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# VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

FOR

1883-4.

(ELEVENTH YEAR OF ISSUE.)

BY

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## P R E F A C E.

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IN the present issue of the *Victorian Year-Book*, the matter embodied in former volumes has been carefully revised and brought on to date; the information in the three folding sheets has also been extended by the addition of the figures for another year.

Additional information and fresh tables have also been given in many instances. These will be found scattered throughout the work, but especially in Parts I. and II., which relate to Population and Finance.

At pages 288 to 293 are tables with explanatory matter showing the occupations of males over 20 years of age who died in the census year and the years immediately preceding and following it, the numbers of each occupation being also compared with the numbers of the same occupation returned at the census, so as to show the degree of fatality attending each occupation. Tables upon a similar principle have been published in England, but never before, I believe, in Australasia.

Descriptive accounts of the public parks and gardens in Melbourne, and many of the country towns, furnished by the respective curators, will be found at pages 574 to 579, and an interesting account of the defences of the colony, showing the steps taken under the new system introduced by Colonel Sargood, will be found at pages 594 to 596.

Appendices A and B contain the Australasian Statistics of 1883, embodied in fourteen tables.

In Appendix C will be found interesting and valuable accounts of the Constitution and form of Government existing in all the Australasian Colonies except New South Wales. The accounts respecting Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania were prepared at my request, unofficially, by the following officers :—Mr. Edward Carlile, Clerk-Assistant of the Legislative Assembly, of the first-named colony ; Mr. W. T. Blakeney, Registrar-General, of the second ; Mr. E. G. Blackmore, Clerk-Assistant of the Legislative Assembly, of the third ; and Mr. R. M. Johnston, Government Statistician, of the fourth—to all of whom thanks are due for supplying these important statements at the sacrifice of their own leisure. The account respecting Western Australia has been taken from the *Colonial Office List*, and that respecting New Zealand has been abridged and rearranged from an account given in an Official Handbook of that colony, edited by the Hon. William Gisborne.

An account of the form of Government in New South Wales was kindly promised by Mr. A. Oliver, Parliamentary Draftsman of that colony, whose well-known ability and intimate official experience would have eminently fitted him to deal with the subject ; but I regret to say that serious illness prevented this officer from completing a task with which he had made considerable progress. Should renewed health enable Mr. Oliver to finish the paper, it will be published in the next issue of this work.

A map, coloured so as to show the agricultural, pastoral, and auriferous portions of the colony, marked also with the railways opened to the date of going to press, will be found, as before, at the end of the work.

I shall feel obliged for information as to any errors which may have escaped the notice of the officers of the department, by whom, as usual, every portion of the work has been carefully checked.

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Government Statist.

Office of the Government Statist,

Melbourne, 15th December, 1884.

# CONTENTS.

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	PAGE
STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF VICTORIA (Folding sheet No. 1).	
SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS ( „ No. 2).	
„ AUSTRALASIAN „ ( „ No. 3).	
PRELIMINARY REMARKS ... ..	1
STATISTICS.—PART I.—POPULATION ... ..	17
„ „ II.—FINANCE ... ..	101
„ „ III.—VITAL STATISTICS ... ..	183
„ „ IV.—INTERCHANGE ... ..	307
„ „ V.—PRODUCTION ... ..	400
„ „ VI.—ACCUMULATION ... ..	471
„ „ VII.—LAW, CRIME, ETC. ... ..	497
„ „ VIII.—RELIGIOUS, MORAL, AND INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS	540
„ „ IX.—DEFENCES ... ..	592
AUSTRALASIAN STATISTICS, 1883 (Appendix A) ... ..	601
STATISTICS OF FIJI, 1878 TO 1883 (Appendix B) ... ..	609
AUSTRALASIAN CONSTITUTIONS (Appendix C) ... ..	610
INDEX ... ..	673
MAP OF VICTORIA.	