



# Victorian Year-Book 1954-58

## PART II.

### LAND SETTLEMENT; AGRICULTURE; PASTORAL AND DAIRYING; FORESTRY.

#### LAND AND SETTLEMENT.

The total area of the State is 56,245,760 acres. On 31st December, 1957, this comprised:—

	Acres.
Lands alienated in fee-simple .. .. .	31,126,779
Lands in process of alienation .. .. .	2,226,213
Crown lands .. .. .	22,892,768
Total .. .. .	56,245,760

The Crown lands comprise:—

Permanent Forests (under <i>Forests Act</i> ) .. .. .	4,818,602
Timber reserves (under <i>Forests Act</i> ) .. .. .	712,523
State Forest and timber reserves (under <i>Land Act</i> ) .. .. .	169,302
Water reserves .. .. .	317,656
Reserves in the Mallee .. .. .	410,000
Other reserves .. .. .	552,773
Roads .. .. .	1,667,649
Water frontages, beds of rivers, lakes, &c., unsold land in cities, towns, and boroughs .. .. .	3,846,841
Land in occupation under—	
Perpetual leases .. .. .	59,671
Leases of former agricultural college lands .. .. .	27,327
Other leases and licences .. .. .	19,824
Temporary grazing licences and leases .. .. .	5,743,831
Unoccupied .. .. .	4,546,769
Total .. .. .	22,892,768

**Alienation of Land.** In the following table are shown the area of Crown lands sold absolutely and conditionally, and the area of lands alienated in fee-simple during the three years 1955-57. A portion of the area conditionally sold reverts to the Crown each year in consequence of the non-fulfilment of conditions by the selectors. The lands alienated each year include areas selected in previous years:—

VICTORIA—ALIENATION OF CROWN LANDS, 1955  
TO 1957.

Year ended 31st December—	Area of Crown Lands Sold.			Crown Lands Alienated In Fee-simple.	
	Absolutely, at Auction, &c.	Conditionally to Selectors.	Total.	Area.	Purchase Money.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£
1955 .. ..	1,637	..	1,637	129,796	144,570
1956 .. ..	3,475	4,901	8,376	96,010	130,775
1957 .. ..	2,070	1,120	3,190	123,726	141,545

**Transfer of Land Act.** The "Torrens System", whereby a person becomes registered as the proprietor of land by means of a Certificate of Title, indefeasible and guaranteed by the State, was introduced into Victoria in 1862. The system has been the means of simplifying procedure in, and reducing the cost of dealing in real estate, and gives a title to the registered owner free of any latent defect. The original Crown grant or subsequent Certificate of Title in lieu thereof issues through the Titles Office.

In order to bring under the *Transfer of Land Act* land that was alienated by the Crown prior to 1862 (5,142,321 acres), application must be made accompanied by the deeds in the claim of title or, if adverse possession is relied on, strict proofs of the applicant's interest in the property. During 1958 there were submitted 353 such applications in respect of land amounting in area to 2,872 acres, and in value to £2,815,476; while the land actually brought under the Act as a result of applications was 3,670 acres valued at £1,843,754. Up to the end of 1958 there had been brought under the Act 3,332,534 acres valued at £81,319,339. The area of land still under the Old Law System at the end of 1958 was 1,809,787 acres. A summary of dealings under the *Transfer of Land Acts* will be found in part "Private Finance" of the *Year-Book*.

**Assurance  
Fund.**

In granting an application to bring land under the *Transfer of Land Act* 1958, the Registrar is concerned to issue an indefeasible title save as to certain matters such as fraud, public rights of way, or other overriding interests set out in section 42 of the Act.

In order to indemnify the Government against claims for loss or damage by reason of bringing land under the Act, an Assurance Fund has been constituted out of which successful claims are paid. Contributions to that Fund consist of payments by the applicants of not more than  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ on the value of the land applied for. During 1957-58 receipts of the Fund comprised contributions, £6,057, and interest on stock, £3,269. No claims were made during the year. The sum of £5,095 was paid out in accordance with section 3 of the *Special Funds Act* 1920 to provide for the interest on loan moneys expended on University buildings. The balance at the credit of the Assurance Fund on 30th June, 1958, was £141,271. The amount paid up to 30th June, 1958, as compensation and for judgements recovered, including costs, was £12,839 in respect of 96 claims.

## DISCHARGED SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT.

**Soldier  
Settlement  
Commission.**

The *Soldier Settlement Act* 1945, No. 5107, *inter alia*, (a) authorized the ratification of an agreement between the State of Victoria and the Commonwealth of Australia relating to the settlement on land of discharged members of the forces; (b) provided for the constitution of a Soldier Settlement Commission consisting of three members to administer soldier settlement and the appointment of the necessary officers and employees of the Commission and local advisory committees; (c) provided for the raising of £15,000,000 towards soldier settlement and the application thereof; (d) prescribed the powers and functions of the Commission relating to the acquisition and setting apart of land for purposes of soldier settlement; (e) provided for the valuation of land and the determination of disputed claims for compensation; and (f) set out the general duties of the Commission as to the settlement of discharged soldiers on the land and the advances to such soldiers.

The *Soldier Settlement (Amendment) Act* 1946, No. 5133, (a) extended the powers of the Commission to subdivide land by enabling the setting aside of portions of the land for public purposes and the disposal of unsuitable portions; (b) provided for the appointment of assessors, two of whom will sit with the judge during hearings of disputed claims for compensation; and (c) extended the power of the Commission to make advances to discharged soldiers to include the making of "advances in kind" of stock, implements, and equipment.

Section 41 of the principal Act imposed the duty on the Commission to recommend such other legislation considered to be necessary or expedient in order to give effect to the War Service Land Settlement Agreement. The performance of this duty resulted in the *Soldier Settlement Act* 1946, No. 5179, which (a) legislated in detail for the subdivision of lands acquired for soldier settlement and the settling of discharged soldiers thereon; (b) authorized the making of advances to discharged soldiers in connexion with single-unit farms and for "carrying-on" expenses and for the purchase of stock, plant, equipment, &c.; and (c) contained miscellaneous administrative provisions and made consequential amendments to the Soldier Settlement Acts.

In October, 1951, the Soldier Settlement Acts were amended by Parliament. The amendment, in brief, increased the Loan Raising Authority for Soldier Settlement purposes, authorized the Registrar-General and the Registrar of Titles to make notations on memorials and titles that land has been vested in the Crown, and increased the rate of interest to be credited to amounts paid to Settlers' and Mortgagors' Credit accounts, from 2 per cent. per annum to a rate equal to that payable on Commonwealth Government bonds of the longest term appertaining to the last Commonwealth loan raised before the 30th June in each financial year.

The *Land Settlement Act* No. 5768 of 1953, which became operative from 1st July, 1954, made provision for a land settlement scheme which is not limited to registered ex-servicemen and which will enable the settlement on land of suitable applicants with farming experience who otherwise may not have the opportunity of becoming farmers in their own right. The Act, which is administered by the Soldier Settlement Commission, also contained certain amendments to existing soldier settlement legislation, such amendments including a provision to increase the maximum advance to assist a discharged soldier purchase a single-unit farm to £9,000.

**Land Acquired.** To 30th June, 1958, the Commission had acquired by voluntary negotiation or compulsory acquisition land as follows:—

	Aces.	Price Paid. £
Land acquired prior to 1st July, 1957	1,093,106	16,385,887
Land acquired 1st July, 1957, to 30th June, 1958	67,898	2,125,347
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	1,161,004	18,511,234

In addition to the land acquired, 119,663 acres of Crown land have been set apart for settlement purposes to 30th June, 1958.

In order to maintain production from acquired properties, it is the policy of the Commission to lease the land back to the vendors or to other suitable tenants pending subdivision and allocation to settlers.

**Applications for Land.** To 30th June, 1958, 16,664 ex-servicemen had lodged applications for classification as to eligibility and suitability. Of this number, 15,319 have appeared before Classification Boards with the following results:—

Suitable for farm ownership	.. .. .	11,236
Suitable for further training	.. .. .	1,579
Unsuitable, withdrawn, deferred, and ineligible	.. .. .	2,504
		15,319

**Land Allocated.** Of the land acquired and set apart, 1,084,114 acres have been subdivided into 2,852 holdings. These holdings were made available for application and to 30th June, 1958, 2,828 holdings, comprising 1,071,977 acres, have been allocated.

**Development of Holdings.** The War Settlement Land Agreement provides that the State shall, *inter alia*, develop and improve land to a stage when it can be brought into production within a reasonable time. This work envisaged the erection of residences; fencing and improvements; clearing; provision of water points; pasture improvement; planting of orchards, vineyards, &c.; construction of roads; and arrangements for electricity supply if available. During 1957-58, 192 new houses were built and 33 existing ones renovated. A total of 2,592 new houses has now been handed over for occupation by settlers and 166 existing houses have been renovated.

Close co-operation exists between the Commission, the Country Roads Board, and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission in connexion with the construction of necessary roads and the lay-out of irrigation farms, &c.

**Single-unit Farms.** Financial assistance afforded to ex-servicemen to enable them to purchase farms of their own choosing is solely a State responsibility and is outside the terms of the War Service Land Settlement Agreement. The evidence to date shows that this form of rehabilitation has resulted in the settlement of more ex-servicemen than would have been physically possible if soldier settlement in Victoria had been confined to that provided under the agreement mentioned.

Financial assistance amounting to £11,497,047 has been approved for 2,804 ex-servicemen. In addition, advances were approved in some 212 cases where the applicants did not proceed with their purchases. As advances of up to 90 per cent. of the Commission's valuations of the farms are provided under the Act, it is expected that some losses must be incurred, but up to date the State has not been involved in any capital losses.

**Commonwealth Agricultural Loans and Allowances.** The Commission as agent for the Commonwealth Government administers the *Re-Establishment and Employment Act* 1945 as far as it relates to the granting of agricultural loans and allowances. Loans are limited to £1,000 in each case and all capital is provided and administrative expenses are borne by the Commonwealth Government.

Loans totalling £1,796,787 were made to 2,970 ex-servicemen up to the year ended 30th June, 1958. Of this amount £1,557,795 had been repaid.

## IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT.

**General.** The State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, which was constituted by the Victorian *Water Act* of 1905, is responsible for the development of practically the whole of the water resources of the State, exclusive of the area controlled by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. The Commission's activities include the supply of water for irrigation, for domestic and stock purposes, and for urban systems; flood protection and drainage works; river improvement works; and sewerage in country cities and towns.

At the 30th June, 1958 the storages controlled by the Commission had a combined capacity of 4,977,850 acre feet. Of this figure, 802,420 acre feet was Victoria's share of the River Murray storages, the water from which is shared with New South Wales and South Australia.

Water from these storages was used primarily to irrigate 1,001,800 acres of land, mainly in the valleys of the Goulburn and Murray rivers with 1,603,790 acre feet of water. Another large undertaking is the supply of water for domestic and stock purposes to more than 11,000 square miles of the Wimmera and Mallee.

In addition, the Commission was responsible at 30th June, 1958 for the supply of water to 297 towns with a population of 719,600 persons, while the supervision of sewerage systems in the rural areas—approximately a third of the non-metropolitan population being served—is another important function.

**VICTORIA—STATE EXPENDITURE AND LOAN LIABILITY  
OF WATERWORKS\* TO 30TH JUNE, 1958.**

Description of Works.	Capital Expenditure to 30th June, 1958.	Loan Redemption Paid, 1958.	Loan Liability at 30th June, 1958.
	£	£	£
Free Headworks .. .. .	1,558,989	3,818	1,555,171
Capital Works and Charges not apportionable to Districts .. .. .	7,877,714	573,983	7,303,731
Headworks Costs not yet apportioned to District Irrigation and Water Supply Districts (inclusive of Headworks Costs) .. .. .	37,356,167	1,604,256	35,751,911
Waterworks Districts (inclusive of Headworks Costs) .. .. .	24,608,553	336,018	24,272,535
Urban Districts (inclusive of Headworks Costs) .. .. .	8,769,118	248,746	8,520,372
Flood Protection and Drainage Districts .. .. .	10,161,577	171,538	9,990,039
Waterworks Trusts and Local Governing Bodies .. .. .	831,725	12,288	819,437
River Improvement Trusts .. .. .	11,665,981	1,238,460	10,427,521
Latrobe Valley Drainage .. .. .	620,057	1,111	624,946
	1,243,934	48,329	1,195,605
Total .. .. .	104,699,815	4,238,547	100,461,268

\* Excluding Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, and the Ballarat Water Commission, particulars of which appear in Part "Local Government" of this issue.

**Storage Capacity.** In 1906, the storages throughout the State had a combined capacity of 280,000 acre feet. At 30th June, 1958 this figure had risen to 4,977,850 acre feet. The additional capacity to be provided by works then under construction—that is, the enlargement of the Hume Reservoir near Albury and Tullaroop Reservoir near Maryborough—will raise the total capacity to 5,596,850 acre feet.

The table below gives the principal storages (excluding those which supply water to Melbourne) at 30th June, 1958.

EXISTING STORAGES—CAPACITY.

	Acre feet	Acre feet
<i>Goulburn System—</i>		
Eildon .. .. .	2,750,000	
Waranga .. .. .	333,400	
Goulburn Weir .. .. .	20,700	
	3,104,100	
<i>Murray-Loddon System—</i>		
Hume .. .. .	691,000*	
Yarrawonga Weir .. .. .	47,560*	
Other Murray storages .. .. .	63,860*	
Kow Swamp .. .. .	40,860	
Cairn Curran .. .. .	120,600	
Other Loddon storages .. .. .	107,350	
	1,071,230	

\* The figures shown for the capacity of the River Murray storages represent Victoria's half share of the total capacity of those storages. Under the River Murray Agreement of 1915, a body representing the Commonwealth and the States of Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia is responsible for the control of the River Murray waters. *Inter alia*, the Agreement provides for the water to be shared equally between New South Wales and Victoria, after setting aside a fixed volume for South Australian needs.



EXISTING STORAGES—CAPACITY—*continued.*

<i>Wimmera-Mallee System—</i>		Acre feet	Acre feet
Rocklands .. .. .		272,000	
Toolondo .. .. .		60,000	
Lake Lonsdale .. .. .		53,300	
Pine Lake .. .. .		52,000	
Other Storages .. .. .		101,600	
			538,900
<i>Gippsland System—</i>			
Glennaggie .. .. .		154,300	154,340*
<i>Other Systems—</i>			
Coliban System .. .. .		62,730	
Werribee-Bacchus Marsh System .. .. .		34,900	
Mornington Peninsula System .. .. .		5,800	
Otway System .. .. .		1,080	
Miscellaneous .. .. .		4,770	
Total capacity of existing Storages ..			4,977,850

\* Includes Service Basins, 40 acre feet.

As mentioned above, further capacity will be provided by the enlargement of the Hume Reservoir to 2,500,000 acre feet and the construction of the Tullaroop Reservoir (60,000 acre feet).

**Irrigation.** At the inception of the Commission in 1905, the area irrigated was estimated at about 105,000 acres, half of this being under native grasses, and the remainder mainly devoted to growing lucerne, cereals and fodder crops. Since that date the area irrigated has grown to the record figure of 1,001,800 acres in 1957-58 which was, however, abnormally dry. The most notable development has been the extensive use of sown pastures since 1925. These now comprise about two-thirds of the area now under irrigation and amounted to 721,000 acres in 1957-58. Another feature has been the five-fold increase in the area of orchards, vineyards and market gardens.

The following table gives details of the distribution and extent of irrigation in the State:—

# STATE RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION

## LANDS UNDER IRRIGATED CULTURE, 1957-58.

System or District.	Area Irrigated (Acres).							Total.
	Pastures.		Lucerne, Sorghum, &c.	Vine- yards.	Orchards.	Market Gardens.	Other.	
	Native.	Sown.						
Goulburn System .. .. .	27,245	334,256	22,216	202	16,338	3,872	20,686	424,815
River Murray System--								
Torrumbarry System .. .. .	36,573	169,349	7,449	4,956	1,287	1,652	9,708	230,974
Murray Valley District .. .. .	6,756	76,777	13,070	22	3,783	624	1,280	102,312
Pumped Supply (a) .. .. .	522	372	682	35,957	2,567	412	628	41,340
Total River Murray .. .. .	43,851	246,698	21,201	40,935	7,637	2,688	11,616	374,626
Other Northern Systems .. .. .	3,973	21,018	3,337	2	3,598	722	5,284	37,934
Werribee-Bacchus Marsh .. .. .	70	5,876	784	..	575	4,268	618	12,191
Gippsland .. .. .	2,195	45,310	1,591	..	..	173	139	49,408
Other Southern Systems .. .. .	..	..	10	..	40	1,403	423	1,876
Private Diversions (b) .. .. .	3,311	68,133	12,960	3,144	4,614	6,690	2,098	100,950
Total .. .. .	80,645	721,291	62,099	44,283	32,802	19,816	40,864	1,001,800

(a) Including the First Mildura Irrigation Trust, an area of 15,000 irrigable acres outside the control of the Commission.

(b) Area authorized to be irrigated. Excludes 38,418 acres irrigated by private diverters in the Torrumbarry System.

Land Settlement, &c.

The value of irrigation to the State is reflected in the production from the irrigation areas. From an area of about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the State comes approximately 15 per cent. of its total primary production. Contrary to popular belief, livestock products contribute nearly two-thirds of the value of this production from 200,000 dairy cattle, 45,000 beef cattle, 50,000 pigs and 1,500,000 sheep and lambs. However, horticulture is also of great importance to the State, notably the vine and citrus areas along the Murray and the canning and fresh fruits in the Goulburn System near Shepparton and a new area near Cobram. Output of canning fruits is normally about two-thirds of the Australian total.

**Supply of Water for Domestic and Stock Purposes.** The Commission controls extensive areas for the supply of water for domestic and stock purposes. The most notable system is that by which more than 11,000 square miles of land in the arid Wimmera and Mallee areas are supplied each year with about 70,000 acre feet of water. This is distributed from the Grampian storages mentioned earlier—Rocklands, Toolondo, Lake Lonsdale, &c.—in the winter time and early spring through 6,500 miles of Commission channels and 3,000 miles of farm channels, into the farmers' dams. The Commission requires every farmer taking water from the system to construct a storage with a capacity of at least 3,000 cubic yards to provide him with enough water for stock and home use.

During 1952-53, Rocklands Reservoir was opened. This storage has a capacity of 272,000 acre feet, 42 per cent. more than the capacity of the system before it was constructed. Toolondo Reservoir, completed in the same year, added a further 60,000 acre feet of capacity, so that the storage capacity available for the Wimmera Mallee System has doubled. Not only will this give greater assurance to domestic and stock users, but it will also permit a small amount of irrigation.

