

TABLE OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS IN 1874.

- Jan. 1.—On and after this day a uniform postage rate of 2d. was charged on letters (under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) sent to other Australian colonies or New Zealand.
- „ 2.—Extensive bush fires, chiefly in the Western district; much damage done in the Ballarat district near the Smythesdale reservoir, at Merino Downs, at Coleraine and Penshurst, at the Plenty Ranges, and about the Yan Yean locality.
- „ 3.—Fire at Pentridge Penal Establishment, believed to be caused by the incendiary act of a prisoner; £3,000 worth of damage done.
- „ 8.—Minister of Lands visited the Loddon district to enquire into a number of disputed cases regarding reserves and private lands.
- „ 13.—The Hon. W. J. T. Clarke, M.L.C., died, leaving real and personal estate in this and other Australian colonies estimated to be of the value of two millions and a half sterling.
- „ 14.—Three shocks of earthquake reported to have been felt at South Yarra. Victorian Military Force (Army) List first published, at the Government Printing Office.
- „ 24.—Telegram received in Melbourne announcing the marriage, at St. Petersburg, of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh to the only daughter of the Emperor of Russia, on the 23rd.
Dispute between the Lothair Company and the Clunes Miners' Association settled.
- „ 25.—Arrival in the Bay, by the ship *Shannon*, of the new clock for the Town Hall tower, the same being a gift to the citizens of Melbourne from Mr. V. Condell, now resident in England, son of the first Mayor of the city.
- „ 26.—Telegram received here announcing the death of Dr. Livingstone, the great African traveller, as having occurred in the previous June.
- „ 29.—The Alfred Graving Dock at Williamstown completed.
- „ 31.—Memorial stone of the new Trades Hall and Literary Institute, Carlton, laid by Mr. John Curtain, M.P.
- Feb. 2.—Border Treaty being abrogated, the collection of Border duties was resumed on the frontier separating Victoria and New South Wales.
- „ 5.—Riots at Launceston (Tasmania), in consequence of levying for the railway rates.
- „ 6.—The late Mr. W. J. T. Clarke's will proved; the Victorian property sworn at £1,510,000; amount of succession duty estimated at £37,550.
Land Board held at Benalla, to enquire into charges of extensive dummyism.
Church of England Assembly passed a bill constituting Victoria a province, and dividing the same into two dioceses—Melbourne and Ballarat.
- „ 9.—Explosion of a box containing nitro-glycerine, by which Messrs. Reynolds and English, of the well-known carrying firm, were injured, Mr. Reynolds fatally. A person named Green subsequently arrested on a charge of having placed the package on the premises with intent to do grievous bodily harm.
The Governor and the Minister of Lands visited Gippsland, to examine the country.
- „ 20.—Telegram received announcing the resignation of the Gladstone Ministry in England and the formation of a Conservative Government under the leadership of Mr. Disraeli.

