

## 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 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 1934 six Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and five Puisne Judges.

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

#### SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1929 TO 1933.

Year.	Writs of Summons.		Causes Entered for Trial.	Causes Tried.	Verdicts for—		Amount Awarded
	Number Issued.	Amount Claimed.			Plaintiff.	Defendant.	
		£					£
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	73	52	21	81,714
1932 ..	877	253,139	179	97	69	28	39,172
1933 ..	672	192,422	161	95	70	25	44,037

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 1933 there were 81 sessions, which were held in 25 places. Particulars of litigation in each of the last five years are as follows :—

COUNTY COURT CASES, 1929 TO 1933.

Year.				Number of Causes Tried.	Amount Sued For.	Amount Awarded.
					£	£
1929	..	..	..	934	777,536	402,131
1930	..	..	..	936	833,441	387,092
1931	..	..	..	556	710,307	430,140
1932	..	..	..	508	638,323	302,726
1933	..	..	..	576	500,779	240,343

**Workers' Compensation—Arbitration cases.** The number of requests for arbitration under the Workers' Compensation Act during the year 1933 was 279. The aggregate amount of compensation claimed was £46,430, and the amount awarded, £42,433. These figures are not included in the above table.

**Petty Sessions civil business.** Courts of Petty Sessions were held at 228 places in Victoria in 1933 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, 1929 TO 1933.

Year.			Cases Heard.	Amount Claimed.	Amount Awarded.
				£	£
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
1933	..	..	79,424	780,096	582,241

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 1933, 940 appeals against municipal ratings, 12 Children's Maintenance Act cases, 5,463 ejectment cases, 2,025 fraud summons cases against debtors, 2,202 garnishee cases, 16,866 cases relating to licences and certificates, 1,649 maintenance cases, 83 prohibition cases, and 5,261 miscellaneous cases were heard, and 241 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, 1929 TO 1933

Year.	King's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person.	Property.	
1929 .. ..	15	9	413	437
1930 .. ..	9	17	346	372
1931 .. ..	9	8	247	264
1932 .. ..	20	3	256	279
1933 .. ..	7	13	190	210

**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.

**Bankruptcies.** The number of sequestrations, &c., in Victoria during each of the five years ended 31st July, 1934, under the *Commonwealth Bankruptcy Acts* 1924-1933, 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.
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## NUMBER.

1930 ..	418	11	276	705
1931 ..	473	26	553	1,052
1932 ..	319	19	351	689
1933 ..	251	16	259	526
1934 ..	218	11	212	441

## LIABILITIES.

	£	£	£	£
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
1934 ..	509,745	37,996	402,150	949,891

## ASSETS.

	£	£	£	£
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
1934 ..	116,156	39,414	322,803	478,373

\* 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 accounted for the increase in those years.

### 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.

Since jurisdiction was first conferred upon the Supreme Court of Victoria in matters matrimonial in 1861, 10,809 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 124 decrees for judicial separation have been granted. Of these, 10,461 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 1890, the year in which the Divorce Act of 1889 received the Royal Assent, no fewer than 243 decrees per annum for dissolution of marriage have been granted, while the decrees for judicial separation have decreased to about one per annum.

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 1933 :—

#### DIVORCES, 1933.

	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husband.	Wife.	Total.	Husband.	Wife.	Total.
Dissolution of Marriage .. ..	258	336	594	205	290	495
Judicial Separation .. ..	..	3	3	..	..	..
Nullity of Marriage .. ..	2	2	4	3	1	4
Total .. ..	260	341	601	208	291	499

**Grounds of divorce.**

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1933 were as follows:—

Grounds on which Granted.	Dissolution of Marriage.		Judicial Separation.		Nullity of Marriage.	
	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.
Adultery .. ..	57	70	..	..	..	..
Bigamy .. ..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Consanguinity .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Desertion .. ..	133	202	..	..	..	..
Desertion and adultery .. ..	2	6	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness (habitual) .. ..	1	3	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness and cruelty .. ..	..	3	..	..	..	..
Impotence .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Insanity .. ..	12	2	..	..	..	..
Sentences for crime .. ..	..	4	..	..	..	..
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

**Divorces, 1929 to 1933.**

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  
1929 TO 1933.**

Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.
	Dissolution of Marriage	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
1929	528	3	542	2	168
1930	489	2	381	1	117
1931	478	6	417	2	127
1932	539	2	454	..	137
1933	594	3	495	..	149

## RACECOURSE LICENCES.

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, 1925 TO 1934.

