

The population of the State at the end of 1842 was 23,799; at the end of 1923 it had increased to 1,625,380. During the period 1842-1923 the revenue steadily increased from £87,296 to £21,631,677. There was no public debt until after separation. In 1861 the State indebtedness was £6,345,060; in 1923 the funded debt had reached £118,562,029, 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 7,049,429 acres. The value of oversea imports in 1861 was £10,991,377; in 1922-23 it was £44,608,239. Oversea exports amounted to £12,209,794 in 1861, and to £33,768,655 in 1922-23. No railways or telegraphs were in existence up to the end of 1855; in 1861 there were 214 miles of railway open, and in 1923 there were 4,341 miles; 2,586 miles of telegraph wires had been erected up to 1861, and 32,594 miles up to the 30th June, 1923. 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 £54,677,508 in 1923.

The expenditure on education amounted to £162,547 in 1861, and had increased to £2,549,061 in 1922-23. Members of friendly societies numbered 7,166 in 1861 and 145,254 in 1922—the funds amounting to £213,000 in 1871 and £3,549,798 in 1922. Hands employed in factories rose from 19,468 in 1871 to 152,625 in 1922-23. The total value of rateable property in municipalities, which was £29,600,000 in 1861, was £455,209,974 in 1922-23.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

The Present Constitution.

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 (since increased to £10,000); and 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 property qualification of members of the Council was reduced from £100 to £50 as the annual value of the freehold, and that of electors

Reform Act
1903.

qualifying as lessees or occupying tenants from an annual value of £25 to one of £15. A reduction was also made in the number of members of the Legislative Assembly from 95 to 68—including two to be specially elected by the railway officers, and one by the State public servants—and in that of the electoral districts from 84 to 65. The Constitution was again amended in 1906 by the repeal of the provisions in the Act of 1903 relating to the separate representation of railway officers and State public servants. The Assembly now consists of 65 and the Council of 34 members.

Power is given to any Minister who is a member of the Assembly to sit in the Council or *vice versa*—in order to explain the provisions of any measure connected with any department administered by him. The Council is empowered to suggest alterations in any Appropriation Bill once at each of three stages of the Bill, viz.—(a) when in Committee, (b) on the Report of the Committee, and (c) on the third reading. The remedy provided to meet disagreements between the two Houses is the simultaneous dissolution of both after a Bill has been twice submitted to, and rejected by the Council—viz., once before, and once after a dissolution of the Assembly in consequence of such first rejection.

The Governor acts under the authority of Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, and according to Royal instructions issued by the Colonial Office. He is the official head of the Legislature, and assents in the name of the Crown to all Acts passed by the Parliament, reserving for the Royal assent certain Bills, such as those relating to divorce or to the granting of land or money to himself. The only matters in which the exercise of any discretion is required on the part of the Governor are (a) the assenting to or dissenting from or reserving of Bills passed by the Parliament; (b) the granting or withholding of a dissolution of Parliament when requested by a Premier; and (c) the appointment of a new Ministry.

When a Ministry is defeated in Parliament on an important measure or at the polls, its members almost invariably tender their resignations to the Governor, whose duty it is in such a case to announce his intention of accepting them. The outgoing Premier generally suggests to the Governor, as his successor, the name of the most prominent of his opponents, usually the leader of the Opposition. Thereupon the Governor "sends for" the individual suggested, who, if he feels in a position to carry on the Government, endeavours to form a Ministry. If he fails, he informs the Governor of the fact, and some one else is applied to. The distribution of the portfolios is first arranged by the proposed Ministers themselves, and submitted to the Governor for approval, who always adopts it, unless the list contains the name of some one against whom very serious objections exist, or foreshadows a new and revolutionary arrangement.

**Forming a
new Ministry.**

Granting a dissolution.

When a Ministry finds that it is unable to carry on the affairs of the country in the manner it deems essential for the well-being of the community, when it is defeated on a measure which it considers vital, or when it has not a proper working majority, the Premier may, instead of advising the Governor to "send for" some one else, ask for a dissolution; and the principle which guides a Governor in granting or refusing such a request is the probability of success for the Ministry in the event of its being granted. In regard to these matters, however, the instructions issued to the Governor are elaborate and definite; and it is very rarely that any personal exercise of discretion is necessary. In other matters the Governor acts on the advice of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council.

The Executive Council consists of two classes of members, viz. :—(a) Members forming the Ministry of the day, whether salaried or honorary; (b) all ex-Ministers who have not actually resigned or vacated their seats. The latter Councillors take no active part, as such, in the deliberations of the Ministry, the title being merely an honorary distinction. The expression "Governor in Council," occurring so frequently in Victorian Acts, means the Governor by and with the advice of such members of the Executive Council as are included in the former category mentioned above. Even in its active phase, that of the existing Ministry, the Executive Council has two shapes, the formal and the informal. The latter, which is spoken of as the "Cabinet," is the real core and essence of the Government. In its private meetings at the Premier's office no one is admitted but the actual Ministry of the day, no record of the meetings transpire, and no official notice is ever taken of the proceedings. The former is presided over by the Governor, and attended by the Clerk of the Council, who keeps a formal record of its proceedings and deliberations, which are frequently published with the names of its members prefixed. Here the decisions of the Cabinet are put into official form.

Responsible Ministers.

The number of salaried Ministers is now limited to eight, and their salaries to £10,000 (Act No. 3118); four at least must be members of the Council or Assembly, but not more than two shall be members of the Council nor more than six of the Assembly. Although only four Ministers are required to be members of either House, in practice all members of a Ministry are always members. The head of the Ministry—the Premier, a merely titular distinction—has usually filled the office of Treasurer as well, and may occupy any office.

The Parliament.

The Parliament consists of two Chambers, the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly. The general power of legislation is conferred upon "His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the said Council and Assembly."

By Section 56 of The Constitution Act it was provided that—"All Bills for appropriating any part of the revenue of Victoria, and for imposing any duty, rate, tax, rent, or impost shall originate in the Assembly, and may be rejected, but not altered, by the Council." There was great difference of opinion as to the interpretation of this section, it being held by many that the words "all Bills for appropriating" (revenue) "and for imposing" (taxes) signified Bills having for their principal object the authorizing of payments or the granting of supply; it was also contended that legislation which merely incidentally or consequentially authorized the collection of money or the payment of officials could be dealt with as ordinary legislation by the Council. This matter was dealt with by Section 30 of *The Constitution Act 1903*, which, on a consolidation of Acts, became Section 33 of *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1915* (No. 2632). This section declares that a Bill shall not be deemed for appropriating, &c., or for imposing, &c., by reason only of its containing provisions "for the imposition or appropriation of fines or other pecuniary penalties or for the demand or payment or appropriation of fees for licences or fees for services under such Bill." In regard to the latter portion of Section 56 of The Constitution Act, providing that Money Bills must originate in the Assembly, and may be rejected but not altered by the Council, the new Act provides, as in the Commonwealth Constitution, that the Council may suggest alterations, as mentioned previously.

It is also provided by Section 57 of The Constitution Act that Appropriation Bills must have been first recommended by a message of the Governor to the Assembly before they can be introduced. The Governor, of course, acts in this matter on the advice of the Ministry.

The Council—called the Upper House—now consists of 34 members. The State is divided into seventeen electoral provinces, each returning two members. At the first election the member in each constituency who, of the two elected, receives the higher number of votes retains his seat for six years, whilst the other member retains his seat for three years only, subject, of course, to the dissolution of both Houses in case of a deadlock, as previously described. One-half of the members thus retire every three years. To be qualified for membership, a candidate must be a male of the age of 30 years, and a natural-born subject, or, if not natural-born, must have been naturalized and resident in Victoria for ten years, and must have been beneficially entitled to a freehold estate in Victoria of the clear annual value according to municipal valuation of £50 for one year "previously to" his election. *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1922* (No. 3218) provides for the reimbursement of expenses of members of the Legislative Council at the rate of £200 per annum. The following persons aged 21 or over, if they are natural-born subjects, or naturalized for three years and resident in Victoria for twelve months, are entitled to vote for the Council in the elec-

The
Legislative
Council.

toral division on the rolls of which their names appear:—The owner of a freehold rated at an annual value of £10; the owner of a leasehold created originally for five years or the occupying tenant of land, rated at £15 annual value; graduates of a British University, matriculated students of the University of Melbourne, barristers and solicitors, legally-qualified medical practitioners, duly appointed ministers of religion, certificated schoolmasters, and naval and military officers, active and retired. Qualified ratepayers are enrolled automatically from the municipal rolls. Those persons claiming in respect of a professional residential qualification must take out electors' rights for the division in which they reside. The Victorian Adult Suffrage Act, which received the Royal assent on 31st March, 1909, provides for womanhood suffrage in elections for the Council under the same property and other conditions as relate to men.

