

## TABLE OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS IN 1877.

**Jan. 1.**—Revenue returns for 1876 show a total amounting to £4,462,263, being an increase of £246,739 on the receipts of the previous twelve months.

„ 5.—Death of Sir Donald McLean, K.C.M.G., Native Minister of New Zealand.

„ 7.—Arrival of Rt. Rev. Dr. James Moorhouse, the new Anglican Bishop of Melbourne. Installation took place on the 11th instant.

Death of Mr. R. D. Ireland, Q.C., aged 61, an eminent barrister, at one time Solicitor-General, and afterwards, for fifteen months, Attorney-General of Victoria.

„ 19.—Small-pox reported to be spreading in the naval squadron at Sydney.

„ 21.—Shock of earthquake felt at Castlemaine and Maldon.

„ 25.—Mr. G. O. Duncan, Inspector-General of Penal Establishments, left Melbourne for Europe, as representative of Victoria to the International Conference on Prison Discipline, to be held at Stockholm.

Meeting of the Intercolonial Cable Conference at Sydney; the colonies represented being Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia. Conference closed on the 2nd February, after agreeing to enter into arrangements for duplicating cable communication with Europe.

Votes of censure, in Tasmania, passed in both Houses of the Legislature upon the Government for releasing a prisoner named Louisa Hunt.

„ 27.—Sir Anthony Musgrave, late Governor of South Australia, left that colony, having been appointed Governor of Jamaica.

„ 29.—Chief Justice Way sworn in as Acting Governor of South Australia.

A man bathing near the Emerald Hill Baths seized by a shark, two hundred yards from the shore. Body recovered some days afterwards greatly mutilated.

**Feb. 1.**—Death of Mr. W. H. Wright, Sheriff of the Central Bailiwick, who for a great number of years occupied high official positions in the colony.

„ 2.—Wreck of the s.s. *Singapore*, belonging to the E. and A.M.S. Company, on Lone Island, two hundred and fifty miles north of Rockhampton. Passengers and crew saved.

Sir W. H. Gregory, Governor of Ceylon, arrived on a short visit to the colonies; left on the 22nd March.

„ 3.—Death of Rev. J. Martin, minister of the Baptist Church, Collins street, aged 55.

„ 6.—Collision between s.s. *Victorian* and steam-dredge *Willunga*, at Port Adelaide, when the latter vessel was sunk.

„ 8.—Imperial Parliament opened by Her Majesty the Queen in person.

Telegram received at the Crown Law Offices, announcing the decision of the Privy Council in the case of “*Woolley v. The Ironstone Hill Company*,” upholding the right of the Crown to gold found on private property.

„ 9.—Sale of “*The Criterion*” Hotel, Collins street, to the Union Bank of Australia, for £33,000.

Extensive bush-fires reported in the Western district.

„ 11.—Sir Henry Ayers, Premier, and the Honorable Ebenezer Ward, Minister of Education of South Australia, interviewed Sir James McCulloch relative to the construction of a duplicate cable in the way agreed upon by the conference at Sydney.

Feb. 12.—H.M.S.S. *Wolverene*, *Conflict*, and *Sappho*, released from quarantine at Sydney. The cause of detention had been small-pox.

Floods at Sandhurst, in which an elderly woman and a man and his wife lost their lives.

Appointment of Mr. Thureau, of Sandhurst, to inspect and report upon the mines of California.

„ 13.—Accident on the Echuca Railway, near Epsom, to a goods and passenger train; thirty-eight trucks were smashed to pieces, but without serious injury to the passengers.

„ 15.—Announcement by telegram that the £500,000 4 per cent. South Australian loan had been allotted at £97 8s. 6d. and £97 9s.

A female and her son, the latter aged 20, struck by lightning at Wedderburn; both killed.

„ 16.—A young man, about 25 years of age, struck by lightning and killed in Elizabeth street, Melbourne.

Facilities for the admission of Victorian barristers to the English bar conceded by the English Inns of Court.

