1898.

VICTORIA.

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON THE WINE INDUSTRY.

RETURN to an Order of the *House*,
Dated 27th July, 1898, *for*—

A RETURN showing—

1. The number of acres on which the Government has paid the bonus for vine-planting since bonuses have been granted, and the total amount so paid.
2. How many acres on which such bonus has been paid are now used for purposes other than vine-growing.
3. The total amount expended by the Government (including compensation, salaries, and all other incidental expenses) in the eradication of phylloxera.
4. The total cost of the Viticultural College, and the present annual expenditure connected therewith (including salaries, allowances, and other outlay).
5. The cost incurred in passage money, allowances, &c., in bringing to Victoria MM. Dubois and Bragato, and other wine experts; the term for which M. Dubois is engaged and the salary and allowances paid to him.
6. The number of local wineries established, and the total cost of each.
7. Any other Government expenditure incidental to the wine industry.

(*Mr. T. Smith.*)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly *to be printed*, 11*th August*, 1898.

RETURN.

1. Area 10,707 acres.
   Amount £19,867 5s.
2. There is no information available on this point, it not being considered necessary after final payment to incur the expense of sending inspectors to visit plantations.
3. £85,306 15s. 9d., covering period from first outbreak in 1878 to date.
4. The cost of the Viticultural College building (including the cellar and furniture) has been £4,713.
   The college has not yet been opened, but the amount expended last year on the college and vineyard over and above the amount expended on the building was, inclusive of wages, allowances, fencing, plant, &c., £1,569 18s. 4d.
5. £65 passage money was incurred in bringing M. Dubois to Victoria. No expenditure was incurred in bringing M. Bragato or any other wine expert to the colony.
   M. Dubois has been engaged for a term of three years at a salary of £300 per annum, with a travelling allowance of 10s. per diem when away from the college on official duty.
6. Four (4).
   Assuming that cost to the Government is meant, the cost of establishment has been nil, though advances have been made as follows:—

Stawell	£2,000
Rutherglen	£2,000
Goulburn Valley	£1,244

   In addition, though not yet made, an advance of £2,000 to the Yarrawonga Winery Company has been approved.
7. During last year a sum of £653, including wine expert's salary and travelling expenses, also rail fares of members of the Board of Viticulture, was expended.

D. MARTIN,
Secretary for Agriculture.

[*Approximate Cost of Return.*—Preparation, not given; Printing (760 copies), £1.]

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