

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

1927-28.

A. M. LAUGHTON,

GOVERNMENT STATIST

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Victorian Year-Book

1927-28

By

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GOVERNMENT STATIST

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PREFACE.

THIS is the forty-eighth 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 1927 by the State Parliament, lists of members of Parliament, &c. Parts II., III., IV., VII., and IX. deal with the wealth and progress 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 V., VI., 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 1928, and in a few instances to a later date.

The new matter appearing in the volume includes the following :— In part "Accumulation" retail price index numbers are given for Melbourne and five of the principal towns in Victoria for the years 1911 to 1928, and the variations in the average cost of living in

Melbourne and Victoria are shown for the same years. Part "Interchange" contains statistics of Interstate trade as regards twelve leading articles.

The variations in birth, marriage and death rates, &c., since the year 1860 are shown in part "Vital Statistics" in the form of a graph, and statistics of deaths from causes relating to childbirth are given in greater detail than formerly. Part "Production" contains a table showing the varieties of wheat grown in Victoria. With the view of showing fluctuations in factory employment throughout the year particulars are also given in this part of the average number of persons employed in each of a large number of industries in the different months of the year 1927-28.

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, 30th May, 1929.

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