Heavy floods in South Australia, causing much damage to property.

„ 17.—Two men struck dead by lightning at Deniliquin, N.S.W.

„ 18.—Hurricane at the Lacepede Islands. Several vessels wrecked, involving great loss of life.

„ 19.—The Registrar-General's new offices in Queen street opened for business. Death of Mr. Samuel Ramsden, a flour and paper mill proprietor. Will proved on the 15th March; property sworn at £160,000.

„ 25.—Announcement that over twenty inches of rain had fallen in three days at Townsville, Queensland.

Mar. 1.—Shock of earthquake distinctly felt at Brisbane and adjacent places in Queensland.

„ 2.—Trial of action for libel against the *Age* newspaper, brought by the Honorable Edward Langton, M.L.A. Verdict found for the plaintiff, with £1,000 damages, afterwards reduced to £750.

„ 3.—Bill for legalising colonial marriages with a deceased wife's sister passed the second reading in the House of Commons by a majority of 51.

„ 6.—Publication of the new electoral roll for the Legislative Assembly, showing 181,423 electors, as compared with 164,250 on the last roll, being an increase of 17,173 electors.

Defeat of the Robertson (N.S.W.) Ministry on a motion of censure.

„ 14.—William Hastings hanged for the murder of his wife at Frankston. Sir Maurice O'Connell sworn in as Acting Governor of Queensland.

„ 15.—Fourth annual exhibition of the West Bourke Agricultural Society opened by His Excellency Sir G. F. Bowen, at Lancefield Road, in the new yards given by Mr. W. J. Clarke.

„ 16.—Death of Dr. Polding, R.C. Archbishop of Sydney; aged 83.

Resignation of the Robertson Ministry in New South Wales, in consequence of the Governor refusing a dissolution.

„ 17.—Second annual exhibition of the Victorian Academy of Arts.

1,400 sheep died near Dubbo (N.S.W.) from eating poisonous herbs.

Wreck of the *City of Foo-Chow* on the north-east of Flinders Island, Bass's Straits. No lives lost.

„ 19.—Wreck of the *Ocean Mail*, 1,039 tons, with cargo of wool—Wellington to London—on one of the Chatham Islands. All hands saved.

„ 20.—New Ministry formed in Sydney under the leadership of Mr. Parkes.

„ 24.—Mr. W. W. Cairns, the newly appointed Governor of South Australia, arrived at Adelaide.