Year ended 30th June.			Amount.	Year ended 30th June.			Amount.
			£				£
1925	..	..	21,714	1930	..	..	27,789
1926	..	..	23,270	1931	..	..	23,246
1927	..	..	24,148	1932	..	..	16,457
1928	..	..	25,036	1933	..	..	15,575
1929	..	..	24,952	1934	..	..	15,050

## CRIME.

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

Administration  
of the criminal  
law.

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.

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 five years was as follows:—

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year ended 30th June.				
	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	93	79	63	} 75	82
Metropolitan Gaol Reformatory Prison .. .. .	2	2	1		
Reformatory for Females, Coburg ..	2	2	1	} 66	64
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	53	71	67		
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	97	110	93	73	95
Geelong Reformatory Prison ..	16	16	17	14	9
McLeod Settlement, French Island	40	51	53	54	50
Total .. .. .	303	331	295	282	300

NOTE.—*The Metropolitan Gaol Reformatory Prison and the Reformatory for Females, Coburg, were amalgamated with the Pentridge Reformatory Prison as from 1st January, 1933.*

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.

### CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS.

The statistics of crime and drunkenness for 1933 have been compiled on a basis which differs from that adopted for the years 1893 to 1932. The particulars for 1933 represent in respect of multiple charges, the number of offences with which arrested persons were charged, whereas for the period 1893 to 1932 only

Alteration in method of tabulation.



the most serious offence in such cases had been tabulated. Summons cases in 1933 relate, as in previous years, to all offences with which a person was charged. The statistics for 1933 are comparable with those for the years prior to 1893 appearing in earlier issues of the *Year-Book*.

**Offences and  
drunkenness.**

The subjoined table shows, for a series of years, the number of arrest and summons cases, also the number per 1,000 of the population, tabulated according to the only classes of offences for which complete comparisons can be made:—

CRIME IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA, 1890 TO 1933.

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
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
1933*	1,617	6,400	9,240	41,149	58,406
	Number per 1,000 of the Population.				
1890*	3·66	4·50	16·54	32·59	57·29
1895	1·93	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
1929	·93	2·68	5·30	23·91	32·82
1930	·94	2·84	4·55	23·44	31·77
1931	·81	3·09	3·90	22·64	30·44
1932	·86	2·94	4·56	23·04	31·40
1933*	·89	3·52	5·07	22·60	32·08

\* See paragraph "Alteration in method of tabulation" above.

**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.

**Other Offences.** 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 1933 only 104 of such charges out of a total of 41,149 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.

Arrests and  
summonses  
for various  
offences.

The following are particulars of the different classes of offences dealt with by magistrates in 1933 :—

## ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1933.

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	11	..	..	2	1	5	3
Manslaughter ..	9	..	..	2	2	5	..
Shooting at, wounding, &c. .. ..	53	12	..	11	2	28	..
Assaults .. ..	1,282	724	41	451	62	4	..
Others .. ..	262	38	5	43	8	164	4
Total .. ..	1,617	774	46	509	75	206	7
<b>Against Property—</b>							
Robbery, burglary, &c.	672	87	2	76	6	492	9
Larceny and similar offences .. ..	4,194	2,570	280	791	79	449	25
Wilful damage ..	399	256	21	112	10	..	..
Others .. ..	1,135	628	46	343	35	74	9
Total .. ..	6,400	3,541	349	1,322	130	1,015	43
<b>Forgery and Offences against the Currency ..</b>	81	4	1	7	..	68	1
<b>Against Good Order—</b>							
Drunkenness .. ..	9,240	7,164	811	1,142	123	..	..
Others .. ..	7,295	4,917	603	1,476	285	8	..
Total .. ..	16,535	12,081	1,420	2,618	408	8	..
<b>Other Offences—</b>							
<b>Breaches of—</b>							
Education Act ..	7,051	5,274	934	671	172	..	..
Electoral Act ..	130	97	18	8	7	..	..
Licensing Act ..	4,267	2,926	437	696	208	..	..
Motor Car Act ..	5,447	4,790	160	474	23	..	..
Pure Food Act ..	639	458	32	140	9	..	..
Miscellaneous ..	16,239	12,504	1,233	2,210	236	52	4
Total .. ..	33,773	26,049	2,814	4,199	655	52	4
<b>Grand Total .. ..</b>	<b>58,406</b>	<b>42,449</b>	<b>4,630</b>	<b>8,655</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>1,349</b>	<b>55</b>

Of the 58,406 cases dealt with, 47,079 were summarily convicted, 9,923 were discharged, and 1,404 committed for trial. These particulars include the cases disposed of in Children's Courts, which are detailed in a subsequent table, other than arrests of neglected children.

