

### PART VI.

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

#### LAND AND SETTLEMENT.

The total area of the State is 56,245,760 acres. On 31st December, 1944, this comprised:—

	Total	••	••	.**	. • •	23,830,529	
	π				•	02 920 590	
	Unoccupied	• •			••	1,430,332	
	Temporary gr	azing lice	ences	• •		9,358,316	
	Other leases a	nd licenc	es			20,631	
	Perpetual leas	es	• •	• •		83,990	
	Land in occupat	ion unde	r				
	Water frontages unsold land in					4,721,483	
	Roads	• •	•		• •	1,794,218	
	Other reserves	••	• •		• •	547,864	
	Reserves in the	Mallee	• •.	• •	••	410,000	
	Reserves for Agr		Colleges,	, &c.	••	88,586	
	Water reserves	• •	••	• •		314,048	
	Act)	. • •		••	• •	156,697	
	State Forests and	•		•		,	
	Timber reserves	-				717.582	
	Permanent fores	ts (under	Forests .	Act)		4,186,782	
Th	e Crown lands co	mprise -	-				
	Total	• •	• •	• •	· • •	56,245,760	
	Crown lands	• •	• •	••	• •	23,830,529	
	Lands in process	s of aliens	ation	• •	• •	3,511,456	
	Lands alienated	in fee-sin	$_{ m nple}$			28,903,775	
	•					Acres.	
44,	tms comprised:	_					

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 six years 1939-44.

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, 1939 TO 1944.

Year ended 31st December.		Area o	f Crown Lands	Sold.	Crown Lands al	
		Absolutely, at Auction, &c.	Conditionally to Selectors.	Total.	Area.	Purchase Money.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£
1939		3,577	46,063	49,640	359,144	175,025
940	• • •	4,028	36,512	40,540	350,722	215,008
941		4,912	23,882	28,794	308,882	205,293
942	• • •	3,160	26,563	29,723	205,292	129.529
943		3,770	11,474	15,244	168,423	107,407
944		2,429	1,507	3,936	108,750	116,118

From the period of the first settlement of the State to the end of 1944 the amount realized by the sale of Crown lands was £37,477,257. Payment of a considerable portion of this amount extended over a series of years without interest, upon very easy terms.

Transfer of Land Act.

The "Torrens System", whereby persons acquiring possession of land may receive a clear title, was introduced into Victoria in 1862. The system has been the means of simplifying procedure in connexion with the transfer of land, thereby reducing the cost of dealing in real estate, and giving a title to the transferee free of any latent defect. The Crown grant issues through the Titles Office.

In order to bring under the Transfer of Land Act land that was parted with prior to 1862 (5,142,321 acres), application must be made accompanied by strict proofs of the applicant's interest in the property

During 1944 there were submitted 79 such applications in respect of land amounting in area to 2,127 acres, and in value to £102,903; while the land actually brought under the Act as a result of applications was 1,368 acres valued at £116,764. Up to the end of 1944 there had been brought under the Act 3,310,340 acres valued at £74,821,512. The area of land still under the Old Law System at the end of 1944 was 1,831,981 acres. A summary of dealings under the Transfer of Land Acts will be found on page 208.

In granting an application to have land brought under Assurance the Transfer of Land Act 1928, the Commissioner of Fund. Titles is required to issue a perfect Title save as to any circumstances of which he has had notice. To assure and indemnify the Government in a case where the Supreme Court or some higher Tribunal has decided that some person other than the applicant has an interest in the property, and it has consequently been found necessary to compensate such other person, there has been constituted an Assurance Fund which is built up of contributions of ½d. in the £ on the value of the land covered by the application. During 1944-45 receipts of the Fund comprised contributions, £2,011, and interest on stock, £3,269. No claim was paid from the Fund during the year, but 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, 1945, was £115,136. The amount paid up to 30th June, 1945, as compensation and for judgments recovered, including costs, was £11.386.

## CLOSER SETTLEMENT AND DISCHARGED SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT.

The history of Closer Settlement and of Discharged Soldiers' Settlement in Victoria will be found in previous issues of the Year-Book.

The Closer Settlement Act 1938 which was passed in December, 1938, provided that the Closer Settlement Commission. Commission be dissolved and cease to exist, that the Board of Land and Works be deemed to be the successor in law of the Commission and that the Act be administered in the Department of Crown Lands and Survey.

#### WATERWORKS.

State Expenditure on Waterworks. All Victorian waterworks are controlled by official bodies, either State or local. The following table shows State expenditure on works under the control of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, as well as grants and loans dies. In addition to focus grants to lead hadies leaves aways

to local bodies. In addition to free grants to local bodies, large sums have been written off their liabilities. The following information has been taken from the Annual Report of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission.

VICTORIA—STATE EXPENDITURE AND LOAN LIABILITY ON WATERWORKS\* TO 30th JUNE, 1945.

Description of Works.	Capital Expenditure to 30th June, 1945.	Loan Redemption Paid,	Loan Liability at 30th June, 1945.
	£	£	£
Free Headworks	1,234,681	520	1,234,161
Capital Works and Charges not apportionable to Districts	1,775,629	359,038	1,416,591
Headworks Costs apportioned to Districts	10,771,736	126,195	10,645,541
Irrigation and Water Supply Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	6,122,582	104,368	6,018,214
Urban Divisions of Irrigation Districts	64,291	1,953	62,338
Waterworks Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	2,815,557	50,555	2,765,002
Urban Districts of Waterworks Districts (exclusive of Headworks Costs)	2,520,399	47,853	2,472,546
Flood Protection and Drainage Districts	477,916	8,832	469,084
Waterworks Trusts and Local Governing Bodies	3,963,123	778,494	3,184,629
TOTAL	29,745,914	1,477,808	28,268,106

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

#### IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT.

Progress of Irrigation.

These Trusts drifted into financial difficulties and the State was compelled to assume control.

In the year mentioned, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission

<sup>†</sup> The net loan liability for works of water supply and drainage at 30th June, 1945, was £28,268,105, exclusive of equity in National Debt. Sinking Fund.

was constituted and entrusted with the management of all irrigation works, except those controlled by the First Mildura Trust. This authority is embodied in the Water Act 1928, which consolidates the Water Acts of 1915, 1916, and 1918, and the Ballarat Water Commissioners Act 1921.

The particulars in the following statement, while not covering the whole of the activities of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, furnish a general idea of the development of water conservation and distribution, and of drainage and flood protection in districts under its administration:—

VICTORIA—WATER CONSERVATION AND DISTRIBUTION: DRAINAGE AND FLOOD PROTECTION DISTRICTS.

	At 30th June, 1907.	At 30th June, 1945.
Area of State artificially supplied with water		
(acres)	10,800,000	15,201,200
Capacity of reservoirs (acre feet)	474,000	1,975,520
Irrigation Districts—		1,4,0,0
Number of Districts administered Number of Districts having Water Rights Total of such Water Rights (acre feet) Area under Irrigated Culture (acres) Valuation for Rating purposes (£)	10 Nil Nil 108,000 196,000	28 26, 508,089 665,210 906,086
Rural Waterworks Districts (Domestic and Stock Supply)—		A SA TO AST
Number of Districts administered Valuation for Rating purposes (£)	3 125,000	26 1,508,332
Urban Districts—		
Number of Districts administered Valuation for Rating purposes	1 5,600	90 822,959
Coliban System (Urban, Rural, Irrigation and Mining Supplies)—	At 30th June, 1910,	, :#- ,
Valuation for Urban Rating purposes (£)	317,750	419,953
Flood Protection Districts—	» +	
Number of Districts administered		4.
Drainage Districts—		•
Number of Districts administered		. 14
Number of Assessments	• •	10,004

### PROGRESS IN IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT.

The area under irrigated culture for all kinds of crops has increased from 129,771 acres in 1909-10 to 665,210 acres in 1944-45.

### VICTORIA—LANDS UNDER IRRIGATED CULTURE 1944-45.

	District.			Area Irrigated
= 1				Acres.
Katandra				8,164
North Shepparton				21,057
Shepparton				18,182
South Shepparton				7,208
Rodney	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			86,811
Tongala-Stanhope				40,803
Rochester				59,810
Dingee				3,636
Calivil		••		10,306
Tragowel Plains		·		$35,\!295$
Deakin				7,437
Boort		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		13,669
Cohuna		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		61,696
Koondrook				<b>36,42</b> 0
Swan Hill		••		22,262
Third Lake				4,886
Mystic Park			••	5,142
Tresco				1,075
Fish Point				2,499
Kerang				47,485
Murray Valley	••	••		29,749
Kerang North-West	Lakes	••		5,827
Nyah				3,027
Red Cliffs		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		11,557
Merbein	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	••	• •	7,995
Coliban				5,390
Campaspe			• •	26
Western Wimmera	••	••		2,898
Wimmera United	2. C		• • •	137
Bacchus Marsh	••		• • •	2,718
Werribee		·		7,560
Maffra-Sale	••	• • **		25,360
Lands outside const	tituted Districts	••		69,123
To	otal			665,210

Total area Irrigated.

The subjoined table shows the total extent of irrigated land in the State in each of the five years, 1941 to 1945, and the purposes for which the land was utilized.

#### VICTORIA—IRRIGATED AREAS: HOW UTILIZED.

<b>a</b>		Year ended 30th June—						
Crop.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.			
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.			
Cereals	53,499	57,602	26,301	42,114	62,942			
Lucerne	73,650	68,308	69,257	64,041	64,286			
Sorghum and other annual fodders	32,159	18,951	11,572	25,807	34,326			
Pastures	352,556	372,454	412,256	443,223	411,018			
Vineyards, Orchards, and Market Gardens	72,403	74,739	78,419	81,167	83,800			
Fallow and Miscellaneous	12,395	10,020	8,952	8,892	8,838			
Total	596,662	602,074	606,757	665,244	665,210			

Of the total area irrigated in 1944–45—665,210 acres—the percentages devoted to different purposes were as follows:—Pastures, 62; lucerne, 10; vineyards, orchards, and gardens, 13; cereals, 9; sorghum and other annual fodder crops, 5; fallows and miscellaneous, 1.

Progress in Irrigation districts. Dairy herds grazed on irrigated pastures obtained prominent positions in the 1944-45 Standard Herd Test conducted by the Department of Agriculture.

The production of dried vine and tree fruits, of citrus, and of fruits for canning are established features in these districts. There has also been considerable expansion in vegetable growing and a development of the canning industry in relation thereto. The Victorian dried vine-fruit crop in 1944-45 amounted to 39,935 tons.

The yield of citrus fruits amounted to 764,315 bushels—approximately 90 per cent. of which was grown within irrigation districts, and the production of canned apricots, peaches, and pears was 1,664,557 cases, each of two dozen 30-oz. tins. This represented 80 per cent. of the Australian output of those fruits.

Extensive schemes for the supply of water for domestic water for and stock purposes are under the control of the State stock purposes. Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Altogether, the area so supplied is approximately 20,291 square miles—23 per cent. of the total area of the State. The major portion of such area is in the Mallee and Wimmera districts.

The number of country centres supplied with water for domestic use is—126 by the Commission, 116 by Waterworks Trusts, and 16 by Local Government bodies.

The estimated population in country centres supplied with water in 1944-45 was 444,420 persons.

#### STORAGE AND SUPPLY SCHEMES.

In 1902 the capacity of storages in the State was Water 172,000 acre feet. The present capacity is 1,975,520 Storages in State, The Hume Reservoir, designed to contain acre feet. 2,000,000 acre feet (half of which can, subject to the provisions of the River Murray Agreement, be credited to the State of Victoria) now has a capacity of 1,250,000 acre feet. When this work has been completed (involving a further approval of the interested State Governments), and when the Rocklands, Glenmaggie, Lauriston Reservoirs are also completed,  $_{
m the}$ storage capacity available to users in Victoria will be 2,664,020 acre feet.

#### EXISTING STORAGES.

Goulburn System—				Capacities in Acre Feet.
Goulburn Weir	• •	 	 	20,700
Waranga		 • •	 	333,400
Eildon			 	306,000
				660,100

	Ex	ISTING S	STORAGES	—continu	ed.		
Murray-Loddon Sys	tem—					Capacities Feet	
Hume Reservoir (	half shar	re of 1.2	250.000 a	ere feet)		625,000	
Yarrawonga Weir	(half sł	are of	95.120 ac	re feet)	•••	47,560	
Torrumbarry (hal	f share	of 28.90	0 acre fe	et.)		14,450	
Mildura (half sha	re of 29.	.360 acr	e feet.)	••,		14,680	19-1
Wentworth (half	share of	38,140	acre feet			19,070	
Euston Lock Wei	r (half s	hare of	31.320 a	cre feet)	••.	15,660	
Kow Swamp			91,020 a	010 1000)	• •	40,860	
Laanecoorie				••	• •	6,650	
Kerang North-wes	t Lakes		••	••	••	69,400	
Lake Boga				••	• •	29,650	1 4 42 4
Lake Cullulleraine	9		••	••	• •	2,000	
			••	••	• •	2,000	884,980
D7' M 11 0	1						004,000
Wimmera-Mallee Sy	stem—						
Fyans Lake	• •	•••				17,100	
Lake Lonsdale	• •		• •			53,300	
Wartook	• •					23,800	
Taylors Lake	••	••	••			30,000	
Pine Lake	• •				• •	52,000	
Green Lake	• •			••		6,600	
Dock Lake	• •			••		4,800	
Moora						5,100	
Lower Wimmera						2,870	
Batyo Catyo (Avo	n Regul	ator)		• •	••	5,000	
Lake Whitton			• •			1,300	
Township Reservo	irs, and	Mallee	Tanks			4,610	1
							206,480
Maffra-Sale System-	-						
Glenmaggie Reserv		t of 150	000 000	. fant\		101 700	
Stratford Service I	on (par Rasin	0 01 100	,,ooo acre	1660)	• •	104,500	
Heyfield Service B		••	••	••	••	20	1 74
-2-5-014 801.100 25	CO SILI	••	••	••	••	20	704 ~40
					•		104,540
Coliban System—							
Upper Coliban .						25,700	
Malmsbury					••	14,400	
Lauriston						12,000	
Spring Gully .						2,000	
Subsidiary Reservo	irs	• •			• •	4,750	
			• .	•		<del>4</del> ,100	58,850
							00,000
Werribee System—							
Pykes Creek .						91.000	
Melton			••	••	••	21,000	
	· .	••	••	••	•• _	19,100	40 100
					-		40,100

	EXIST	ING STORA	IGES.			
Varatam	2.342-0				Capacities Feet	in Acre
sysiem—						
• • * *	••	••		••	*	
• • •	••	••	••	-		10,800
la System	<u>.                                    </u>					
				• •	3,400	
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<b>:.</b>		• •	••			
	••.	• •	• •	•••		
		••	• •			
			• •	• •	260	5,800
	2.4			•		.0,000
				11		1,080
	••	••	••		• • •	
•.•	••	• •	• •	••	•	
			• •		•	
e Basins	••	• •				
		••	• • •	• •	30	2,790
pacity of	existin	ig Storage	es	••	• ••	1,975,520
			337		. Соправ	O.F.
STORAGE	BEING	PROVIDE:	ON.	ORKS II	den de la companya de	OF .
ystem-						
••	••	• •	••	• • •	••	264,000
RAGE W	HICH CO	OULD BE F	ROVIDE	о ву Со	MPLETION	OF
	Exi	STING WO	RKS.			,
— rvoir (ba	lance o	f 150,000	acre fee	et)	45,500	
				(belf		
at jun	ction v 00,000 :	vith Mitte acre feet)	. River	(nan	375,000	
, at jun ee of 2,0	ction v 00,000	vith Mitte acre feet)	a River	(nan	375,000	Toronto Antorio December 1
e of 2,0	00,000	vith Mitta acre feet)	. River	нын	375,000 4,000	Total Vitalia Department
at jun ee of 2,0	00,000	vith Mitte acre feet)	. River	(Hair		424,50
ee of 2,0	00,000 feet)	acre feet)	• •			
	e Basins pacity of STORAGE ystem—	System—      a System—   e Basins  pacity of existin  Crystem—  Crystem—  DRAGE WHICH CC	e Basins  pacity of existing Storage Storage being Provider Constructive Stem—  Drage which could be Existing Wo	e Basins  pacity of existing Storages  Storage being Provided by W Construction.  system—  Drage which could be Provide Existing Works.	e Basins  pacity of existing Storages  Storage Being Provided by Works in Construction.  prace which could be Provided by Construction.	Capacities   Fee   10,000   800

Detailed descriptions of the various systems which have been instituted for irrigation and for supplying water for domestic and stock purposes appear in the Year-Book for 1928-29 (pp. 526 to 534).

#### METEOROLOGY:

Particulars in regard to climate and weather conditions meteorological have been furnished by the Meteorological Bureau, and are given in the following tables. In the first are shown the rainfall for each district and for the whole State for each of the years 1901 to 1945, together with the average rainfall covering a period of 30 years.

VICTORIA—RAINFALL IN DISTRICTS.

Year ended				Dist	ricts.				Whole
31st Decem- ber.	Mallee.	Wim- mera.	North- ern.	North- Central.	North- Eastern.	Western.	Central.	Gipps- land.	State.
-	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
1901	9.39	16.61	13.58	24.78	28.08	27.90	28.98	33.66	22.05
1902	7.64	11.94	11 26	18.41	20.10	23.54	24.88	33.35	18.55
1903 1904	16.34	22.76	22.22	32.07	33.13	33.43	32.86	33.68	27.44
1904 1905	10.75	17:22	17:32	28.00	33.26	28.54	31 29	30.02	23.49
1906	12·01 15·22	18·40 23·42	16:39	25.36	31.72	28.79	29.61	37.84	24.53
1907	9.25	17.07	24·16 14·74	32·00 22·42	42·11 26·19	32·53 26·16	30·13 25·36	34·81 27·20	28*49
1908	12.33	17.72	14.38	19.98	26.40	25.81	20.08	24.29	20·40 20·02
1909	14.35	22.38	20.04	29.77	35.62	31.37	30.57	34.09	26.52
1910	15.96	22.36	20.13	29.13	32.10	32.45	28.28	30.80	25.96
1911	17.84	19.89	19.87	29.79	33.24	31.13	36.88	39.71	28.08
1912 1913	12.50	17.52	18.12	23.00	30.93	25.94	24.92	26.60	21.86
1913 1914	12.66 7.29	16:38	16.76	24.22	29.69	25.85	27.64	34.65	22.96
1915	12.42	9·76 18·98	9·73 16·75	14.95 25.65	19·94 34·17	18.56 27.44	20·05 24·67	23.81	14.66
1916 :	17.72	22.54	25.60	34.44	44.01	30.72	38.78	27·63 37·78	22.35
1917	19.55	21 96	26.34	35.86	56.09	31.70	32.41	34.63	30·27 30·77
1918	13.59	16.44	21.96	28.30	36.96	25.70	30 11	33.39	24 . 70
1919	11.46	13.86	15.06	21.21	27.27	26.47	25.48	37.03	22.77
1920	14.93	16.04	20.15	28:37	34.42	25.99	31.38	33.37	25.43
1921 1922	16.29	19.99	23.69	31.75	39.57	27.36	31.13	31.73	25.35
$1922 \dots \\ 1923 \dots$	10.44	17.15	13.15	20.85	26.10	28.09	27.82	32.92	21 35
1924	15.07 16.08	20.21	17.60 23.29	27·30 34·74	34·80 40·70	$33.51 \\ 31.13$	30.11	33.88	26.12
1925	9.87	14.20	14.09	20.28	27.42	22.43	40·30 23·12	37·37 29·69	28.10
1926	12.64	17.00	16.85	24.25	35.36	26.70	24.20	29.72	19·74 22·90
1927	7.66	13.93	11.14	18.67	26.15	23.20	22.16	28 43	18.56
1928	14.04	19.10	21.27	29.56	37.21	30.46	29.86	33.98	26.14
1929	9.10	15.56	13.65	24.20	27:24	29 28	31.13	32.36	22.00
1930 1931	15.32	20.94	19:68	30.59	32.49	29 43	30.85	33.66	25.76
4000	14.86 14.96	19·25 18·90	21.77	31.20	43.18	28.79	32.88	32.65	26.97
1932 1933	14.13	20.96	20.60 20.25	29·63 31·09	34·33 32·09	$\frac{31.85}{26.87}$	32.91	34 19	26.34
1934	13.21	16.64	21 01	28 57	42.81	29 20	27.56 35.60	30 · 65 43 · 39	24.47
1935	10.84	17.71	19.53	29 14	35.86	30.49	34.23	42.53	27.60 26.63
1936	14.39	19.41	19.50	28.47	35.52	26.91	30.24	36 38	25.63
1937	12.69	17.19	13.70	20.08	26.25	26.39	25.20	28 • 33	21.02
1938	6.30	11.39	8.66	15.62	20.49	22.63	20.47	26.39	16.28
1939 1940	15.32	20.33	27.72	37.83	53.05	32.94	38.10	38 16	31.37
40.44	$\begin{array}{c c} 6.82 \\ 12.23 \end{array}$	11 26 20 14	$9.67 \\ 17.31$	17:13	21.21	21.51	22.81	26.94	16.73
1941 <b>1942</b>	12.23	20.14	19.66	25·39 31·91	30·41 38·28	29·73 30·54	31·53 29·68	33.13	24.29
1943	8.25	13.48	10.98	20.22	26.76	25.86	29.68	31.59 30.05	26.28
1944	6.59	10.46	9.24	17.10	20.72	24.30	23.97	27.54	19·44 17·09
1945	9.63	15.20	14.84	21.71	29.97	25 21	22.25	28.60	20.50
A				100	7 75 1				
Ave- rages*	12.49	17.52	18.09	27.06	34.81	27.58	29.64	33 • 47	24.28

<sup>\*</sup> Averages for a standard 30 years' period 1911-1940.

The heaviest rainfall in the State occurs in the Eastern highlands (from the Yarra watershed to the Upper Murray), in the Cape Otway Forest in the Western District and in the South Gippsland, Latrobe and Thomson Basin sections of the Gippsland District. The lightest rainfall is in the Mallee District, the northern portion of which receives on the average from 10 to 12 inches only per year.

The means of the climatic elements for the seasons in Melbourne deduced from all available official records are given in the following table.

MEANS OF CLIMATIC ELEMENTS IN MELBOURNE.

	<u> </u>		i	
Meteorological Elements.	Spring.	Summer.	Autumn.	Winter.
Mean pressure of air in inches	29.974	29.921	30.080	30.076
Monthly range of pressure of air—inches	.887	•765	•812	• 975
Mean temperature of air in shade—°Fahr.	57.8	66 6	59.4	50.0
Mean daily range of temperature of air in shade—°Fahr	18.7	21.1	17.4	13.9
Mean relative humidity. Saturation=100	65	59	69	75
Mean rainfall in inches	7.15	6.02	6.59	5.81
Mean number of days of rain	38	25	33	44
Mean amount of spontaneous evaporation in inches	10.23	17.20	7.96	3.73
Mean daily amount of cloudiness—Scale 0 to 10	6.0	5.2	5.9	6.4
Mean number of days of fog	1	1	7	12

In the subjoined statement are shown the yearly means of the climatic elements in Melbourne for 1944 together with averages and number of years of record for each element as well as the extremes between which the yearly mean values of such elements have oscillated in the latter periods.

