

**LAW, CRIME, ETC.**

**Legal System  
in Victoria.**

A statement, giving the basic principles and main provisions of the law of Victoria, appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 189.

**LITIGATION AND LEGAL BUSINESS.**

**Supreme  
Court civil  
business.**

The Supreme Court of Victoria was first established in 1852, and its constitution and powers remain substantially unaltered by recent legislation, although the procedure was entirely remoulded by *The Judicature Act 1883* (now incorporated in the *Supreme Court Act 1928*). There were in 1933 seven Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and six Puisne Judges.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the last five years :—

**SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1928 TO 1932.**

Year	Writs of Summons.		Causes Entered for Trial.	Causes Tried.	Verdicts for—		Amount Awarded.
	Number Issued.	Amount Claimed.			Plaintiff.	Defendant.	
		£					£
1928 ..	1,087	264,332	253	124	53	33	16,432
1929 ..	1,204	219,588	231	88	66	22	65,709
1930 ..	1,222	311,523	230	119	77	42	28,209
1931 ..	1,118	456,943	198	74	52	21	81,714
1932 ..	877	253,139	179	97	69	28	39,172

**County Court  
business.**

County Courts have a jurisdiction both in equity and common law cases, limited to £500 ; also in cases remitted by the Supreme Court. The cause of action must have arisen within 100 miles of the court in which proceedings are taken, which court must not be more than ten miles further away from

defendant's residence than some other County Court in which the plaintiff might have sued. In 1932 there were 87 sessions, lasting 404 days and held in 26 places. Particulars of litigation in each of the last five years are as follows:—

COUNTY COURT CASES, 1928 TO 1932.

Year.				Number of Cases Tried.	Amount Sued For.	Amount Awarded.
					£	£
1928	..	..	..	1,019	735,872	355,687
1929	..	..	..	934	777,536	402,131
1930	..	..	..	936	833,441	387,092
1931	..	..	..	556	710,307	430,140
1932	..	..	..	508	638,323	302,726

**Workers' Compensation—Arbitration cases.** The number of requests for arbitration under the Workers' Compensation Act during the year 1932 was 268. The aggregate amount of compensation claimed was £57,715, and the amount awarded, £43,001. These figures are not included in the above table.

**Petty Sessions civil business.** Courts of Petty Sessions were held at 230 places in Victoria in 1932 by stipendiary magistrates and honorary justices. Clerks of courts of ten years' standing, who have passed the prescribed examination, and barristers of five years' standing are eligible for appointment as police magistrates, but there is no legal training or knowledge of the law required as a condition precedent to the appointment of a person as an honorary justice of the peace. The jurisdiction in civil cases is limited to what may be called ordinary debts, damages for assault, and restitution of goods, where the amount in dispute does not exceed £50. Particulars of such cases heard during the last five years are given hereunder:—

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, 1928 TO 1932.

Year.				Cases Heard.	Amount Claimed.	Amount Awarded.
					£	£
1928	..	..	..	103,906	873,199	680,151
1929	..	..	..	111,832	982,945	776,238
1930	..	..	..	120,063	1,141,614	882,594
1931	..	..	..	109,919	1,098,237	841,044
1932	..	..	..	98,200	945,077	696,285

In addition to the ordinary cases above mentioned, and to the criminal jurisdiction hereafter mentioned, Courts of Petty Sessions deal with other business of a civil and quasi-criminal nature. During the year 1932, 2,350 appeals against municipal ratings, 53 Children's Maintenance Act cases, 4,676 ejectment cases, 1,911 fraud summons cases against debtors, 2,307 garnishee cases, 15,829 cases relating to licences and certificates, 1,726 maintenance cases, 149 prohibition cases, and 4,389 miscellaneous cases were heard, and 235 persons alleged to be lunatics were examined.

**Writs by  
the Sheriff.**

A statement is given below of the number of writs received by the Sheriff in the last five years:—

#### WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1928 TO 1932.

Year.	King's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person.	Property.	
1928 .. ..	3	12	315	330
1929 .. ..	15	9	413	437
1930 .. ..	9	17	346	372
1931 .. ..	9	8	247	264
1932 .. ..	20	3	256	279

**High Court of  
Australia.**

A statement showing the nature of this court and the powers vested in it appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 433.

#### BANKRUPTCIES.

A Bankruptcy Act passed by the Federal Parliament in October, 1924, and amended in 1927, was brought into operation on 1st August, 1928. It supersedes the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Acts of the States, with the exception of any provisions relating to matters not dealt with in the Federal Act.