**Urban Supplies.** When the Commission first began its activities, 111 towns outside Melbourne with a population of 260,000 persons had a reticulated water supply. At 30th June, 1958 the following position had been attained:—

	No. of Towns	Populations
Controlled by Commission ..	130	217,620
Controlled by Waterworks Trusts .. .. .	144	391,280
Controlled by Local Governing Bodies .. .. .	23	110,680
	297	719,580

Areas of special importance supplied by the Commission include the City of Bendigo and surrounding towns supplied from the Coliban System; the rapidly expanding Mornington Peninsula; Dandenong, Springvale, and the urban population of 40,000 persons served in the principal towns of the Wimmera and Mallee Districts.

**Sewerage.** When the Commission began its operations, sewerage outside the metropolitan area was unknown. At 30th June, 1958 however, the Commission was controlling the operations of systems in 36 towns with a population of 316,700 persons. This figure is about a third of the population outside Melbourne.

**Drainage and Flood Protection.** Drainage works are important in all irrigation districts, but apart from this aspect of the drainage problem, the most important single work of the Commission is the area of 80,000 acres along the seaboard of Westernport which was once known as the Koo-wee-rup Swamp. This fertile district now yields primary products worth about £2,000,000 annually. Other important works are the Loch Garry and Kanyapella Flood Protection Districts which protect some 60,000 acres of land along the Goulburn River in time of flood, while the drainage of an area of 18,500 acres near Carrum along Port Phillip Bay is also significant.

**River Improvement.** In recent years, interest in river improvement has increased greatly owing to a succession of years with above-average rainfall, and this work cannot fail to grow in importance.

River improvement in Victoria takes two forms. Firstly, there is the work of the River Improvement Trusts which are local bodies with power to levy rates and carry out works with the money so obtained. At 30th June, 1958 there were sixteen of these Trusts in operation—two being Drainage Trusts. Secondly, there is the Rivers and Streams Fund comprising fees paid for the use of river frontage reserves. Grants are made from the fund to subsidize local contributions for works of river improvement. This work is carried out by local bodies such as shire councils.

## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

**Department of Agriculture.** This Department is controlled by the Minister of Agriculture with the Director of Agriculture as Permanent Head. The staff in 1958 comprised 90 administrative, 234 professional and 404 technical officers with an additional 307 employees. The Department is actively engaged in research, advisory and regulatory activities relating to the agricultural, horticultural, dairying and livestock industries of the State.

**Research Stations.** Research and experimental work is conducted at the State Research Farm, Werribee; the Rutherglen Research Station; the Mallee Research Station, Walpeup; Horticultural Research Stations at Tatura, Scoresby and Mildura; the Viticultural Station, Rutherglen; the Potato Research Station, Healesville; the Tobacco Research Station, Myrtleford; the School of Dairy Technology and Dairy Research Institute, Werribee; and the Plant Research Laboratory, Burnley.

A Pasture Research Station and Plant Breeding Centre are also situated at Burnley. Cereal experimental centres are located at Longerenong and Dookie Agricultural Colleges. In recent years, the Department has further established a Dairy Research Station at Ellinbank near Warragul, a pastoral Research Station near Hamilton, and an Irrigation Pasture Research Station at Kyabram. The Animal Husbandry Research Centre is established at Werribee.

Crop and pasture investigations have been initiated at Glenormiston in the Western District. Experimental work and demonstrations are also conducted on numerous selected private farms and orchards throughout Victoria.

The work in progress at the State Research Farm, Werribee, is directed towards the production of improved varieties of wheat, oats, barley, linseed and other crops. Investigations are also being made into soil fertility problems, irrigated pastures and irrigation techniques. At the School of Dairy Technology, the training of dairy-factory operatives, and research and investigation into problems arising in the manufacture of dairy products are also carried out.

The Animal Husbandry Centre at Werribee does research work with sheep, dairy cattle, beef cattle, pigs and poultry. Semen for use in the artificial insemination of dairy cattle is distributed from this centre.

Work at the Rutherglen Research Station, which serves as a research centre for the North-East, includes investigations into various aspects of cereal growing, pasture improvements and fat-lamb raising. It was here that the initial experiments were conducted (1911 to 1918) which

resulted in the widespread practice of topdressing pastures with superphosphate. Cloverley farming was also developed from this centre. The Viticultural Station is attached to Rutherglen Research Station. Work with vines includes wine research work and the development of disease-free root stocks, both at Rutherglen and at the nearby nursery at Wahgunyah.

The Mallee Research Station was established at Walpeup in 1932. In addition to cereal and fat lamb investigations, an important feature of the work at this station is the testing of various species of grasses, clovers and other legumes with a view to developing types especially suitable for Mallee conditions. Special attention is being paid to the problem of sand drift control.

The Horticultural Research Station at Tatura serves as a Research Centre for the investigation of problems associated with canning fruit growing in the Goulburn Valley District. The Research Station at Scoresby is engaged in experimental work associated with fruit and vegetable production under southern Victorian conditions. It is also the centre for cool storage experiments.

The Research Station at Mildura is mainly engaged in investigating problems associated with the citrus-growing industry.

Dairy farm management is the main subject of research work at the Dairy Research Station at Ellinbank near Warragul. The Pastoral Research Station, Hamilton, will investigate sheep, cattle and pasture problems, and the Irrigation Pasture Research Station, Kyabram, will deal with the problems of management of pasture species under irrigation in northern Victoria.

At the Plant Research Laboratory, Burnley, plant pathological and entomological research is undertaken. On the same property, the Pasture Research Station and Plant Breeding Centre deal with pasture problems and the production and testing of new plant species.

Departmental experimental plots on private farms and orchards embrace investigations into pasture improvement and the cultivation of various crops, including cereals, fodder crops, linseed, potatoes, tobacco, maize, fruit and vegetables.

**Agricultural Colleges.** The Dookie and Longerenong Agricultural Colleges provide a three-year course for the Diploma of Agriculture. Accommodation is provided for 130 students at Dookie and 70 at Longerenong. At Dookie a special annex, which was established for training discharged servicemen, is now used for farmers' classes, women's classes and similar short-term instruction.

Burnley College of Horticulture provides a three-year diploma course for 60 to 70 students, leading to the Diploma of Horticulture. This College is non-residential. Night classes and short courses are conducted for fruit and vegetable growers and for other people who wish to extend their knowledge of horticulture. Pruning demonstrations, &c., are also conducted for the public. The experimental kitchen of the fruit preserving section, which serves country women through lectures and demonstrations, is also at Burnley.

The Department's property at Glenormiston is intended ultimately as an agricultural college for specialized training in dairying.

**Advisory  
and Extension  
Services.**

The Department is actively engaged in bringing the results of scientific research and investigation prominently before primary producers to reduce the lag in time between the discovery of new facts and their being put into practice.

Many officers are engaged full-time on advisory duties. These include experts in several branches of animal and crop husbandry, and also district agricultural officers who are stationed in many country districts where they undertake general advisory duties. In addition to these full-time extension officers, some 150 officers including veterinary officers, stock inspectors, dairy supervisors and orchard supervisors, undertake advisory work in conjunction with their inspection duties.

The Department's methods of bringing up-to-date technical information to primary producers include the publication of advisory pamphlets, the holding of farmers' field days, agricultural competitions, lectures and demonstrations. The Department provides a State-wide weekly radio service and has a well equipped film production branch, and operates two mobile film units in country districts.

**Melbourne  
University  
School of  
Agriculture.**

The School of Agriculture at the University of Melbourne for the maintenance of which a special grant is provided by the State, provides a four-year degree course in Agricultural Science. The first year is devoted to pure science. During the second year, students are in residence at the Dookie Agricultural College, where they receive practical farm training as well as lectures on preparatory subjects.

About 200 graduates of this school are employed in the Victorian Department of Agriculture on administration, research and advisory work. The School of Agriculture also carries out research work on special agricultural projects.

**Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization.**

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization was established on 19th May, 1949, when the *Science and Industry Research Act 1949* was proclaimed. Under that Act the organization took the place of the existing Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, which in turn had in 1926 taken the place of the former Institute of Science and Industry.

The powers and functions of the Organization are similar to those of the Council and include the initiation and carrying out of research in connexion with, or for the promotion of, primary and secondary industries in the Commonwealth or any territory of the Commonwealth, or in connexion with any matter referred to the organization by the Minister; the training of research workers; the making of grants in aid of pure scientific research; the testing and standardization of scientific apparatus and instruments, and the carrying out of scientific investigations connected with standardization; the collection and dissemination of information relating to scientific and technical matters; the publication of scientific and technical reports and periodicals; and acting as a means of liaison with other countries in matters of scientific research.

**Bureau of Agricultural Economics.**

The Commonwealth Bureau of Agricultural Economics was established in August, 1945, to meet the need for a Commonwealth research and investigating authority in the fields of agricultural economics and rural policy.

The bureau was developed from the rural division of the Ministry of Post-War Reconstruction in which Department it was first established. In 1946, it was transferred to the Department of Commerce and Agriculture, and became a division of the newly created Department of Primary Industry early in 1956. It comprises the following research sections:—(1) General and Statistics; (2) Agricultural Commodities; (3) Land Use; (4) Wool.

No administrative functions are vested in the bureau. It is specifically a service institution charged with the duty of undertaking fact-finding researches, studying and interpreting the facts and making the results available to all concerned, including Commonwealth and State Departments, semi-governmental and private institutions and individuals.

Reference to the activities of the wool section of the Bureau appears on page 106 of this issue of the *Year-Book*.

## AGRICULTURE.

**Progress of Cultivation.**

In all divisions of the State there are areas suitable for cultivation. In 1957-58 the area cultivated was 5,696,013 acres. This compares with 5,517,164 acres in the previous season, and an annual average of 6,548,054 acres for the seasons 1951-55,



7,346,711 acres for the seasons 1946-50, 5,977,754 acres for the seasons 1941-45, 7,779,443 acres for the seasons 1936-40, 7,739,251 acres for the seasons 1926-35, 6,446,389 acres for the seasons 1916-25, 5,032,359 acres for the seasons 1906-15, and 3,547,111 acres for the seasons 1896-1905.

The following table shows the area under cultivation from period to period during the last 103 years :—

**VICTORIA—ACREAGE CULTIVATED ANNUALLY, 1856 TO 1958.**

Period or Year (ended March).	Annual average area in each decennium, 1856 to 1935, and actual area each year 1936-1958, under—		
	Crop.	Fallow.	Total Cultivation.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1856-65 .. .. .	325,676	12,146	337,822
1866-75 .. .. .	624,377	57,274	681,651
1876-85 .. .. .	1,306,920	137,536	1,444,456
1886-95 .. .. .	2,109,326	364,282	2,473,608
1896-1905 .. .. .	3,022,914	524,197	3,547,111
1906-15 .. .. .	3,756,211	1,276,148	5,032,359
1916-25 .. .. .	4,594,244	1,852,145	6,446,389
1926-35 .. .. .	5,233,894	2,501,357	7,735,251
1936 .. .. .	4,438,761	2,358,777	6,797,538
1937 .. .. .	4,407,312	2,483,163	6,890,475
1938 .. .. .	4,662,354	2,604,556	7,266,910
1939 .. .. .	5,019,299	2,543,225	7,562,524
1940 .. .. .	5,002,362	2,377,405	7,379,767
1941 .. .. .	4,467,191	1,887,418	6,354,609
1942 .. .. .	4,731,712	2,101,360	6,833,072
1943 .. .. .	3,838,415	1,660,171	5,498,586
1944 .. .. .	3,478,889	1,719,363	5,198,252
1945 .. .. .	4,310,152	1,694,097	6,004,249
1946 .. .. .	5,327,122	2,394,032	7,721,154
1947 .. .. .	5,102,980	2,460,350	7,563,330
1948 .. .. .	5,023,149	2,527,306	7,550,455
1949 .. .. .	4,644,841	2,343,685	6,988,526
1950 .. .. .	4,480,202	2,429,888	6,910,090
1951 .. .. .	4,351,220	2,153,611	6,504,831
1952 .. .. .	4,270,512	2,026,965	6,297,477
1953 .. .. .	4,285,770	2,294,891	6,580,661
1954 .. .. .	4,479,568	2,287,090	6,766,658
1955 .. .. .	4,394,451	2,196,192	6,590,643
1956 .. .. .	4,542,096	1,982,742	6,524,838
1957 .. .. .	3,637,352	1,879,812	5,517,164
1958 .. .. .	4,051,249	1,644,764	5,696,013



The following table is a classification of rural holdings in Victoria (including Crown lands held) in which sizes of holdings together with areas under wheat and numbers of stock carried are shown. More detailed information about earlier years appears on page 654 of the 1952-53 and 1953-54 Year-Book.

VICTORIA—SIZE OF HOLDINGS SHOWING AREAS UNDER WHEAT AND STOCK DEPASTURED, MARCH, 1956.

Size of Holdings (Including Crown Lands Held).	Number of Holdings.	Area Occupied.	Wheat 1955-56.	Sheep.	Dairy Cattle.	Beef Cattle.	Pigs.
Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1- 99..	22,095	860,845	3,802	181,445	268,655	25,435	55,758
100- 199..	12,387	1,750,435	13,507	636,536	535,984	53,785	62,665
200- 299..	6,346	1,536,059	19,225	859,495	278,518	58,691	34,064
300- 399..	5,186	1,752,632	61,298	1,312,906	179,258	66,827	20,899
400- 499..	3,344	1,488,982	64,454	1,277,891	98,744	61,857	13,804
500- 999..	11,190	7,887,925	607,475	6,793,088	185,078	231,095	21,999
1,000- 1,399..	3,614	4,256,983	414,042	3,076,428	43,808	99,623	5,829
1,400- 1,999..	2,445	4,041,291	361,697	2,896,267	22,829	83,133	3,006
2,000- 2,999..	1,468	3,505,790	288,140	2,237,791	} 25,880 {	74,912	} 3,577
3,000- 4,999..	908	3,369,086	219,284	1,933,920		65,797	
5,000 and over	545	7,406,447	88,486	2,082,936	7,549	124,581	1,212
Totals ..	69,528	37,856,475	2,141,410	23,288,703	1,646,303	945,736	222,813

The following table shows the annual average area, production, and yield per acre during each decennium, 1855 to 1955, and the actual area, production and yield per acre for the principal crops (excluding vegetables and fruit) during each of the four seasons, 1955-1958 :—

**Principal Crops (Area, Production, and Average Yield).**

**VICTORIA—ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND AVERAGE YIELD  
OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 TO 1958.**

Period or Season.	Wheat.*	Oats.*	Barley.*	Potatoes.	Hay.
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ANNUAL AREA.

	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1855-65 ..	119,001	83,296	4,843	24,123	80,117
1865-75 ..	278,077	129,384	19,262	36,744	117,393
1875-85 ..	776,031	147,343	41,188	39,089	226,775
1885-95 ..	1,236,501	210,901	64,310	48,009	437,087
1895-1905 ..	1,898,280	340,957	52,829	45,243	540,472
1905-15 ..	2,190,336	390,642	60,378	56,272	848,587
1915-25 ..	2,633,945	428,372	84,205	61,195	1,122,978
1925-35 ..	3,268,656	445,987	88,358	65,677	1,057,905
1935-45 ..	2,448,954	493,634	141,836	48,060	982,276
1945-55 ..	2,801,429	582,866	216,131	51,950	709,041
1954-55 ..	2,390,173	644,444	280,595	44,075	739,099
1955-56 ..	2,141,410	871,068	309,111	37,020	879,288
1956-57 ..	1,565,220	612,587	345,282	39,706	781,952
1957-58 ..	1,834,842	622,245	351,744	49,846	870,958

ANNUAL PRODUCTION.

	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1855-65 ..	2,198,874	2,068,648	103,575	62,723	111,806
1865-75 ..	4,385,814	2,636,747	390,337	111,800	153,852
1875-85 ..	8,593,308	3,297,468	799,938	135,614	276,771
1885-95 ..	12,268,905	4,649,393	1,187,007	170,905	547,092
1895-1905 ..	14,032,145	6,649,453	947,580	134,357	672,982
1905-15 ..	22,906,743	7,342,468	1,243,442	158,445	1,084,726

\* For grain.

VICTORIA—ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND AVERAGE YIELD OF FIVE  
PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 TO 1958—*continued.*

Period or Season.	Wheat.*	Oats.*	Barley*	Potatoes.	Hay.
ANNUAL PRODUCTION— <i>continued.</i>					
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1915-25 ..	39,171,358	7,965,864	1,923,654	169,864	1,511,298
1925-35 ..	38,661,077	5,696,134	1,772,099	167,965	1,242,808
1935-45 ..	31,723,840	5,144,194	2,126,636	165,756	1,145,099
1945-55 ..	48,191,192	9,804,889	4,181,696	184,463	1,116,166
1954-55 ..	48,484,543	10,026,742	4,945,720	206,577	1,207,679
1955-56 ..	41,083,071	14,858,117	6,876,861	163,239	1,525,997
1956-57 ..	35,282,188	9,555,123	7,549,140	227,307	1,423,341
1957-58 ..	32,134,257	9,527,653	5,446,991	251,159	1,413,399
AVERAGE ANNUAL YIELD PER ACRE.					
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1855-65 ..	18·48	24·83	21·39	2·60	1·40
1865-75 ..	15·77	20·38	20·27	3·04	1·31
1875-85 ..	11·07	22·38	19·42	3·47	1·22
1885-95 ..	9·92	22·05	18·46	3·56	1·21
1895-1905 ..	7·39	19·50	17·94	2·97	1·25
1905-15 ..	10·46	18·79	20·59	2·82	1·28
1915-25 ..	14·87	18·60	22·84	2·78	1·35
1925-35 ..	11·83	12·77	20·06	2·56	1·17
1935-45 ..	12·95	10·42	14·99	3·45	1·17
1945-55 ..	17·20	16·83	19·35	3·55	1·57
1954-55 ..	20·28	15·55	17·63	4·69	1·63
1955-56 ..	19·19	17·06	22·25	4·41	1·74
1956-57 ..	22·54	15·60	21·86	5·72	1·82
1957-58 ..	17·51	15·31	15·49	5·04	1·62

\* For grain.

**Growers of  
Certain Crops,  
Season  
1957-58.**

The following table shows the numbers of growers of certain primary products, in each statistical district of the State, for the season 1957-58.

