

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

FOR

1884-5.

(TWELFTH YEAR OF ISSUE.)

BY

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BY AUTHORITY.

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P R E F A C E .

IN the present volume, the statistical information embodied in previous issues of the *Victorian Year-Book* has been carefully brought on to date, and in many cases considerably amplified; the folding sheets at the commencement of the work have also been completed by the insertion of the figures of another year.

In the *Victorian Year-Book*, 1874, I published an account of the discovery and early history of Victoria, which caused an extraordinary demand for that issue, the result being that, although a second edition was issued, no spare copies are left, whilst the work is frequently still asked for. I have therefore thought it desirable to republish this account revised and corrected, and have selected the present occasion as a favorable one for so doing, inasmuch as—following the practice which has been pursued when previous important Exhibitions have been held—it will no doubt be deemed expedient to send a considerable number of copies of the work to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition to be held in London in 1886.

Appended to the *Victorian Year-Book*, 1879–80, was an account of the land system of each of the Australasian colonies; but since then important changes have taken place in the mode of dealing with the land in most of the colonies, and especially in Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland. I therefore asked the officers of the different colonies who had kindly contributed the accounts on the previous occasion, or their successors, to furnish fresh ones for the present issue. This request they readily complied with, and duly sent in the accounts asked for, although they must, I fear, have been deprived of much of their private leisure by this unofficial and self-imposed labour. The officers to whom the colony is indebted for this very valuable addition to the work are:—Mr. A. J. Skene, Surveyor-General

of Victoria; Mr. C. N. J. Oliver, Under Secretary for Public Lands, New South Wales; Mr. W. C. Hume, Under Secretary for Public Lands, Queensland; Mr. G. S. Wright, Secretary for Crown Lands, South Australia; the Honorable John Forrest, C.M.G., Commissioner of Crown Lands, Western Australia; Mr. C. P. Sprent, Deputy Surveyor-General of Tasmania; and Mr. H. J. H. Elliott, Under Secretary for Public Lands, New Zealand. The accounts referred to will be found in Appendix D.

The Australasian Statistics, 1884, are published in Appendix A, and a detailed statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for 1884-5 and the two previous financial years is published in Appendix C. The information in both of these returns is brought down to a later date than could be given in the body of the work.

Thanks to the courtesy and industry of certain officers in the different colonies, I was enabled last year to publish in the *Victorian Year-Book*, 1883-4, an account of the constitution and form of Government prevailing in each Australasian colony, except New South Wales, which was necessarily omitted in consequence of Mr. Alexander Oliver, who had promised to prepare the account, being prevented from so doing by illness. Mr. Oliver has also suffered from ill-health during portion of the present year, and his ordinary duties as the Parliamentary Draftsman of New South Wales have been unusually onerous; still he has managed to complete the task he had undertaken. His valuable account of the Constitution of New South Wales, which ends the series, will be found in Appendix E.

The map of Victoria at the end of the volume, this year shows the counties printed in colours.

I would, as usual, solicit information respecting any errors which may be discovered in the work.

HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER,
Government Statist.

Office of the Government Statist,
Melbourne, 7th December, 1885.

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