The number of sequestrations, &c., in Victoria during **Bankruptcies.** each of the five years ended 31st July, 1933, under the *Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act* 1924-28, and the amount of liabilities and assets relating thereto, were as follows:—

Year ended 31st July—	Sequestration Orders and Orders for Administration of Deceased Debtors' Estates.	Compositions, Assignments, &c., under Part XI. of the Act.	Deeds of Arrangement under Part XII. of the Act.	Total.
NUMBER.				
1929 ..	304	15	159	478
1930 ..	418	11	276	705
1931 ..	473	26	553	1,052
1932 ..	319	19	351	689
1933 ..	251	16	259	526
LIABILITIES.				
	£	£	£	£
1929 ..	419,005	2,502	1,175,992	1,597,499
1930 ..	410,870	6,500*	827,073	1,244,443
1931 ..	564,565	53,448*	1,108,495	1,726,508
1932 ..	459,899	154,904*	665,598	1,280,401
1933 ..	586,022	79,067*	581,361	1,246,450
ASSETS.				
	£	£	£	£
1929 ..	123,472	3,061	1,102,766	1,229,299
1930 ..	219,555	4,619*	751,861	976,035
1931 ..	290,457	21,301*	1,009,103	1,320,861
1932 ..	184,550	1,929*	586,499	772,978
1933 ..	163,856	68,759*	514,681	747,296

\* Complete figures are not available.

The average yearly number of sequestrations and the average declared liabilities are shown in the subjoined table for the five decennial periods ended with 1928:—

Period.	Average Yearly Number.	Average declared liabilities. £
1879 to 1888 ..	612	661,720
1889 to 1898* ..	833	2,213,592
1899 to 1908 ..	445	244,538
1909 to 1918 ..	358	226,517
1919 to 1928 ..	438	396,845

\* The failures resulting from the financial crisis of that period swelled these returns.

## DIVORCE.

The present law in regard to divorce is contained in the *Marriage Act* 1915, and a summary thereof is given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 445. The Act of 1915 was amended by Acts passed in 1919, 1921, and 1923, but the amendments relate to minor matters and do not affect the main features of the principal Act. The provisions of these Acts are now embodied in the Consolidated Act of 1928. The grounds upon which divorce might be granted were considerably extended by an Act passed in 1889.

**Number of Divorces.**

Since jurisdiction was first conferred upon the Supreme Court of Victoria in matters matrimonial in 1861, 10,314 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 124 decrees for judicial separation have been granted. Of these, 9,966 and 53 respectively have been issued since 1890; so that, during the 30 years ended 1890, only 348 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 71 for judicial separation were issued, or an average per annum of about twelve of the former and two of the latter; whereas, since the Divorce Act of 1889 received the Royal Assent in 1890, no fewer than 237 decrees per annum for dissolution of marriage have been granted, while the decrees for judicial separation have decreased to about one per annum.

**Divorces, Sex.**

The following table gives the number of petitions filed by husband and wife respectively, and the number of decrees granted for divorce, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage during the year 1932:—

**DIVORCES, 1932.**

	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husband.	Wife.	Total.	Husband.	Wife.	Total.
Dissolution of Marriage ..	217	322	539	181	273	454
Judicial Separation ..	..	2	2	..	..	..
Nullity of Marriage ..	6	2	8	3	2	5
Total ..	223	326	549	184	275	459

**Grounds of divorce.**

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1932 were as follows:—

Grounds on which Granted.	Dissolution of Marriage.		Judicial Separation.		Nullity of Marriage.	
	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.
Adultery ..	53	74	..	..	..	..
Bigamy ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cruelty, repeated acts of ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Desertion ..	124	186	..	..	..	..
Desertion and adultery ..	1	5	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness (habitual) ..	1	5	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness and cruelty ..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Impotence ..	..	..	..	..	3	1
Insanity ..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Sentences for crime ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Total ..	181	273	..	..	3	2

**Divorces, 1928 to 1932.** The following is a statement of the number of petitions and decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation in the State of Victoria during the last five years, also of the proportion of decrees per 100,000 married couples living:—

**DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN VICTORIA  
1928 TO 1932.**

Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.
	Dissolution of Marriage	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
1928	604	9	481	..	150
1929	528	3	542	2	168
1930	489	2	381	1	117
1931	478	6	417	2	127
1932	539	2	454	..	137

In New South Wales, where the law in regard to divorce does not differ much from that in Victoria, there were, in 1932, 863 decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation. The number of divorces and separations in that year per 100,000 married couples living was 183. The average annual number for the five-year period 1928-32, in proportion to a like number of married couples, was 230, as compared with an average of 140 for the same period in Victoria.

### CRIME.

**Administration of the criminal law.** Information relating to the administration of the criminal law in Victoria appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 196.

**Indeterminate sentences.** The Indeterminate Sentences Act came into force on 1st July, 1908. It is now incorporated in the *Crimes Act* 1928. The principal provisions are—

1. The adoption of the indeterminate sentence for (a) habitual criminals, and (b) certain classes of other offenders.
2. The appointment of an Indeterminate Sentences Board.
3. The establishment of reformatory prisons.
4. A system of probation applicable to adults as well as minors.

A Board was appointed on 18th August, 1908. A statement of the chief functions of the Board appears in the *Year Book* for 1929-30, pages 106 to 108.

In the early part of the financial year 1916-17 the Board brought into operation two valuable aids to the reformation of the inmates of the reformatory prisons, by the Government sanctioning the purchase of a farm in connexion with the Castlemaine Reformatory, and by the establishment of a forestry settlement at French Island.