The information has no relation to the number of rural holdings in the State, as numbers of occupiers are engaged in the cultivation of more than one of the crops enumerated:—

**VICTORIA—GROWERS OF CERTAIN CROPS—SEASON  
1957-58.**

Crops Grown.	Growers in each Statistical District.								State Total.
	Central.	North-Central.	Western.	Wimmera.	Mallee.	Northern.	North-Eastern.	Gippsland.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
<b>Grain Crops—</b>									
Wheat ..	321	220	517	3,374	2,696	2,582	318	40	10,068
Oats ..	422	341	1,222	2,338	1,558	2,135	484	44	8,544
Barley ..	561	75	318	1,048	1,312	812	62	81	4,269
Maize ..	2	1	1	..	..	2	92	250	348
<b>Hay—</b>									
All kinds ..	5,315	1,970	6,797	2,656	712	5,431	2,956	5,547	31,384
<b>Green Fodder—</b>									
Maize ..	587	43	231	6	5	30	73	725	1,700
Lucerne ..	105	37	71	20	44	74	38	50	439
Millet ..	407	64	247	21	92	554	369	622	2,376
All other ..	340	182	574	13	14	80	73	246	1,522
<b>Other—</b>									
Potatoes ..	2,235	628	966	33	24	40	277	879	5,082
Onions ..	396	..	376	11	13	15	2	21	834
Other Vegetables	1,649	27	254	71	434	685	41	146	3,307
Orchards ..	1,997	176	124	155	1,258	1,032	215	87	5,044
Vineyards ..	6	1	..	11	2,328	94	27	..	2,467
Grass and Clover Seed..	11	23	71	34	11	61	30	7	248
Tobacco ..	..	..	..	..	3	28	138	..	169*
Flax ..	15	2	93	..	..	..	46	16	172

\* Excluding Share-farmers.

**Area Cultivated 1957-58.** A summary of the area under cultivation in each following table:—

### VICTORIA—AREA UNDER CULTIVATION

Districts.	Grain Crops.					Potatoes.	Onions.	Hay (Wheaten, Oaten, Lucerne, Grass, &c.).
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Peas.			
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Central .. ..	10,225	14,549	34,705	12	4,489	26,082	1,810	140,412
North-Central .. ..	9,322	11,781	1,660	4	468	8,016	..	49,574
Western .. ..	21,952	61,827	9,139	1	3,012	7,725	3,350	231,255
Wimmera .. ..	558,693	172,495	83,184	..	65	122	7	69,772
Mallee .. ..	960,482	214,360	180,002	..	25	205	22	20,207
Northern .. ..	256,702	131,331	38,903	17	63	80	42	166,603
North-Eastern .. ..	16,193	14,546	1,767	768	86	1,275	2	74,493
Gippsland .. ..	1,273	1,356	2,384	3,476	94	6,341	135	118,642
Total for State .. ..	1,834,842	622,245	351,744	4,278	8,302	49,846	5,368	870,958

**Yields of Principal Crops.**

The table which follows shows the yields, in Statistical

### VICTORIA—YIELDS OF PRINCIPAL

Districts.	Grain Crops.					Potatoes.
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Peas.	
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.
Central .. ..	273,990	466,185	1,165,643	263	127,429	135,923
North-Central .. ..	206,841	349,584	54,654	170	9,303	31,006
Western .. ..	616,281	2,180,495	358,720	30	115,639	42,625
Wimmera .. ..	13,624,326	2,454,040	1,194,242	..	310	435
Mallee .. ..	12,464,379	1,405,088	1,884,996	..	1,938	559
Northern .. ..	4,513,920	2,183,497	670,924	525	2,771	324
North-Eastern .. ..	402,771	465,876	45,772	25,905	1,364	5,890
Gippsland .. ..	31,749	22,888	72,040	214,871	1,882	34,397
Total for State .. ..	32,134,257	9,527,653	5,446,991	241,764	260,636	251,159

Statistical District of the State for the season 1957-58 is given in the

**FOR THE SEASON 1957-58.**

Flax.	Green Fodder.	Grass and Clover for Seed.	Tobacco.	Vines.	Area Sown to Vegetables (other than Potatoes and Onions).	Orchards.	All Other Crops.	Total Area under Crops.	Land in Fallow.	Total Area under Cultivation.
Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
403	15,354	329	..	8	23,311	24,799	5,399	301,887	52,047	353,934
57	5,604	1,104	..	35	106	2,642	868	91,241	13,311	104,552
3,174	21,378	3,518	..	..	4,305	811	10,960	382,407	39,862	422,269
..	1,131	2,540	..	663	251	4,481	665	894,069	526,931	1,421,000
..	5,469	2,230	55	41,676	3,651	6,079	17,634	1,452,097	763,681	2,215,778
..	12,681	3,701	450	662	5,914	25,215	1,483	643,847	207,713	851,560
1,518	7,083	1,232	2,747	1,723	250	1,787	2,138	127,608	10,751	138,359
398	16,395	209	..	..	2,045	407	4,938	158,093	30,465	188,561
5,550	85,095	14,863	3,252	44,767	39,833	66,221	44,085	4,051,249	1,644,764	5,696,013

Districts, of the principal crops for the season 1957-58 :—

**CROPS FOR THE SEASON 1957-58.**

Onions.	Hay (Wheat, Oaten, Lucerne, Grass, &c.).	Grass and Clover for Seed.	Tobacco.	Wine Made.	Dried Vine-Fruits.		
					Raisins.	Sultanas.	Currants.
Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Gallons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
11,714	233,423	115	..	2,582,492	..	..	..
..	87,581	1,618	..		..	..	..
27,286	411,908	5,306	..		..	..	..
30	81,514	4,504	..		..	..	..
138	17,368	4,495	305		6,128	50,599	4.151
299	235,958	3,771	5,015		3	12	3
12	138,869	572	27,565		..	..	..
1,199	206,778	121	..		..	..	..
40,678	1,413,399	20,502	32,885	2,582,492	6,131	50,611	4,154



The following table shows the area under, the yield from, and the gross value of each of the principal crops in Victoria for the seasons 1957-58:—

VICTORIA—AREA, YIELD, AND GROSS VALUE OF CROPS, 1957-58.

Crop.	Area.	Yield.	Gross Value. (a)
	Acres.		£
<b>Cereals for Grain—</b>			
Barley—			
2 row .. ..	334,076	5,201,308 bushels .. ..	3,153,256
6 row .. ..	17,668	245,683 bushels .. ..	126,985
Maize .. ..	4,278	241,764 bushels .. ..	158,708
Oats .. ..	622,245	9,527,653 bushels .. ..	5,313,252
Rye .. ..	17,807	84,975 bushels .. ..	72,329
Wheat .. ..	1,834,842	32,134,257 bushels .. ..	22,064,910
<b>Hay—</b>			
Barley and Rye .. ..	2,700	3,218 tons .. ..	38,986
Lucerne .. ..	51,622	95,767 tons .. ..	1,517,020
Meadow .. ..	571,847	940,563 tons .. ..	11,569,077
Oaten .. ..	208,724	324,806 tons .. ..	4,183,104
Wheaten .. ..	36,065	49,045 tons .. ..	581,743
<b>Green Fodder .. ..</b>	<b>85,095</b>	<b>.. ..</b>	<b>609,750</b>
<b>Straw .. ..</b>	<b>.. ..</b>	<b>30,000 tons .. ..</b>	<b>228,750</b>
<b>Grass and Clover Seed .. ..</b>	<b>14,863</b>	<b>20,502 cwt. .. ..</b>	<b>286,412</b>
<b>Industrial Crops—</b>			
Broom Millet .. ..	197	845 cwt., fibre .. ..	6,474
Flax .. ..	5,550	589 cwt., seed .. ..	751
Linseed .. ..	4,091	9,923 cwt. .. ..	159,540
Hops .. ..	435	45,946 bushels .. ..	78,558
Mustard .. ..	505	7,689 cwt. .. ..	287,813
Tobacco .. ..	3,252	2,494 cwt. .. ..	19,209
		32,884 cwt. .. ..	1,861,956
<b>Vegetables—</b>			
Onions .. ..	5,368	40,678 tons .. ..	637,581
Potatoes .. ..	49,846	251,159 tons .. ..	3,325,916
Other .. ..	39,833	223,719 tons .. ..	9,167,451
<b>Stock Fodder—</b>			
Grey and Other Field Peas .. ..	8,302	260,636 bushels .. ..	313,741
Pumpkins .. ..	572	2,168 tons .. ..	32,520
Turnips, Beet, &c. .. ..	14,178	36,125 tons .. ..	361,250
<b>Vineyards—</b>			
Grapes—			
Table .. ..	1,964	7,722 tons .. ..	540,540
Wine .. ..	4,347	9,150 tons .. ..	237,631
Drying .. ..	35,778	Wine made 2,582,492 gallons	
		238,298 tons producing—	
		50,611 tons of sultanas .. ..	7,437,286
		6,131 tons of raisins .. ..	784,870
		4,153 tons of currants .. ..	558,561
Vines unproductive .. ..	2,678	.. ..	.. ..
<b>Orchards—</b>			
Productive .. ..	48,392	.. ..	11,743,480
Unproductive .. ..	17,829	.. ..	.. ..
<b>All Other Crops .. ..</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>.. ..</b>	<b>738,596</b>
<b>Total Crops .. ..</b>	<b>4,051,249</b>	<b>.. ..</b>	<b>88,197,856</b>

(a) The gross value is based on the wholesale price realized in the principal markets. The places where primary products are absorbed locally or where they become raw materials for a secondary industry, are presumed to be the principal markets.

## THE GRAIN ELEVATOR SYSTEM FOR THE BULK HANDLING OF WHEAT IN VICTORIA.

The *Grain Elevators Act* 1934 provided for the handling of grain in bulk, for wheat within defined areas to be delivered to elevators, and for the constitution of the Grain Elevators Board. It also empowered the Board to borrow money to the extent that the money owing at any one time shall not exceed £2,000,000 (increased to £4,500,000 by legislation in 1950.)

When a contract for the erection of 45 additional country elevators is completed the scheme will comprise 183 country elevators with a total storage capacity of 25,913,000 bushels serving a terminal at Geelong. That terminal has a storage capacity of 22,050,000 bushels and is designed to receive wheat from railway trucks at the rate of 44,400 bushels per hour and to load into ships at 60,000 bushels per hour.

In addition to the elevators within the scheme, fourteen mill silos are leased by the Board and these provide a further storage capacity of 1,979,000 bushels. The total country storage capacity provided by the Board is 27,862,000 bushels.

Receipts for the seasons 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58 amounted to 37,943,534, 32,292,626 and 28,824,734 bushels, respectively.

The principal wheat-growing areas are in the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern districts. In the season 1957-58 these districts were responsible for 95 per cent. of the total wheat production of the State. Although other districts provided only small proportions of the total area, they are not to be regarded as unsuitable for wheat growing, as their average yield per acre is usually greater than in the areas mentioned. The yield in 1957-58 was 32,134,257 bushels, or an average yield per acre of 17·51 bushels in comparison with an average of 22·54 bushels in 1956-57 and an average of 19·19 bushels in 1955-56. The area sown and the production of wheat for grain in different districts for each of the three seasons, 1956-58, are shown in the following table:—

**Wheat  
Growing in  
Districts.**

VICTORIA—WHEAT AREAS AND YIELDS IN STATISTICAL DISTRICTS FOR THE THREE SEASONS, 1956-1958.

District.	Year ended March—								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1956.	1957.	1958.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1956.	1957.	1958.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bus.	Bus.	Bus.
Central ..	10,256	8,940	10,225	208,339	252,003	273,990	20·31	28·19	26·80
North-Central	10,837	6,125	9,322	187,784	94,787	206,841	17·33	15·48	22·19
Western ..	31,730	9,971	21,952	644,436	165,500	616,281	20·31	16·60	28·07
Wimmera ..	679,507	457,986	558,693	15,764,700	11,794,280	13,624,326	23·20	25·75	24·39
Mallee ..	1,057,182	932,973	960,482	18,307,503	20,668,522	12,464,379	17·32	22·15	12·98
Northern ..	329,678	144,136	256,702	5,637,286	2,234,268	4,513,920	17·10	15·50	17·58
North-Eastern	20,829	4,368	16,193	298,164	54,921	402,771	14·31	12·57	24·87
Gippsland ..	1,391	721	1,273	34,859	17,907	31,749	25·06	24·84	24·94
Total for State	2,141,410	1,565,220	1,834,842	41,083,071	35,282,188	32,134,257	19·19	22·54	17·51

The production of wheat in the other Australian States in 1957-58 was as follows:—New South Wales, 10,603,000 bushels; South Australia, 14,914,000 bushels; Western Australia, 33,100,000 bushels; Queensland, 6,657,000 bushels; and Tasmania, 153,000 bushels. The total production for the Commonwealth was 97,566,000 bushels.

The following statement shows the areas under the principal varieties of wheat, including wheat for hay, for the seasons 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58. Varieties are tabulated in order of popularity for the last-mentioned season. The percentages shown indicate the fluctuation which has taken place amongst the popular varieties.

Over 60 varieties of wheat were sown. A more extended list showing the area and percentage of each variety, and the ten principal varieties grown in the wheat-growing districts, may be obtained on application to the Deputy Commonwealth Statistician and Government Statist:—

VICTORIA—VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN EACH OF THE SEASONS 1955-56, 1956-57 AND 1957-58.

Variety (in order of Popularity, Season 1957-58.)	1955-56.		1956-57.		1957-58.	
	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.
	Acres.		Acres.		Acres.	
Insignia .. .. .	1,072,131	49·31	857,331	54·11	923,903	49·38
Pinnacle .. .. .	537,148	24·70	309,042	19·50	437,067	23·36
Quadrat .. .. .	333,881	15·35	182,434	11·51	185,347	9·91
Sherpa .. .. .	69,979	3·22	128,396	8·10	169,021	9·03
Insignia 49 .. .. .	2,936	·14	16,340	1·03	40,018	2·14
Gabo .. .. .	29,369	1·35	29,516	1·86	27,208	1·45
Magnet .. .. .	42,462	1·95	17,572	1·11	18,321	·98
Baldmin .. .. .	20,456	·94	4,717	·30	15,843	·85
Olympic .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	243	·02	11,550	·62
Sabre .. .. .	966	·04	2,708	·17	11,510	·61
Bencubbin .. .. .	30,059	1·38	13,994	·88	9,280	·50
Pindar .. .. .	8,981	·41	3,486	·22	4,032	·22
Ghurka .. .. .	4,571	·21	3,196	·20	3,502	·19
Dirk 48 .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	192	·01	1,642	·09
Scimitar .. .. .	269	·01	888	·06	1,114	·06
Blue Stem .. .. .	943	·04	783	·05	970	·05
Turvey .. .. .	984	·05	417	·03	967	·05
Kendee .. .. .	1,631	·08	2,298	·14	702	·04
Koorda .. .. .	2,450	·11	1,526	·10	669	·04
Diadem .. .. .	735	·03	773	·05	545	·03
Federation .. .. .	351	·02	545	·03	484	·03
Warigo .. .. .	592	·03	568	·04	390	·02
Javelin .. .. .	1,693	·08	1,655	·10	383	·02
Charter .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	354	·02
Bobin .. .. .	847	·04	124	·01	315	·02
Gluelub .. .. .	861	·04	.. .. .	.. .. .	286	·01
Warden .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	267	·01
Bungulla .. .. .	4,179	·19	1,318	·08	255	·01
Eureka .. .. .	166	·01	.. .. .	.. .. .	197	·01
Gluyas .. .. .	298	·01	389	·02	181	·01
All other varieties and Unknown Seed .. .. .	5,475	·26	4,101	·27	4,584	·24
Total .. .. .	2,174,413	100·00	1,584,552	100·00	1,870,907	100·00

It will be noted from the foregoing statement that changes have occurred in the leading varieties during the seasons shown. Free Gallipoli became the leading variety in Victoria in 1929-30, and continued as such until the season 1934-35, when it was superseded by Ghurka. This variety continued as the most popular until it was displaced by Quadrat at the 1946 sowing. Quadrat increased in favour until in the season 1948-49, 47·20 per cent. of wheat sown was of that variety. Due to the rapid headway made by the varieties Insignia and Pinnacle, which were openly released from the Werribee Research Station in 1946 and 1947, the percentage of area sown with Quadrat has declined and was 9·91 in the 1957-58 season. The varieties Insignia and Pinnacle have increased in popularity to the extent that in 1957-58 their percentages of the area sown were 49·38 and 23·36 respectively.

Many changes have also taken place in the leading varieties of wheat in other Australian wheat-growing States during recent years. In New South Wales, Bencubbin and Gabo are now the leading varieties. In South Australia the area sown with Gabo was only 05 per cent. of the total area sown in 1947-48, but the area now sown with this variety amounts to 22·8 per cent., of the total area sown. In Western Australia, Gabo, Bungulla, Bencubbin, Insignia Wongoondy, and Kondut occupy 86 per cent. of the area sown.

### PRINCIPAL VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN AUSTRALIAN STATES, 1957-58.

New South Wales.		Victoria.		South Australia.		Western Australia.	
Variety.	Per-centage of Total Area.	Variety.	Per-centage of Total Area.	Variety.	Per-centage of Total Area.	Variety.	Per-centage of Total Area.
Gabo ..	26·2	Insignia ..	49·4	Gabo ..	22·8	Gabo ..	29·3
Bencubbin ..	19·2	Pinnacle ..	23·4	Insignia ..	18·1	Bungulla ..	16·8
Glenwari ..	15·3	Quadrat ..	9·9	Dirk ..	16·3	Bencubbin ..	13·0
Kendee ..	8·0	Sherpa ..	9·0	Sabre ..	9·7	Insignia ..	9·7
Festival ..	6·0	Insignia 49	2·1	Bencubbin	5·5	Wongoondy	9·2
Ford ..	3·9	Gabo ..	1·5	Scimitar ..	4·9	Kondut ..	8·0
Bordan ..	2·0	Magnet ..	1·0	Javelin ..	3·9	Bencubbin 48	3·8
Koda ..	1·5	Baldmin ..	0·8	Claymore ..	1·7	Eureka II. ..	3·1
Charter ..	1·4	Olympic ..	0·6	Pinnacle ..	1·6	Gluehub ..	1·3
Insignia ..	1·4	Sabre ..	0·6	Rapier ..	1·5	Koorda ..	0·9
All other ..	15·1	All other ..	1·7	All other ..	14·0	All other ..	4·9
Total ..	100·0		100·0		100·0		100·0

NOTE.—The percentages of the principal varieties of wheat sown in Victoria in 1958-59 were:—Insignia 47·34; Pinnacle 22·70; Sherpa 8·30; Olympic 7·19; Quadrat 6·58.

For the season 1955-56, statistics showing the extent to which mixed farming was practised in conjunction with wheat growing were compiled in respect of each State in the Commonwealth. The tabulations were prepared by the Commonwealth Statistician from data prepared by each State.

**Wheat Growing in Conjunction with Live-stock Grazed.**

An analysis of the tables for the State of Victoria for that season discloses that wheat for grain was grown on 10,722 holdings, and the area sown with wheat for grain was 2,141,410 acres. Of the 10,722 holdings growing wheat for grain, 9,194 grazed sheep, 4,326 had beef cattle and 1,605 kept pigs.

