

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK, 1879-80.

PART I.—BLUE BOOK.

1. Victoria is situated at the south-east of, and is the southernmost colony* on, the Australian continent. It lies between the 34th and 39th parallels of south latitude, and the 141st and 150th meridians of east longitude. Its extreme length from east to west is about 420, its greatest breadth about 250, and its extent of coast-line nearly 600 geographical miles. Position of
Victoria.

2. According to the latest computation, the area of Victoria is 88,198 square miles, or 56,446,720 acres. The whole continent of Australia is estimated to contain 2,983,264 square miles, and therefore Victoria occupies about a thirty-fourth part of its surface. Great Britain, exclusive of the islands in the British seas, contains 89,644 square miles, and is therefore slightly larger than Victoria. Area of
Victoria.

3. Victoria is bounded on the north by the River Murray, and by a direct line running in a south-easterly direction from a place near the head waters of that stream, called the Springs, on Forest Hill, to Cape Howe. The positions of the extremities of this line are as follow:— Northern
boundary.

			Latitude S.			Longitude E.
			° ' "			° ' "
The Springs	...	...	36 47 56·90	...	...	148 11 57·75
Cape Howe	...	...	37 30 23·09	...	...	149 58 35·50

4. The western boundary of Victoria, which divides it from South Australia, is a line about 242 geographical miles in length, approximating to the position of the 141st meridian of east longitude, and extending from the Murray to the sea. This line was, in 1847-9, marked upon the ground as the 141st meridian, and was accepted and proclaimed as such in the Government *Gazettes* of the period in the two colonies; but its true position is now found to be $140^{\circ} 58' 7\cdot26''$, and it therefore follows that Victoria exercises jurisdiction over about 360 square miles of South Australian territory. The error was discovered in the course of the Geodetic Survey of Victoria, which was commenced in 1857, when, according to the first observations made by the surveying staff, the marked line appeared to be $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the eastward of its proper position, and it was consequently supposed that South Australia Western
boundary.

* In consequence of its position at the extreme south of the Australian continent Victoria is often mistaken, by English writers and others not well acquainted with Australian geography, for an adjacent colony, which has been misnamed South Australia, the truth being that only a very small part of South Australia is situated further south than even the most northern portion of Victoria. A chapter on the Geography of Victoria was given in the *Victorian Year-Book*, 1874: Ferres, Melbourne.

had encroached upon Victoria to that extent all along the frontier. It was afterwards discovered that, owing to errors in the *Nautical Almanac*, the Victorian geodetic lines had been placed 4 miles too far to the westward, the necessary result being that, instead of South Australia having possession of any portion of the territory of Victoria, the latter was in occupation of a strip of South Australian territory $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles broad and 242 miles long. This fact the South Australian Government have submitted should be held to be sufficient reason for the reconsideration and re-marking of the boundary line; but to this the Victorian Government object, more especially as they made no demand for its alteration when the error was supposed to be $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles the other way, and also because, in the present state of science, it is admitted to be impossible in these latitudes to lay down meridians at very great distances from the primary within a nearer approximation to their true position than a quarter of a mile, so that, if the boundary were re-adjusted now, improved methods in a few years might indicate that the line was still wrong. It may be observed that what is known of the position of the marked boundary line is entirely due to Victorian observers, and South Australia has never, so far as is known, taken any steps towards testing the accuracy of their observations.*

Southern boundary. 5. The southern boundary of Victoria is the Southern Ocean, Bass's Straits, and the Pacific Ocean. The Southern Ocean is reckoned to extend as far east as a line drawn from the north part of King's Island to Cape Otway; Bass's Straits from that line to one drawn from the north part of Flinders' Island to Wilson's Promontory; and the Pacific Ocean from the last-mentioned line eastward.

Extreme points of Victoria. 6. The southernmost point in Victoria, and consequently in the whole of Australia, is Wilson's Promontory, which lies in latitude $39^{\circ} 8' S.$, longitude $146^{\circ} 26' E.$; the northernmost point is the place where the western boundary of the colony meets the Murray, latitude $34^{\circ} 2' S.$, longitude $140^{\circ} 58' E.$; the point furthest east is Cape Howe, situated in latitude $37^{\circ} 31' S.$, longitude $149^{\circ} 59' E.$; the most westerly point is in the line of the whole western frontier, which, according to the latest correction, lies upon the meridian $140^{\circ} 58' E.$, and extends from latitude $34^{\circ} 2' S.$ to latitude $38^{\circ} 4' S.$, or 242 geographical miles.

Position of Melbourne. 7. The Melbourne observatory is a building specially erected for observatory purposes on the Government reserve on the south side of the River Yarra. According to the latest computation, its latitude is $37^{\circ} 49' 53''$ south, and its longitude $144^{\circ} 58' 42''$ east.

* Whilst this was passing through the press, the South Australian Government announced in Parliament their intention to force a decision on the boundary question, either by selling dutiable articles on the disputed strip of country or granting a lease thereof.