The gaol at Beechworth, after undergoing some remodelling, was opened as a reformatory prison in 1926. In 1929, 190 acres of land were acquired for penal purposes within three miles of the reformatory. The area has since been added to, making in all 253 acres. Useful work is found on this land for a number of the inmates of the reformatory in clearing the timber, planting pines, and eradicating the St. John's wort pest. Prisoners for this reformatory are chosen in the same way as for French Island, viz., from those under indeterminate detention at Pentridge.

The number of prisoners under indeterminate detention on 30th June in each of the last six years was as follows:—

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year ended 30th June.					
	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	76	97	93	79	63	} 75
Metropolitan Gaol Reformatory Prison .. .. .	..	1	2	2	1	
Reformatory for Females, Coburg..	3	1	2	2	1	} 66
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	29	29	53	71	67	
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	86	105	97	110	93	73
Geelong Reformatory Prison ..	10	13	16	16	17	14
McLeod Settlement, French Island	42	42	40	51	53	54
Total .. .. .	246	288	303	331	295	282

NOTE.—The Metropolitan Gaol Reformatory Prison and the Reformatory for Females, Coburg, were amalgamated with the Pentridge Reformatory Prison on the 29th December, 1932.

Probation officers to supervise first offenders released by the courts on recognizance under the provisions of the Crimes Act 1928 are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Board. The position is honorary, and a number of persons connected with religious and philanthropic organizations have been appointed to the office.

## OFFENCES HEARD BY MAGISTRATES.

Arrests and  
summonses  
for various  
offences.

The following are particulars of the different classes of offences dealt with by magistrates in 1932 :—

## ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1932.

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Convicted, &c.		Discharged by Magistrates.		Committed for Trial.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
<b>Against the Person—</b>							
Murder and attempts at	8	..	..	2	1	4	1
Manslaughter .. ..	3	..	..	..	..	3	..
Shooting at, wounding, &c. .. ..	47	2	..	11	2	32	..
Assaults .. ..	1,252	663	47	481	59	2	..
Others .. ..	243	55	9	68	4	102	5
Total .. ..	1,553	720	56	562	66	143	6
<b>Against Property—</b>							
Robbery, burglary, &c.	541	61	3	57	6	405	9
Larceny and similar offences .. ..	3,564	2,131	246	797	69	300	21
Wilful damage .. ..	315	212	11	79	12	1	..
Others .. ..	898	554	30	239	22	51	2
Total .. ..	5,318	2,958	290	1,172	109	757	32
<b>Forgery and Offences against the Currency ..</b>	33	..	..	1	..	29	3
<b>Against Good Order—</b>							
Drunkenness .. ..	8,255	6,238	790	1,126	101	..	..
Others .. ..	6,007	4,000	555	1,198	249	5	..
Total .. ..	14,262	10,238	1,345	2,324	350	5	..
<b>Other Offences—</b>							
Perjury .. ..	14	..	..	1	..	11	2
<b>Breaches of—</b>							
Education Act .. ..	5,252	3,834	729	530	159	..	..
Electoral Act .. ..	347	119	36	114	78	..	..
Licensing Act .. ..	4,498	3,093	379	857	169	..	..
Motor Act .. ..	4,762	4,224	101	417	20	..	..
Pure Food Act .. ..	712	512	45	147	8	..	..
Miscellaneous .. ..	20,046	15,711	1,274	2,781	244	30	6
Total .. ..	35,631	27,493	2,564	4,847	678	41	8
<b>Grand Total .. ..</b>	<b>56,797</b>	<b>41,409</b>	<b>4,255</b>	<b>8,906</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>49</b>

These particulars include the arrests and summonses disposed of in Children's Courts, which are detailed in the next table, other than arrests of neglected children.



Of the persons dealt with in the 40,333 summons cases, 33,037 were summarily convicted, 7,213 were discharged, and 83 were committed for trial. Of the total persons dealt with (56,797), 45,664 were summarily convicted, 10,109 were discharged, and 1,024 were committed for trial.

The table which follows shows the number of arrests and summonses for various offences which were disposed of in Children's Courts during the year 1932 :—

**CHILDREN'S COURTS: ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1932.**

Nature of Offence.	Number of Offences for which—				Others (Application to board out, &c.).		Total Offences.	
	Arrests were made.		Summonses were issued.		M.	F.	M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Against the Person—								
Assaults .. .. .	16	1	28	1	..	..	44	2
Others .. .. .	3	..	6	1	..	..	9	1
Total .. .. .	19	1	34	2	..	..	53	3
Against Property—								
Larceny, &c. .. ..	372	12	1,106	31	..	..	1,478	43
Wilful Damage .. ..	11	..	125	..	..	..	136	..
Others .. .. .	6	..	51	1	..	..	57	1
Total .. .. .	389	12	1,282	32	..	..	1,671	44
Against Good Order—								
Drunkenness .. ..	8	..	..	..	..	..	8	..
Others .. .. .	21	10	133	6	..	..	154	16
Total .. .. .	29	10	133	6	..	..	162	16
Other Offences—								
Breach of Licensing Act ..	1	2	14	..	..	..	15	2
Miscellaneous .. ..	96	60	866	21	53	43	1,015	124
Total .. .. .	97	62	880	21	53	43	1,030	126
Grand Total .. .. .	534	85	2,329	61	53	43	2,916	189

The number of arrests and summons cases which was disposed of in Children's Courts in each of the five years, 1927 to 1931, was :— 4,248 in 1927, 3,760 in 1928, 3,980 in 1929, 3,656 in 1930, and 3,303 in 1931.