The following table shows the total area of holdings growing wheat for grain with particulars of wheat growing, sheep, beef cattle, and pigs thereon :—

VICTORIA—HOLDINGS GROWING WHEAT FOR GRAIN  
TOGETHER WITH SHEEP, DAIRY CATTLE, AND PIGS  
THEREON, SEASON 1955-56.

Area under Wheat for Grain.	Holdings Growing Wheat.		Holdings With Sheep.	Holdings With Beef Cattle.	Holdings With Pigs.
	Number.	Total Area under Wheat.			
Acres.		Acres.	No.	No.	No.
1- 9	462	2,576	369	253	93
10- 19	546	7,028	456	282	129
20- 29	412	9,107	352	202	80
30- 49	724	26,731	625	344	96
50- 69	746	42,016	654	327	78
70- 99	968	78,127	845	444	119
100- 149	1,470	173,005	1,278	620	204
150- 199	1,127	188,533	958	428	160
200- 299	1,713	404,210	1,444	604	244
300- 399	1,117	368,784	948	363	173
400- 499	584	253,204	509	200	87
500- 699	568	324,792	507	173	88
700- 999	207	164,754	184	60	34
1,000-1,999	75	90,883	62	24	19
2,000 and over	3	7,660	3	2	1
Total	10,722	2,141,410	9,194	4,326	1,605

**Seed and Fertilizers used on Wheat Areas (Grain and Hay), 1957-58.**

The total seed wheat used for grain and hay areas amounted to 2,042,347 bushels, and total fertilizers to 62,207 tons. The average rate of sowing in the principal wheat-growing counties ranged from 44 lb. of seed per acre in the County of Millewa to 90 lb. in Ripon.

**SEED AND FERTILIZERS USED ON WHEAT AREAS  
SEASON 1957-58.  
(GRAIN AND HAY.)**

District.	Area Sown.	Seed Used.		Fertilizers Used. (Estimated).
		Per Acre.	Total.	
	Acres.	lb.	Bushels.	Tons.
Central .. .. .	13,263	84	19,015	587
North-Central .. .. .	10,661	85	15,103	477
Western .. .. .	24,402	88	35,790	1,339
Wimmera .. .. .	575,366	73	700,029	21,598
Mallee .. .. .	963,082	58	930,979	27,278
Northern .. .. .	264,607	71	313,118	10,083
North-Eastern .. .. .	17,626	87	25,558	748
Gippsland .. .. .	1,900	87	2,755	97
Total State .. .. .	1,870,907	65	2,042,347	62,207

**Fallow.**

The large area of land fallowed for the next season's cropping operations is a feature of the three wheat-growing districts. Of the 1,644,764 acres in fallow during the season 1957-58, 763,681 were in the Mallee, 526,931 in the Wimmera, and 207,713 in the Northern Districts. The total area of fallow in these three districts—1,498,325 acres—represented 91 per cent. of the land fallowed in the State.

The following table shows the acreage in fallow in various years, together with the area sown to wheat in each succeeding season :—

VICTORIA—LAND IN FALLOW AND WHEAT SOWN.

Season.	Land in Fallow.	Season.	Area Sown to Wheat.
	Acres.		Acres.
1901-02 .. ..	681,778	1902-03 .. ..	2,155,928
1911-12 .. ..	1,469,608	1912-13 .. ..	2,471,586
1921-22 .. ..	2,052,964	1922-23 .. ..	2,857,533
1931-32 .. ..	2,145,819	1932-33 .. ..	3,320,504
1940-41 .. ..	1,887,418	1941-42 .. ..	2,889,853
1941-42 .. ..	2,101,360	1942-43 .. ..	2,212,915
1942-43 .. ..	1,660,171	1943-44 .. ..	1,864,895
1943-44 .. ..	1,719,363	1944-45 .. ..	2,246,217
1944-45 .. ..	1,694,097	1945-46 .. ..	3,365,558
1945-46 .. ..	2,394,032	1946-47 .. ..	3,566,489
1946-47 .. ..	2,460,350	1947-48 .. ..	3,279,182
1947-48 .. ..	2,527,306	1948-49 .. ..	3,033,395
1948-49 .. ..	2,343,685	1949-50 .. ..	2,867,390
1949-50 .. ..	2,429,888	1950-51 .. ..	2,770,549
1950-51 .. ..	2,153,611	1951-52 .. ..	2,498,538
1951-52 .. ..	2,026,965	1952-53 .. ..	2,264,649
1952-53 .. ..	2,294,891	1953-54 .. ..	2,429,097
1953-54 .. ..	2,287,090	1954-55 .. ..	2,430,155
1954-55 .. ..	2,196,192	1955-56 .. ..	2,174,413
1955-56 .. ..	1,982,742	1956-57 .. ..	1,584,552
1956-57 .. ..	1,879,812	1957-58 .. ..	1,870,907



**Wheat Standard.** The weight of an imperial bushel of wheat is 60 lb., but the actual weight of a bushel of Victorian wheat of fair average quality standard was determined annually until 1959 by the Chamber of Commerce. Commencing with the 1959 sample, the weight of an imperial bushel of Victorian wheat will be determined by a committee representing the Australian Wheat Board, Grain Elevators Board, Victorian Flour Mill Owners' Association, Melbourne Chamber of Commerce, wheatgrowers and the Victorian Department of Agriculture.

The following table shows the standard determined in Victoria for each of the ten seasons, 1948-49 to 1957-58 :—

Season.			Weight of Bushel of Wheat, f.a.q.	Season.			Weight of Bushel of Wheat, f.a.q.
			lb.				lb.
1948-49	..	..	63	1953-54	..	..	64½
1949-50	..	..	64	1954-55	..	..	62½
1950-51	..	..	62½	1955-56	..	..	63½
1951-52	..	..	64	1956-57	..	..	65½
1952-53	..	..	64¾	1957-58	..	..	65½

**Farmers  
Growing  
Wheat  
for Grain.**

The following statement shows the number of farmers engaged in the growing of wheat for grain :—

VICTORIA—NUMBER OF HOLDINGS WITH TWENTY OR MORE ACRES OF WHEAT FOR GRAIN, SEASONS 1952-53 TO 1957-58.

1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
10,049	10,900	10,547	9,683	7,674	8,856

**Oats.** Oats may be cut for hay, stripped for grain or fed off to stock. The proportion of the oat crop used for each of the above purposes varies according to seasonal conditions. Oats as hay or grain form a very suitable fodder reserve on Mallee farms. For many years past, increasing areas of oats have been sown with the object of providing feed for sheep during the winter and early spring months. Some varieties of oats show high powers of recovery, particularly for a grain yield, after such grazing. More than 40 varieties are generally sown, but Algerian, with 48 per cent., Orient, with 26 per cent., Algeribee, with 10 per cent., of the area predominate. The area harvested (season 1957-58) for hay was 208,724 acres, and for grain 622,245 acres, which produced 324,806 tons of hay, and 9,527,653 bushels of grain respectively. The area of oats sown for grazing purposes amounted to 272,057 acres.

Hay. Particulars of areas harvested and production of the several kinds of hay appear in the following table:—

VICTORIA—HAY PRODUCTION, 1957-58.

Kind.	Area.	Production.	Average Yield.
	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.
Wheaten .. .. .	36,065	49,045	1.36
Oaten .. .. .	208,724	324,806	1.56
Lucerne .. .. .	51,622	95,767	1.86
Barley, rye, &c. .. .. .	2,700	3,218	1.19
Grasses and Clovers .. .. .	571,847	940,563	1.64
Totals .. .. .	870,958	1,413,399	1.62

The quantities of hay (in districts) held on rural holdings on the 31st March, 1956, 1957, and 1958, are shown in the following table:—

STOCKS OF HAY HELD ON FARMS.

District.	At 31st March—		
	1956.	1957.	1958.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Central .. .. .	234,655	255,423	217,318
North-Central .. .. .	105,645	111,854	90,151
Western .. .. .	385,256	439,314	383,620
Wimmera .. .. .	228,817	259,680	167,777
Mallee .. .. .	76,860	78,785	64,082
Northern .. .. .	406,811	395,562	315,084
North-Eastern .. .. .	212,049	211,221	181,616
Gippsland .. .. .	220,121	256,839	224,228
State .. .. .	1,870,214	2,008,678	1,643,876

**Barley.** The area under barley for grain in 1957-58 was 351,744 acres, of which 334,076 were under malting (2 row), and 17,668 under feed (6 row) barley. Although barley is grown generally throughout the State, 238,495 acres, or 68 per cent. of the total area for the season 1957-58, were sown in the counties of Grant, Lowan, Borung, Weeah, and Karkaroc. The figures in the table below show the acreage, production, and yield per acre, for each of the five seasons 1953-54 to 1957-58.

#### VICTORIA—BARLEY PRODUCTION, 1953-54 TO 1957-58.

Year ended March—	Area under Crop.		Produce.		Average per Acre.		
	Malting (2 row).	Other (6 row).	Malting (2 row).	Other (6 row).	Malting (2 row).	Other (6 row).	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1954 ..	344,346	30,209	7,360,055	572,048	21·37	18·94	21·18
1955 ..	261,206	19,389	4,608,546	337,174	17·64	17·39	17·63
1956 ..	290,716	18,395	6,487,849	389,012	22·32	21·15	22·25
1957 ..	325,004	20,278	7,164,492	384,648	22·04	18·97	21·86
1958 ..	334,076	17,668	5,201,308	245,683	15·57	13·91	15·49

**Maize.** Maize for grain is cultivated mainly in Gippsland, but one or two thousand acres are regularly grown in the Mornington and the North-Eastern districts. It is grown in Victoria both for grain and for green fodder. The area, production, and average yield for each of the five seasons, 1953-54 to 1957-58, are given in the following table:—

#### VICTORIA—MAIZE PRODUCTION, 1953-54 TO 1957-58.

Season.	For Green Fodder.	For Grain.		
		Area.	Production.	Yield per Acre.
	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1953-54 .. ..	8,621	5,613	298,044	53·10
1954-55 .. ..	10,673	4,379	228,781	52·25
1955-56 .. ..	8,665	3,535	175,813	49·73
1956-57 .. ..	6,429	2,727	80,798	29·63
1957-58 .. ..	8,122	4,278	241,764	56·51

The annual average yield of the last five seasons was 49·93 bushels per acre, as compared with 46·42 in 1950-55, and 41·85 in 1945-50.

**Potatoes.** Victoria is the chief potato-producing State in the Commonwealth. Of a total area of 117,946 acres planted in 1957-58 to potatoes, 49,846 acres were grown in this State.

The cultivation of potatoes in Victoria is confined mainly to the Central Highlands, the South-western district, and the Gippsland district. These districts are favoured with good average rainfall varying from 30 to 50 inches per annum, which is fairly well distributed throughout the year.

The following table shows the area, yield, and value of potatoes for each of the five seasons, 1953-54 to 1957-58 :—

VICTORIA—POTATO PRODUCTION, 1953-54 TO 1957-58.

Season.	Area.	Production.*	Average Yield.	Gross Value.
	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	£
1953-54 .. ..	52,745	213,714	4.05	4,087,124
1954-55 .. ..	44,075	206,577	4.69	5,839,461
1955-56 .. ..	37,020	163,239	4.41	12,485,900
1956-57 .. ..	39,706	227,307	5.72	5,862,224
1957-58 .. ..	49,846	251,159	5.04	3,325,916

\* Includes amounts held on farms for seed, stock feed, &c., as follows :—45,176 tons in 1953-54 ; 26,502 tons in 1954-55 ; 21,089 tons in 1955-56 ; 49,755 tons in 1956-57 ; and 53,842 tons in 1957-58.

**Onions.** Onions are grown in nearly every county south of the Dividing Range. The returns for the season 1957-58 show that in Bourke the yield was 2,864 tons from 382 acres ; in Grant 6,920 tons from 1,163 acres ; in Mornington 1,930 tons from 264 acres ; in Grenville 13,662 tons from 1,785 acres ; in Polwarth 7,523 tons from 873 acres ; in Villiers 5,291 tons from 609 acres ; and in Buln Buln 1,199 tons from 133 acres. The following statement shows the area, yield, and value for each of the last five years :—

## VICTORIA—ONION PRODUCTION, 1953-54 TO 1957-58.

Season.	Area.		Production.	Average Yield.	Gross Value.
	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	£	
1953-54 .. ..	3,641	22,783	6.26	769,017	
1954-55 .. ..	3,970	26,091	6.57	841,217	
1955-56 .. ..	3,337	16,955	5.08	940,270	
1956-57 .. ..	4,503	26,811	5.95	860,982	
1957-58 .. ..	5,368	40,678	7.58	637,581	

**Vine Production.** The production of dried vine-fruits for the season 1957-58 amounted to 60,896 tons, as compared with a production of 54,039 tons for the previous season. This far exceeds the requirements for home consumption. Overseas exports of Victorian produce for the season 1957-58 amounted to 50,361 tons.

Australian production of dried vine-fruits for the season 1957-58 was 90,554 tons, of which the Victorian portion represented 67 per cent.

Particulars of vine production for the five seasons 1953-54 to 1957-58 are given in the following table:—

## VICTORIA—VINE-FRUIT PRODUCTION, 1953-54 TO 1957-58.

Season.	Number of Growers.	Area.		Produce.				
		Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Grapes gathered.	Wine made.	Dried Fruits.		
						Raisins.		Currants.
						Lexias.	Sultanas.	
Acres.	Acres.	Cwt.	Gallons.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.		
1953-54 ..	2,420	42,793	2,984	4,808,185	2,327,302	142,222	879,240	93,377
1954-55 ..	2,436	42,920	2,828	4,589,449	1,611,923	111,237	876,105	93,509
1955-56 ..	2,474	42,295	2,522	3,087,445	1,311,797	57,933	530,414	102,992
1956-57 ..	2,428	41,741	3,153	4,701,612	2,369,176	81,875	919,825	79,070
1957-58 ..	2,467	42,089	2,678	5,188,146	2,582,492	122,628	1,012,220	83,063

Of the total quantity of grapes gathered in 1957-58, it is estimated that 267,755 cwt. were used for making wine and spirits, 4,765,960 cwt. for raisins and currants, and 154,431 cwt. for table consumption. The figures for 1956-57 were 250,745 cwt., 4,323,785 cwt., and 127,082 cwt. respectively.

**Tobacco.** The imposition of emergency tariff rates about 1931 greatly stimulated the growing of tobacco in Victoria and, as a result, the area planted increased in the 1932-33 season to 13,418 acres. Due, however, to economic circumstances and to disease in the crops, the acreage subsequently declined.

The following table furnishes details of the area, production, and average yield in each of the five seasons, 1953-54 to 1957-58:—

VICTORIA—TOBACCO PRODUCTION, 1953-54 TO 1957-58.

Season.	Area.	Production.	Produce per Acre.	Gross Value.
	Acres.	Cwt. (dry).	Cwt. (dry).	£
1953-54 .. ..	2,246	19,237	8.57	1,062,459
1954-55 .. ..	2,471	7,751	3.13	466,806
1955-56 .. ..	2,876	10,134	3.52	571,090
1956-57 .. ..	2,935	24,470	8.34	1,376,489
1957-58 .. ..	3,252	32,884	10.12	1,861,956

**Flax.** The production of flax is confined mainly to the Central, Western, and Gippsland Districts.

The following table shows the area, the quantity of straw delivered at mills, and the produce obtained therefrom for each of the seasons 1953-54 to 1957-58. Australian imports of certain flax products for each of the years ended 30th June, 1954 to 1958 are also shown:—

**VICTORIAN FLAX PRODUCTION AND AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS  
OF FLAX PRODUCTS, 1953-54 TO 1957-58.**

Season.	Area.	Straw Delivered at Mills.	Produce Obtained.		Australian Imports (Year ended 30th June).		
			Fibre.	Seed.	Fibre.	Linseed.	Linseed Oil.
	Acres.	Tons.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Gallons.
1953-54 ..	9,550	12,984	16,901	13,498	5,821	..	3,567,404
1954-55 ..	5,878	7,799	14,325	15,810	707	10,286	3,635,838
1955-56 ..	2,550	4,637	13,708	14,358	18,688	52,528	2,383,038
1956-57 ..	2,196	4,013	13,310	15,296	24,486	..	2,292,161
1957-58 ..	5,550	9,923	13,934	12,880	4,467	..	2,796,826

**Linseed.**

Linseed oil is one of the chief components of paints, varnishes, and linoleum, and has many other industrial uses. The presscake or meal, which remains after the oil has been extracted from the ground and partly-cooked seed, is a valuable stock food.

The area sown to linseed in Victoria for the season 1957-58 was 4,091 acres which produced 45,946 bushels valued at £78,558 (gross.) Figures for 1956-57 were 1,143 acres, 12,236 bushels and gross value £20,236

**Orchards.**

The extent of cultivation of each important class of fruit on holdings of one acre and upwards during the seasons 1952-53 and 1955-56 is shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—FRUIT TREES, PLANTS, ETC., IN ORCHARDS  
AND GARDENS, 1952-53 AND 1955-56.

