VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

FOR

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1878-9.

(SIXTH YEAR OF ISSUE.)

BY

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PREFACE.

THE present volume of the Victorian Year-Book has been prepared generally upon the same plan as that followed in the issue for 1877-8. A number of fresh tables have, however, been introduced; the matter contained in the paragraphs has in many instances been elaborated, and all the figures have been brought on to the latest dates.

The information on the three folding sheets which are embodied in each issue of this work has been continued to the end of 1878 by the addition of the figures for that year. In the first two columns of the lower division of sheet No. 1 (Statistical Summary of Victoria) the estimated quantity and value of gold raised in the colony during each year has been substituted for the quantity and value of gold exported. This change has been deemed advisable, as, since the establishment of a Mint, the exports of gold do not, as they did prior to that event, approximate to the total quantity of gold produced.

The table of principal events in 1878 has been carefully compiled from the chronicles of the period. In selecting occurrences to be recorded, preference has been given to such as related especially to the Australasian colonies, or were considered likely to be of interest to residents therein.

Immediately following that table will be found a copy of the Customs Tariff in force in each Australasian colony. This is the first occasion on which these tariffs have appeared in the Victorian Year-Book.

An index to the subjects contained in each paragraph, many of which are entered under several different heads, is published, as usual, at the end of the work.

PREFACE.

During my absence from the colony on official business for a period extending over the greater part of the first six months of this year, the collection of the material for this work was proceeded with, and the preparation of the tables, as well as other preliminary matters, were advanced as much as possible by the officers of the department, whose zeal and assiduity I take this opportunity of acknowledging. Where all rendered such excellent service, it is difficult to single out any for especial notice; but, whilst giving the highest possible credit to others, I may perhaps mention Mr. H. A. Hendren, who acted as Government Statist, and Messrs. J. Hart and J. J. Fenton, as those whose labors achieved results which have come most prominently under my observation. Everything being in a forward state, I found no difficulty on my return in taking up the work at once, and by dint of several months' close application, and the ready co-operation of the Government Printer, it bids fair to be published at as early a date as it was last year.

It now remains for me to express my thanks to those who have taken the trouble to point out a few inaccuracies, mostly, I am glad to say, of a trivial character, which, notwithstanding much care and vigilance on the part of the officers deputed to check the figures and examine the proofs, have found their way into previous issues of the Victorian Year-Book, and to request any who may discover errors in the present volume to kindly inform me of their nature and position.

> HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER, Government Statist.

Office of the Government Statist, Melbourne, 17th October 1879.

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