## YEARLY MEANS AND EXTREMES OF CLIMATIC ELEMENTS IN MELBOURNE.

and the second s		_ N	Ieans Over	Period of	Years.
Meteorological Elements.	Mean for Year 1944.	Number of Years Recorded.	Mean for Period.	Extremes which the mean valoscillated the nur years sl second	e yearly ues have I during nber of nown in
		<b>Z</b> Z		Highest.	Lowest.
Mean atmospheric pressure (inches)	30.019	87	30.013	30.106	29 • 945
Highest ,, ,, ,,	30.637	87	30.604	30.770	30.405
Lowest ,, ,, ,,	29 · 237	87	$29 \cdot 251$	29 495	28.942
Range (inches)	1.400	87	1.356	1.719	1.074
Mean temperature of air in shade ('Fahr.)	58.3	89	58.5	59.9	57.3
Mean daily maximum (°Fahr.)	67.8	89	67.4	69 • 4	$65 \cdot 4$
Mean daily minimum "	48 7	89	49.5	$51 \cdot 2$	$47 \cdot 2$
Absolute maximum "	104 · 4	89	105.0	114.1	96.6
Absolute minimum ,,	30.0	89	31.0	34.2	27:0
Mean daily range ,,	19.0	89	17.8	20 · 4	15.0
Absolute annual range ,,	74.4	89	74.1	84 · 1	66.0
Solar Radiation (mean maxima) ,,	116.0	83	116.7	127•6	105•6
Terrestrial Radiation (mean minima) ,,	44.8	84	43.9	46.8	39.5
Rainfall (in inches)	21 · 32	89	25.57	38.04	15.61
Number of wet days	143	89	140	187	102
Year's amount of free evaporation (in inches)	45.00	72	39.12	45.66	31.59
Percentage of humidity (saturation = 100)	59	88	67	76	58
Cloudiness (scale 10 = overcast, 0 = clear)	6.7	87	5.9	6.7	4.8
Number of days of fog	17	87	21	50	5

An estimate of the areas of the State, subject to different degrees of rainfall is contained in the following statement:—

#### VICTORIA—DISTRIBUTION OF AVERAGE RAINFALL.

		Rainfall.		Area.		
Inches.					Square Miles.	
Under 15			 		18,701	
15 to 20			 		13,800	
20 to 25			 		13,551	
25 to 30		• •	 	.·.	14,528	
30 to 40			 		15,802	
40 to 50	٠		 		6,671	
50 to 60	• •		 		2,660	
Over 60					2,171	

#### AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

Department of This Department is controlled by a Minister of the Agriculture. Crown, under whom there is a staff of experts with the Director of Agriculture as permanent head. These officers are actively engaged in supervising all matters relating to agricultural and pastoral industries of the State, and in giving advice to those engaged therein. The Department publishes a monthly journal.

Research and experimental work are conducted at the State Research Farm at Werribee, the Mallee Research Station at Walpeup, the Horticultural Research Station at Tatura, the Rutherglen State Farm, the Longerenong Agricultural College, the Dookie Agricultural College, the School of Dairy Technology and Dairy Research Institute, Werribee, and at the School of Primary Agriculture, Burnley. A Potato Experimental Station is being established at Toolangi and a second Horticultural Research Station at Scoresby. In addition, experiments and demonstrations are conducted on many selected private farms throughout the State and, in conjunction with the Victorian Pasture Improvement League, on some 80 pasture experiment plots.

At the State Research Farm, Werribee, experiments are undertaken for the improvement of wheat and other cereals, grasses, clovers and various economic plants, and investigations made into the methods and problems relating to irrigated agriculture and the breeding and feeding of dairy cattle, horses, sheep and poultry. At the School of Dairy Technology the higher training of dairy factory operatives and research and investigation into problems arising in the manufacture of dairy produce are undertaken.

Work at the Rutherglen Farm, which serves as a research station for the North-East, includes various aspects of cereal growing and pasture improvement. It was here that the initial experiments were conducted (1911–1918) which resulted in the widespread

practice of the topdressing of pastures with phosphates. Mallee Research Station was established in 1932. In addition to cereal and grazing investigations, an important feature of the work at this station is research concerning various grasses with the view to producing a pasture which will thrive under Mallee Special attention is being paid to the problem of conditions. sand drift. At Longerenong and Dookie, experiments are conducted on wheat and oat cultivation for Wimmera and north-eastern conditions respectively. At the School of Primary Agriculture, Burnley, in addition to instruction in, and study of, horticultural problems, research work on the breeding and selection of grasses and clovers is carried on; a Plant Research Laboratory mainly devoted to plant pathological and entomological research has also been established.

The Horticultural Research Station at Tatura was recently established as a research centre for the purpose of improving varieties of fruits. Officers are now engaged in the study of irrigation and soil fertility in the Goulburn Valley in relation to the production of canning fruits.

The work at the Government experimental plots on selected farms embraces investigations into pasture improvement, grazing trials, and the cultivation of wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, tobacco, maize, broom millet, and vegetables.

The pasture experiments are largely responsible for advances made in pasture improvement throughout Victoria. It is estimated that topdressing results in an increase in carrying capacity of about 50 per cent. above pastures not similarly treated. During the season 1944–45, 2,121,406 acres were topdressed as compared with 2,034,698 acres in 1943–44.

An Act for the establishment of Agricultural Colleges Agricultural Colleges. was passed in 1884, and 14,458 acres, comprising 5,955 acres at Dookie; 2,386 acres at Longerenong; 2,500 acres at Gunyah Gunya'ı; 2,800 acres at Olangolah, and 817 acres at Bullarto, were reserved as sites for colleges and experimental Only the lands at Dookie and Longerenong are being used for college purposes and in 1944 all the other areas reverted to the Crown under the provisions of the Agricultural Colleges This Act, which also abolished the Council of Agricultural Education, provided that the two colleges should be controlled by the State through the medium of the Minister of Agriculture. The fee for students in residence at the agricultural colleges is £50 per annum for maintenance. No charge is made for instruction. Accommodation is provided at Dookie for 100 and at Longerenong for 50 students. At Dookie a special annexe has been established for the training of discharged servicemen. Provision has been made for 200 students and it is expected that the work will be carried on for several years.

Inspection of Orchards, nurseries and gardens of the State are systematically inspected by officers of the Horticultural Division of the Department of Agriculture. Advice is given on the control of pests and diseases when detected, and action is taken where necessary to enforce compliance therewith.

All plant material entering Victoria, whether from other Australian States or overseas, is subject to strict inspection and measures are taken when necessary either to free of disease such material or to have it destroyed.

Melbourne University has a well-equipped of Agriculture, for the maintenance of which a special School of grant is provided by the State. This School affords Agriculture. opportunity for the training of students in science as applied to practical agriculture and kindred industries. The course occupies four years. The first is devoted to pure science; during the second the students are in residence at the Dookie Agricultural College, engaged in practical farming with lectures on preparatory subjects, and the remaining two years are devoted to a more specialized study of agriculture and allied subjects on a scientific A large number of graduates of this school is employed, mostly in the Victorian Department of Agriculture, on field advisory work and laboratory investigations.

One of the principal functions of the Council is to Commonwealth initiate and carry out scientific researches. So far as Scientific and primary industries are concerned the main branches Industrial of the work of the Council are in relation to plant, soil and entomological problems, animal nutrition and diseases, forest products, food preservation and transport, and fisheries. the field of secondary industries the attention of the Council will first be given to the establishment of—(i) an Information Section, (ii) a National Standards Laboratory, (iii) an Aeronautical Laboratory (in which engineering research other than that required by the aeronautical industry could be undertaken), and (iv) the development of laboratories for general secondary industry research.

The headquarters of the Council are located at 314 Albert-street. East Melbourne. Two of the Council's Divisions—the Division of Forest Products and the Division of Animal Health and Nutrition—also have their headquarters in Victoria. Researches into timber seasoning, preservation, identification, mechanics, physics, chemistry, and general utilization are carried out by the former Division. The Victorian work of the Division of Animal Health and Nutrition is concentrated mainly on problems of cattle diseases, e.g., pleuropneumonia, mastitis, and bovine haematuria.

At Merbein there is a station where research is conducted into the problems associated with the dried vine-fruits industry.

State Committees have been formed whose main function is to advise the Council as to matters that may affect their respective States.

#### AGRICULTURE.

Progress of cultivation. In all divisions of the State there are areas suitable for cultivation. The area cultivated in 1944–45 was 6,004,249 acres, as compared with 5,198,252 acres in the previous season, and an annual average of 7,179,443 acres for the seasons 1936–40, 7,862,470 acres for the seasons 1931–35, 7,616,031 acres for the seasons 1926–30, 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 90 years —

### VICTORIA—ACREAGE CULTIVATED ANNUALLY, 1856 TO 1945:

Period or Year (ended March).	Annual average 1925, and act	area in each dec ual area each yea under—	ennium, 1856 to r 1926-1945,
2010 02 2010 (01100 2	Crop.	Fallow.	Total Cultivation
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
856-65	325,676	12,146	337,822
866-75	624.377	57,274	681,651
876–85	1,306,920	137,536	1,444,456
886–95	2,109,326	364,282	2,473,608
896–1905	3,022,914	524,197	3,547,111
906–15	3,756,211	1,276,148	5,032,359
916–25	4,594,244	1,852,145	6,446,389
926	4,433,492	2,457,136	6,890,628
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	4,735,173	2,569,021	7,304,194
928	4,942,258	2,692,044	7,634,302
000	5,505,651	2,683,462	8,189,113
000	5,579,258	2,482,662	8,061,920
001	6,715,660	2,590,629	9,306,289
000	5,407,109	2,145,819	7,552,928
1099	5,115,745	2,633,287	7,749,032
1004	5,266,913	2,543,043	7,809,956
1005	4,677,683	2,216,464	6,894,147
1000	4,438,761	2,358,777	6,797,538
100=	4,407,312	2,483,163	6,890,475
1000	4,662,354	2,604,556	7,266,910
1000	5,019,299	2,543,225	7,562,524
10.40	5,002,362	2,377,405	7,379,767
10.47	4,467,191	1,887,418	6,354,609
10.40	4,731,712	2,101,360	6,833,072
10.40	3,838,415	1,660,171	5,498,586
1044	3,478,889	1,719,363	5,198,252
1944 1945	4,310,152	1,694,097	6,004,249

Land occupied in different districts.

For the season 1944-45, the number of occupiers of rural holdings was 70,856, the area devoted to agriculture 6,004,249 acres, and the total area occupied 40,830,263 acres.

### VICTORIA—LAND IN OCCUPATION IN EACH DISTRICT, SEASON 1944-45.

(Areas of 1 acre and upwards.)

					Acres Occup	ied.	
Districts.	Total Area of	Number		For I	Pasture.		
Districts.	Districts.	of Occupiers.	For Agricul-		1	Unpro-	1
•		o octapions.	tural	Sown Grasses,	Natural	ductive.	Total.
		Į	Purposes.	Clover, or		a de de la constante de la con	1
				Lucerne.	Grasses.		
	i		<del></del>				
	Acres.				ľ		
entral	4,065,280	16,511	364,851	539,025	1,632,088	265,000	2,800,964
orth-Central	2,929,920	4,752	100,688	71,689	1,918,597	145,000	2,235,974
Vestern	8,775,040	11,956	277,407	1,588,181	4,652,385	450,000	6,967,978
Vimmera	7,394,560	6,122	1.838,663	247,235	3,783,959	560,000	6,429,857
[allee	10,784,000	6,510	2,182,367	38,933	4,612,413	300,000	7,133,713
forthern	6,337,280	11,207	9 94,711	309,949	4,156,590	90,000	5,551,250
orth-Eastern	7,220,480	5,174	93,119	129,195	3,643,196	620,000	4,485,510
lippsland	8,739,200	8,624	152,443	679,829	2,077,750	2,315,000	5,225,022
Total	56,245,760	70,856	6,001,249	3,604,036	26,476,978	4,745,000	40,830,263
		Perci	ENTAGE OF	ABOVE TO	AREA OCCI	JPIED.	
entral		1	13.03	19.23	50.00		
orth-Central			4.0	3.21	58·28 85·80	9.46	100.00
Vestern	•••		3.98	22.79	66.77	6.49	100.00
Vimmera	•	7	28.59	3.85	58.85	6.46	100.00
fallee	1	: :	30 60	55	64 65	8·71 4·20	100.00
orthern			17.91	5.58	74 89	1.62	100.00
orth-Eastern	::		2.08	2.89	81 21	13.82	100.00
ippsland	••		2.92	13.01	39.77	44.30	100.00
State	••		14.71	8.83	61.83	11.63	100.00
					7.1		
		PERCENTA	GE IN EACH	H DISTRICT	OF TOTAL	IN STATE.	
entral	7.23	23.30	6.08	14.96	6.16	5.58	0.00
orth-Central	5.21	6.71	1.68	1.99	7.25	3.06	6.86 5.48
estern	15.60	16.87	4 - 62	44.06	17.57	9.48	17:06
immera	13.14	8.64	30.62	6.86	14.29	11 80	15.75
allee	19.17	9.19	36.35	1.08	17.42	6.32	17.47
orthern	11.27	15.82	16.56	8.60	15.70	1.90	13.59
orth-Eastern	12.84	7.30	1.55	3.59	13.76	13.07	10.99
ippsland	15.54	12.17	2.54	18.86	7 85	48.79	12.80
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	4			i			

It will be seen from these tables that the proportion of cultivation to land occupied is much larger in the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern than in other districts. Of the occupied land in each of these districts, 29 per cent. in the Wimmera, 31 per cent. in the Mallee, and 18 per cent. in the Northern districts were used for agriculture in 1944–45. In that year the area cultivated in these three districts was nearly 84 per cent. of the total cultivation in Victoria. In the North-Central, Western, and North-Eastern districts, the land occupied is largely devoted to grazing. Gippsland, Western, and Central are the chief dairying districts, and contain 78 per cent. of the sown pastures of the State.

Size of holdings and how utilized, in 1925, 1929, 1934, and 1938, information relating to holdings of different sizes of privately-owned land and Crown land held in conjunction therewith, appears in tables given on pages 436 to 438 of the 1938–39 issue of the Year-Book.

The number of holdings of privately-owned land of over 10,000 acres was 104 in 1938, 97 in 1934, 105 in 1929, 104 in 1925, 152 in 1919, 151 in 1913, 175 in 1910, and 195 in 1906, and the aggregate areas comprised therein in the corresponding years were 1,684,969 acres, 1,562,013 acres, 1,587,345 acres, 1,576,942 acres, 2,638,307 acres, 2,652,966 acres, 3,298,227 acres, and 4,134,067 acres. The reduction in the period of thirty-two years between 1906 and 1938 was equivalent to 47 per cent. in the number, and 62 per cent. in the acreage of such estates. Most of this reduction took place between the years 1906 and 1913, and 1919 and 1925, the periods of active Closer Settlement and of Soldier Settlement respectively.

Principal Grops (Area, Production, and Average Yield).

The following table shows the annual average area, production and yield per acre during each decennium, 1855 to 1935, and the actual area, production and yield per acre for the principal crops (excluding vegetables and fruit) during each of the five seasons, 1941–1945.

## VICTORIA—ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND AVERAGE YIELD OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 TO 1945.

Period or Seas	on.	Wheat.*	Oats.*	Barley.*	Potatoes.	Hay.
		:	Δ	NNUAL AREA		a e
1855–65		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
	• •	119,001	83,296	4,843	24,123	80,117
1865–75 1875–85	• •	278,077	129,384	19,262	36,744	117,393
1885-95	• •	776,031	147,343	41,188	39,089	226,775
1895–1905	• •	1,236,501	210,901	64,310	48,009	437,087
1905–1905 1905–15	• •	1,898,280 $2,190,336$	340,957	52,829	45,243	540,472
1905–15 1915–25	• •	2,190,330	390,642	60,378	56,272	848,587
1925-35	• •	3,268,656	$\begin{array}{c} 428,372 \\ 445,987 \end{array}$	84,205 88,358	61,195 65,677	1,122,978
1940-41	• •	2,762,728	559,200	187,649	44,195	1,057,905
1941-42	• •	2,757,080	421,942	204,279	33,392	$\begin{array}{c} 672,955 \\ 1,007,979 \end{array}$
1942-43	• •	2,145,156	428,043	77,842	51,757	788,792
1943-44	• •	1,793,428	426,305	83,259	70,430	740,672
1944–45	• •	2,141,729	722,169		83,238	901,983
	••	2,111,120			, - ,	301,800
			Annu			
		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 1895–1905	• •	12,268,905	4,649,393	1,187,007	170,905	547,092
1895–1905 1905–15	•	14,032,145	6,649,453	947,580	134,357	672,982
1915–25	• •	22,906,743	7,342,468	1,243,442	158,445	1,084,726
1915–25 1925–35	•	39,171,358 38,661,077	7,965,864 5,696,134	1,923,654	169,864	1,511,298
1040 43	• •	13,521,422	2,624,298	1,772,099 1,186,979	$167,965 \\ 216,568$	1,242,808 580,237
1941-42		46,953,840	8,149,277	4,792,040	118,454	1,443,505
1040 40		41,803,107	6,637,944	1,273,704	195,138	1,051,107
10.10		19,733,322	3,704,985	1.078,128	217,380	963,103
		3,497,677	1,335,429	359,536	305,216	704,246
		100	AVERAGE AN	NUAL YIELD	PER ACRE.	
		Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1855–65	• •	18.48	24:83	$21 \cdot 39$	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	$1 \cdot 22$
		$9 \cdot 92$	22.05	18.46	3.56	1.21
		7.39	19.50	17.94	2.97	1 25
	• •	10.46	18.79	20.59	2.82	1.28
	• •	14.87	18.60	$22 \cdot 84$	2.78	$1 \cdot 35$
	• •	11.83	12.77	20.06	2.56	1.17
	• •	5.06	4.69	6.33	4.90	0.86
	••	17.03	19 31	23 46	3 55	1 43
	• • [	19.49	15.21	16.36	3.77	1.33
	• •	11:00	8.69	12.95	3.09	1.30
1944-45	••	1.63	1.85	$2 \cdot 79$	3.67	•78

<sup>\*</sup> For grain.

The following table shows the number of growers of certain primary products, in each statistical district of the State, for the season 1943-44.

The information has no relation to the number of rural holdings in the State, as numbers of occupiers engage in the cultivation of more than one of the crops enumerated.

VICTORIA—GROWERS OF CERTAIN CROPS—SEASON 1943-44.

			Growers	in each	Statistic	al Distri	et.		L
Crops Grown.	Cen- tral.	North- Central.	Wes- tern.	Wim- mera.	Mallee.	Nor- thern,	North- East- tern.	Gipps- land.	State Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Grain Crops—									
Wheat	254	221	317	3,594	3,092	3,092	314	43	10,927
Oats	323	218	569	2,216	1,840	1,967	271	31	7,435
Barley	365	60	180	640	431	631	58	115	2,480
Maize	34	2	••	••	1	4	134	386	561
Нау—									
Wheaten	303	268	189	1,460	221	1,299	180	86	4,006
Oaten	3,398	1,422	3,426	2,285	1,305	2,831	1,549	2,062	18,278
Lucerne	254	225	299	65	178	1,098	205	603	2,927
Meadow	2,569	695	3,728	114	10	878	1,857	3,167	13,018
Green Fodder-									
Maize	1,724	93	307	15	11	67	111	1,593	3,921
Lucerne	209	49	59	27	34	179	43	117	717
Millet	417	30	110	14	113	425	139	433	1,681
All other	842	132	242	107	198	584	186	615	2,906
Other—									
Potatoes	3,421	822	2,039	61	4	29	372	1,971	8,719
Onions	634	4	447	. 9	3	29	12	67	1,205
Other Vegetables	3,096	70	663	153	293	919	111	738	6,043
Orchards	2,582	254	264	286	863	1,153	316	197	5,915
Vineyards	6	7	2	59	2,027	151	84		2,336
Grass Seed	21	55	108	12		7	2	35	240
Tobacco				.1		3	95		99
Flax	206	37	. 447	1		5	39	125	860

Area Cultivated A summary of the area under cultivation in each County VICTORIA—AREA UNDER CULTIVATION

		Grai	n Crops.					en, ne,
Districts and Counties.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Peas.	Potatoes.	Onions.	Hay (Wheaten, Oaten, Lucerne, Grass, etc.).
G 4 1 Brazil	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Central District— Bourke Grant Mornington Evelyn	1,252 7,371	5,189 7,228 122 20	1,136 7,838 56 63	i71	274 1,931 378 29	5,251 11,629 12,957 6,199	786 1,604 360 12	48,046 43,361 36,090 7,545
North Central District—					. '		. !	
Anglesey Dalhousie Taibot	213 313 7,601	135 861 7,994	25 62 621	14	57 28 151	784 3,054 8,671	2 5 35	5,062 8,488 36,239
Western District—							Ì	
Grenville Polwarth Heytesbury Hampden Ripon Villiers Normanby	1,482 7 2 2,414 6,305 119 90	2,125 255 21 2,158 5,784 1,803	1,178 344 57 229 174 83		570 814 44 44 202 617	1,105 4,703 639 564 1,112 4,267	2,250 1,227 232 11 971	19,794 11,602 17,305 19,351 20,655 21,827
Normanby Dundas Follett	405 20	1,077 1,501 100	380 221	· · ·	788 561	1,698 211 162	 	20,139 17,936 3,191
Wimmera District— Lowan	135,460 423,361 125,007	60,682 77,128 45,785	13,433 26,995 3,262		105 4 13	41 318 75	7	53,422 82,481 27,639
Mallee District— Millewa Weeah Karkarooc Tatchera	71,022 117,299 529,470 329,178	10,307 53,556 202,091 80,058	450 11,054 36,504 7,273		5		1  3 3	11,091 15,592 38,447 50,670
<b>37</b> 43 <b>3 3 3 4</b>		*						
Northern District— Gunbower Gladstone Bendigo Rodney Moira	16,742 86,843 68,636 34,817 162,871	5,573 50,988 24,487 18,489 48,168	3,516 2,918 1,796 4,875 2,004	 1 <sub>3</sub>	5 438	5 11 41	2 3 6 11 33	21,238 19,338 34,452 39,505 54,900
North-Eastern District—								
Delatite Bogong Benambra Wonnangatta	1,087 11,032 157 60	1,584 4,851 383	161 233 68 70	215 264 68 74	26 · 30 6 21	1,364 599 52 18	4 6	17,545 18,375 4,544 587
Gippsland District—		٠.						
Croajingolong Tambo Dargo Tanjii Buln Buln	33 35 877 148	47 114 1,174 331	12 105 218 1,408 232	863 671 838 1,329 22	20 24 65 154 74	104 134 210 788 16,466	4 4 5 2 304	1,769 1,882 2,589 18,403
	2,141,729	722,169	129,054	4,544	7,478	83,238	7,905	$\frac{50,883}{901,983}$

of the State for the season 1944-45 is given in the following table:—FOR THE SEASON 1944-45.