The Legislative Assembly. now consists of 65 members. For the whole of the seats single electorates are now provided. Each Assembly expires by effluxion of time at the end of three years from its first meeting, but may be sooner dissolved by the Governor. To be qualified for election to the Assembly, a candidate must be a natural-born subject or a person who has been naturalized for five years and resident in Victoria for two years. The following persons are ineligible:—Judges, ministers of religion, Government contractors, uncertificated insolvents, holders of offices of profit under the Crown (except Ministers), and persons who have been attainted of treason, or convicted of felony or infamous offence in the British dominions. Moreover, a member vacates his seat, if he resigns; is absent for a whole session without permission of the House; takes any oath or declaration of allegiance or adherence to a foreign power, or becomes a subject of a foreign State; becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or a public defaulter; is attainted of treason, or convicted of felony, &c.; becomes *non compos mentis*; or enters into a Government contract. Universal suffrage is in force for the Assembly, all persons over the age of 21 years, natural-born or naturalized, being allowed a vote, if they have been resident in Australia for at least six months continuously, in Victoria for at least three months, and in any subdivision for at least one month. An Act to amend the law relating to Parliamentary elections was passed on 22nd December, 1923. It provides that arrangements may be made jointly by the State of Victoria and the Commonwealth that the electoral rolls may be used for Commonwealth elections as well as for elections for the Legislative Assembly. The first roll will be composed of the persons on the Commonwealth roll, together with persons entitled to be enrolled for the Assembly. Persons enrolled in respect of residence may also be enrolled in another subdivision for lands or tenements situated therein. Enrolment is compulsory which, however, does not apply to enrolment in respect of a property qualification. No

person is entitled to have his name on more than two rolls, and a person cannot vote more than once at an Assembly election. The franchise was extended to women by the *Adult Suffrage Act* 1908, assented to in March, 1909. A member of the Assembly receives reimbursement of his expenses in relation to his attendance at the rate of £500 per annum. The Assembly is presided over by a Speaker, who is elected at the first meeting after every general election, and vacates his seat by expiry or dissolution of the House, and by death, resignation, or a removing vote of the House. When the Assembly resolves itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the details of any measure, it is presided over by a Chairman of Committees. The Assembly cannot proceed to business unless twenty members, exclusive of the Speaker, are present; the Speaker has a casting but no substantive vote.

Voting by post at elections. To facilitate the exercise of the franchise in sparsely populated districts, the *Voting by Post Act* 1900 was passed on 17th October, 1900. This measure enabled any elector who was resident, or was likely to be staying, on the polling day, more than five miles from the nearest polling booth, or who was prevented by reason of sickness or infirmity from voting personally, to obtain a ballot-paper entitling him to vote by post for any candidate in his district standing for either House of Parliament. The Act came into force on 1st December, 1900, and was to continue in force for a term of three years, and thence until the end of the next session of Parliament. Subsequent Acts continued the measure to 31st December, 1910. The *Electoral Act* 1910, now incorporated in *The Constitution Act Amendment Act* 1915 (No. 2632), makes permanent provision for voting by post at elections for either House. If an elector satisfies the returning officer that he resides five miles or, in the case of a mountainous division, at least three miles from the nearest polling booth, or has reason to believe that he will not be within five miles of the nearest polling booth on the day of the election during the hours of polling, or that on account of ill-health or infirmity he will be prevented from voting personally, a postal ballot-paper may be issued to him. At the State elections held on 30th August, 1921, 9,676 persons voted by post, representing 2·97 per cent. of the total votes recorded, and at the elections held on 26th June, 1924, 8,069 persons voted similarly, this number being 2·18 per cent. of the total votes polled.

Limitation of election expenses. By an Act originally passed on 24th December, 1903, now incorporated in *The Constitution Act Amendment Act* 1915 (No. 2632), it is provided that the electoral expenses (other than personal expenses incurred in travelling and attending election meetings) of a candidate for the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly shall not exceed £400 and £150 respectively. A limitation is also placed upon the matters in respect of which such

sums may be expended. No electoral expenses shall be incurred by or on behalf of a candidate except in respect of:—(1) The expenses of printing, advertising, publishing, issuing, and distributing addresses and notices, and purchase of rolls. (2) The expenses of stationery, messages, postage, and telegrams. (3) The expenses of holding public meetings, and hiring halls for that purpose. (4) The expenses of committee rooms. (5) One scrutineer at each polling booth, and no more. (6) One agent for any electoral province or district.

ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, 1922.

At the triennial elections for the Legislative Council, held on 31st May, 1922, seven seats were contested, ten members being returned unopposed. The following table shows the number of electors on the rolls for each province and the number who voted in the provinces where elections were held:—

NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED AT THE TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON 31st MAY, 1922.

Province.	Number of Electors on Rolls.	Number of Electors who voted.			In-formal Votes.	Number who voted by Post.	Proportion of Electors who voted.
		Rate-payers.	Non-ratepayers.	Total.			
East Yarra ..	42,485	..	..	..	..	..	Per cent.
Melbourne ..	21,538	8,460	3	8,463	97	111	39·29
" East ..	20,203	..	..	..	..	..	..
" North ..	37,869	11,851	7	11,858	513	213	31·31
" South ..	27,751	..	..	..	..	..	..
" West ..	29,316	9,222	1	9,223	116	92	31·46
Bendigo ..	10,780	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gippsland ..	15,926	3,462	..	3,462	20	19	21·74
Nelson ..	10,979	2,287	1	2,288	12	26	20·84
Northern ..	14,695	5,138	2	5,140	34	121	34·98
North-Eastern ..	13,661	..	..	..	..	..	..
North-Western ..	18,181	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southern ..	14,413	..	..	..	..	..	..
South-Eastern ..	31,408	6,574	..	6,574	231	319	20·93
South-Western ..	18,949	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington ..	10,760	..	..	..	..	..	..
Western ..	14,526	..	..	..	..	..	..
	353,440						
Less uncontested provinces (10)	191,709						
Total ..	161,731	46,994	14	47,008	1,023	901	29·07

ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1924.

At the elections for the Legislative Assembly held on 26th June, 1924, there were contests in 45 of the 65 constituencies, each returning one member. The number of electors on the rolls was 900,427—433,357 males and 467,070 females—and in contested districts 59·24 per cent. of the number entitled recorded their votes, the proportion for males being 63·02 per cent. and for females 55·72 per cent. The following table shows the number of electors, the votes polled, and the percentage of the latter to the former in the different electoral districts:—

NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON 26TH JUNE, 1924.

