VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK 1925-26.



GOVERNMENT STATIST.

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Victorian Year-Book

1925-26

By A. M. LAUGHTON, F.I.A., F.F.A., F.S.S., GOVERNMENT STATIST

FORTY-SIXTH ISSUE.

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$\mathbf{PREFACE}.$

THIS is the forty-sixth issue of the Victorian Year-Book.

The main object of the work is to show the progress made by the State during the year under review, and with this end the particulars appertaining to that year are compared with those relating to previous years. An endeavour is made to present such information as will assist legislators, publicists, and others in forming an opinion in regard to the most suitable methods to be adopted in the future in developing the natural resources of the State and promoting the welfare of the people.

The first part shows the progress of the State since the early days of settlement, and contains a description of the Constitution, as well as an epitome of Acts passed during 1925 by the State Parliament, lists of members of Parliament, and an addendum to an article which appeared in the 1924-25 issue of this work on the Flora of the State, Parts II., III., V., VI., and IX. deal with the wealth and progress &c. of the community, as indicated by the growth of population, and by increases in bank deposits, in amounts assured with life offices, in volume of trade, &c., and details are given of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, and of municipalities. Parts IV., VII., and VIII. contain statistics relating to births, marriages and deaths, crime, education, charitable institutions, and other cognate subjects. In Part X. a detailed account is given of the agricultural, mineral, manufacturing, and other productions of the State. The various parts were issued as soon as completed. The information in all parts has been brought up to the latest possible date, on many subjects to the middle of the year 1926, and in a few instances to a later date.

In part "Finance," the operations of the Government business undertakings in their relation to State Revenue and Expenditure are shown in a table which also gives the revenue and expenditure relating to other matters. For statistical purposes the meaning of the term Co-operative Societies has been extended so as to include those trading companies which are co-operative in principle, and details of membership, income, expenditure, &c., are given under the headings Producers' Societies and Consumers' Societies respectively.

A census of fruit trees was taken during the year at the request of the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of ascertaining what were the principal varieties grown in the different districts of the State, and what was the approximate number of each variety. Summarized results of the census are given in part "Production."

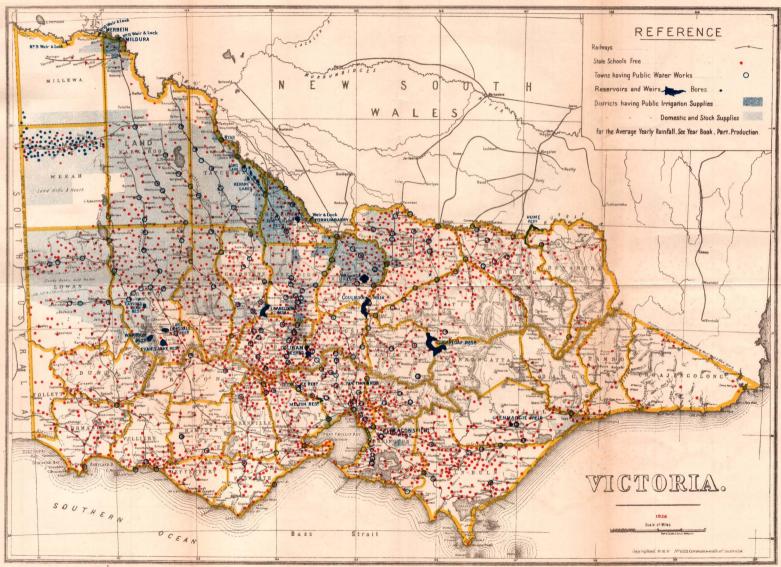
I have to thank the heads of Government Departments and the various experts who have supplied information and in other ways assisted in the preparation of this book. I also wish to thank the members of my staff for their hearty co-operation and for the valuable assistance received from them, and in particular I desire to express my appreciation of the work performed by Mr. J. B. Hourigan (Assistant Government Statist) in supervising the preparation of the parts.

The figures and other material in each portion of the book have been carefully examined and checked. If, however, any errors be detected, I shall be pleased to receive information as to their nature and position.

> A. M. LAUGHTON, Government Statist.

Office of the Government Statist, Melbourne, 31st March, 1927.

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