



Victorian Year-Book

1916-17

By

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PREFACE.

THIS is the thirty-seventh 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 comparisons are instituted with former years, and with other States and countries. An endeavour is made to present such information as will enable investigators to ascertain the results of past legislation, and 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 social welfare of the people.

The first part deals principally with the past history of the State and its constitutional progress. Its natural features, geology, fauna and flora are also described. Parts II., III., IV., VI., and IX. 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., and details are given of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, and of municipalities. In parts V., VII., and VIII. will be found 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 and other production of the State, and of its manufactures. The various parts were issued as soon as completed.

The information in all parts has been brought up to the latest possible date—in many instances to the middle of the-year 1917.

The Manufacturing Statistics included in this volume relate to the period from 1st July, 1916, to 30th June, 1917. The corresponding statistics in previous volumes referred to calendar years. The effect of the change is that these statistics are given in the present volume for a period later by six months than would have been the case if the former practice had been continued.

The bound volume of the *Year-Book* has for many years past been issued in the month of December. Owing to the alteration in practice referred to in the preceding paragraph the present volume will be issued a few weeks later than formerly, but there is compensation for the delay in the fact that it contains statistics in relation to manufactures for a period which is closer to the date of publication than in previous years.

The following special articles, which have been contributed by experts, appear for the first time :—The History of Victoria by Professor Ernest Scott, Physical Geography and Geology of Victoria by Mr. H. Herman, The Fauna of Victoria by the late Dr. T. S. Hall and Mr. J. A. Kershaw, and Agriculture and Live Stock in Victoria by the Victorian Department of Agriculture. On the other hand much space has been saved through the information given in regard to some subjects having been considerably reduced as compared with the preceding year.

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 the work. I also take this opportunity of thanking the members of my staff for their hearty co-operation and for the valuable assistance received from them.

The figures and other material in each part of the book have been carefully examined and checked. If, however, any errors should 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, 7th January, 1918.