- Mar. 27.—Volunteer camp commenced at Sunbury. Review and sham-fight took place on the 2nd April; about 3,000 volunteers taking part in the manœuvres.
- Mr. W. W. Cairns, Governor of South Australia, and Mr. Fitzherbert, Speaker of New Zealand House of Representatives, created Knights Commanders of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.
- A man crossed Sydney Harbor on a tight-rope 1,420 feet in length.
- „ 30.—First election of Harbor Trust Commissioners under the Act of 1876.
- Apr. 1.—R.M.S.S. *Bangalore* placed in quarantine on account of small-pox on board; released on the 8th.
- „ 3.—Announcement by telegram of the death of the well-known Mrs. Caroline Chisholm, for many years intimately connected with a movement for ameliorating the condition of female immigrants, &c.
- „ 10.—Sir Arthur Kennedy sworn in as Governor of Queensland.
- „ 11.—First meeting of the Harbor Trust Commissioners held at the Custom House, Melbourne.
- Sydney Exhibition opened by His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson.
- „ 12.—Will of late Mr. John Manifold proved at £353,000.
- Wheat statistics of South Australia show that an area of 871,057 acres was reaped, yielding 5,857,569 bushels.
- „ 13.—Death of Honorable Edward Cohen, M.L.A., an old colonist, for many years a member of the Legislature, Commissioner of Trade and Customs from June 1872 to August 1875; aged 54; his will subsequently proved at £29,000.
- „ 14.—Captain Stevens, R.N., tried by court martial and dismissed the service. The defendant was commander of H.M.S. *Barracouta*, and had interfered in native affairs at Samoa.
- „ 15.—The goods of Messrs. L. Stevenson and Sons, seized by the Customs twelve months ago for alleged undervaluation, sold at auction, some articles fetching a price largely in excess of intrinsic value.
- „ 16.—Frightful accident at the Murray Bridge works at Echuca; seven men injured, several of whom died shortly afterwards.
- „ 17.—Mr. Douglas, Premier of Queensland, resigned owing to doubts connected with his re-election.
- „ 18.—Colonel Rede appointed Sheriff for the Central Bailiwick, *vice* W. H. Wright, deceased.
- Application made to Chief Justice for leave to appeal in the case of *Langton v. Syme* on behalf of the defendant. Application granted.
- „ 19.—The iron clipper ship, *City of Foo-Chow*, stranded on Flinders Island a month ago, sold at public auction for £500.
- A prisoner named Williams, at Pentridge, violently assaulted the Rev. Mr. Glover, a Church of England clergyman, a visitor to the prison, seizing him by the throat. No reason assigned for the outrage.
- Influx of Chinese so great in Queensland that Governor of that colony telegraphed to Hong Kong, stating that goldfields were not sufficient for the support of fresh arrivals.
- Great difficulty experienced in enforcing quarantine laws at Cooktown. 1,700 Chinamen undergoing quarantine on Fitzroy Island.
- „ 20.—Sir W. W. Cairns resigned Governorship of South Australia on the ground of ill-health.
- „ 23.—Mr. Alexander Smellie, Inspector of Works, killed by the first goods train which started after the opening of the Hamilton and Ararat Railway to Dunkeld.
- Sudden death of Mr. John Dunn, Chief Clerk in the Audit Office, Melbourne.
- Death in the Melbourne Hospital of Edward Wild, an old colonist, once member of a flourishing brewery firm in Collingwood, and patron of the Fine Arts; aged 71.

Apr. 24.—Tasmanian Parliament opened.

Declaration of war between Russia and Turkey, 17,000 Roumanians crossing the frontier.

„ 25.—The eighth Victorian Parliament came to an end. Return of writs for the general elections fixed for the 15th May.

Sir James McCulloch, the Premier, addressed the electors of Warrnambool, foreshadowing the proposals of the Government, including revision of the Tariff, tax upon town and country lands, and reform of the Upper House, competitive examinations in the civil service, mining on private property, railway extension and management.

„ 26.—Telegram received that the Privy Council had upheld the opinion of Mr. Justice Molesworth *in re* “Major J. Bell’s will.” The Crown claimed £30,000 for duties. By the decision of the P.C. the sum payable was one-half of what was claimed; the retrospective operation of an Act of Parliament being the dispute in the case.

„ 28.—Foundation stone of the Warrnambool breakwater laid by Sir James McCulloch.

Annual meeting of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce, Mr. W. Siddeley being elected president for year ensuing.

Intelligence received of the loss of five lives, being those of a boat’s crew and coxswain of the Government steamer *Victoria*, the boat having been upset in a squall off Goose Island, in Bass’s Straits.

„ 30.—Twelve months’ leave of absence granted to Mr. Justice Stephen on account of ill-health.

May 2.—The New South Wales Treasurer estimated the revenue of that colony for 1877 at £5,308,410, and expenditure at £4,428,012, the largest estimate ever submitted to that Parliament.

„ 3.—A somewhat complicated assault case adjudicated upon at the City Police Court, the contending parties being Dr. Neild and Mr. T. P. Hill, Professor of Elocution.

„ 4.—Nominations of candidates for the Victorian Assembly. Sir James McCulloch (Premier) and Mr. MacPherson (Chief Secretary) returned unopposed; as also Mr. Service and Mr. J. G. Duffy.

„ 9.—Announcement of the annexation of the Transvaal, in South Africa, by England.

„ 10.—Defeat of the Reiby Ministry in Tasmanian Parliament.  
Destruction of Iquique, Peru, by earthquake.