Electoral Districts.	Number of Electors on Rolls at Date of General Election.			Electors who Voted.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage of Number on the Roll.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.
Abbotsford ..	6,656	7,854	14,510				No contest.		
Albert Park ..	9,318	11,113	20,431	5,862	6,212	12,074	62·91	55·90	59·10
Allandale ..	2,514	2,702	5,216				No contest.		
Ballaarat East	4,300	5,456	9,756	3,349	3,974	7,323	77·88	72·84	75·06
Ballaarat West	4,331	6,218	10,549	3,276	4,215	7,491	75·64	67·79	71·01
Barwon ..	6,022	6,333	12,355	3,780	3,587	7,367	62·77	56·64	59·63
Benalla ..	3,644	3,464	7,108	2,187	1,723	3,910	60·01	49·74	55·01
Benambra ..	3,633	3,067	6,700	2,164	1,490	3,654	59·57	48·58	54·54
Bendigo East	3,623	4,581	8,204	2,541	3,016	5,557	70·14	65·84	67·74
Bendigo West	4,165	4,852	9,017	3,234	3,496	6,730	77·65	72·05	74·64
Boroondara ..	27,955	35,168	63,123	13,250	14,895	28,145	47·40	42·35	44·59
Borung ..	4,301	3,555	7,856	2,203	1,559	3,762	51·22	43·85	47·89
Brighton ..	13,710	16,826	30,536	7,845	8,804	16,649	57·22	52·32	54·52
Brunswick ..	13,071	14,717	27,788				No contest.		
Bulla ..	6,209	5,601	11,810	4,208	3,162	7,370	67·77	56·45	62·40
Carlton ..	5,518	6,249	11,767				No contest.		
Castlemaine and Maldon ..	2,886	3,360	6,246	2,230	2,304	4,534	77·27	68·57	72·59
Collingwood ..	6,536	7,676	14,212				No contest.		
Dalhousie ..	3,292	3,412	6,704	2,755	2,747	5,502	83·69	80·51	82·07
Dandenong ..	9,802	9,703	19,505	5,599	4,494	10,093	57·12	46·32	51·75
Daylesford ..	3,032	3,153	6,185	2,637	2,483	5,120	86·97	78·75	82·78
Dundas ..	4,263	3,993	8,256	3,294	2,798	6,092	77·27	70·07	73·79
Eaglehawk ..	2,849	3,012	5,861	1,726	1,583	3,309	60·58	52·56	56·46
East Melbourne	5,389	5,549	10,938	2,872	2,819	5,691	53·29	50·80	52·03
Essendon ..	17,256	19,783	37,039	11,352	11,225	22,577	65·79	56·74	60·95
Evelyn ..	6,185	6,046	12,231	3,298	2,606	5,904	53·32	43·10	48·27
Fitzroy ..	5,660	6,693	12,353				No contest.		
Flemington ..	11,662	12,051	23,713				No contest.		
Geelong ..	7,134	8,271	15,405	5,392	5,785	11,177	75·58	69·94	72·55

NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON 26TH JUNE, 1924
—continued.

Electoral Districts.	Number of Electors on Rolls at Date of General Election.			Electors who Voted.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage of Number on the Roll.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.
Gippsland East	3,465	2,669	6,134				No contest.		
Gippsland Nth.	4,849	4,694	9,543	3,389	3,097	6,486	69·89	65·98	67·97
Gippsland Sth.	5,310	4,435	9,745				No contest.		
Gippsland West	5,024	4,361	9,385	3,399	2,596	5,995	67·66	59·53	63·88
Gleneig ..	4,548	4,474	9,022	3,696	3,217	6,913	81·27	71·90	76·62
Goulburn Valley	4,575	4,349	8,924				No contest.		
Grenville ..	2,104	2,152	4,256	1,639	1,573	3,212	77·90	73·09	75·47
Gunbower ..	5,053	4,125	9,178	3,411	2,606	6,017	67·50	63·18	65·56
Hampden ..	6,021	5,552	11,573	3,632	2,782	6,414	60·32	50·11	55·42
Hawthorn ..	13,530	18,613	32,143	8,730	10,478	19,208	64·52	56·29	59·76
Jika Jika	19,519	22,023	41,548	12,031	10,920	22,951	61·64	49·57	55·24
Kara Kara ..	3,053	2,905	5,958				No contest.		
Korong ..	3,434	3,084	6,518	2,267	1,878	4,145	66·02	60·89	63·59
Loway	5,466	5,004	10,470	3,840	3,170	7,010	70·25	63·35	66·95
Maryborough	3,099	3,261	6,360	2,422	2,304	4,726	78·15	70·65	74·31
Melbourne ..	4,227	3,511	7,738	2,427	2,011	4,438	57·42	57·28	57·35
Mornington ..	9,315	7,751	17,066	5,434	3,954	9,388	58·34	51·01	55·01
Nth. Melbourne	7,501	8,414	15,915				No contest.		
Ovens ..	2,455	2,425	4,880	1,861	1,701	3,562	75·80	70·14	72·99
Polwarth ..	6,968	5,426	11,494	4,076	3,279	7,355	67·17	60·43	63·99
Port Fairy ..	3,795	3,518	7,313				No contest.		
Port Melbourne	7,686	7,749	15,435				No contest.		
Prahran ..	8,147	11,238	19,436	5,541	6,995	12,536	68·01	61·96	64·50
Richmond ..	7,663	8,718	16,381				No contest.		
Rodney ..	5,875	5,318	11,194	3,614	2,770	6,384	61·51	52·08	57·03
Stawell and Ararat	3,911	3,998	7,910	3,012	2,873	5,885	77·01	71·84	74·40
St. Kilda ..	15,125	20,807	35,932				No contest.		
Swan Hill ..	12,598	8,715	21,313	6,468	3,940	10,408	51·34	45·21	48·83
Toorak	9,626	14,815	24,441	4,928	6,728	11,656	51·19	45·41	47·69
Upper Goulburn	4,205	3,555	7,760	3,218	2,437	5,655	76·53	68·55	72·87
Walhalla ..	4,697	3,100	7,797	2,726	1,451	4,177	58·04	46·81	53·57
Wangaratta ..	3,682	3,483	7,165				No contest.		
Waranga ..	3,397	3,068	6,466				No contest.		
Warrenheip ..	2,775	2,417	5,192				No contest.		
Warrnambool..	4,675	4,735	9,410	3,338	3,073	6,411	71·40	64·90	68·13
Williamstown..	11,968	12,090	24,058				No contest.		
Totals ..	433,357	467,070	900,427	..	..	..	..	..	..
Less twenty uncontested districts ..	131,612	142,565	274,177	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	301,745	324,505	626,250	190,153	180,810	370,963	63·02	55·72	59·24

**Preferential
Voting.**

The preferential system of voting was adopted where there were more than two persons standing for the same electorate. By the method in vogue previous to 1911 it was not unusual for a candidate to be elected who had received the support of only a minority of those voting. Under the present system a candidate is returned only if the result shows that the majority of those who have voted prefer him to the candidate who has received the next lower number of votes.

In filling up the ballot-paper electors are required to place the figure "1" opposite the name of the candidate whom they wish to see elected, the figure "2" opposite the name of the one whom they would prefer should the first not be returned, the figure "3" opposite their next choice, and so on. After it is known how many first preference votes have been given to the various candidates, if no candidate has received an absolute majority the candidate who has received the fewest first preference votes is declared defeated. The ballot-papers of such defeated candidate are then examined with the view of ascertaining to what candidates the second preferences have been given, and these second preferences are allotted to the persons to whom they relate. Each remaining candidate thus receives, in addition to the first preferences accorded to him, the second preferences in his favour appearing on ballot-papers of the candidate who has been defeated. If there are still more than two candidates left, the procedure described above is repeated, the candidate occupying the lowest place being declared defeated, until it is found that one candidate has received an absolute majority of votes.

In eighteen of the contests in the election of June, 1924, there were more than two candidates. In ten of these the candidate who received the greatest number of votes had an absolute majority of the total first preferences recorded, and consequently a second count was unnecessary. In the eight remaining cases the distribution of ballot-papers of defeated candidates among non-defeated candidates next in order of voters' preference was put into operation, with the result that the candidates returned received an absolute majority of the votes recorded. In four of these cases the candidate who occupied the highest position on the first count was displaced after the second and subsequent preferences had been distributed.

The following are the proportions of electors who voted at the last twenty-four general elections of the State Lower House in districts in which the elections were contested :—

PROPORTION OF VOTERS AT GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1866 TO 1924.

