

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

FOR

1877-8.

(FIFTH YEAR OF ISSUE.)

BY

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BY AUTHORITY.

MELBOURNE:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

PUBLISHED ALSO BY GEORGE ROBERTSON, LITTLE COLLINS STREET.

LONDON:

GEORGE ROBERTSON, 17 WARWICK SQUARE.

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P R E F A C E.

THE *Victorian Year-Book* for 1877-8 contains information relating to this colony, under the usual heads, but considerably more amplified than in former issues of the work.

A feature which distinguishes this from previous Year-Books is the publication of statistical data, not only relating to Victoria and the other Australasian colonies, but also to other British dominions and Foreign countries throughout the world. Such particulars, apart from the fact that they enhance the value of the work as one of general reference, are of great importance in showing the true position attained by this colony as compared with other portions of the civilised globe.

The following are the more important of the tables which now appear for the first time:—Governors of Australasian colonies, page 5; Area and population of British dominions, page 24; Ditto of Foreign countries, page 26; Ditto of the world, page 28; Revenues of British dominions, page 52; Ditto of Foreign countries, page 54; Taxation in Foreign countries, page 59; Public debts of British dominions, page 68; Ditto of Foreign countries, page 69; Marriage rates in European countries, page 74; Signing with marks in the Australasian colonies and in the United Kingdom, page 81; Birth rates in European countries, page 85; Illegitimacy in the Australasian colonies and in the United Kingdom, page 90; Excess of births over deaths in the Australasian colonies and in European countries, page 92; Death rates in European countries, page 95; Ditto in twenty-one towns in the United Kingdom, page 98; Infantile mortality in Melbourne and in eighteen English towns, page 104; Causes of death, in classified arrange-

ment, page 106 ; Duration of illness and period of residence in Australasia of persons dying of phthisis, page 117 ; Banks in Australasian colonies, page 132 ; Price of Victorian debentures in London and Melbourne, page 134 ; Imports and exports of British dominions, page 155 ; Ditto of Foreign countries, page 157 ; Exports of home produce from Victoria, page 158 ; Ditto from Australasian colonies, page 160 ; Excess of imports over exports, and the contrary in Australasian colonies, page 168 ; Ditto in British possessions, page 169 ; Shipping in British possessions, page 176 ; Ditto in Foreign countries, page 177 ; Postal returns of the United Kingdom, page 179 ; Money orders in ditto, page 180 ; Electric telegraphs in the United Kingdom and Foreign countries, page 183 ; Railways in the United Kingdom and in certain British possessions, page 189 ; Ditto in Foreign countries, page 190 ; Failures in England and the United States, page 197 ; Crime in the Australasian colonies, page 212 ; Convicts landed in Australasia, page 217 ; Crime in the United Kingdom, page 217 ; Land under certain crops in the United Kingdom and Foreign countries, page 235 ; Produce of such crops, page 236 ; Live stock in the United Kingdom and Foreign countries, page 251.

Besides these many new tables of minor importance are interspersed throughout the work, and additional columns have been embodied in forms previously in use. In numerous instances, moreover, fresh subjects not suited for tabular arrangement have been dealt with in paragraphs.

Advantage has been taken of the demand for a fresh edition (the fourth) of the Nosological Index in use throughout the Australasian colonies,* which is now in type, to append it to this work. This will afford a key to the system adopted for classifying the causes of death, and will be found especially useful in connection with the tables and paragraphs relating to vital statistics, extending from page 105 to page 123.

The figures printed on the three folding sheets, published after the table of contents, have been brought down to the latest date.

* This index was originally compiled in the statistic branch of the Registrar-General's office, Melbourne, under the direction of the present writer.

by the insertion of the numbers for another year. The index to the paragraphs will be found as usual at the end of the work.

Knowing that, notwithstanding every care, it is almost impossible to prevent the occurrence of mistakes in a work containing so many figures as the *Victorian Year-Book*, it has been my custom to invite any who should discover errors to notify the same to me. This has each year resulted in a few inaccuracies; generally, I am glad to say, of an unimportant character, being reported. I take this opportunity to express my thanks to those who have kindly taken this trouble, and to add that I shall be equally obliged for information as to any mistakes, misstatements or misprints that may be found in the present volume.

HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER,

Government Statist.

Office of the Government Statist,
Melbourne, 3rd October 1878.

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