„ 11.—Remarkable tidal disturbances reported on the eastern coast of New Zealand from the Bluff to Poverty Bay, the tide having risen from five to eight feet at frequent intervals. Similar phenomena observed in New South Wales.

Polling day throughout the colony for the general election of members of the Legislative Assembly. Result: 15 Ministerialists, 59 Opposition, 12 Independent.

Agricultural Statistics of Victoria for year ended 31st March published in *Government Gazette*.

„ 14.—Resignation of the McCulloch Ministry. Mr. Graham Berry sent for by the Governor.

„ 15.—Terrific hurricane in the Navigator’s Islands and Friendly Islands, destroying over 1,000 houses and 16 churches, involving great loss of life.

„ 16.—Visit to Fiji by Samoan Chiefs to claim British protection for their islands.

„ 19.—Telegram from Cape Borda announcing the wreck of the brig *Emily Smith* near West Bay. Twenty-one persons drowned; four Chinamen and a woman saved.

- May 21.**—The Honorable Graham Berry succeeded in forming a Cabinet ; four of the new Ministers sworn in.
- „ **22.**—Ninth Victorian Parliament opened by commission. Sir C. G. Duffy elected Speaker without opposition. Adjournment of both Houses to 26th June.
- „ **24.**—The 58th anniversary of the birth of Her Majesty Queen Victoria Levée at Government House.  
Fourth annual demonstration of fire brigades held at Geelong.
- „ **28.**—Mr. Robertson and Mr. Parkes, of New South Wales, received the honor of knighthood.  
Wreck of the schooner *Young Australian* off Curdie's Inlet, near Warrnambool.  
Third section of Gippsland Railway, between Sale and Morwell, opened for traffic.
- „ **29.**—Queensland 4 per cent. loan of £740,700 subscribed for in London, at a minimum of 91.
- „ **30.**—At Geelong, Mr. Berry announced the Government policy, and proposed, amongst other measures, a Land Tax Bill, the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the working of the land system, a Railway Construction Bill, a Friendly Societies Bill, and a Fire Brigade Bill.  
Daring burglary at premises of Mr. Goldstein, jeweller, &c., Bourke street ; £1,600 worth of property carried off by the thieves.  
Opening of South Australian Parliament.
- June 7.**—Return of all the members of the Berry Ministry without opposition.
- „ **9.**—Professor Pearson, appointed by Government to reorganize Education Department.
- „ **11.**—Sir William Jervois, R.E., Governor of the Straits Settlements, and Lieutenant-Colonel Scratchley, R.E., arrived in Melbourne to report upon the defences of Victoria.  
Collision on the Hamilton and Ararat Railway, resulting in the death of an engine-driver.  
Serious accident, by collision, at the Spencer-street Railway Station ; several persons injured.
- „ **18.**—Sir Wm. Jervois appointed Governor of South Australia.
- „ **20.**—Wreck of brig *Edith Haviland*, on Carpenter's Reef ; captain's wife and three children and one man drowned.  
Several petitions against return of members of the Legislative Assembly lodged on this and the two following days.
- „ **25.**—Severe shock of earthquake distinctly felt in Melbourne.
- „ **26.**—News received of the death of Viscount Canterbury, formerly Governor of Victoria.  
Meeting of Victorian Parliament for despatch of business, pursuant to adjournment.  
Wreck of s.s. *Bulli* on Kent's Group, Bass's Straits.
- „ **28.**—Mr. John James, member for Ballarat East, elected Chairman of Committees in the Legislative Assembly.
- July 1.**—The gas companies of Melbourne reduced the price of gas to an uniform rate of 7s. 6d. per 1,000 feet.
- „ **3.**—Honorable H. Cuthbert, M.L.C., sworn in as Postmaster-General.
- „ **4.**—For the first time in the history of the Railway Department, its annual revenue exceeded one million sterling.  
First girder of the new Murray Railway Bridge, connecting Victoria with New South Wales, placed in position.
- „ **9.**—Resignation of Captain Panter, of the *Cerberus*, senior naval officer of Victoria ; Commander T. C. Mandeville, R.N., afterwards appointed in his room.

