydney. The captain and one seaman were the only survivors.
- „ „ „ The dreadnought battleship *Vanguard* was sunk by an explosion on board whilst at anchor in harbor, with a loss of 804 lives.
- „ 17th July.—His Majesty King George, at a special meeting of the Privy Council, adopted the family name of Windsor (in place of Wettin) and relinquished all his German titles and dignities.

1917.	17th	July.—Serious riots, accompanied with much bloodshed, occurred in Petrograd. The rioters made use of machine guns in the streets.
"	24th	July.—It was reported that the Russian army was in a disorganized state owing to internal dissensions and mutinies. Tarnopol and other towns were occupied by the Germans as a result of the disorganized conditions.
"	31st	July.—A new British offensive, known as the battle of the Yser, was launched in Flanders, northward of the Lys River.
"	2nd	August.—A strike of employés in railway and tramway workshops commenced in New South Wales in opposition to the time-card system. Within nine days the strike spread so as to include engine-drivers, guards, signallers, waterside workers, coal miners, carters, and firemen on Inter-State steamers. The number of strikers was estimated at 35,000.
"	11th	August.—Peace appeal issued by the Pope to the belligerent nations.
"	14th	August.—Strike conditions extended to Melbourne. The waterside workers in Melbourne ceased work in sympathy with Sydney workers.
"	15th	August.—A successful attack by the British in Flanders culminated in the capture of Langemarck, with five guns and 1,800 prisoners.
"	18th	August.—As a result of the industrial unrest, thirty-five vessels, aggregating over 100,000 tons, were on this date lying idle in Melbourne.
"	21st	August.—A head-on collision between a goods and a passenger train occurred near Ringwood. The driver of the latter train was injured, and a few passengers were slightly injured.
"	"	" The Navy Department took control of all stocks of coal in order to conserve supplies during the period of the strike.
"	22nd	August.—Wonthaggi coal miners, in sympathy with the New South Wales miners, ceased work.
"	"	" It was announced that a heavy Italian offensive had commenced on the Carso plateau, resulting in the capture of 40,000 Austrian prisoners by the end of the month.
"	"	" It was announced that a successful offensive had been commenced by French troops at Verdun, covering a front of 11 miles. Four thousand prisoners were taken.
"	27th	August.—Carters, drivers, and timber workers in Melbourne joined the strikers.
"	30th	August.—Strikers and others to the number of about 10,000 assembled before Federal Parliament House allegedly to protest against the high cost of living. They came in contact with the police, and, as a result, two men and twelve women, including Miss Adela Pankhurst, were arrested.
"	31st	August.—It was estimated that over 15,000 persons were out of work in Melbourne owing to the industrial upheaval.
"	3rd	September.—Riga evacuated by the Russians.

1917. 10th September.—Wonthaggi coal miners decided to resume work.
- „ 15th September.—Death of Dr. Carty Salmon, M.H.R. for the Grampians, aged 57 years.
- „ 18th September.—A sensational robbery under arms occurred at the E.S. and A. Bank, Middle Park, in broad daylight. The teller was bound and gagged, and £541 in notes stolen. The perpetrators were afterwards arrested at Albury.
- „ 19th September.—It was announced that the s.s. *Port Kembla* had been sunk off Cape Farewell, New Zealand, after an internal explosion. No lives were lost.
- „ „ „ Serious street disturbances, said to be organized by the Women's Peace Army, took place in Melbourne. Considerable damage was caused by the breaking of shop windows. Six arrests were made.
- „ „ „ The Sydney railway, tramway, and waterside strikers returned to work on the terms of the Government.
- „ 20th September.—The first of a long series of heavy British offensives, covering a period of several weeks, was commenced near Ypres. Steady progress was made.
- „ 25th September.—Regulations were enforced in Victoria restricting the use of gas and electricity for domestic purposes during certain hours daily. These restrictions continued in force until 3rd November.
- „ 28th September.—Victorious British advance at Ramadi, near Bagdad. The prisoners numbered 3,800, in addition to which thirteen field and twelve machine guns and much material were captured.
- „ 1st October.—The use of coal, gas, and electricity for industrial purposes was restricted to three days weekly in Victoria until the 4th November.
- „ 2nd October.—Coal miners in New South Wales decided to return to work on the terms laid down by the Government.
- „ 6th October.—It was announced that the battle cruiser *Drake* (14,100 tons) had been torpedoed. She reached harbor, but sank in shallow water.
- „ 6th October.—Timber workers, rubber workers, and carters in Melbourne decided to resume work.
- „ 10th October.—It was reported that an extensive but unsuccessful mutiny had taken place in the German navy about six weeks previously.
- „ „ „ The discovery of a minefield of enemy origin was made near the spot where the s.s. *Cumberland* was damaged.
- „ 17th October.—The two ends of the East-West Transcontinental Railway were connected, thus completing rail communication from Brisbane to Perth.
- „ „ „ A convoy consisting of twelve Scandinavian merchant vessels, with an escort of two destroyers, was attacked by two German raiders in the North Sea. Nine merchantmen and both the destroyers were sunk.
- „ 22nd October.—It was announced that a squadron of Zeppelins, while returning from a raid on England, lost their bearings over France. Five were captured or destroyed, and one was forced to land all but four of its crew. In all, 141 airmen were captured or killed.