- Feb. 21.—Sir James McCulloch and the Hon. John O'Shanassy made Knights Commanders of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (K.C.M.G.).
- „ 26.—The Anglican Bishop of Melbourne (Dr. C. Perry) left the colony for England.
- Mar. 2.—H.M.C.S. *Nelson* floated into the Alfred Graving Dock.
- „ 6.—Mr. Arthur Wells appointed Acting Engineer-in-Chief of the Victorian Railways during the absence, on leave, of Mr. Thos. Higinbotham from the colony.
- „ 9.—Parliament dissolved by proclamation.
Chief Secretary (Mr. Francis) published his address to the electors of Richmond, announcing Reform of the Constitution Act as the only issue he intended to submit to the country.
- „ 18.—The Melbourne Meat-preserving Company suspended operations, in consequence of the scarcity and high price of stock.
Mr. Justice Molesworth delivered judgment in the great will case, *re* Patrick Coady Buckley, deceased, refusing probate to the will set up by Thomas Maher, who was subsequently charged with forgery and perjury.
- „ 27.—Mr. Justice Williams retired from the Bench after twenty-three years' service ; his resignation to take effect on 15th April.
- „ 30.—Occupation and Compilation Branches came into operation in the Lands Department.
- „ 31.—Revenue returns for the four quarters ended with this date show the largest amount yet attained in one year—£4,021,115.
- Apr. 3.—Telegram received announcing the cession of Fiji to England by King Cakobau.
- „ 14.—A Central Board appointed for management of State Forests.
- „ 16.—Death of Mr. John Goodman, Official Assignee, one of the elective members of the first legislative body of representatives in the colony, and for a short time in the Ministry as Commissioner of Customs.
- „ 21.—Sir C. G. Duffy left for Europe by the R.M.S. *Baroda*.
Melancholy accident to two young lads at Portland, each losing both his arms through being drawn into the machinery of a bark mill which they were attending. A public subscription, amounting to nearly £4,000 (to which the children in the State schools throughout the country largely contributed), subsequently raised for the support of the unfortunate boys.
Extensive fire in Collins street on premises of Detmold and Co.; over £20,000 worth of property destroyed.
- „ 22.—The turret ship of war *Cerberus* taken into the Graving Dock.
- „ 24.—Life Assurance Companies Act came into operation.
- „ 25.—Mr. J. W. Stephen appointed a puisne judge of the Supreme Court, and succeeded as Attorney-General by the Solicitor-General, Mr. G. B. Kerferd.
- May 1.—General reduction of fares on Government railways, except on the Williamstown and Essendon lines.
- „ 3.—Melbourne created a Roman Catholic archbishopric under the Most Rev. Dr. Goold, for many years bishop ; Ballarat and Sandhurst at the same time made Roman Catholic bishoprics, the Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor and the Right Rev. Dr. Crane being appointed to the respective sees.
- „ 6.—Arrival of the s.s. *Northumberland*, after a passage of 50 days 18 hours, just 4 four months and 24 days since her departure from this port, inclusive of detention in London and loading again.

- May 9.—Mr. W. H. Archer, Registrar-General, accepted the office of Secretary of Lands, and officially appointed on the 11th; Mr. Richard Gibbs, one of the Examiners of Titles, appointed Registrar-General, and a new department (that of the Government Statist) established under Mr. H. H. Hayter, for many years head of the Statistical Branch of the Registrar-General's department.
- „ 13.—The Supreme Court (Appellate Jurisdiction) gave judgment in *Winter v. The Queen*, and *McMillan v. The Queen*, reversing a decision of Mr. Justice Molesworth, and declaring that it rests with the Board of Land and Works to pronounce upon the sufficiency of improvements on land under the certificate clauses of the Acts of 1862 and 1865.
- „ 19.—The new Parliament opened by Commission with the usual formalities; Captain Mac Mahon again elected Speaker.
- „ 20.—The Governor read his speech to the two Houses.
- „ 21.—Great sale of prime short-horn and Hereford cattle at Messrs. Robertson's estate, Corangamoorah, near Colac, realizing £11,456, or over £55 12s. as the average price per head.
Agricultural Statistics of 1873-74 published.
- „ 23.—Death of Dr. Greeves, who had from the early years of the colony taken a prominent part in social and political movements. He was several times a member of the Legislature, and was a member of the first O'Shanassy and Nicholson Ministries.
Wreck of the ship *British Admiral* on King's Island; 79 of the passengers and crew lost.
- „ 24.—The pilot cutter *Corsair* wrecked on the Nepean Reef.
- „ 25.—Queen's birthday celebrated. Governor held levee at the Town Hall. Volunteer troops reviewed in Albert Park. A fire brigade demonstration and torchlight procession also took place.
- June 1.—South Channel of Port Phillip lighted up for the first time. The R.M.S. *Nubia* passed through (inwards) at midnight.
- „ 2.—The Chief Secretary (Mr. Francis) moved second reading of the Constitution Act Amendment Bill.
- „ 3.—The Minister of Lands, after hearing counsel for the occupant of Tullagaroopna run and his family (selectors), ordered forfeiture of selections and of the pastoral license.
- „ 6.—Arrival of the s.s. *Tom Morton* and the s.s. *Jason*, pioneers respectively of the Eastern and Australian Mail Steamship Co., and the Netherlands-India Steam Navigation Co.—the first-named from Hong Kong, Singapore and Batavia, Somerset and Brisbane; and the *Jason* from Batavia *viâ* Adelaide.
- „ 16.—Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending 30th June 1875 laid upon table of the Legislative Assembly.
- „ 20.—Fourth and last day of the second trial of Augustus Ruperti Green, on a charge of murdering Mr. M. Reynolds by explosion of nitro-glycerine. Verdict, "Not guilty."
- „ 27.—Second reading of Constitution Act Amendment Bill carried by 48 votes against 28. It was remarkable that only one member of the Assembly was absent from the division.
- „ 29.—Incendiary fire at the West Coast Hotel, corner of Queen street and Little Bourke street; the landlord arrested, and subsequently convicted of arson.
- July 1.—Charges for Yan Yean water supply (householders' consumption) reduced one-third.
Extensive fire at Messrs. Owen, Dudgeon, and Arnell's tobacco factory, Lonsdale street west.