- July 10.—Sir Arthur Kennedy sworn in as Governor of Queensland.
- „ 12.—Opening of the Tasmanian Parliament.
- „ 14.—Royal Commission appointed to arrange for the representation of the colony at the Paris Exhibition next year.
- Honorable H. Cuthbert returned M.L.C. for the South-Western Province, on his appointment as Postmaster-General.
- „ 15.—Loss of s.s. *Yarra Yarra* at Newcastle, with all hands.
- „ 17.—Consolidated Revenue Bill, to authorize the expenditure of £710,000, introduced into Parliament, and passed through all its stages.
- „ 18.—Death of Lieut.-Colonel Joseph Anderson, C.B., K.H.: a Peninsular and Indian veteran, and an old colonist, aged 88. Will subsequently proved at £37,080.
- „ 19.—Opening of the New Zealand Parliament.
- „ 23.—Report of Sir William Jervois on defences of Port Phillip Bay published.
- „ 25.—Foundered, s.s. *City of Hobart*, off Wilson's Promontory; no loss of life. Mr. A. Mackay elected member for Sandhurst *vice* Blackham, disqualified.
- „ 27.—Opening of the last section of the Geelong and Colac Railway by His Excellency the Governor.
- Aug. 2.—The Reiby (Tasmanian) Ministry resigned, upon a want of confidence vote.
- „ 7.—Wreck of ship *Queen Bee*, London to Nelson, on the Farewell Spit, N.Z.
- „ 9.—Resignation of the Parkes Ministry, New South Wales.
- „ 10.—The ship *Macduff*, on her arrival from London, placed in quarantine on account of eight cases of small-pox, one of which had ended fatally during the passage; released on the 20th instant.
- „ 13. Wreck of the Torres Straits M.S.S. *Normanby* off the Queensland coast. All hands saved.
- „ 14.—In New South Wales, Sir J. Robertson formed a new Ministry.
- „ 16.—Financial Statement by the Treasurer, Mr. Berry—Estimated revenue for 1877-8, £4,672,880; expenditure, £4,860,114. Mr. Berry announced his intention to remit duties to the extent of £161,239, and proposed a duty on imported live stock, a land tax, and other imposts.
- „ 24.—Dr. Macartney, who was elected member of Legislative Assembly for South Gippsland, and unseated upon petition on the ground of his being a minister of religion, re-elected.
- „ 26.—Stranding of the brigantine *Alondre* in Waratah Bay.
- „ 28.—Public Works Loan Appropriation Act received the Royal assent.
- Sept. 1.—A man endeavoring to pass in front of a railway train between Richmond and Melbourne run over and killed.
- „ 4.—The Land Tax Bill read a second time in the Legislative Assembly; majority for second reading, 59 to 5.
- The New South Wales Government removed obnoxious quarantine regulations imposed at the Murray.
- Opening of the new Jewish Synagogue in Albert street.
- „ 5.—Mr. Munro introduced a Bill into Parliament for amalgamating the three Melbourne gas companies.
- „ 6.—An attempt made to assassinate Mr. Russell, Government Astronomer of New South Wales, by means of an explosive box. A man named Faithful, messenger at the Sydney Observatory, afterwards arrested on suspicion of being engaged in the attempt. He was subsequently tried for the crime, but the jury, not being satisfied with the evidence, acquitted him.

