VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK 1930-31.

A. M. LAUGHTON, GOVERNMENT STATIST.

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Victorian Year-Book

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FIFTY-FIRST ISSUE

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THIS is the fifty-first 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 1930 by the State Parliament, lists of members of Parliament, &c. Parts II., V., and XI. 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. In Parts VIII. and VI. details are given of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, and of municipalities. Parts III., IV., and VII. 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. information in all parts has been brought up to the latest possible date, on many subjects to the middle of the year 1931, and in a few instances to a later date.

The new matter appearing in the volume includes the following:—
(1) the area in acres in which certain specified yields of wheat per acre are produced, such area being given for each of the eight statistical

districts of the State, and for the whole State; (2) the metropolitan prices of leading agricultural products for each of the five years 1926-27 to 1930-31; and (3) a table containing a monthly index of employment in Victorian factories from 1st July, 1927, to 30th June, 1931, the variations in the amount of employment during that period being illustrated by a graph. All of these matters appear in Part "Production."

In the preface to the fiftieth issue of the Year-Book I mentioned that, by reason of the need for economy which existed, the size of the book had been reduced from 712 to 507 pages. A further reduction to 472 pages has been made in the present volume.

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. S. Macdermott, 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.

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Office of the Government Statist, Melbourne, 4th June, 1932.

