

TABLE OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS IN 1876.

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[NOTE.—An epidemic of scarlatina prevailed throughout the colony during 1876, and was especially fatal in the first seven months of that year. For particulars of the mortality caused, see Part IV., "Vital Statistics," ante.]

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- Jan. 1.—Revenue returns for 1875 show a total amounting to £4,215,524, being an increase of £161,660 on the receipts of the previous twelve months.
Melbourne Review (a literary and scientific Quarterly) published its first number.
 The s.s. *St. Osyth* arrived, after 43½ days' voyage from Plymouth to Melbourne.
- „ 3.—Mrs. Bowen, a resident at Mount Macedon, died at the age of 97 years.
- „ 5.—Died, the Honorable Michael O'Grady, M.P., aged 51, representative of the electoral district of Villiers and Heytesbury, for some time a member of the Ministry of Victoria.
- „ 7.—Third annual sale of drafts from the shorthorn and Hereford herds of Messrs. Robertson, of Colac. The sale realised £30,807. One shorthorn stud heifer (Roan Duchess) brought 2,200 guineas, another 1,200 guineas, and two brought 1,050 guineas each.
- „ 14.—His Excellency Sir George Ferguson Bowen returned to Victoria from Europe and the United States of America by the California mail route. Fatal accident at the Duke and Timor mine (Maryborough); two men killed.
- „ 15.—Death of Mr. Richard Cooper, aged 79, for twenty-two years Consul for Portugal in this city.
- „ 20.—Trial of strength between the Government and the Opposition on a question of vote of Supply; the Government secured 31 votes against 23.
- „ 22.—Died, Mr. Thomas Lyttleton, aged 49, for many years superintendent in the Police Force, and likewise well known as an amateur artist, especially successful as a painter of racehorses, dogs, and game.
- „ 24.—Mr. George Higinbotham resigned his seat as member for the East Bourke Boroughs.
- „ 27.—Died, Major Bell, of Bell Park, near Geelong, aged 54, leaving a large property, the amount of the succession duties on which was strongly litigated by the executors and by the Government.
 The Honorable Joseph Jones, Minister of Railways, elected by the constituency of Villiers and Heytesbury, in room of the Honorable Michael O'Grady, deceased.
- „ 30.—The *Gippsland Standard* reported a slight shock of earthquake felt at Sandy Point.
- Feb. 3.—Died, the Honorable James Forrester Sullivan, M.P., aged 58, for some time a prominent member of various Ministries in Victoria.
- „ 6.—A young man killed by a shark while bathing between Sandridge and St. Kilda.
- „ 7.—Board of Enquiry appointed (Messrs. J. Service, F. T. Sargood, and R. J. Jeffray) to investigate certain charges of unjust and arbitrary conduct brought by certain officers of the Mining Department against the Secretary, Mr. R. Brough Smyth.
 His Honor Sir Redmond Barry presented with an address from the members of the Victorian Bar, on the occasion of his departure for America and Europe on twelve months' leave of absence. Sir Redmond left Melbourne by the s.s. *Wentworth* for Sydney, en route for America and England.
- „ 10.—Mr. William Mitchell Cook elected member for East Bourke Boroughs in place of Mr. George Higinbotham, resigned.