8. The following are the dates of some of the principal events connected with the discovery and history of Victoria* :—
- Principal events.
1770. April 19th.—Victorian land first discovered by Capt. James Cook, R.N.— (“Point Hicks,” believed to be either the present Cape Conran or Cape Everard in Gippsland).
1798. June 4th.—Western Port discovered and entered by Surgeon George Bass, R.N.
- „ Nov. and Dec.—The existence of a strait between Australia and Tasmania proved by Flinders and Bass, who sailed round the latter island in the sloop *Norfolk*.
1800. Dec. 4th to 9th.—Bass's Straits first sailed through from the westward by Lieutenant James Grant, R.N., in H.M.S. *Lady Nelson*, of sixty tons burden, bound from England to Port Jackson. On this occasion Grant discovered and gave the present names to Capes Bridgewater, Nelson, and Sir William Grant, Portland Bay, the Lawrence and Lady Julia Percy Islands, Capes Otway, Patton, Liptrap, &c.
1802. January 5th.—Port Phillip Bay discovered by Acting Lieutenant John Murray, R.N., in the *Lady Nelson*. Heads entered by the launch on February 2nd, and by the vessel on February 15th.
- „ April 26th.—Port Phillip Bay entered and examined by Commander Matthew Flinders, R.N., who was not aware it had been previously discovered by Murray.
1803. Jan. and Feb.—Port Phillip Bay surveyed and the Yarra and Saltwater Rivers discovered by Charles Grimes, Surveyor-General of New South Wales, and party.
- „ October 7th.—Attempt to colonise Port Phillip by Colonel David Collins, in charge of a party of convicts.
1804. January 27th.—Port Phillip abandoned by Collins as unfit for settlement.
1824. Dec. 16th.—Hume and Hovell arrived at Corio Bay, having travelled overland from Sydney.
1834. Nov. 19th.—Permanent settlement founded at Portland Bay by the Messrs. Henty.
1835. May 29th.—John Batman arrived in Port Phillip and made a treaty with the natives for a grant of 600,000 acres of land.
- „ August 28th.—John Pascoe Fawkner's party sailed up the Yarra in the *Enterprise* and founded Melbourne. (Fawkner followed shortly after, and landed on the 18th October.)
1836. April to Oct.—Major (afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel Sir) Thomas Livingstone Mitchell made extensive explorations in the Port Phillip District, the western portion of which he named Australia Felix.
- „ Sept. 29th.—Regular Government established under Captain William Lonsdale, who was sent from Sydney to act as Resident Magistrate.
1837. March 2nd.—Governor Sir Richard Bourke arrived from Sydney and gave the name of Melbourne to the metropolis of the new settlement.
- „ June 1st.—First sale of Crown lands took place in Melbourne. Average price of half-acre town lots, £35.
1839. Sept. 30th.—Mr. Charles Joseph La Trobe arrived from Sydney and took charge of the Port Phillip District under the title of Superintendent. The territory over which he exercised jurisdiction was much smaller than the present colony of Victoria, being bounded on the east and west by the 146th and 141st meridians and on the north by the 36th parallel.
1842. August 12th.—Melbourne incorporated as a Town by Act 6 Vict. No. 7.
1848. June 25th.—The Town of Melbourne erected into a City by Royal Letters Patent.
1849. October 12th.—Geelong incorporated as a Town by Act 13 Vict. No. 40.

* For a detailed account of the early history of Victoria, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1874.

1851. July 1st.—Port Phillip separated from New South Wales and erected into an independent colony under the name of Victoria.
 „ July and Aug.—Discovery of gold in Victoria.
 1853. February 8th.—Road districts (the origin of the present shires) established by Act 16 Vict. No. 40.
 1854. November. —Riots on Ballarat goldfield. (Eureka Stockade taken on the 2nd December.)
 „ Dec. 29th.—Municipal institutions (the origin of the present cities, towns, and boroughs), established by Act 18 Vict. No. 15.
 1855. Nov. 23rd.—New Constitution proclaimed in Victoria.
 1856. March 19th.—The ballot as a means of electing members of both Houses of Parliament prescribed by Act 19 Vict. No. 12.
 1857. August 27th.—Property qualification of members of the Legislative Assembly abolished by Act 21 Vict. No. 12.
 „ Nov. 24th.—Universal suffrage for electors of the Legislative Assembly made law by Act 21 Vict. No. 33.
 1869. January 1st.—Property qualification of members and electors of the Legislative Council reduced by Act 32 Vict. No. 334.

Governors.

9. Subjoined is a list of the Governors and Acting-Governors of Victoria, with the dates of their assumption of and retirement from office :—

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA.

