

1854-5.

Victoria.

STATISTICS
OF
THE COLONY OF VICTORIA
FOR THE YEAR 1853.

LAID UPON THE COUNCIL TABLE, BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

BY COMMAND OF

HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,

AND

ORDERED BY THE COUNCIL TO BE PRINTED,

30th January, 1855.

By Authority:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.



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Registrar General's Office,

Melbourne, 15th January, 1855.

SIR,

Having very recently received the remainder of the returns required to complete the Blue Book, I now have it in my power to transmit herewith for the purpose of being laid before the Legislative Council, the usual Annual Statistical Return of the Colony for the year 1853.

2. In tabulating the information thus conveyed, it has not been considered advisable to depart from the arrangement adopted in preceding years, for any advantage that might be gained by a change in the forms of Annual Returns, and by a more systematic classification of the facts which indicate the actual condition of the Colony at any one period, would probably be more than counterbalanced by an increased difficulty and embarrassment in comparing the figures and results afforded by the returns of successive years.

3. What is more urgently needed at present is, a more reliable and efficient system of collecting statistics, than that which has hitherto prevailed, and I look with much hope to the future prospect of obtaining this desirable improvement, in a great measure, through the medium of the Deputy Registrars of Births and Deaths, as the population gradually becomes more settled and the country divided into well defined districts. Had, for example, the information required respecting Agricultural Statistics, been obtained through the agency of gentlemen well acquainted with the population and condition of their respective districts, and anxious to explain away prejudices and misconceptions, we should have arrived at more correct and valuable conclusions upon a subject of vital importance to the Colony than can be derived from a perusal of Tables 7 and 8 of these accompanying returns.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed)

NORMAN CAMPBELL,

Registrar General.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary,
&c., &c., &c.