**Arrest and  
summons  
cases.**

Particulars of the arrest and summons cases for the last five years are given in the subjoined table :—

### ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES, 1929 TO 1933.

Year.	Arrest Cases.		Summons Cases.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
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
1933* .. ..	17,815	2,059	34,638	3,894	58,406

\* See paragraph "Alteration in method of tabulation" on page 108.

**Neglected  
children  
arrested.**

The arrests of neglected children, which are excluded from the above table and the tables which follow, numbered 82 in 1929, 133 in 1930, 70 in 1931, 70 in 1932, and 77 in 1933.

**Arrest 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, also the number per 10,000 of the population :—

### NUMBER OF ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES, 1929 TO 1933.

Year.	Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Discharged by Magistrates.	Committed for Trial.
1929 .. ..	58,097	45,318	11,829	950
1930 .. ..	56,749	45,537	10,264	948
1931 .. ..	54,775	42,977	10,703	1,095
1932 .. ..	56,797	45,664	10,109	1,024
1933* .. ..	58,406	47,079	9,923	1,404
Number per 10,000 of Population.				
1929 .. ..	328·2	256·0	66·8	5·4
1930 .. ..	317·7	254·9	57·5	5·3
1931 .. ..	304·4	238·8	59·5	6·1
1932 .. ..	314·0	252·4	55·9	5·7
1933* .. ..	320·8	258·6	54·5	7·7

\* See paragraph "Alteration in method of tabulation" on page 108.

Children's  
Courts.

The table which follows shows the number of cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts during the year 1933:—

## CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF, 1933.

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 .. .. .	8	..	32	3	..	..	40	3
Others .. .. .	1	..	7	..	..	..	8	..
Total .. .. .	9	..	39	3	..	..	48	3
Against Property—								
Larceny, &c. .. ..	357	8	1,054	32	..	..	1,411	40
Wilful Damage .. ..	30	6	107	3	..	..	137	9
Others .. .. .	13	2	46	1	..	..	59	3
Total .. .. .	400	16	1,207	36	..	..	1,607	52
Against Good Order—								
Drunkenness .. ..	2	2	..	..	..	..	2	2
Others .. .. .	24	5	144	10	..	..	168	15
Total .. .. .	26	7	144	10	..	..	170	17
Other Offences—								
Breach of Motor Car Act ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..
Miscellaneous .. ..	47	28	743	49	127	100	917	177
Total .. .. .	47	28	745	49	127	100	919	177
Grand Total .. .. .	482	51	2,135	98	127	100	2,744	249

The number of arrests and summons cases which was disposed of in Children's Courts in each of the last five years, was:—3,760 in 1928, 3,980 in 1929, 3,656 in 1930, 3,303 in 1931, 3,105 in 1932, and 2,993 in 1933.

The arrests of neglected children, which in 1933 numbered 77, 46 males and 31 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.

Arrest cases  
summarily  
disposed of by  
magistrates.

The following is a statement of the arrest cases summarily disposed of by magistrates during 1933 :—

ARREST CASES SUMMARILY DISPOSED OF BY  
MAGISTRATES, 1933.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid .. .. .	4,185	346	4,531
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month .. .. .	3,056	441	3,497
1 month and under 6 months ..	1,454	156	1,610
6 „ „ 12 „ ..	215	38	253
1 year and under 2 years ..	82	11	93
2 years .. .. .	5	..	5
Admonished .. .. .	3,097	368	3,465
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety ..	792	162	954
Sent to Reformatory Schools, etc. ..	65	..	65
Otherwise dealt with .. .. .	9	..	9
Total convicted .. .. .	12,960	1,522	14,482
Discharged .. .. .	3,145	440	3,585
Total summarily disposed of ..	16,105	1,962	18,067
Convictions per 10,000 of population	143·42	16·60	79·54

Committals for trial of distinct persons.