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
Charles Joseph La Trobe ...	30th September 1839*	...
John Vesey Fitzgerald Foster (acting)	15th July 1851 ...	5th May 1854
Sir Charles Hotham, K.C.B. ...	8th May 1854 ...	22nd June 1854
Major-General Edward Macarthur (acting)	22nd June 1854 ...	31st December 1855†
Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B. ...	1st January 1856 ...	26th December 1856
Sir Charles Henry Darling, K.C.B. ...	26th December 1856	10th September 1863
Brigadier-General George Jackson Carey, C.B. (acting)	11th September 1863	7th May 1866
The Right Honorable John Henry Thomas Viscount Canterbury, K.C.B.	7th May 1866 ...	15th August 1866
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	15th August 1866 ...	2nd March 1873
Sir George Ferguson Bowen, G.C.M.G. ‡	3rd March 1873 ...	19th March 1873
Sir Redmond Barry, Kt. (acting) ...	31st March 1873 ...	22nd February 1879
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	3rd January 1875 ...	10th January 1875
The Most Honorable George Augustus Constantine, Marquis of Normanby, G.C.M.G., P.C.	11th January 1875 ...	14th January 1876
	27th February 1879	Still in office

Duration of Governor-ships.

10. Since Victoria has been an independent colony, the average time during which the Governors of Victoria, prior to Lord Normanby, not including the Acting-Governors, have held office has been about four years and four months.

Interregna in Victoria.

11. During the twelve days between the 19th and the 31st March 1873, the former being the day on which Sir W. F. Stawell left the colony, and the latter that on which Sir G. F. Bowen arrived, also during the five days between the 22nd and 27th February 1879, the

* At the first of these dates Mr. La Trobe assumed the office of Superintendent of Port Phillip; at the second, he became Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria.

† Sir Charles Hotham died at this date.

‡ Sir G. F. Bowen was absent on leave from the 31st December 1874 to 14th January 1876.

former being the day on which Sir G. F. Bowen left, and the latter that on which Lord Normanby arrived, there was neither Governor nor Acting-Governor in Victoria.

12. Since the inauguration of responsible government, twenty **Ministries.** Ministries have held office in Victoria. The following are the names of the respective Chief Secretaries or Premiers, and the dates of their assumption of and retirement from office:—

MINISTRIES.

Name of Premier.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
1. William Clark Haines ...	28th November 1855	11th March 1857
2. John O'Shanassy ...	11th March 1857 ...	29th April 1857
3. William Clark Haines ...	29th April 1857 ...	10th March 1858
4. John O'Shanassy ...	10th March 1858 ...	27th October 1859
5. William Nicholson ...	27th October 1859 ...	26th November 1860
6. Richard Heales ...	26th November 1860	14th November 1861
7. John O'Shanassy ...	14th November 1861	27th June 1863
8. James McCulloch ...	27th June 1863 ...	6th May 1868
9. Charles Sladen ...	6th May 1868 ...	11th July 1868
10. James McCulloch ...	11th July 1868 ...	20th September 1869
11. John Alexander MacPherson ...	20th September 1869	9th April 1870
12. James McCulloch ...	9th April 1870 ...	19th June 1871
13. Charles Gavan Duffy ...	19th June 1871 ...	10th June 1872
14. James Goodall Francis ...	10th June 1872 ...	31st July 1874
15. George Briscoe Kerferd ...	31st July 1874 ...	7th August 1875
16. Graham Berry ...	7th August 1875 ...	20th October 1875
17. Sir James McCulloch, Kt. ...	20th October 1875 ...	21st May 1877
18. Graham Berry ...	21st May 1877 ...	5th March 1880
19. James Service ...	5th March 1880 ...	3rd August 1880
20. Graham Berry ...	3rd August 1880 ...	Still in office

13. Before the present Government assumed office the average **Duration of** duration of Ministries had been about one year and four months. **Ministries.**

14. The present is the eleventh Parliament since the inauguration of **Parliaments.** responsible government in Victoria. The following table shows the number of Sessions in each Parliament, the dates of opening and of closing or dissolution:—

PARLIAMENTS.

Number of Parliament.	Number of Session.	Date of Opening.	Date of Closing and of Dissolution.
1	1	21st November 1856 ...	24th November 1857
	2	3rd December 1857 ...	4th June 1858
	3	7th October 1858 ...	24th February 1859 9th August 1859
2	1	13th October 1859 ...	18th September 1860
	2	20th November 1860 ...	3rd July 1861 11th July 1861
3	1	30th August 1861 ...	18th June 1862
	2	7th November 1862 ...	11th September 1863
	3	26th January 1864 ...	2nd June 1864 25th August 1864

PARLIAMENTS—*continued.*

Number of Parliament.	Number of Session.	Date of Opening.	Date of Closing and of Dissolution.
4	1	28th November 1864 ...	28th November 1865 11th December 1865
5	1	12th February 1866 ...	5th April 1866
	2	11th April 1866 ...	1st June 1866
	3	17th January 1867 ...	10th September 1867
	4	18th September 1867 ...	8th November 1867
	5	25th November 1867 ...	25th November 1867 30th December 1867
6	1	13th March 1868 ...	29th September 1868
	2	11th February 1869 ...	29th December 1869
	3	15th February 1870 ...	15th July 1870
	4	27th October 1870 ...	29th December 1870 25th January 1871
7	1	25th April 1871 ...	23rd November 1871
	2	30th April 1872 ...	17th December 1872
	3	13th May 1873 ...	25th November 1873 9th March 1874
8	1	19th May 1874 ...	24th December 1874
	2	25th May 1875 ...	7th April 1876
	3	11th July 1876 ...	22nd December 1876 25th April 1877
9	1	22nd May 1877 ...	9th April 1878
	2	9th July 1878 ...	6th December 1878
	3	8th July 1879 ...	5th February 1880 9th February 1880
10	1	11th May 1880 ...	26th June 1880 29th June 1880
11	1	22nd July 1880 ...	