Year of General Election.	Proportion of Electors of Contested Districts who voted.	Year of General Election.	Proportion of Electors of Contested Districts who voted.
	Per cent.		Per cent.
1866 ...	55·10	1897 ...	70·33
1868 ...	61·59	1900 ...	63·47
1871 ...	65·02	1902 ...	65·47
1874 ...	61·00	1904 ...	66·72
1877 ...	62·29	1907 ...	61·26
1880 (Feb.) ...	66·56	1908 ...	53·64
1880 (July) ...	65·85	1911 ...	63·61
1883 ...	64·96	1914 ...	53·92
1886 ...	64·70	1917 ...	54·21
1889 ...	66·58	1920 ...	63·70
1892 ...	65·12	1921 ...	57·26
1894 ...	70·98	1924 ...	59·24

The first session of the twenty-seventh Parliament commenced on 6th September, 1921, and closed on 5th January, 1922. The second session commenced on 4th July, 1922, and closed on 5th January, 1923. The third session commenced on 11th July, 1923, and continued until 13th December, 1923, when an adjournment to 29th April, 1924, took place. The session terminated when Parliament was dissolved on 28th May, 1924.

The first session of the twenty-eighth Parliament was opened on 8th July, 1924.

The following is a statement of the duration in days of each Parliament since the establishment of responsible government, the

Duration of Parliaments and Sessions.

number of days in session during each Parliament, and the percentage of the latter to the duration :—

**DURATION OF PARLIAMENTS AND SESSIONS,
1856 TO 1924.**

Number of Parliament.	Period.	Duration of Parliament.	Days in Session.	
			Number.	Percentage to Duration.
1st	1856-8	691	69·7
2nd	1859-60	566	88·8
3rd	1861-4	728	66·7
4th	1864-5	366	96·8
5th	1866-7	391	57·0
6th	1868-70	734	70·0
7th	1871-3	639	60·9
8th	1874-6	700	65·3
9th	1877-9	684	68·9
10th	1880	46	93·9
11th	1880-2	802	86·6
12th	1883-6	543	49·9
13th	1886-9	653	59·9
14th	1889-92	636	58·2
15th	1892-4	524	62·0
16th	1894-7	684	62·8
17th	1897-00	586	53·9
18th	1900-02	358	53·4
19th	1902-3	300	68·8
20th	1904-7	509	52·6
21st	1907-8	327	63·1
22nd	1909-11	548	53·7
23rd	1911-14	584	54·8
24th	1914-17	614	58·1
25th	1917-20	592	57·1
26th	1920-21	86	31·9
27th	1921-24	494	52·8

STATE ACTS PASSED DURING 1923.

The following is a short synopsis of the Acts passed by the State Parliament during 1923 :—

Act No.	Date.	
3270 ..	Reserved 14th Decem-ber, 1922. Royal Assent proclaimed 25th May, 1923	The <i>Imperial Acts Application Act</i> 1922, to come into operation on 1st September, 1923, declares that certain enactments of the Parliament of England and of the Parliament of Great Britain and of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in force at the time of the passing of the Act 9 George IV. CLXXXIII. shall not apply in Victoria, and transcribes or consolidates other enactments of such Parliaments.

- 3271 .. 12th July This Act applies £3,300,516 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1923-24.
- 3272 .. 26th July This Act applies £385,762 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1922-23.
- 3273 .. 5th September This Act applies £1,172,079 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1923-24.
- 3274 .. 2nd October The *Victorian Government Loan Act 1923* authorizes the raising of £1,500,000 to be expended on railways and tramways works, £1,000,000 for irrigation works and water supply in country districts, and £2,500,000 for works and undertakings of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria.
- 3275 The *Friendly Societies Act 1923*, to be read with the principal Act of 1915, provides that a friendly society may pay an amount not exceeding £100 on the death of a member or a relative of a member, and increases the maximum amount that may be paid by a society for sick pay from 40s. to 60s. per week. The date up to which annual returns must be lodged with the Government Statist has been altered from 1st February to 1st August of each year. Power is given to the Government Statist to make inspections of the books of a society or to direct inspections by an officer of the department. Other sections relate to the appointment of trustees by the committee of management, provision for a minor to hold office as assistant secretary or on the committee of management of a branch of a society, and the powers of the Government Statist with respect to quinquennial valuations.
- 3276 .. 4th October The *Newmerella Land Act 1923* authorizes the application of payments made in respect of leases of certain lands in the township of Newmerella to or towards the purchase by the council of the Shire of Orbest of certain land as a site for a public park and recreation reserve.
- 3277 The *Narre Worrان Land Act 1923* revokes the permanent reservation of portion of certain land in the parish of Narre Worrان as a site for police purposes.
- 3278 The *Smeaton Land Act 1923* revokes the permanent reservation of portion of certain land in the parish of Smeaton in the county of Talbot reserved from sale permanently pursuant to the *Smeaton Land Act 1921* as a site for a public park.
- 3279 The *Toonallook Land Act 1923* revokes the permanent reservation of certain Crown land at Toonallook in the parish of Bairnsdale as a site for a State school.

Act No.	Date.	
3280 ..	4th October	.. This Act applies £1,115,647 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1923-24.
3281 ..	..	.. The <i>Parliamentary Witnesses Act 1923</i> , to be read with <i>The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1915</i> , deals with the administration of the oath to witnesses appearing before the Legislative Council or Legislative Assembly or committees appointed by the Houses of Parliament, and also to the privileges of witnesses who give evidence before these bodies.
3282 ..	17th October	.. The <i>Marriage Act 1923</i> , to be read with the <i>Marriage Act 1915</i> , provides that any marriage celebrated by any minister of religion not registered in the office of the Government Statist shall not be avoided if either of the parties to the marriage at the time <i>bonâ fide</i> believed that such minister was qualified to celebrate marriages. Power is given to grant maintenance to a wife during the joint lives of husband and wife where a decree for judicial separation or dissolution of marriage has been granted on the ground of insanity. In other sections power is given to allow intervention in divorce cases of a party not already charged with adultery if the court considers that such intervention is desirable, and a duty is imposed on the party obtaining a decree <i>nisi</i> to comply with the rules of court as to the lodging and entering of such decree.
3283 ..	..	.. The <i>Railways Standing Committee Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1915, provides for additional remuneration to members of the committee in respect of inquiries, in 1923, as to certain proposed Border railways.
3284 ..	23rd October	.. The <i>Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act 1923</i> , to be read with the <i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1915</i> , makes further and better provision with respect to main drains and main drainage works and certain rivers, creeks, and watercourses within the Metropolis.
3285 ..	..	.. The <i>University Act 1923</i> , to be read with the principal Act of 1915, makes important alterations in the constitution and government of the University of Melbourne.
3286 ..	..	.. The <i>Supreme Court Act 1923</i> , to be read with the principal Act of 1915, facilitates the enforcement in Victoria of judgments and awards in the superior courts of England, Scotland, and Ireland.
3287 ..	30th October	.. The <i>River Murray Waters Act 1923</i> , to be read with the principal Act of 1915, ratifies an agreement for the variation of the agreement entered into between the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth and the Premiers of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia respecting the river Murray and Lake Victoria and other waters.

