

# Victorian Year-Book, 1925-26.

## INTRODUCTION.

### GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, AREA, AND CLIMATE.

**Area of Victoria.** Victoria is situated at the south-eastern extremity of the Australian continent, of which it occupies about a thirty-fourth part, and it contains about 87,884 square miles, or 56,245,760 acres. It is bounded on the north and north-east by New South Wales, from which it is separated by the River Murray, and by a straight line running in a south-easterly direction from a place near the head-waters of that stream, called The Springs, on Forest Hill, to Cape Howe. On the west it is bounded by South Australia, the dividing line being about 242 geographical miles in length, approximating to the position of the 141st meridian of east longitude, and extending from the River Murray to the sea. On the south and south-east its shores are washed by the Southern Ocean, Bass Strait, and the Pacific Ocean. It lies between the 34th and 39th parallels of south latitude and the 141st and 150th meridians of east longitude. Its extreme length from east to west is about 420, its greatest breadth about 250, and its extent of coast-line nearly 600 geographical miles. Great Britain, exclusive of the islands in the British Seas, contains 88,756 square miles, and is therefore slightly larger than Victoria.

The southernmost point in Victoria, and in the whole of the Australian continent, is Wilson's Promontory, which lies in latitude 39 deg. 8 min. S., longitude 146 deg. 26 min. E.; the northernmost point is the place where the western boundary of the State meets the Murray, latitude 34 deg. 2 min. S., longitude 140 deg. 58 min. E.; the point furthest east is Cape Howe, situated in latitude 37 deg. 31 min. S., longitude 149 deg. 59 min. E.; the most westerly point is the line of the whole western frontier, which, according to the latest correction, lies upon the meridian 140 deg. 58 min. E., and extends from latitude 34 deg. 2 min. S. to latitude 38 deg. 4 min. S., a distance of 242 geographical miles.

**Climate.** From its geographical position, Victoria enjoys a climate more suitable to the European constitution than any other State upon the Continent of Australia. In the seventy years ended with 1925 the maximum temperature in the shade recorded at the Melbourne Observatory and the Weather Bureau was 111·2 deg. Fahr.,

on the 14th January, 1862; the minimum was 27 deg., on the 21st July, 1869; and the mean was 58·4 deg. Upon the average, on only four days during the year does the thermometer rise above 100 deg. in the shade, and on 19·5 days the temperature reaches 90 deg. or over; generally, on about two nights during the year it falls below freezing point. Sultry nights are of rare occurrence. It is only occasionally that a high minimum is recorded. The minimum reading approximates to 70 deg. on an average on only two nights in any one year. The maximum temperature in the sun ever recorded (*i.e.*, since 1859) was 178·5 deg., on the 14th January, 1862. The mean atmospheric pressure noted, first at the Observatory 91 feet above the sea level, and later at the Weather Bureau 115 feet above sea level, was, during the sixty-eight years ended with 1925, 30·012 inches; the average number of days on which rain fell each year was 137, and the average yearly rainfall was 25·65 inches. The mean relative humidity of the atmosphere is 68 per cent.; on very warm days it is often 12 per cent., and it has been as low as 2 per cent. The severity of the heat is not felt so much as it would be if there were a relatively high wet bulb, as the temperature by such bulb seldom exceeds 75 deg. The average number of hours of sunshine daily is 6·2, and fogs occur, on an average, on only 19 days in the year.

#### MOUNTAINS AND HILLS, RIVERS AND LAKES.

**Mountains and Hills.** The highest mountain in Victoria is Mount Bogong,\* situated in the county of the same name, 6,509 feet above the sea-level; the next highest peaks are—Mount Feathertop, 6,306 feet; Mount Nelson, 6,170 feet; Mount Fainter, 6,160 feet; Mount Hotham, 6,100 feet; Mount McKay, 6,030 feet; and Mount Cope, 6,027 feet; all situated in the same county; also the Cobboras, 6,030 feet, situated between the counties of Benambra and Tambo. These, so far as is known, are the only peaks which exceed 6,000 feet in height; but, according to a list which appears in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, there are 39 peaks between 5,000 and 6,000 feet high, and 40 between 4,000 and 5,000 feet high; it is known, moreover, that there are many peaks rising to upwards of 4,000 feet above the level of the sea whose actual heights have not yet been determined.