- July 8.—Opening of the Castlemaine and Dunolly line of railway as far as Maryborough.
Death of Mr. M. M. Pope, M.L.A.
- „ 11.—Opening of the first section ($11\frac{1}{4}$ miles) of the Ballarat and Maryborough line, as far as Creswick.
Publication here of the Official Report to the Commissioners of H.M. Customs (London) on the alcoholic strength of the 144 samples of colonial wines at the International Exhibition of 1873.
- „ 18.—Robber (whose identity has not been established) shot dead at Ballan whilst engaged in a murderous attack upon Mr. Densley, whom he had wounded very severely. Verdict of coroner's jury, "Justifiable homicide."
- „ 21.—Constitution Act Amendment Bill passed third reading by 35 votes against 33.
- „ 26.—Coggia's comet first seen in Victoria from Wilson's Promontory, Point Lonsdale, and the suburbs of Melbourne.
- „ 27.—Thomas Maher, the claimant of the Buckley estate, died in the Melbourne Gaol while awaiting trial for forgery and perjury.
- „ 28.—Resignation of the Francis Ministry, consequent upon the failure of the Premier's health. The Attorney-General, Mr. G. B. Kerferd, charged with the construction of a new Cabinet.
Coggia's comet well observed at the Melbourne Observatory with the large telescope and the 5 feet equatorial.
- „ 31.—Mr. Kerferd formed a Ministry, he holding the offices of Premier and Attorney-General; Mr. Service, Treasurer, in place of Mr. Langton, resigned; with Mr. McDermott for Solicitor-General, and Mr. Ramsay Postmaster-General.
- Aug. 1.—Extraordinary suicide by a boy six years of age, at Green Hills, Wodonga, by shooting himself through the heart. He had been accused of stealing a valueless pipe.
- „ 6.—Fatal mining accident at Malmsbury; one man killed, and another much injured.
- „ 11.—Debentures under the last Loan Act for £1,500,000 sent to England by R.M.S. *Pera*.
First section ($28\frac{1}{2}$ miles) of the Ballarat and Ararat Railway opened for traffic from Ballarat to Beaufort.
- „ 17.—First day of the National Agricultural Society's Show, at the society's grounds on the St. Kilda road; followed on succeeding days by a sale, at which many valuable horses changed hands, some at very high prices.
- „ 27.—The Treasurer made his financial statement for the year 1874–75.
The Government terminated the contract with Messrs. Evans and Christopherson for forming the new aqueduct for the Yan Yean.
- „ 30.—A slight shock of earthquake felt in several places about Melbourne, at Brighton, and in the Harkaway Ranges near Berwick.
- „ 31.—The new clock at the Town Hall first set going; dial illuminated at night.
- Sept. 3.—Judge Bindon, as a special Land Commissioner, held an enquiry at Sale into charges of extensive dummyism in that district.
- „ 5.—Mr. Parkes, Chief Secretary of New South Wales, arrived on a visit to Melbourne.
Mr. Carter, Commissioner of Titles, retired from office.
- „ 9.—Lady Bowen and family left the colony for England by the R.M.S. *Nubia*.
- „ 10.—Chief Secretary of New South Wales made the journey from Melbourne to Sydney (including stoppages to change horses between the railway lines of the two colonies) in $45\frac{3}{4}$ hours.