Particulars of the distinct persons tried before superior courts in 1933 are shown below in respect of arrest cases only. Where an individual was charged with more than one offence, the principal offence only was taken into account.

### COMMITTALS FOR TRIAL OF DISTINCT PERSONS, 1933.

(Arrest cases only).

Offences.	Distinct Persons Charged.	Result of Trial—	
		Withdrawn, Discharged.	Convicted.
<b>Against the Person—</b>			
Murder .. .. .	7	5	2*
Attempted Murder .. .. .	2	1	1
Manslaughter .. .. .	5	5	..
Wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm, etc. .. .. .	31	14	17†
Rape and other offences against females	76	20	56
Unnatural offences .. .. .	22	3	19
Other .. .. .	13	4	9
<b>Against Property—</b>			
Robbery and Stealing from the Person	38	12	26
Burglary, Housebreaking, etc. ..	292	47	245
Stealing Horses, Cattle, and Sheep ..	25	9	16
Other Larceny .. .. .	181	68	113
Fraud and False Pretences .. .. .	41	10	31
Receiving Stolen Property .. .. .	25	15	10
Other .. .. .	31	13	18
Forgery and offences against the Currency	25	3	22
<b>Other offences—</b>			
Perjury and Subornation .. .. .	11	6	5
Other .. .. .	10	6	4
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>594</b>

\* Including one convicted of "Manslaughter."

† Including one convicted of "Common Assault."

The following table contains for the year 1933 a classification according to offence and age of distinct persons arrested who were convicted after commitment for trial:—

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	7	14	22	16	14	23	4	101
Against Property ..	..	23	74	111	79	103	49	5	444
Forgery and Offences against the Currency ..	..	1	4	4	3	5	4	..	21
Other Offences ..	..	..	1	3	..	2	2	..	8
Total ..	1	31	93	140	98	124	78	9	574
<b>FEMALES.</b>									
Against the Person ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	3
Against Property ..	..	..	..	2	4	4	5	..	15
Forgery and Offences against the Currency ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Other Offences ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Total ..	..	..	..	4	4	5	7	..	20

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  
1929 TO 1933.**

Year.	Number of Persons—			Number per 1,000 of Population.	Number of Convictions.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.		
1929 ...	9,294	91	9,385	5.30	5,866
1930 ...	8,054	78	8,132	4.55	6,243
1931 ...	6,970	48	7,018	3.90	5,602
1932 ...	8,164	91	8,255	4.56	7,028
1933 ...	9,159	81	9,240	5.08	7,975

The continuity of the above statistics has not been materially affected by the alteration in the method of tabulation referred to on page 108.



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	1933 .. ..	35

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 reducing the number of hours during which alcoholic liquors could be sold in hotels, and a further reduction was made in the following year. This probably accounts for the marked decrease in the number of arrests for drunkenness since those years. The index numbers relating to the period 1917 to 1933 are the lowest on record.

The accompanying table shows for the last five years 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 :—

**ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1929 TO 1933.**

Year.	Number.	Number per 100,000 of the Population under 20 years of age.
1929 .. ..	143	21·06
1930 .. ..	136	19·86
1931 .. ..	100	14·50
1932 .. ..	100	14·43
1933 .. ..	120	17·20

### CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR.

**Consumption of Intoxicating liquor.** In the *Year-Book* for 1932-33, page 99, the estimated consumption of intoxicating liquor in Victoria is shown for a series of years to 1932-33. Owing to the unsatisfactory nature of the data available, an estimate of the consumption of spirits and wine during 1933-34 has not been prepared.

**Consumption of beer.** The estimated quantity of beer consumed in Victoria in each of the last five years was as follows:—

#### CONSUMPTION OF BEER IN VICTORIA 1929-30 TO 1933-34.

Year.	Quantity of Beer Consumed.	Per head of Population.
	gallons.	gallons.
1929-30 ..	19,438,400	10·93
1930-31 ..	15,727,800	8·77
1931-32 ..	14,184,200	7·86
1932-33 ..	14,063,700	7·75
1933-34 ..	15,969,300	8·75

### 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.** Particulars relating to the Local Option Poll held on 21st October, 1920, are given in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 211.

**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 should be abolished throughout Victoria. 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 number of votes recorded for the abolition of licences was 418,902, whilst 552,339 votes were recorded against the resolution.