- Feb. 10.—The Parliamentary Standing Order, spoken of sometimes as "*la cloture*," or described as "the iron hand," adopted by the Legislative Assembly after protracted sittings with closed doors.
- „ 11.—Murder and suicide at Geelong, by William Stanton, a gardener, who killed his wife and cut his own throat. Stanton had been previously a patient at the Kew Lunatic Asylum.
- „ 15.—Stawell Railway opened as far as a temporary station situated one mile from the appointed terminus.
- „ 22.—Mr. James Mirams elected a member for Collingwood in place of the Honorable James Forrester Sullivan, deceased.
- „ 24.—Resolutions carried in Legislative Assembly in favor of an income tax, and for increase in succession duties.
- Mar. 2.—Died, at New York, Mr. Charles Edward Horsley, well known in Victoria as a musician and composer of high-class productions in the art; also as sometime conductor of the Melbourne Philharmonic Society.
- „ 4.—Arrival of the s.s. *Australia*, having made the passage from Plymouth to Hobson's Bay in 43½ days.
- „ 10.—Arrest of the Honorable James McKean, M.P., for an offence against Parliamentary rules.
- „ 11.—Extraordinary thunderstorm at Mount Gambier, S.A., near the Victorian frontier; several people injured, some trees struck down, and considerable damage done to telegraphic wires, &c.
- „ 12.—Died, Mr. John Richardson, M.P., one of the representatives for Geelong East, and clerk to the South Barwon Shire Council.
- „ 14.—The Treasurer, the Honorable Sir James McCulloch, made the Annual Financial Statement.
First day of the trial of the great mining case, *Learmonth v. Baillie* and others, before a jury, who, on 3rd April, were discharged, having been unable to agree upon a verdict.
- „ 22.—Second reading of the Land, Property, and Income Tax Bill carried by 35 votes against 32; the measure was withdrawn on the following day.
- „ 23.—Report of the Volunteer Forces Commission presented to his Excellency the Governor.
- „ 29.—Election of Mr. Charles Kernot as member for Geelong East in room of Mr. Richardson, deceased.
- Apr. 1.—Part I. of "Statistical Register of the Colony of Victoria," 1875, forwarded for presentation to Parliament.
- „ 4.—Mining on Private Property Bill rejected by the Legislative Council.
- „ 6.—All the districts of the Colony of Victoria proclaimed "Clean," within the meaning of the *Scab Act* 1870.
- „ 7.—Prorogation of Parliament. Royal Assent given to Appropriation Bill; Bank-note Tax Bill; Railway Loan Liquidation and Construction Account Application Bill; Loan Bill; Police Offences Statute Further Amendment Bill; Collection of Tolls Extension Bill; and several others.
Forcible entry and seizure by Customs authorities at the warehouse of Messrs. Stevenson and Sons, Flinders lane.
- „ 20.—Police Court proceedings commenced against Adam Wilkinson, an *employé* at Messrs. Stevensons', for assaulting the Collector of Customs; the accused committed for trial.
- „ Will of the late Charles Joseph La Trobe (first Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria) proved in the Supreme Court; property sworn at £16,000.
Mr. George Stevenson and his business manager proceeded against for assaulting Customs officers; the magistrates on the City Bench being equally divided, no decision was arrived at.

Apr. 28.—The Board appointed to inquire into charges brought against Mr. R. Brough Smyth, Secretary for Mines, sent their report to the Ministerial head of the department, and the finding being unfavorable, Mr. Smyth resigned on the 4th May.

Robbery under arms at the Seymour Branch of the Bank of Victoria, and nearly £700 taken. A previously known criminal, John Condor, shortly afterwards arrested, and, on conviction, sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment.

Her Majesty proclaimed Empress of India.

May 5.—Several Chinese lottery-keepers fined heavily at the City Police Court.

„ 8.—Died, in Hobart Town, the last of the Aborigines of Tasmania, a woman of about 73 years of age, who had for many years received an allowance of £60 a year from the Tasmanian Government.

„ 10.—Centennial Exhibition, in which the colony of Victoria was represented, opened at Philadelphia, U. S.

„ 12.—Victorian Agricultural Statistics for the year ended 31st March published in *Government Gazette*.

„ 15.—Died, Mr. Henry Ward Mathewson, aged 35, a much respected officer, for ten years in the statistical branch of the Registrar-General's office and in the department of the Government Statist of Victoria.

„ 22.—Execution of John Duffus, at Castlemaine, for rape.

„ 24.—Her Majesty's birthday celebrated by the Governor's levée at the Town Hall, and by a military and naval review on the shores of Hobson's Bay.

„ 25.—Three very destructive fires occurred in Melbourne; although distinct from each other, all three were comprised in the block of land bounded by Flinders, Elizabeth, Collins, and Swanston streets.

„ 31.—Mr. George Stevenson, of the firm of L. Stevenson and Sons, proceeded against (at the City Police Court) on a charge of having defrauded H. M. Customs by evasion of payment of import duties. After three days' hearing, case dismissed by a majority of the bench of magistrates.

June 1.—Died, aged 70, Mr. William Rutledge, of Farnham, in the Western District, one of the members of the first Legislative Council of Victoria.

Mysterious suicide at Upper Hawthorn, by Albert Thompson, a young man aged 23, who was found hanging in a house which his mother had left suddenly and unaccountably. Nine weeks later it was ascertained she had gone into domestic service at a country brewery, and had not heard of her son's untimely end.

„ 2.—Second charge against Messrs. Stevenson for evasion of Customs duties dismissed, after a protracted hearing at the City Police Court, by a majority of five magistrates against four. Defendants allowed £150 costs.

Order in Council passed, directing payments of all fees to the general revenue by means of stamps, save only in such large amounts that payment in stamps would be practically inconvenient.