- Sept. 10.—The Coliban Water Scheme completed. Castlemaine presently reported to be well supplied.
- „ 12.—The E. and A. M. S. *Jeddah* cleared out and sailed in the night for Sydney to avoid contributing to general average claimed on account of the cargo having been destroyed to save the hull. The ship had been on fire, and, in order to extinguish the fire, she had been scuttled and sunk temporarily in Twofold Bay.
- „ 14.—Capt. Costello, of the U.S. ship *Arcturus* resisted the execution on board of a legal warrant for the arrest of his chief officer. The Victorian policemen put over the ship's side by a “whip” from the yard-arm. Captain subsequently fined £20 for the proceeding.
- „ 21.—The new wharf on south bank of Yarra brought into use. First vessel moored there, the s.s. *Southern Cross*.
- „ 26.—The contract for the renewal of the Australian Wharf completed. Over 50,000 feet of red gum piles, and nearly 2,000,000 superficial feet of sawn wood used in the work. Length of wharf renewed 2,000 feet by 45 feet. A hundred men employed for the last 18 months upon the work.
- „ 27.—Hospital Sunday. Stormy weather, which probably reduced the amount of collection anticipated. Nearly £6,000 gathered from the metropolis and suburbs.
- Oct. 4.—Extraordinary Meteor observed in the Beechworth, Chiltern, and Wagga Wagga districts.
- „ 5.—Telegram received concerning the close of the London Wool Sales for the season. A firm advance had been maintained throughout the series.
- „ 6.—The Victorian Loan for a million and a half announced in London.
- „ 7.—The Hon. Julius Vogel, Premier of New Zealand, arrived in Melbourne, on a temporary visit prior to his voyage to England.
- „ 8.—Second reading of the Customs Duties Alteration Bill carried by 42 votes against 22.
British flag hoisted at Fiji, to mark the annexation of the isles to the British Crown.
- „ 9.—The Legislative Assembly voted £10,000 for the purposes of prospecting for coal and gold.
- „ 13.—Victorian Loan in London only partially successful, £344,300 being the amount taken at and above the stated minimum price of 91 $\frac{3}{8}$.
- „ 15, 16.—Geelong and Western District Agricultural Show held; first two days' show held at Geelong.
- „ 17.—A further portion of the Victorian Loan taken up in London—(£375,200). The balance ultimately withdrawn from the home market and taken up by the Melbourne Banks.
- „ 22.—Judge Bunny appointed Acting Commissioner of Titles.
- „ 27.—In the Legislative Assembly, motion for opening Public Libraries and Museums on Sundays negatived by 39 votes against 25.
- „ 29, 30.—Ballarat Agricultural Show; locally highly successful.
- Nov. 2, 3, 4.—National Agricultural Society held their Annual Show at their grounds on the St. Kilda road; the most successful of the kind ever known in the colony.
- „ 6.—Another atrocious attempt to murder by the convict, Weechurch, at Pentridge; a warder severely wounded by him.
- „ 7.—Government Statist issued a General Report upon the Statistics of the Colony, to be reprinted in pamphlet form for distribution in the Colonies and for transmission to Great Britain.