Fruit.	Number of Trees, Plants, &c.					
	1952-53.			1955-56.		
	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.
Apples .. ..	1,548,037	355,595	1,903,632	1,529,208	420,365	1,949,573
Pears .. ..	1,119,195	174,878	1,294,073	1,100,880	236,531	1,337,411
Quinces .. ..	47,569	15,117	62,686	25,655	3,709	29,364
Plums .. ..	201,660	63,045	264,705	171,634	31,463	203,097
Prunes .. ..	29,912	15,263	45,175	29,046	9,302	38,348
Cherries .. ..	113,649	57,078	170,727	121,477	56,480	177,957
Peaches .. ..	988,675	214,262	1,202,937	835,511	189,500	1,025,011
Apricots .. ..	402,902	95,311	498,213	376,994	73,458	450,452
Nectarines .. ..	24,100	3,555	27,655	20,097	3,874	23,971
Oranges .. ..	371,481	102,156	473,637	370,595	77,325	447,920
Mandarins .. ..	6,497	2,249	8,746	6,140	5,604	11,744
Grapefruit .. ..	26,647	3,457	30,104	22,386	2,979	25,365
Lemons .. ..	117,908	27,927	145,835	106,644	25,608	132,252
Figs .. ..	10,102	1,303	11,405	5,506	716	6,222
<b>Total Large Fruits</b>	<b>5,008,334</b>	<b>1,131,196</b>	<b>6,139,530</b>	<b>4,721,773</b>	<b>1,136,914</b>	<b>5,858,687</b>
Raspberries .. ..	254,170	26,152	280,322	209,451	46,010	255,461
Loganberries .. ..	97,793	13,586	111,379	108,403	10,675	119,078
Strawberries .. ..	3,727,540	405,870	4,133,410	4,507,904	603,608	5,111,512
Gooseberries .. ..	55,818	6,597	62,415	45,302	6,646	51,948
Olives .. ..	14,377	88,451	102,828	17,191	100,952	118,143
Passion-fruit .. ..	15,496	15,023	30,519	22,803	6,718	29,521
Almonds .. ..	41,025	16,681	57,706	34,781	9,211	43,992
Walnuts .. ..	9,250	3,534	12,784	7,702	2,799	10,501
Filberts .. ..	3,777	2,875	6,652	3,511	1,388	4,899
<b>Total Nuts</b> .. ..	<b>54,052</b>	<b>23,090</b>	<b>77,142</b>	<b>45,994</b>	<b>13,398</b>	<b>59,392</b>



The distribution of the fruit industry over the State is set out fruit and the number of trees of each kind in each district are

Statistical Districts.	Growers.	Area.	Apples.	Pears.	Peaches.
	No.	Acres.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.
Central .. .. .	1,989	24,383	1,392,951	315,173	218,996
North-Central .. .. .	177	2,681	191,804	64,144	1,474
Western .. .. .	113	813	70,458	1,541	229
Wimmera .. .. .	168	4,069	29,828	9,234	20,783
Mallee .. .. .	1,133	5,316	11,391	2,781	13,936
Northern .. .. .	1,040	25,819	149,575	940,681	766,566
North-Eastern .. .. .	199	1,763	75,289	1,924	2,626
Gippsland .. .. .	72	370	28,277	1,933	361
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>4,891</b>	<b>65,214</b>	<b>1,949,573</b>	<b>1,337,411</b>	<b>1,024,971</b>

The following tables show the numbers of growers (in districts) of

Statistical Districts.	Apples.		Pears.		Peaches.	
	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.
Central .. .. .	1,329	293	626	254	549	138
North-Central .. .. .	169	21	114	37	10	15
Western .. .. .	93	50	9	36	..	7
Wimmera .. .. .	85	64	49	77	62	52
Mallee .. .. .	5	34	5	40	17	68
Northern .. .. .	199	170	621	84	627	92
North-Eastern .. .. .	88	102	5	33	6	31
Gippsland .. .. .	27	84	4	20	4	12
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>1,433</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>415</b>

in the following table, where the number of growers, the area under given for the season 1955-56 :—

Apricots.	Plums.	Cherries.	Quinces.	Oranges.	Mandarins.	Grape-fruit.	Lemons and Limes.
Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.
82,305	108,498	149,198	15,343	241	15	78	100,960
737	7,343	5,356	1,080	4	..	..	576
1,446	1,491	61	152	6	..	4	21
23,426	2,595	3,480	2,034	295	12	1,050	398
45,291	5,765	220	648	286,557	9,646	16,043	10,650
295,803	73,033	9,726	9,415	156,387	1,996	7,808	18,220
987	3,681	9,483	592	4,361	69	328	1,249
457	691	433	100	64	6	54	178
450,452	203,097	177,957	29,364	447,915	11,744	25,365	132,252

each kind of fruit and nuts grown in the State for the season 1949-50 :—

Apricots.		Plums.		Cherries.		Quinces.		Passion-fruit.		Oranges.	
100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 vines and over.	10 and under 100 vines.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.
217	233	571	491	451	154	129	204	15	14	1	7
4	19	48	37	22	18	5	14	..	..	..	..
19	16	10	35	..	2	..	7	..	..	..	..
96	57	24	51	12	21	8	38	..	3	2	7
88	137	6	37	..	3	1	15	4	4	385	295
592	98	289	132	14	26	78	75	5	2	218	79
3	14	2	24	10	12	1	5	18	3	11	39
2	11	2	22	3	8	..	2	10	4	..	3
1,021	585	952	829	512	244	222	360	52	30	617	430

## Number of Growers, 1949-50—continued.

Statistical Districts.	Mandarins.		Grape-fruit.		Lemons.		Almonds.		Walnuts.	
	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.
Central .. .. .	..	..	1	2	406	259	7	41	4	12
North-Central .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	4	..	1
Western .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wimmera .. .. .	..	1	..	..	1	17	15	29	..	1
Mallee .. .. .	11	93	47	155	36	113	58	166	..	14
Northern .. .. .	10	30	36	56	71	101	45	72	1	10
North-Eastern .. .. .	..	1	1	2	2	19	18	26	17	21
Gippsland .. .. .	..	..	1	1	3	6	1	6	4	7
Total for State .. .. .	21	125	86	216	519	518	146	344	26	66

The principal fruits grown in the State are apples, pears, peaches, and citrus. The apple and pear crops for the season 1957-58 amounted to 3,125,088 and 3,730,427 bushels respectively.

A considerable quantity of apricots, peaches, and pears is grown, mostly in irrigated areas for canning purposes. The total output of 4,041,000 cases of canned fruits for the 1958 season comprised apricots, 540,000 cases; peaches (including 244,000 cases of mixed fruits), 1,566,000 cases; and pears, 1,935,000 cases. This output represented 71 per cent. of the total Australian pack of these fruits. In addition to the fruits shown in the adjoined table, large quantities of melons, rhubarb, and tomatoes are produced in orchards. The gross value of all fruit grown in the season 1957-58 was £11,743,480.

## VICTORIA—FRUIT GROWING, 1953-54 TO 1957-58.

Particulars.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
Number of Growers .. .. .	5,071	5,041	4,891	4,936	5,044
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Area .. .. .	66,180	66,091	65,214	63,319	66,221
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Kind of Fruit—					
Apples .. .. .	2,338,903	2,580,148	2,648,892	2,621,487	3,125,088
Pears .. .. .	3,152,432	3,331,360	2,742,863	3,432,090	3,730,427
Quinces .. .. .	36,888	23,335	21,048	39,073	39,941
Apricots .. .. .	583,695	519,762	235,933	274,780	692,139
Cherries .. .. .	81,834	62,342	76,599	86,706	74,387
Nectarines .. .. .	21,573	20,366	18,340	15,289	19,875
Peaches .. .. .	1,804,896	1,549,029	1,162,447	878,560	1,287,011
Plums .. .. .	173,925	127,561	148,910	104,280	157,332
Prunes .. .. .	34,979	17,249	16,894	25,574	28,878
Lemons .. .. .	151,022	171,825	219,348	159,153	159,085
Oranges .. .. .	678,064	650,795	770,503	711,453	796,625
Mandarins .. .. .	16,623	13,617	17,032	14,275	15,773
Grapefruit .. .. .	52,289	53,179	56,421	53,917	55,900
Figs .. .. .	6,087	4,719	4,147	6,653	4,414
Passion-fruit .. .. .	6,721	7,548	6,772	5,026	5,609
Other Large Fruits .. .. .	3,371	9,941	7,849	8,181	12,510
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Gooseberries .. .. .	1,509	1,260	1,114	1,382	1,250
Loganberries .. .. .	2,025	2,667	2,201	1,667	2,262
Raspberries .. .. .	2,390	2,109	2,148	1,733	2,150
Strawberries .. .. .	3,447	4,029	4,710	6,694	8,211
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Almonds .. .. .	129,165	164,886	87,650	85,919	121,937
Filberts .. .. .	6,549	5,837	6,271	7,283	7,827
Walnuts .. .. .	116,383	63,610	97,708	159,743	137,544

**Dried fruit (exclusive of Raisins and Currants).** The production of the various kinds of dried tree-fruits for each of the last five seasons is shown in the following statement. Particulars about dried vine-fruits appear on page 78 :—

## VICTORIA—DRIED TREE-FRUITS, 1953-54 TO 1957-58.

Year ended June—	Apples.	Apricots.	Figs.	Nectarines.	Peaches.	Pears.	Prunes.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1954 .. .. .	66	177,237	6,687	120	124,280	111,809	688,652	1,108,851
1955 .. .. .	42	75,807	1,122	50	23,856	45,824	325,601	472,302
1956 .. .. .	27	22,682	1,970	25	21,228	4,015	257,341	307,288
1957 .. .. .	100	12,499	2,805	40	272	4,481	330,762	350,959
1958 .. .. .	37	24,841	3,365	284	2,105	744	401,108	432,484

**Vegetable growing.** Prior to the season 1942-43, statistics relating to vegetable growing were collected only from those market gardeners who cropped an area of 1 acre or more. Only the surface area employed for vegetable growing was tabulated, and, as a consequence, due to double-cropping, the actual area utilized was understated. Furthermore, vegetables grown between trees and vines in orchards and vineyards were not recorded.

From the season 1942-43, however, particulars were obtained of all vegetables grown on areas of 1 acre and upwards, including those grown in orchards and vineyards, and allowance was made for double cropping. These changes in practice therefore invalidate any comparison with previous years.

Excluding potatoes and onions, which are shown under separate headings in this issue of the *Year-Book*, the area sown to vegetables in Victoria for the season 1957-58 was 39,833 acres and the gross value of the estimated production therefrom was £9,167,451.

The acreages sown to the different kinds of vegetables in 1957-58 were:—

Carrots ..	1,948	Beans, Broad ..	35
Parsnips ..	805	Peas, Green ..	12,145
Beetroot ..	591	Peas, Blue ..	100
Cabbage ..	2,078	Asparagus ..	1,876
Cauliflower ..	3,718	Brussels Sprouts	918
Lettuce ..	2,536	Silver Beet ..	66
Tomatoes ..	5,555	Cucumber ..	305
Pumpkins ..	2,653	Marrows ..	137
Turnips ..	320	Melons ..	528
Beans, French	2,959	Other ..	560

**Minor Crops.** There are other crops cultivated in Victoria in addition to those enumerated on pages 64 and 65. The most important of these are:—Nursery products, cut flowers, mustard, sunflowers, agricultural seeds, rye and hops.

**Fertilizers.** The following table shows the number of holdings upon which fertilizers were applied and the quantities used in the various seasons. The fertilizer mainly used on wheat areas is "Superphosphate 22 per cent." (reduced to 18 per cent. in July, 1941, and then increased to 19 per cent. in October, 1946, 21 per cent. in December, 1947, and 22 per cent. in September, 1948). It is also used on 90 per cent. of the oat areas fertilized:—

## VICTORIA—ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS USED.

Season.	Number of Holdings.	Area Fertilized.	Quantity Used.	
		Acres.	Tons.	
1950-51	{ Crops .. .. .	30,930	3,616,640	168,891
	{ Pastures .. .. .	34,284	7,185,111	394,195
1951-52	{ Crops .. .. .	33,098	3,378,601	163,205
	{ Pastures .. .. .	34,755	7,453,543	415,817
1952-53	{ Crops .. .. .	39,839	3,702,344	185,285
	{ Pastures .. .. .	39,200	7,946,709	434,042
1953-54	{ Crops .. .. .	33,416	3,555,999	170,168
	{ Pastures .. .. .	36,782	7,554,522	422,236
1954-55	{ Crops .. .. .	34,034	3,608,540	176,132
	{ Pastures .. .. .	38,484	8,118,147	459,158
1955-56	{ Crops .. .. .	34,907	3,500,148	173,674
	{ Pastures .. .. .	40,256	8,536,868	479,913
1956-57	{ Crops .. .. .	35,454	2,906,215	151,313
	{ Pastures .. .. .	41,659	8,728,908	493,516
1957-58	{ Crops .. .. .	41,167	3,690,386	190,966
	{ Pastures .. .. .	43,234	9,684,007	548,356

**Machinery used on Holdings.** Statistics of most kinds of serviceable farming implements for the years 1950 and 1955 are shown in the table which follows. From 1956 the collection was confined to the more important farming implements.

VICTORIA—MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS IN USE ON  
RURAL HOLDINGS AT 31st MARCH, 1950 AND 1955 TO 1958.

Particulars.	Number.				
	1950.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.
Milking machines—Number of units .. .. .	54,180	74,513	77,602	81,729	83,819
Shearing machines—Number of stands .. .. .	20,485	30,801	32,245	34,884	34,955
Tractors—					
Wheeled type .. .. .	23,235	45,824	49,584	52,275	55,090
Crawler or track type .. .. .	884	1,430	1,645	1,621	1,825
Ploughs—					
Single furrow .. .. .	32,753	24,878			
Multiple furrow .. .. .	43,428	41,645			
Cultivators (including scarifiers, harrows)—					
Tandem Disc .. .. .	7,607	15,696			
Other Disc .. .. .	14,569	14,468			
Spring tooth .. .. .	13,996	12,454			
Rigid tine .. .. .	5,120	5,623			
Scarifiers .. .. .	18,988	18,341			
Harrows—Number of leaves .. .. .	191,776	178,095			
Other Cultivators .. .. .	1,138	1,591			
Rotary Hoes .. .. .	3,345	8,537	9,749	9,166	8,777
Fertilizer distributors and broadcasters .. .. .	18,935	24,647	26,470	27,336	26,692
Grain drills—					
Combine type .. .. .	16,145	17,785	19,994	19,363	18,360
Other types .. .. .	9,781	8,172	8,209	8,206	8,531
Maize planters .. .. .	2,988*	3,004*	1,050	1,041	972
Harvesting machinery—					
Headers, strippers, and harvesters .. .. .	14,471	14,524	14,168	13,722	13,641
Binders .. .. .	16,979	13,755			
Mowers .. .. .	22,059	27,521			
Hay rakes .. .. .	17,133	18,932			
Hay presses and balers .. .. .	3,973	7,191			
Potato diggers .. .. .	914	1,570			
Chaff cutters .. .. .	20,324	16,992			
Spraying plants .. .. .	3,428	7,721			
Fruit graders .. .. .	920	1,074			
Motor trucks, utilities or motor lorries .. .. .	27,838	39,962			
Stationary engines .. .. .	39,549	47,255			
Electric motors ( $\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. and over)	12,827	25,203			
Pick-up Balers .. .. .	Not collected	Not collected	5,055	5,468	6,173
Stationary Hay Presses .. .. .	Not collected	Not collected	3,371	3,077	2,658

\* Seed Planters.

Information is collected annually of the number of persons ordinarily engaged in farm work on rural holdings of one acre or more. Persons absent from their farms for the greater portion of the year following other occupations, as well as temporary hands engaged in harvesting, &c., are excluded from the tabulation. With female employees, it is evident that numbers of occupiers misinterpret the questions and wrongly include those who, though they may give some assistance out-doors, are primarily engaged in domestic duties. Particulars for the years 1950-51 to 1957-58 are as follow :—

**VICTORIA—PERSONS PERMANENTLY ENGAGED ON RURAL HOLDINGS, INCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS, ETC., BUT EXCLUDING CASUAL AND SEASONAL WORKERS, 1950-51 TO 1957-58.**

Year ending March—	Males.	Females.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
1951 .. .. .	89,917	6,380	96,297
1952 .. .. .	88,663	5,814	94,477
1953 .. .. .	91,376	7,017	98,393
1954 .. .. .	92,323	6,896	99,219
1955 .. .. .	92,791	6,368	99,159
1956 .. .. .	91,304	6,404	97,708
1957 .. .. .	93,253	7,690	100,943
1958 .. .. .	93,215	7,881	101,096

NOTE.—Information about wages of males temporarily employed was collected in addition to the numbers of those permanently engaged. Such wages amounted to £8,315,597, £8,620,811, £8,926,153 and £9,792,655 during the seasons 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58 respectively.

In the next table will be found particulars of the rates of wages paid (with rations) upon rural holdings during 1957-58. The information has been furnished by the occupiers of holdings :—

**Rates of Wages—  
Rural Holdings.**



**VICTORIA—RATES OF WAGES ON RURAL HOLDINGS,  
1957-58.**

Occupations.	Prevalling Rate.	Range.	
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ploughman .. .. . per week	15 0 0	10 0 0 to	16 19 0
Farm Labourers .. .. . per week	15 0 0	9 12 0 to	15 19 0
Threshing machine hands .. per hour	0 8 0	0 7 2 to	0 10 0
Harvest Hands .. .. . per day	3 10 0	2 10 0 to	4 0 0
Milkers .. .. . per week	14 0 0	10 0 0 to	16 0 0
Maize pickers (without rations) .. per bag of cobs	0 3 0	—	
Married couples .. .. . per week	16 0 0	14 0 0 to	20 0 0
Female servants .. .. . per week	8 0 0	5 0 0 to	10 0 0
Shearers, hand (without rations) per 100	8 5 0	7 10 0 to	10 0 0
Shearers, machine (without rations) .. .. . per 100	8 0 0	7 5 0 to	11 0 0
Gardeners, market .. .. . per week	15 0 0	—	
„ orchard .. .. . per week	14 0 0	—	
Vineyard hands .. .. . per week	13 6 0	—	

**Financial Assistance to Primary Producers.**

In recent years legislative provision has been made by both the Commonwealth and State Parliaments for granting financial relief to primary producers. These provisions have been described in previous issues of the *Year-Book*.

**PASTORAL AND DAIRYING INDUSTRIES.**

**Live Stock.**

The pastoral and dairying industries have always been important sources of wealth to the State, and the indications are that both pastures and stock are, on the whole, steadily improving. The next table, which shows the number of horses, dairy cows, other cattle, sheep and pigs, illustrates the progress of stock breeding in Victoria:—

LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA, 1861 TO 1958.

At 1st March—	Horses (including Foals).	Cattle.*		Sheep.	Pigs.
		Dairy.	Beef.		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1861 .. ..	76,536	722,332		5,780,896	61,259
1871 .. ..	167,220	721,096		10,761,887	130,946
1881 .. ..	275,516	1,286,267		10,360,285	241,936
1891 .. ..	436,469	1,782,881		12,692,843	282,457
1901 .. ..	392,237	1,602,384		10,841,790	350,370
1911 .. ..	472,080	1,547,569		12,882,665	333,281
1921 .. ..	487,503	1,575,159		12,171,084	175,275
1931 .. ..	379,872	1,429,920		16,477,995	281,245
1941 .. ..	318,441	1,922,336		20,412,362	397,945
		No.	No.		
1951 at 31st March	186,415	1,489,393	726,860	20,011,933	237,127
1955 .. ..	132,172	1,599,721	856,582	22,329,515	263,666
1956 .. ..	118,705	1,662,548	954,039	23,343,212	227,223
1957 .. ..	107,859	1,720,564	1,044,485	25,830,544	258,336
1958 .. ..	98,067	1,723,845	1,025,766	27,093,469	278,628

\* Separate figures for beef and dairy cattle are not available for years prior to 1942-43.

While the preceding table shows the actual number of live stock each year, it is difficult to determine the progress or otherwise of the pastoral industry unless the total number of live stock is brought to a common denomination. In the table which follows an arbitrary equivalent of ten sheep to each head of the larger kinds of live stock (omitting pigs) has been adopted and the total live stock grazed expressed as sheep :—

VICTORIA—LIVE STOCK GRAZED, 1861-1958.