„ 13.—Conclusion of second trial of great mining case (Learmonth, Bailey, and others). Verdict for defendants on all issues sent to the jury.

„ 14.—Mr. W. Sincock, late manager of the Land Mortgage Bank of Victoria, charged at the City Police Court with forgery and uttering. Accused discharged.

„ 15.—John Ryan (convicted of a gross outrage and criminal assault on a married woman at South Yarra) sentenced to ten years' imprisonment, with three floggings of fifty lashes each.

„ 16.—Major Thomas Couchman gazetted as Chief Inspector of Mines, *vice* Mr. R. Brough Smyth resigned.

„ 17.—Jas. G. Sawell, teller in Bank of New South Wales, absconded, leaving large defalcations in his accounts. Arrested in Adelaide on the 24th, remanded to Melbourne, and on conviction sentenced to five years' imprisonment with hard labor.

- June 20.—Case tried—Queen *v.* Stevenson and others—for assaulting and resisting Customs officers. Terminated on the 22nd in verdict of “Not guilty.”
- „ 21.—Supreme Court decided in *Flemington Borough Council v. Blackwood*, chairman, &c., that land granted by the Crown for the purposes of a public racecourse, and merely applied to the uses thereof, is not liable to be rated by a shire or borough council. Subsequently on appeal to the Privy Council this judgment was set aside.
- „ 24.—Return of Lady Bowen and family by the R.M.S.S. *China*, from their visit to Europe.
News received by Californian mail of the death of Mrs. Mumford (known as Miss Julia Matthews), for some years a favorite singer and actress on the Melbourne stage.
- July 4.—Opening of the Deniliquin and Moama Railway, N.S.W., practically an extension of the Victorian lines.
- „ 10.—Died, Mr. David Thomas, M.P., for several years representative of Sandridge.
- „ 11.—Opening of the third session of the eighth Parliament of Victoria.
- „ 12.—Statistical Register of Victoria, 1875, Parts I., II., and III., presented to Parliament.
- „ 25.—Debate commenced in the Legislative Assembly on Sir James McCulloch’s financial proposals.
- „ 27.—The Honorable James McKean, member for North Gippsland, expelled the House of Assembly for breach of Parliamentary privilege. His name subsequently removed from the roll of Executive Councillors.
The Honorable John Madden, LL.D., Minister of Justice, elected member for Sandridge, in place of Mr. David Thomas, deceased.
- Aug. 2.—Alfred Edward Blanche, accountant at the Kew branch of the English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank, charged with embezzlement of £900, and, on conviction, sentenced to five years’ imprisonment with hard labor.
Loss of the E. and A.M.S. Company’s s.s. *Queensland* through collision with the s.s. *Barrabool* off Wilson’s Promontory. No lives lost. The *Barrabool* also much injured, and several persons seriously hurt.
News received in Melbourne of the death (on the 23rd June, at Toronto, Canada), of the Rev. Anketell M. Henderson, for ten years minister of the Collins-street Congregational Church.
- „ 5.—Dr. Samuel Thornton, first Anglican Bishop of Ballarat, arrived in Victoria.
- „ 7.—Fatal accident in the Sovereign mine, Ballarat. Two men killed.
- „ 8.—Motion of “want of confidence” brought forward in the Assembly, resulting, on the 15th, in its being negatived by 41 votes against 29.
Death of the Rev. James S. Moir, principal of the Sandhurst Corporation High School.
- „ 12.—Died, Mrs. Alfred Phillips, for many years a popular actress in Australia.
- „ 15.—The Honorable James Graham, one of the representatives of the Central Province in the Legislative Council, retired by rotation and was re-elected.
- „ 16.—Suicide of Sergeant-Major Digby, drill instructor to the Sandhurst Volunteer Light Horse.
- „ 17.—The Honorable Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, Knt., elected member for North Gippsland, in place of Mr. James McKean.
- „ 21.—Execution of James Ash, *alias* Donegal Jim, at Ballarat, for rape.
- „ 23.—Division taken upon the “Payment of Members Act Repeal Bill.” Second reading negatived by 29 votes against 24.