Act. No.	Date.	
3288 ..	30th October	.. The <i>Fruit Act</i> 1923, to be read with the Act of 1915, relates to the handling of fruit and vegetables.
3289 ..	1st November	.. The <i>Smeaton Show Yards Lands Act</i> 1923 authorizes the re-vesting in the Crown of certain lands at Smeaton, in the parish of Springhill, county of Talbot, reserved from sale permanently as a site for Smeaton, Springhill, and Bullarook Agricultural Association's show yards.
3290 ..	..	.. The <i>Tarranginnie Land Act</i> 1923 revokes the permanent reservation of certain land in the parish of Tarranginnie, county of Lowan, as a site for water supply purposes.
3291 ..	..	.. This Act applies £1,351,000 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1923-24.
3292 ..	9th November	.. The <i>Public Safety Preservation Act</i> 1923 makes provision for the protection of the community in cases of emergency.
3293 ..	30th November	.. The <i>Lunacy Act</i> 1923, to be read with the Act of 1915, provides for the performance and execution of the powers, authorities, and duties of the Master-in-Lunacy by the Master-in-Equity.
3294 ..	..	.. The <i>Surplus Revenue Act</i> 1923, to be deemed to have come into force on 30th June, 1923, allocates the surplus revenue for the year 1922-23, viz., £363,950, as follows:—For reduction of Consolidated Revenue Deficit Account, £234,802; and to recoup the Developmental Railways Account for amounts transferred from that account to make up revenue deficiencies in 1913-14 and 1916-17, £129,148.
3295 ..	..	.. The <i>Municipal Endowment Act</i> 1923 provides that the municipal endowment for the year ending 30th June, 1924, be £50,000.
3296 ..	..	.. The <i>Treasury Bills and Advances Act</i> 1923 amends the Act of 1922.
3297 ..	..	.. The <i>Victorian Government Stock Act</i> 1923 amends the Act of 1896 in relation to the dates for the payment of interest on bonds.
3298 ..	..	.. The <i>Victorian Loan Act</i> 1923 authorizes the raising of £165,000 for the repayment to the Government of New South Wales, under the <i>Border Railways Act</i> 1922, of the cost of acquisition or resumption of the right, title, and interest of the Deniliquin and Moama Railway Company in the Deniliquin and Moama railway.
3299 ..	..	.. The <i>Railway Loan Application Act</i> 1923 sanctions the issue and application of £2,630,000 available under loan Acts for railways and other purposes.
3300 ..	..	.. The <i>Water Supply Loans Application Act</i> 1923 sanctions the issue and application of £1,386,000 available under loan Acts for irrigation, water supply, drainage, and flood protection works in country districts, and for works under the River Murray Waters Acts.

Act No.	Date.	
3301 ..	30th November	.. This Act applies £1,294,364 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1923-24.
3302 ..	18th December	.. The <i>Land Act 1923</i> , to be read with the principal Act of 1915, gives power to sell township lands to State Savings Bank Commissioners or municipalities for housing schemes, and makes other amendments in the law relating to land settlement.
3303 ..	..	.. The <i>Railways Advances (Stores Suspense Account) Act 1923</i> alters the date for the repayment of instalments of loan moneys under the Act of 1921.
3304 ..	..	.. The <i>State Savings Bank Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1915, alters the title of the principal officer of the bank from Inspector-General to General Manager, and confers the title of assistant general manager on the second officer of the bank, who in the absence of the general manager is empowered to perform all his duties. Other sections relate to the procedure to be adopted on the reduction of the rate of interest on Victorian Savings Bank deposit stock and to the freedom of State Savings Bank debentures and Crédit Foncier debenture stock from income tax.
3305 ..	..	.. The <i>Inebriates Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1915, provides that it is not necessary for any corroborative evidence to be tendered in addition to the medical certificate where the inebriate himself applies for admission to an institution. Power is given to a judge, the Master-in-Equity, or a police magistrate to make an interim order for the care and control of an alleged inebriate in certain cases, and authority is given to arrest an alleged inebriate who has escaped from the care and control under which he has been placed. The Inspector-General of the Insane is appointed Inspector of Inebriates' Institutions, and may order the discharge of any inebriate detained in any house, public or private hospital, institution or other place, and such inebriate must be discharged accordingly.
3306 ..	..	.. The <i>Electricity Supply Loan Application Act 1923</i> sanctions the issue and application of £1,447,000 available under loan Acts for works and undertakings of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria.
3307 ..	..	.. The <i>Nurses' Registration Act 1923</i> , to come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation, makes provision with respect to the training, qualifications, and registration of nurses.

Act No.	Date.	
3308 ..	18th December	.. The <i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act</i> 1923, to be read with the Act of 1918, increases the borrowing powers of the Tramways Board from £750,000 to £3,000,000 and gives authority to set apart tramway reserves in streets or roads at least two chains wide. Power is given to the Board to operate omnibuses to aid or relieve tramway traffic. The duty is imposed on municipalities to keep in repair those portions of roads on which there are tramways. Provision is made to construct tramways under municipal guarantee, and authority is given to municipalities to levy tramway betterment rates. The salary of the Chairman of the Board is increased from £1,500 to £1,750 per annum.
3309 ..	..	.. The <i>Railways Sinking Fund Act</i> 1923, to be deemed to have come into operation from 1st July, 1922, provides that the surplus railways revenue of every financial year after the coming into operation of the Act be placed to the credit of a sinking fund until the amount at credit is equal to 75 per cent. of the total loan liability of the Victorian railways.
3310 ..	22nd December	.. The <i>Witchipool Land Act</i> 1923 provides for the sale of certain land in the parish of Witchipool, including certain land reserved temporarily as a site for a watering place, and for the closing of a road.
3311 ..	..	.. The <i>Local Government (Borrowing Powers) Act</i> 1923, to be read with the <i>Local Government Act</i> 1915, relates to the borrowing powers of municipalities.
3312 ..	..	.. The <i>Goroke to Morea Railway Construction Act</i> 1923 authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Goroke to Morea.
3313 ..	..	.. The <i>Income Tax Act</i> 1923, to be read with the Acts of 1914 and 1915 and amending Acts, and to come into force on 31st December, 1923, fixes the rates of income tax for the year ending 30th June, 1924. Incomes of £200 and under are not taxable. On incomes from £201 to £500 there is an exemption of £150, which, however, does not apply to companies. Incomes from personal exertion are taxed 3d. in the £ up to £500; where such income exceeds £500, for every £ up to £500, 4d.; for every £ over £500 and up to £1,000, 5d.; for every £ over £1,000 and up to £1,500, 6d.; and for every £ over £1,500, 7d. Taxes on incomes from property are double these rates. Companies (including life insurance companies) are taxed at the rate of 1s. in the £.
3314 ..	..	.. The <i>Land Tax Act</i> 1923 fixes the rate of land tax for the year 1924 at $\frac{3}{4}$ d. on every pound sterling of the unimproved value where the unimproved value exceeds £250, and in addition imposes a super-tax equal to 5 per cent. of the amount of land tax payable; the minimum tax payable to be two shillings and sixpence.

Act No.	Date.	
3315 ..	22nd December	.. The <i>Kanagulk to Edenhope Railway Construction Act 1923</i> authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Kanagulk to Edenhope.
3316 The <i>Police Pensions Act 1923</i> , to be read with the <i>Police Regulation Act 1915</i> , makes further provision with respect to the retirement, pensions, allowances, and gratuities of members of the police force and their widows, children, and dependants.
3317 The <i>Housing and Reclamation Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1920, alters the amounts that may be expended for houses constructed under the Act as follows:—For a weather-board house from £800 to £850, and for a brick house from £900 to £950. Power is given to make additions, improvements, and renovations to dwelling-houses provided that the unpaid balance, together with the amount expended, does not exceed £850 if the dwelling-house is of wood, or £950 if it is of brick, stone, or concrete. The Commissioners administering the Act may agree with any farmer, whether or not such farmer is an eligible person under the provisions of section 2 of the Principal Act, to provide a dwelling-house for farm labourers employed by him.
3318 The <i>Kooloonong to West Narrung Railway Construction Act 1923</i> authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Kooloonong to West Narrung.
3319 The <i>Income Tax Acts Amendment Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1915, provides for the collection by State officers of income tax for the Commonwealth.
3320 The <i>Marine Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1915, and to come into force on a date to be fixed by proclamation, dissolves the Marine Board of Victoria and provides that the exercise of its powers and duties be transferred to the Commonwealth, which will act on behalf of the State of Victoria. Power is also given to arrange for the future transfer to the control of the Commonwealth of the Port Phillip Pilot Sack and Superannuation Fund.
3321 The <i>Fire Brigades Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1915, authorizes the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board to borrow a sum of £35,000 (which includes an amount of £20,000 authorized under an Act passed in 1922).
3322 The <i>Bowser to Peechelba Railway Construction Act 1923</i> authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Bowser to Peechelba.

