

VICTORIA.

DESCRIPTION.—This colony is smaller than any of the other colonies of Australia, and it originally formed part of New South Wales, but was separated in 1851, when gold was first worked to any extent. It contains an area of about 89,644 square miles, and in 1881 had a population of 858,582. Its capital is Melbourne, the seat of Government, with a population of 282,981.

LAND.—The land in Victoria is obtained at £1 per acre, which may be paid by instalments, or if bought by auction, at or under the upset price of £1 per acre, must be paid for in cash. A license also may be obtained for land not exceeding 320 acres before it has been surveyed, and obtain occupation for three years at a rental of 2s. per acre. The occupier must fence the land, reside upon it for two and a half years, and cultivate one out of every ten acres of the land, and at the end of that time has the option of purchasing at 14s. an acre.

Should land which has been put up by auction for sale at the upset price of £1 per acre be not sold, it can be bought at the highest price bid for it. All lands near the villages or towns must be sold by auction.

CLIMATE, SOIL, AND PRODUCTIONS.—The climate is excellent, for although in summer the winds are at times dry and hot the evenings are cool and pleasant, indeed there is little to complain of in point of temperature throughout the year, being much more healthy and invigorating than that of England. The soil is good and produces cereals of a superior quality, as well as the other farm crops usually grown in Great Britain; also the grape, olive, fig, date, coral-tree, sugar, millet, tobacco, and in some situations the tea-plant, cotton, and rice.

MINERALS.—This colony may still be considered the principal gold field of Australia, and a large proportion of its population find employment at the "diggings" where the mineral is raised. So much so, that until but recently other industries have been somewhat neglected.

EXPORTS.—Wheat, and other agricultural products are exported in considerable quantities, but the largest value exported is in gold.

AVERAGE RATE OF WAGES, AND COST OF LIVING.—The wages and prices of provisions, &c., in Victoria, are as follows:—Farm labourers, 20s. to 25s. per week, with rations; ploughmen, 20s. to 25s.; reapers, 12s. to 15s. per acre; mowers, 3s. to 5s.; shepherds, £35 to £52 per annum; stock-keepers, £60 to £80; married couples, £60 to £80; gardeners, 20s. to 40s. per week, with rations; grooms, 17s. 6d. to 25s.; female domestic servants, £20 to £60.

Masons, carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors, shoemakers, and all included in the mechanic and artizan classes, get from 10s. to 15s. per diem, without rations.

Board and lodgings, for single working men, can be obtained at from 15s. to 22s. per week.

Clothing and house rent are very high, particularly in the neighbourhood of Melbourne; but provisions are low.

Victoria is reached by the Orient Line of steamers, from London to Melbourne direct. They make the passage in about forty days. The rates are as follows:—1st class, 50 to 70 guineas; 2nd class, 35 to 40 guineas; 3rd class, 20 to 22 guineas; and steerage, only for men, 16 guineas.

There is no assistance granted to emigrants by this colony. The address of the Agent-General for Victoria, is 8, Victoria Chambers, London, S.W.

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