Year.	Equivalent in Sheep of Live Stock Grazed.	Year.	Equivalent in Sheep of Live Stock Grazed.
	No.		No.
1861 .. ..	13,769,576	1931 .. ..	34,575,915
1871 .. ..	20,335,496	1941 .. ..	42,820,132
1881 .. ..	25,978,115	1951 .. ..	44,038,613
1891 .. ..	34,886,343	1955 .. ..	48,214,265
1901 .. ..	30,788,000	1956 .. ..	50,696,132
1911 .. ..	33,079,155	1957 .. ..	54,559,624
1921 .. ..	32,797,704	1958 .. ..	55,567,249

When making comparisons of the figures in the foregoing table, consideration should be given to the varying acreage under cultivation as shown on page 58.

Size of  
holdings and  
numbers of  
Live Stock.

A table showing the sizes of holdings and the numbers of live stock thereon as at March, 1956, appears on page 60 of this issue of the *Year-Book*.

Live Stock  
in Australia.

In the following statement are given the numbers of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs in the various Australian States at 31st March, 1958:—

## LIVE STOCK IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

1958.

State.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
	'000.	'000.	'000.	'000.
Victoria .. .. .	98	2,750	27,090	279
New South Wales .. .. .	220	3,736	65,410	397
Queensland .. .. .	243	7,187	22,274	423
South Australia .. .. .	36	597	15,237	108
Western Australia .. .. .	44	997	15,724	151
Tasmania .. .. .	13	371	3,298	62
Northern Territory .. .. .	40	1,252	30	} 1
Australian Capital Territory	1	10	256	
Total .. .. .	695	16,900	149,319	1,421

Distribution  
of Live Stock.

The next table contains particulars of Live Stock

## VICTORIA—DISTRIBUTION

Statistical Districts.	Horses.	Dairy Cattle.					
		Cows.		Springing Heifers.	Other Heifers for Dairying.	Calves.	Bulls.
		Milking.	Dry.				
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central .. .. .	29,350	134,230	68,828	15,660	36,815	34,319	7,430
North-Central .. .	5,239	14,734	12,394	2,620	6,253	6,873	1,216
Western .. .. .	18,950	142,160	124,706	26,249	53,830	49,785	10,739
Wimmera .. .. .	5,523	12,673	9,674	2,081	3,875	6,852	1,678
Mallee .. .. .	4,089	13,770	5,765	1,836	3,354	5,509	1,081
Northern .. .. .	13,405	142,830	38,446	16,773	36,030	45,492	7,695
North-Eastern .. .	9,340	54,110	46,220	16,159	16,807	23,968	3,696
Gippsland .. .. .	12,171	226,908	79,344	26,864	51,797	62,996	10,721
<b>Total for State ..</b>	<b>98,067</b>	<b>741,415</b>	<b>385,377</b>	<b>108,242</b>	<b>208,761</b>	<b>235,794</b>	<b>44,256</b>

## Dairying.

The dairying industry is one of the principal sources of the wealth of the community. The gross value of dairy produce in the season 1957-58 was £65,431,000 as compared with £70,094,000 in 1955-56 and £66,330,000 in 1956-57. The following table shows the numbers of cow-keepers and cows and the estimated total production of milk for each of the last five years:—

## VICTORIA—DAIRYING, 1953-54 TO 1957-58.

As at 31st March—	Number of Cow-keepers.	Number of Dairy Cows.*	Estimated Total Production of Milk for all Purposes (Year ended 30th June).
			'000 Gallons.
1954 .. .. .	50,402	1,074,573	474,358
1955 .. .. .	50,111	1,116,546	536,835
1956 .. .. .	49,693	1,171,593	577,475
1957 .. .. .	49,153	1,220,330	587,199
1958 .. .. .	48,451	1,235,034	565,439

\* Includes cows (in milk and dry) and springing heifers.

in each Statistical District of the State as at March, 1958.—  
OF LIVE STOCK, 1958.

Beef Cattle.				Total Cattle (Dairy and Beef).	Pigs.	Sheep.		
Cows.	Calves (under Twelve Months).	Bulls.	Other Cattle.			Sheep.	Lambs.	Total.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
69,125	36,623	2,941	32,930	438,901	57,286	1,980,446	483,879	2,464,325
27,223	16,981	1,139	15,995	105,428	7,528	1,615,497	377,287	1,992,784
146,939	84,164	5,789	59,483	703,844	30,740	6,959,343	2,125,467	9,084,810
11,600	9,624	622	4,635	63,314	8,786	3,189,398	931,455	4,120,853
6,915	5,794	325	3,515	47,864	16,512	1,291,500	455,053	1,746,553
41,175	31,845	1,993	27,978	390,257	75,668	3,154,868	971,949	4,126,817
88,596	55,317	3,079	51,190	359,142	30,140	1,546,327	367,774	1,914,101
79,940	49,778	2,822	49,691	640,861	51,968	1,267,058	373,168	1,640,226
471,513	290,126	18,710	245,417	2,749,611	278,628	21,004,437	6,086,032	27,090,469

**Butter, Cheese, Condensed Milk and Casein.**

The quantities of butter, cheese, condensed and powdered full cream milk, and casein made during the last five years were as follows:—

**VICTORIA—BUTTER, CHEESE, CONDENSED AND POWDERED MILK, CASEIN MADE, 1953-54 TO 1957-58.**

Year Ended 30th June—	Butter.*	Cheese.*	Condensed Full-Cream Milk.	Powdered Full-Cream Milk.	Casein.
	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	'000 lb.
1954 .. ..	144,247	58,211	80,638	28,913	7,682
1955 .. ..	179,608	45,476	78,652	24,870	13,852
1956 .. ..	204,632	31,383	90,766	24,859	19,128
1957 .. ..	200,080	46,068	100,178	24,476	16,345
1958 .. ..	194,596	33,294	96,810	24,854	22,421

\* Including that made on farms.

**Herds of Dairy Cattle.**

In the following table, dairy cattle (as distinct from into herds which are depastured on the differently sized

### HERDS OF DAIRY CATTLE IN

Area Series.	Total in Victoria.							
	Herds.		Dairy Cattle.		Number. 1 to 4.		Number. 5 to 9.	
	No.	Percentage to Total.	No.	Percentage to Total.	Herds.	Dairy Cattle.	Herds.	Dairy Cattle.
<b>Acres.</b>					No.	No.	No.	No.
1- 19 ..	3,135	6.21	15,944	0.98	1,955	4,109	726	4,733
20- 29 ..	1,768	3.50	14,279	0.88	869	1,657	322	2,184
30- 49 ..	2,595	5.14	39,302	2.34	891	1,822	350	2,318
50- 99 ..	5,886	11.65	199,130	12.09	920	1,991	432	2,919
100- 149 ..	5,978	11.84	294,508	17.90	592	1,325	317	2,177
150- 199 ..	4,330	8.57	241,476	14.67	486	1,085	262	1,823
200- 299 ..	5,062	10.02	278,518	16.92	773	1,745	362	2,432
300- 399 ..	3,890	7.70	179,258	10.89	969	2,182	465	3,106
400- 499 ..	2,525	5.00	98,744	6.00	771	1,831	395	2,560
500- 699 ..	4,561	9.03	111,879	6.80	1,781	4,361	937	6,098
700- 999 ..	3,869	7.66	73,199	4.45	1,724	4,357	928	6,068
1,000-1,999 ..	4,629	9.17	66,637	4.05	2,226	5,627	1,274	8,390
2,000 and over ..	2,275	4.51	33,429	2.03	969	2,523	687	4,548
<b>Total</b> ..	<b>50,503</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1,646,303</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>14,926</b>	<b>34,615</b>	<b>7,457</b>	<b>49,356</b>

### AUSTRALIA—MILK PRODUCTION.

**Australian Milk Production.**

Victoria is the principal milk-producing State, and in 1957-58 the Victorian output (565.8 million gallons) represented 44.9 per cent. of the Australian production.

The statistics over the last five years are as follows:—

### PRODUCTION OF WHOLE MILK.

('000 gallons.)

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Aust. Cap. Terr.	Total.
1953-54 ..	474,358	282,187	249,712	85,014	49,996	47,642	743	1,189,652
1954-55 ..	536,835	315,719	275,605	90,699	54,194	52,022	725	1,325,799
1955-56 ..	577,475	333,942	282,296	90,342	55,668	61,405	884	1,402,012
1956-57 ..	587,199	306,208	252,336	89,882	57,008	64,262	957	1,357,942
1957-58 ..	565,439	288,565	210,827	80,606	53,480	64,655	849	1,264,421

dairy cows shown in the table below), have been classified holdings as set out:—

VICTORIA AS AT MARCH, 1956.

Size of Herd.											
Number. 10 to 14.		Number. 15 to 19.		Number. 20 to 29.		Number. 30 to 49.		Number. 50 to 99.		Number. 100 and over.	
Herds.	Dairy Cattle.	Herds.	Dairy Cattle.	Herds.	Dairy Cattle.	Herds.	Dairy Cattle.	Herds.	Dairy Cattle.	Herds.	Dairy Cattle.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
251	2,915	123	2,015	62	1,412	14	500	4	260	..	..
248	2,952	140	2,378	142	3,329	39	1,387	8	392	..	..
275	3,329	219	3,664	410	9,880	381	14,205	69	4,084	..	..
339	4,022	329	5,587	732	18,157	1,552	61,003	1,523	98,856	59	6,595
212	2,522	194	3,288	409	9,963	1,142	46,162	2,826	196,105	286	32,966
178	2,127	117	1,971	255	6,181	586	23,377	1,925	142,402	521	62,510
214	2,521	172	2,885	293	7,201	637	25,287	1,762	129,389	849	107,058
213	2,500	164	2,757	246	5,926	373	14,512	810	59,498	650	88,777
178	2,073	110	1,825	139	3,378	222	8,802	351	25,439	359	52,836
406	4,750	217	3,643	246	6,122	283	10,840	374	27,073	317	48,992
354	4,128	141	2,333	177	4,429	169	6,437	192	13,695	184	31,752
436	5,027	149	2,448	160	3,810	114	4,385	127	9,251	143	27,699
249	2,855	101	1,687	94	2,210	62	2,279	50	3,526	63	13,801
3,553	41,721	2,176	36,481	3,365	81,998	5,574	219,176	10,021	709,970	3,431	472,986

The following table shows the number of dairy herds in Victoria, grouped, according to size, for each of the four years, 1955 to 1958:—

VICTORIA—DAIRY HERDS, CONTAINING FIVE COWS OR MORE, GROUPED ACCORDING TO SIZE.

As at March—	Number of Herds.								Total.
	5 to 9 Cows.	10 to 14 Cows.	15 to 19 Cows.	20 to 29 Cows.	30 to 49 Cows.	50 to 99 Cows.	100 and Over.		
1955	..	6,234	2,897	2,003	3,562	6,924	7,049	1,013	29,682
1956	..	6,077	2,817	1,928	3,466	6,892	7,528	1,213	29,921
1957	..	6,183	2,916	1,953	3,448	6,893	8,042	1,310	30,745
1958	..	5,889	2,801	1,860	3,215	6,402	8,406	1,464	30,037

The numbers of farmers with less than five cows were:—20,429 in 1955, 19,772 in 1956, 18,408 in 1957, and 18,414 in 1958. These numbers were excluded from the foregoing table as the groups were considered too small to be classed as dairy herds.

Information about the regulation, control, and distribution of the Metropolitan Milk Supply appears on pages 335 to 337 of the 1943-44 Year-Book.

Regulation,  
Control and  
Distribution  
of the  
Metropolitan  
Milk Supply.



**Pigs.** The numbers of pigs in Victoria at 31st March, 1957, and 1958 were 258,336 and 278,628, respectively. About 77 per cent. of these are held in the Central, Western, Northern and Gippsland districts which are so largely devoted to dairying. The following table shows classifications (in statistical districts) of pigs together with the numbers of pig-keepers:—

### VICTORIA—PIGS AND PIG-KEEPERS, MARCH 31st, 1958.

Statistical Districts.	Boars.	Breeding Sows.	All Other.	Total Pigs.	Pig Owners.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central .. .. .	1,029	7,416	48,841	57,286	1,639
North-Central .. .	216	1,205	6,107	7,528	473
Western .. .. .	747	4,585	25,408	30,740	1,391
Wimmera .. .. .	287	1,193	7,306	8,786	917
Mallee .. .. .	393	2,283	13,836	16,512	971
Northern .. .. .	1,686	10,806	63,176	75,668	2,364
North-Eastern .. .	840	4,683	24,617	30,140	1,325
Gippsland .. .. .	1,361	8,207	42,400	51,968	2,022
Total for State ..	6,559	40,378	231,691	278,628	11,102*

\* Of this number, 3,106 had herds of under 5 pigs, 1,543 herds of 5 and under 10, 2,257 herds of 10 and under 20 pigs, and 4,196 herds of 20 pigs and over.

The following tabulation shows the number of dairy herds (in size groups) separated into those where pigs are held in conjunction therewith, and those where no pigs are held. The sizes of pig herds are also shown:—

### VICTORIA—PIG-KEEPING IN CONJUNCTION WITH DAIRYING AS AT MARCH, 1956.

Size of Dairy Cattle Herd.	Size of Pig Herd.								Holdings with Pigs.	Holdings with no Pigs.	Holdings with Dairy Cattle.
	Number. 1-4.	Number. 5-9.	Number. 10-14.	Number. 15-19.	Number. 20-29.	Number. 30-49.	Number. 50-99.	Number. 100 and over.			
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.			
1-4 ..	529	76	54	34	26	40	30	26	815	14,111	14,926
5-9 ..	573	100	77	23	43	27	20	18	881	6,576	7,457
10-14 ..	349	112	49	27	40	20	9	13	619	2,934	3,553
15-19 ..	222	86	58	15	30	17	11	2	441	1,735	2,176
20-29 ..	363	198	110	62	57	29	16	7	842	2,523	3,365
30-49 ..	473	416	314	196	232	109	39	3	1,782	3,792	5,574
50-99 ..	357	529	580	430	723	617	208	36	3,480	6,541	10,021
100 and over ..	53	85	110	108	225	367	249	58	1,255	2,176	3,431
Totals ..	2,919	1,602	1,352	895	1,376	1,226	582	163	10,115	40,388	50,503

**Sheep.** The numbers of sheep in Victoria in various years since 1861 are shown in the table on page 91. Sheep are depastured in practically all districts of the State, but are relatively more numerous in the Wimmera, Western, and Northern districts. The distribution of all live stock is shown in tables on pages 94 and 95.

Factors such as seasonal conditions, prices of wool, mutton, and lamb and, to a less degree, wheat, affect the number of sheep in the State in any given year. In an adverse season flocks may be reduced by mortality due to lack of fodder or water, by the increase in the slaughtering of fat stock or by the decrease in lambing. Decreased imports from other States is another factor. In addition to the seasonal movements of sheep from New South Wales and South Australia for agistment, there is a regular importation of sheep from those States for slaughtering purposes.

**Lambing.** Climatological conditions also play a large part in determining the proportion of lambs dropped to ewes mated, and thus the natural increase from season to season may vary considerably. The following table shows the numbers of ewes mated and lambs dropped, in each of the six years 1953 to 1958 :—

## VICTORIA—LAMBING, 1953 TO 1958.

Season.	Lambs Marked.	Ewes Mated to Produce Such Lambs.	Proportion of Lambs Marked to Ewes Mated.
	No.	No.	%
1953 .. ..	6,969,950	9,256,489	75·3
1954 .. ..	7,502,337	8,857,348	84·7
1955 .. ..	7,807,465	9,284,708	84·1
1956 .. ..	8,670,251	9,984,202	86·8
1957 .. ..	9,496,322	11,203,761	84·8
1958 .. ..	8,455,109	10,173,330	83·11

**Flocks of  
Sheep  
as at March,  
1956.**

The following table contains a classification of the flocks located in cities or towns are excluded. The classification 45·19 per cent. of the owners, the number of sheep in

### FLOCKS OF SHEEP IN

Area Series.		Total in Victoria.				Number 1-49		Number 50-99	
		Flocks.		Sheep.		Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.
		No.	Percentage to Total.	No.	Percentage to Total.				
Acres.					No.	No.	No.	No.	
1 - 99	..	2,190	6·65	181,445	0·78	1,008	19,604	513	36,601
100 - 199	..	3,536	10·73	636,536	2·73	856	17,651	511	36,802
200 - 299	..	3,101	9·41	859,495	3·69	490	9,514	234	16,911
300 - 399	..	3,426	10·40	1,312,906	5·64	276	6,469	190	14,030
400 - 499	..	2,553	7·75	1,277,891	5·49	135	2,980	106	8,485
500 - 599	..	2,408	7·31	1,443,662	6·20	85	2,015	67	4,841
600 - 799	..	4,532	13·75	3,053,915	13·11	100	2,386	85	6,274
800 - 999	..	2,827	8·58	2,295,511	9·86	44	1,347	35	3,142
1,000 - 1,399	..	3,303	10·02	3,076,428	13·21	42	1,315	25	1,813
1,400 - 1,999	..	2,308	7·00	2,896,267	12·44	24	752	10	712
2,000 - 2,999	..	1,408	4·27	2,237,791	9·61	17	499	5	384
3,000 - 4,999	..	870	2·64	1,933,920	8·30	4	65	5	384
5,000 - 9,999	..	368	1·12	1,484,896	6·38	4	99	2	149
10,000 - 19,999	..	73	·22	363,524	1·56	4	95	..	..
20,000 - 49,999	..	34	·10	187,759	0·80	4	51	2	138
50,000 and over	..	16	·05	46,757	0·20	1	30	..	..
Total	..	32,953	100·00	23,283,703	100·00	3,094	64,872	1,790	130,666

**Rams, Ewes,  
&c., in  
Statistical  
Districts at  
March, 1958.**

The following tables set out the numbers of rams, ewes, district of the State as at March, 1958, and the numbers intended for wool or for fat lamb production. The

of sheep in Victoria as at March, 1956. Sheep travelling on roads or discloses that, although the four groups with sheep under 400 comprise those groups was only 11·13 per cent. of the total sheep in the State :—

VICTORIA AS AT MARCH, 1956.

Size of Flock.											
Number 100-199		Number 200-399		Number 400-999		Number 1,000-1,999		Number 2,000-4,999		Number 5,000 and over	
Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
451	61,327	194	50,629	24	13,284	..	..	..	..	..	..
898	127,918	897	247,090	359	188,001	15	19,074	..	..	..	..
608	89,059	963	275,889	775	432,199	31	35,923	..	..	..	..
461	67,374	1,068	310,455	1,331	795,011	98	115,247	2	4,320	..	..
258	39,481	625	187,024	1,225	789,133	197	235,661	7	15,127	..	..
172	26,024	523	153,299	1,177	775,244	378	469,531	6	12,708	..	..
333	50,107	921	270,982	2,041	1,337,401	1,031	1,339,253	21	47,512	..	..
111	17,377	444	133,883	1,321	867,699	777	1,053,433	95	218,630	..	..
135	19,986	470	139,183	1,377	920,065	1,006	1,390,360	248	603,706	..	..
47	7,260	229	68,316	784	533,069	786	1,106,680	422	1,145,824	6	33,654
19	2,984	111	32,544	389	259,079	435	627,499	418	1,236,427	14	78,375
6	868	37	11,147	244	176,741	183	251,188	301	952,488	90	541,039
4	649	9	2,509	59	43,460	69	96,129	92	327,257	129	1,014,644
1	100	2	450	18	14,180	10	12,576	10	33,557	28	302,566
2	341	4	1,069	6	4,597	2	3,007	6	22,897	8	155,659
1	143	2	500	2	1,430	3	4,452	5	15,215	2	24,987
3,507	510,998	6,499	1,884,969	11,132	7,150,593	5,021	6,760,013	1,633	4,635,668	277	2,150,924

wethers and lambs depastured on rural holdings in each statistical of ewes mated, classified according to whether the progeny is breeds of rams are also shown.