Act No.	Date,	
3323 ..	22nd December	.. The <i>Marnoo to Wallalo Railway Construction Act 1923</i> authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Marnoo to Wallalo.
3324 The <i>Black Rock to Beaumaris Electric Street Railway Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1920, increases the amount that may be spent on the cost of construction of the railway from £41,138 (including £6,500 for rolling-stock) to £52,000 exclusive of land and rolling-stock. The council of the City of Sandringham guarantees the Railways Commissioners for five years a sum not exceeding £2,000 per annum as a contribution towards meeting any loss resulting from the construction and operation of the line.
3325 The <i>Moorpanyal Lands Act 1923</i> takes from the Geelong Harbour Trust Commissioners certain land in the parish of Moorpanyal and revokes the permanent reservation of certain other land in that parish, and provides for the grant of the said lands to the Commonwealth of Australia as a site for a base for seaplanes of the Australian Air Force.
3326 The <i>Railways Classification Board Act 1923</i> extends the operation of the <i>Railways Classification Board Act 1919</i> .
3327 The <i>Geelong Land Act 1923</i> provides for the granting of a lease of certain Crown land at Geelong in the parish of Moorpanyal in the county of Grant to the Phosphate Co-operative Company of Australia Limited.
3328 The <i>St. Arnaud School of Mines Site Act 1923</i> repeals the Act of 1891, which permanently reserved from sale land at St. Arnaud intended as a site for a School of Mines. The land, which is not now required for a School of Mines, becomes unalienated Crown land.
3329 The <i>Werrimull to The Hut Railway Construction Act 1923</i> authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Werrimull to The Hut.
3330 The <i>Mining Development Act 1923</i> repeals the provision in the Act of 1915, which limited advances for prospecting to parties of not less than four or more than twenty persons.
3331 The <i>Electoral Act 1923</i> , to be read with the <i>Constitution Act Amendment Act 1915</i> , amends the law relating to Parliamentary elections. It provides that arrangements may be made jointly by the State of Victoria and the Commonwealth so that the electoral rolls may be used for Commonwealth elections as well as for elections for the Assembly. Enrolment is compulsory for persons entitled to exercise the franchise.

Act No.	Date.	
3332 ..	22nd December	.. The <i>Closer Settlement Act 1923</i> amends the <i>Closer Settlement Acts</i> in regard to the determination of the amount of compensation to be paid in respect to land compulsorily acquired, and makes a number of alterations in the law relating to closer settlement.
3333 ..	"	.. The <i>Wyndham Race-course Act 1923</i> amends the Act of 1912 by increasing the number of race meetings that may be held on that race-course yearly from two to four.
3334 ..	"	.. The <i>Country Roads Act 1923</i> provides for the raising of money for the purpose of carrying out certain permanent works under the <i>Country Roads Acts</i> .
3335 ..	"	.. The <i>Victorian Loan (Public Works) Act 1923</i> authorizes the raising of £1,254,000, to be expended on public works, and sanctions the issue and application of such money.
3336 ..	"	.. This Act applies £6,763,966 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1923-24, and appropriates supplies granted during the session amounting to £15,383,334 to the service of the Government.

OFFICIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY.

The following return shows the names and periods of office of Governors and Acting Governors of the State since the first appointment of Mr. Charles Joseph La Trobe as Superintendent, in 1839 :—

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA.

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office
Charles Joseph La Trobe	30th Sept., 1839 ...	5th May, 1854
John Vesey Fitzgerald Foster (acting)	8th May, 1854 ...	22nd June, 1854
Captain Sir Charles Hotham, R.N., K.C.B.	22nd June, 1854 ...	31st Dec., 1855
Major-General Edward Macarthur (acting)	1st January, 1856...	26th Dec., 1856
Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B. ...	26th December, 1856	10th September, 1863
Sir Charles Henry Darling, K.C.B.	11th September, 1863	7th May, 1866
Brigadier-General George Jackson Carey, C.B. (acting)	7th May, 1866 ...	15th August, 1866

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA—continued.

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
The Honorable Sir John Henry Thomas Manners-Sutton, K.C.B.	15th August, 1866...	2nd March, 1873
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	3rd March, 1873 ...	19th March, 1873
Sir George Ferguson Bowen, G.C.M.G.	31st March, 1873 ...	22nd February, 1879
Sir Redmond Barry, Kt. (acting) ...	3rd January, 1875...	10th January, 1875
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	11th January, 1875	14th January, 1876
The Most Honorable George Augustus Constantine Phipps, Marquis of Normandy, G.C.M.G., P.C.	27th February, 1879	18th April, 1884
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	18th April, 1884 ...	15th July, 1884
Sir Henry Brougham Loch, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.	15th July, 1884 ... 18th October, 1889	8th March, 1889 15th November, 1889
Sir William Cleaver Francis Robinson, G.C.M.G. (acting)	9th March, 1889 ... 16th November, 1889	17th October, 1889 27th November, 1889
The Right Honorable John Adrian Louis Hope, Earl of Hopetoun, G.C.M.G.	28th November, 1889.	12th July, 1895
The Honorable John Madden, LL.D. (acting)	26th January, 1893. 27th March, 1895 ...	11th May, 1893 24th October, 1895
The Right Honorable Baron Brassey, K.C.B.	25th October, 1895	31st March, 1900
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D. (acting)	29th December, 1896 27th September, 1897 23rd March, 1898 ...	16th February, 1897 10th October, 1897 21st October, 1898
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant-Governor (acting)	15th January, 1900	16th December, 1901
Sir George Sydenham Clarke, K.C.M.G., F.R.S.	10th December, 1901	24th November, 1903
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant-Governor (acting)	24th November, 1903	25th April, 1904
Major-General Hon. Sir Reginald Arthur James Talbot, K.C.B.	25th April, 1904 ...	6th July, 1908
The Honorable Sir John Madden, G.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant-Governor (acting)	20th March, 1907 ..	18th November, 1907
	6th July, 1908 ..	27th July, 1908
	26th July, 1909 ..	10th August, 1909
	2nd February, 1910	9th February, 1910
	18th February, 1910	24th February, 1910
	28th July, 1910 ..	8th August, 1910
	19th May, 1911 ..	24th May, 1911
28th August, 1913..	23rd February, 1914	

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA—*continued.*

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
Sir Thomas David Gibson Carmichael, Baronet, K.C.M.G.	27th July, 1908 ..	19th May, 1911
Sir John Michael Fleetwood Fuller, Baronet	24th May, 1911 ..	31st January, 1914
Sir Arthur Lyulph Stanley, K.C.M.G.	23rd February, 1914	31st January, 1920*
Sir William Hill Irvine, K.C.M.G. (acting)	30th July, 1919 ..	24th February, 1921
The Right Hon. the Earl of Stradbroke, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.V.O., C.B.E.	24th February, 1921	

NOTE.—Captain William Lonsdale, formerly of the 4th Regiment, was appointed Police Magistrate of the District of Port Phillip on 9th September, 1836, and assumed office on the 29th of the same month. In that capacity he was in charge of the District until the appointment of Mr. C. J. La Trobe as Superintendent. Subsequently, Captain Lonsdale acted as Superintendent during the temporary absence of Mr. La Trobe, who was called on to administer the Government of Tasmania from the 13th October, 1846, to the 25th January, 1847. Sir William H. Irvine was appointed Lieutenant-Governor, to act in the absence of the Governor, by Commission dated April, 1918.

* On leave of absence for six months from 30th July, 1919.

