

PART III.—POPULATION.

31. The estimated population of Victoria at the beginning of 1873 was 770,727; that at the close of the same year was 790,492.* The increase during the year thus amounted to 19,765.

Population and increase, 1873.

32. Of this increase 16,599, or over five-sixths, was due to excess of births over deaths, and 3,166, or barely a sixth, to excess of immigration over emigration.

Increase by births and immigration.

33. The population at the end of 1873 consisted of 430,042 males and 360,450 females. These figures furnish a proportion of 84 females to 100 males, or of 119 males to 100 females.

Relative proportions of sexes.

34. The Aborigines have not been regularly enumerated since the census of 1871. Their numbers then were reported to be—Males, 784; females, 546; total, 1,330. It is certain, however, that some were missed by the sub-enumerators. In August 1872 the Central Board for the Protection of the Aborigines had information of the existence of 1,638 in different parts of the colony.

Aborigines.

35. Immigrants numbered 29,460 during the year under review, and emigrants 26,294. The excess of the former was thus 3,166, as already stated.

Immigrants and emigrants.

36. Males contributed 20,805 to the immigration, and 18,335 to the emigration. Females contributed 8,655 to the immigration, and 7,959 to the emigration. The excess of arrivals over departures was thus 2,470 as regards males, and 696 as regards females.

Sexes of immigrants and emigrants.

37. The immigrants and emigrants are classified by the Immigration authorities as adults, children, and infants. Of adults, 26,044 came, and 22,418 went away during the year, leaving a balance of arrivals over departures amounting to 3,626. Of children 180, and of infants 280, more left than arrived in the colony.

Adults, children, and infants arriving and departing.

38. The gain to the population of the colony by excess of immigration from Tasmania over emigration was 4,007; from the United Kingdom it was 2,082; and from New Zealand and the South Seas it was 540. The loss

Immigration from and emigration to various places.

* Whilst these pages were passing through the press, the usual quarterly estimate of the population of Victoria was made by the Government Statist, bringing the result down to the 30th June 1874. The following are the figures:—Males, 432,928; females, 364,121; total, 797,049.

by excess of departures to South and Western Australia over arrivals therefrom was 1,916; that to New South Wales and Queensland was 1,394; and that to foreign ports was 153.

Years of largest and smallest immigration and emigration.

39. The number of arrivals in the year under review (29,460) was less than in any other year of the last ten, except 1872 (27,047), 1871 (28,333), and 1867 (27,242). The largest number of arrivals in any year of the ten (36,156) was in 1864. The number of departures in the year under review (26,294) was greater than in any year of the ten, except 1866, in which 27,629 persons left the colony.

Assisted immigrants.

40. The number of assisted immigrants during the year amounted to 863 only, viz., 456 males, and 407 females. All these were warrant passengers.

Arrivals and departures of Chinese.

41. The Chinese who arrived during the year numbered 269, viz., 264 males and 5 females. Those who departed numbered 523, all males.

Miners.

42. According to an estimate made by the Secretary for Mines, the mining population numbered 50,595 at the end of the year under review. Of these 37,067 were Europeans, and 13,528 were Chinese. Those engaged in alluvial mining numbered 33,822, and those in quartz mining 16,773. All the Chinese miners, with the exception of 115, were engaged in alluvial mining. When the last census was taken (7th April 1871) the goldminers of all descriptions numbered 52,425. By the present figures their numbers would appear to have fallen off since that period by nearly 2,000.

Goldfield population.

43. The total population of the goldfields has not been ascertained or estimated since the census. It then amounted to 270,428, of whom only about a fifth were miners.

Municipal districts.

44. There were 60 cities, towns, and boroughs, and 110 shires and road districts, in existence during 1873. The population of the former was estimated to amount to 389,542, that of the latter to 370,995, making a total of 760,537. Thus the whole population of the colony, with the exception of about 25,000, were enjoying the advantages of local self-government.

45. The estimated total and annual value of rateable property and the revenue and expenditure in these two descriptions of municipal districts respectively during the year under review were as follow :—

Rateable property, revenue, and expenditure.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES; SHIRES AND ROAD DISTRICTS,
1873.

	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Total.	Annual.		
	£	£	£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	25,391,990	2,701,453	410,508	446,591
Shires and Road Districts	31,415,663	2,872,761	529,426	589,367
Total	56,807,653	5,574,214	939,934	1,035,958

46. One hundred and sixteen foreigners obtained letters of naturalization during the year; of these 65, or more than half, were natives of Germany. The principal occupations were miners (27), farmers (25), and vigneron (11). In the previous nine years 918 persons were naturalized, or an average of 102 per annum.

Naturalization.

47. The number of electors on the roll of the Legislative Council in January 1874 was 23,736, of whom 1,983 were on the ordinary and 21,753 on the ratepayers' roll. At the biennial election of the Legislative Council held in 1872, 54 per cent. of the electors in contested districts recorded their votes.

Electors for Legislative Council.

48. The electors for the Legislative Assembly numbered as follow :—Ordinary roll, 28,725; ratepayers' roll, 113,580; total, 142,305. Sixty-five per cent. of the electors of districts in which the last election was contested recorded their votes on that occasion.

Electors for Legislative Assembly.