The arrests of neglected children, which in 1932 numbered 70, 47 males and 23 females, have been included in this table to indicate the business done by Children's Courts, but they are eliminated from all other criminal tabulations.

**Arrests and summons cases.** Of the persons who were brought before magistrates during the last five years, 30 per cent. were arrested, and 70 per cent. summoned. Particulars for the last five years are given in the subjoined table :—

## ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES, 1928 TO 1932.

Year.	Arrested by the Police.		Brought before Magistrates on Summons.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
1928 .. ..	16,759	1,800	38,245	3,758	60,562
1929 .. ..	16,711	1,926	35,751	3,709	58,097
1930 .. ..	15,345	1,950	35,953	3,501	56,749
1931 .. ..	14,214	1,977	35,037	3,547	54,775
1932 .. ..	14,487	1,977	36,803	3,530	56,797

**Neglected children arrested.**

The arrests of neglected children, which are excluded from the above table and the tables which follow, numbered 109 in 1928, 82 in 1929, 133 in 1930, 70 in 1931, and 70 in 1932.

**Arrests and summons cases.**

The following table shows for each of the last five years the number of offences for which persons were arrested or summoned, summarily convicted, discharged by magistrates, committed for trial, and convicted after commitment, also the number per 10,000 of the population :—

## NUMBER OF ARRESTS AND SUMMONS CASES, 1928 TO 1932.

Year.	Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Discharged by Magistrates.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.
1928 ...	60,562	47,865	11,966	731	521
1929 ...	58,097	45,318	11,829	950	630
1930 ...	56,749	45,537	10,264	948	720
1931 ...	54,775	42,977	10,703	1,095	723
1932 ...	56,797	45,664	10,109	1,024	674
Number per 10,000 of Population.					
1928 ...	345·8	273·3	68·3	4·2	3·0
1929 ...	328·4	256·2	66·8	5·4	3·6
1930 ...	318·0	255·2	57·5	5·3	4·0
1931 ...	304·8	239·2	59·5	6·1	4·0
1932 ...	314·5	252·8	56·0	5·7	3·7

In regard to persons arrested, minor charges are excluded, and only that charge which throughout the hearing of the case was most prominent is taken account of; but, in summons cases, the

unit is each separate charge or case, and the number of convictions, discharges, &c., is, therefore, greater than the number of persons concerned.

### CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS.

**Offences and drunkenness.** The subjoined table shows, for a series of years, the number of persons arrested or summoned, also the number per 1,000 of the population, for the only classes of offence for which complete comparisons can be made :—

#### CRIME IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA, 1890 TO 1932.

Year.	Number of Persons Arrested or Summoned for—				
	Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	Total.
1890	4,091	5,036	18,501	36,456	64,084
1895	2,344	3,336	11,143	20,843	37,666
1900	2,103	3,106	15,878	28,003	49,090
1910	1,663	3,052	12,719	34,626	52,060
1920	1,909	4,877	7,154	42,758	56,698
1928	1,615	4,198	9,635	45,114	60,562
1929	1,640	4,752	9,385	42,320	58,097
1930	1,680	5,078	8,132	41,859	56,749
1931	1,452	5,560	7,018	40,745	54,775
1932	1,553	5,318	8,255	41,671	56,797
Number per 1,000 of the Population.					
1890	3·66	4·50	16·54	32·59	57·29
1895	1·98	2·82	9·41	17·60	31·81
1900	1·76	2·60	13·31	23·47	41·14
1910	1·30	2·38	9·92	27·00	40·60
1920	1·26	3·23	4·73	28·27	37·49
1928	·92	2·40	5·50	25·76	34·58
1929	·93	2·69	5·30	23·92	32·84
1930	·94	2·85	4·56	23·45	31·80
1931	·81	3·09	3·91	22·67	30·48
1932	·86	2·95	4·57	23·07	31·45

**Drunkenness.** The most noticeable feature of the above table is the large decrease in the arrests for drunkenness in the last five years as compared with the years prior to 1920.

**Offences against the person and property.** Almost all serious crimes are either offences against the person or offences against property. The first-named consist mainly of assault, but include murder, manslaughter, shooting, wounding, and all crimes of lust. Offences against property consist principally of larceny and similar offences; but include burglary, robbery, &c., cattle stealing, and wilful damage to property.

The only serious crimes included under "Other Offences" are forgery, counterfeiting, conspiracy, and perjury, and these are very few in number, there having been in Victoria in 1932 only 64 of such charges out of a total of 41,671 in the category to which they belong. A large proportion of the cases under the heading "Other Offences" are merely breaches of various Acts of Parliament, by-laws, &c., which indicate no degree of criminal instinct or intent on the part of the person charged. There is also among them a large number of offences against good order, including insulting behaviour, vagrancy, &c.