Duration of Parliaments.

15. Parliaments in Victoria have existed, on the average, for two years and two months. Sessions have lasted, on the average, for nearly seven months.

Governors of Australasian colonies.

16. The following are the names of the present Governors of all the Australasian colonies, and the dates of their assuming office:—

GOVERNORS OF AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

Colony.	Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.
Victoria ...	The Most Honorable George Augustus Constantine, Marquis of Normanby, G.C.M.G., P.C.	27th February 1879
New South Wales	The Right Honorable Sir (commonly called Lord) Augustus William Frederick Spencer Loftus, G.C.B.	4th August 1879
Queensland ...	Sir Arthur Edward Kennedy, K.C.M.G.	10th November 1876
South Australia ...	Colonel Sir William Francis Drummond Jervois, K.C.M.G., C.B.	3rd July 1877
Western Australia	Sir William Cleaver Francis Robinson, K.C.M.G.	10th April 1880
Tasmania ...	Sir Francis Smith, Kt. (acting)* ...	6th April 1880
New Zealand ...	Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, G.C.M.G.	27th March 1879

* Major Sir George Cumine Strahan, K.C.M.G., has been appointed Governor of Tasmania, but has not arrived in the colony. At the last moment of going to press it was announced that Lieut.-General Sir John Henry Lefroy, K.C.M.G., C.B., had been appointed to temporarily administer the Government.

17. The names of the reigning sovereigns or other rulers of the principal countries in the world, together with the years of birth and of succession to or assumption of office, are as follow:—

REIGNING SOVEREIGNS, ETC., 1879.

Country.	Name.	Year of Birth.	Office.	
			Title.	Year of Assumption of.
Great Britain and Ireland	Victoria I. ...	1819	Queen of Great Britain and Ireland	1837
Austro-Hungary	Franz Joseph I. ...	1830	Empress of India ... Emperor of Austria ... King of Hungary ...	1877 1848 1867
Belgium	Leopold II. ...	1835	King of the Belgians	1865
Brazil	Pedro II. ...	1825	Emperor of Brazil	1831
China	Quang-Su ...	1871	Emperor of China	1875
Denmark	Christian IX. ...	1818	King of Denmark	1863
Egypt	Mohamed Tewfik	1852	Khedive of Egypt	1879
France	F. P. J. Grévy...	1813	President of the French Republic	1879
Germany	Wilhelm I. ...	1797	King of Prussia ... Emperor of Germany	1861 1871
Greece	Georgios I. ...	1845	King of the Hellenes	1863
Holland	Willem III. ...	1817	King of the Netherlands	1849
Italy	Umberto I. ...	1844	King of Italy	1878
"	Leo XIII. (Giachino Pecci)	1810	Supreme Pontiff	1878
Japan	Mutsu Hito ...	1852	Mikado of Japan	1867
Montenegro	Nicholas I. ...	1841	Hospodar of Montenegro	1860
Morocco	Muley-Hassan	1831	Sultan of Morocco	1873
Persia	Nassr-ed-Din ...	1829	Shah of Persia	1848
Portugal	Luis I. ...	1838	King of Portugal	1861
Roumania	Karl I. ...	1839	Prince of Roumania	1866
Russia	Alexander II. ...	1818	Emperor of Russia	1855
Servia	Milan II. ...	1855	Prince of Servia	1872
Spain	Alfonso XII. ...	1857	King of Spain	1874
Sweden and Norway	Oscar II. ...	1829	King of Sweden and Norway	1872
Tunis	Sidi Mohamed-el-Sadok	1813	Bey of Tunis	1859
Turkey	Abdul-Hamid II.	1842	Sultan of Turkey	1876
United States	R. B. Hayes ...	1822	President of the United States	1877

18. It will be observed that only one ruler—the Emperor of Germany—was born before the commencement of the present century; also that, with the exception of the Emperor of Brazil, who ascended the throne at the early age of 6 years, no monarch has reigned so long as the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland.

19. The land forces of Victoria embrace a paid Artillery Corps and the various Volunteer Corps, consisting of the Cavalry, Artillery, Rifle, Engineer, and Torpedo and Signal arms of the service. The following

table shows the designation, strength, and establishment of the various corps at the end of 1879:—

LAND FORCES.—STRENGTH AND ESTABLISHMENT.

