

PART IV.

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 although the procedure was entirely remoulded by the *Judicature Act* 1883 (now incorporated in the *Supreme Court Act* 1928), its constitution and powers remain practically unaltered. There were, in 1947, eight Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and seven Puisne Judges.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the five years 1943 to 1947 :—

VICTORIA—SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1943 TO 1947.

Heading.	Year Ended 31st December,—				
	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
Number of places at which sittings were held	8	6	4	6	6
Causes entered—					
For assessment of damages	1	1	3	6	10
For trial	67	142	209	345	390
Number of causes tried—					
By juries of six	29	33	29	40	48
By a Judge	22	40	47	66	68
Verdicts returned for—					
Plaintiff	41	56	56	82	91
Defendant	10	17	20	24	25
Amount awarded	£ 9,764	13,746	26,776	50,315	79,496
Writs of summons issued	440	546	611	957	1,027
Other original proceedings	111	64	102	147	54
Appellate proceedings (other than Criminal Appeals heard and determined)—					
By Full Court	32	42	34	39	43
By a Judge	47	39	37	58	58
Fees collected	£ 2,555	2,583	3,308	4,755	6,706

County Courts. County Courts have jurisdiction, both in equity and common law cases, limited to £500; but actions of tort or contract commenced in the Supreme Court may, under certain conditions, be remitted to the County Court, even although the amount claimed may exceed £500. At the present time County Courts are held at Melbourne and at nineteen other places in Victoria. Every Court has jurisdiction throughout the whole of Victoria.

VICTORIA—COUNTY COURT CASES, 1943 TO 1947.

Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Causes Tried.	Amount Sued for.	Amount Awarded.
		£	£
1943	1,154	320,882	73,660
1944	976	261,361	55,648
1945	1,103	238,718	68,103
1946	1,447	325,073	81,790
1947	2,105	527,045	165,055

Writs by the Sheriff.

The table hereunder records the number of writs received by the Sheriff in the five years, 1943 to 1947.

VICTORIA—WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1943 TO 1947.

Year Ended 31st December.	King's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person.	Property.	
1943	1	..	44	45
1944 .. .. .	..	..	40	40
1945 .. .. .	..	1	52	53
1946	3	6	97	106
1947	2	5	75	82

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 Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth Act.

The number of sequestrations, &c., in Victoria during each of the five years ended 31st July, 1947, under the *Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act 1924-1947*, and the amount of liabilities and assets relating thereto were as follows:—

VICTORIA—BANKRUPTCIES, 1943 TO 1947.

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.				
1943	73	..	18	91
1944	54	..	7	61
1945	32	..	3	35
1946	25	..	7	32
1947	45	..	10	55
LIABILITIES.				
	£	£	£	£
1943	75,344	..	21,225	96,569
1944	49,591	..	41,455	91,046
1945	11,747	..	35,901	47,648
1946	77,308	..	38,820	116,128
1947	22,292	..	17,198	39,490
ASSETS.				
	£	£	£	£
1943	25,272	..	14,604	39,876
1944	11,616	..	16,988	28,604
1945	3,915	..	25,472	29,387
1946	20,498	..	10,290	30,788
1947	2,700	..	15,837	18,537

The yearly average number of sequestrations, &c., and the average declared liabilities and assets are shown in the subjoined table for each of the quinquennial periods ended in 1933, 1938 and 1943.

Period.	Yearly Average Number.	Average Declared Liabilities.	Average Declared Assets.
1928-29 to 1932-33	690	£ 1,419,060	£ 1,009,294
1933-34 to 1937-38	381	595,056	274,545
1938-39 to 1942-43	296	297,886	123,033

DIVORCE.

The present law in regard to divorce is contained in the *Marriage Act 1928*, as amended by the *Marriage (Divorce) Act 1933*.

The following table gives the number of petitions filed by husbands and wives respectively, and the number of decrees granted for dissolution of marriage, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage during the year 1947. Every decree of dissolution of marriage is in the first instance a decree *nisi* and is not made absolute till the expiration of not less than three months thereafter.

VICTORIA—DIVORCES, 1947.

	Petitions Filed by—			Decrees Granted to—		
	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.
Dissolution of marriage	910	1,023	1,933	1,119	1,147	2,266
Judicial separation .. ..	..	1	1	..	3	3
Nullity of marriage	11	14	25	9	16	25
Total	921	1,038	1,959	1,128	1,166	2,294

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1947 were as set out in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DIVORCES, GROUNDS OF, 1947.

Grounds on which Granted.	Dissolution of Marriage.		Judicial Separation.		Nullity of Marriage.	
	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.
Adultery	415	419	..	1	..	..
Bigamy .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	6
Bigamy and adultery .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Cruelty .. ..	..	4	..	2	..	..
Desertion	665	654	..	..	..	..
Desertion and drunkenness .. ..	..	4	..	..	..	..
Desertion and adultery	18	33	..	..	..	..
Desertion and convictions for crime .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness (habitual)	2	..	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness and cruelty .. ..	..	20	..	..	..	..
Impotence .. ..	..	..	..	..	8	10
Insanity	19	5	..	..	..	..
Sentences for crime .. ..	..	6	..	..	..	..
Total	1,119	1,147	..	3	9	16

Divorce.