Flax.	Green i odder.	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.
1,043 3,438 1,365 58	3,543 2,144 9,903 1,646	33 91 59		7 3	14,752 4,621 9,803 4,752	10,384 1,484 11,075 6,593	816 538 1,475 308	92,505 93,285 83,814 27,228	30,595 24,971 9,599 2,854	123,100 118,256 93,413 30,082
307 474	384 687 994	 20 1,066		23	86 66 114	16 47 3,056	13 28 151	6,791 13,966 67,190	1,971 1,277 9,493	8,762 15,243 76,683
3,434 3,413 180 5,964 6,183 2,413 2,227 2,841 61	323 1,208 776 126 69 1,026 1,091 489 359	349 667 18 40 240 241 96 666		1	517 1,668 171 92 20 562 1,877 131	258 168 36 13 8 2 661 17 38	162 275 398 211 86 975 1,067 628 95	33,548 26,351 19,647 31,438 40,849 34,906 31,196 25,607 4,064	4,697 2,559 1,750 3,049 6,223 2,363 3,020 4,039 2,101	38,245 28,910 21,397 34,487 47,072 37,269 34,216 29,646 6,165
100 	170 544 95	1,121	••	24 710 48	63 517 3	835 1,972 324	438 337 40	$265,901 \\ 614,374 \\ 202,291$	$167,701 \\ 458,434 \\ 129,962$	433,602 1,072,808 332,253
	36 60 84 5,831		:: ::	36 29,673 7,319	972	31 1,855 1,384	300 2,027 2,624 1,646	93,293 199,588 841,728 484,996	18,480 67,115 312,402 164,765	111,773 266,703 1,154,130 649,761
40  220	10,312 613 1,322 1,502 4,612	80 2 ,18	9   15	17 3 45 303 674	119 1,981 1,566	230 2,044 10,795	57 84	61,334 161,140 134,918 111,970 291,630	29,680 22,056	79,239 211,636 164,598 134,026 405,212
1,690 688 		)	658 818 	3,956 ::		1,078 47	328 101	27,496 44,433 6,091 885	3,387 9,981 845 1	30,883 54,414 6,936 886
35 701 1,584	4,952	5 6 2 4			951 1,851 1,996 2,430 1,676	$\begin{vmatrix} & 32 \\ 5 & 137 \\ 0 & 165 \end{vmatrix}$	131 411 867	4,287 5,429 7,769 33,254 84,960	751 4.828	4,518 5,778 8,520 38,082 95,545
38,459	73,159	5,127	1,500	_42,91	62,254	68,245	20,394	4,310,152	1,694,097	6,004,249

Yields of Principal Grops. The table which follows shows the yields, in Counties, VICTORIA—YIELDS OF PRINCIPAL

		G	rain Crops.			
Districts and Counties.						Potatoes
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Peas.	
	Bushels,	Bushels,	Bushels,	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.
Central District— Bourke				Dusileis.	Dusheis,	TORS.
Grant	15,268 53,358	98,494 120,007	14,464		3,252	17,233
Mornington	00,000	1,868	$87,152 \\ 345$	5,708	21,796	31,866
Evelyn		354	1,257	5,708	7,167 654	58,593 24,838
				1.0		
North Central District—						
Anglesey Dalhousie	1,297	2,101 22,515	223	314	1,705	3,022
Talbot	3,406	22,515	230	• •	201	7,117
141000	58,706	97,101	8,822	••	1,795	21,078
Western District—						
Grenville	26,198	43,918	91 704		0.450	in ac-
Polwarth	121	7,398	$\begin{array}{c} 21,794 \\ 7,722 \end{array}$	••	8,178	2,817
Heytesbury	30	727	765	••	$13,640 \\ 812$	19,708
Hampden!	55,598	62,950	5,212	::	986	2,569 2,253
Ripon	109,474	131,990	3,605		2,849	2,253 $2,571$
Villiers Normanby	2,112	52.241	3,259		14,170	16,853
D1	2,124	32,260	10,915		22,921	6,078
70 - 11 - 44	7,923 424	39,165	4,037		13,888	584
ronett	*24	2,124	••			670
Wimmera District—						
Lowan	661,201	126,589	32.200	l	F	-
Borung	713,262	37,266	32,200 8,807	••	F	71
Kara Kara	107,283	37,266 45,760	1,901	::	198	826 81
F-II TV-t-t-t						
Mallee District— Millewa	9 001	0**0	1			
Woodh	2,885 296,370	379	F	••		
Karkarooc	604,285	30,437	19,062	• •		
Tatchera	47,492	42,177 7,878	18,256 7,102		47	• • • •
	,102	1,010	7,102	40	•••	. 12
Northern District—						
Gunbower	5,581	16,084	27,184	160		
Gladstone	87,407 90,006	43,769	2,152			10
Bendigo	90,006	41,642	3,624	30	:: I	6
Rodney Moira	62,554	23,318	20,133		62	
Moira	361,061	98,801	4,079	80	462	84
orth-Eastern District—						
Delatite	12,338	30,086	9 940	9 050		
Bogong	87,891	43,311	$\frac{2,246}{3,139}$	3,959	136	4,088
Benambra	2,366	8,662	1,454	6,161 1,460	118	1,802
Wonnangatta	1,091	••	935	1,900	F 205	$\frac{145}{47}$
2	-	ļ				-
ippsland District	. 1		i	1	1	
Croajingalong Tambo			F	34,084	217	320
Donne	376	847	1,381 5,336	32,437 37,602	868	547
Tonii	739 15,268	2,474	5,336	37,602	360	945
Buln Buln	2,182	$15,064 \\ 5,672$	26,103	41,042	1,252	3,754
Fig. 1. 6-2 St. 1.			4,640	370	1,200	74,628
Total for State	3,497,677	1,335,429	359,536	165,347	119,139	305,216

Note.—The letter "F" signifies that the crop was a failure.

### of the principal crops for the season, 1944-45.

### CROPS FOR THE SEASON, 1944-45.

			<u> </u>	1			
Onions.	Hay (Wheaten, Oaten, Lucerne,	Grass and Clover	Tobacco.	Wine Made.	Dri	led Vine-Fre	iits.
	Grass. etc.).	for Seed.			Raisins.	Sultanas.	Currants.
Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Gallons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
6,062 4,802 2,528 50	45,505 43,787 52,934 11,634	39 107 39					
$\frac{6}{28}$ $162$	7,072 7,642 37,730	F 293	••				
15,741 11,054 2,329 63 8,563 30	22,939 17,577 27,457 28,836 24,386 37,467 32,670 28,302	317 690 18 29 11 558 304				•	
••	28,302 4,966	2,020	::	784,886			
36 35	16,837 6,940 4,300				••	·· 4½	$\frac{2}{7\frac{1}{2}}$
$egin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 11 \\ 12 \end{smallmatrix}$	150 796 1,608 8,671	::	  		4,450 889	7 23,553 4,163	5 6,488 355
14 15 26 50 148	18,336 3,263 9,342 29,453 21,479	$\begin{array}{c} 21 \\ \cdot \\ 98 \\ 16 \\ 107 \end{array}$	65   101		3		<del>1</del>
18 27	18,957 12,723 5,445 853	2	2,270 2,692 				
18 16 25 8 3,280	3,242 2,647 3,311 26,127 78,862	$\cdot \cdot $					
55,158	704,246	4,841	5,128	784,886	5,348	27,728	6,858

Area, Yield and Gross Value of Gross, Season 1944-45.

The following table shows the area under, the yield from, and the gross value of each of the principal crops in Victoria for the season 1944-45.

VICTORIA—AREA, YIELD, AND GROSS VALUE OF CROPS, 1944-45.

Crop.	Area.			Yield.			Gross Value.*
	Acres.						£
Wheat	2,141,729	3,497,677	bushels				1,931,484
Oats	722,169	1,335,429	,,				561,963
Barley—	105,945	000.000					173,431
Malting (2 row)	23,109	286,600 72,936	,,,,		• • •	• •	41,236
Other (6 row)	4,544	165,347	,,	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• •		66,360
Maize Rye	6,081	7,377	,,	::	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		2,213
Hay—	0,001	1,011	** .	••	••		_,
Wheaten	104,488	44,884	tons				283,167
Oaten	602,300	377,186	,,				2,421,619
Lucerne, &c	35,356	51,668				• •	421,677
Meadow	159,839	230,508				• •	1,591,325
Straw		15,000			••	• •	74,625 23,237
Grass Seed	5,127	4,841	cwt.		• •	• •	154
Canary Seed	180	82	,,, 1-1-1-1-	• •	• •	. ••	58,123
Peas for grain	7,478 73,159	119,139	bushels	• •	• • •		180,963
Green Fodder Potatoes	83,238	305,216	tong	• • •	• •		3,574,332
Potatoes	7,905	55,158		• • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • •	806,686
Other Vegetables	62,254	33,133	,,	• • •	• • •		5,086,121
Sugar Beet	485	3.200	tons of	beet (fod	der)		8,640
Turnips, Beet, &c., for		, ,,,,,,,					
fodder	2,303	11,561	tons				92,488
Mangolds	979	3,933	,,				19,665
Tobacco	1,500	5,128					53,242
Hops	137	1,374				• •	16,677 15,078
Broom Millet	874	4,173	.,		• • •	• •	1,159
	542	2,103	,, see	d	• • •	• •	32,240
Chicory Flax	38,459	17,035	tons	straw		• •	207.817
Flax Orchards—	30,409	17,000	,, 01	SULAW	•••	••	201,011
Productive	55,246						3,329,194
Unproductive	12,999	1 ::	• • •				,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
Grapes-	12,000						
Table	1,781	5,255	tons				157,650
Wine	5,625	5,649	,, val	lued at wi			45,135
					le amounte	d to	1
and the second	1 ***			784,886 ga			l
Drying	34,220	158,416		roducing—			1 000 000
* 1	1			tons of su			1,629,398 304,580
	ŀ			tons of ra		• •	340,124
Vines, unproductive	1,288		0,898	tons of cu	irrants	*.*	340,124
OU 'O "	8,813		• • •	••	• • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	359,971
Other Crops	0,015		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	••	••	••	1
		<u> </u>		<del></del>			·]
					• •		00.044 884
Total Crops	4,310,152	1					23,911,774

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

<sup>†</sup> Includes amount allocated from Flour Tax .. .. £45,099

Includes Subsidies.

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

The Grain Elevator 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. Amending legislation passed in 1940 increased the borrowing powers to £2,500,000.

Except for the Williamstown Terminal, the construction of elevators has been completed. The scheme comprises 138 country elevators, with a total storage capacity of 14,951,000 bushels, serving terminals at Geelong and Williamstown. These terminals, which have storage capacities of 4,050,000 bushels and 2,600,000 bushels respectively, are designed to receive wheat from railway trucks at the rate of 20,000 bushels per hour and to load into ships at 64,000 bushels per hour.

In addition to the elevators within the scheme nine mill silos were leased by the Board in 1942–43 and these provided a further storage capacity of 1,688,000 bushels. The total country storage capacity was therefore increased to 16,639,000 bushels.

The Geelong section, which embraces the western portion of the State bounded on the east by the Melbourne-Mildura railway line, came into operation at the beginning of the 1939-40 season.

Receivals for the season 1944-45 amounted to 511,063 bushels.

Wheat Licences—
Licences—
Season 1941-42.

Stabilization Board, the Commonwealth Statistician has compiled tables showing the number of licences issued to wheat growers within various acreage groups.

The table which follows shows the number of licences issued in Victoria and the area licensed for wheat for grain. Although the area licensed is shown as 2,878,000 acres, the actual area sown was 2,757,080 acres. The number of licences issued does not necessarily indicate the total number of wheat growers as original licences only were tabulated, the share-farming licences being omitted. The actual number of holdings on which wheat for grain was grown was not tabulated for the season 1941–42.

## VICTORIA.—WHEAT (FOR GRAIN) LICENCES AND AREA LICENSED—SEASON 1941-42.

	Acreage Groups.									
	Under 50 Acres.	50 and under 100.	100 and under 150.	150 and under 200.	200 and under 250.	250 and under 300.	300 and under 500.	500 and under 1,000,	1,000 and over.	Total
Number of Licences Issued Area Licensed (1,000 Acres)	1,929	2,043 146	2,045 241	1,648 269	1,918 410	1,125 296	2,507 927	760 466	53 73	14,028 2,878

<sup>\*</sup>Excluding 3.914 Share-farmers.

Wheat Deliveries in Size Groups— Season 1942–43. The number of growers who delivered wheat from the 1942-43 season's harvest and their deliveries in Victoria are classified in the following table according to size groups.

Wheat grown in one State and delivered in another has been tabulated according to state of delivery, hence particulars of a number of growers in New South Wales are included therein. Wheat grown in New South Wales and delivered in Victoria amounted to 1,529,000 bushels. The statement shows that 58 per cent. of the growers delivered wheat up to 3,000 bushels and that such wheat was approximately 26 per cent. of total deliveries. For the whole of Australia the percentages were 62 and 30 respectively.

## VICTORIA.—GROWERS DELIVERING WHEAT AND QUANTITY DELIVERED—SEASON 1942-43.

	Up to 1,000 Bushels.	1,001 to 1,500.	1,501 to 2,000.	2,001 to 2,500.	2,501 to 3,000.	3,001 to 4,000.	4,001 to 5,000.	5,001 to 6,000.	6,001 Bushels and over	Total.
Number of Growers Wheat delivered	2,692	1,312	1,240	1,000	1,069	1,749	997	650	1,798	12,507
(1,000 bush.)	1,521	1,632	2,155	2,254	2,959	5,943	4,482	3,574	16,402	40,922

The principal wheat-growing areas are in the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern districts. In the season 1944-45 these districts were responsible for 87 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 1944-45 was 3,497,677 bushels, or an average yield per acre of 1.63 bushels in comparison with an average of 11.00 bushels in 1943-44 and an average of 19.49 bushels in 1942-43. The area sown and the production of wheat for grain in different counties for each of the three seasons, 1943-45, are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—WHEAT AREAS AND YIELDS IN COUNTIES FOR THE THREE SEASONS, 1943–1945.

				Year ended	l March.				
Districts and Counties.		Area.			Produce.	Average per Acre			
·	1943.	1944.	1945.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1943.	1944.	1945.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bush.	bush.	bush.
Central— Bourke Grant Mornington Evelyn	1,276 8,374 19	1,371 7,004 13 5	1,252 7,371	$21,394 \\ 173,066 \\ 468 \\ \cdot \cdot$	28,042 124,389 318 110	15,268 53,358 	$\frac{20:67}{24:63}$	17.76	12·19 7·24
Total	9,669	8,393	8,623	194,928	152,859	68,626	20.16	18.21	7.96
North-Central— Anglesey Dalhousie Talbot	246 167 7,195	279 176 7,145	213 313 7,601	5,074 2,787 138,064	6,937 3,290 119,554	3,406 58,706	16 · 69 19 · 19		10.88
Total	7,608	7,600	8,127	145,925	129,781	63,409	19.18	17.08	7.80
Western— Grenville Polwarth Heytesbury Hampden Ripon Villiers Normanby Dundas Follett	1,730 17 2,792 6,992 136 115 391 25	1,411 45  1,669 6,546 197 79 387	1,482 7 2 2,414 6,305 119 90 405 20	36,962 490 45,952 126,093 1,414 1,640 3,935 459	30,175 603 24,887 151,053 3,513 903 7,298 40	30 55,598 109,474 2,212 2,124 7,923 424	28 · 82 16 · 46 18 · 03 10 · 40 14 · 26 10 · 06 18 · 36	13 · 40 14 · 91 23 · 08 17 · 83 11 · 43 18 · 86 40 · 00	17·29 15·00 23·03 17·36 17·75 23·60 19·56 21·20
Total	12,198	10,335	10,844	216,945	218,472	204,004	17.79	21.14	18.81
Wimmera— Lowan Borung Kara Kara	163,245 434,785 114,483 712,513	138,531 379,087 105,409 623,027	125,007	12,288,171 2,768,214	5,933,389 1,356,556	661,201 713,262 107,283 1,481,746	28 · 26 24 · 18	15.65 12.87	1.69 0.86
Total	712,513	023,027	083,828	10,930,071	10,420,570	1,481,746	20.98	10.13	2.17

VICTORIA—WHEAT AREAS AND YIELDS IN COUNTIES FOR THE THREE SEASONS, 1943-1945—continued.

	Year ended March.													
Districts and Counties.		Area.			Produce.		Avera	Acre						
	1943.	1944.	1945.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1943.	1944.	1942.					
N. 11	acres.	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bush.	bush.	bush.					
Mallee— Millewa Weeah	$71,161 \\ 126,179$	30,325 104,327	71,022 $117,299$	794,180 1,760,832	$230 \\ 817.871$	2,885 $296,370$	11·16 13·96	0·01 7·84	0·14 2·53					
Karkarooc	532,122 317,116	444,630 255,113	529,470 329,178	8,207,400 4,817,024	3,169,419 $1,127,965$	604,285 47,492	15.42	7·13 4·42	1.14					
Total	1,046,578	834,395	1,046,969	15,579,436	5,115,485	951,032	14.89	6.13	0.91					
Northern— Gunbower	16,544	14,096	16,742	243,576	52,491	5.581	14.72	3.72	0.33					
Gladstone	84,524	71,461	86,843	1,684,353	783,694	87,407	19.93	10.97	1.01					
Bendigo	65,859	59,638	68,636	1,206,402	560,081	90,006								
Rodney	33,909	27,715	34,817	609,892	376,294	62,554								
Moira	143,058	124,289	162,871	2,684,060	1,581,478	361,061	18.76	12.72	2.22					
Total	343,894	297,199	369,909	6,428,283	3,354,038	606,609	18.69	11.29	1.64					
North-Eastern— Delatite	836	966	1,087	12,913	29,186	12,338	15 • 45	30.21	11.35					
Bogong	10,275	10,397	11,032	259,192	280,945	87,891								
Benambra	107	164	157	2,166		2,366	20.24	21.68	15.07					
Wonnangatta	8	60	60		1,224	1,091	30.63	20.40	18.18					
Total	11,226	11,587	12,336	274,516	314,911	103,686	24.45	27.18	8.41					
Gippsland—							10.10							
Croajingolong	5			92			18·40 24·40		11 3					
Tambo Dargo	5 39	17	33 35	122 722	383			22:53						
Dargo Tanjil	1,355	842	877	25,618	26,327	15,268	118.91	31.27	17.4					
Buln Buln	66	33	148		496	2,182	14 38	15.03	14.7					
Total	1,470	892	1,093	27,503	27,206	18,565	18.71	30.50	16.9					
Total (State)	2,145,156	1,793,428	2,141,729	41,803,107	19,733,322	3,497,677	19.49	11.00	1.6					

The production of wheat in the other Australian States in 1944–45 was as follows:—New South Wales, 17,133,870 bushels; South Australia, 9,244,211 bushels; Western Australia, 15,928,744 bushels; Queensland, 6,980,766 bushels; and Tasmania, 92,650 bushels. The total production for the Commonwealth was 52,879,802 bushels.

Monthly Rainfall and Average Yields each of the main wheat growing counties for the seasons of Wheat 1934-35 to 1945-46 is shown in conjunction with the approximate mean rainfall recorded each month. The rainfall during the growing season is shown separately to indicate its effect on wheat production. While the table is useful as a general reference in respect of the relationship of wheat yields to rainfall, it should be remembered that temperatures, winds, and other factors such as the extent to which fallowing, rotational cropping, and fertilizing are practised have also considerable effect on average yields, as do also the varieties of wheat used.

## VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1934-35 TO 1945-46.

				Appro	oximate	Mean Ra	infall ea	ch Mont	h.					Total	Average
ounty and Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	Мау.	Wheat-growing Months.							Total for Year.	Wheat- growing Period.	Wheat
						June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.				l
	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Bushels.
Lowan—  1934  1935  1936  1937  1938  1939  1940  1941  1942  1943  1944	36 64 161 226 119 161 85 436 87 57	37 10 11 87 152 123 16 29 88 123 62	39 167 68 114 33 28 30 223 38 18 26	203 129 42 555 236 187 257 171 117 163 161	5 158 157 155 27 201 115 56 385 85 213	79 232 287 93 212 194 67 174 306 206 45	149 288 401 107 189 122 200 317 266 227 122	190 237 260 256 88 389 82 117 335 242	229 239 98 205 78 126 92 313 282 256 66	362 92 220 152 27 115 72 146 242 109 189	267 97 34 43 80 253 177 77 184 95 77	38 72 265 247 20 50 109 41 59 52 139	1,634 1,785 2,004 1,740 1,261 1,949 1,302 2,100 2,389 1,633 1,158	1,276 1,185 1,300 856 674 1,199 690 1,144 1,615 1,135	15·35 20·12 22·01 23·92 12·44 20·05 14·01 21·13 23·76 22·60 4·88
1944 1945 Borung—	74	224	18	11	148	180	124	307	134	199	155 +	104	1,678	1,099	11.80
1934	55 36 224 193 168 97 69 343 93 68 53 67	95 26 5 99 89 208 9 28 55 90 61 227	20 118 45 87 13 12 15 180 44 16 22 18	168 147 29 21 132 261 236 126 142 119 143 10	5 92 215 114 38 267 70 44 356 78 178 87	50 144 190 128 183 172 38 218 262 150 27 251	172 299 471 77 211 120 147 259 179 178 142 161	171 201 219 187 62 308 50 103 360 200 7 268	171 281 55 145 42 95 88 322 222 184 52 53	360 136 180 291 15 76 48 165 237 102 142 125	345 48 28 42 59 273 145 133 198 42 69 134	32 71 268 278 7 25 97 45 51 38 156 49	1,644 1,599 1,929 1,662 1,019 1,914 1,012 1,966 2,199 1,265 1,052 1,490	1,269 1,109 1,143 870 572 1,044 1,200 1,458 856 439 1,032	17.60 23.29 24.41 25.67 10.59 18.01 6.35 23.46 28.26 15.65 1.69 10.27
1934	66 76 227 222 132 93 83 806 100 79	159 43 3 95 86 293 12 34 50 96 37	20 113 21 42 13 32 16 167 77 14 52	163 212 46 19 123 518 197 90 99 104 165	1 98 151 129 28 279 42 33 373 81 178	51 142 168 98 225 191 49 189 260 146	206 377 500 76 201 118 157 265 188 203 162	187 189 252 229 68 323 43 155 371 193 10	167 294 47 135 37 107 135 326 214 187 63	395 226 199 332 16 88 47 192 240 84 131	307 37 36 26 55 280 81 176 181 52 57	50 71 269 258 4 25 84 49 44 31 135	1,772 1,878 1,919 1,661 988 2,347 946 1,982 2,197 1,270 1,053 1,412	1,313 1,265 1,202 896 602 1,107 512 1,303 1,454 865 449	15.53 25.08 23.14 21.99 8.38 22.91 2.73 24.13 24.18 12.87 0.86 10.84

VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1934-35 TO 1945-46—continued.