**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 *Consolidated 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), and Good Friday. The *Anzac Day Act 1925* (now incorporated in the *Licensing Act 1928*) and the *Licensing (Good Friday) Act 1934* (assented to on the 9th October, 1934), provided for non-trading on those days.

### 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, 1934, 1,763 hotels had been closed by the Board or had surrendered their licences. The total sum paid in compensation was £1,155,261, or an average of £655 each. Five hundred and sixteen of these hotels were located in the Greater Melbourne district; the compensation paid in connexion with these totalled £555,742, making an average of £1,077 each. There were 1,247 hotels closed in country districts, whose owners and licensees received £599,519, or an average of £481 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', 3 grocers', and 68 Australian wine licences have been taken away, for which compensation to the amount of £12,515 has been awarded.

**Improvement and Extension of Licensed accommodation.** 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 £3,732,875.

The return given hereunder shows the number of hotels, including roadside licences, in Victoria in 1885, 1906 and for certain subsequent years, 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 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1934.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.*	Persons to each Hotel.
1885 ... ..	969,200	4,339	223
1906 ... ..	1,244,470	3,520	354
1929 ... ..	1,778,344	1,814	980
1930 ... ..	1,792,689	1,803	994
1931 ... ..	1,803,661	1,781	1,013
1932 ... ..	1,813,482	1,770	1,025
1933 ... ..	1,824,578	1,759	1,037
1934 (30th September) ... ..	1,834,500	1,757	1,044
Increase, 1885 to 30th September, 1934	865,300	...	821
Decrease, " " " "	...	2,582	...

\* Including Roadside Licences.

While the population has increased by 89 per cent. since 1885, the number of hotels has decreased by 59 per cent., and the number of persons to an hotel is now 368 per cent. more than it was in that year. During the period 1885 to 30th September, 1934, 227 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 1,763 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 1907 to 30th September, 1934, 72 new licences were granted.

The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1934, amounted to £205,500. The amounts received from the various sources were :—Licences, certificates, &c., £184,093; interest on investments, £10,982; fees and fines, £10,330; and miscellaneous, £95. The expenditure totalled £205,500, and consisted of the following items :—Annual payments to municipalities, £60,496; compensation, £10,000; transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 311 of Act No. 3717, £23,000; transferred to revenue under section 312 of Act No. 3717, as amended by section 6 of Act No. 4109, £96,564; and salaries, expenses, &c., £15,440. The amount at credit of the fund at 30th June, 1934, was £437,376, of which £341,000 was invested.

## GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

There are five gaols in Victoria, including the Pentridge Penal Establishment, and five reformatory prisons, also two police gaols which are used as receiving stations. The following statement contains information for the year 1933 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, 1933.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received.		In Confinement, at end of year.*	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge ..	906	59	864	64	4,491	646	818	55
Pentridge Reformatory Prison	74	9	73	1	206	..	87	..
Ballarat Gaol ..	66	18	47	..	358	2	53	..
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	78	..	64	..	35	..	65	..
Bendigo Gaol ..	116	28	22	..	234	5	16	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	97	..	82	..	135	..	93	..
Geelong Gaol ..	160	19	158	..	474	1	160	..
Geelong Reformatory Prison ..	21	..	15	..	8	..	13	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison ..	52	..	53	..	36	..	50	..
Sale Gaol ..	30	5	10	..	117	1	2	..
Police Gaols ..	23	6	5	..	137	1	2	..
Total ..	1,623	144	1,393	65	6,231	656	1,359	55

\* Including 62 males and 5 females awaiting trial.

Note.—As from 1st January, 1933, the Metropolitan Gaol and the Female Penitentiary, Coburg, were amalgamated with the Pentridge Penal Establishment under the title of His Majesty's Gaol, Pentridge.

The following table shows the number of prisoners under sentence in the gaols of Victoria at the end of each of the last ten years:—

## PRISONERS UNDER SENTENCE, 1924 TO 1933.

At 31st December.	Males.	Females.	Total.	At 31st December.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1924	712	37	749	1929	1,099	46	1,145
1925	853	41	894	1930	1,259	40	1,299
1926	875	40	915	1931	1,364	43	1,407
1927	856	27	883	1932	1,275	64	1,339
1928	896	38	934	1933	1,297	50	1,347

Daily average number of Prisoners in confinement.