The following list shows the names of Ministers who held office from the separation of the Colony from New South Wales in 1851 up to the establishment of responsible government in 1855:—

MINISTERS PRIOR TO RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

Name of Minister.	Office.	Date of Assumption of Office.
William Lonsdale	Colonial Secretary	15th July, 1851
Alastair Mackenzie	Colonial Treasurer..	
Charles Hotson Ebdon	Auditor-General ..	
Robert Hoddle	Surveyor-General ..	
Alexander McCrae	Chief Postmaster ..	
William Foster Stawell	Attorney-General ..	
Redmond Barry	Solicitor-General ..	13th April, 1852
James Horatio Nelson Cassell	Collector of Customs	
Edward Eyre Williams	Solicitor-General ..	21st July, 1852
James Croke	Solicitor-General ..	
Frederick Armand Powlett	Colonial Treasurer..	30th September, 1852
Hugh Culling Eardley Childers	Auditor-General ..	11th October, 1852
Andrew Clarke	Surveyor-General ..	1st July, 1853
John Vesey Fitzgerald Foster	Colonial Secretary	20th July, 1853
Hugh Culling Eardley Childers	Collector of Customs	5th December, 1853
Edward Grimes	Auditor-General	8th December, 1853
Robert Molesworth	Solicitor-General ..	4th January, 1854
William Clark Haines	Colonial Secretary	12th December, 1854

In the next list will be found the names of the **Ministries, 1855 to 1924.** Premiers of the several Governments from 1855 to the present date :—

MINISTRIES SINCE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

Number of Ministry and Name of Premier.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.	Duration of Office.
			Days.
1. William Clark Haines...	28th November, 1855	11th March, 1857 ...	469
2. John O'Shanassy ...	11th March, 1857 ...	29th April, 1857 ...	49
3. William Clark Haines...	29th April, 1857 ...	10th March, 1858 ...	315
4. John O'Shanassy ...	10th March, 1858 ...	27th October, 1859	596
5. William Nicholson ...	27th October, 1859...	26th November, 1860	396
6. Richard Heales ...	26th November, 1860	14th November, 1861	353
7. John O'Shanassy ...	14th November, 1861	27th June, 1863 ...	590
8. James McCulloch ...	27th June, 1863 ...	6th May, 1868 ...	1,775
9. Charles Sladen ...	6th May, 1868 ...	11th July, 1868 ...	66
10. James McCulloch ...	11th July, 1868 ...	20th September, 1869	436
11. John Alexander MacPherson	20th September 1869	9th April, 1870 ...	201
12. James McCulloch ...	9th April, 1870 ...	19th June, 1871 ...	436
13. Charles Gavan Duffy...	19th June, 1871 ...	10th June, 1872 ...	357
14. James Goodall Francis	10th June, 1872 ..	31st July, 1874 ...	781
15. George Briscoe Kerferd	31st July, 1874 ...	7th August, 1875 ...	372
16. Graham Berry ...	7th August, 1875 ...	20th October, 1875	74
17. Sir James McCulloch	20th October, 1875...	21st May, 1877 ...	579
18. Graham Berry ...	21st May, 1877 ...	5th March, 1880 ...	1,019
19. James Service ...	5th March, 1880 ...	3rd August, 1880 ...	151
20. Graham Berry ...	3rd August, 1880 ...	9th July, 1881 ...	340
21. Sir Bryan O'Loghlen...	9th July, 1881 ...	8th March, 1883 ...	607
22. James Service ...	8th March, 1883 ...	18th February, 1886	1,078
23. Duncan Gillies ...	18th February, 1886	5th November, 1890	1,722
24. James Munro ...	5th November, 1890	16th February, 1892	469
25. William Shiels ...	16th February, 1892	23rd January, 1893	343
26. James Brown Patterson	23rd January, 1893	27th September, 1894	612
27. Sir George Turner, P.C., K.C.M.G.	27th September, 1894	5th December, 1899	1,895
28. Allan McLean ...	5th December, 1899	19th November, 1900	350
29. Sir George Turner, P.C., K.C.M.G.	19th November, 1900	12th February, 1901	85
30. Sir Alexander James Peacock, K.C.M.G.	12th February, 1901	10th June, 1902 ...	483
31. William Hill Irvine ...	10th June, 1902 ...	16th February, 1904	616
32. Sir Thomas Bent, K.C.M.G.	16th February, 1904	8th January, 1909	1,789
33. John Murray ...	8th January, 1909	18th May, 1912 ...	1,226
34. William Alexander Watt	18th May, 1912 ...	9th December, 1913	205

MINISTRIES SINCE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT—*continued.*

Number of Ministry and Name of Premier.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.	Duration of Office. Days.
35. George Alexander Elmslie	9th December, 1913	22nd December, 1913	13
36. William Alexander Watt	22nd December, 1913	18th June, 1914 ...	178
37. Sir Alexander James Peacock, K.C.M.G.	18th June, 1914 ...	29th November, 1917	1,260
38. John Bowser ...	29th November, 1917	21st March, 1918 ...	112
39. Harry Sutherland Wightman Lawson	21st March, 1918 ...	7th September, 1923	1,996
40. Harry Sutherland Wightman Lawson	7th September, 1923	19th March, 1924	194
41. Harry Sutherland Wightman Lawson	19th March, 1924	28th April, 1924	40
42. Sir Alexander James Peacock, K.C.M.G.	28th April, 1924	18th July, 1924	81
43. George Michael Prendergast ...	18th July, 1924		

Peacock Ministry. On 28th April, 1924, the Hon. H. S. W. Lawson resigned the position of Premier, and the Hon. Sir Alexander James Peacock, K.C.M.G., was commissioned to form an Administration. The following list shows the names of the Ministers in the beginning of July, 1924, and the offices held by them.

PEACOCK MINISTRY.

Name.	Office.
Peacock, Sir Alexander James, K.C.M.G.	Premier, Treasurer, and Minister of Labour.
Robinson, Sir Arthur, K.C.M.G.*	Attorney-General and Solicitor-General.
Argyle, Stanley Seymour, M.R.C.S.	Chief Secretary and Minister of Public Health.
Oman, David Swan	Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, Minister of Immigration, Minister in charge of the Wheat Scheme, and President of the Board of Land and Works.
Eggleston, Frederick William ..	Minister of Railways and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Cohen, Henry Isaac, K.C., M.L.C.	Commissioner of Public Works, Minister of Mines, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.

* Sir Arthur Robinson resigned office on 11th July, 1924, and was succeeded by Hon. H. I. Cohen, K.C.

PEACOCK MINISTRY—continued.

Gordon, John	Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Water Supply, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Toutcher, Richard Frederick ..	Minister of Public Instruction, Minister of Forests, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Brawn, Frederick William, M.L.C.	Minister without Portfolio.
McGregor, Martin, M.L.C. ..	Minister without Portfolio.
Groves, Frank	Minister without Portfolio.
Beardmore, Henry	Minister without Portfolio.

When Parliament met after the general elections held on 26th June, 1924, the Peacock Ministry was defeated in the Legislative Assembly, and it resigned office on 18th July, 1924. A Labour Ministry, led by the Hon. G. M. Prendergast, came into office, and was constituted as follows:—

PRENDERGAST MINISTRY.

Name.	Office.
Prendergast, George Michael ..	Premier and Treasurer.
Tunncliffe, Thomas	Chief Secretary.
Lemmon, John	Minister of Public Instruction, and Minister of Labour.
Hogan, Edmund John	Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Railways, Minister of Markets, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Bailey, Henry Stephen	President of the Board of Land and Works, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, and Minister of Water Supply.
Slater, William	Attorney-General and Solicitor-General.
Jones, John Percy, M.L.C. ..	Commissioner of Public Works, Minister of Public Health, Minister in Charge of Immigration and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
McNamara, Daniel Laurence, M.L.C.	Minister of Mines, Minister of Forests, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Beckett, William James, M.L.C. ..	Minister without Portfolio.
Disney, James Herbert, M.L.C. ..	Minister without Portfolio.
Cain, John	Minister without Portfolio.
Webber, Gordon Charles	Minister without Portfolio.

The names of members and of officers of Parliament and of the constituencies which the members represent are given below:—

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1924.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President : Hon. F. G. Clarke.