- Aug. 25.—Royal proclamation issued that on and after 1st September 1877 no copper coin (except the new bronze coinage) will be allowed to pass or be current in any payment whatever within the colony of Victoria.
- „ 26.—Died, George Evans, aged 92, one of the earliest pioneers of Victoria, having arrived here 5th August 1835.
- „ 29.—Mr. James Buchanan elected one of the representatives of the Southern Province in the Legislative Council, in place of the Honorable W. A. C. a'Beckett, who retired by rotation.
Sir Charles Sladen returned as one of the representatives of the Western Province in the Legislative Council, in place of the Honorable William Skene, who retired by rotation.
Annual sale of pure-bred sheep in Melbourne, and high prices realised for prime lots. Three merino rams, bred by Mr. J. L. Currie, of Lara, in the Western District, brought 740 guineas.
- Sept. 1.—Accident to the R.M.S.S. *Assam*, through collision with the stone wall at the end of Williamstown pier. The damage sustained was sufficiently serious to cause the mails to be sent on by another vessel.
- „ 2.—News received of the death (in London) of Mr. John Bramwell, manager of the Union Bank, formerly manager of the London Chartered Bank, Melbourne.
- „ 4.—The Honorable George Frederick Belcher, one of the representatives of North-Western Province in the Legislative Council, retired by rotation and was re-elected.
- „ 5.—The Honorable Robert Stirling Anderson, one of the representatives of the Eastern Province in the Legislative Council, retired by rotation and was re-elected.
- „ 9.—Died, the Rev. B. Boake, D.D., aged 62, incumbent of Holy Trinity Church, East St. Kilda.
Great fire at the Yarraville Chemical Works. Ten thousand pounds worth of property destroyed.
- „ 10.—*City of Melbourne* s.s. caught in a terrific gale near Jervis Bay on her voyage to Melbourne. Several very valuable Victorian race-horses killed, but no human lives lost.
- „ 11.—The *Dandenong* steamer (belonging to the port of Melbourne) foundered in a hurricane off Cape St. George on her 207th voyage between Melbourne and Sydney. Forty lives lost.
- „ 16.—Ellen Francis, convicted of the murder of Robert Davis, on 5th September, at Emerald Hill, and sentenced to death. Sentence subsequently commuted to twenty-one years' imprisonment.
Mr. Joseph Henry Abbott returned as one of the representatives of the North-Western Province, in place of the Honorable Alexander Fraser, retired by rotation. Mr. Abbot was, on the 31st October, declared unqualified by the Elections and Qualifications Committee of the Legislative Council, and the Honorable A. Fraser was declared duly elected to the seat.
- „ 18.—Death in London of Mr. Edmund Westby, formerly of Melbourne; well known as a highly respectable merchant.
- „ 19.—Supply Bill for £573,850 passed, and Royal assent given.
Report of the Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the working of the Friendly Societies Statute laid before Parliament.
- „ 25.—An additional twelve months' leave of absence on full pay granted to Mr. Justice Barry.
- „ 26.—Supreme Court in banco decided that the estate of the late Major Bell was chargeable with the increased rates of succession duty, overruling the decision of Mr. Justice Molesworth, the primary judge in equity. (The decision of the latter was subsequently upheld on appeal to the Privy Council.)

