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CANBERRA.

OFFICIAL

YEAR BOOK

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

No. 42.—1956.

Prepared under Instructions from
The Right Honorable the Treasurer,

BY

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ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN.



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PREFACE.

By the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Parliament of the Commonwealth is empowered, subject to the Constitution, "to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth, with respect to Census and statistics." In the exercise of the power so conferred, a "Census and Statistics Act" was passed in 1905, and in the year following the "Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics" was created. The first Official Year Book was published early in 1908. The publication here presented is the forty-second Official Year Book issued under the authority of the Commonwealth Government.

The Synopsis on pp. xi to xxxi following shows the general arrangement of the work. The special index (preceding the General Index) provided at the end of the volume, together with certain references given in the various chapters, will assist in tracing in previous issues special articles and other more or less important miscellaneous matter which, owing to limitations of space, have been omitted or abbreviated in the present volume. Where, in the General Index, more than one reference to a subject is given, the chief reference (or references) has been specially indicated wherever possible.

Every endeavour has been made to meet the demand occasioned by the current economic and financial conditions for new information, or information expressed in new terms, concerning many branches of statistics, while a Diary of Principal Economic Events of the years 1951 to 1954 is inserted after the last chapter.

It is not proposed to refer here to the whole of the new matter or to the new treatment of existing matter incorporated in the present volume, but attention may be drawn to the following :—

- Chapter I. Discovery, etc., of Australia.—Reprinting of Commonwealth Constitution (p. 6).
- Chapter V. The Territories of Australia.—Information relating to Cocos Is. (pp. 151-2)
- Chapter VI. Labour, Wages and Prices.—Expanded section showing comparison of trends of "Interim" and "C" Series Indexes of retail prices (p. 157); Wage Margins (p. 193).
- Chapter VIII. Trade.—New Table showing Direction of Trade according to Currency Areas (p. 293); Interstate Trade (p. 315).
- Chapter XV. Welfare Services.—The Aged Persons Homes Act (p. 562); The Order of St. John (p. 566).
- Chapter XVI. Population. Details of 1954 Census results (pp. 586-605); details of General Assisted Passage scheme of migration (p. 616).
- Chapter XXV. Fisheries.—Whaling (p. 979).
- Chapter XXVI. Mineral Industry.—Revised and expanded sections on Mineral Oils (pp. 1016-7) and Non-metallic minerals (pp. 1017-20).
- Chapter XXIX. Miscellaneous.—Special article on Snowy Mountains Scheme (pp. 1103-30).
- Appendix.—Commonwealth and State Election Results, 1955 (pp. 1179-80); New Ministries (pp. 1181-3); Details of Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904-1956; Government Schools, Summary of Statistics for 1954.

The material in the Year Book has been carefully checked throughout, but I shall be grateful to those who will be kind enough to point out defects or make suggestions.

In a publication of this size, a considerable time must necessarily elapse between the handling, by both author and printer, of the earlier and later parts of the work. In order to offset, to some extent, the consequent delay in presentation, the contents of this issue have already been published in separate Parts as the successive chapters or groups

of chapters were printed. Particulars of these Parts, numbering eleven in all, are shown in the Price List of Printed Publications at the end of this volume. In a statistical publication, the time element, however, does result in an unevenness in the periods to which the statistics relate. To overcome this difficulty, at least partially, much more use is now made of the Appendix to the Year Book. So far as space permits, later particulars, where available, of many statistical series appearing in preceding chapters have been inserted in the Appendix. The insertions have been restricted to figures mainly, as the inclusion of current textual matter is not generally practicable.

The Appendix to this issue contains information for various periods up to 1955-56, that is, one, and in some instances two, years in advance of that contained in the body of the book.

It should be pointed out that for the most recent statistics the reader should refer to other publications issued by this Bureau, notably the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* and the *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics*. There are also numerous mimeographed statements issued from time to time on a wide range of subjects. Particulars of these are shown in Chapter XXX.—Statistical Organization and Sources of Information.

Commencing with issue No. 38 a change in the title of the Year Book was made, the year now shown being the year of issue.

My thanks are tendered to the State Statisticians, who have collected and compiled the data on which a great part of the information given in the Official Year Book is based. Thanks are also tendered to the responsible officers of the various Commonwealth and State Departments, and to others who have kindly, and often at considerable trouble, supplied information.

I also desire to express my keen appreciation of the valuable work performed by Mr. A. E. Callander, Editor of Publications, Mr. E. H. Harry, B.A., B.Com., and Mr. G. I. Neville, B.Com., Assistant Editors, and the other officers of the Publications Division, and of the services rendered by the officers in charge of the several Branches of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics upon whom has devolved the duty of revising the chapters relative to their respective Branches.

S. R. CARVER,

Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,
Canberra, A.C.T., November, 1956.

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