A statement is given below of the daily 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 1933, 21 per cent. less than in 1901, 55 per cent. less than in 1891, 60 per cent. less than in 1881, and 70 per cent. less than in 1871.

## DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1933.

Year.	Daily 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
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
1933 ...	1,393	65	1,458	22·23	1·00	11·41

**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 1933 :—

**BIRTHPLACES AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY  
DETAINED, 1911 TO 1933.**

	Number Constantly Detained.			Number per 10,000 of Population.*		
	1911.	1921.	1933.	1911.	1921.	1933.
<b>Birthplace—</b>						
Australia and New Zealand	595	660	1,213	5·32	4·92	7·59
England and Wales ..	87	64	110	9·73	5·93	8·57
Scotland .. ..	26	18	52	9·78	7·10	17·27
Ireland .. ..	62	23	41	14·95	8·42	12·65
Others .. ..	43	30	42	15·31	11·59	13·65
<b>Age—</b>						
Under 20 years .. ..	54	85	132	1·01	1·45	1·89
20 to 30 years .. ..	205	287	433	8·67	10·93	13·86
30 to 40 years .. ..	211	190	374	11·66	8·35	13·82
40 to 50 years .. ..	193	126	287	11·64	7·20	13·78
50 to 60 years .. ..	96	68	154	9·60	4·50	8·54
60 years and over ..	54	39	78	5·58	3·07	5·16

\* 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, 1933 :—

Strength of  
police force in  
Victoria.

**POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31st DECEMBER, 1933.**

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner .. .. .	1	..	1
Superintendents .. .. .	4	8	12
Inspectors .. .. .	6	9	15
Sub-Inspectors .. .. .	21	3	24
Sergeants, First class .. .. .	41	8	49
"    Second class .. .. .	30	18	48
Senior Constables .. .. .	145	88	233
First Constables .. .. .	174	128	302
Constables .. .. .	977	232	1,209
Total .. .. .	1,399	494	1,893
<i>Detectives.</i>			
Sergeants, First class .. .. .	2	..	2
"    Second class .. .. .	2	..	2
Senior Detectives .. .. .	17	..	17
First Detectives .. .. .	25	..	25
Detectives .. .. .	28	..	28
Total .. .. .	74	..	74
<i>Mounted.</i>			
First Constables .. .. .	4	49	53
Constables .. .. .	20	100	120
Total .. .. .	24	149	173
Grand Total .. .. .	1,497	643	2,140

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, 1933.



The following statement gives the numerical strength of the police force in Victoria and the number of inhabitants to each police officer at the end of each of the last ten years:—

**STRENGTH OF POLICE FORCE IN VICTORIA, 1924 TO 1933.**

Year.	Total Strength including Police-women.	Number of Inhabitants to each Police-officer.	Year.	Total Strength including Police-women.	Number of Inhabitants to each Police-officer.
1924	1,810	916	1929	2,148	828
1925	1,875	898	1930	2,115	848
1926	1,963	873	1931	2,107	856
1927	1,977	881	1932	2,121	855
1928	2,112	834	1933	2,148	849

**Strength of police force in Australian States.**

The appended table shows for each Australian State the strength of the police force at the end of 1933:—

**STRENGTH OF POLICE FORCE IN AUSTRALIAN STATES, 1933.**

State.	Total Strength.	Number of Inhabitants to each Police Officer.
Victoria .. .. .	2,148	849
New South Wales .. .. .	3,600	726
Queensland .. .. .	1,280	742
South Australia* .. .. .	763	764
Western Australia .. .. .	579	761
Tasmania .. .. .	260	893

\* At 30th June, 1934.

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 each of the five years ended with 1933-34 :—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1929-30 TO 1933-34.

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.	
1930 ..	727,600	110,488	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
1934 ..	616,153	105,125	4,417	1,207	726,902	8 0

Executions.

During the twenty-nine years ended with 1933 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.

During 1933 there were 1,554 inquests or magisterial inquiries held in Victoria into the causes of deaths of 1,581 persons (1,125 males and 456 females), or 8.68 per 10,000 of the population. In 620 cases death was found to be due to disease or natural causes, in 716 cases to accident, in 24 to homicide, in 183 to suicide, in 27 to illegally induced abortion, in 7 to external causes which could not be ascertained, in 2 to intemperance, and in 2 to unspecified or doubtful causes.