						Ap	proximat	e Mean	Rainfall	each Mo	nth.					1.	
County and Year.						Wheat-growing Months.								Total for Year.	Total Wheat- growing	Average Wheat Yield	
			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		Period.	per Acre.
			Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Bushels.
Fatchera—	-		47	226	40	135	1.0	40	100	110		000	000	20			
1934 1935	. • •	• •	73	59 59	40 60	135	41	43 90	$120 \\ 194$	116 66	89 202	323 287	266	29 41	1,434	691	6.42
1935	• •		210	10	- 6	43	138	144	393	113	. 25	142	29 8	189	1,292 $1,421$	880 955	12:39
1937	• •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	156	43	14	11	82	128	46	148	38	302	11	91	1.070	744	15·44 11·32
1938			100	49	î	$\frac{1}{42}$	17	117	165	68	5	15	13	1	593	387	2.46
1939			19	394	34	165	247	154	99	178	87	54	220	4	1,655	819	17 03
1940			48	15	11	130	15	22	84	40	187	9	62	28	651	357	1.61
1941			211	19	69	13	27	77	175	62	168	137	120	32	1,110	646	8.42
1942		• • •	41	. 89	48	93	219	213	119	230	59	134	142	32	1,419	974	15.19
1943			15	36	4	63	27	90	88	121	93	107	43	28	715	526	4 · 42
1944			20	9	11	117	119	10	70	5	26	75	68	106	636	305	0.14
1945			17	28	13		54	276	95	162	39	219	112	44	1,059	845	6.44
Gunbower-	_						l										
1934	• •		110	261	51	153		54	149	166	83	314	261	51	1,653	766	8 59
1935			87	121	68	190	69	109	250	89	240	254	30	79	1,586	1,011	17.45
1936	• •		168	24	12	83	121	164	431	162	38	158	16	271	1,648	1,074	16.37
1937	• •	• •	138	46	5	44	89	95	44	158	77	215	11	79	1,001	678	10.79
	• •		104	66	1	39	17	157	184	60	9	6	27	1	671	433	1.94
1939	••	• • •	12	40-)	85	200	192	176	105	203	96	94	235	- 8	1,806	866	18 14
1940	• •	• • •	35	10	14	155	10	29	112	36	199	18	76	62	756	404	1 28
1941	••		300 65	13 76	$\frac{95}{142}$	$\frac{12}{54}$	35	98 191	236	58	158	123	69	22	1,219	708	12.42
1942 1943	• •	• •	88	$\begin{vmatrix} 76 \\ 32 \end{vmatrix}$	142 7	66	$\frac{252}{46}$	78	146 105	$\frac{249}{79}$	96 94	138 91	106 50	35 34	1,550	1,072	14.72
1944	• •		31	13	33	138	156	19	89	4	26	85	66		770	493 379	$\begin{array}{c} 3.72 \\ 0.33 \end{array}$
1945	• •		54	56	$\frac{33}{22}$	2	43	209	124	215	49	175	122	88 37	748 1,108	815	7.95
Gladstone-		• • •	0.1	00	24		±0	203	124	219	*9	175	122	. 91	1,108	819	7.95
1934			79	188	22	173		60	223	156	142	416	293	53	1,805	997	12.06
1935	- 1.		90	62	87	185	92	146	371	161	275	247	22	73	1,811	1,292	22.29
1936			196	5	13	44	157	143	548	191	40	194	$\overline{24}$	207	1,762	1,273	19 20
1937 1938			209	75	27	34	103	93	57	196	103	333	$\bar{2}\hat{1}$	193	1,444	885	19.33
1938	• •		103	56	8	91	30	193	211	72	25	13	39	4	845	544	6 19
1939			72	350	38	431	293	208	127	272	97	76	803	15	2,282	1,073	20.05
1940			73	21	18	173	24	45	122	41	187	31	52	60	847	450	2.42
1941			270	34	143	60	27	147	226	109	238	190	123	34	1,601	937	19.51
1942			74	57	78	68	358	261	168	335	156	173	198	35	1,961	1,451	19.93
1943			88	54	10	89	62	120	199	158	134	87	50	36	1,087	760	10.97
1944			21	26	34	149	154	23	129	9	46	108	48	83	828	467	1.01
1945			47	110	. 18	4	100	345	165	250	83	130	132	29	1,413	1,073	11.77

		1				Approx	imate M	ean Rain	ıfall each	Month.						
County and Year.							W	ieat-grow	ing Mon	th <b>s</b> .				Total for Year.	Total Wheat- growing	Average Wheat Yield
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		Period.	per Acre.
Millewa-		Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Bushels
1934		57	61	56	48		31	71	63	84	289	146	29	935	538	1.23
1935		51	5	74	110	40	62	100	71	121	130	4	59	827	524	3 · 23
1936		426	16	43	58	114	64	245	55	19	74	12	162	1,288	571	7 20
1937	••	196	10 37	47	30	$\frac{71}{34}$	185	68	191	36	163	30	127	1,154	714	9:67
$\frac{1938}{1939}$	••	122	367	37	63 34	126	$\frac{26}{118}$	186 69	45 154	5 67	29 87	10 259	i i	559	325	0.95
1939	••	34	307	4	131	22	10	64	34	89	22	54	34	1,325 505	$621 \\ 241$	9:20
1011	••	284	9	49	10	18	154	140	101	90	157	92	35	1.139	660	9.28
30.40		19	43	9	121	174	178	112	179	36	211	45	29	1,156	890	11.16
1040		7	36	3	38	23	33	43	93	81	52	59	66	534	325	0.01
		35	15	5	18	98	16	58	14	13	65	74	74	485	264	0.04
		4	12	4	1	56	176	82	89	39	142	65	69	739	584	3.97
Weeah		!	1	1		l	-					1				- 0,
		69	64	34	95		31	105	105	114	323	191	32	1,163	678	6.52
		26	2	67	98	72	121	142	114	138	183	31	52	1,046	770	10.03
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	431	11	50	64	101	122	334	95	24	160	18	207	1,617	836	11 08
1937		139 123	43 85	101	11 158	63 6	135 85	92 189	211 57	63 10	215	36	196	1,305	779	12.75
1938 1939	`	32	214	6	103	119	131	77	187	36	$\begin{array}{c c} 7 \\ 27 \end{array}$	$\frac{44}{221}$	8 5	772	354 577	6.87 7.71
	•• ••	45	17	12	246	35	131	84	40	118	25	62	72	1,158 769	315	5.31
		275	12	100	51	23	225	171	64	198	194	82	32	1,427	875	13.80
1942		66	32	13	103	186	187	158	220	123	129	139	33	1,389	1,003	13.96
		41	70	1 8	85	35	101	83	132	107	151	82	62	957	609	7.84
1011		35	15	22	57	143	8	92	7	35	79	71	101	665	364	2.53
1945		10	64	6	5	77	198	- 88	126	77	135	90	86	962	701	6.10
Karkarooc-	_				i											
1934		41	144	46	100	1	41	111	78	100	305	214	16	1,197	636	5.75
		38	9	70	93	46	107	136	74	145	173	18	69	978	681	9.65
1936		315	4	23	54	120	132	329	93	25	128	11	186	1,420	827	13.26
1937	••	179	36 49	55 4	12 60	83 20	175	62	179	41	285	26	176	1,309	825	13.97
1938 1939	•• ••	102 24	375	34	135	169	78 149	175 85	$\frac{61}{173}$	- 6 - 59	25 45	$\frac{17}{234}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	598	365 680	3.88
1939 1940	••	48	15	8	151	26	149	67	173 34	153	16	234 74	55	1,484 658	307	12 · 93 2 · 73
1941		239	15	73	23	21	139	159	64	163	162	117	39	1,214	708	12.78
1942		40	37	20	110	216	199	140	224	75	165	130	26	1,382	1,019	15 42
1943		34	42	5	61	38	88	88	133	99	94	56	35	773	540	7.13
1944		22	15	8	95	121	7	74	7	29	73	71	88	610	311	1.14
1945		20	51	6	4	55	239	85	136	42	148	74	54	914	705	5.69

# VICTORIA—RAINFALL AND AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE IN WHEAT-GROWING COUNTIES FOR THE SEASONS 1934–35 to 1945–46—continued.

*					Ap	proximat	e Mean	Rainfall	each Mo	nth.				ì		
County and	Year.						Wh	eat-grow	ing Mont	ths.				Total for	Total Wheat- growing	Average Wheat Yield
<u> </u>		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year.	Period.	per Acre.
endigo		Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Points.	Bushels.
1934 1935	••	128 120	184 116	28 66	127 237	63	$\frac{64}{114}$	169 335	136 119	94 259	390 308	292 34	66 66	1,680 1,837	855 1,198	10.60 19.84
1936 1937		127	19	10	78	164	147	454	177	40	192	29	261	1,698	1,174	19 09
1937	• •	128 98	93 63	8	111	116	94	61	176	97	192	13	99	1,188	736	16:34
1939	• • •	55	400	109	54 412	$\frac{30}{221}$	208 231	188 104	$\frac{49}{261}$	10 93	7 106	$\frac{35}{244}$	$\frac{2}{17}$	$\begin{array}{c} 750 \\ 2,253 \end{array}$	492 1,016	3 36 18 46
1940		49	24	27	186	24	51	145	38	196	26	50	56	872	480	3.92
1941		245	31	157	41	23	121	208	59	211	153	120	28	1.397	775	16.63
1942 1943		82	130	133	70	352	242	152	293	116	232	155	25	1,982	1,387	18.32
1044	• •	150 30	41	5	76	55	96	167	101	130	119	57	38	1,035	668	9.39
1945	• •	63	23 81	29 19	155 2	177	15	107	10	31	94	45	78	794	434	1.31
odney—	• •	00	0.1	19	) . <del>2</del>	71	267	161	266	66	151	101	32	1,280	982	12.07
1934	• • •	290	265	58	151	1	65	181	186	102	403	332	122	2,156	938	12:74
1935		107	173	78	346	63	138	324	142	301	270	35	45	2,022	1,238	21.37
1936 1937		182	28	6	176	86	179	451	225	67	217	49	281	1,947	1,225	21.75
1090	• •	164	73	19	51	159	131	78	163	107	203	14	94	1,256	841	$17 \cdot 29$
1939	• •	120 45	104 481	5 212	55 621	32	275	151	80	14	10	30	2	878	562	3.62
1940	• • •	24	16	48	191	200 47	311 50	139 167	388 55	132 204	$\frac{153}{32}$	236 52	25 89	2,943 975	1,323 555	17 30 4 69
1941	::	516	28	234	28	85	113	226	73	169	159	114	47	1,792	825	20.19
1942 1943		87	260	166	70	371	213	180	293	120	208	117	55	2,140	1,385	17.99
1943 1944		168	34	4	100	73	127	169	136	164	116	64	24	1,179	785	13.58
40.4	•••	13	28	47	165	231	42	126	2	35	114	63	82	948	550	1:80
1945 loira—	• •	146	52	12	4	66	244	173	322	85	217	141	34	1,496	1,107	14.40
1934		431	221	163	218		77	207	234	118	436	391	140	2,636	1.070	14.29
1935	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	115	133	106	380	57	153	300	160	253	316	24	113	2,030	1,072 1,239	22.67
1936		165	36	23	228	81	256	454	271	79	191	50	256	2,090	1,332	20.97
1937		206	68	33	58	145	148	91	204	121	278	43	102	1,497	987	19.13
1938 1939	•	96	71	3	83	54	292	170	149	27	13	9	3	970	705	8.72
1040	• •	. 22	548	297	676	120	401	165	459	150	271	221	20	3,350	1,566	12.94
1041	• ••	24 539	5 46	19	260	65	55	159	64	224	35	74	127	1,111	602	8.99
1942	• • •	108	176	432 143	18 82	81 355	155 236	243 143	$\frac{76}{255}$	156 102	150 177	$^{99}$	56	2,051 2,083	861	23·07 18·76
1943	::	140	32	12	129	72	114	153	255 154	168	126	58	69 12	1,170	1,268 787	12.72
1944	•••	5	16	52	163	270	51	129	2	36	100	86	148	1,058	588	2.22
1945		222	31	$\frac{1}{4}$	17	1 55	264	164	298	92	252	180	34	1,613	1,125	15.97

Wheat Growing in conjunction with Sheep Grazing and Dairying. On pages 455 and 456 of the 1938-39 issue of the Year-Book, tables appeared showing (a) the extent to which mixed farming was practised in conjunction with wheat growing and (b) the wheat productivity of the State in bag series per acre for the season 1935-36.

Varieties of Wheat. The following statement shows the areas under the principal varieties of wheat, including wheat for hay, for the seasons 1940-41, 1941-42, and 1945-46. 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. The information was not collected for three seasons following season 1941-42.

Over 100 varieties of wheat were sown. The number which was tried in the Mallee greatly exceeded that experimented with in any other district. 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 Government Statist.

VICTORIA—VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN EACH OF THE SEASONS, 1940-41, 1941-42, AND 1945-46.

Variety (in orde	or of	194	0-41.	194	1-42.	194	5-46.
Popularity, Ser 1945-46).		Area Sown,	Percentage of Total Area Sown.	Area Sown,	Percentage of Total Area Sown.	Area Sown.	Percentage of Total Area Sown.
		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.	
Ghurka		1,317,786	47.58	1,521,877	52.66	836,021	24.84
Quadrat			٠	4,269	0.15	649,118	19.29
Pindar			l	1,384	0.05	246,379	7.32
Ranee		559,198	20 19	526,544	18.22	223,290	6.64
Magnet		10,544	0.38	42,973	1.49	210,730	6.26
Bencubbin		145,680	5.26	147,786	5.11	194,952	5.80
Regalia		52,365	1.89	73,129	2.53	135,037	4.01
Dundee		236,810	8.55	179,024	6.20	78,241	2.33
Bobin		57,350	2.07	56,304	1.95	38,103	1.13
Free Gallipoli		161,190	5.82	144,951	5.02	34,439	1.02
Baldmin		23,294	0.84	25,270	0.87	31,940	0.95
Sepoy		39,625	1.43	41,982	1.45	19,002	0.56
Rajah		37,686	1.36	24,917	0.86	13,926	0.41
Gluclub		4,037	0.15	6,586	0.23	5,977	0.18
Major		11,652	0.42	8,648	0.30	5,897	0.18
O.M.G		3,396	0.12	3,973	0.14	5,806	0.17
Turvey		9,426	0.34	8,017	0.28	5,628	0.17
Nabawa	٠	16,380	0.59	10,240	0.35	4,380	0.13
Mac's White		11,825	0.43	9,028	0.31	3,778	0.11
Waratah		6,103	0.22	3,760	0.13	3,010	0.09
Nizam		11,949	$0.\overline{43}$	9,947	0.34	2,722	0.08
Warden		5,836	0.21	2,248	0.08	2,493	0.07
Seagul	• •	1,596	0.06	2,087	0.07	$\frac{2,453}{2,181}$	0.06
Gular		5,360	0.19	1,684	0.06	2,141	0.06
Federation	••	5,991	0.22	3,875	0.13	2,141 $2,054$	0.06
Ford		3,835	0.14	2,874	0.10	1,609	0.02
Sewari		830	0.03	1,194	0.04	1,003	0.03
Mogul		4,180	0.15	2,197	0.08	864	0.03
Bena		1,243	0.05	499	0.02	718	0.03
Gluyas		1,212	0.04	1,035	0.04	654	0.02
Baringa	::	4,121	0.12	2,562	0.09	610	0.02
Geeralying	::	85	0.00	141	0.00	600	0.02
Other Varieties	::	18,995	0.69	18,848	0.65	602,256*	17.89
				20,020	0.00	002,230	T1.00
Total	••	2,769,580	100.00	2,889,853	100.00	3,365,558	100.0

Mainly mixed or unknown varieties from silos.

It will be noted from the foregoing statement that changes have occurred in the leading varieties during the seasons shown. Bencubbin, the leading variety in all other States, now occupies sixth place on the list. Quadrat and Pindar varieties have been sown on approximately 900,000 acres which was previously devoted to Ghurka and Ranee.

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 has displaced Ford as the leading variety. In 1935–36 only 0.6 per cent. of the area was sown with Bencubbin. In Western Australia Bencubbin has also displaced Nabawa, which was the leading variety with 47 per cent. of the total area sown in 1929. Nabawa has now declined to seventh place on the list, with only 3.44 per cent. of the area sown in 1941. In South Australia the area sown with the varieties Bencubbin, Ranee, and Dundee was only 19.02 per cent. of the total area sown in 1935–36, but the area now sown with these varieties amounts to 45.59 per cent. of the total area sown. 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.

PRINCIPAL VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN AUSTRALIAN STATES, 1941–42.

New South Wales.		Victoria	· <b>.</b>	South Aust	ralia.	Western Australia.	
Variety. Percentage of Total Area.		Variety	Per- centage of Total Area.	Variety.	Per- centage of Total Area.	Variety.	Percentage of Total Area.
100		Ghurka	52.66	Bencubbin	18.45	Bencubbin	35.63
		Ranee	18.22	Ranee	15.15	Gluclub	20.67
		Dundee	6.20	Dundee	11.99	Merridin	6.04
Not tabulated,	1941-42	Bencubbin	5.11	Sword	6 12	Noongaar	4.66
		Free Gallipoli	5.02	Nabawa	5.48	Ranee	4.29
		Regalia	2.53	Waratah	5.25	Dundee	4.11
		Bobin	1.95	Gluyas	5.00	Nabawa	3.44
		All others	8.31	All others	32.56	All others	21.16
		Total	100.00		100.00	••	100.00

Seed and Fertilizers used on Wheat Areas (grain and hay). The total seed used for grain and hay areas amounted to 2,336,678 bushels, and total fertilizers to 28,322 tons. The average rate of sowing in the principal wheat-growing counties, ranged from 40 lb. of seed per acre in the County of Millewa to 88 lb. in Ripon.

SEED AND FERTILIZERS USED ON WHEAT AREAS (GRAIN AND HAY).

	District.			Area Sown.	Seed Used.	Fertilizers Used.	
				acres.	bushels.	tons.	
Central	• •			14,634	21,463	347	
North-Central	••	***		13,648	18,197	345	
Western		• •		15,956	22,604	590	
Wimmera				723,456	844,032	10,293	
Mallee	• •	••		1,059,404	953,464	8,610	
Northern	••			400,337	453,715	7,605	
North-Eastern		••		16,439	20,001	495	
Gippsland	••			2,343	3,202	37	
			-				
Tot	al State			2,246,217	2,336,678	28,322	

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 1,694,097 acres in fallow during the season 1944–45 562,762 were in the Mallee, 756,097 in the Wimmera, and 233,719 in the Northern districts. The total area of fallow in these three districts—1,552,578 acres—represented 92 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
1933–34	2,543,043	1934–35	2,576,019
1934-35	2,216,464	1935–36	2,401,548
1935–36	2,358,777	1936–37	2,466,664
1936–37	2,483,163	1937–38	2,776,301
1937–38	2,604,556	1938–39	3,007,201
1938–39	2,543,225	1939-40	2,923,027
1939–40	2,377,405	1940-41	2,769,580
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
<b>1944-4</b> 5	1,694,097	1945–46	3,365,558
1945–46	2,394,032		

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 is determined annually by the Chamber of Commerce.

The following table shows the standard determined in Victoria for each of the ten seasons, 1936-37 to 1945-46:—

Season.			Weight of Bushel of Wheat, f.a.q.	s		Weight of Bushel of Wheat, f.a.q.	
			Ib.			:	1b.
1936-37			62	1941–42	. • •		634
1937–38			$63\frac{1}{2}$	1942–43	• •		$64\frac{1}{4}$
1938-39			$64\frac{1}{2}$	1943–44			65
1939-40	• •		$63\frac{1}{2}$	1944-45	• •		$63\frac{1}{2}$
1940-41			$64\frac{1}{4}$	1945-46	• •		$62\frac{1}{2}$

Farmers
Growing W heat 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 1939-40 TO 1944-45.

1939–40.	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.	1942-44.	1944-45.
12,065	11,972	Not tabulated.	Not tabulated.	9,859	10,433

Oats may be cut for hay, stripped for grain or fed Oats. 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. The area harvested (season 1944-45) for hay was 602,300 acres, and for grain 722,169 acres, which produced 377,186 tons of hav, and 1,335,429 bushels of grain respectively. The area of oats sown for grazing purposes amounted to 75,000 acres. 60 varieties of oats are generally sown, but Algerian, with nearly 88 per cent. of the area, predominates.

Hay. Of the total area under hay in 1944-45, as shown in the table on page 230, 602,300 acres under oats produced 377,186 tons; 104,488 acres under wheat produced 44,884 tons; 32,674 acres under lucerne produced 49,700 tons; 2,682 acres under barley and rye produced 1,968 tons; and 159,837 acres under grass and clover produced 230,508 tons; the yields per acre of these kinds of hay were 0.63, 0.43, 1.52, 0.73, and 1.44 tons respectively.

The quantities of hay (in districts) held on rural holdings on the 31st March, 1943, 1944, and 1945, are shown in the following table:—

STOCKS OF HAY HELD ON FARMS.

	District.			At 31st March, 1943.	At 31st March, 1944.	At 31st March, 1945.	
	,			tons.	tons.	tons.	
Central				137,744	122,661	84,009	
North-Central	••	• •		55,080	49,011	. 24,938	
Western				149,116	169,926	132,517	
Wimmera		• •		236,585	149,958	34,490	
Mallee				143,640	74,683	14,079	
Northern		.••	••	220,085	128,238	59,078	
North-Eastern	••		••	75,558	74,441	31,214	
Gippsland			•	89,329	90,384	80,044	
	State	•		1,107,137	859,302	460,369	

The area under barley for grain in 1944-45 was 129,054 acres, of which 105,945 were under malting (2 row), and 23,109 under feed (6 row) barley. Although barley is grown generally throughout the State, 95,824 acres, or 74 per cent. of the total area for the season 1944-45, were sown in the counties of Grant, Lowan, Borung, Weeah, and Karkarooc. The figures in the subjoined table show the acreage, production, and yield per acre, for each of the five seasons 1940-41 to 1944-45.

VICTORIA—BARLEY PRODUCTION, 1940-41 TO 1944-45.

Year	Area und	er Crop.	Prod	luce.	Ave	rage per A	ere.
ended March—	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
1941	161,733	25,916	955,454	231,525	5.91	8.93	6.33
1942	179,125	25,154	4,175,468	616,572	23.31	24.51	23 • 46
1943	62,413	15,429	997,952	275,752	15.99	17.87	16.36
1944	70,341	12,918	914,958	163,170	13.01	12.63	12.95
1945	105,945	23,109	286,600	72,936	2.71	3.16	2.79

Maize for grain is cultivated mainly in Gippsland, but one or two thousand acres are regularly cropped in the Mornington and the North-Eastern districts. It is grown in Victoria both for grain and for green fodder. The areas for 1944-45 were 4,544 acres for grain, and 17,307 acres for green fodder. The area, production, and average yield for each of the five seasons, 1940-41 to 1944-45, are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MAIZE PRODUCTION, 1940-41 TO 1944-45.