- Sept. 27.—Died, in London, Mr. Allan Spowers, one of the proprietors of the *Argus* and *Australasian* newspapers.
- „ 29.—Opening of the Beechworth Railway by His Excellency the Governor.
- Oct. 9.—Victorian four per cent. loan (£3,000,000), subscribed for to double the amount; it was offered at a minimum of £95 10s. Tenders ranged from that price to £97, and the lowest tender which succeeded was at £96½.
- „ 10.—Proposition to give Melbourne University a representative member under the new Electoral Bill negatived by 32 votes against 22.
- „ 11.—Fatal accident at Wilson's hippodrome, one of the riders falling from his horse during the performance.
- „ 14.—Presentation, by His Excellency the Governor, of public donation to John Dykes, Martin Alfred Peterson, James Anderson, and John Eklud, four seamen, who, at imminent risk of their own lives, saved many men, women, and children from the wreck of the *Dandenong*.
- „ 14-15.—Hospital Saturday and Sunday.
- „ 20.—Opening of the branch railway from Maryborough to Avoca by His Excellency the Governor.
- „ 24.—Royal Assent given to the following Bills:—Education Act Amendment Bill, Local Governing Bodies Loan Act Amendment Bill, Australasian Dramatic and Musical Association Bill, and Obscene Prints and Sale Prevention Bill.
- Died, the Rev. John Barlow, aged 53 years, incumbent of St. John's Church, La Trobe street west.
- Report of the Victorian Railways for the year ended 30th June 1876 presented to Parliament, showing an increase of revenue in the year amounting in the aggregate to £74,759.
- „ 26.—Australasian Statistics, 1875, forwarded for presentation to Parliament.
- Nov. 2.—Arrival of His Excellency Sir Anthony Musgrave, Governor of South Australia, on a visit to Sir G. Bowen; Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor of New South Wales had previously arrived here overland.
- Departure of the Honorable Sir Francis Murphy, Knt., formerly Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and afterwards one of the representatives of the Eastern Province in the Legislative Council, by the mail steamer, on a visit to Europe.
- „ 4, 7, 9, & 11.—Melbourne Spring Races. Public holidays on the Tuesday and Thursday; over eighty thousand persons present on the Cup Day.
- „ 6.—Academy of Music, new theatre, Bourke street east, opened. The Governors of Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia present on the occasion.
- „ 9.—Return of the Honorable James Goodall Francis from Europe by the R.M.S.S. *Tanjore*.
- A child two years of age, daughter of a publican in Fitzroy, died from alcoholic poisoning, having, unnoticed by any person, drunk some rum while playing in her father's bar.
- „ 15.—The Mining on Private Property Bill thrown out in the Legislative Council by 13 votes against 10: a like measure had been previously four times rejected.
- Death (by suicide) of Dr. W. Leslie Gordon, superintendent of the Ararat Lunatic Asylum. Deceased was in Melbourne on leave, and was suffering from *delirium tremens*.
- Mr. Robert Dyce Reid elected one of the representatives of the Eastern Province, in place of the Honorable Sir Francis Murphy resigned.
- „ 16.—Sir James McCulloch, in the Legislative Assembly, set forth the Government railway policy.
- „ 17.—Opening of the extension of the main railway line from Sandhurst to Inglewood.

Nov. 21.—James Mackenzie, manager of the Clunes branch of the London Chartered Bank, charged with larceny as a clerk, and, on conviction, sentenced to one year's imprisonment with hard labor.

The Government placed before Parliament the report on English, European, and American railways of Mr. Thomas Higinbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of the Victorian lines.

„ 22.—Sir James McCulloch, in the Assembly, moved a resolution affirming the desirability of purchasing the M. and H. B. Railway on certain terms.

Opening of the new Victoria Arcade, Bourke street east, by the Mayor of Melbourne. Great interest manifested concerning the event.

„ 30.—The Royal assent given to the Friendly Societies Act Amendment Bill and a Supply Bill.

Division taken in the Assembly on the proposed resolution to purchase the M. and H. B. U. Railway on terms stated: Ayes, 35; noes, 33.

The Government subsequently withdrew their Railway Construction Bill.

Victorian Year-Book, 1875, issued.

Dec. 1.—Murder of his wife and suicide by William Carrington, at Emerald Hill.

Murder of Ann Hastings by her husband, William Hastings. The body not discovered for ten days.

„ 4.—Mr. J. B. Slack, for several years a pertinacious litigant in the Supreme Court, committed to gaol for fourteen days for contempt.

„ 5.—News received of the wreck and total loss of the s.s. *Otago*, owned in the port of Melbourne. The occurrence took place off the coast of New Zealand, about 42 miles from Bluff Harbor, and 91 miles from Port Chalmers.

„ 11.—Execution of Basilio Bondetti, for the murder of Carlo Comisto, at Sandy Creek, on the 4th September.

„ 14.—Weather most oppressive. The highest temperature in the shade registered at the Melbourne Observatory, $110^{\circ} 7'$; the highest recorded in the month of December during the last 18 years. Highest temperature in the sun was $149^{\circ} 1'$, which has been exceeded twice during the same period. In some country districts the temperature recorded was higher than in Melbourne.

„ 22.—Royal assent given to the Appropriation Bill, Harbor Trust Bill, County Court Statute Amendment Bill, Bills of Sales Bill, Pharmacy Bill, Sale of Poisons Bill, Juries Bill, State Forests Bill, Local Government Act Amendment Bill, Public-houses Bill, and other measures. Parliament was then prorogued to 1st February 1877.

„ 26, 28, and 30.—Cricket match on the Melbourne ground between eleven players of All England and fifteen of Victoria, the latter winning by 31 runs.

„ 30.—Shocking murder of a young married woman at Sandhurst.

Died—Mr. Matthew McCaw, aged 61; for two years a member for East Bourke in the Legislative Assembly, and for many years an active promoter of societies connected with agriculture.

„ 31.—Revenue for the year ended this day amounted to £4,462,262 15s. 3d., as against £4,215,524 6s. 9d. for the previous twelve months.