If it be desired to compare the above figures with those relating to other States or countries several considerations must be taken into account. The first point necessary is that the criminal law in the places compared be substantially the same; the second, that it be administered with equal strictness; and the third, that proper allowances be made for differences in the age and sex constitution of the population. These considerations must also be taken into account in comparing crime in recent years with that in previous periods when there may have been differences in the law and when the population was very differently constituted in regard to sex and age.

The following table contains a classification of distinct persons arrested who were convicted after commitment for trial according to offence and age during the year 1932 :—

Offences.	Ages (Years).								Total.
	Under 16.	16 to 18.	18 to 20.	20 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 60.	60 and Over.	
<b>MALES.</b>									
Against the Person .. .. .	..	1	8	26	7	12	14	4	72
Against Property .. .. .	..	27	68	117	83	120	59	4	478
Forgery and Offences against the Currency .. .. .	..	1	2	6	5	4	4	2	24
Other Offences .. .. .	..	..	1	..	4	11	1	..	17
Total .. .. .	..	29	79	149	99	147	78	10	591
<b>FEMALES.</b>									
Against the Person .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	4
Against Property .. .. .	..	..	1	4	7	3	4	1	20
Forgery and Offences against the Currency .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
Other Offences .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Total .. .. .	..	..	1	5	9	4	6	2	27

**Cases summarily disposed of by magistrates.** During the year 1932, 15,525 persons were summarily dealt with by magistrates, viz., 13,592 males and 1,933 females. Of the number sentenced, 11,065 were males and 1,562 females, and of those discharged 2,527 were males and 371 females.

**Sentences in superior courts.** The following were the sentences of the arrested persons tried and convicted in superior courts during 1932:—

### SENTENCES OF ARRESTED PERSONS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1932.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid .. ..	4	..	4
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month .. ..	1	3	4
1 and under 6 months .. ..	62	7	69
6 " 12 " .. ..	213	6	219
1 year and under 4 years .. ..	131	1	132
4 years " 7 " .. ..	14	..	14
7 years " 10 " .. ..	1	..	1
10 years " 15 " .. ..	3	..	3
Death sentence recorded .. ..	2	..	2
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety .. ..	110	10	120
Sent to Reformatory Prison .. ..	60	..	60
Total convicted .. ..	601	27	628
Acquitted .. ..	252	13	265
Not prosecuted .. ..	36	1	37
Convictions per 10,000 of population	6·74	·30	3·48

Prisoners remaining for trial from the previous year and sentenced in the year mentioned are included in the above statement, but those awaiting trial at the end of the year are excluded.

**Arrests of distinct individuals.** A statement, showing the number of distinct individuals arrested in 1928, is shown in the *Year-Book* for 1928–29, pages 205 to 208.

The number of persons and the number per 1,000 of the population arrested or summoned for drunkenness during the last five years are given hereunder :—

PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS,  
1928 TO 1932.

Year.	Number of Persons -			Number per 1,000 of Population.	Number of Convictions.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.		
1928 ...	9,562	73	9,635	5.50	6,241
1929 ...	9,294	91	9,385	5.30	5,866
1930 ...	8,054	78	8,132	4.56	6,243
1931 ...	6,970	48	7,018	3.91	5,602
1932 ...	8,164	91	8,255	4.57	7,028

The amount of drunkenness in proportion to population, as evidenced by arrests, being taken as 100 in 1874-78, the corresponding numbers for subsequent periods will show the increase or decrease by comparison. These numbers are given in the following statement :—

Period.	Index Number.	Period.	Index Number.
1874-78 .. ..	100	1918-22 .. ..	32
1879-85 .. ..	88	1923-27 .. ..	41
1886-92 .. ..	106	1928 .. ..	37
1893-97 .. ..	65	1929 .. ..	36
1898-1902 .. ..	84	1930 .. ..	31
1903-07 .. ..	77	1931 .. ..	27
1908-12 .. ..	68	1932 .. ..	31
1913-17 .. ..	59		

A very considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown for the five years 1893-97, which was a period of general depression. In the five years following an increase occurred, but since that time the arrests for this offence have declined. In the middle of the year 1915 an Act was passed limiting the number of hours during which alcoholic liquors could be sold in hotels, and a further limitation was made in the following year. This probably accounts for the marked decrease in drunkenness in the last seventeen years. The index numbers for that period are the lowest on record.

The accompanying table shows the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness, also the number arrested per 100,000 of the population under that age, from which it will be seen that very few young persons are arrested for this offence :—

ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1928 TO 1932.

Year.	Number.	Number per 100,000 of the Population under 20 years of age.
1928	137	20·39
1929	143	21·06
1930	136	19·86
1931	100	14·50
1932	100	14·43

CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR.

The next table shows the consumption of intoxicating liquors in Victoria during the year ended 30th June, 1915, and the last five years.

CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS, BEER, AND WINE IN VICTORIA.