VICTORIA — RAMS, EWES, ETC.; EWES MATED;  
OF TRAVELLING SHEEP AND SHEEP

Statistical District.	Rams.	Ewes.		Wethers.	Lambs.	Total Sheep and Lambs.
		Breeding, (Mated and not mated.)	Other.			
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central .. .. .	29,620	1,080,902	102,999	735,750	476,994	2,426,265
North-Central .. .. .	21,418	784,076	79,069	730,740	377,214	1,992,517
Western .. .. .	105,574	3,563,789	537,635	2,749,663	2,124,424	9,081,085
Wimmera .. .. .	44,170	1,606,005	218,373	1,313,881	930,995	4,118,424
Mallee .. .. .	21,210	994,609	28,611	246,844	454,819	1,746,093
Northern .. .. .	56,708	2,166,553	97,133	832,374	971,306	4,124,074
North-Eastern .. .. .	24,432	974,763	57,359	487,316	366,511	1,910,381
Gippsland .. .. .	16,516	706,139	60,241	481,093	373,130	1,637,119
State Total .. .. .	319,648	11,876,836	1,181,420	7,582,661	6,075,393	27,035,958

**Breeds of  
Sheep as  
at March,  
1956.**

Although the principal breed of sheep in the State is the "Merino", the percentage of pure Merino sheep, at the 31st March, 1956, was only 43 as compared with 79 in New South Wales. In 1953 the percentages were 39 in Victoria and 76 in New South Wales.

The method of collecting particulars of breeds was changed considerably in 1950 and, apart from Merinos, all comparison with breeds of previous years is nullified. Merino Comebacks were previously collected as a whole, irrespective of whether they were fine or coarse. The 1950 collection made provision for segregating those "finer than half-bred" while those not up to that standard were included with other crossbreds.

Similarly, it cannot be determined if any increase in the numbers of other Pure Breeds (British and Australasian) has occurred as another very important change in method was the substitution of the category "Other Recognized Breeds" in place of the former category

BREEDS OF RAMS IN EACH DISTRICT (EXCLUSIVE  
IN TOWNS) AS AT MARCH, 1958.

Ewes Mated (for Lambing during Season 1958).		Breeds of Rams (as at March, 1958).						
To Merino, Corriedale or Polwarth Rams (Wool Production).	To Rams of British Breeds (Fat-lamb Production).	Merino.	Corriedale.	Polwarth.	Border Leicester.	Dorset Horn.	South-down.	Other.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
355,692	640,100	4,639	4,714	1,877	1,539	8,518	4,028	4,305
366,402	344,199	8,280	3,233	455	1,609	4,132	2,026	1,683
2,400,073	742,314	55,094	17,635	11,690	1,143	7,541	3,133	9,338
1,048,663	352,977	27,295	5,859	506	2,751	4,860	255	2,644
279,814	671,354	3,817	2,954	114	6,533	6,865	73	854
541,409	1,499,925	9,478	6,556	790	11,392	20,287	4,602	3,603
331,644	576,912	4,841	2,636	964	3,738	5,947	2,825	3,481
262,793	380,116	4,518	1,789	349	789	3,823	2,100	3,143
5,586,490	5,207,897	117,962	45,376	16,745	29,494	61,978	19,042	29,051

"Other Pure Breeds". Other Pure Breeds in 1947 numbered 1,407,349 whereas in 1953 Other Recognized Breeds numbered 5,220,326. Crossbreds, which numbered 6,923,603 in 1947, dropped to 5,625,483 in 1953 notwithstanding the inclusion of half-bred and coarser Merino Comebacks.

Australasian breeds are the Polwarth and the Corriedale. The Polwarth is a Merino-Lincoln cross (approximately three-quarters Merino and one-quarter Lincoln). It was evolved to meet the conditions of light wool-growing localities found to be too wet and cold for the pure Merino. The Corriedale was evolved by heavily culling the progeny of Lincoln rams and Merino ewes and by judicious mating over several years. The Corriedale is a dual purpose sheep, being favoured by many breeders both for lamb raising and for wool production.

Tables showing the breeds of sheep in Victoria and in Australia appear on page 104 of this issue of the *Year-Book*.

## AUSTRALIA—BREEDS OF SHEEP, 31ST MARCH, 1956.

State.	Merino.	Other Recognized Breeds.	Merino Comeback (Finer than Half-bred).	Crossbred (including Half-bred and coarser Comebacks).	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales .. .. .	49,994,202	3,491,007	3,791,491	5,711,300	62,988,000
Victoria .. .. .	9,934,006	5,314,663	2,448,821	5,645,722	23,343,212
Queensland .. .. .	21,776,758	70,976	63,807	204,205	22,115,746
South Australia .. .. .	11,481,919	907,726	280,497	914,725	13,584,867
Western Australia .. .. .	12,987,757	438,685	139,758	561,968	14,128,165
Tasmania .. .. .	300,952	1,345,440	376,963	649,374	2,672,729
A.C.T. and Northern Territory .. .. .	269,647	11,972	4,163	5,368	291,150
Australia .. .. .	106,745,241	11,580,469	7,105,500	13,692,662	139,123,872

## VICTORIA—BREEDS OF SHEEP, 31ST MARCH, 1956.

Statistical District.	Merino.	Other Recognized Breeds.	Merino Comeback (Finer than Half-bred).	Crossbred (including Half-bred and coarser Comebacks).	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central .. .. .	433,574	623,079	230,513	743,310	2,030,476
North-Central .. .. .	788,032	337,352	207,497	414,194	1,747,075
Western .. .. .	3,511,626	2,482,574	767,695	806,003	7,567,898
Wimmera .. .. .	2,745,672	473,246	158,655	338,544	3,716,117
Mallee .. .. .	544,437	178,735	223,419	504,678	1,451,269
Northern .. .. .	1,007,029	645,372	414,188	1,726,215	3,792,804
North-Eastern .. .. .	466,270	380,202	206,429	682,042	1,734,943
Gippsland .. .. .	437,366	194,103	240,425	430,736	1,302,630
State .. .. .	9,934,006	5,314,663	2,448,821	5,645,722	23,343,212

## Production of Wool.

Statistics of wool production are obtained direct from the growers, from fellmongeries and, in respect of wool exported on skins, from the Customs Department.

## VICTORIA—SHEEP AND LAMBS SHORN (IN DISTRICTS), SEASON 1957-58.

Statistical District.	Shorn.		Wool Clipped (including Crutchings).		Average.	
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep's.	Lamb's.	Per Sheep.	Per Lamb.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Central .. .. .	2,083,462	610,492	19,319,955	1,671,812	9.27	3.74
North-Central .. .. .	1,913,134	460,011	17,753,456	1,191,207	9.28	2.59
Western .. .. .	8,213,595	2,381,833	82,331,085	6,502,069	10.02	2.73
Wimmera .. .. .	4,092,418	1,144,164	42,551,853	3,260,379	10.40	2.85
Mallee .. .. .	1,627,823	501,785	16,527,279	1,427,297	10.15	2.84
Northern .. .. .	3,849,728	1,160,168	35,010,379	3,054,579	9.09	2.63
North-Eastern .. .. .	1,733,467	448,971	15,118,634	1,114,303	8.72	2.48
Gippsland .. .. .	1,318,166	474,336	11,897,627	1,265,480	9.03	2.67
State Total .. .. .	24,831,793	7,181,760	240,510,268	19,487,126	9.69	2.71

## VICTORIA—SHEEP SHORN AND WOOL CLIPPED.

Season.	Shorn.		Wool Clipped (including Crutchings).		Average.	
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep's.	Lamb's.	Per Sheep.	Per Lamb.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1953-54 .. ..	19,800,369	5,170,032	179,091,672	13,091,874	9·04	2·53
1954-55 .. ..	20,952,056	5,216,388	205,876,210	13,641,248	9·83	2·62
1955-56 .. ..	21,497,987	5,329,369	223,735,558	14,810,746	10·41	2·78
1956-57 .. ..	22,674,479	6,555,706	249,045,167	20,421,056	11·02	3·12
1957-58 .. ..	24,831,793	7,181,760	240,510,268	19,487,126	9·69	2·71

## VICTORIA—WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE.

Season.	Clip.	Stripped from and Exported on Skins, &c. (Greasy).	Total Quantity (Greasy).	Gross Value.	Average Price per lb.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	£	d.
1953-54 .. ..	192,183,546	31,297,490	223,481,036	73,384,149	78·81
1954-55 .. ..	219,517,458	33,846,965	253,364,423	75,124,583	71·16
1955-56 .. ..	238,546,304	34,810,124	273,356,428	69,019,813	60·60
1956-57 .. ..	270,366,223	29,205,320	299,571,543	97,659,041	78·24
1957-58 .. ..	259,997,394	36,492,898	296,490,292	76,255,309	61·72

The annual collection of statistics is carefully and efficiently carried out by the police. It is realized, however, that the wool clip as recorded is not likely to cover the whole clip, which was shorn some months prior to the collection. After investigation, and examination of the results of investigations elsewhere, it is considered that the quantity not recorded does not exceed 5 per cent. of the Victorian clip.

There is some uncertainty also associated with skin wool. Allowance is made for skins from other States which are exported from Victoria, so that they are not included in Victorian production. The Victorian figures do, however, include skin wool from all sheep and lambs slaughtered in Victoria, even though some of such sheep were brought over from other States for slaughter.



**Economic  
Wool  
Research.**

The Wool Section of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, whose activities are mentioned on page 57 of this issue of the *Year Book*, undertakes research into the economics of the production of wool on Australian wool growing properties and into the outlook for wool as a commodity in world markets.

The Wool Section is financed from the Wool Research Trust Fund which was established under the *Wool Research Act* of 1957. (This Act replaced similar legislation embodied in the *Wool Use Promotion Act* of 1945). The Fund receives 2s. per bale out of the proceeds of a wool tax of 6s. per bale, the balance of the tax being used for Wool Promotion. In addition the Fund receives a contribution from the Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue at the rate of 4s. per bale. Payments from the Fund are administered by the Minister for Primary Industry who is advised by a Wool Research Committee on which woolgrowers' organizations are represented.

Research financed from the Wool Research Trust Fund is undertaken principally by the C.S.I.R.O., the Universities and by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

**Marketing  
of Wool.**

The long established system of marketing wool by public auctions recommenced in 1946-47. During the seasons 1939-40 to 1945-46 clip values were established on appraisalment methods under an agreement between the British and the Australian Governments.

Upon the resumption of open auction sales an insatiable world-wide demand for wool, particularly in respect of the finer descriptions, was responsible for creating the most remarkable range of values in wool trade history and demonstrated the fact that the world's supply of the finer descriptions of the staple is considerably short of trade requirements. The results achieved were not secured on any promise of lessened production, but in the face of normal full-clip figures, plus heavy offerings of old wool, the legacy of war-time appraisalment.

The highest prices obtained for greasy merino fleece wool sold in Victoria and in Australia during each season from 1930-31 to 1957-58 are shown below. Average weighted prices for wool of Victorian production appear on page 105 of this issue of the *Year-Book*.

HIGHEST PRICES OBTAINED FOR GREASY MERINO WOOL,  
VICTORIA AND AUSTRALIA, 1931-1958.

Season.	Victoria.	Australia.	Season.	Victoria.	Australia.
	d.	d.		d.	d.
1930-31 ..	31 $\frac{1}{4}$	31 $\frac{1}{4}$	1944-45 ..	39	40 $\frac{3}{4}$
1931-32 ..	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	1945-46 ..	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
1932-33 ..	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	1946-47 ..	121 $\frac{1}{2}$	153
1933-34 ..	36 $\frac{1}{4}$	42	1947-48 ..	135	138 $\frac{1}{2}$
1934-35 ..	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	1948-49 ..	181	210
1935-36 ..	29 $\frac{1}{4}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	1949-50 ..	183	188
1936-37 ..	36 $\frac{1}{4}$	46 $\frac{3}{4}$	1950-51 ..	351	354 $\frac{1}{2}$
1937-38 ..	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	1951-52 ..	244	287
1938-39 ..	26 $\frac{1}{4}$	28	1952-53 ..	264	367
1939-40 ..	31	33 $\frac{1}{4}$	1953-54 ..	250	255
1940-41 ..	33 $\frac{1}{4}$	33 $\frac{1}{4}$	1954-55 ..	203	420
1941-42 ..	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	1955-56 ..	181	369
1942-43 ..	39	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	1956-57 ..	239	503 $\frac{1}{2}$
1943-44 ..	40 $\frac{3}{4}$	40 $\frac{3}{4}$	1957-58 ..	195	405 $\frac{1}{4}$

Prices of  
Wool.

The following information about the average prices of wool per lb. which have prevailed during the last three seasons has been obtained from Victorian wool brokers. These prices are for wool auctioned in Victoria. Wool from the Riverina and the south-east of South Australia is included in Victorian sales:—

PRICES OF WOOL IN VICTORIA, 1955-56, 1956-57  
AND 1957-58.

Class of Wool.	Average Price per lb. in—		
	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
GREASY MERINO.			
	Pence.	Pence.	Pence.
Extra Super (Western District) ..	90-175	120-210	100-160
Super .. .. .	75-130	105-180	80-145
Good .. .. .	60-105	85-125	70-105
Average .. .. .	50- 80	75-105	55- 85
Wasty and Inferior .. .. .	35- 70	40- 90	35- 75
Extra Super Lambs .. .. .	120-360	115-335	95-250
Super Lambs .. .. .	80-200	80-185	60-140
Good Lambs .. .. .	50-115	60-120	40-100
Average Lambs .. .. .	35- 80	45- 85	30- 65
Inferior Lambs .. .. .	25- 50	35- 60	25- 45
GREASY CROSSBRED.			
Extra Super Comebacks .. .. .	85-100	115-125	85-100
Super Comebacks .. .. .	75- 90	90-115	75- 90
Fine Crossbred .. .. .	45- 85	55-110	45- 85
Medium Crossbred .. .. .	40- 75	45- 90	35- 70
Coarse Crossbred and Lincoln .. .. .	30- 70	40- 80	30- 65
Super Fine Crossbred Lambs .. .. .	65-105	75-110	50- 85
Good Crossbred Lambs .. .. .	45- 75	50- 90	40- 65
Coarse and Lincoln Lambs .. .. .	30- 70	45- 85	35- 65
RECORD PRICES FOR THE SEASON.			
Greasy Merino Fleece .. .. .	181	239	195
„ Comeback Fleece .. .. .	109 $\frac{3}{4}$	138	113 $\frac{3}{4}$
„ Merino Lambs .. .. .	460 $\frac{1}{4}$	440	423
„ Comeback Lambs .. .. .	140	125	122 $\frac{1}{2}$

Prices of Live Stock. In the following table will be found a statement of the average prices of live stock ruling in metropolitan saleyards at Newmarket during the years 1954-55 to 1957-58. The averages stated are the mean of the monthly prices

realized. Prices of live stock vary each year under the influence of seasonal conditions, prices of wool, &c. During periods of dry weather, stock are hastened to market and consequently prices decline but, with the advent of relief rains, stock are withheld for fattening, breeding, &c., and prices rise.

## VICTORIA—PRICES OF LIVE STOCK, 1954-55 TO 1957-58.

Stock.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
	Average.	Average.	Average.	Average.
<i>Fat Cattle.</i>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bullocks—				
Extra prime ..	63 18 6	63 17 11	59 15 6	72 1 8
Prime .. ..	56 3 1	55 13 0	52 8 1	63 8 4
Good .. ..	52 4 1	50 6 11	47 0 5	56 6 6
Good light and handy weights .. ..	47 3 0	45 18 2	43 4 7	49 2 3
Second .. ..	38 8 5	38 16 4	35 16 7	38 5 3
Cows—				
Best .. ..	41 17 7	41 5 1	39 3 0	42 0 2
Others .. ..	34 10 7	33 18 6	33 0 7	30 17 0
<i>Dairy Cattle.</i>				
Milkers (best) ..	48 2 6	46 17 0	46 10 0	40 19 9
Springers (best) ..	44 5 0	40 18 0	42 7 2	35 15 7
<i>Fat Sheep.</i>				
Crossbred Wethers—				
Extra Prime ..	4 6 5	5 3 4	5 19 10	4 10 0
Prime .. ..	3 12 10	4 4 5	4 9 3	3 6 10
Good .. ..	3 0 11	3 11 10	3 12 7	2 8 5
Crossbred Ewes—				
Extra Prime ..	3 7 10	4 5 4	..	..
Prime .. ..	2 14 11	3 9 7	3 10 10	2 7 5
Good .. ..	2 0 6	2 17 0	1 15 8	1 2 9
<i>Fat Lambs.</i>				
Extra Prime ..	5 0 5	5 7 0	5 8 7	5 7 5
Prime .. ..	4 5 3	4 13 5	4 17 11	4 12 9
Good .. ..	3 9 9	3 17 9	4 4 2	4 0 8
<i>Pigs.</i>				
Back Fatters—				
Extra Heavy Prime	25 11 6	39 17 1	48 9 3	29 11 0
Prime Medium and weighty .. ..	17 6 4	27 18 6	35 3 0	23 18 0
Baconers—				
Medium and heavy ..	14 19 5	19 19 11	22 8 8	16 17 10
Light .. ..	13 0 11	16 19 9	19 16 11	15 5 9
Porkers .. ..	9 3 11	13 3 0	13 13 8	10 1 0

The following table shows the number of slaughtering establishments and of the stock slaughtered in the State during each of the five years, 1954 to 1958 :—

### VICTORIA—STOCK SLAUGHTERED, 1954 TO 1958.

Kind of Stock.	Stock Slaughtered in Establishments and on Farms and Stations.				
	Year Ended June—				
	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958*
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Sheep .. .. .	4,451,528	4,582,221	3,968,204	3,517,554	5,500,341
Lambs .. .. .	3,254,271	4,31,702	3,891,857	3,520,554	4,128,307
Bulls and Bullocks .. .. .	240,934	238,085	238,000	283,923	271,228
Cows .. .. .	283,130	287,181	267,549	269,492	393,648
Young Cattle .. .. .	122,568	142,207	134,637	141,071	179,535
Calves .. .. .	361,628	356,318	382,662	444,988	559,143
Pigs .. .. .	297,891	422,143	395,244	382,470	472,841
Number of Slaughterhouses ..	392	381	359	345	320

\* Average dressed weights per carcass during 1957-58 were : Sheep 43·75 lb ; Lambs 33·52 lb ; Bulls and Bullocks 596·41 lb ; Cows 407·68 lb ; Young Cattle 260·11 lb. ; Calves 64·65 lb. ; Pigs 115·32 lb.