	Season.		For Green	For Grain.				
s			Fodder.	Area.	Production.	Yield per Acre.		
			acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.		
1940-41	• • •		25,848	15,382	702,956	45.70		
1941-42		••	20,693	9,594	305,875	31.88		
1942-43		••	17,051	7,131	271,321	38.05		
1943-44			17,641	6,598	150,433	22.80		
1944-45		••	17,307	4,544	165,347	36.39		

The annual average yield of the last five seasons was 36.90 bushels per acre, as compared with 45.0 in 1910-15, and 65.4 in 1900-05. The relatively light yield per acre for the latest five-year period was

probably due to the cultivation of new areas, which are less fertile than the rich river flats upon which this cereal was grown exclusively in earlier periods.

Potatoes. Victoria grows more potatoes than any other State in the Commonwealth. Out of a total area of 241,803 acres planted in 1944-45 to potatoes, 83,238 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 or each of the five seasons, 1940-41 to 1944-45:—

VICTORIA—POTATO PRODUCTION, 1940-41 TO 1944-45.

Season.		Area.	Production.*	Average Yield.	Gross Value.
		acres.	tons.	tons.	£
1940–41		44,195	216,568	4.90	958,313
1941-42		33,392	118,454	3.55	1,773,849
1942–43	• •	51,757	195,138	3.77	2,162,955
1943-44		70,430	217,380	3.09	2,308,993
1944-45		83,238	305,216	3.67	3,574,332

<sup>\*</sup> Includes amounts held on farms for seed, stock feed, &c., as follow:—55,144 tons in 1940-41: 23,997 tons in 1941-42, 43,062 tons in 1942-43, 45,682 tons in 1943-44, and 74,060 tons in 1944-45.

Onions are grown in nearly every county south of the Dividing Range. The returns for the season 1944-45 show that in Bourke the yield was 6,062 tons from 786 acres; in Grant 4,802 tons from 1,604 acres; in Grenville 15,741 tons from 2,250 acres; in Polwarth 11,054 tons from 1,227 acres; in Villiers 8,563 tons from 971 acres; and in Buln Buln 3,280 tons from

304 acres. The following statement shows the area, yield, and value for each of the last five years:—

#### VICTORIA—ONION PRODUCTION, 1940-41 TO 1944-45.

Season—			Area.	Production.	Average Yield.	Gross Value.	
				acres.	tons.	tons.	£
1940-41				5,004	25.004	5.00	350,056
1941-42				4,497	23,420	$5 \cdot 21$	374,880
1942-43		• •		5,741	36,500	$6 \cdot 36$	533,812
1943-44				5,997	32,203	$5 \cdot 37$	470,969
1944-45				7,905	55,158	6.98	806,686

Wholesale prices of agricultural and pastoral products.

The prices which appear below are the average prices realized for the marketed produce of the seasons enumerated. Average monthly prices, but not taking into account the quantities sold, are shown on pages 287 and 288.

#### VICTORIA—AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES REALIZED FOR AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL PRODUCE, 1935–36 TO 1944–45

Average Prices Realized for Produce of Season—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley (Malting).	Maize.	Potatoes.	Onions.	Wool.* (Clipped, and on Skins.)
1935–36 1936–37 1937–38 1938–39 1939–40 1940–41 1941–42 1942–43 1943–44	per bushel. s. d. 4 1 5 5½ 4 1 2 7½ 3 8¾ 3 9 4 0½ 3 11¼ 3 11¼ 3 11¼ 3 11¼	$\begin{array}{c} \text{per} \\ \text{bushel.} \\ s. \ d. \\ 2 \ 2^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ 2 \ 8 \\ 3 \ 3^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ 3 \ 6 \\ 2 \ 1 \\ 3 \ 6 \\ 2 \ 7 \\ 2 \ 10 \\ 3 \ 1^{\frac{1}{4}} \\ 3 \ 11^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} \text{per} \\ \text{bushel.} \\ s. \ d. \\ 2 \ 91\frac{1}{2} \\ 4 \ 310 \\ 3 \ 10 \\ 3 \ 4 \ 21\frac{1}{2} \\ 4 \ 21\frac{1}{2} \\ 4 \ 21\frac{1}{2} \\ 6 \ 0 \\ \end{array}$	per bushel. s. d. 5 1 5 6 4 11¼ 5 3¾ 6 0 0 4 3½ 8 4 8 1 8 3 8 4	per ton. s. d. 158 9 72 6 145 0 289 0 230 0 105 0 320 0 214 5 149 0 150 0	per ton. s. d. 180 0 146 0 109 6 380 0 148 6 280 0 320 0 292 6 292 6 292 6	per lb. s. d. 1 1.96 1 4.39 1 0.77 0 10.59 1 2.06 1 2.21 1 2.20 1 4.40 1 4.24 1 4.06

<sup>\*</sup> Victorian production only. † Since June, 1942, the price of wheat for flour for home consumption has been fixed at 3s. 114d. per bushel.

The production of dried vine-fruits for the season 1944-45 amounted to 39,935 tons, as compared with a production of 58,838 tons for the previous season. This far exceeds the requirements for home consumption. Overseas exports of Victorian produce for the season 1944-45 amounted to 25,742 tons.

Australian production of dried vine-fruits for the season 1944-45 amounted to approximately 68,000 tons, of which the Victorian portion represented over 59 per cent.

Particulars of vine production for the five seasons 1940-41-1944-45 are given in the following table:—

#### VICTORIA—VINE-FRUIT PRODUCTION, 1940-41 TO 1944-45.

		Ar	ea.	Produce.					
Season.	Number of		`			1	Oried Frui	ts.	
geason.	Growers.	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Grapes gathered.	Wine made.	Ra	isins.	Currants.	
						Lexias.	Sultanas.		
1940-41 1941-42 1942-43 1943-44 1944-45	2,398 2,418 * 2,336 2,364	acres. 40,980 40,778 41,207 41,285 41,626	acres. 2,258 1,776 1,427 1,426 1,288	cwt. 4,063,343 4,629,926 4,609,829 4,897,836 3,386,399	gallons. 1,208,452 1,161,888 1,381,936 1,319,630 784,886	cwt. 115,137 103,191 114,860 117,920 106,961	ewt. 711,700 847,197 813,920 859,100 554,566	ewt. 132,580 174,764 172,400 199,740 137,167	

#### \* Not compiled.

Of the total quantity of grapes gathered in 1944-45, it is estimated that 112,968 cwt. were used for making wine and spirits, 3,168,327 cwt. for raisins and currants, and 105,104 cwt. for table consumption.

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 1944-45 crop amounted to 5,128 cwt., which was obtained from 1,500 acres.

The following table furnishes details of the area, production, and average yield in each of the five seasons, 1940-41 to 1944-45:—

#### VICTORIA—TOBACCO PRODUCTION, 1940-41 TO 1944-45.

. S	eason—		Area.	Production.	Produce per Acre.	Gross Value.
. 7			acres.	cwt. (dry).	cwt. (dry).	£
1940-41			1,926	10,689	5.55	135,757
1941–42			2,232	19,877	8.91	250,456
1942–43			1,850	9,084	4.91	112,786
1943-44			2,000	13,785	6.89	172,882
1944-45			1,500	5,128	3.42	53,242

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 1939-40 to 1944-45. Australian imports of certain flax products for each of the years ended 30th June, 1940, to 1945 are also shown.

#### VICTORIAN FLAX PRODUCTION AND AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS OF FLAX PRODUCTS, 1939-40 TO 1944-45.

Sango	Season.		Straw delivered	Produce	Obtained.			Australian Imports (year ended 30th June).		
beason		Area.	at Mills.	Fibre.	Linseed.	Fibre.	Linseed	Linseed. Oil.		
	_	acres.	tons.	ewt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	gallons.		
939-40	• •	2,116	2,487	4,080	5,340	3,595	721,137	75,513		
1940–41		12,086	8,622	6,500	17,560	40	687,112	21,352		
L94142		25,527	31,657	15.180	48,760		793,686	5,823		
1942-43		26,173	27,529	15,000	35,500		647,858	312		
1943-44		31,567	40,937	38,860	41,600		537,162	2		
1944-45		38,459	17,035	39,781	39,109		869,956	1,216		

Orehards. The extent of cultivation of each important class of fruit on holdings of one acre and upwards during the seasons 1940-41 and 1943-44 is shown in the following table:—

## VICTORIA—FRUIT TREES, PLANTS, ETC., IN ORCHARDS AND GARDENS, 1940–41 AND 1943–44.

		Nu	nber of Tre	es, Plants,	&c.	
Fruit.		1940-41.			1943-44.	
	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total,	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.
Apples Pears Quinces Plums Prunes Cherries Peaches Apricots Nectarines Oranges Lemons Loquats Figs Persimmons	2,063,809 955,409 55,126 247,640 38,068 90,806 982,991 335,673 15,525 334,408 99,678 1,794 26,234 466	309,800 338,910 14,913 44,194 6,071 44,838 400,649 106,346 13,201 76,777 63,651 455 3,818	2,373,609 1,294,319 70,039 291,834 44,139 135,644 1,383,640 442,019 28,726 411,275 163,329 2,249 30,072	1,958,264 1,044,914 59,416 253,903 38,695 100,891 1,106,554 376,963 23,999 347,548 109,331 not 22,254	225,082 274,397 16,633 40,960 9,365 43,754 344,637 97,212 8,504 98,836 78,072 collected, 3,140 collected	2,183,346 1,319,311 76,049 294,863 48,060 144,645 1,451,191 474,175 32,503 446,384 187,403
Total Large Fruits	5,247,737	1,423,679	6,671,416	5,442,732	1,240,592	6,683,324
Raspberries Loganberries Strawberries Gooseberries Mulberries Currants (Red. White.	279,558 114,229 4,422,122 82,988 635	5,106 67	279,558 114,229 4,422,122 88,094 702	292,822 136,856 3,329,792 93,386 not	25,968 6,652 305,835 8,083 collected.	318,790 143,508 3,635,627 101,469
Currants (Red, White, and Black) Olives Plassion-fruit	9,296 2,441 67,665	3,144 376 11,925	12,440 2,817 79,590	not 2,335 28,374	collected, 15,138 8,729	17,473 37,103
Almonds Walnuts Filberts Chestnuts	30,308 7,254 3,067 459	12,144 2,556 217 126	42,452 9,810 3,284 585	36,413 7,098 3,194 not	10,225 3,428 214 collected.	46,638 10,526 3,408
Total Nuts .,	41,088	15,043	56,131	46,705	13,867	60,572

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

	ī		<u> </u>	1	l	<del></del>
Statistical Districts and Counties.	Growers.	Area.	Apples.	Pears.	Peaches.	Apricots.
						<del></del>
Central District—	No.	acres.	trees	trees	trees	trees
Bourke	695	10,532	291,330	282,663	263,562	44,224
Grant	200	$1,574 \\ 11,379$	68,035 896,735	7.540	5,287	57,164
Mornington	869	11,379	896,735	79,403	21,410	12,631
Evelyn	818	6,907	285,276	60,216	56,348	7,500
North Central District—	]					,
Anglesey	20	24	1,453	132	73	26
Dalhousie	15	39	2,828	270	. 2	
Talbot	219	3,137	224,696	63,118	2,578	1,405
Western District						
Western District— Grenville	37	273	8,481	909	141	13,824
Polwarth	42	175	11,984	945	37	767
Heytesbury	19	46	3,132	107	20	80
Hampden	. 8	18	926	185	36	38
Ripon Villiers	8 8	40 8	$3,215 \\ 212$	393 24	144 11	35
Villiers	111	702	62,149	1,390	85	35 357
Dundas	18	21	641	106	92	155
Follett	13	49	4,008	154	23	61
Vimmera District— Lowan	47	580	F 900	645	1.005	0.515
Borung	180	1,928	5,308 55,072	25,691	$1,965 \\ 31,061$	6,517 32,336
Kara Kara	59	291	19,522	1,302	1,163	789
Mallee District— Millewa	2	24				
Weeah		24	• ••	•	• •	••
Karkarooc	581	2,005	463	2,236	1,886	6,112
Tatchera	280	1,509	1,421	965	1,943	11,108
T 17 Thinkelet	].					
Vorthern District— Gunbower	103	1,126	2,514	893	599	965
Gladstone	42	245	14,677	2,568	2,264	660
Bendigo	220	2,258	65,523	37,561	23,491	11,855
Rodney	377	11,564	7,068	400,973	577,323	134,182
Moira	411	11,122	14,997	341,294	455,415	129,377
Torth-Eastern District—					*.	* -
Delatite	104	486	18,737	593	854	182
Bogong	178	1,133	18,737 59,856	2,733	1,526	481
Benambra	28	43	1,221	157	262	78
Wonnangatta	6	11	292	33	13	2
lippsland District—						
Croajingolong	13	16	273	24	49	26
Tambo	36	39	659	231	176	260
Dargo	35 25	135	8,442	334	521	266
Tanjil Buln Buln	25 88	165 420	$11,075 \\ 31,125$	2,692 831	109 722	274 403
2-a-11 2-a-11	00	440	01,140	991	144	403
Total for State	5,915	70,024	2,183,346	1,319,311	1,451,191	474,175

in the following table, where the number of growers, the area under given for the season 1943-44:—

		<u> </u>							
Plums.	Prunes.	Cherries.	Quinces.	Nec- tarines.	Figs.	Oranges.	Man- darins.	Grape- fruit.	Lemons and Limes.
trees	trees	trees	trees	trees	trees	trees	trees	trees	trees
41,273 7,631 45,523 98,018	55 310 137 39	35,170 1,701 22,699 62,384	27,673 1,325 5,587 15,455	18,721 126 1,581 6,025	5,721 193 164 497	98 19 181 158	$\begin{array}{c} 7 \\ 6 \\ 7 \end{array}$	135 4 125 59	75,058 883 25,457 32,245
$171 \\ 82 \\ 17,627$	81	28 3 6,522	25 13 3,618	. 13 <sub>17</sub>	23	1 2 7	••	<sub>2</sub>	7 1 279
1,425 878 160 206 135 35 509 128 64		14 67 2 8 7 7 25 25 5	216 87 53 11 37 15 71 51 38	$\begin{array}{c} 1\\ 4\\ 4\\ 7\\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\$	3 18 14 5 4 3 20 29 13	2      8 11 2		2	3 3  1 4 1 7 8 1
871 6,186 719	8,157 7,442 39	16 2,290 1,075	273 4,883 93	82 457 123	83 753 134	195 516 24	$^{14}_{27}$	72 6	100 - 627 9
1,341 923	1,208 1,439	  7 148	321 457	380 281	993 492	1,844 118,025 80,036	4,078 2,403	345 9,671 4,251	202 7,367 4,968
351 367 10,121 13,032 42,142	463 5,138 12,622 9,583	90 404 1,515 108 6,062	108 99 3,165 5,509 5,978	104 29 43 2,659 1,464	165 326 2,808 9,828 1,823	84,705 266 33,648 21,924 67,918	1,701 6 216 82 1,314	4,062 6 1,013 220 2,628	3,880 61 7,605 6,281 20,184
377 3,037 161 30	84 948 23 1	882 2,237 61 15	233 383 55 5	$\begin{array}{c} 31 \\ 127 \\ 41 \\ 6 \end{array}$	100 988 38 2	668 2,825 105 2	13 48 1	207 34 2	206 893 42 3
40 226 126 197 751	7 20 78 27 89	28 44 408 40 548	20 51 29 23 89	7 17 32 32 17	6 15 31 31 20	15 95 29 54 73	$egin{array}{c} 1 \\ 3 \\ \cdots \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{array}$	 1  1 151	6 257 466 117 171
294,863	48,060	144,645	76,049	32,503	25,394	413,456	9,931	22,997	187,403

The next three tables show the numbers of growers (in counties) of each kind of fruit and nuts grown in the State for the season 1943-44:—

		App	oles.	Pea	ırs.	Peac	ches.	Apri	cots.	Plu	ms.	Pru	ines.
Districts and Cou	inties.	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.	100 trees and over.	10 and under 100 trees.
Central District— Bourke Grant Mornington Evelyn	::	360 93 705 370	87 70 86 130	362 25 220 146	66 60 131 86	325 17 52 119	21 27 31 65	100 101 46 24	80 48 82 72	154 30 167 304	133 61 146 188	<sub>1</sub>	11 2
North Central Distri Anglesey Dalhousie Talbot	et  	1,528 2 8 184	373 18 5 28	753  125	343 4 6 39	513  10	144 2  15	271	282	655	528 3 3 48	1 .: .:	2
Western District—Grenville Polwarth Heytesbury Hampden Ripon Villiers Normanby Dundas Follett		194 14 19 8 3 3  73 1	51 13 21 11 5 5 8 36 16 6	125 3 3  1 1  6	13 10 2 3 3 1 17 3 7	10  	17 5  1 2  2 2 2 2	6 23 2  	15 3 1 2 2 2  10 4 3	56 5 4 1	54 12 10 5 4  16 5 2		
Wimmera District— Lowan Borung Kara Kara	••	128 11 69 37	121 13 56 15	14 2 56 3	59 10 59 25	$-\frac{1}{4}$	14 11 49 14	25 20 74 2	26 9 39 13	10 2 26 1	59 11 56 18	15 16	20
Mallee District— Millewa Weeah Karkarooc Tatchera		117	84  3 25	61  3	94  33 20		74  19 33	96  14 42	61  61 73	29   3	85  10 20	31  5 6	2.  11 1.
Northern District— Gunbower Gladstone Bendigo Rodney Moira	••	3 21 74 15 57	28 33 13 38 41 71	3 5 73 268 235	53 15 9 33 24 19	$     \begin{array}{r}                                     $	52 10 7 34 7 29	56 1 3 37 230 231	134 12 6 49 26 32	1 36 33 118	30 8 10 46 25 46	11 1  9 12 24	2
North-Eastern Distriction Delatite Bogong Benambra Wonnangatta	ict—  	170 24 68 3	196 46 57 17 5	584 3 8	100 8 35 5 1	573 5 3 1	87 5 19 4	502	125 4 10 2	188	135 12 20 6	46  2	
Gippsland District— Croajingolong Tambo Dargo Tanjil	••	96 1 1 14 9	125 8 24 12 13	11  1 1 2	49  4 6 5	$\frac{\cdots}{9}$ $\cdots$ $2$	28 1 5 4 3	  1 1 1	16 2 5 4 1	2 1 	38 	2	::
Buln Buln	••	23 48 2,285	101 1,079	$\frac{2}{6}$	12 27	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{4}{17}$	960	16	2 3 947	30		9

### NUMBERS of GROWERS—continued.

			Cher	ries.	Quir	ices.	Ne tari		Fi	gs.	Pas Fr	$egin{subarray}{c}  ext{sion} \  ext{uit.} \end{array}$	Ora	nges
Districts and	Counties.		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
Central District— Bourke		 	143 9 76 198	40 11 19 25	94 1 15 42	141 32 44 92	85  4 22	99 4 17 57	$^{38}_{1}_{}_{4}$	23 4 2 6	13 10	1 2 9 6		
North Central Dist Anglesey Dalhousie Talbot	riet—  		426  26	95 1 12	152	309	111	177  1	43	35  2		18  1		1:
Western District— Grenville			26	13	6	18	- <u>·</u>	1 	··	2	 	1 		
Polwarth Heytesbury Hampden Ripon Villiers Normanby Dundas Follett	•••			   1	•••	$egin{array}{c} 2 \\ 1 \\ \cdots \\ 1 \\ \cdots \\ 2 \end{array}$	••	··· ··· ··· 1	::	1				
Wimmera District— Lowan Borung Kara Kara	 		 11 5	1 1 11 7	··· ··· ·io	14 5 43 3	··· ··· ··· 1	1 3 13 3	2	1 2 20	··· ··· ··· 5	1 	  1 1	
Mallee District— Millewa Weeah Karkarooc			16	19	10	51  4	1 	19	3	22   20	5	$\frac{4}{\cdots}$	2 2 254	24
Tatchera  Northern District—	_	••		3	···	13	$\frac{1}{2}$	8		25 ————————————————————————————————————	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	107 363	30
Gunbower Gladstone Bendigo Rodney Moira	•	::	10 10 7	2 3 7 1 8	  9 13 19	26 12 29	  11 8	1  9 9	1 9 16 7	2 9 13 8 27	   3	  2 1	59 1 50 37 85	2 2 3
North-Eastern Dist Delatite	riet—		20 5	$\frac{21}{2}$	$\frac{41}{1}$	$\frac{71}{4}$		19	33	59 1	$-\frac{3}{18}$	3	232	_8
Bogong Benambra Wonnangatta		::	6	$\begin{array}{c} 2 \\ \cdots \\ 1 \end{array}$	_:: _::	. 1	::			12 			 	
Gippsland District- Croajingolong Tambo		•••	11	-5 <sub>1</sub>	1 	13 <sub>1</sub>		2 		13 	20 ·· <sub>1</sub>	1 1	11 	-
Dargo Tanjil Buln Buln	::	::	1	1	::	 <sub>2</sub>	:: 	 	::		2 2 9	2	:: ::	••
* Total			503	164	210	3 492	133	228	89	$\frac{2}{159}$	14 66	$\frac{4}{34}$	608	46

### Victorian Year-Book, 1944-45.

#### NUMBERS OF GROWERS—continued.

					ins.	Gra fru	pe- it.	Len	ons.	Alm	onds.	Wal	nuts.
Districts a	nd Cou	nties.		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 District—		-										<u> </u>	
Bourke Grant Mornington Evelyn	::	 	::	::	::	 	$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{array}$	229 1 69 96	1 66	 1 1 1	10 11 5	$\begin{array}{c} \dots \\ \dots \\ 1 \\ 7 \end{array}$	7 15 12 25
· .				· · ·	••	1	5	395	305	3	28	8	59
North Central Distri	ct							• • • •				٦	3
Dalhousie Talbot	• •	••	••	::		::	::	2	::	· · ·	6		
					<del></del>			2			6		8
Western District— Grenville				<u> </u>		<u> </u>							1 2
Polwarth Heytesbury Hampden							•••	::					2 2 1 2 1 3 2 2
Ripon Villiers			- ::			::					1	•••	2
Normanby Dundas	::	::	::	::				::					3
Follett	••	•••	• • •	::	::	::		::	::				2
							·.				2		16
Wimmera District— Lowan					1		1		1	5	7		3
Borung Kara Kara		• •	• •	::	1	::	• • •	::	17	13 2	32 5	1	14 9
					2		1		18	20	44	1	26
Mallee District— Millewa					<u> </u>	1		1					
Weeah Karkarooc	••	• •	• •	6	87	$\frac{\cdot}{21}$	i02	·: 18	78	·i1	74		
Tatchera	••	::	::	i		7	24	19	39	24	75	"	30
37				7	100	29	126	38	117	35	149	5	119
Northern District— Gunbower				7	10	14	14	14	17	3	12		11
Gladstone Bendigo	••	• •	• •		6	1	10	22	$\frac{1}{27}$	 15	2 15		1 16
Rodney Moira					3 14	1 10	$\frac{6}{22}$		15 42	7 10	$\frac{18}{22}$	1	19 15
				14	33	26	52	93	102	35	 69	1	62
North-Eastern Distri Delatite	ict—			-		1	1		4	3	6	15	38
Bogong	::	• •	• •		1			1	18	16	$\frac{14}{2}$	3	30
Benambra Wonnangatta	• •	::		::	• • •	::	::	::	1	::	"	•••	8 2
					1	1	1	1	23	19	22	19	78
Gippsland District— Croajingolong	•			<del> </del>	<del></del>	<u> </u>		<del></del>				1	3
Tambo	••	••						$\frac{1}{3}$	, 3		1 1	$\cdot \cdot_2$	8 13
Tanjil	••		•		::				3	::	1		6
Buln Buln		••	••	<u></u>	<u></u>	1	<u>-:</u>	<u> </u>	4	<u>··</u>	··	3	15
				<u>  ::</u>	···	1	<u></u>	4	10	••	3	6	45
Total	• •	••.	• • •	21	136	58	185	533	575	112	323	40	413

The principal fruits grown in the State are apples, pears, peaches, and citrus. The apple and pear crops for the season 1944-45 amounted to 1,138,801 and 1,750,802 bushels respectively.