Year ended 30th June.	Quantity Consumed.			Consumption per Head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
1915	969,100	21,002,900	430,600	·68	14·63	·30
1929	505,600	20,563,200	704,400	·29	11·68	·40
1930	564,000	18,918,200	708,200	·32	10·65	·40
1931	283,500	15,326,500	644,700	·16	8·56	·36
1932	256,200	14,037,200	630,400	·14	7·79	·35
1933	263,400	13,825,900	635,500	·15	7·64	·35

Expenditure  
by the people  
on intoxicating  
liquor.

With the assistance of the figures in the preceding table, it is possible to estimate for Victoria, with some degree of accuracy, the approximate expenditure of the people on intoxicating liquors in a year. The following table shows the amount expended by the people on intoxicating liquors in Victoria during the year ended 30th June, 1915, and the last five years:—

### VICTORIAN DRINK BILL.

Year ended 30th June.	Amount Expended.	Per Head of Population.	Year ended 30th June.	Amount Expended.	Per Head of Population.
	£	£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.
1915 ..	5,061,700	3 10 7	1931 ..	6,853,100	3 16 6
1929 ..	9,022,200	5 2 6	1932 ..	6,298,100	3 9 11
1930 ..	8,921,700	5 0 5	1933 ..	6,266,500	3 9 3

### LOCAL OPTION.

Local Option  
Acts of 1920  
and 1922.

A statement, giving particulars of the provisions of the Local Option Acts of 1920 and 1922, appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, pages 211 and 212.

Local Option  
Poll held 21st  
October, 1920.

In accordance with the *Licensing Act* 1915 certain resolutions were submitted to the electors throughout the State for approval on 21st October, 1920. One of these (Resolution C) "That no licence be granted" was carried in two licensing districts in the State, viz., Boroondara and Nunawading. Seven hotels in the former district and three in the latter had, therefore, to be closed. The amount of compensation awarded by the Licences Reduction Board was £12,100, or an average of £1,210 for each hotel.

Licensing  
Poll, 1930.

On the 29th March, 1930, a Referendum, called a Licensing Poll, was conducted under Part XIV. of the *Licensing Act* 1928 (as amended) to determine whether or not licences shall be abolished. The poll was State-wide, and was the first of the octennial polls provided for by the *Licensing Act* of 1922 (now incorporated in the *Licensing Act* 1928).

The resolution submitted to electors was "Abolition—That licences shall be abolished (Resolution 1)." The number of votes recorded for the resolution was 418,902, whilst 552,339 votes were recorded against it.



The number of electors on the roll and the number who recorded their votes at the Licensing Poll held on the 29th March, 1930, were as follows:—

	Number.
Electors on the electoral roll ..	1,029,420
Electors who voted—	
Male .. ..	474,232
Female .. ..	503,280
	<hr/>
Total .. ..	977,512
Informal votes .. ..	6,271

**Hotels Closed, 1885-1905.** During the period 1885 to 1905, 217 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls. The amount of compensation awarded was £212,771, or an average of £980 for each hotel. This sum was provided partly out of the Licensing Fund, and, when this was insufficient for the purpose, out of the general revenue.

**Restricting the hours for the sale of intoxicants.** Prior to 1915, the trading hours of hotels were from 6 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. On 6th July, 1915, the trading hours were reduced to 9 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. by Act No. 2584. Fifteen months later a further reduction was made which provided that from 8th October, 1916, the closing hour of hotels was to be 6 p.m. instead of 9.30 p.m. during the period of the war. This provision was made permanent by Act No. 3028 passed on 19th December, 1916. The trading hours in force at the present time are therefore 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Apart from Sundays, trading is permitted on every day of the year except Anzac Day (25th April of each year), when all hotels are closed in accordance with the provisions of the *Anzac Day Act* 1925, now incorporated in the *Licensing Act* 1928.

### LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD.

**Licences Reduction Board.** Information relating to the nature of the duties of, and the powers vested in the Licences Reduction Board is given in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, page 476, and in that for 1928-29, page 213.

Up to 30th September, 1933, 1,756 hotels had been closed by the Board or had surrendered their licences. The total sum paid in compensation was £1,148,746, or an average of £654 each. Five hundred and fifteen of these hotels were located in the Greater Melbourne district; the compensation paid in connexion with these

totalled £555,142, making an average of £1,078 each. There were 1,241 hotels closed in country districts, whose owners and licensees received £593,604, or an average of £478 for each hotel.

In addition to the above closings, the following have been deprived of their licences as a result of the local option poll held on 21st October, 1920:—5 spirit merchants, 4 grocers, 1 club, and 4 Australian wine licensees. The amount of compensation awarded was £550. Since 1922, 20 spirit merchants', 2 grocers', and 63 Australian wine licences have been taken away, for which compensation to the amount of £11,975 has been awarded.

A section of the Board's work which has grown rapidly in extent and importance since 1922 is the consideration given to enforcing the improvement in the type of structure and in the class of accommodation of licensed houses.

Since 1922 plans have been passed by the Board for new and improved licensed premises, the estimated cost being £3,546,610.

