INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION AT PHILADELPHIA, 1876.

FINAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS FOR VICTORIA.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

By Authority:

JOHN FERRIS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 67.
### APPROXIMATE COST OF REPORT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation — Not given.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing (175 copies)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REPORT.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, KNIGHT GRAND CROSS
OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AND ST. GEORGE,
GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN AND OVER THE COLONY OF VICTORIA
AND ITS DEPENDENCIES, AND VICE-ADMIRAL OF THE SAME, &c., &c.

We, the Commissioners appointed by Your Excellency, under the Seal of the Colony
of Victoria bearing date the twenty-third day of December One thousand eight
hundred and seventy-four, have the honor to transmit to Your Excellency this our
Final Report.

We have brought our labors to a close, and have fulfilled the various duties which
were prescribed by Your Excellency's Commission.

The Exhibition at Melbourne in 1875 was the largest and most successful ever
held in Victoria, whether as regards the number of exhibits, their character, or the
attendance thereat. Not only were the products and manufactures of the Australian
Continent and the neighboring Islands fully represented, but for the first time in the
history of Australian Exhibitions the Empire of Japan and the British Settlements in
the Indian Seas evinced, by their presence as exhibitors, their appreciation of the
importance of the commercial intercourse which the enterprise of the Australian
people has commenced to establish with their near neighbors, the inhabitants of
Southern Asia.

Notwithstanding the loss of some of our principal exhibits, through the scuttling
of the Skerryvore, and the serious and in some instances irreparable damage to others,
and the lateness of their arrival at Philadelphia, the exhibition of Victoria in America
was more than usually successful; that more medals were awarded to this colony
than to any other, except Canada, amply testified to that fact.

The opportunity was availed of to procure a report upon the various exhibits
shown at Philadelphia, which might be useful to Victoria.

The Instructions to the Secretary and his Report are herewith appended, and we
beg to direct Your Excellency's attention to them.

JAMES JOSEPH CASEY, (L.S.)
JAMES MUNRO, (L.S.)
JOHN DANKS, (L.S.)
JOSEPH BOSISTO, (L.S.)
JOHN McINTYRE, (L.S.)
J. T. SMITH. (L.S.)
INSTRUCTIONS TO SECRETARY.

Office of the Commissioners for Victoria for the Philadelphia Exhibition of 1876,

Sir,

Melbourne, 28th December 1875.

I have the honor to state that, at a meeting of the Commissioners held this day at the Town Hall, Melbourne, you were directed to proceed by the out-going mail to Philadelphia by way of Suez and London. You are, on your arrival in London, to take steps to ship the exhibits, handed over to the Commissioners by the Government of Victoria, to Philadelphia, at which place you should arrive on or about the 29th March. You are to take charge of the Victorian exhibits, and represent the Commissioners in the absence of any of their body, during the currency of the Exhibition, and to do your best to further the interests of the Victorian exhibitors.

It is the desire of the Commissioners that you should use every endeavor to procure reports, from competent scientific and practical persons, of the commercial value of all exhibits, especially of raw produce, which may be new to the people of America.

It is also the desire of the Commissioners that you should procure for them, and through them, for the people of this country, full information upon all exhibits, from whatever part of the globe they may have been procured, which you believe to be of interest and value to the inhabitants of Victoria, and more especially of labor-saving machines.

Your remuneration is to be in the sum of Twelve hundred and fifty pounds, which is to include your salary and travelling expenses from 31st December 1875 to 28th February 1877, about which date you are expected to report yourself to the Commissioners in Melbourne.

It is desired that you should forward by every mail an account of your proceedings, and of all matters that may be of interest, to the Honorable the Chief Secretary, and a copy to the Hon. James Munro, for the information of the Commission.

I have the honor to be
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. F. SULLIVAN,
Chairman of the meeting of the Commissioners held 28th December 1875.

George Collins Levey, Esq., Melbourne.

GENTLEMEN,

Melbourne, 13th July 1877.

I have the honor to inform you that, upon the 29th December 1875, I received the foregoing letter addressed to me by the late Hon. James Forrester Sullivan, in his capacity as chairman of a meeting of the Commissioners, held 28th December 1875.

In accordance with these instructions I proceeded to Europe by the mail steamer which left Melbourne on 30th December 1875, reached London early in March, and, having transacted the business of the Commissioners there, left for Philadelphia, in which city I arrived on 31st March.