Branch of Service.	Strength, 31st December 1879.					Wanting to Complete.	Establishment.
	Officers.	Ser-geants.	Rank and File.		Total.		
			Regular.	Supernumerary.			
Victorian Artillery... ..	2	4	168	...	174	17	191
Volunteers:—							
Cavalry—							
Metropolitan Troop ...	4	5	21	...	30	12	42
Kyneton " ...	4	4	34	9	51	...	42
Sandhurst " ...	6	5	29	...	40	2	42
Ballarat " ...	5	3	33	...	41	1	42
Southern " ...	4	4	34	3	45	...	42
Castlemaine " ...	4	2	25	...	31	11	42
Artillery—							
E. Melbourne Corps ...	8	11	100	...	119	106	225
St. Kilda " ...	8	12	117	...	137	13	150
Metropolitan " ...	4	13	125	...	142	8	150
Williamstown " ...	9	8	132	...	149	51	200
Geelong " ...	5	10	103	...	118	32	150
S. Grant Corps—							
Queenscliff Detachment	3	3	27	...	33	} 73	150
Drysdale " ...	2	3	39	...	44		
Western Corps—							
Portland Detachment...	3	5	75	...	83	} 17	225
Belfast " ...	3	4	64	...	71		
Warrnambool " ...	3	3	48	...	54		
Emerald Hill Corps ...	6	8	115	...	129	21	150
Engineer Corps ...	5	9	136	14	164	...	150
Torpedo and Signal Corps...	7	...	19	...	26	4	30
Rifles—							
Metropolitan Corps ...	6	10	119	...	135	40	175
Carlton " ...	6	8	156	...	170	5	175
Collingwood " ...	6	4	129	...	139	11	150
E. Collingwood " ...	5	6	94	...	105	45	150
Richmond " ...	5	5	69	...	79	71	150
Southern " ...	5	5	100	...	110	40	150
1st Ballarat " ...	9	14	207	...	230	70	300
2nd Ballarat Corps—							
Creswick Detachment	1	3	71	3	78	...	75
Clunes " ...	2	5	68	9	84	...	75
Bendigo Corps ...	4	8	163	...	175	...	175
1st Castlemaine Corps ...	8	8	129	...	145	5	150
2nd Castlemaine Corps—							
Maldon Detachment ...	3	4	59	...	66	9	75
Kyneton " ...	2	3	39	...	44	6	50
Malmsbury " ...	2	3	45	3	53	...	50
Total ...	159	202	2,892	41	3,294	670	3,923
Staff—Unattached, &c. ...	52	26	...	...	78	...	...
" Bands ...	...	...	15	...	15	...	...
Grand Total ...	211	228	2,907	41	3,387	...	...

20. It will be observed that, at the end of 1879, the total military establishment, exclusive of the staff, was 3,923, which is 117 more than at the end of 1878 ; also that the total strength amounted to 3,294, or 629 less than the establishment. The deficiencies in the various corps are shown in the table to have amounted to 670 ; but as against this must be set 41 supernumeraries, whereby the number wanted to complete is reduced to 629, as stated. Strength and establishment.

21. The rifles in possession of the military forces and their distribution amongst the various corps at the end of 1879 were as follow. It will be observed that the Martini-Henry rifle is the one in general use :— Rifles of land forces.

RIFLES IN POSSESSION OF LAND FORCES.

Branch of Service.	Total Number of Rifles.	Pattern of Rifles.					
		Martini-Henry.	Breech-loading Carbine.	Long Enfield.	Lancaster Large Bore.	Lancaster Reduced Bore.	General Hay.
Victorian Artillery ...	259	120	139	...	...	...	...
Volunteers—							
Cavalry ...	87	32	55	...	...	...	...
Artillery ...	924	858	41	6	...	12	7
Engineers ...	140	140	...	...	...	...	...
Torpedo and Signal Corps	40	10	30	...	...	...	...
Rifles ...	1,796	1,758	...	15	9	12	2
Total ...	3,246	2,918	265	21	9	24	9

22. The following statement of the number and calibre of the guns in possession of the land forces has been furnished by the Commandant :— Guns of land forces.

	Number.
Garrison guns ...	Muzzle-loading rifled, 9" ... 6
	" " " 80-pr. ... 23
	Smooth-bored, 68-pr. ... 30
Guns of position	" " 32-pr. ... 46
	Breech-loading rifled, 40-pr. ... 6
Field guns ...	Breech-loading Armstrong's, rifled, 12-pr. ... 6
	" " " " " 6-pr. ... 6
	Muzzle-loading rifled, Whitworth's, 3-pr. ... 6
	Smooth-bored howitzers, 24-pr. ... 1
	" " " " 12-pr. ... 9
Guns, 6-pr. ... 2	
Total ...	141*

23. The Victorian naval forces consist of the warships *Cerberus* and *Nelson* and the steam sloop *Victoria* ; of a Naval Reserve, the men of which receive a small fee as a retainer ; and of Torpedo Corps. Naval forces.