The return given hereunder shows the number of hotels, including roadside licences, in Victoria in 1885, 1906 and 1933, and the number of persons to each hotel in those years. The years 1885 and 1906 have been selected, because in those years important alterations were made in the liquor licensing laws:—

#### NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885, 1906 AND 1933.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.*	Persons to each Hotel.
1885 ... ..	969,200	4,339	223
1906 ... ..	1,244,470	3,520	354
1933 (30th September) ...	1,820,100	1,762	1,033
Increase, 1885 to 1933 ...	850,900	...	810
Decrease, ,, ,, ...	...	2,577	...

\* Including Roadside Licences.

While the population has increased by 88 per cent. since 1885, the number of hotels has decreased by 59 per cent., and the number of persons to an hotel is now 363 per cent. more than it was in that year. During the period 1885-1933, 227 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 1,756 were deprived of their licences by the Licences Reduction Board, or surrendered their licences to the Board, and 663 were closed voluntarily. During the period of twenty-seven years, 1907 to 1933, 69 new licences were granted.

**Licensing Fund.** The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1933, amounted to £200,697. The amounts received from the various sources were:—Licences, certificates, &c., £179,722; interest on investments, £10,982; fees and fines, £9,923; and miscellaneous, £70. The expenditure totalled £200,697, and consisted of the following items:—Annual payments to municipalities, £60,740; compensation, £9,160; transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 311 of Act No. 3717, £23,000; transferred to revenue under section 312 of Act No. 3717, £92,092; and salaries, expenses, &c., £15,705. The amount at credit of the fund at 30th June, 1933, was £437,376, of which £341,000 was invested.

**Racecourse licences and percentage fees.** The *Police Offences Act* 1928 provides that no race-meeting shall be held except on a race-course which is licensed under this Act for horse races or for pony races or for trotting races. Any licence shall, unless cancelled, be in force for twelve months from the date of its issue. For each such licence there shall be paid into the consolidated revenue a fee of £1, and also an annual sum equal to 3 per cent. of the gross revenue from all sources received from such race-course by the owner or trustees of the race-course during the year immediately preceding the year for which the licence is required. Provided, however, that where the gross revenue is less than £1,500, but more than £600, the annual sum payable shall be 2 per cent. of the gross revenue, and, where the gross revenue is £600 or less, no such annual sum shall be charged. The amounts paid into the Consolidated Revenue in licence fees and percentages on gross revenue during each of the last ten years were as follows:—

#### REVENUE FROM RACECOURSE LICENCES AND PERCENTAGE FEES, 1924 TO 1933.

Year ended 30th June.			Amount.	Year ended 30th June.			Amount.
			£				£
1924	..	..	20,516	1929	..	..	24,952
1925	..	..	21,714	1930	..	..	27,789
1926	..	..	23,270	1931	..	..	23,246
1927	..	..	24,148	1932	..	..	16,457
1928	..	..	25,036	1933	..	..	15,575

#### GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

**Gaols and prisoners.** There are six gaols in Victoria, including the Pentridge Penal Establishment, and six reformatory prisons, also two police gaols which are used as receiving stations. The following statement contains information for the year 1932 in

regard to the accommodation for prisoners, the daily average number in confinement, the number received during the year, and the number in confinement at the end of the year :—

## GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1932.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received.		In Confinement, 31.12.32.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge ..	698	..	660	..	1,243	..	635	..
Pentridge Reformatory Prison	68	..	68	..	161	..	75	..
Ballarat Gaol ..	66	18	59	..	409	2	38	..
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	78	..	67	..	40	..	65	..
Bendigo Gaol ..	116	28	24	..	256	8	27	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	97	..	92	..	118	..	82	..
Geelong Gaol ..	160	19	159	..	480	2	144	..
Geelong Reformatory Prison ..	21	..	18	..	12	..	17	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison ..	52	..	53	..	38	..	50	..
Metropolitan Gaol ..	208	59	216	61	5,095	726	184	66
Metropolitan Reformatory Prison, Coburg	6	9	2	1	45	1	2	1
Sale Gaol ..	30	5	10	..	89	1	13	..
Police Gaols* ..	41	6	8	..	261	3	4	..
Total ..	1,641	144	1,436	62	8,247	743	1,336	67

\* The police gaol at Ararat was closed on the 30th August, 1932.

A statement is given below of the average number of prisoners in detention in the gaols of the State in the last year of each of the decennial periods 1871 to 1921 inclusive, and in each of the last five years. From this it will be seen that there has been a considerable decrease in late years as compared with earlier periods. The rate per 10,000 of population, aged fifteen years and over, was, in 1932, 19 per cent. less than in 1901, 54 per cent. less than in 1891, 61 per cent. less than in 1881, and 69 per cent. less than in 1871.

Prisoners in confinement, 1871 to 1932.

## PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1932.

Year.	Average Number of Prisoners in Confinement.			Number per 10,000 of Population, aged 15 years and over.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1871 ...	1,345	274	1,619	54·77	15·46	38·30
1881 ...	1,294	304	1,598	45·25	12·35	30·03
1891 ...	1,550	350	1,900	38·78	10·07	25·43
1901 ...	951	200	1,151	23·92	5·06	14·53
1911 ...	713	100	813	15·73	2·16	8·87
1921 ..	741	54	795	14·56	·98	7·40
1928 ...	1,008	36	1,044	16·70	·59	8·49
1929 ...	1,128	57	1,185	18·54	·90	9·55
1930 ...	1,245	56	1,301	20·32	·88	10·39
1931 ...	1,391	50	1,441	22·59	·78	11·43
1932 ...	1,436	62	1,498	23·26	·95	11·82

**Birthplaces and ages of prisoners.** The birthplaces and ages of prisoners constantly detained as deduced from the numbers passing through the gaols, also the number per 10,000 of population, are shown below for the years 1911, 1921, and 1932:—

## BIRTHPLACES AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED, 1911 TO 1932.

	Number Constantly Detained.			Number per 10,000 of Population.*		
	1911.	1921.	1932.	1911.	1921.	1932.
<b>Birthplace—</b>						
Australia and New Zealand	595	660	1,267	5·32	4·92	8·01
England and Wales ..	87	64	728	9·73	} 6·53	10·27
Scotland .. ..	26	18	34	9·78		
Ireland .. ..	62	23	33	14·95		
China .. ..	4	1	..	7·14	3·54	..
Others .. ..	39	29	36	11·64	11·13	11·73
<b>Age—</b>						
Under 20 years .. ..	54	85	146	1·01	1·45	2·11
20 to 30 years .. ..	205	287	495	8·67	10·93	15·68
30 to 40 years .. ..	211	190	375	11·66	8·35	13·97
40 to 50 years .. ..	193	126	287	11·64	7·20	13·90
50 to 60 years .. ..	96	68	129	9·60	4·50	7·21
60 years and over ..	54	39	66	5·58	3·07	4·41

\* The ratios refer to 10,000 persons in the community whose birthplaces or ages were as stated above.

## POLICE PROTECTION.

The following table shows the numbers in the various grades of the police force in Victoria on the 31st December, 1932 :—

## POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31st DECEMBER, 1932.

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner .. ..	1	..	1
Superintendents .. ..	4	8	12
Inspectors .. ..	8	7	15
Sub-Inspectors .. ..	20	4	24
Sergeants, First class .. ..	37	12	49
„ Second class .. ..	31	17	48
Senior Constables .. ..	144	90	234
First Constables .. ..	147	112	259
Constables .. ..	986	245	1,231
Total .. ..	1,378	495	1,873
<i>Detectives.</i>			
Sergeants, First class .. ..	2	..	2
„ Second class .. ..	2	..	2
Senior Detectives .. ..	16	..	16
First Detectives .. ..	21	..	21
Detectives .. ..	32	..	32
Total .. ..	73	..	73
<i>Mounted.</i>			
Senior Constables .. ..	..	..	..
First Constables .. ..	6	49	55
Constables .. ..	12	100	112
Total .. ..	18	149	167
Grand Total .. ..	1,469	644	2,113

In addition to the above there were 8 police-women, 3 matrons, and 2 black trackers employed by the Police Department on the 31st December, 1932.

**Strength of police force in proportion to population.** The number of police in Victoria per 100,000 of the population and the corresponding proportions for other States, at the end of 1932, were as follows:—Victoria, 116·7; New South Wales, 141·0; Queensland, 126·4; South Australia, 126·0; Western Australia, 132·6; Tasmania, 115·5; and Northern Territory, 917·4.

**Expenditure on police, gaols, &c.** The next table contains a statement of the amount and the amount per head of population expended in connexion with the police, and the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria, in the year 1913-14 and in each of the five years ended with 1932-33:—

## EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1913-14 TO 1932-33

Year ended 30th June.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Maintenance, &c.		Buildings.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablishments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablishments.		
£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	
1914 ..	343,518	54,083	20,174	2,472	420,247	5 11
1929 ..	718,007	109,062	23,223	4,190	854,482	9 8
1930 ..	727,600	119,488	21,594	2,646	871,328	9 10
1931 ..	672,430	111,231	3,194	1,220	788,075	8 10
1932 ..	586,560	96,167	1,929	1,392	686,048	7 7
1933 ..	601,919	94,784	2,424	1,172	700,299	7 9

**Executions.** During the twenty-eight years ended with 1932 there were only nine executions in Victoria, one of which took place in 1908, one in 1912, two in 1916, two in 1918, one in 1922, one in 1924, and one in 1932. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 177 criminals have been executed within the State, of whom only four were females.

**Inquests.** The number of inquiries into the causes of deaths of individuals during the year 1932 was 1,419, or 7·86 per 10,000 of the population. In 510 cases death was found to be due to disease or natural causes, in 657 cases to accident, in 32 to homicide, in 180 to suicide, in 1 to execution, in 25 to illegally induced abortion, in 10 to external causes which could not be ascertained, in 3 to unspecified or doubtful causes, and in 1 a verdict of "still-born" was returned.