The importance of the mutton and lamb export trade to sheep owners is indicated by the export figures for the years 1952 to 1958 as shown in the statement below :—

**Frozen Mutton and Lamb Exported.**

### FROZEN MUTTON AND LAMB EXPORTED FROM VICTORIAN PORTS.

(Exports from all Australian ports are shown in parentheses.)

Year Ended 30th June—	Quantity Exported (exclusive of certain service requirements consumed outside Australia).	
	Mutton.	Lamb.
	Tons.	Tons.
1952 .. .. .	2,477 (3,074)	8,691 (11,467)
1953 .. .. .	19,882 (36,442)	22,749 (38,132)
1954 .. .. .	10,868 (24,250)	11,087 (20,486)
1955 .. .. .	9,736 (15,034)	25,375 (41,728)
1956 .. .. .	10,030 (16,137)	22,789 (36,937)
1957 .. .. .	6,754 (10,509)	12,968 (24,226)
1958 .. .. .	11,867 (20,411)	15,967 (29,150)

**Cattle.** Cattle-raising has always been one of the more important primary industries in this State, despite the gradual increase in the areas devoted to dairy farming, sheep-raising, and cultivation. This has been due mainly to the considerable improvement in methods of pasture management, including the practice of top-dressing. Vigilant inspection of stock and the rigid quarantine of stock imported from overseas have kept herds in Victoria free from many forms of contagious diseases and animal pests with which stock in other countries are afflicted. The numbers of live stock in each district of the State will be found on pages 94 and 95 of this issue.

**Silage.** Ensilage, an economical and safe method of conserving fodder in a succulent form, is relished by stock during dry periods. Expensive precautions against damage by fire, rodents, and stock, required for other fodders, are not necessary in the case of silage.

The following table gives particulars of the silage made in Victoria during the seasons 1953-54 to 1957-58 :—

## SILAGE IN VICTORIA, 1953-54 TO 1957-58.

Season.	Farms on which Silage Made.		Districts in which Made.								
			Silage Made.	Central.	North Central.	Western.	Wimmera.	Mallee.	Northern.	North Eastern.	Gippsland.
				No.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1953-54 ..	1,245	69,830	15,672	1,197	11,897	3,194	391	3,168	10,108	24,203	
1954-55 ..	1,443	86,373	23,254	1,557	12,842	2,136	376	3,312	9,196	33,700	
1955-56 ..	2,250	127,878	30,513	2,698	20,049	4,961	1,726	7,370	10,937	49,624	
1956-57 ..	2,473	187,220	45,711	2,737	26,520	9,773	9,129	15,559	11,710	66,081	
1957-58 ..	2,391	194,850	55,922	2,158	31,169	5,126	3,649	7,256	16,094	73,476	

**Apiculture.** Prior to the season 1936, the statistics of honey and beeswax were based on returns received from apiarists who were permanent occupiers of holdings of 1 acre and upwards. As a consequence, production was understated because of the exclusion of (a) hives on areas of less than 1 acre, and (b) travelling beekeepers who were not occupiers of rural holdings. Commencing with the season 1935-36, all beekeepers were required to furnish returns. The collection was further revised in 1958 to exclude apiarists with less than five hives. Particulars relating to apiculture for the five years 1954 to 1958 are given in the following table :—

VICTORIA—BEE-HIVES, HONEY, AND BEESWAX, 1953-54  
TO 1957-58.

Season Ended May—	Bee- keepers.*	Hives.	Production.		Gross Value.	
			Honey.	Beeswax.	Honey.	Beeswax.
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	£	£
1954 .. ..	1,319	107,971	9,382,259	100,562	430,020	35,197
1955 .. ..	1,336	103,752	8,833,947	94,012	404,889	32,121
1956 .. ..	1,268	104,122	7,010,387	78,482	438,149	25,507
1957 .. ..	1,341	101,736	8,215,350	89,749	590,478	28,888
1958 .. ..	1,086	104,265	5,884,381	67,431	429,069	20,721

\* Apiarists with 20 hives and over numbered 874 in 1954, 865 in 1955, 828 in 1956, 814 in 1957 and 779 in 1958.

**Poultry Census.** A table showing the number of poultry owners and of poultry in Victoria, as at the date of the Census in each of the years 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1933 was published on page 488 of the 1938-39 issue of the *Year-Book*.

**Establishment of Marketing Boards.** A summary of the principal legislative provisions of the *Marketing of Primary Products Act 1935* was published on pages 446 to 448 of the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1934-35.

Pursuant to such Act, Marketing Boards have been constituted for onions, chicory, maize, eggs and egg pulp, and potatoes. The Potato Marketing Board, constituted on 17th November, 1948, ceased to operate during 1956.

**Wholesale  
Prices of  
Principal  
Products.**

The following table gives the monthly average of the Melbourne wholesale prices of the principal agricultural, dairying, and pastoral food products for the year ended June, 1958 :—

**MELBOURNE—WHOLESALE PRICES, YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1958**

Item.	1957.						1958.					
	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.
<b>Agriculture—</b>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Wheat .. per bushel	13 9½	13 9½	13 9½	13 9½	13 9½	14 4	14 4	14 4	14 4	14 4	14 4	14 4
<b>Barley—</b>												
English .. "	13 8½	13 8½	13 8½	13 9½	13 9½	13 9½	13 9½	13 9½	13 5½	13 5½	13 5½	13 5½
Cape .. "	12 0	12 0	12 0	13 2½	13 2½	13 2½	13 2½	13 2½	12 5½	12 5½	12 5½	12 5½
Oats, Milling .. "	8 0	8 11	10 9	12 10	11 6	11 10	11 9	10 11	11 6	12 1	11 3	10 3
Maize .. "	21 0	21 0	20 0	20 0	21 0	21 0	21 0	21 0	23 6	23 6	23 6	18 0
	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
Bran .. per ton	21 17 6	21 17 6	21 17 6	21 17 6	21 17 6	24 7 6	24 7 6	24 7 6	24 7 6	24 7 6	25 15 0	25 15 0
Pollard .. "	21 17 6	21 17 6	21 17 6	21 17 6	21 17 6	24 7 6	24 7 6	24 7 6	24 7 6	24 7 6	25 15 0	25 15 0
Flour (first quality) .. "	34 2 6	34 2 6	34 2 6	34 2 6	34 2 6	34 17 6	34 17 6	34 17 6	34 17 6	34 17 6	35 7 6	35 7 6
Chaff .. "	19 10 0	20 0 0	21 10 0	26 0 0	25 10 0	23 10 0	20 10 0	19 15 0	19 0 0	19 5 0	21 10 0	20 10 0
Potatoes .. "	21 6 6½	19 12 11½	19 14 9½	16 4 3	23 7 6	18 6 6	18 1 10½	17 6 3	13 9 6	10 12 0	11 6 7½	12 6 10½
Onions .. "	46 10 0	39 0 0	35 0 0	26 0 0	25 5 0	26 13 8	30 15 0	33 0 0	33 0 0	33 8 0	36 0 0	37 0 0
<b>Dairy and Farmyard Produce—</b>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Butter .. per lb.	4 3½	4 3½	4 3½	4 3½	4 3½	4 3½	4 3½	4 3½	4 3½	4 3½	4 3½	4 3½
Bacon .. "	4 8	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4
Ham .. "	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 0	5 0	5 0	5 0	5 0	5 0	4 10	5 0
Cheese (matured) .. "	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 2½	3 2½	3 2½	3 2½	3 2½	3 2½	3 2½	3 2½	3 2½
Honey .. "	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½	1 5½
Eggs .. per doz.	4 9	4 9	4 9	4 9	4 9	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3
<b>Butchers' Meat—</b>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
Beef, prime .. per 100 lb.	7 10 0	8 2 1	8 2 1	7 16 1	7 4 5	7 1 1	6 19 8	7 2 0	7 5 6	7 3 3	7 14 6	8 0 10
	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Mutton .. per lb.	13-50	12-75	11-12	7-13	5-63	6-00	6-75	7-31	7-44	7-19	9-06	8-50
Veal .. "	20-00	19-83	20-00	17-33	17-83	18-00	18-50	18-67	20-33	16-75	20-17	19-50
Pork .. "	33-60	34-95	32-33	29-33	31-00	29-67	27-67	26-50	27-17	26-67	26-17	30-50
Lamb .. "	31-25	35-25	30-38	23-00	20-75	20-75	20-50	21-00	22-00	21-75	23-25	24-00



The following table gives the monthly average of the Melbourne retail prices of certain items of groceries, &c., for the year ended June, 1958 :—

## MELBOURNE—RETAIL PRICES, YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1958.

Article.	Unit.	1957.						1958.					
		July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.
		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Groceries, &c.—													
Bread .. .. .	2 lb.	15-50	15-50	15-50	15-50	15-00	16-00	16-00	16-00	16-00	16-00	16-00	16-00
Flour, self-raising .. .. .	"	20-05	20-05	20-05	20-05	20-05	20-40	20-45	20-45	20-45	20-45	20-45	20-45
Tea .. .. .	lb.	75-05	75-05	75-05	75-05	78-40	79-40	79-40	79-20	79-00	78-75	78-75	78-75
Sugar .. .. .	"	10-00	10-00	10-00	10-00	10-00	10-00	10-00	10-00	10-00	10-00	10-00	10-00
Jam, plum .. .. .	1½ lb.	31-55	31-55	31-55	31-55	31-55	31-55	31-55	31-67	31-67	31-33	31-33	31-22
Oats, flaked .. .. .	1 lb.	8-88	9-19	9-19	9-06	9-13	9-38	8-81	9-46	10-06	9-88	9-94	10-04
Raisins, seeded .. .. .	"	30-75	30-75	30-75	30-63	31-13	31-13	30-83	31-00	31-00	30-83	31-28	31-50
Currants .. .. .	"	25-00	25-00	25-00	26-17	26-17	26-17	25-88	26-25	26-25	26-33	26-75	26-75
Apricots, dried .. .. .	"	61-50	61-50	61-50	63-00	63-00	63-00	63-00	63-00	70-00	69-25	69-25	69-25
Peaches, canned .. .. .	29 oz.	45-06	45-06	46-13	45-56	45-56	45-56	45-10	45-05	45-15	44-65	43-80	43-35
Pears canned .. .. .	"	40-39	40-83	40-83	40-60	40-90	40-90	40-90	40-80	40-80	40-50	39-55	38-95
Potatoes .. .. .	7 lb.	35-55	32-09	34-88	33-45	36-42	32-88	33-88	32-88	31-30	28-79	28-57	28-57
Onions, brown .. .. .	lb.	8-90	8-90	8-25	8-25	9-00	9-00	8-33	7-33	7-54	7-67	7-87	7-71
Dairy Produce—													
Butter, factory .. .. .	lb.	54-65	54-65	54-65	54-65	54-65	54-65	54-55	54-55	54-55	54-20	54-05	54-05
Eggs, new laid .. .. .	doz.	64-80	64-80	64-00	62-90	63-00	69-50	70-00	70-10	74-30	74-30	74-30	73-70
Bacon, rashers .. .. .	lb.	85-83	85-83	85-83	85-83	82-50	80-50	80-50	80-50	80-50	80-86	80-86	80-86
Milk, fresh .. .. .	quart	18-50	18-50	18-50	18-50	18-50	18-50	18-50	18-50	18-50	18-50	18-50	18-50
Meat—													
Beef, Sirloin .. .. .	lb.	September Quarter			December Quarter			March Quarter			June Quarter		
" rib .. .. .	"	45-81			43-40			44-00			44-83		
" steak, rump .. .. .	"	43-10			43-20			42-97			43-13		
" chuck .. .. .	"	62-00			62-30			63-37			63-47		
" sausages .. .. .	"	34-57			34-07			33-90			34-23		
" corned silverside .. .. .	"	24-30			23-71			23-09			23-13		
" brisket .. .. .	"	41-47			41-33			42-90			42-32		
Mutton, leg .. .. .	"	30-17			30-77			30-07			28-40		
" forequarter .. .. .	"	29-00			25-38			25-63			26-75		
" loin .. .. .	"	18-78			16-44			16-29			16-62		
" chops, loin .. .. .	"	28-60			25-60			25-00			25-07		
" leg .. .. .	"	28-43			24-91			24-48			25-04		
" chop .. .. .	"	31-57			29-09			28-59			29-54		
Pork, leg .. .. .	"	60-00			58-00			56-53			54-20		
" chops .. .. .	"	61-59			59-74			57-43			57-30		

**FORESTRY.**

**Administration.** The forests of the State comprise both reserved and protected areas and are controlled by a Commission appointed in 1919.

**Forests Area.** At the 30th June, 1958, the area of reserved forest was 5,552,471 acres, much of which can be classed only as protection forest and is not strictly speaking timber producing. It is estimated that there are 10,000,000 acres of Crown lands in the State carrying merchantable timber.

**Protected Forests.** In addition to the 5,552,471 acres mentioned above there were 175,155 acres reserved as Timber Reserves under the Land Acts. Including these reserves, but excluding areas reserved as sites for Gardens, Parks, and Recreation Purposes, all remaining Crown lands have been proclaimed "Protected Forests". It should not be assumed, however, that all of these lands are "forests" as the term is generally understood, as over 6,000,000 acres comprise roads, water frontages, beds of rivers and lakes, and unsold land in cities, towns, and boroughs. In addition, on the area of 6,250,000 acres in occupation under grazing and other leases, much of the timber is of little or no commercial value because of remoteness, inaccessibility, or other causes.

**Forests Output.** The following table shows the estimated production of sawn timber, fuel timber and miscellaneous timber from State forests during each of the years 1955-56 to 1957-58 :—

Year Ended June—				Sawn Timber. (a)	Fuel Timber. (b)	Miscellaneous Timber. (b)
				'000 cubic feet.	'000 cubic feet.	'000 cubic feet.
1956	..	..	..	22,455	13,927	9,318
1957	..	..	..	23,905	15,223	11,847
1958	..	..	..	22,670	12,300	13,221

(a) These figures are estimates of sawn timber obtainable from the recorded volumes of logs cut.

(b) Volumes estimated from recorded quantities in various units (generally actual volumes are not recorded).

Particulars of sawn timber and firewood, from all sources, will be found in part "Factories &c.", of the *Year-Book*.

**Softwood Plantations.** The total area of softwood plantations at 30th June, 1958, was 44,659 acres. This revised figure follows the liquidation of unproductive and burnt areas from softwood plantations.

**Plantation Output.** The output of plantation grown softwood logs, from State plantations, excluding pine pulpwood was :—

1955-56	..	..	20,091,522	superficial feet
1956-57	..	..	17,915,507	" "
1957-58	..	..	17,735,836	" "

**Other Commercial Softwood Plantations.** Since 1952, there has been a marked increase in the area and number of private commercial softwood plantations established in Victoria.

The biggest contribution to this acreage was made by Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd., which has established 14,000 acres of softwood plantations in the South Gippsland area. Planting is continuing and it is anticipated that the timber output from these plantations will supply most of the company's requirements of long-fibred pulp for its Maryvale paper mill near Morwell. This type of pulp is produced from softwood timber and is used in mixture to strengthen the shorter fibred pulp derived from native hardwood timbers.

Additional to the above new planting, several small plantation areas of 200 acres or less have been established for commercial purposes in southern Victoria by private individuals. The area planted by State Schools under the School Endowment Plantation scheme is 1,500 acres.

A recent census disclosed that the total area of private softwood plantations in Victoria to be almost 49,000 acres.

**Nurseries.** To encourage tree planting in the rural areas of the State, the Forests Commission distributed plants from four main nurseries situated at Macedon, Creswick, Wail and Merbein. These nurseries supplied the main climatic zones and in addition to these, softwood plants (mainly pines) are available from eleven smaller nurseries attached to State plantations. Despatches of plants from all nurseries were :—1955-56, 906,227 ; 1956-57, 1,035,650 ; and 1957-58, 1,085,334.

**Forestry Fund.** Particulars in respect of this fund (established in 1918) will be found on page 355 of the 1943-44 issue of the *Year-Book*.

The revenue derived from forest sources during the financial year 1957-58 was £2,361,559, and the expenditure £2,567,822—£1,177,235 of which was paid out of the Consolidated Revenue, £616,425 out of loan funds, and the balance (£774,162) from the Forestry Fund.

The various types of silvicultural operations in the indigenous forests over the period 1954-55 to 1957-58 are indicated in the following table:—

**VICTORIA—SILVICULTURAL OPERATIONS IN STATE  
FORESTS, 1954-55 TO 1957-58.**

Nature of Work,	Year Ended 30th June—			
	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
First thinning .. .. .	5,195	7,197	7,167	5,927
Second or subsequent thinning ..	6,266	3,881	3,577	2,524
Regeneration or liberation treatment	16,694	19,563	11,881	16,940
Coppice treatment .. .. .	13,154	17,599	10,261	10,019
Total area treated ..	41,309	48,240	32,886	35,410

The *Wood-Pulp Agreement Act* 1936 (No. 4451) passed on 27th December, 1936, is “an Act to ratify validate approve and otherwise give effect to an agreement between the Minister of Forests, the Forests Commission, and Australian Paper Manufacturers Limited with respect to the establishment of the wood-pulp industry”. Details of the agreement will be found in previous issues of the *Year-Book*.

The first manufacturing unit—the Pilot Mill—erected in accordance with the above-mentioned agreement came into production in January, 1938, with a capacity production of 3,000 tons of air-dried pulp per annum. The main mill, which commenced production in October, 1939, has a capacity output of approximately 30,000 tons of kraft pulp per annum.

**Supply of  
Pulp-wood  
from State  
Forests.**

Consignment of pulp-wood from the State forests to the mill at Maryvale commenced in October, 1937. The quantities of pulp-wood obtained from the State forests during each of the years 1955-56 to 1957-58 were as follows :—1955-56, 4,554,686 cubic feet; 1956-57, 7,024,000 cubic feet; and 1957-58, 7,061,400 cubic feet.

Australian Paper Manufacturers Limited extended operations by its contractor in both green and fire-killed mountain ash and alpine ash, the bulk of procurement being from fire-killed stands. There was a small increase in pulp-wood obtained from pine plantations and in the output from mixed foot-hill forests.