* Some of these guns are stated to be of obsolete patterns, and some to be otherwise unserviceable.

The following particulars respecting the naval forces have been kindly supplied for this work in continuation of the account given last year :—

“By reference to the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1878-9, it will be seen that, at the time when every day might bring news of the mother country being plunged in war, the defences of our port were strengthened to as great an extent and in as complete a manner as was possible with available materials.

“The *Nelson* being found on examination to be unfit for sea service in her then condition—dry-rot having got into her upper timbers—was cut down into a frigate, heavier armament was procured for her, and in every way possible the old training ship was rendered fit for a sea-going cruiser. This position she is now well qualified to fill, being, with the exception of the *Cerberus*, the most heavily-armed vessel in these waters.

“The *Cerberus* was fitted with new steam-steering gear in 1878, and the utility of this addition has on many occasions been tested in the most thorough manner, and there can be no doubt of its great value in time of action, as it enables the vessel to be handled with the utmost ease and confidence.

“Though her boilers have been in her for a length of time, which would have caused them in the Royal Navy to be replaced, by judicious repairs effected by her engineers, under the superintendence of the Government Inspector of Machinery, they are still in serviceable condition, as was proved recently, when all the small engines of the ship were worked simultaneously with her main engines, thus putting the boilers to a most severe test.

“It may also be noticed that the electric light manufactured by Wilde and Co., mentioned as on its way to the colony, has now arrived, forming a valuable adjunct to the usefulness of the vessel.

“The crew, being constantly drilled, are well up in their various duties, and will prove themselves, should the occasion arise, a smart and efficient body for defence purposes.

“As was stated in the previous *Year-Book*, the *Victoria*—which was transferred from the Harbor to the Naval Department—was, on Captain Mandeville’s recommendation, and under his supervision, repaired, and strengthened by the addition of a 64-pr. rifled pivot gun, and is now available at an hour’s notice for any emergency, in cases of wreck, &c., that may arise to call her services into request.

“The greatest energy and zeal has been displayed by both officers and men throughout the force, and though there are not men enough to man all the ships at once, and the number in each vessel is small, yet, by constant drill and able instruction from the officers under Captain Mandeville, they are in a most efficient condition, especially so as a great number of them have undergone considerable previous training in the Royal Navy. The present crew would form an excellent nucleus, should it be necessary at any time fully to man the vessels.”

Strength and
establish-
ment of
naval forces.

24. The strength and establishment of the naval forces at the end of 1879 were as follow. Six officers, and 3 petty officers and men were required to complete the establishment :—

NAVAL FORCES.—STRENGTH AND ESTABLISHMENT.

Ship or Corps.	Strength, 31st December 1879.				Wanted to Complete.	Establishment.
	Officers.	Petty Officers and Men.	Boys.	Total.		
H.M.V.S. <i>Cerberus</i> ...	13	94	16	123	...	123
„ <i>Nelson</i> ...	1	59	...	60	1	61
„ <i>Victoria</i> ...	1	28	2	31	1	32
Naval Reserve ...	11	214	...	225	7	232
Torpedo Corps ...	2	7	...	9	...	9
Total ...	28	402	18	448	9	457

25. The following guns were in possession of the naval forces at the end of 1879:—

	Guns of naval forces.
H.M.V.S. <i>Cerberus</i> .—Woolwich, 10-in., 400-pr. ...	4
" " Howitzer, 12-pr. ...	2
H.M.V.S. <i>Nelson</i> .—Woolwich, 7-in., 116-pr....	2
" " Shunt, 45 cwt., 64-pr. ...	19
" " Smooth-bore, 32-pr. ...	10
H.M.V.S. <i>Victoria</i> .—Shunt, 45 cwt., 64-pr. ...	1
" " Howitzer, 12-pr. ...	4
Naval Reserve.—Smooth-bore, 32-pr. ...	16
Total ...	58

26. The rifles and revolvers in possession of the naval forces at the same period were as follow. It will be seen that the former numbered 358, and the latter 193:—

H.M.V.S. <i>Cerberus</i> .—Rifles—Martini-Henry ...	50
" " Revolvers—Deane and Adams' breech-loading ...	24
H.M.V.S. <i>Nelson</i> .—Rifles—Martini-Henry ...	75
" " Revolvers—Deane and Adams' breech-loading ...	50
" " Pattern undescribed ...	119
Naval Reserve.—Rifles—Martini-Henry ...	219
" " Sea service ...	14
Total small arms ...	551

27. The following table shows the expenditure on military and naval defences during 1878–9. The items under the heads of "salaries," exclusive of those of the staff, and of "contingencies," show the average cost during 1878–9 of each man in the Victorian artillery to have been £89 5s. 4d., and in the volunteers to have been £6 3s. 11d.*:—

MILITARY AND NAVAL EXPENDITURE, 1878–9.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Salaries—Staff ...	3,821	16	0
" Artillery Corps ...	9,523	19	6
Contingencies—Artillery Corps ...	5,830	10	2
" Volunteer Force ...	18,336	1	7
In aid of the Victorian Rifle Association ...	1,000	0	0
Ammunition ...	885	0	6
Expenses connected with Sir W. Jervois' report on defences ...	135	5	10
Military buildings, &c. ...	23,787	2	3
Defence works ...	19,597	2	1
Total ...	82,916	17	11

* These calculations have been reckoned from the strength on the 31st December 1878, viz., 172 Victorian artillery, and 2,959 volunteers.