1917. 24th October.—The final collapse of the strike in Victoria was marked by the return to duty of the seamen and wharf labourers.
- „ „ „ Great devastation was caused by record floods on the course of the Upper Murray. Many people were rendered homeless.
- „ 29th October.—It was announced that the Austro-German forces had broken through the line on the Italian front. During the disastrous retreat lasting several weeks, which followed, it was claimed by the enemy that over 250,000 Italians had been taken prisoner.
- „ 2nd November.—First aeroplane flight from Sydney to Melbourne safely completed by Mr. W. J. Stutt, Chief Instructor, Richmond Aviation School (N.S.W.).
- „ 6th November.—Passchendaele captured by the British.
- „ 7th November.—A further revolution was reported from Russia. M. Kerensky was deposed, the new leader being M. Lenin.
- „ 21st November.—The Hindenburg line was penetrated to a depth of 5 miles on a 6-mile front without artillery provision. A surprise attack was made with tanks and infantry followed by cavalry operations through the gap.
- „ 27th November.—Copies of Queensland State *Hansard* containing speeches in connexion with the war were seized by order of the Commonwealth Government.
- „ 3rd December.—It was reported that the whole of German East Africa had been cleared of the enemy, thus depriving Germany of her last oversea colony.
- „ 6th December.—A disastrous explosion, damaging the whole city, occurred at Halifax, Nova Scotia, owing to the collision of a French munition steamer with another steamer. Fires broke out at many points, considerably augmenting the damage. The death roll was over 4,000.
- „ 9th December.—It was announced that Roumania had signed an armistice with the Central Powers.
- „ 10th December.—Jerusalem occupied by the British forces operating in Palestine.
- „ 16th December.—An armistice was signed by Russia and the Central Powers suspending hostilities from 17th December to 14th January for the purpose of conducting a peace conference.
- „ 20th December.—Military Reinforcements Referendum, 1917, defeated by a majority of 166,588, about 7½ per cent. of the total votes recorded (ex. luding informal votes).

PROGRESS OF STATE SINCE 1842.

The following table has been prepared to illustrate the advance made by the State since 1842, the year of the introduction of representative government into New South Wales, which then included the Port Phillip district. The years 1850 and 1855 have been chosen—the former as being the year immediately preceding the separation of the Colony from New South Wales, and the latter as the date of

STATISTICS OF VICTORIAN PROGRESS, 1842 TO 1917.

	1842	1850.	1855.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1916-17.
Population, 31st December ..	23,799	76,162	364,324	541,800	747,412	879,886	1,157,678	1,210,882	1,411,004
Revenue .. £	87,296	259,433	2,728,656	2,592,101	3,734,422	5,186,011	8,343,588	7,712,099	11,813,879
Expenditure from Revenue .. £	124,631	196,440	2,612,807	3,092,021	3,659,534	5,108,642	9,128,699	7,672,780	11,795,295
Public Funded Debt .. £	..	..	480,000	6,345,060	11,994,800	22,426,502	43,638,397	49,546,275	76,822,110
Gold produced .. oz.	..	..	2,793,065	1,967,453	1,355,477	858,350	576,400	789,562	217,092
Wool produced .. lbs.	2,752,330	16,345,468	22,470,443	22,640,745	37,177,646	45,970,560	76,503,635	73,235,138	110,847,000
Butter produced .. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	16,703,786	46,567,672	59,568,771
Agriculture—									
Land in cultivation .. acres	8,124	52,341	115,060	427,241	793,918	1,582,998	2,512,593	3,647,459	6,750,894
Wheat .. bushels	55,360	556,167	1,148,011	3,607,727	4,500,795	8,714,377	13,679,268	12,127,382	51,162,488
Oats .. "	66,100	99,535	614,614	2,136,430	3,299,889	3,612,111	4,455,551	6,724,900	8,289,289
Wine .. gallons	..	4,621	9,372	47,568	713,589	539,191	1,554,130	1,981,475	1,302,660
Live Stock—Horses .. No.	4,065	21,219	33,430	84,057	181,643	278,195	440,696	392,237	514,403
" Cattle .. "	100,792	373,806	534,113	628,092	799,509	1,286,677	1,812,104	1,602,384	1,175,098
" Sheep .. "	1,404,333	6,032,783	4,577,872	6,239,258	10,002,381	10,267,265	12,928,148	10,841,790	12,576,587
" Pigs .. "	..	9,260	20,686	43,480	177,447	239,926	286,780	350,370	254,436
Total Imports—Value .. £	277,427	744,925	12,007,939	13,532,462	12,341,995	16,718,521	21,711,608	18,927,340	*
" Exports—Value .. £	193,783	1,041,796	13,493,338	13,828,606	14,557,820	16,252,103	16,006,743	18,646,097	*
Imports, Oversea—Value .. £	..	..	..	10,991,377	9,201,942	11,481,567	13,802,598	12,686,880	25,465,464
Exports .. "	..	..	..	12,209,794	12,843,451	12,318,128	11,403,922	13,075,259	19,029,502
Shipping .. tonnage	78,025	195,117	1,133,283	1,090,002	1,355,025	2,411,902	4,716,109	6,715,491	8,092,914
" always open .. miles	..	..	..	214	276	1,247	2,764	3,238	4,128
Telegraph wire .. "	..	..	..	2,586	3,472	6,826	13,989	15,356	29,446
Postal business—Letters .. No.	97,490	381,651	2,990,992	6,109,929	11,716,168	26,308,347	62,526,448	83,973,499	201,098,447
" Newspapers .. "	147,160	381,158	2,349,656	4,277,179	5,172,070	11,440,732	22,729,005	27,104,344	43,175,024
Savings Bank Deposits .. £	..	52,697	173,090	582,796	1,117,761	2,569,438	5,719,687	9,662,006	28,344,042
Factories—									
Number of ..	..	..	278	531	1,740	2,488	3,141	3,240	5,445
Hands employed ..	..	..	..	4,395	19,468	43,209	52,225	66,529	116,970
Value of machinery, plant, land and buildings .. £	..	..	..	..	4,725,125	8,044,296	16,472,859	12,298,500	23,784,289
Value of articles produced .. £	..	..	..	..	..	18,370,836	22,390,251	19,478,780	60,047,284
State Education—									
Number of Primary schools ..	..	61	370	671	988	1,757	2,233	1,967	2,225
Expenditure on Education .. £	..	..	115,099	162,547	274,384	546,285	726,711	701,034	1,367,392
Total value of rateable property in municipalities .. £	..	..	..	29,638,091	59,166,073	87,642,459	203,351,360	185,101,993	326,415,110
Friendly Societies—									
Number of Members ..	..	..	1,698	7,166	85,706	47,908	89,269	101,045	157,819
Total funds .. £	..	..	..	..	213,004	475,954	961,933	1,370,604	2,912,178

