

VICTORIAN YEAR BOOK

1951-52

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# Victorian Year-Book

## 1951-52

*By*

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SEVENTY-SECOND ISSUE

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## P R E F A C E .

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THIS is the Seventy-second issue of the *Victorian Year-Book*, and is the first issue with which I have been associated. Mr. O. Gawler, F.I.A., who held the position of Government Statist since 1934, retired in 1954, having reached the statutory age for retirement.

The main object of the work is to show the progress made by the State during the year under review and, towards that end, the particulars appertaining to that year are compared with the years preceding. An endeavour is made to present such information as will assist legislators, publicists, and others in formulating policy for the future development of the natural resources of the State and for promoting the welfare of the people; to provide essential data for economists, sociologists, and students generally in their researches; to furnish producers with facts and figures relating to their own and allied industries, and to inform the public on matters associated with the life and industry of the people in general and of Victoria in particular.

Part I. of this Volume contains a history of the Constitution, an epitome of the Acts passed by the State Parliament during 1952, lists of members of Parliament, and details of Parliamentary elections. In Part II. details are given of the agricultural, dairying, pastoral, and forestry activities of Victoria, and Part III. records the production of factories, fisheries, and mines. Parts IV., X., and XI. contain statistics relating to law, crime, education, charitable institutions, births, marriages, deaths, and other cognate subjects. In Parts V. and VIII. particulars appear of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, of Local Government, semi-Governmental and other Authorities. Parts VII. and IX. record the wealth and progress of the Community, as indicated by increases in bank deposits, in amounts assured with life offices, and the growth of the population, &c. Part VI. deals with Commerce and Transportation. Part XII. provides a statistical summary for Victoria.

The various parts were issued as soon as completed, and the information in every part has been brought up to the latest possible date.

Some limit is placed upon the manner of presentation of statistics in the *Year-Book* by the desire to preserve comparability with former issues. If changes are made, due regard is paid to this feature, which is preserved, as far as practicable, or discarded only because a new form of presentation possesses merits which outweigh the advantage of comparability.

Although there has been no publication of the Statistical Register since the year 1916, the annual compilation of most of the matter formerly contained therein has been continued and it is, therefore, possible to supply much statistical information in greater detail than appears in this *Year-Book*.

Many persons have co-operated in the preparation of this book, and to all of them I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks and appreciation. In particular, I desire to acknowledge the co-operation of the Commonwealth Statistician and his staff.

Responsible officers of Commonwealth and State Government Departments, Boards, Commissions, and Municipal and semi-Governmental Authorities have supplied information and in many ways assisted. The Police of Victoria, by whom the annual collection of statistics relating to primary and secondary industries is effected, have carried out their task in a highly satisfactory manner. Primary producers, manufacturers, principal officers of Banks and Insurance Companies, and many others have shown, by their ready willingness to furnish particulars relating to their industries, their appreciation of the value to the community of the publication of reliable statistics.

Every care has been taken to keep the work free of errors, but if any be observed by readers, notification regarding them would be appreciated.

In order to overcome the delays which have occurred in the publication of *Year-Books* in previous years, it is my intention to incorporate the next two issues into one publication—*Victorian Year-Book*, 1952–53, and 1953–54. The Hon. the Chief Secretary has also authorised the publication of a *Pocket Year-Book* for Victoria, the first issue which will be available about September, 1956. It is hoped that this book, which will contain up-to-date figures, will serve as a handy reference and supplement information appearing in the complete *Year-Book*.

Finally, I must pay a tribute to the members of my staff for their valuable work in the assembly, preparation, and checking of the material and supervision of the publication of this work. Special acknowledgment is due also to the Government Printer and his staff.

V. H. ARNOLD,

Government Statist.

Office of the Government Statist,

Melbourne, 28th May, 1956.