- Sept. 9.—Loss of the s.s. *Lord Ashley*, Newcastle to Melbourne, near Cape Three Points.
- „ 11.—Land Tax Bill passed the Assembly, and sent up to the Legislative Council.
- „ Collision between ships *Avalanche*, London to New Zealand, and *Forest*, London to Sandyhook, in the English Channel, entailing the loss of both vessels and 108 lives.
- „ 16.—Ship *Duchess of Argyle* arrived from England dismasted; estimated cost of repairs, &c., £5,000.
- „ 17.—News received of the death of Captain Hayes, known as “Bully Hayes,” of South Pacific freebooting notoriety, by the hands of the mate of his vessel.
- „ 18.—Adjournment of the Legislative Assembly for a fortnight, in consequence of the Legislative Council postponing the consideration of the Land Tax Bill.
- „ 19.—Defeat of the Robertson Ministry, New South Wales, and application made to the Governor for a dissolution, which he refused, whereupon the Ministry resigned on the following day.
- „ 26.—Return ball to the Mayor of Melbourne, at Town Hall.  
Petition lodged against the return of Dr. Macartney for South Gippsland, on the grounds of bribery, undue influence, and that he was a minister of religion.
- „ 28.—Dissolution granted to Sir J. Robertson by the Governor of New South Wales, on account of the inability of parties to form another Ministry.
- Oct. 1.—Public meeting in aid of the Indian Famine Relief Fund held in the Town Hall, Melbourne. £2,000 subscribed by Mr. W. J. Clarke.
- „ 2.—Sir Wm. Jervois sworn in Governor of South Australia.  
Second reading of the Land Tax Bill in the Legislative Council passed by 16 votes to 11.
- „ Legislative Council passed the Railway Bill—seven of the proposed lines agreed to without alteration, viz.:—The Dunolly and St. Arnaud, Geelong and Queenscliff, Woodend and Daylesford, Wahgunyah and the Springs, Warrenheip and Gordons, Stawell and Horsham, and Geelong Racecourse railways. The Goulburn Valley line was changed from the eastern to the western bank of the river; Oakleigh direct line struck out, and a line substituted from Oakleigh *viâ* Camberwell and Hawthorn, from whence running powers over the Hobson's Bay line to be taken.
- „ 4.—Tax on Live Stock Importation Bill passed in the Legislative Assembly by 38 votes to 22.
- „ 5.—First section of Gippsland Railway, from Oakleigh to Bunyip, opened by the Minister of Railways.
- „ 9.—Legislative Assembly disagreed with the amendments made by the Legislative Council in the Railways Bill, on the ground of privilege.  
Mining on Private Property Bill passed the Legislative Assembly.  
New Zealand Government defeated on a want of confidence vote.  
*Victorian Year-Book* for 1876-7 published.  
Collision near Cape Clear between the ship *Consett* and ship *Jessore*, bound for Melbourne. The latter vessel went down; no lives lost.
- „ 11.—The following Acts of Parliament received the Royal Assent and became law:—Justices of the Peace Statute Amendment Act, Melbourne General Market Site Act, Local Government Act 1874 Amendment Act, Validating Payments Act, and Land Tax Act 1877.  
Vote of £100,000 for purposes of Victorian defence.  
An action brought by Mr. Billson, M.L.A. for the Ovens, against a Mr. Brown, a magistrate, for slander connected with the Ovens election; resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff, with £150 damages.

Oct. 12.—D. J. Howes, late secretary of the Belfast shire, tried and convicted of having set fire to the shire-hall on the 11th June.

„ 15.—New Ministry formed in New Zealand under the leadership of Sir George Grey.

Hon. R. Le Poer Trench, Sir Bryan O'Loughlen, and Archibald Fiskien, Esq., gazetted Commissioners of Land Tax.

Mr. Duncan Gillies unseated for Rodney by the Elections and Qualifications Committee, and election declared wholly void.

„ 18.—South Australian Government defeated, by the casting vote of the Speaker, on a want of confidence motion.

„ 20.—Hospital Saturday; amount collected, £1,400.

„ 21.—Hospital Sunday; amount collected, £4,619.

„ 23.—Appointment of the first batch of classifiers under the Land Tax Act. Mr. Bruce Gaunson subsequently appointed Secretary to the Commissioners.

Victorian Rifle Association's annual meeting.