**Rivers.** With the exception of the Yarra, on the banks of which the metropolis is situated; the Murray; the Goulburn, which empties itself into the Murray about eight miles to the eastward of Echuca; and the La Trobe and the Mitchell, with, perhaps, a few other of the Gippsland streams, the rivers of Victoria are not navigable except by boats. They, however, drain the watershed of large areas of country, and many of the streams are used as feeders to

\* The highest mountain on the Australian Continent is Mount Kosciusko, in New South Wales, one peak of which is 7,328 feet high.

permanent reservoirs for irrigation and water supply purposes. The Murray, which forms the northern boundary of the State, is the largest river in Australia. Its total length is 1,520 miles, for 1,200 of which it flows along the Victorian border. Several of the rivers in the north-western portion of the State have no outlet, but are gradually lost in the absorbent tertiary flat country through which they pass.

**Lakes.** Victoria contains numerous salt and fresh-water lakes and lagoons; but many of these are nothing more than swamps during dry seasons. Some of them are craters of extinct volcanoes. Lake Corangamite, the largest inland lake in Victoria, covers 90 square miles, and is quite salt, notwithstanding that it receives the flood waters of several fresh-water streams. It has no visible outlet. Lake Colac, only a few miles distant from Lake Corangamite, is a beautiful sheet of water,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  square miles in extent, and quite fresh. Lake Burrumbeet is also a fine sheet of fresh water, embracing 8 square miles. The Gippsland lakes—Victoria, King, and Reeve—are situated close to the coast, and are separated from the sea by only a narrow belt of sand. Lake Wellington, the largest of the Gippsland lakes, lies to the westward of Lakes Victoria and King, and is united to the first-named by a narrow channel. South-east of Geelong is Lake Connemara, which is connected with the sea at Point Flinders.

A list of mountains and hills, rivers and lakes in Victoria appears in the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1915-16. This was revised by the late Surveyor-General, Mr. A. B. Lang, and contains information in regard to heights, lengths, and areas respectively.

## FLORA OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Flora of Victoria" by J. W. Audas, Esq., F.L.S., F.R.M.S. (National Herbarium, Melbourne), appeared in the *Year Book* for 1924-25, on pages 13 to 24.

### ADDENDUM TO THE ABOVE ARTICLE.

*Supplied by Mr. Audas in May, 1926.*

A number of species new to Science were added to the list of the Flora during the year 1925-26.

*Bassia parviflora* Anderson. "Small-flowered Salt-bush" (*Chenopodiaceae*). Indigenous to Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

*Bassia patentiuspis* Anderson. "Spreading Salt-bush" (*Chenopodiaceae*). Indigenous to Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

*Bassia tricuspis*, Anderson. "Three-spined Salt-bush" (*Chenopodiaceae*). Indigenous to Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

During the period twelve species not previously recorded for this State have been added to the list of native Flora.

- Alsophila Rebeckae* F.v.M., "Wig Tree Fern" (*Filicales*).  
*Dryopteris glabella* C. Chr., "Smooth Shield Fern" (*Filicales*).  
*Eucalyptus unilata* R. T. Baker, "Island Blue Gum" (*Myrtaceae*).  
*Hymenophyllum rarum* R. Br., "Rare Filmy Fern" (*Filicales*).  
*Loranthus Miquelii* Lehm., "Long-leaf Mistletoe" (*Loranthaceae*).  
*Loranthus Preissii* Miq., "Wire-leaf Mistletoe" (*Loranthaceae*).  
*Microtis oblonga* Rogers, "Oblong Leek Orchid" (*Orchidaceae*).  
*Prasophyllum Colemanae* Rogers, "Lilac Leek Orchid" (*Orchidaceae*).  
*Prasophyllum gracile* Rogers, "Slender Leek Orchid" (*Orchidaceae*).  
*Pterostylis decurva* Rogers, "Curved Greenhood" (*Orchidaceae*).  
*Trichomanes caudata* Brackenridge, "Tailed Bristle Fern" (*Orchidaceae*).

#### CHANGES IN NOMENCLATURE.

A number of changes in the names of the Victorian flora have been made in accordance with the Vienna Botanical Rules of Nomenclature, viz. :—

*Acacia argyrophylla* Hook (*Acacia brachybotrya* Benth.) (*Leguminosae*).

For *Bassia diacantha* read *Bassia uniflora* (R. Br.) F.v.M.