NOTE.—In a few instances in the earlier years, where it is not possible to give figures for the exact date or period shown, those for the nearest dates or periods are given. Gold was discovered in 1851, in which year the return was 145,137 oz. Butter figures were not collected prior to 1891.

* Owing to the Commonwealth authorities having discontinued the keeping of records of inter-State trade, the value of the total imports and exports of the State are not available for a later year than 1909. For that year the imports were valued at £23,150,193 and the exports at £29,598,275.

The introduction of responsible government for Victoria. The subsequent years are census years, except the last:—

The population of the State at the end of 1842 was 23,799; and at the end of 1917 it had increased to 1,411,004. During the period 1842-1917 the revenue steadily increased from £87,296 to £11,814,000. There was no public debt until after separation. In 1855 the State indebtedness was £480,000; in 1917 the funded debt had reached £76,822,110, which has been spent on revenue-yielding and other works of a permanent character. The land in cultivation in 1842 was slightly over 8,000 acres; it now amounts to 6,750,894 acres. In the number of horses, cattle, and pigs increases are generally shown. The value of imports in 1842 was £277,427; in 1909, the last year for which figures are available, it was over £28,000,000. Exports amounted to £198,783 in 1842; and in 1909 to nearly £30,000,000. No railways or telegraphs were in existence up to the end of 1855; in 1861 there were 214 miles of railway open and in 1917 there were 4,128 miles; 2,586 miles of telegraph wires had been erected up to 1861, and 29,446 miles up to the 30th June, 1917. Postal business in letters and newspapers has expanded rapidly during the period covered by the table, and there has also been a large increase in Savings Bank deposits, which rose from £52,697 in 1850 to £28,344,042 in 1917.

The expenditure on education amounted to £115,000 in 1855, and had increased to £1,367,392 in 1916-17. Members of friendly societies numbered 1,698 in 1856, and 157,819 in 1916—the funds amounting to £213,000 in 1871 and £2,912,178 in 1916. Hands employed in factories rose from 19,468 in 1871 to 116,970 in 1916-17. The total value of rateable property in municipalities, which was £29,600,000 in 1861, aggregated £326,415,110 in 1916-17.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

The Present Constitution.

Reform Act 1903. After the establishment of the Federal Government it became evident that the representation of the States in the States Houses was excessive, and steps were taken to reform the States Constitutions. Accordingly an Act "to provide for the Reform of the Constitution" was passed in Victoria and reserved for the Royal assent on 7th April, 1903. After an interval of some months the Royal assent was proclaimed on 26th November, 1903. This Act, entitled *The Constitution Act 1903*, provided for a reduction in the number of responsible Ministers from ten to eight, and in their salaries from £10,400 to £8,400; decreased the number of members of the Legislative Council from 48 to 35, including one special representative for the State railways and public servants; but increased the number of electoral provinces from fourteen to seventeen, each being now represented by two members elected for six years—one retiring every three years by rotation, except at a general election, when one-half of the members are to be elected for only three years. The