A considerable quantity of apricots, peaches, and pears is grown, mostly in irrigated areas, for canning purposes. The total output of 1,664,557 cases of canned fruits for the 1945 season comprised apricots, 101,769 cases; peaches, 1,030,094 cases; and pears, 532,694 cases. This output represented 80 per cent. of the total Australian pack of these fruits. In addition to the fruits shown in the subjoined table, large quantities of melons, rhubarb, and tomatoes are produced in orchards. The gross value of all fruit grown in the season 1944-45 was £3,329,194 as compared with £3,522,400 in 1943-44.

VICTORIA-FRUIT GROWING, 1939-40 TO 1944-45.

·						
<del></del>				[	1	ĺ
	1000 40	1040 41	1041 40	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
••	1939-40.	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.	1945-44.	1944-45.
Number of Growers	6,318	6,221	6,220	6,155	5,915	5,706
	-		,			
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Area	70,315	69,756	69,413	69,776	70,024	68,245
Kind of Fruit-	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
Apples	1,603,043	2,497,277	1,603,273	845,184	2,326,224	1,138,801
Pears	1,298,787	1,677,504	1,232,723	1,581,841	1,421,706	1,750,802
Quinces	43,814	60,791	72,151	55,131	63,208	61,532
Apricots	485,612	388,361	434,552	422,100	464,934	366,000
Cherries	23,891	47,741	48,285	47,081	64,689	52,929
Nectarines	9,965	8,935	20,374	12,577	23,383	24,011
Peaches	1,201,378	1,479,866	1,291,756	1,178,242	1,469,813	1,404,870
Plums	150,385	240,351	189,778	210,383	187,977	156,391
Prunes	51,230	41,702	46,834	37,032	58,415 162,000	33,700
Lemons	$121,134 \\ 544,208$	130,670 729,970	163,378 614,670	128,210 556,500	637,798	. 100,897 663,418
Oranges Figs	17,382	17,220	17,565	15,686	13,096	11,537
Develor fruit	11,512	26,520	14,971	10,779	8.431	6,254
Other Large Fruits	5,119	2,445	4,059	4,649	1,985	2,157
Other Large Trans.	0,110	2,110	1,000	1,010	1,000	2,10.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt,	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Blackberries	881	1,136	1,402	732	Not	Not
	1 1	i			collected.	collected.
Cape Gooseberries	95	124	96	13	,,	,,
Currants	156	142	104	86	3,041	3,400
Gooseberries	2,250	2,787	3,204	2,257	3,041	2,423
26 11	2,417 35	2,932 27	3,067 23	2,527	Not	3,017 Not
Mulberries	35		20	20	collected.	collected.
Raspberries	1,544	3,133	2,908	2,690	2,908	2,950
Strawberries	5,216	6,768	6,302	3,372	4,054	3,561
20141120	0,210	0,100	0,00,=	] 5,5.2	1,001	0,001
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Almonds	92,717	87,068	163,819	128,737	116,604	122,766
Chestnuts	16,855	15,580	17,257	18,885	Not	Not
	0.000			1	collected.	collected.
Filberts	3,321	3,512	4,612	4,625	6,580	9,572
Walnuts	39,056	68,444	96,802	76,111	72,937	86,987
	1	1	1	J	I	J

**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 in respect of dried vine-fruits appear on page 254.

#### VICTORIA-DRIED TREE-FRUITS, 1940-41 TO 1944-45.

Ye end Jun	ed	Apples.	Apricots.	Figs.	Necta- rines.	Peaches.	Pears.	Prunes.	Total.
		Ib.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1941 1942 1943 1944 1945		13,790 16,241 189 2,594 76	124,319 201,028 203,840 210,560 215,040	3,594 3,779 3,543 7,240 8,196	322 484 1,033 46 27	290,024 300,807 255,360 425,600 683,200	100,076 156,800 150,080 286,720 304,640	581,863 970,801 638,400 705,600 456,960	1,113,988 1,649,940 1,252,445 1,638,360 1,668,139

Prior to the season 1942-43, statistics relating to Vegetable vegetable growing were collected only from those market growing. gardeners who cropped an area of 1 acre or more. 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 \( \frac{1}{4} \) 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 1944-45 was 62,254 acres and the gross value of the estimated production therefrom was £5,086,121.

The areas sown to the different kinds of vegetables were:-

		acres.		acres.
Carrots	 	4,515	Beans, French	4,787
$\operatorname{Parsnips}$	 	989	Beans, Navy	698
$\operatorname{Beetroot}$	 	1,912	Peas, green	19,168
$\operatorname{Cabbage}$	 	5,335	Peas, blue	1,390
Cauliflower	 	3,068	Silver beet	303
${f Lettuce}$	 	2,357	Cucumber	236
${f Tomatoes}$	 	$7,\!283$	Marrows	328
Pumpkins	 	2,983	Melons	1,068
${f Turnips}$	 • •	2,498	Other $\dots$	3,336

Minor Crops. There are other crops cultivated in Victoria in addition to those enumerated on pages 234 and 235. The most important of these are:—Nursery products, cut flowers, sweet corn, mustard, sunflowers, garlic, scent plants, and agricultural seeds.

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. since July, 1941). 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.
1901-02	(	11,439	556,777	23,535
1911–12		26,159	2,676,408	82,583
1921–22 Crops and Pastures	{	37,835	3,848,184	150,012
1931-32		38,844	3,927,208	163,234
1934-35		43,482	4,939,170	211,65
1940–41 Crops		33,013	3,671,693	151,34
Pastures		25,302	3,305,382	170,869
$1941-42$ $\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \text{Crops} & \dots & \dots \end{array} \right.$		\ Not \	3,650,339	145,24
Pastures		tabulated \	3,290,142	167,418
$\begin{cases} \text{Crops} & \dots \\ 1942-43 \end{cases}$		Not	2,444,332	90,033
Pastures	•••	tabulated	2,140,314	94,762
1943-44 Crops		28,841	2,060,274	79,102
Pastures		23,161	2,034,698	84,588
$1944-45$ $\left\{ \begin{array}{lll}  ext{Crops} & \dots & \dots \end{array} \right.$		30,905	2,445,339	89,989
Pastures		23,917	2,121,406	96,469

Machinery used on Holdings. The numbers of the different kinds of serviceable farming implements, &c., on rural holdings in Victoria on 31st March, 1945, are shown in the following table:—

## VICTORIA—MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS IN USE ON RURAL HOLDINGS AT 31st MARCH, 1945.

		-					Number.
Milking machines—	-Number	of unit	<del></del>		<del></del>		36,234
Shearing machines-							14,862
Ploughs—					- •		11,002
Single furrow	٠						42,480
Multiple furrow							43,360
Cultivators (includi	ng scari	fiers, har	rows. &c	·.)—			10,000
Tandem Disc	Ŭ.,				1.1		3,181
Other Disc							12,445
Spring tooth							15,389
Rigid tine							5,327
Scarifiers							18,519
Harrows-Number	er of lea	ves				• • • • •	187,419
Rotary Hoes		••			• • •		1,286
Other $\dots$						- ::	1,614
Fertilizer distribute	ors and	broadcas	ters	• •	••	- ::	12,756
Grain drills					• •		12,100
Combine type							15,987
					• •		11,099
Maize planters				• •	••		1,397
Harvesting machin				• • •		•••	1,001
Headers, stripper		harvester	s				14,724
Binders				• •	• •		18,973
Mowers				• •	•••		18,234
Hay rakes							14,796
Hay presses and					••	- ::	2,172
Chaff cutters	• •			• •	• •		23,351
Spraying plants			• • •	• • •	••		3,008
Fruit graders			• • •	• •	••		962
Motor trucks, utili		notor lor	ries	• •	••	•••	19,020
Tractors—	01 1		1,100	••	••	••	10,020
Wheeled type							11,932
Crawler or track			• • •	••	••	•••	499
Stationary engines	0) P0	• • •	• ••	• •	• •	••	33,455
Producer gas units			• •	• •	• •	. • •	55,±55
Tractors	,						124
Motor trucks, ut	ilities o	motor	Iorrios	• •	••	• • •	1,043
national mache, at	THUES U	щогог	1011108	• •	• •	• • •	1,043

Information is collected annually as to 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. In respect of 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. The large increase in the number of females employed as at 31st March, 1943, was due to wartime conditions causing a shortage of male labour. Particulars for the years 1938–39 to 1944–45 are as follow:—

VICTORIA—PERSONS PERMANENTLY ENGAGED ON RURAL HOLDINGS, INCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS, ETC., BUT EXCLUDING CASUAL AND SEASONAL WORKERS, 1938–39 TO 1944–45

Year ending March.		r ending March. Males.		Total.	
		No.	No.	No.	
1939		100,155	8,026	108,181	
1940		100,184	8,126	108,310	
1941 and 1942			Not tabulated.	•••	
1943		84,045	16,352	100,397	
1944		85,074	13,207	98,281	
1945		87,418	12,064	99,482	

Note.—The number of persons temporarily employed on 31st March, 1945, was collected in addition to those permanently engaged. These were males 8,235, females 746.

Rates of Wages— Rural Holdings. In the next table will be found particulars of the rates of wages paid (with rations) upon rural holdings during 1944-45. The information has been furnished by the occupiers of holdings.

#### VICTORIA—RATES OF WAGES ON RURAL HOLDINGS, 1944-45.

Occupations.	Prevailing Rate.	, Range.		
Ploughmen	82s. 6d. per week	50s. to 120s. per week		
Farm labourers	81s. 6d. per week	50s. to 120s. per week		
Threshing machine hands	2s. 3d. per hour	ls. 6d. to 3s. per hour		
Harvest hands	19s. 6d. per day	10s. to 30s. per day		
Milkers	72s. 6d. per week	40s. to 100s. per week		
Maize pickers (without rations)	ls. per bag of cobs	9d. to 1s. 6d. per bag o		
Married couples	98s, 6d. per week	60s, to 140s, per week		
Female servants	38s, 6d, per week	20s. to 70s. per week		
Shearers, hand (without rations)	44s. per 100 sheep	40s, to 60s, per 100 sheep		
,, machine (without rations)		40s. to 60s. per 100 shee		
Gardeners, market	91s. per week	75s. to 100s. per week		
, orchard	1 0 = 1	60s. to 120s. per week		
Vineyard hands	96s. 6d. per week	60s. to 110s. per week		

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.

The pastoral and dairying industries have always been important sources of wealth to the State, and their increasing values in recent years indicate 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 1945.

At 1st March—		Horses	Catt	le—		Pigs.	
		n—	(including Foals).	Dairy Cows.*	Other.	Other. Sheep.	
1861	,		No. 76,536	No. 197,332	No.	No.	No.
1871	• •		209,025	212,193	$525,000 \\ 564,534$	$5,780,896 \ 10,477,976$	61,26 $180,10$
881 891	• • •	• • •	275,516	329,198	957,069	10,360,285	241,9
901	• •	• • •	$436,469 \\ 392,237$	395,192 521,612	1,387,689 $1,080,772$	12,692,843 10,841,790	282,4 350.3
911	• •		472,080	668,777	878,792	12,882,665	333,2
$921 \\ 931$	•••	• •	487,503 $379.872$	620,005 669,132	955,154 $760,788$	$12,171,084 \\ 16,477,995$	175,2 $281,2$
940	••	•••	326,217	917,051	870,546	18,251,870	297,6
$\frac{941}{942}$	• •	• •	$318,441 \\ 302,401$	942,107 954,493	980,229 $1,032,051$	20,412,362 $20,598,201$	397,9
943	at 31st	March	292,534	937,164	1,085,728	19,614,040	285,2 $307,9$
944 945	,, ,,	,,	277,662 $253,782$	938,484 925,307	1,074,549 977,803	19,220,457 16,457,101	337,8 296,2

<sup>\*</sup> Includes Cows (in milk and dry) and Springing Heifers.

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, 1861-1945.

Year.		Year. Equivalent in Sheep of Live Stock Grazed.				Year.			
			No.				No.		
1861			13.769,576	1931			34,575,915		
1871			20,335,496	1940		• • •	39,390,030		
1881			25,978,115	1941			42,820,132		
1891	• •		34,886,343	1942			43,487,651		
1901			30,788,000	1943	• • •		42,768,300		
1911			33,079,155	1944		• •	42,127,407		
1921			32,797,704	1945		• • •	38,026,021		

When making comparisons of the figures in the foregoing table, consideration should be given to the varying acreage under cultivation as shown on page 227.

Size of holdings and the numbers of live stock thereon as at March, 1938, appeared on page 472 of the 1938-39 issue of the Year-Book.

Live stock In the following statement are given the numbers of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs in the various Australian States at 31st March, 1945:—

LIVE STOCK IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1945.

State.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Victoria New South Wales Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania Northern Territory Australial Territory	No. 253,782 436,443 380,670 133,003 96,528 25,885 31,803 1,091	No. 1,903,110 3,144,701 6,623,112 391,323 852,563 224,668 984,370 9,320	No. 16,457,101 46,662,000 21,292,120 8,473,939 10,049,587 2,156,071 29,269 250,778	No. 296,232 523,917 438,088 160,875 163,993 46,915
Total	1,359,205	14,133,167	105,370,865	1,630,855

Agriculture in Victoria and Great Britain (England, Wales, and Scotland) in 1938 are, for comparative purposes, given in the table which follows:—

AGRICULTURE AND LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

	·		 	Victoria. (1938–39.)	Great Britain (1937–38.)
Total area		٠.	 acres	56,245,760	56,208,959
Wheat			 bushels	18,104,369	73,136,000
Oats		٠.	 ,,	2,909,260	95,312,000
Barley	• •	٠.	 ,,	1,671,809	40,365,000
Peas			 ,,	43,332	1,126,000
Potatoes			 tons	81,415	4,404,000
Turnips and	Swedes	٠.	 ,,	2,093*	10,605,000
Mangolds			 ,,	3,537	3,689,000
Hay			 ,,	892,975	5,302,000
Horses	• •	٠.	 No.	343,828	1,001,500
Cattle		٠.	 ,,	1,697,295	8,030,000
$\mathbf{Sheep}$			 ,,	17,007,352	25,882,000
${f Pigs}^-$			 ,,	252,462	3,821,650

<sup>\*</sup> Includes beet, carrots, and parsnips.

Distribution of Live Stock.

# The next table contains particulars of Live Stock VICTORIA—DISTRIBUTION

	1			Dairy	Cattle.		-
Statistical Districts and Counties.	Horses.	Co	ws.	Springing	Other Heifers	Calves.	Bulls.
		Milking.	Dry.	Heifers.	for Dairying.		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District— Bourke	27,399	30,235	14,582	3,027	9,183	6,671	1,446
Grant	11,475	14,444	7,808 21,666	1,923	6.310	4,956	1,108
Mornington	14,620	68,682	21,666	7,356	18,690	19,394	3,544
Evelyn	4,977	9,325	4,371	1,109	4,079	3,087	555
North Central District—	2.454			001	2 210	0.000	000
Anglesey	2,671	4,104	4,143	931 308	$2,219 \\ 1,779$	$2,323 \\ 1,925$	336 335
Dalhousie Talbot	3,521 7,404	3,065 7,942	2,681 5,038	742	3,682	3,415	654
Western District—		}					
Grenville	5,619	10,025	9,569	2,259	4,215	3,304	803
Polwarth	4,182	20,227	8,948	1,953	6,711	5,884	1,149
Heytesbury	4,377 4,799	35,914 23,710	14,626 15,851	2,583 3,533	6,711 11,380 9,504	$10,952 \\ 8,451$	$1,958 \\ 1,638$
Hampden Ripon	3,882	3,420	2.320	494	1 1.629	1.848	343
Villiers	5,943	25,177	2,320 14,156	4,145	9,254	1,848 7,858	1,562
Normanby	5,483	16,252	111,191	2,901	5,308	6,688	$1,152 \\ 489$
Dundas Follett	4,032 1,250	5,095 1,892	6,015 1,931	$1,373 \\ 622$	$2,030 \\ 432$	2,631 927	151
Follett	1,200	1,092	1,951	. 022	402	32!	. 101
Wimmera District—				1			#00
Lowan	8,929	4,728	3,106	718 559	1,549	2,075	528 659
Borung Kara Kara	10,793 4,664	6,081 2,374	2,911 1,327	199	1,819 810	2,428 1,076	204
Mallee District—				ľ	] .		
Millewa	1,192	300	197	22	119	113	44
Weeah	2,142	933	653	93	215	302	89
Karkarooc	9,880	3,811	1,689	287	820	1,500	243
Tatchera	8,503	7,120	2,443	930	2,031	2,296	439
Northern District—				2 225	2.002	<b>*</b> 0.00	1 010
Gunbower Gladstone	6,182 5,206	21,998 2,373	6,787 1,381	2,235 $180$	8,802 926	$7,293 \\ 874$	1,310 2 <b>04</b>
Gladstone	9,515	10,772	4,948	862	4,554	4,138	716
Rodney	9.623	26,585	7,880	2,641	10,580	9,711	1,568
Moira	17,803	11,856	8,123	1,925	4,989	5,871	1,131
North-Eastern District-							
Delatite	6,852	12,929	12,674	2,956	6,003	8,338	1,137
Bogong Benambra	9,080 4,197	22,659 14,802	18,106 6,133	$3,742 \\ 1,729$	9,335 3,597	11,652 4,804	1,576 567
Wonnangatta	380	517	457	106	308	259	42
Gippsland District—							
Croajingolong	1,319	5,984	1,901	643	2,012	2,379	207
Tambo	1,774	4,512	2,073	438	1,496	1,625	227
Dargo Tanjil	1,595	4,201	1,632	3,073	1,788	1,466	$\frac{209}{1,356}$
Buln Buln	5,893 16,626	29,564 117,829	10,898 27,548	7,102	9,646 33,354	$9,416 \\ 34,328$	5,800
Total for State	253,782	591,437	267,763	66,107	201,158	202,258	35,479

in each County of the State as at March, 1945. OF LIVE STOCK, 1945.

	Beef (	Cattle.					Sheep.	
Cows.	Calves (under Tweive Months).	Bulls.	Other Cattle.	Total Cattle (Dairy and Beef).		Sheep.	Lambs.	Total.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
6,567	2,338	231	6,338	80,618	19,443	378,351	58,007	436,358
9,575	4,960	634	7,041	58,759	6,636	530,945	132,879	663,824
15,538	5,556	467	13,816	174,709	21,859	241,584	61,556	303,140
3,252	1,415	142	3,194	30,529	4,224	56,257	15,010	71,267
4,124	2,775	$\begin{array}{c} 173 \\ 73 \\ 160 \end{array}$	6,684	27,812	3,282	410,065	63,250	473,315
1,401	1,272		2,296	15,135	1,541	374,938	65,383	440,321
2,313	1,912		3,083	28,941	4,574	400,082	92,198	492,280
1,719	764	86	2,975	35,719	6,245	541,367	110,407	651,774
3,509	1,533	65	4,672	54,651	8,978	138,230	39,200	177,430
2,536	1,118	85	3,036	84,188	8,640	73,120	16,946	90,066
7,907	4,357	262	13,914	89,127	3,566	701,820	193,859	895,679
3,020	1,727	193	1,943	16,937	1,172	745,224	159,326	904,550
13,884	7,287	404	11,197	94,924	2,270	755,742	222,801	978,543
9,142	5,739	321	7,705	66,399	7,864	612,381	142,494	754,875
4,804	2,667	195	4,492	29,791	2,150	800,865	143,319	944,184
3,467	2,301	160	2,519	14,402	856	254,651	50,220	304,871
$\substack{1,140 \\ 245 \\ 372}$	1,086	75	780	15,785	4,557	952,743	193,899	1,146,642
	664	47	1,134	16,547	8,462	602,192	125,022	727,214
	521	51	771	7,705	1,942	386,570	86,317	472,887
50 72 355 834	17 179 388 746	$1 \\ 18 \\ 34 \\ 29$	$\begin{array}{c} 21 \\ 150 \\ 491 \\ 1,629 \end{array}$	884 2,704 9,618 18,497	281 1,422 4,583 6,808	34,726 79,772 238,199 166,366	1,138 15,789 52,224 45,643	35,864 95,561 290,423 212,009
2,488	2,147	78	7,122	60,260	18,807	239,535	65,112	304,647
162	533	17	814	7,464	2,215	296,815	78,014	374,829
1,108	1,280	69	2,140	30,587	9,589	332,233	83,442	415,675
3,133	2,389	105	4,594	69,186	22,725	359,959	90,787	450,746
3,158	3,172	154	4,898	45,277	12,465	665,827	149,202	815,029
11,419	7,593	398	20,551	83,998	7,474	532,450	120,701	653,151
15,707	- 9,339	396	14,321	106,833	17,020	313,062	75,677	388,739
17,606	12,969	703	15,219	78,129	8,072	242,886	56,599	299,485
2,397	1,014	58	2,837	7,995	463	39,243	8,354	47,597
4,057	2,022	104	4,256	23,565	4,805	42,928	7,457	50,385
8,405	5,057	226	4,289	28,348	2,742	96,688	24,976	121,664
3,733	2,473	90	2,516	18,516	3,228	81,749	22,506	104,255
7,569	5,244	329	13,794	90,889	9,868	297,814	72,396	370,210
15,088	8,179	573	27,881	277,682	45,404	406,365	91,247	497,612
191,856	114,733	7,206	225,113	1,903,110	296,232	13,423,744	3,033,357	16,457,101

The dairying industry is one of the principal sources of the wealth of the community. The gross value of dairy produce in the season 1944-45 was £17,864,037 as compared with £16,997,685 in 1943-44, £15,351,192 in 1942-43, £15,567,176 in 1941-42, and £15,529,932 in 1940-41. The following table shows the numbers of cowkeepers and cows and the estimated total production of milk for each of the last five years:—

#### VICTORIA—DAIRYING, 1940-41 TO 1944-45.

	As at 1st March—			Number of Cow-keepers.	Number of Dairy Cows.*	Estimated Total Production of Milk for all Purposes (Year ended 30th June).
						gallons.
1941			• •	55,297	942,107	447,874,000
1942				Not tabulated.	954,493	428,691,000
1943	at 31st	March	• • ",	<b>,,</b> ,,	937,164	381,640,000
1944	,,	,,		53,371	938,484	360,532,000
1945	,,	,,		53,024	925,307	360,501,000

<sup>\*</sup> Includes Cows (in milk and dry) and Springing Heifers.