Delete *B. lanicuspis*, *B. biflora*, *B. divaricata*, *B. echinopsila*, and *B. enchylaenoides*.

*Loranthus vitellinus* Sieb. (*Loranthus longiflorus* Desv.) (*Loranthaceae*).

*Pelargonium inodorum* Willd. (*Pelargonium australe* Willd.) (*Geraniaceae*).

*Phrygilanthus celastroides* Eichl. (*Loranthus celastroides* Sieb.) (*Loranthaceae*).

#### CORRECTIONS.

The following corrections have been made in the Census of Victorian plants :—

Delete *Prasophyllum album* Rogers.

*Callistachys elliptica* Vent., *C. alpestris* Ktze., *C. procumbens* (F.v.M.), Engl., *C. triloba* (F.v.M.), Engl., for *Oxylobium* spp.

*Drosera Planchonii* Hook, f, for *D. Menziesii* R. Br.

*Acacia Victoriae* Benth., for *A. sentis* F.v.M.

*Dillwynia uncinata* (Turcz.), J. M. Black, for *D. patula* F.v.M.

*Eutaxia microphylla* (R. Br.), J. M. Black, for *E. empetrifolia* Schl.

*Templetonia stenophylla* F.v.M. for *T. Muelleri* Benth.

Transpose *Geranium pilosum* Forst. and *G. dissectum* L.

*Phebalium squameum* (Labill) Engler., for *P. Billardieri* A. Juss.

*Gymnosporia* for *Celastrus*.

*Correa rubra* (Smith) J. M. Black, for *C. speciosa* Andrews, "Red Correa."

*Stackhousia monogyna* Labill, for *S. linarifolia* A. Cunn.

*Callistemon citrinus* (D.C.), Stapf., for *C. lanceolatus* D.C.

*Thryptomene calycina* (F.v.M.), Stapf., for *T. Mitchelliana* F.v.M.

## EXOTICS.

## NEW PLANTS RECORDED DURING 1925-26.

Nine introduced plants have been recorded as growing wild for the first time, viz. :—

*Ballota nigra* L., "Black Horehound" (*Labiatae*), a native of Europe, Asia and North Africa. It has no economic value.

*Gomphocarpus arborescens* R. Br., "Cape Milkweed" (*Asclepiadaceae*). An introduction from South Africa. It has no economic value.

*Mimulus luteus* L., "Common Monkey Flower" (*Scrophulariaceae*). A native of North and South America. An ornamental plant and an escape from cultivation.

*Peganum Harmala* L., "Wild Syrian Rue" (*Zygophyllaceae*). A tall herbaceous plant indigenous to the Mediterranean region of Europe and Africa, and extending into Thibet. The seeds of *Peganum Harmala* were used by the ancient Greeks in the treatment of eye diseases. In modern times it has been used as an emmenagogue, anthelmintic and sedative. The plant should be attacked and not allowed to spread as it may become a serious weed.

*Hyoscyamus niger* L., "Black Henbane" (*Solanaceae*). An introduction from Europe and Himalayan regions. An annual or biennial with stems 1 to 3 feet high. It is a well known medicinal plant from which hyoscyamin is obtained. Hyoscyamin is an anodyne and hypnotic and is poisonous.

*Oxalis bifurca* Lodd, "Forked Wood Sorrel" (*Oxalidaceae*). Native to South Africa. It is a highly obnoxious weed, and is apt to spread in neglected pastures.

*Lithospermum fruticosum* L., "Prostrate Gromwell" (*Borraginaceae*). Native to the Mediterranean regions. It is not a serious weed and is easily kept down by good cultivation.

*Iva axillaris* Pursh., "Marsh Elder" (*Compositae*). Native to North America. A perennial with herbaceous stems, from 1 to 2 feet high. Common in the saline soils from Nebraska to the Dakotas, British Columbia, California and New Mexico. It is a very pernicious weed, difficult to suppress because of its extensive system of tough, woody root stocks which send up many fruiting stalks, causing it to form dense patches, crowding and starving all other growth. It intrudes in most crops and thrives almost anywhere, but seems to have a preference for soil that is alkaline. The whole plant has a rank, unpleasant odor, causing it to be disliked by grazing animals.