- Nov. 9.—The Prince of Wales's Birthday celebrated by a review of Volunteer forces on the Melbourne Racecourse and Saltwater River.
The Hon. J. G. Francis resigned his seat for Richmond, preparatory to leaving for England for the benefit of his health.
- „ 16.—Railway opened from Creswick to Clunes.
- „ 18.—Mr. S. Ramsden opened a second Mill for the manufacture of Paper.
- „ 21.—The Hon. J. G. Francis and family left for London in the ship *Renown*.
- „ 30.—An earthquake shock experienced in the Gippsland district.
- Dec. 1.—Death of Mr. Matthew Hervey, long connected with pastoral pursuits, and at one time a prominent member of the Legislative Council.
- „ 3.—Important and extensive sale of city property (the Fleming estate); amount realized, over £75,000; as much as £400 per foot paid for small frontages of 36 ft. in Collins street.
- „ 6.—Destructive thunderstorm, very general over the colony; much damage done.
- „ 8.—Mr. J. Bosisto elected member for Richmond, in place of the Honorable J. G. Francis.
Telegrams concerning London Wool Sales note a fall of 1d. to 3d. in inferior and faulty sorts; sound fleece reputed to be scarce and comparatively firm.
- „ 9.—Transit of Venus well observed from several appointed stations in the colony.
The Premier announced in Parliament the receipt of a telegram stating that O'Ferrall, the Crown Lands Office defaulter, had been arrested at Singapore.
Arrest of the notorious New Zealand murderer, Sullivan, at Inglewood; subsequently remanded in custody to be transhipped to New Zealand.
- „ 10.—Death of Mr. W. P. Wilson, professor of mathematics at the Melbourne University.
- „ 12.—Arrival of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, and the newly appointed Roman Catholic Bishop of Ballarat (Dr. O'Connor), by the R.M.S. *Pera*.
The Hon. Samuel Wilson, of Ercildoun, presented £30,000 to the Melbourne University, for the purpose of adding a suitable hall to the buildings.
- „ 15.—Death of Wm. Hull, Esq., in his 80th year; during his 34 years' residence in the colony he had taken an active part in public affairs, and was for some time one of the representatives of the Central Province in the Legislative Council.
- „ 17.—Definitely settled by the two Governments that the dispute respecting the boundary line between South Australia and Victoria shall be referred to the Privy Council.
- „ 21.—Committee appointed for the Intercolonial Exhibition to be held in Melbourne in August 1875.
- „ 21-23.—The Minister of Lands heard appeals from selectors charged with dummyism in the Echuca district.
- „ 23.—The Supreme Court decided, in the action for false imprisonment, *Casey v. Candler*, that a Coroner's Court is a Court of Record, and that if there was an irregularity in the order for imprisonment, the Coroner was not answerable for it. Plaintiff, a medical witness, had been committed to prison for a contempt of court.
- „ 24.—Parliament prorogued until the 1st February. The Royal Assent given to fifteen measures, including the Judicature Bill, the Local Government Bill, the Payment of Members Bill, the Building Societies Bill, the Neglected and Criminal Children Bill, the Customs Act Amend-

ment Bill, and the Appropriation Bill. The following measures had during the session been lost :—Constitution Act Amendment Bill, abandoned by Government; and the following, thrown out in the Upper House :—Mining on Private Property Bill, the Criminal Law and Practice Statute Amendment Bill, and the Land Act Amendment Bill.

Dec. 25.—Arrival of the s.s. *St. Osyth* from London after a run of 47½ days from Plymouth.

„ 31.—His Excellency Sir G. F. Bowen left for England by the R.M.S. *Ceylon*, Sir Redmond Barry (in the absence of the Chief Justice) becoming Acting Governor (the Officer Administering the Government).

Tolls done away with on the Murray Bridge connecting Wodonga with Albury.

The first Protestant Bishop of Ballarat (Dr. Thornton) appointed in England.
