

THE NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL YEAR -

1893

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PREFACE.

The Handbook published last year met with so favourable a reception that the Government decided on publishing a similar work annually, to be called the "New Zealand Official Year-Book." This volume will therefore be one of a series.

As the demand for the Handbook was largely in excess of the number printed, it seemed evident that some of the special articles, after having been revised, would bear repetition. But there is a large quantity of completely new matter introduced into this book, especially in the portions relating to agriculture, sheep-farming, meat-freezing, butter- and cheese-making, climate and temperature, mineral waters, thermal springs, land- and income-tax methods, &c. Of the articles dealing with these subjects, some appear for the first time, while others have been re-written and enlarged.

The whole of Part III. is entirely new. It consists of a digest of the land-laws and descriptions of the various land districts, giving such particulars as the nature of the soil—whether fit for agricultural, pastoral, or mining purposes—the timber, and other natural products; besides mentioning the industries pursued, the towns and settlements, the means of communication, with other leading features.

The statistical information, with small exceptions, will be found to contain the latest figures. The difficulty of obtaining complete figures for 1892 covering such a range of subjects as is here dealt with, early enough to print in a book to be presented to Parliament during this session, was found to be very considerable; and the date at which many figures became available left little time for analysis or comment thereon. But certainly the information is made public at a much earlier date than is the case in the neighbouring colonies.

The able and kindly assistance rendered by the heads of the various Government Departments is again acknowledged. Without cordial co-operation it would have been impossible to do so much as has been performed, especially in so short a space of time.

E. J. von Dadelszen.

Registrar-General's Office,

Wellington, 25th August, 1893.

OFFICE ASSISTANCE.

For Statistical and Critical Work Officers of Registrar-General's Department.

For general assistance Mr. Charles Janion.

N.B. Every care has been taken to avoid errors, but if any be discovered it is requested that they may be reported. Suggestions will also receive consideration.

Since the First Part of the Year-book was printed the following changes have taken place:—

The Franchise (See p. 16).

"The Electoral Act, 1893," has extended to women of both races the right to register as electors, and to vote at the elections for members of the House of Representatives. The qualification for registration is the same for both sexes, and remains substantially unaltered. No person is entitled to be registered on more than one electoral roll within the colony, whatever the number or nature of the qualifications he or she may possess, or wherever they may be. Women are not qualified to be elected as members of the House of Representatives.

Foreign Consuls (see p. 23.)

Mr. J. H. Amora, of Sydney, appointed Consul-General in Australasia, for Nicaragua.

Mr. Frank Graham, recognised as Vice-consul for Sweden and Norway, at Christchurch.

Mr. E. V. Johansen, of Auckland, Consular jurisdiction for Denmark to extend over the whole of the North Island.

Mr. E. C. Skog, of Christchurch, to be Consul for Denmark, for the South Island.

Executive Council (see p. 25).

The Hon. Alfred Jerome Cadman sworn in (6th September) as a member, and appointed Minister of Justice and Minister of Mines. The Hon. R. J. Seddon appointed Native Minister.

HONOURS HELD BY COLONISTS.

Bell, Sir Francis Dillon, Knt. Bach., 1873; K.C.M.G., 1881; C.B., 1886.

Buckley, Hon. Sir Patrick Alphonsus, K.C.M.G., 1892.

Buller, Sir Walter Lawry, F.R.S., C.M.G., 1875; K.C.M.G., 1886.