*Silene noctiflora* L., "Night Flowering Catchfly" (*Caryophyllaceae*). Native to Europe and Asia. First cultivated in gardens because of its fragrance and beauty, but now a widespread pest. It is a viscid hairy annual, from 1 to 3 feet tall, with white or pinkish flowers, opening at night. According to Pammels' "Manual of Poisonous Plants," it is suggested that the "Night Flowering Catchfly" may be poisonous.

## CORRECTIONS.

The following corrections have been made in "The Weeds, Poison Plants and Naturalized Aliens of Victoria."

*Bartschia* for *Bartsia*.

*Bellardia Trixago* for *Bartsia Trixago*.

*Sinapis arvensis* for *Brassica Sinapistrum*.

*Festuca myuros* for *F. myurus*.

*Glaucium flavum* Crantz for *G. luteum* Scop.

*Melilotus indicus* (L.), Allion, for *M. parviflora*.

*Melilotus albus* for *M. alba*.

*Coronopus procumbens* Gilib., for *Senebiera Coronopus* Poir.

*Coronopus didyma* (L.), Smith, for *S. didymus* Pers.

*Medicago arabica* (L.), Willd., for *M. maculata*.

*Medicago hispida* includes *M. denticulata*. Delete latter.

*Silybum Marianus* (L.), Gaertn., for *Carduus Marianus* L.

*Cirsium arvense* (L.), Scop., for *Carduus arvensis* L.

*Cirsium lanceolatus* for *Carduus lanceolatus*, Scop.

*Lochnera rosea* (L.), Reichb., for *Vinca rosea* L.

## PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Physical Geography and Geology of Victoria," by W. Baragwanath, Esq., Director of Victorian Geological Survey, appeared in the *Year Book* for 1924-25 on pages 3 to 13.

## THE FAUNA OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Fauna of Victoria," by the late T. S. Hall, M.A., D.Sc. (University of Melbourne), and J. A. Kershaw, Esq., F.Z.S., Curator of the National Museum, Melbourne, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, and addenda thereto by Mr. Kershaw in the *Year-Books* for 1918-19 and 1920-21.

## THE HISTORY OF VICTORIA.

An article on this subject contributed by Ernest Scott, Professor of History in the University of Melbourne, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 1 to 31.

## CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF LEADING EVENTS.

The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contained, on pages 31 to 50, a chronological table of leading events in Victorian history for the years 1770 to 1900 inclusive, and of leading events in Victorian and other history for the years 1901 to 1916 inclusive. The leading events in the eight years 1917 to 1924 were given in the volumes relating to those years.

Some of the principal events in Victorian and other history during 1925 are given in the table which follows :—

1925. 1st February	..	Great fire at the Melbourne Town Hall. Concert hall and large organ destroyed. Damage estimated at £40,000.
7th February	..	It was announced that the coal production of New South Wales for 1924 constituted a record, viz., 11,618,216 tons.
23rd March	..	In a collision with an electric railway parcels van at Highett eight persons travelling on a motor car were killed.
24th March	..	The Federal Government decided that two new 10,600 ton cruisers for the Royal Australian Navy are to be built in Scotland.
26th March	..	The foundation stone of a bridge over Sydney Harbour laid. It is estimated that the cost will amount to £4,500,000 and that the bridge will be completed in December, 1931.
30th March	..	The Ford Motor Company of Canada acquired 100 acres on the northern shore of Corio Bay, Geelong, for the erection of a motor body building factory.
— April	..	Mr. Calvin Coolidge took office as President of the United States.
1st May	..	Marshal von Hindenburg elected President of the German Republic.
23rd May	..	Death of the Earl of Ypres (Field Marshal Lord French), who led the British Expeditionary Force in France at the beginning of the Great War.
9th June	..	Arrival in Melbourne of the Marchese de Pinedo, Italian airman, with Chief Warrant Officer Campanelli, on a flying tour from Rome to Tokio.
23rd July	..	A United States fleet consisting of 43 vessels under the command of Admiral Robert E. Coontz, entered Port Philip Heads. A similar number of vessels visited Sydney at the same time.
26th July	..	Ex-Senator W. A. Trenwith died at Camberwell.
29th September	..	The Empire Press Conference opened in Melbourne. Lord Burnham, President of the Empire Press Union, presided.
3rd October	..	C. Web Gilbert, Australian sculptor, died in Melbourne, aged 56 years.
8th October	..	Lord Stonehaven, new Governor-General of Australia arrived in Melbourne.
4th November	..	Patrick Hannan, discoverer of the Kalgoorlie gold-field, died at Brunswick, Melbourne, aged 83 years.
20th November	..	Death of Queen Alexandra, widow of King Edward VII., and mother of King George V., aged 80 years.
3rd December	..	The Commonwealth redemption loan of £67,000,000 closed. The amount was over-subscribed.
„ „		Death at Devon, England, of Sir Lauchlan Mackinnon, for many years general manager of the <i>Argus</i> and <i>Australasian</i> , aged 77 years.