Butter, Cheese, Condensed Milk and asein.

The quantities of butter, cheese, concentrated, condensed, and powdered milk, etc., and casein made during the last five years were as follow:—

VICTORIA—BUTTER, CHEESE, (CONCENTRATED, CONDENSED, AND POWDERED MILK) AND CASEIN MADE, 1941–1945.

	Year Ended 30th June—		Butter.*	Cheese.*	Concentrated, Condensed, and Powdered Milk, etc.	Casejn.
			lb.	Ib.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1941 1942 1943 1944 1945	••		156,345,602 140,816,692 125,675,000 111,639,000 105,717,000	18,376,904 22,518,272 25,266,000 26,660,000 27,462,000	76,621 114,570 105,929 109,629 110,587	4,493 4,593 4,097 2,740 2,575

<sup>\*</sup> Including that made on farms.

Numbers and Sizes of Dairy Herds. The following table shows the number of dairy herds in Victoria, grouped, according to size, for each of the seven years, 1939-45:—

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

		Number of Herds.									
As at March—		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.	Total.		
1939		10,048	4,965	3,048	4,647	5,750	3,465	599	32 <b>,522</b>		
1940		9,792	5,032	3,193	4,674	5,920	3,651	650	32,912		
1941		9,911	4,984	3,101	4,830	6,080	3,987	639	33,532		
1942-43					Not	tabulate	d.				
1944		9,381	4,569	2,787	4,282	6,117	4,352	683	32,171		
1945		8,455	4094,	2,541	4,154	6,066	4,428	699	30,437		

The numbers of farmers with less than five cows were:—23,290 in 1939, 22,526 in 1940, 21,765 in 1941, 21,200 in 1944, and 22,587 in 1945. These numbers were excluded from the foregoing table as the groups were considered too small to be classed as dairy herds.

Regulation, Control and Distribution of the metropolitan Milk Supply appears Metropolitan Milk Supply. On pages 335 to 337 of the 1943-44 Year-Book.

Pigs. The number of pigs in Victoria at 31st March, 1945.

was 296,232. About 76 per cent. of these are held in the Central, Western, Northern, and Gippsland districts which are so largely devoted to dairying. In the following table a classification (in counties) of pigs together with the numbers of pig-keepers is shown:—

#### VICTORIA—PIGS AND PIG-KEEPERS—MARCH 31st, 1945.

Districts and Counties.	Boars.	Breeding Sows.	Baconers and Porkers.	Back- fatters.	Stores.	Suckers, Weaners, Slips.	Total Pigs.	Pig-Owners. (1946)
Central District—	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Bourke	189 141 520 102	1,679 695 2,594 603	9,026 1,906 6,047 1,223	151 37 300 20	3,756 1,461 4,807 828	4,642 2,396 7,591 1,448	19,443 6,636 21,859 4,224	288 422 851 254
North-Central District— Anglesey	70 31 86	461 119 569	1,212 327 1,490	9 5 40	778 647 928	752 412 1,461	3,282 1,541 4,574	158 138 399
Western District— Grenville Polwarth Heytesbury Hampden Ripon Villiers Normanby Dundas Follett	118 191 205 82 24 50 187 66 22	497 890 893 425 108 240 1,038 254 97	1,243 2,467 1,813 705 462 686 1,799 504 275	61 105 33 41 8 26 37 21	2,402 2,318 3,085 1,128 195 547 1,578 482 112	1,924 3,007 2,611 1,185 375 721 3,225 823 350	6,245 8,978 8,640 3,566 1,172 2,270 7,864 2,150 856	284 477 355 146 85 99 516 192 48
Wimmera District— Lowan Borung Kara Kara	156 199 41	490 979 255	1,622 3,103 588	34 66 8	694 1,256 306	1,561 2,859 744	4,557 8,462 1,942	516 760 213
Mallee District— Millewa Weeah Karkarooc Tatchera	9 31 108 145	41 166 581 746	132 517 1,192 1,890	3 11 29 58	10 231 832 1,833	86 466 1,841 2,136	281 1,422 4,583 6,808	37 99 336 428
Northern District— Gunbower Gladstone Bendigo Rodney Moira	433 47 159 428 270	2,121 276 959 2,392 1,387	5,380 586 2,709 7,174 3,240	72 39 80 141 110	5,390 259 1,768 5,922 3,287	5,411 1,008 3,914 6,668 4,171	18,807 2,215 9,589 22,725 12,465	704 240 440 881 642
North-Eastern District— Delatite	185 396 155 9	843 2,101 986 30	1,998 4,050 1,570 31	39 130 37 4	$\substack{1,924\\4,652\\2,755\\325}$	2,485 5,691 2,569 64	7,474 17,020 8,072 463	501 832 311 18
Gippsland District— Croajingolong Tambo Dargo Tanjil Buln Buln	88 78 66 204 1,070	584 373 335 1,071 5,129	679 751 865 2,184 10,312	1 26 9 66 345	1,761 526 983 3,553 14,915	1,692 988 970 2,790 13,633	4,805 2,742 3,228 9,868 45,404	112 148 167 371 2,048
Total for State	6,361	33,007	81,758	2,202	78,234	94,670	296,232	14,516*

<sup>\*</sup> Of this number 4,924 had herds of under 5 pigs, 2,332 herds of 5 and under 9 pigs 2,984 herds of 10 and under 19 pigs and 4,366 herds of 20 pigs and over.

The numbers of sheep in Victoria in various years since 1861 are shown in the table on page 266. 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 table on page 268.

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.

Seasonal conditions also play a large part in determining the proportion of lambs dropped to ewes mated, and thus a wide variation from the average natural increase may be experienced in any particular season. The following table shows the numbers of ewes mated and lambs dropped, in each of the six years, 1940 to 1945.

VICTORIA-LAMBING, 1940 TO 1945.

	Season.		Lambs Marked. Ewes Mated to produce such Lambs.		Proportion of Lambs Marked to Ewes Mated.
			No.	No.	%
1940	••		7,367,318	9,070,860	81 • 2
1941	• •		6,776,825	9,587,667	70.7
1942	• • •	•	7,129,692	9,602,120	74.3
1943	• •		7,251,821	9,843,352	73 · 7
1944			6,086,522	8,975,270	67.8
1945			3,503,096	7,116,912	49.2

The following table contains a classification of the flocks of sheep in each district of Victoria as at March, 1943. Sheep travelling on roads or located in cities or towns are excluded. The classification discloses that, although the four groups with sheep under 500 comprise 63.53 per cent. of the owners, the number of sheep in those groups was only 20.43 per cent. of the total sheep in the State.

FLOCKS OF SHEEP IN

			•	Total in	Victoria.			Dist	ricts.		
8	Size of Floc	k.	Floc	ks.	Sheep.		C	entral.	North-Centra		
			No.	Percentage to Total.	No.	Percentage to Total.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	
							No.	No.	No.	No.	
Under	50		3,734	11.91	82,321	•42	571	12,085	246	5,990	
50	and under	100	2,398	7.65	172,557	-88	363	26,291	245	18,036	
100	,,	250	6,385	20.37	1,078,400	5.51	869	141,993	568	95,938	
250	,,	500	7,397	23.60	2,663,592	13.62	660	235,912	611	220,557	
500	"	1,000	6,557	20.91	4,554,785	23.28	530	361,975	550	384,910	
1,000	,,	2,000	3,266	10.42	4,442,366	22:71	253	349,845	274	367,826	
2,000	,,	3,500	1,024	3 • 27	2,622,986	13.41	70	180,454	99	246,764	
3,500	,,	5,000	257	82	1,057,207	5 • 40	18	73,468	25	100,613	
5,000	,,	7,500	171	•54	1,033,427	5.28	11	65,341	13	72,983	
7,500	,,	10,000	74	•24	640,870	3.28	5	44,618	4	33,392	
10,000	,,	15,000	58	•19	676,412	3:46	3	31,377	3	37,175	
15,000		20,000	13	•04	216,769	1.11	2	33,399			
<b>20,</b> 000	and over	••	12	•04	320,558	1.64				••	
	Totals		31,346	100.00	19,562,250	100.00	3,355	1,556,758	2,638	1,584,184	

Although the principal breed of sheep in the State is the "Merino," the percentage of pure Merino sheep is only 39, as compared with 85 in New South Wales. Merino Comebacks, the progeny of Crossbred ewes mated to Merino rams, number 34 per cent., other crossbreeds 24 per cent. and other British and Australasian breeds 3 per cent. of the sheep of Victoria.

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

#### VICTORIA AS AT MARCH, 1943.

			•		Districts-	conti	nued.				
We	estern.	Win	mera.	Ma	allee.	Nor	thern.	North	-Eastern.	Gip	psland,
Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.	ep. Sheep.		Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	NO.	No.	No.
1,018	21,420	240	6,068	113	2,517	415	9,867	427	9,032	704	15,342
460	32,555	270	19,979	125	8,612	379	27,633	274	19,826	282	19,625
857	139,873	940	162,555	817	141,010	1,313	225,643	531	90,439	490	80,949
842	304,561	1,220	441,318	1,145	413,081	1,772	637,394	703	252,476	444	158,293
1,182	843,247	1,180	817,189	692	462,762	1,429	985,628	625	442,098	369	256,976
858	1,182,884	583	793,723	214	280,672	616	827,791	292	393,281	176	246,344
363	934,223	192	492,487	34	87,480	108	276,518	83	214,003	75	191,057
116	480,989	37	152,779	12	50,637	24	97,415	11	45,386	14	55,920
101	620,077	18	105,251	3	18,770	12	72,567	6	36,029	7	42,409
42	364,945	15	132,248			5	41,785	1	8,185	2	15,697
43	504,799	2	22,377	1	11,532	3	32,767	1	12,380	2	24,005
9	152,215	1	15,943			1	15,212				••
10	269,171			1	24,874	1	26,513		••		
5,901	5,850,959	4,698	3,161,917	3,157	1,501,947	6,078	3,276,733	2,954	1,523,135	2,565	1,106,617

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.

A table showing the breeds of sheep for the years 1932 to 1936 appears on page 480 of the 1938-39 issue of the Year-Book.

Rams, Ewes, &c., in Gounties at March, 1945. wethers and lambs depastured on rural holdings in each county of the State as at March, 1945, also the numbers of ewes mated, classified according to whether the progeny is intended for wool or fat lamb production. The breeds of rams are also shown. 13251/46.—18

#### 

Statistical Districts and Counties.	Rams.	Breeding.	Other (Not mated	Wethers.	T b. e	Total
			or intended to be bred from).		Lambs.	Sheep and Lambs.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central District— Bourke	6,526	218,665	35,800	117,360	58,007	436,358
	7,584	284,970	78,597	159,794	132,879	663,824
	4,557	162,959	27,691	46,377	61,556	303,140
	1,754	40,556	5,746	8,201	15,010	71,267
North Central District— Anglesey Dalhousie Talbot	4,792	188,696	35,280	181,297	63,250	473,315
	5,469	200,181	49,976	119,312	65,383	440,321
	7,643	273,557	39,846	79,036	92,198	492,280
Western District— Grenville Polwarth Heytesbury Hampden Ripon Villiers Normanby Dundas Follett	8,980	250,610	86,976	194,801	110,407	651,774
	2,772	80,470	21,910	33,078	39,200	177,430
	1,391	56,661	4,821	10,247	16,946	90,066
	12,400	395,724	109,101	184,595	193,859	895,679
	10,637	318,167	145,802	270,618	159,326	904,550
	11,226	354,675	135,019	254,822	222,801	978,543
	6,558	256,070	104,084	245,669	142,494	754,875
	7,403	309,392	144,998	339,072	143,319	944,184
	2,283	87,321	24,129	140,918	50,220	304,871
Wimmera District— Lowan	10,760	410,866	171,314	359,803	193,899	1,146,642
	9,451	319,921	88,382	184,438	125,022	727,214
	6,774	192,856	65,923	121,017	86,317	472,887
Mallee District— Millewa	714	24,499	3,548	5,965	1,138	35,864
	1,632	64,817	4,503	8,820	15,789	95,561
	5,809	199,810	11,016	21,564	52,224	290,423
	4,050	139,490	7,076	15,750	45,643	212,009
Northern District— Gunbower	5,745	187,967	13,956	31,867	65,112	304,647
	4,899	181,608	38,178	72,130	78,014	374,829
	6,486	249,168	28,590	47,989	83,442	415,675
	8,572	288,775	23,515	39,097	90,787	450,746
	19,427	544,345	35,462	66,593	149,202	815,029
North-Eastern District— Delatite Bogong Benambra Wonnangatta	9,256 6,443 3,249 483	364,364 227,566 128,921 19,569	48,255 29,677 32,439 6,958	110,575 49,376 78,277 12,233	120,701 75,677 56,599 8,354	653,151 388,739 299,485 47,597
Gippsland District— Croajingolong Tambo Dargo Tanjil Buln Buln Total	368 1,250 816 3,412 5,423 216,994	18,638 56,757 41,985 157,301 187,844 7,485,741	8,478 11,576 13,641 36,321 45,805	15,444 27,105 25,307 100,780 167,293 3,946,620	7,457 24,976 22,506 72,396 91,247 3,033,357	50,385 121,664 104,255 370,210 497,612 16,457,101

# BREEDS OF RAMS IN EACH COUNTY (EXCLUSIVE OF IN TOWNS) AS AT MARCH, 1945.

Ewes Ma Lambing during	ated (for g Season 1945).		В	reeds of Ra	ams (As at A	farch, 194	16).	
To Merino, Corriedale or Polwarth Rams (Wool Production).	To Rams of British Breeds (Fat-Lamb Production).	Merino.	Corrie- dale.	Pol- warth.	Border Leicester.	South-down.		Other.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
29,229 132,199 13,058 4,948	$168,969 \\ 140,599 \\ 137,517 \\ 31,319$	95 1,633 7 20	492 1,575 295 24	121 659 7 25	.986 1,100 536 127	1,399 300 1,605 265	1,364 202	1,038
68,890 59,671 99,428	115,885 129,495 160,610	711 793 1,661	854 716 1,498	156 71 87	243 1,040 1,640	2,012 1,059 267		515 503 862
158,412 25,624 3,321 271,120 229,712 242,752 131,934 202,524 31,824	80,535 47,092 45,880 118,257 65,161 98,443 113,315 94,390 54,745	5,771 3 4,555 7,093 3,906 1,331 2,990 245	1,037 321 16 2,743 1,054 2,292 2,049 1,721 430	841 1,040 23 2,380 163 2,308 296 246	809 413 77 542 783 800 572 706 326	324 281 790 771 132 252 338 226 218	271 127 96 564 473 178 359 376 123	467 270 156 1,176 294 1,361 1,439 731 894
269,958 171,133 118,829	$123,211 \\ 136,670 \\ 63,614$	6,182 3,171 3,623	1,476 1,278 420	126 99 327	920 1,889 1,532	465 391 51	577 1,443 518	749 545 200
4,017 29,744 40,005 10,361	4,468 32,626 148,571 119,447	486 114 12 62	44 509 456 186	24 18 8	51 250 2,567 2,675	1 11 51 143	84 339 1,244 532	12 49 223 283
18,679 85,430 48,581 42,048 57,983	158,085 88,105 185,406 238,785 477,138	730 1,537 473 174 536	266 662 540 737 1,077	8 21 64 4 41	1,698 1,467 2,626 2,934 3,722	291 119 354 1,112 5,027	1,298 220 953 1,648 2,509	443 444 669 704 1,282
98,129 53,248 52,31 <b>6</b> 9,606	255,853 160,713 67,347 8,978	578 523 707 57	1,373 513 443 157	188 138 37 31	1,954 2,651 458 47	2,231 737 279 34	469 316 337 11	2,238 670 476 104
11,212 27,830 21,782 55,776 32,613	5,924 26,885 16,849 94,247 134,852	217 198 193 733 288	15 355 191 410 429	4 22 4 86 23	60 147 124 343 828	2 69 53 <b>231</b> 744	1 57 37 773 921	79 397 227 947 972
2,966,926	4,149,986	51,408	28,654	9,696	39,654	22,635	21,751	2,3119

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 1944-45.

Statistical District.	Sho	rn.	Wool Cl (including Cr		Average.		
A	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep's.	Lambs'.	Per Sheep.	Per Lamb.	
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	
Central	1,361,157	300,312	10,511,501	738,614	7.72	2.46	
North-Central	1,485,910	264,047	10,954,274	563,767	7.37	2.14	
Western	5,520,533	1,214,181	44,744,400	2,922,763	8.10	2.41	
Wimmera	2,719,559	550,692	21,575,900	1,190,459	7.93	2.16	
Mallee	1,001,139	161,419	7,601,570	364,657	7.59	2.26	
Northern	2,754,102	577,135	20,417,703	1,301,549	7.41	2.26	
North-Eastern	1,467,783	332,291	10,528,723	701,686	7.17	2.11	
Gippsland	1,033,287	268,713	7,902,860	595,231	7.65	2.22	
State Totals	17,343,470	3,668,790	134,236,931	8,378,726	7.74	2.28	

#### VICTORIA—SHEEP SHORN AND WOOL CLIPPED.

		Shorn. Wool Clipped (including Crutchings).				
Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep's.	Lambs'.	Per Sheep.	Per Lamb.	
No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	
17,458,106	4,932,852	143,969,249	11,124,590	8.25	2.26	
18,152,605	4,231,230	160,868,792	10,007,780	8.86	2.37	
18,517,675	4,346,985	163,250,178	10,794,985	8.82	2.48	
18,335,678	4,980,781	151,995,096	11,843,481	8.29	2.38	
17,343,470	3,668,790	134,236,931	8,378,726	7:74	2.28	

#### VICTORIA—WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE.

s	Season.		Clip.	Stripped from and Exported on Skins, &c. (Greasy).	Total Quantity. (Greasy).	Gross Value.	Average Price per lb.
			lb.	lb.	lb.	£	d.
1940-41		• • • •	155,093,839	32,737,525	187,831,364	11,120,160	14.21
1941-42			170,876,572	42,042,469	212,919,041	12,593,512	14.20
1942-43	• •		174,045,163	34,159,329	208,204,492	14,223,964	16.40
1943-44	••		163,838,577	32,576,650	196,415,227	13,290,073	16.24
1944-45			142,615,657	34,527,400	177,143,057	11,856,369	16.06

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.

Under normal pre-war conditions of marketing, wool is sold by public auction at established "selling centres". These sales are attended by representatives of firms from practically every country in which woollen goods are manufactured extensively and also by buyers representing local woollen mills.

Wool is sold on a clean scoured basis. A light conditioned, high quality fleece would weigh a good deal less than a heavy conditioned, sandy, burry one. The extra weight compensates to some extent for the lower price received per lb. Some woolgrowers place importance on the price per lb. obtained for wool and others on the return per sheep.

When wool is sold at auction it is subject to the vagaries of fashion and competition, which make fluctuations inevitable. As a result, prices are sometimes more and sometimes less than the true market value. Some growers value their wool and set reserves thereon. Their valuations can only be approximations as the individual grower cannot be aware of all the factors which determine the prices realized.

Auction sales arranged for the sale of the 1939 clip were postponed owing to the international situation and, following the outbreak of war on the 3rd September, 1939, the Commonwealth Government two days later announced that the British Government would purchase the Australian wool clip for the duration of the war and for one full year thereafter.

A Central Wool Committee was appointed to control the receivals, storage, appraisement and shipment of wool to the United Kingdom and other destinations arranged by the United Kingdom. After negotiations, a flat price of 10\frac{3}{4}\text{d}. per lb. sterling, equivalent to 13.437d. per lb. Australian currency, in store at seaboard, was agreed upon. This purchase price operated until the 1942 clip when the purchase price was raised to 12.3625d. per lb. sterling or 15.4531d. per lb. Australian currency. Since a flat price per lb., irrespective of type or quality, would obviously be unfair, the clip receivals are being appraised by experts selected by the Wool Committee. Each type is given a standard specification and, if this is not fulfilled, the wool is reduced to a lower type level and consequently appraised at a lower price. As a result, the factors which govern sales by auction cannot operate.

Approximately 1,500 different types or grades of wool have been established throughout Australia and, having regard to the fact that prices vary from a few pence to over thirty pence per lb., it is impossible, at the time of appraisement, to determine values so that the fixed

average price over all would be obtained. A conservative value is therefore given which permits of a reasonable margin of safety and a final adjustment is made at the end of each season.

The prolonged and widespread drought during the period of growth in 1944–45 left its mark on the clip as a whole and, with few exceptions, the clip did not reach the standard specifications. More wools therefore found their way into lower type levels than usual. This led, in a final analysis, to an all-round appraised price for the Commonwealth of 13.7552d. per lb. as against the contract price of 15.4531d. per lb. As, however, the British Government's purchase price is a fixed figure irrespective of any variation in the quality or condition of the Australian clip as a whole, an equalization dividend of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. was needed to bridge the gap between the appraised and the contract prices. Summed up, the British Government purchased a clip of less intrinsic value than those of previous seasons, and the grower thus received better value, comparatively, for his wool.

The interests of Australian mills are safeguarded under the purchase arrangement and manufacturers have first choice of appraised wools to meet their full requirements for military and civil purposes and for combing for export by Australian topmakers. Manufacturers are charged appraisement prices plus a surcharge to cover any probable undervaluation at the time of appraisement. During the latter part of the 1943–44 season, the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner determined that this surcharge should be 10 per cent. for shorn and 5 per cent. for skin wool, and in each case, an additional  $27\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the appraised price, in the event of manufactured goods being exported. These prices were to operate until 30th June, 1945.

The following information as to 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 appraised—not only for wool grown—in Victoria. Wool from the Riverina and the south-east of South Australia is included in Victorian appraisements.

