

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK,

1909-10,

BY

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THIRTIETH ISSUE.



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PREFACE.

THIS is the thirtieth issue of the *Victorian Year-Book*.

The general plan of the work is the same as formerly, but changing conditions have necessitated many alterations in the text, and have led to the inclusion of much fresh matter. On the other hand, some subjects which were dealt with in former issues are now of little public importance, and the information relating to them has, in consequence, been deleted or curtailed. The volume is of the same size as last year.

An endeavour has been made to present, in a readable and concise form, such information as will give a clear idea of the present condition of the State, and of its activities and potentialities. The first part contains a brief *résumé* of the history of Victoria from the date of its discovery, and includes an account of the system of government and of the various changes which have taken place in the Constitution. The natural features of the State, its geology, fauna and flora, are also described. Parts II. to V. deal with the wealth and progress of the community, as indicated by the growth in population, in bank deposits, in amounts assured with life offices, &c., and details are given of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, and of municipalities. In Parts VI., VII., and IX., attention is given to matters affecting the daily lives of the individuals of whom the community is composed rather than to the collective interests of the community itself. In this portion of the book will be found statistics relating to births, deaths and marriages, education, charitable institutions, crime, and other cognate subjects. Part VIII. deals with the trade of Victoria, and 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. Parts I. and II. were issued in June, and the next seven parts were circulated during the succeeding three months. The last part—Production—which contains much more tabular matter than the others, was issued early in November. The date of issue of each of the parts, excepting the first two, was earlier than last year.

The information in all the parts has been brought up to the latest possible date—in many instances to the middle of the year 1910.

Among the new features of the present volume the following may be specially mentioned:—

- (1) An account of the steps taken by the Government to encourage immigration and to obtain settlers for irrigation districts; (2) More information than in former years in regard to Insurance; (3) Much more complete statistics in regard to properties in municipalities than formerly, these being classified according to rateable value in forty-three groups; (4) Information relating to the land occupied in the State in March, 1910, and the cultivation and live stock thereon for holdings of various sizes, the holdings being arranged in an ascending scale in twenty-eight groups; and (5) Tables showing the amounts paid in wages and the values of materials used and articles produced, &c., for the leading industries of the State.

The paragraphs relating to Closer Settlement which appeared last year in Part Production have been re-cast, and the operations of the Closer Settlement Board are shown in a comprehensive form. A number of matters which were dealt with last year in Part Vital Statistics have been elaborated and several important new tables have been added. Two of these contain the results of an investigation into the occupational and age incidence of Phthisis, based on English data.

Two maps are included in the present volume. The first is an ordinary geographical map, the other has been introduced as a convenient method of showing the live stock, the production of wheat and wool, and the average rainfall in each district of the State during the past five years.

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, 16th November, 1910.