

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

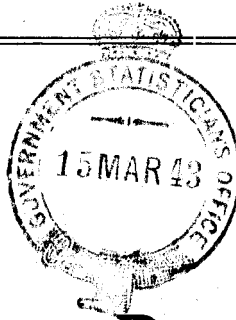
1940-41

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Victorian Year-Book

1940-41

By

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SIXTY-FIRST ISSUE

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PREFACE.

THIS is the sixty-first 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, towards this end, the particulars appertaining to that year are compared with the years preceding. An endeavour is made to present such information as will assist legislators, publicists, and others in formulating policy for the future development of the natural resources of the State and for promoting the welfare of the people; to provide essential data for economists, sociologists and students generally in their researches; to furnish producers with facts and figures relating to their own and allied industries, and to inform the public on matters associated with the life and industry of the people in general and of Victoria in particular.

The first part contains a history of the Constitution, an epitome of Acts passed by the State Parliament in the year 1939, lists of members of Parliament, and details of Parliamentary Elections. Parts V., IX., and VIII. deal with the wealth and progress of the community, as indicated by increases in bank deposits, in amounts assured with life offices, and the growth of the population, &c. In Parts VI. and IV. details are given of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, of Local Government, semi-Governmental and other Authorities. Parts II., III., and VII. contain statistics relating to law, crime, births, marriages and deaths, education, charitable institutions, and other cognate subjects. In Part X. a detailed account is given of the agricultural, dairying, pastoral, mineral, manufacturing, and other production of the State. The various parts (with the exception of part "Population") 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 1941, and in a few instances to a later date.

Some limit is placed upon the manner of presentation of statistics in the *Year-Book* by the desire to preserve comparability with former issues. If changes are made, due regard is paid to this feature, which is preserved, as far as practicable, or discarded only because a new form of presentation possesses merits which outweigh the advantage of comparability.

In continuance of the series "Insects of Victoria", Mr. J. Clark, Entomologist, National Museum of Victoria, contributes a further instalment (Termites, Part IV.) in this issue.

Although there has been no publication of the Statistical Register since the year 1916, the annual compilation of most of the matter formerly contained therein has been continued and it is therefore possible to supply much statistical information in greater detail than appears in this *Year-Book*.

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

The publication in this volume of some information has been restricted by censorship. In particular, statistics of trade usually published in Part IX. do not appear.

Difficulties associated with war conditions have prevented the preparation and publication of Part "Population" for 1940-41, but, in order to prevent breaking the range of subjects hitherto covered by the *Year-Book*, the corresponding part for 1939-40 has been incorporated.

Delays in obtaining essential material, pressure of work and a depleted staff have caused this volume to appear later than usual.

Many persons have co-operated in the preparation of this book, and to all of them I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks and appreciation. In particular I desire to acknowledge the co-operation of the Commonwealth Statistician and his staff.

Responsible officers of Commonwealth and State Government Departments, Boards, Commissions, and Municipal and semi-Governmental Authorities have supplied information and in many ways assisted. The Police of Victoria, by whom the annual collection of statistics relating to primary and secondary industries is effected, have carried out their task in a highly satisfactory manner. Primary producers, manufacturers and Heads of Banks and Insurance Companies and many others have shown, by their ready willingness to furnish particulars relating to their industries, their appreciation of the value to the community of the publication of reliable statistics.

Finally, I must pay a tribute to the members of my staff for their valuable work under difficult conditions, in the assembly, preparation and checking of the material and supervision of the publication of this work.

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Government Statist.

Office of the Government Statist,
Melbourne, 11th January, 1943.