„ 24.—Legislative Council insisted upon their amendments in the Railway Construction Bill.

The Elections and Qualifications Committee, on the petition of Mr. Crews against the return of Mr. Fergusson, decided in favor of the sitting member.

„ 25.—A new Ministry formed in South Australia; Mr. Boucaut, Premier.

„ 26.—Opening of the last section of the Ararat and Hamilton Railway, Dunkeld to Hamilton.

„ 28.—Death, at Brighton, of Israel Edwards, native of Devonshire, England. He fought with Nelson at Trafalgar, and was perhaps the oldest man in Victoria at the time of his death; his age variously stated to be between 102 and 106 years.

„ 30.—Railway Construction Bill abandoned by the Government, and another substituted, dealing only with the undisputed lines. The latter passed both Houses of Parliament and received the Royal Assent.

„ 31.—Suicide in the Royal Park of a young man named John Meredith Davis. Deceased had been arrested on a charge of forgery on the London Discount and Mortgage Bank, and was out on bail.

The following Acts of Parliament received the Royal Assent, and became law:—Parliamentary Costs Act 1877, Brighton Recreation Reserve Vesting Act, Inebriates Act 1872 Amendment Act, Consolidated Revenue Act (No. 3), Railway Construction Act 1877.

Nov. 1.—£13,000 forwarded by the Mayor of Melbourne to India as the second contribution of the colony to the Indian Famine Fund; total remitted to date, £19,000.

„ 2.—Mr. Duncan Gillies, the deposed member for Rodney, re-elected by a majority of 122 over the other candidate, who was the petitioner against the last election.

„ 5.—Prorogation of Queensland Parliament.

„ 7.—Report of Committee appointed to draw up "reasons" to justify rejection of the Legislative Council's amendments in the Railway Construction Bill adopted by the Legislative Assembly.

New tariff regulations circulated by Government.

Address to the Governor, asserting the right of the Council to consider question of "payment of members," adopted by the Legislative Council.

„ 9.—An unexploded shell, fired from the *Nelson*, found its way into, and occasioned some consternation and damage at St. Kilda.

„ 11.—Fatal railway accident at the Barnawartha station, on the Wodonga line whereby a gatekeeper and his wife lost their lives, by being run over in an attempt to open a gate in front of an approaching train.



- Nov. 12.—Sir Harry St. George Ord, R.E., C.B., Governor of Western Australia, arrived at Freemantle.
- „ 13.—His Excellency the Governor received and replied to an address from the Legislative Council on the Payment of Members question.
- „ 19.—A number of salmon ova, imported by the Hon. Sir Samuel Wilson, M.L.C., hatched out at Ercildoun.
- „ 20.—Oakleigh and Goulburn Valley Railway Bills amended in the Legislative Council, with memorandum appended, stating reasons for amendments.
- „ 21.—Additional Estimates, including a sum of £18,025 for payment of members, submitted by the Government to Parliament.
- Mr. J. F. Levien, M.L.A. for Barwon, unseated on petition by the Elections and Qualifications Committee. The seat was subsequently awarded to Mr. J. Ince.
- Adoption by Legislative Council of report of select committee appointed to reply to Legislative Assembly as to its privileges.
- „ 22.—Site of St. Paul's Church, Swanston street, decided upon by the Anglican Church Assembly for the erection of their new Cathedral.
- „ 24.—Completion of the Coliban Water Supply Scheme.
- „ 27.—Opening of the New South Wales Parliament.
- The Forts and Armaments Bill laid aside by the Legislative Council, on the ground of privilege.
- Public meeting at the Town Hall, convened for the purpose of making arrangements for the presentation of a testimonial to Sir Redmond Barry, and attended by the leading men of Melbourne.
- “Payment of Members” debate opened in the Legislative Assembly; General Supplementary Estimates also dealt with; strong opposition manifested to the £20,000 goldfields vote.
- Australasian Statistics for 1876 issued.
- „ 28.—Second reading of International Exhibition Bill negatived in the Legislative Council by 28 votes to 6.
- Barwon Election Report referred back to the Elections and Qualifications Committee on the ground of vagueness in the decision.
- „ 29.—Writs taken out against members of the Legislative Council by Mr. J. Palmer, of Ballarat, claiming penalties amounting to £252,000, for alleged illegal sitting and voting in that Chamber.
- The sum of £6,548 voted by the Assembly for the destruction of sharks caught and paid for since March last.
- Dec. 1.—Completion of overland telegraph to Eucla; 2,046 miles of line available between Adelaide, S.A., and Perth, W.A.
- „ 4.—Payment of Members Bill introduced into the Assembly. The Honorable Graham Berry, the Premier, insisted upon retaining the vote on the Estimates pending the progress of the Bill.
- Wreck of the A.S.N. Co.'s s.s. *Florence Irving*, at Port Stephens, with the loss of one life.
- Copy of despatch from Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor, on the defences of the colony, laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly. The despatch urged that the reports of Sir W. Jervois, Commodore Hoskins, and others, deserved the most serious consideration.
- „ 5.—Payment of Members Bill passed in the Legislative Assembly.
- Legislative Council's amendments in the Oakleigh and Goulburn Valley Railway Bills disagreed with by the Assembly.
- The grape disease, “*phylloxera vastatrix*,” made its appearance in the Geelong vineyards.
- Resignation of the Robertson Ministry, N.S.W.
- Death of His Honor R. W. Pohlman, Chief Judge of County Courts, aged 66.