### PROGRESS OF STATE SINCE 1850.

The following table has been prepared to illustrate the advance made by the State since 1850—the year immediately preceding the separation of the Colony from New South Wales. The subsequent years are census years except the last :—

STATISTICS OF VICTORIAN PROGRESS, 1850 TO 1925.

	1850.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1925.
Population, 31st December ..	76,162	541,800	747,412	879,886	1,157,678	1,209,900	1,339,893	1,550,686	1,684,017
Revenue .. £	259,133	2,592,101	3,734,422	5,186,011	8,343,588	7,712,099	9,372,617	19,054,475	24,804,887
Expenditure from Revenue ..	196,440	3,092,021	3,659,534	5,108,642	9,128,699	7,672,780	9,362,291	18,941,698	24,170,483
Public Funded Debt .. £	..	6,345,060	11,994,800	22,426,502	43,638,897	49,546,275	57,983,764	97,317,531	131,169,565
Gold produced .. oz.	..	1,967,453	1,355,477	858,850	576,400	789,562	542,074	114,602	51,837
Wool produced .. lbs.	16,345,468	22,640,745	37,177,646	45,970,560	76,503,635	73,235,138	101,803,644	90,250,571	106,787,897
Butter produced .. "	..	..	..	..	16,703,786	46,857,572	66,500,474	64,938,458	100,849,382
Agriculture—									
Land in cultivation .. acres	52,341	427,241	793,918	1,582,998	2,512,593	3,647,459	5,386,247	6,425,250	6,976,664
Wheat .. bushels	556,167	3,607,727	4,500,795	8,714,377	13,679,268	12,127,382	34,813,019	39,468,625	47,364,495
Oats .. "	99,535	2,136,430	3,299,889	3,612,111	4,455,551	6,724,900	9,699,127	10,407,191	9,572,003
Wine .. gallons	4,621	47,568	713,589	539,191	1,564,130	1,981,475	1,362,420	2,222,305	1,368,765
Live Stock—Horses .. No.	21,219	84,057	181,643	278,195	440,696	392,237	472,080	487,603	473,236
" Cattle .. "	378,806	628,092	799,509	1,286,677	1,812,104	1,602,384	1,547,569	1,575,159	1,605,554
" Sheep .. "	6,032,783	6,239,258	10,002,381	10,267,265	12,928,148	10,841,790	12,882,665	12,171,084	12,649,898
" Pigs .. "	9,260	43,480	177,447	239,926	286,780	350,370	333,281	175,275	288,509
Total Imports—Value .. £	744,925	13,532,452	12,341,995	16,718,521	21,711,608	18,927,340	28,150,198*	..	..
" Exports—Value .. £	1,041,796	13,828,606	14,557,820	16,252,103	16,006,743	18,646,097	29,896,275*	..	..
Imports, Oversea—Value .. £	..	10,991,377	9,201,942	11,815,667	13,802,598	12,686,880	21,850,963	57,608,777	54,294,705
Exports .. "	..	12,209,794	12,843,451	12,318,128	11,403,922	13,075,259	18,015,716	34,871,961	41,680,909
Shipping .. " tonnage	195,117	1,090,002	1,355,025	2,411,902	4,715,109	6,715,911	9,907,046	9,314,944	13,683,712
Railways open .. miles	..	214	8,276	12,417	2,764	8,238	3,496	4,274	4,491
Telegraph wire .. "	..	2,586	8,472	6,626	13,989	15,356	16,405	31,243	38,388
Postal business—Letters .. No.	381,651	6,109,929	11,716,166	26,308,347	62,526,448	83,673,499	159,092,011	180,797,030	205,819,138
" Newspapers .. "	381,153	4,277,179	5,172,970	11,440,732	22,729,005	27,043,344	36,125,728	31,660,811	44,828,254
Savings Bank Deposits .. £	52,697	582,796	1,117,761	2,569,438	5,715,687	9,662,006	18,213,040	48,262,058†	59,136,813†
Factories—									
Number of ..	..	531	1,740	2,488	3,141	3,249	4,873	6,532	7,425
Hands employed ..	..	4,395	19,468	43,209	52,225	66,529	102,176	140,743	154,158
Value of machinery, plant, land, and buildings .. £	..	..	4,725,125	8,044,296	16,472,859	12,298,500	16,613,348	35,492,735	61,031,975
Value of articles produced .. £	..	..	..	13,370,836	22,390,251	19,478,780	36,660,854	106,098,294	118,177,398
State Education—									
Number of Primary schools ..	61	671	988	1,757	2,233	1,967	2,059	2,334	2,503
Expenditure on Education .. £	..	162,547	274,384	546,285	726,711	701,034	1,052,418	2,117,151	2,899,942
Total value of rateable property in municipalities .. £	..	29,638,091	50,166,078	87,642,459	203,351,360	185,101,993	265,083,727	399,502,745	539,711,198
Friendly Societies—									
Number of members ..	..	7,166	35,706	47,908	89,269	101,045	145,439	143,421	154,609
Total funds .. £	..	..	213,004	475,954	961,933	1,370,604	2,246,996	3,354,650	4,065,808