Name of Province.	Name of Member.	Date of Retirement.
Bendigo	Hon. H. Keck	1925
	Hon. J. Sternberg	1928
East Yarra	Hon. W. H. Edgar (Chairman of Committees)	1925
	Hon. J. K. Merritt	1928
Gippsland	Hon. G. M. Davis	1925
	Hon. M. McGregor	1928
Melbourne	Hon. H. I. Cohen, K.C.	1925
	Hon. H. H. Smith	1928
Melbourne East ..	Hon. D. L. McNamara (Minister of Mines and Minister of Forests)	1925
	Hon. J. P. Jones (Commissioner of Public Works, Minister of Public Health, and Minister in charge of Immigration)	1928
Melbourne North ..	Hon. W. J. Beckett (Minister without Portfolio)	1925
Melbourne South ..	Hon. E. L. Kiernan	1928
	Hon. Sir A. Robinson, K.C.M.G.	1925
Melbourne West ..	Hon. T. H. Payne	1928
	Hon. J. H. Disney (Minister without Portfolio)	1925
Nelson	Hon. R. Williams	1928
	Hon. E. G. Bath	1925
Northern	Hon. T. Beggs	1928
	Hon. F. G. Clarke (President)	1925
North-Eastern ..	Hon. R. H. S. Abbott	1928
	Hon. A. M. Zwar	1925
North-Western ..	Hon. Dr. J. R. Harris	1928
	Hon. G. L. Goudie	1925
Southern	Hon. W. P. Crockett	1928
	Hon. W. L. R. Clarke	1925
South-Eastern ..	Hon. W. C. Angliss	1928
	Hon. A. E. Chandler	1925
South-Western ..	Hon. W. Tyner	1928
	Hon. A. A. Austin	1925
Wellington	Hon. H. F. Richardson	1928
	Hon. A. Bell	1925
Western	Hon. F. W. Brawn	1928
	Hon. E. J. White	1925
	Hon. M. Saltau	1928

Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council: H. H. Newton, J.P.

Clerk Assistant: H. H. Pearson.

Usher, Accountant, and Clerk of Committees: W. R. Heywood.

Clerk of the Records: P. T. Pook.

Clerk of the Papers: L. V. Hoyle.

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1924—*continued.*

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Speaker : Hon. J. Bowser.

Name of Electoral District.	Name of Member.
Abbotsford ..	Hon. G. C. Webber (Minister without Portfolio).
Albert Park ..	A. K. Wallace.
Allandale ..	Hon. Sir A. J. Peacock, K.C.M.G.
Ballaarat East ..	W. J. McAdam.
Ballaarat West ..	Hon. Major M. Baird.
Barwon ..	E. Morley.
Benalla ..	Hon. J. J. Carlisle.
Benambra ..	Hon. H. Beardmore.
Bendigo East ..	L. J. Clough.
Bendigo West ..	A. E. Cook.
Boroondara ..	E. W. Greenwood.
Borong ..	D. Allison.
Brighton ..	O. R. Snowball.
Brunswick ..	J. R. Jewell.
Bulla ..	R. T. Hjorth.
Carlton ..	R. H. Solly.
Castlemaine and Maldon ..	Hon. H. S. W. Lawson.
Collingwood ..	Hon. T. Tunnecliffe (Chief Secretary).
Dalhousie ..	R. T. Pollard.
Dandenong ..	Hon. F. Groves.
Daylesford ..	J. McDonald.
Dundas ..	Hon. W. Slater (Attorney-General and Solicitor-General).
Eaglehawk ..	A. A. Dunstan.
East Melbourne ..	A. A. Farthing.
Essendon ..	F. Keane.
Evelyn ..	W. H. Everard.
Fitzroy ..	Hon. J. W. Billson.
Flemington ..	E. C. Warde.
Geelong ..	W. Brownbill.
Gippsland East ..	A. E. Lind.
Gippsland North ..	J. W. McLachlan.
Gippsland South ..	W. West.
Gippsland West ..	A. L. N. Walter.
Glenelg ..	E. E. Bond.
Goulburn Valley ..	Colonel M. W. J. Bouchier, C.M.G., D.S.O.

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1924—*continued.*THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—*continued.*

Name of Electoral District.	Name of Member.
Grenville	A. Hughes, M.C.
Gunbower	Hon. H. Angus.
Hampden	Hon. D. S. Oman.
Hawthorn	Hon. Sir W. M. McPherson.
Jika Jika	Hon. J. Cain (Minister without Portfolio).
Kara Kara	Hon. J. W. Pennington.
Korong	I. J. Weaver.
Lowan	Hon. M. E. Wettenhall.
Maryborough	G. C. Frost.
Melbourne	T. Hayes.
Mornington	Hon. A. Downward.
North Melbourne	Hon. G. M. Prendergast (Premier and Treasurer).
Ovens	Hon. A. A. Billson.
Polwarth	J. McDonald.
Port Fairy	Hon. H. S. Bailey (Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey and Minister of Water Supply).
Port Melbourne	J. L. Murphy.
Prahran	A. R. Jackson.
Richmond	E. J. Cotter.
Rodney	Hon. J. Allan.
St. Kilda	Hon. F. W. Eggleston.
Stawell and Ararat	Hon. R. F. Touter.
Swan Hill	Hon. F. E. Old.
Toorak	Hon. Dr. Stanley S. Argyle.
Upper Goulburn	E. J. Mackrell.
Walhalla	Hon. S. Barnes.
Wangaratta	Hon. J. Bowser (Speaker).
Waranga	Hon. J. Gordon.
Warrenheip	Hon. E. J. Hogan (Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Railways and Minister of Markets.)
Warrnambool	J. D. Deany.
Williamstown	Hon. J. Lemmon (Minister of Public Instruction and Minister of Labour).

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: W. R. Alexander.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Private Bills: T. R. Gilchrist.

Clerk of Committees and Serjeant-at-Arms: W. R. Barstow.

Clerk of the Papers: F. E. Wanke.

Reader and Clerk of the Record: G. R. Webb.

Accountant and Assistant Clerk of Committees: P. P. Conlan.

Chief Hansard Reporter: A. Burr.

Librarian (Acting): J. A. Finnie.

FOREIGN CONSULS.

The following is a return of Consuls-General and Consuls for Victoria of foreign countries :—

CONSULS-GENERAL.

Country.	Name.
Argentina	Bartoli, U. A.
Belgium	Drion, M. F.
China	Ouei Tze-King.
Colombia	Lyle, M.
Denmark	Lunn, Ove.
Germany	Busing, Dr. Hans.
Honduras	Mattei, Senor Don Rafael Medina (Hon.).
Norway	Arentz, E. K. B.
Swiss Confederation	Stahel, G. (Hon.).
United States	Blake, M.

CONSULS.

Austria	Hauser, L. (Hon.).
France	Turck, R.
Greece	Kyriazopoulos, Constantine.
Guatemala	De Bavay, Auguste.
Italy	Grossardi, Commendatore A.
Japan	Fullarton, D. B. (Hon.).
Mexico	McKinley, A. (Hon.).
Netherlands	Wichers, P. A. Van Buttingha.
Nicaragua	Medina, R.
Peru	Loyer, J. F. (Hon.).
Portugal	Thomson, J. (Hon.).
Salvador	Karagheusian, V. N. T. (Hon.).
Spain	Montero y de Madrazo, Senor Don J.
"	Cave, H. (Hon.).
Sweden	Waern, J. D.
Uruguay	Benjamin, L. S. (Hon.).

VICE-CONSULS.

Argentina	Mackay, S.
Belgium	Nihotte, A.
Brazil, United States of	Sheppard, H. A.
Denmark	Holdenson, P. J.
"	Blechingberg, E.
"	Belcher, E. N. (Geelong).
Finland	Sleigh, H. C. (Hon.).
Greece	Maniachi, A. V. (Hon.).
Italy	Vitali, L. B. (Hon.).
Japan	Black, P. J. (Hon.).
Liberia	Coombs, W. G. (performing duties of Consul-General).
Norway	Schreuder, A. T. (Hon.).
"	Howard, J. (Hon.).
Paraguay	Fraser, W. S.
United States	Fox, R.
"	Vebber, J. M.

TRADE COMMISSIONERS.

The following Trade Commissioners have been appointed by the countries mentioned to represent them in Victoria :—

Representing—

United Kingdom	..	..	Dalton, R. A.
Canada	..	..	Ross, D. H.
New Zealand	..	..	Manson, H. J.
United States	..	..	Ganly, E. G.