MILITARY AND NAVAL EXPENDITURE, 1878-9—continued.

NAVAL EXPENDITURE.					£	s.	d.
H.M.V.S. <i>Cerberus</i> —Salaries	...	...	...	...	12,669	6	5
” ” Contingencies	...	...	...	...	4,730	11	4
H.M.V.S. <i>Nelson</i> —Salaries	...	...	...	...	5,178	11	0
” ” Contingencies	...	...	...	...	2,452	4	11
H.M.V.S. <i>Victoria</i> —Salaries	...	...	...	...	2,903	17	6
” ” Contingencies	...	...	...	...	2,883	2	5
Naval Reserve—Salaries...	...	...	...	...	2,735	7	6
” ” Contingencies	...	...	...	...	1,112	11	9
Torpedo Corps—Salaries ...	...	...	...	...	320	2	10
” ” Contingencies	...	...	...	...	219	4	11
Total ...	...	...	...	...	35,205	0	7
Total expenditure on defences	...	...	...	...	118,121	18	6

Expenditure on defences, 1854 to 1879.

28. A statement of the expenditure on defences during the last twenty-five years and a half will be found in the following table. It will be observed that in 1878-9 the military expenditure was greater than in any other year since 1867, also that the naval expenditure was exceeded in 1877-8, but in no other year since 1864 :—

EXPENDITURE ON DEFENCES, 1854 TO 1879.

Year.	Military Expenditure (including Buildings and Works of Defence).	Naval Expenditure.	Total.
	£	£	£
1854 and 1855	287,973	...	287,973
1856 to 1864	758,000	123,000	881,000
1865	38,434	7,743	46,177
1866	47,647	14,453	62,100
1867	64,606	17,243	81,849
1868	58,873	19,061	77,934
1869	34,200	12,672	46,872
1870	37,102	10,570	47,672
1871 (6 months)	21,014	6,305	27,319
1871-2	38,634	19,604	58,238
1872-3	35,367	18,641	54,008
1873-4	41,050	17,643	58,693
1874-5	37,847	17,135	54,982
1875-6	40,698	17,536	58,234
1876-7	54,599	19,421	74,020
1877-8	62,842	58,424	121,266
1878-9	82,917	35,205	118,122
Towards cost of <i>Cerberus</i>	...	73,520	73,520
” ” <i>Nelson</i>	...	28,446	28,446
Total ...	1,741,803	516,622	2,258,425
Arms, ammunition, and stores for defences generally	...	...	47,408
Land certificates to volunteers, including naval brigade, computed at £1 per acre	...	...	139,683
Grand Total ...	...	...	2,445,516

29. Retiring allowances are, as I have pointed out on former occasions, of two kinds, viz., those awarded to persons without reference to whether they are old or disabled, or are still fit for duty, in consideration of eminent services rendered to the State either by themselves or their relatives; and those granted only to public servants who, by reason of age or infirmity, are incapacitated from the performance of duty. The first are strictly pensions; the second, although often called pensions, are, properly speaking, not so, but superannuation allowances.

Retiring allowances.

30. The amount of a pension does not depend upon the age of the recipient, or whether the service for which it is granted has extended over a long period or a short one. The recipient of a superannuation allowance, unless suffering from an infirmity supposed to be incurable, must have reached a certain minimum age, and must have served for not less than a certain time, the amount of his allowance depending upon the position attained in the service, and the number of years served.

Age an element in certain cases only.

31. Of pensions there were in 1878-9 four in all, embracing allowances to two officers released from responsible offices on political grounds, to the widow of a former Governor of Victoria, and to the daughter of an eminent explorer of the Australian coasts. The total amount included in these pensions was £2,967, or an average of £741 15s. to each pensioner.

Pensions.

32. The persons entitled to superannuation allowances in the same year numbered 187. They consisted of one former judge of the Supreme Court, and three former judges of County Courts, of one ex-Surveyor-General, and 174 other ex-officers of the Civil Service, also of 8 ex-officers of the Lunacy Department. The aggregate amount of the allowances to these persons was £28,261, or an average of £151 2s. 7d. to each recipient.

Superannuation allowances.

33. Taken together, the pensions and superannuation allowances numbered 191, or 12 more than in the previous year, and amounted to £31,228, or £3,617 more than in that year. The average to each recipient was £111 2s. 10d., or £43 2s. 1d. less than in 1877-8.

Pensions, &c., 1878 and 1879.