It is scarcely necessary to again allude to the series of disasters arising from the various incidents which occurred during the passage of the Sherryvore. The result was that the court was not ready for inspection until very nearly a month after the Exhibition was opened. This misfortune was shared by Victoria in common with South Australia and Tasmania. Several European countries and large numbers of the American exhibitors were even later than Victoria. The pecuniary loss caused by the disaster was certainly not less than £1,200, the exact cost of the repairs to the damaged exhibits being £717 3s. 7d., while exhibits to the value of £440 were entirely destroyed, and many others were considerably damaged.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that, notwithstanding all these drawbacks, the success of the Victorian court was very considerable. The space occupied by this colony was large, the court covering 5,507 feet of floor, and 8,244 feet of wall space, in the main building, besides 383 feet in the agricultural, and an equal area in the horticultural hall. The contents of the Victorian court met with warm encomiums from the visitors and from the press; the greatest interest was taken in the display of the resources and products of this colony; and there can be no doubt that millions of persons in the United States, who had never before heard of Australia, had their attention specially devoted to its soil, climate, and capabilities in consequence of the
Exhibition. Indeed it may be safely said that no portion of the whole Exhibition was more popular than the Australian department, inasmuch as the curiosity of the American public was much excited about that remote country, and it was felt that the presence in their midst of exhibitors and representatives from so distant and remote a portion of the earth's surface was a convincing proof of the community of feeling between the various branches of the Anglo-Saxon race. I am convinced that the large number of contributions forwarded from the Dominion of Canada to the recent Sydney Exhibition, the visit to this country of the Hon. John Young, of Montreal, and the emigration of skilled artisans and mechanics from New York to Sydney, are to a great extent attributable to the large and varied exhibits sent from Victoria, inasmuch as the Americans did not possess sufficient local knowledge to enable them to distinguish between the several Australian colonies.

As a proof of the success of the Victorian exhibitors I may point to the very large number of prizes awarded to them. Victoria received 128 medals, the largest number received by any colonial possession of the British Crown, except the Dominion of Canada, while New South Wales received 72, Queensland 48, South Australia 40, New Zealand 25, and Tasmania 20. It is also worthy of notice that while almost all the awards given to the exhibitors from the other colonies were for raw produce, wine, and scientific collections, 71 medals were given to Victoria for manufactures of various descriptions, a gratifying proof of the high standard of excellence already obtained by the manufacturers, artisans, and mechanics of this country, and their success in a competition with rivals from every civilized community in the whole world. I may likewise add that the Government of Victoria received the honor of a special award for the collective exhibit, a compliment not paid, so far as I am aware, to any other colony with the exception of Queensland, which has a collection that has been in the process of acquisition ever since the year 1870, when it was first commenced by Mr. Daintree, the late Agent-General for Queensland in London, and only paid to a small number of independent kingdoms and States.

During the currency of the Exhibition a large number of presentations was procured from various public bodies in America and other countries for the use of the Melbourne Public Library, the National Museums and Art Galleries, the Botanical Gardens, &c. In return, donations were made by the direction of the President, Sir Redmond Barry, to the Smithsonian Institute, to the value of £532. At the close of the Exhibition the heavy customs duties, and the refusal of the Customs authorities to allow me to sell goods by auction within the building, or even outside, until the full amount of duty was paid, compelled me to ship many exhibits back to Victoria at a considerable expense for freight and charges; to sacrifice others at a price much less than their real value; while in the case of exhibits valued at £683, I forwarded them to the Agent-General, in order that they might be available for future exhibitions. The various delays caused with the Customs-house kept me in America longer than was at first anticipated, and it was not till 7th February that I had finally concluded my business in New York.

I regret very much that it was impossible to fully carry out that portion of my instructions which had reference to obtaining reports about the commercial value of Victorian products.

Much interest was taken in the leather; and I had a large number of inquiries about its cost in Victoria, about the extent of the supply, and the firms engaged in the business, from leather-dealers and bootmakers not only from various portions of the United States, but also from Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, and Holland.

The wool was much admired by the manufacturers, dealers, and growers both of America and Europe. The judges considered that the Australian wool was the finest in the whole Exhibition. The woollen manufacturers of the United States are making very great progress. When the latest census was taken there were 2,891, employing 465,052 persons, and there is no doubt that America will eventually become a large purchaser of Victorian wool.

The various products of the eucalyptus attracted much attention, and I had a considerable amount of correspondence with various persons about the habitat of the eucalyptus globulus and the countries in which it could be successfully introduced. The blue gum seed taken with me was largely distributed, and many savans, including His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Brazil, obtained all the information that I could afford them upon the nature and properties of the many interesting articles exhibited by Mr. Boast, M.F., one of your body.

For the following reports: I take no credit to myself for more than observation and compilation. Whenever any opinions are expressed they are those of the scientific and professional persons with whom I was brought into contact.

I have the honor to be

Your most obedient servant,

GEORGE COLLINS LEVEY,
Secretary.

By Authority: Jone Perra, Government Printer, Melbourne.