

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

1943-44

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Victorian Year-Book

1943-44

By
O. GAWLER, F.I.A.,
GOVERNMENT STATIST

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PREFACE.

THIS is the sixty-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, towards that 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.

A slight alteration has been made in the arrangement of this volume by dividing the subject matter into twelve parts as compared with the ten parts of previous years. The first part contains a history of the Constitution, an epitome of the Acts passed by the State Parliament during the year 1943 and 1944, lists of members of Parliament, and details of Parliamentary elections. Part III. deals with Commerce and Transportation. Parts V. and X. record 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 IV. and XI. details are given of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, of Local Government, semi-Governmental and other Authorities. Parts VI., II., and IX. contain statistics relating to law, crime, births, marriages and deaths, education, charitable institutions, and other cognate subjects. In Part VII. details are given of the agricultural, dairying, pastoral, and forestry activities of Victoria, and Part VIII. records the production of factories, fisheries, and mines. Part XII. provides a statistical summary for Victoria. 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 1944, 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.

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*.

Many factors have contributed to the late appearance of this volume. At various stages of collection and compilation, statistical work has necessarily been deferred for special tasks of greater urgency. Suppliers of information, including Government Departments, Companies, firms, and individuals all experienced staff difficulties during the war period, and the post war period finds only a slight amelioration of these conditions. Pressure of other work in this office has fallen upon a depleted staff. It is felt therefore that the delay in publication will be understood.

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, Principal Officers 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.

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.

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.

O. GAWLER,
Government Statist.

Office of the Government Statist,
Melbourne, 12th September, 1946.