34. The different authorities under which pensions and superannuation allowances are legalized, and the recipients to whom they were awarded, also the number on the list during 1878-9, and the gross and average amount of the pensions and superannuation allowances payable, will be found in the following table:—

Pensions, &c. 1878-9.

PENSIONS AND SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES, 1878-9.

Authority under which legalized.	Description of the Recipients.	Number of Persons on the List.	Amount Payable in 1878-9.*					
			Total.			Average to each Recipient.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
PENSIONS.								
18 & 19 Vict. cap. 55 (Constitution Act, Schedule D)	Former Ministers of the Crown	2	1,866	13	4†	933	6	8
21 Vict. No. 20 ...	Daughter of the late Captain Flinders, R.N.	1	100	0	0	100	0	0
33 Vict. No. 362 ...	Widow of a former Governor of Victoria	1	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0
SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES.								
18 & 19 Vict. cap. 55 (Constitution Act, Schedule D)	Puisne Judge of Supreme Court	1	1,500	0	0	1,500	0	0
21 Vict. No. 20 ...	Surveyor-General ...	1	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0
33 Vict. No. 345 (County Court Statute)	County Court Judges ...	3	2,066	13	4	688	17	8
25 Vict. No. 160 (Civil Service Act)	Officers in the Civil Service	174	23,527	4	7	135	4	3
31 Vict. No. 309 (Lunacy Statute)	Officers in the Lunacy Department	8	167	4	5	20	18	1
Total		191	31,227	15	8	163	9	11

Police pensions, how granted.

35. Superannuation allowances to the police are not included in the foregoing statement, as they are paid under the Police Regulations Statute (37 Vict. No. 476) out of a fund called the Police Superannuation Fund, which consists of an annual income of £2,800, arising from the investment of £70,000 in Government stock. This is supplemented by an annual grant of £2,000 from the consolidated revenue; by fines imposed on, and penalties and damages awarded to, members of the force by magistrates; and, if necessary, by a deduction not exceeding 2½ per cent. from the pay of the members of the force. In all cases of a police superannuation allowance being granted, the option is given to the retiring member to commute it for a gratuity equal to one month's pay for each year of service.

Number of police pensions and gratuities, 1878-9.

36. The number of recipients of police retiring allowances in 1878-9 was 79, the gross amount payable was £6,867 13s. 4d., or an average of £86 18s. 8d. to each recipient. In addition, gratuities in lieu of retiring allowances were paid in 23 instances. These gratuities amounted in

* These columns contain the amounts payable according to the Treasurer's statement. The sums actually paid were in some instances still less, as the reductions in consequence of the deaths of recipients during the year are not taken into account in the figures.

† In addition to this sum, an amount of £29 11s. 4d. was paid to the widow of the late R. D. Ireland for arrears of pension.

the aggregate to £6,487 15s. 10d., or an average of £282 1s. 7d. to each recipient.

37. In the year under review, for the second time, a deduction was made from the pay of the police for the purpose of enabling the superannuation fund to meet the demands made thereon. The deduction made was at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or the full amount allowed by law, and realised £4,196; but, even with this addition to the ordinary receipts,* the deficit on the year's transactions amounted to £419, which was defrayed from a balance brought forward from the previous year.

Deduction from pay of police.

38. Except in cases of infirmity of mind or body, the minimum age at which retiring allowances are granted to members of the civil service is sixty years, and to members of the police force fifty-five years. Of the existing retiring allowances, however, 25 per cent. of those granted to civil servants, and as many as 67 per cent. of those granted to the police, were awarded in consequence of infirmity or disablement before the full age had been attained.

Retiring allowances granted for infirmity.

39. In addition to the superannuation allowances, for which the amounts are specially appropriated, certain allowances are voted by Parliament each year to retired public servants who, whilst in the employment of the State, were attached to the unclassified branches of the service, and consequently were not comprehended in any of the several Statutes under which retiring allowances are legalized. The number of such allowances in 1878-9 was 90, their gross amount £9,153 1s. 3d., or an average of £101 14s. to each recipient.

Allowances voted by Parliament.

40. The following is a summary of the pensions and superannuation allowances, of all descriptions, payable out of the general revenue during the year 1878-9 :—

Summary of retiring allowances.

SUMMARY OF PENSIONS AND RETIRING ALLOWANCES PAYABLE †
FROM THE REVENUE, 1878-9.

	£	s.	d.
Former Ministers of the Crown	1,866	13	4
Lady Darling and Mrs. Petrie	1,100	0	0
Former judge of Supreme Court	1,500	0	0
„ judges of County Courts	2,066	13	4
„ Surveyor-General	1,000	0	0
„ officers of the Civil Service	23,527	4	7
„ „ Lunacy department	167	4	5
„ police	2,000	0	0†
Allowances voted by Parliament	9,153	1	3
Total	£42,380	16	11

* See paragraph 35 ante.

† The amounts actually paid were in some instances less than these. See footnote to table following paragraph 34 ante.

‡ These figures represent the amount payable from the general revenue. For total of retiring allowances to the police, see paragraph 36 ante.