Dec. 8.—Offer of the Harbor Trust Commissioners to Sir John Coode, to report on works necessary for direct communication between Melbourne and Hobson's Bay, &c., accepted by that gentleman.

Telegraphic communication completed with Western Australia. Line opened to Albany.

„ 11.—Payment of Members Bill negatived in the Legislative Council by 18 votes to 8.

Sir C. G. Duffy, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, created K.C.M.G.

„ 12.—Refusal by the Legislative Assembly to strike out the payment of members item (£18,025) from the Appropriation Bill—majority 25.

„ 18.—New Ministry formed in New South Wales, under Mr. Farnell's leadership.

„ 20.—Appropriation Bill laid aside in the Legislative Council by an unanimous House.

Tariff proposals passed in the Legislative Assembly.

Failure of the conference between the two Houses of Parliament on the subject of the Oakleigh and Goulburn Valley lines.

The following Acts of Parliament received the Royal Assent and became law :—National Insurance Company of Australasia Extension of Powers Act; Beechworth Waterworks Amendment Act; Regulation of Mines Statute 1877; Diseases in Stock (Continuation) Act; Fences Statute (Continuation) Act; Metropolitan Gas Company's Act 1878; Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company's Act 1877; Extradition Act of Victoria 1877; Waterworks Act Amendment Act 1877; Friendly Societies' Act 1877; Railway Loan Appropriation (Surveys) Act; Explosives Act 1877.”

The claim of Mr. Doran, contractor for the Inglewood and Sandhurst Railway, for £4,000 compensation from the Railway Department, allowed in the Assembly.

Adjournment of Legislative Assembly to the 5th February 1878.

„ 21.—Adjournment of Legislative Council to 8th January 1878.

„ 22.—H.M.C. S.S. *Cerberus* ordered to be put upon a war footing.

„ 24.—Return of Mr. R. Murray Smith, for Boroondara, with a majority of 253 over his opponent, Mr. J. H. Knipe.

„ 28.—Sir William Jervois arrived in Melbourne, from Adelaide, *en route* Tasmania.

The Bishops of Melbourne and Ballarat left Melbourne by R.M.S.S. *Siam*, to assist at the consecration of St. Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide.

„ 31.—Result of subscriptions to the Indian Famine Relief Fund received throughout the colonies :—Victoria, £28,200; New South Wales, £16,000; New Zealand, £16,000; South Australia, £10,700; Tasmania, £3,875; and Queensland, £2,500.