## PRICES OF WOOL APPRAISED IN VICTORIA, 1942–43 TO 1944–45.

CI. A.W. I	Avera	ge Price per lb.	in—
Class of Wool.	1942-43.*	1943-44.*	1944-45.*
GREASY MERINO.	Pence.	Pence.	Pence.
Extra Super (Western District) Super Good Average Wasty and Inferior Extra Super Lambs Super Lambs Good Lambs Average Lambs Inferior Lambs	33 to 39 26 to 32 21 to 25 17 to 20 12 to 16 29 to 32 25 to 28 20 to 24 15 to 19 11 to 14	35 to 41 27 to 33 22 to 26 17 to 20 12 to 16 29 to 33 25 to 28 20 to 24 15 to 19 11 to 14	33 to 39 26 to 32 21 to 25 17 to 20 12 to 16 29 to 33 25 to 28 20 to 24 15 to 19 11 to 14
GREASY CROSSBRED.  Extra Super Comebacks Super Comebacks Fine Crossbred Medium Crossbred Medium Crossbred dand Lincoln Super Fine Crossbred Lambs Good Crossbred Lambs Coarse and Lincoln Lambs	24 to 28 20 to 24 14 to 22 13 to 21 13 to 24 20 to 24 15 to 19 13 to 14	24 to 28 20 to 24 14 to 22 13 to 21 14 to 24 20 to 24 15 to 19 12 to 14	24 to 27 20 to 24 14 to 22 13 to 21 14 to 24 20 to 24 15 to 19 12 to 14
SCOURED.  Extra Super Fleece Super Fleece	31 to 35 27 to 30 22 to 26 19 to 21	31 to 35 27 to 30 22 to 26 19 to 21	30 to 33 26 to 29 21 to 25 19 to 20
Greasy Merino Fleece, Comeback Fleece, Merino Lambs, Comeback Lambs Scoured Fleece	$   \begin{array}{c}     39 \\     27\frac{3}{4} \\     31\frac{1}{2} \\     26\frac{1}{4} \\     34\frac{1}{2}   \end{array} $	$40\frac{3}{4}$ $28$ $32\frac{1}{2}$ $26\frac{1}{2}$ $34\frac{3}{4}$	$39 \ 27\frac{1}{4} \ 33\frac{1}{4} \ 25 \ 33\frac{1}{4}$

<sup>\*</sup> Appraisement prices—subject to addition of 11 per cent. in 1942–43, 11½ per cent. in 1943–44. and 12½ per cent. in 1944–45.

Prices of Live Stock.

In the subjoined table will be found a statement of the average prices of live stock ruling in metropolitan saleyards at Newmarket during the five years 1940-41 to 1944-45.

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, 1940-41 TO 1944-45.

				-													
Stock.				io-4			114 era	12. ge.		12–4 era			13– era	14. ge.		44– era	
Fat Cattle			£	s.	d.	£	8.	d.	£	8.	d.	£	8.	<b>d</b> .	£	8.	d.
Bullocks—  Extra prime Prime Good Good light and has	••	  hts	19 17 15 13 10	6 6 3 6	0 1 2 6 8	19 18 15 13 11	13 3 15	6 8 2 0 7	21 19 17 15 12	5 11 17	9 9 6 11 6	24 22 20 16	6 4 5	0 11 6 9	24 22 20 17 13	3 0 7 9	
Cows— Best Others	::	::	13 7	19	8	13 8	3	1 9	14 8	9 10	5 6	15 9	13 7	3 2	15 8	ę 18	
Dairy Cattle	e.																
Milkers (best) Springers (best)	••	.:	13 11	13 1			10 11		17 13		10 9		14 16	4 5		19 11	
Fat Sheep																	
Crossbred Wethers— Extra prime Prime Good		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1 1 0	5 2 19	2 1 2	1 1 1		5 4 4	1 1 1	10 7 3	1 5 10		14 11 7	6 4 5		14 11 6	
Crossbred Ewes— Extra prime Prime Good		::	0	19 16 13	1 4 2	0	18 15 12	5 10 8		0 18 14	7 0 5	1 1 0	5 1 16	5 9 2	1 1 0		$\begin{smallmatrix}0\\11\\6\end{smallmatrix}$
Merino Wethers— Extra Prime Prime Good	•••	•••		2 19 16	0 7 6		$^{3}_{0}$ 17	1 10 6		6 3 19	3 9 4	1 1 1		2 8 2	1 1 1		11 10 4
Fat Lamb	ε.																
Extra prime Prime Good	::	::	1 1 0			$\begin{array}{ c c }\hline 1\\1\\0\\\end{array}$	4 1 18	$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 7 \end{array}$	1 1 1		3 4 3	1 1 1		7	1 1 1	9	
Pigs.																	
Back Fatters— Extra heavy prime Prime medium and			6 5	14 4		8 7	16 2	46		12 10	1		17 12				10 4
Baconers— Medium and heavy Light Porkers			3 3 2		9	4 3 2			4	$^{11}_{10}_{16}$		4	15 11 12	4 6 0	5	9 6 17	11

Stack The following table shows the number of slaughtering establishments and of the stock slaughtered in the State during each of the five years, 1941-45:—

#### VICTORIA-STOCK SLAUGHTERED, 1941 TO 1945.

			Stock SI	on Farms			
Kind of Stoc	k.						
			1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.*
			No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
	• •	• •	3,785,848	4,006,368	4,272,102	5,079,169	5,059,831
Deall a alve	• • •	••,	$4,587,329 \\ 159,707$	4,628,241	5,458,718 182,612	4,221,903 165,001	$4,127,769 \ 161,022$
O	• •	• •	167,183	$155,461 \\ 232,685$	239,980	223,245	235,155
W-mma cottle		• • •	64,039	68,329	51,782	75,502	77,349
O-120-			331,675	297,342	278,850	304.641	334,777
Pigs		• •	571,006	570,419	439,917	388,905	415,638
Number of Slaughterho	uses		642	615	581	555	526

<sup>\*</sup> Average dressed weights per carcase during 1944-45 were: Sheep 39.08 lbs.: Lambs 30.68 lbs.: Bullocks 598.16 lbs.: Cows 387.76 lbs.: Young Cattle 229.77 lbs.: Calves 62.40 lbs.: Pigs 157.50 lbs.

The importance of the mutton and lamb export trade to sheep owners is indicated by the export figures for the years 1938 to 1945 as shown in the statement hereunder.

## FROZEN MUTTON AND LAMB EXPORTED FROM VICTORIAN PORTS.

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

		[	Carcasses 1 requirem	Exported (exchinents consumed	isive of certain ser outside Australia	·vice ).
Year Ended 30th June.			Mutton		Lamb.	
<del></del>			Number.	Average Weight.	Number.	Average Weight,
				lb.		lb.
			321,709	41	3,178,920	31
	••	•••	349,995	40	2,764,031	30 (31)
•••	••		119,030	51 1	2,933,079	38
••			76,964	53	3,286,685	31
	••		88,947	53	2,740,423	33
			151,283	48	2,747,120	(32) 35
			287,331	43	2,382,018	32
	••		353,557	41	2,004,964	31 (31)
				requirem  Number.  321,709 (1,038,040) 349,995 (680,700) 119,030 (896,039) 76,964 (391,766) 88,947 (207,259) 151,283 (429,623) 287,331 (609,767)	r Ended 30th June.    Number.   Average Weight.	Number. Average Weight. Number.    1b.

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 county of the State will be found on page 268 of this issue.

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 1940-41 to 1944-45:--

SILAGE IN VICTORIA, 1940-41 TO 1944-45.

Season ended March,		which le.		Districts in which Made.									
		Farms on was	Mac		Mac		Mac Mac		North Central.	Western.	Wimmera.	Mallee.	Northern.
		No.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons		
1941		648	30,520	6,685	1,033	2,163	522	1,512	3,341	6,551	8,715		
1942		*	34,109	8,814	1,113	4,021	916	502	4,242	5,890	8,611		
1943	••	*	32,099	5,276	368	3,880	648	2,806	2,231	5,222	11,668		
1944	••	*	27,108	5,465	414	5,969	155	139	937	3,911	10,118		
1945		454	19,993	5,279	390	1,002	27	58	417	1,014	11,80		

<sup>\*</sup> Not tabulated.

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 one acre and upwards. As a consequence, production was understated because of the exclusion of (a) hives on areas of less than one acre, and (b) travelling beekeepers who were not occupiers of rural holdings. Commencing with the season 1935-36, all beekeepers have been required to furnish returns. Particulars relating to apiculture for the five years 1941-45 are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—BEE-HIVES, HONEY AND BEESWAX, 1940-41 TO 1944-45.

Season Ended May-		Bee-	<b>.</b>	Produc	tion.	Gross Value.			
Seaso:	n Endec	ı мау—	keepers.*	Hives.	Honey.	Beeswax.	Honey.	Beeswax.	
			No.	No.	lb.	lb.	£	£	
1941	• •		2,197	69,969	4,503,927	56,850	107,907	6,158	
1942			2,414	85,744	5,496,851	64,484	148,873	7,523	
1943	• •		2,093	87,224	4,554,107	60,587	142,316	7,753	
1944			1,944	90,010	2,544,760	33,796	79,524	4,225	
1945			1,658	76,257	4,260,657	49,119	133,146	6,140	

<sup>\*</sup>Apiarists with 20 hives and over numbered 678 in 1941, 788 in 1942, 739 in 1943, 803 in 1944, and 691 in 1945.

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.

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, and eggs and egg pulp.

#### MELBOURNE-WHOLESALE PRICES-YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1945.

			19	44.					1945.			
	July.	August,	Sept.	October.	Nov.	Dec.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June
Agricultural— Wheat . per bushel Barley— English ,,	s. d. 3 11‡ 5 3	s. d. 3 11½ 5 3	s. d. 3 111 5 3	s. d. 3 11½ 5 3	$\begin{array}{c c} s. & d. \\ 3 & 11\frac{1}{4} \\ 5 & 3 \end{array}$	s. d. 3 111 5 3	s. d. 3 111 5 3	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	s. d. 3 11‡ 6 1	s. d. 3 11½ 6 1	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Cape ,, Oats, Milling . ,, Maize ,, Peas ,,	$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 6 \\ 3 & 3 \\ 8 & 7\frac{1}{4} \\ 10 & 6 \\ \pounds & s. & d. \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 6 \\ 3 & 3 \\ 8 & 6 \\ 10 & 6 \\ \pounds & s. & d. \end{bmatrix}$	4 6 3 3 8 3½ 10 6 £ s. d.	3 8 3 8 8 4 10 6 £ s. d.	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 6 \\ 3 & 8 \\ 8 & 4 \\ 10 & 6 \\ £ & s, & d. \end{bmatrix}$	5 4 3 8 8 4 10 6 £ s. d.	5 4 4 3½ 8 4 10 6 £ s. d.	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{c cccc} 5 & \overline{4} \\ 4 & 3\frac{1}{2} \\ 8 & 4 \\ 10 & 6 \\ \pounds & s. & d. \end{array} $	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Bran per ton Pollard , , , Flour (first quality)* ,, Oatmeal (bulk) . ,, Potatoes . ,, Onions . , ,,	7 10 0	7 10 0	$\begin{bmatrix} 24 & 18 & 10 \\ 7 & 10 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{array}{ccccc} 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 12 & 17 & 6 \\ 24 & 18 & 10 \\ 7 & 10 & 0 \\ 14 & 12 & 6 \end{array}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 12 & 17 & 6 \\ 24 & 18 & 10 \\ 7 & 10 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{array}{ccccc} 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 12 & 17 & 6 \\ 24 & 18 & 10 \\ 7 & 10 & 0 \\ \end{array}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 12 & 17 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	7 10 0	$\begin{bmatrix} 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 12 & 17 & 6 \\ 24 & 18 & 10 \\ 7 & 10 & 0 \\ 14 & 12 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 12 & 17 & 6 \\ 24 & 18 & 10 \\ 7 & 10 & 0 \\ 14 & 12 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 12 & 17 & 6 \\ 24 & 18 & 10 \\ 7 & 10 & 0 \\ 14 & 12 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$
Butchers' Meat— Beef, prime per 100 lb.  Mutton per lb.	2 11 11 d. 5.67	2 11 11 d. 5.53	2 11 11 d. 5.04	2 11 11 d. 4.91	2 11 11 d. 4.75	$2\ 11\ 11\ d.\ 4 \cdot 72$	$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 10 & 4 \\ d & \\ 4 & 72 \end{bmatrix}$	$egin{bmatrix} 2 & 9 & 11 \ d. \ 5 \cdot 01 \end{bmatrix}$	$egin{array}{cccc} 2 & 9 & 11 & & \\ & d. & & \\ & 5 \cdot 29 & & \end{array}$	$egin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	2 10 4 d. 5.37	2 11 11 d. 5.67
Pork ,, Veal ,, Lamb ,,	9·69 5·84 9·30	9.69 5.84 9.14	9·69 5·84 8·07	9·69 5·84 7·41	9.69 5.84 7.41	9·69 5·84 7·41	9·69 5·84 7·41	9·69 5·84 7·98	9·69 5·84 8·60	9·69 5·84 8·79	9·69 5·84 9·29	9 · 69 5 · 84 9 · 80
Dairy and Farmyard Produce— Butter per lb. Bacon	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c} s. \ d. \\ 1 \ 5\frac{7}{6} \\ 1 \ 3\frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \ 6\frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \ 4\frac{1}{2} \\ 7\frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \ 11\frac{1}{2} \end{array}$	s. d. 1 5	8. $d$ .  1. $5\frac{7}{8}$ 1. $3\frac{1}{2}$ 1. $0\frac{1}{2}$ 1. $7\frac{1}{2}$ 1. $7$	8. d. 1 5	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c} s. \ d. \\ 1 \ 5\frac{7}{1} \\ 1 \ 3\frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \ 6\frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \ 4\frac{1}{2} \\ 2 \ 0 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c} s. \ d. \\ 1 \ 5\frac{7}{8} \\ 1 \ 3\frac{1}{9} \\ 1 \ 6\frac{1}{9} \\ 1 \ 4\frac{1}{9} \\ 2 \ 0 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} s. \ d. \\ 1 \ 5\frac{7}{8} \\ 1 \ 3\frac{1}{8} \\ 1 \ 6\frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \ 4\frac{1}{8} \\ \hline 2 \ 0 \end{array}$

<sup>\*</sup> Price quoted includes Flour tax.

The following table gives the average of the Melbourne retail prices of certain items of Groceries, &c., for each month of the year ended June, 1945:—

## MELBOURNE—RETAIL PRICES—YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1945.

·				194	4.			1945.					
Article.	Unit.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.
Flour, self-raising Tea Jam, plum Oats, flaked Raisins, seeded Peaches, canned Pears, canned Salmon, in tins Potatoes Onlons, brown Dairy Produce— Butter, factory Eggs, new laid Bacon, rashers	2 lb.  1½ lb.  1½ lb.  30 oz.  1b.  7 lb.  1b.  1b.  1b.  1c.  1b.  1c.  1c.  1	d. 5·55 7·40 27·00 11·15 3·69 13·00 14·00 21·25 8·40 2·50 20·50 28·10 24·56 7·35	d. 5.55 7.40 27.00 11.15 3.69 13.00 14.00 21.25 8.40 2.50 20.50 22.72 7.35	d. 5·55 7·40 27·00 11·15 3·69 13·00 14·00 21·25 8·40 2·50 22·00 22·72 7·35	d. 5.55 7.40 27.00 27.00 11.15 3.75 13.00 13.00 14.00 21.25 8.40 2.50 20.50 22.00 22.94 7.35	d. 5·55 7·38 27·00 11·15 3·75 13·00 14·00 21·25 8·40 2·50 22·00 22·94 7·35	d. 5·555 7·45 27·00 11·15 3·75 13·00 14·00 21·25 8·40 2·50 20·50 23·00 23·17 7·35	d. 5·55 7·40 27·00 11·25 3·80 13·00 14·00 21·25 8·40 2·50 20·50 28·00 23·43 7·35	d. 5·55 7·40 27·00 11·25 3·80 13·00 14·00 21·25 8·40 2·75 20·50 28·00 22·72 7·35	d. 5·55 7·40 27·00 11·25 3·80 13·06 14·00 21·25 8·40 2·63 20·50 28·00 22·72 7·45	d. 5·55 7·40 27·00 11·25 3·80 13·00 13·06 14·00 21·25 8·40 2·50 20·50 28·00 27·27 7·45	d. 5·55 7·40 27·00 211·25 3·80 13·11 13·06 14·00 21·25 8·40 2·75 20·50 28·00 22·72 7·45	d. 5 * 55 7 * 44 27 * 00 11 * 22 3 * 80 13 * 11 13 * 00 21 * 22 8 * 40 22 * 52 7 * 44
Meat— Beef, sirloin ,, rib ,, steak, rump ,, chuck ,, sausages , corned sliverside ,, brisket Mutton, leg , forequarter ,, loin ,, chops, loin ,,, leg Pork, leg	duale	14·10 11·40 21·30 10·35 7·85 13·10 9·45 11·80 6·95 10·25 11·25 11·90 15·95 17·65	14·10 11·40 21·40 10·35 7·85 13·10 9·40 11·80 10·15 11·15 11·90 15·95 17·65	14·10 11·40 21·40 10·35 7·85 13·10 9·40 11·20 6·60 9·70 10·70 11·35 15·95 17·65	14·10 11·40 21·40 10·35 7·85 13·10 9·40 11·15 6·40 9·70 10·70 11·30 15·95 17·65	13·40 11·20 21·00 10·30 7·85 12·60 9·05 11·10 5·35 9·05 10·20 10·95 15·95 17·65	13·40 11·30 21·00 10·30 7·85 12·70 9·15 11·10 5·50 9·05 10·15 10·95 17·65	13·40 11·40 21·10 10·20 7·85 12·50 9·25 11·15 5·65 9·15 10·40 11·00 15·95 17·65	13·35 11·20 21·00 9·95 7·85 12·45 9·30 11·15 5·65 9·15 10·30 10·95 15·95 17·65	13·40 11·35 21·00 10·10 7·85 12·50 9·40 11·25 6·50 9·45 10·65 11·15 15·95 17·65	13·30 11·40 21·00 10·10 7·85 12·60 9·35 11·25 6·50 9·40 10·50 11·15 15·95 17·65	13.65 11.65 21.30 10.15 7.85 12.45 9.60 9.55 10.80 11.25 15.95 17.65	13.88 11.66 21.11 10.22 8.00 12.55 9.44 11.55 6.7 9.5 10.7 11.9 17.6

#### FORESTRY.

Administration. The forests of the State comprise both reserved and appointed in 1919. Twenty-five years' administration was completed on 1st October, 1944.

Area of Permanently Reserved Forest.

At the 30th June, 1945, the area of permanently dedicated forest was 4,904,364 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 4,904,364 acres aforementioned, there were 157,897 acres reserved as State Forests and 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 more than 8,000,000 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 The output of sawn timber from State Forests in 1944/45 was 22,317,475 cubic feet. In addition 23,294,176 cubic feet of fuel timber and 7,036,325 cubic feet of miscellaneous timber were produced.

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

Plantations of Exotic Timbers.

The area planted during the 1944 planting season was 171 acres, comprising restocking cut-over areas, 49 acres; new planting 55 acres; and renewals 67 acres. The total plantation area at 30th June, 1945, was 46,418 acres and the species distribution was not materially altered from that shown on page 356 of the 1943–44 Year-Book, approximately 63 per cent. of the plantations being under Pinus Radiata.

Plantation The plantation output of felled softwood timber, output. Including pulpwood obtained from tops and small thinnings, in 1944-45, amounted to 13,741,677 superficial feet. The corresponding total for 1943-44 was 14,056,076 superficial feet.

There are not many private commercial plantations of softwoods in Victoria. The largest is at Dartmoor, near the South Australian border, where a company holds 11,361 acres. Of this area 9,000 acres are in Victoria and approximately 6,000 acres thereof have been planted. The same company holds 1,200 acres at Rosebud (650 acres planted).

The Ballarat Water Commission has an area of approximately 3,500 acres available for afforestation, of which 1,000 acres are planted with conifers. Its present planting programme provides for 50,000 trees (100 acres) per annum.

Trees and forest thinnings, down to a diameter of about five inches are utilized in the Commission's case-making plant, the value of the output of which amounts approximately to £46,000 per annum. Smaller diameter thinnings are disposed of for paper pulping purposes.

Severe damage to the plantations was caused by the bush fires of 1939, about 240,000 trees being destroyed. This area has now been re-afforested. The number of effective conifers growing on the Commission's Reserves is 485,000.

Following upon the disastrous bush fires of 1939 (references to which appeared on pages 5, 286, 494, and 495 of the 1938–39 issue of the Year-Book) it was estimated that of the 2,000,000,000 superficial feet of fire-killed timber, 916,000,000 superficial feet could be recovered. This target was attained by May, 1945. Under the provisions of the State Forests (Timber Salvage) Loan and Application Act 1939, salvage of Mountain Ash and Alpine Ash timber is still proceeding and it is estimated that 1,000,000,000 superficial feet should be utilized before the timber deteriorates to such an extent as to be unuseable.

Murseries. To encourage the growth of softwoods or conifers in both State and private plantations, three large nurseries have been established at Creswick, Macedon, and Broadford. In addition to providing trees for the plantations, the nurseries supply considerable numbers of plants at low rates to State schools, public bodies, and private applicants. This has proved of great benefit to the community by fostering an interest in tree planting generally, and especially by encouraging farmers to plant trees to afford protection to their homesteads and to provide shade and shelter for their flocks and herds.

Forestry 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 1944-45 was £817,036, and the expenditure £1,416,800—£781,843 of which was paid out of the Consolidated Revenue, £480,234 out of loan funds, and the balance—£154,723—from the Forestry Fund.

Silviculture of Indigenous Forests. The various types of silvicultural operations in the indigenous forests over the period 1941-42 to 1944-45 are indicated in the following table:—

# VICTORIA—SILVICULTURAL OPERATIONS IN STATE FORESTS, 1941–42 TO 1944–45.

Nature of Work.		Year ended 30th June-						
Trustic of Work.	ĺ	1942.	1943,	1944.	1945.			
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.			
First thinning		4,843	4,274	2,285	3,043			
Second or subsequent thinning		5,091	1,836	490	517			
Regeneration or liberation treatme by ring-barking	nt	900			1,207			
Removal of surplus coppice		17,842	3,737	87				
	-				-			
Total area treated		28,676	9,847	2,862	4,767			

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 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.

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Consignment of pulp-wood from the State forests to the mill at Maryvale commenced in October, 1937.

During the year 1944-45 the quantities of pulp-wood obtained from the State forests totalled 2,247,005 cubic feet as compared with 2,445,630 cubic feet in 1943-44.

Eucalyptus oil. Eucalyptus oil is not an exclusive product of the State forests, a large proportion of the annual Victorian output being distilled from the leaves of trees grown on private lands. Only a small proportion of the crude oil is refined in the stills by which it is produced.

Details of the production of crude eucalyptus oil are shown in the table hereunder:—

VICTORIA—PRODUCTION OF CRUDE EUCALYPTUS OIL.

		Year Ende	1 30th Jun	Crude Oil Produced.	Value.		
1942				• •		lb. 487,596	£ 56,789
1943						587,853	86,541
1944		••	•			518,010	72,731
1945	••	••	••	••		339,268	52,454