NOTE.—In a few instances in the earlier years, where it is not possible to give figures for the exact date or period shown, those for the nearest dates or periods are given. Gold was discovered in 1851, in which year the return was 145,137 oz. Butter figures were not collected prior to 1891.

\* These figures relate to the calendar year 1909. Owing to the Commonwealth authorities having discontinued the keeping of records of Inter-State trade the value of the total imports and exports of the State are not available for a later year.

† Including deposits in the Commonwealth Savings Bank.



The population of the State at the end of 1850 was 76,162; at the end of 1925 it had increased to 1,684,017. During the period 1850-1925 the revenue steadily increased from £259,433 to £24,304,887. There was no public debt until after the separation of the State from New South Wales. In 1861 the State indebtedness was £6,345,060; in 1925 the funded debt had reached £131,169,565, which has been spent on revenue-yielding and other works of a permanent character. The land in cultivation in 1850 was 52,300 acres; it now amounts to 6,976,664 acres. The value of oversea imports in 1861 was £10,991,377; in 1924-25 it was £54,294,705. Oversea exports amounted to £12,209,794 in 1861, and to £41,680,909 in 1924-25. No railways or telegraphs were in existence up to the end of 1855; in 1861 there were 214 miles of railway open, and in 1925 there were 4,491 miles; 2,586 miles of telegraph wires had been erected up to 1861, and 38,388 miles up to the 30th June, 1925. Postal business in letters and newspapers has expanded rapidly during the period covered by the table, and there has also been a large increase in Savings Bank deposits, which rose from £52,697 in 1850 to £59,136,813 in 1925.

The expenditure on education amounted to £162,547 in 1861, and had increased to £2,899,942 in 1924-25. Members of friendly societies numbered 7,166 in 1861 and 154,609 in 1924-25—the funds amounting to £213,000 in 1871 and £4,035,803 in 1924-25. Hands employed in factories rose from 19,468 in 1871 to 154,158 in 1924-25. The total value of rateable property in municipalities, which was £29,600,000 in 1861, was £539,711,198 in 1924-25.

## CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

### The Present Constitution.

After the establishment of the Federal Government it became evident that the representation of the States in the States Houses was excessive, and steps were taken to reform the States Constitutions. Accordingly an Act "to provide for the Reform of the Constitution" was passed in Victoria and reserved for the Royal assent on 7th April, 1903. After an interval of some months the Royal assent was proclaimed on 26th November, 1903. This Act, entitled *The Constitution Act 1903*, provided for a reduction in the number of responsible Ministers from ten to eight, and in their salaries from £10,400 to £8,400 (since increased to £10,000); and decreased the number of members of the Legislative Council from 48 to 35, including one special representative for the State railways and public servants; but increased the number of electoral provinces from fourteen to seventeen, each being now represented by two members elected for six years—one retiring every three years by rotation, except at a general election, when one-half of the members are to be elected for only three years. The

Reform Act .  
1903.