The following table shows the number of petitioners to whom decrees were granted in 1947, the ages of such petitioners and the number of their issue as at date of decree:—

VICTORIA—DIVORCE PETITIONS GRANTED, AGES OF PETITIONERS AND ISSUE TO EXISTING MARRIAGE, 1947.

Ages (Years).	Dissolution of Marriage.		Judicial Separation.		Nullity of Marriage.		Number of Children.*	
	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.
20 ..	1	7	..	..	..	..	1	5
21 ..	2	10	..	..	..	..	1	7
22-25 ..	53	121	..	..	3	4	24	87
26-29 ..	199	203	..	..	..	1	99	176
30-34 ..	300	270	..	..	3	5	229	307
35-39 ..	227	238	..	..	..	1	223	302
40-44 ..	158	137	..	2	1	3	202	196
45-49 ..	78	81	..	..	2	1	100	145
50-54 ..	50	49	..	1	..	1	95	97
55-59 ..	30	16	..	..	..	..	45	31
60 ..	4	1	..	..	..	..	14	3
61 ..	1	3	..	..	..	..	2	3
62 ..	3	3	..	..	..	..	7	9
63 ..	3	2	..	..	..	..	1	9
64 ..	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	2
65 ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	9	..
66 ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
67 ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
70 ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
75 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Not stated ..	1	3	..	..	..	..	2	4
Total ..	1,119	1,147	..	3	9	16	1,055	1,387

* Of the total of 2,442, 2,433 relate to the decrees for dissolution of marriage, 5 to the decree for judicial separation, and 4 to the decree of nullity of marriage.

Dissolutions of Marriage—Duration and issue. In the following table particulars are given of the duration of marriage and the issue in respect of the petitions granted for dissolution of marriage during 1947:—

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, PETITIONS GRANTED; DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1947.

Duration of Marriage in Years.	Number of Children.												Total Dissolutions of Marriage.	Total Children.
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12		
1 year	15	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	4
2 "	26	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	9
3 "	64	21	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86	23
4 "	127	42	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	175	55
5 "	120	57	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	182	67
6 "	107	60	19	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	189	107
7 "	86	66	18	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	173	112
8 "	58	49	26	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	138	116
9 "	47	54	23	6	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	133	131
10 "	48	50	26	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	131	126
11 "	35	42	28	6	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114	123
12 "	27	34	29	8	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	101	130
13 "	32	24	18	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84	91
14 "	18	26	16	12	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	79	124
15 "	17	14	20	9	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	65	106
16 "	11	15	13	11	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	52	85
17 "	11	18	21	9	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	64	109
18 "	14	12	19	4	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	53	81
19 "	16	16	11	15	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	63	105
20 "	10	6	16	7	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	43	81
21 "	6	10	10	3	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	57
22 "	4	9	9	5	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	33	69
23 "	5	5	7	6	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	64
24 "	5	9	6	4	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	27	48
25 "	10	4	9	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	42
26 "	4	10	8	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	33	69
27 "	2	4	4	5	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	18	45
28 "	1	3	5	3	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	16	43
29 "	3	3	3	1	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	15	43
30 "	..	1	2	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	25
31 "	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	7
32 "	..	2	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	18
33 "	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	7
34 "	..	1	2	1	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	8	22
35 "	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	4	18
36 "	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	10
37 "	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	5	16
38 "	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
39 "	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4
40 "	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
41 "	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5
42 "	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
44 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	15
46 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	8
Total Dissolutions of marriage	981	686	392	160	50	27	6	6	5	2	..	1	2,266	..
Total children	..	686	784	480	200	135	36	42	40	18	..	12	..	2,433

Dissolution
of Marriage—
Ages of
Parties.

The following table shows the ages of the parties concerned in the decrees for dissolution of marriage, petitions for which had been granted during 1947:—

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, PETITIONS,
GRANTED—AGES OF PARTIES, 1947.

Ages of Husbands in Years.	Ages of Wives in Years.											Total Husbands.
	Under 21.	21-25.	26-29.	30-34.	35-39.	40-44.	45-49.	50-54.	55-59.	60 and Over.	Not Stated.	
Under 21 ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
21-25 ..	10	87	24	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	123
26-29 ..	3	162	147	38	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	357
30-34 ..	..	60	207	247	54	4	1	..	..	..	1	574
35-39 ..	..	17	53	183	164	25	5	..	..	1	..	448
40-44 ..	..	1	15	61	138	110	10	1	..	..	..	336
45-49 ..	..	..	3	21	32	63	72	6	2	..	..	199
50-54 ..	..	..	1	1	8	23	41	24	2	4	1	105
55-59 ..	..	..	..	..	7	4	17	22	17	4	..	71
60 and over ..	..	..	..	1	1	1	4	11	11	13	..	42
Not stated ..	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	4	9
Total Wives..	14	329	451	553	411	232	151	64	32	23	6	2,266

In 1861 jurisdiction was conferred on the Supreme Court of Victoria in matrimonial matters. The *Divorce Act* 1889, which received the Royal Assent on 13th May, 1890, considerably extended the grounds upon which divorce might be granted.

The following is a statement of the number of decrees granted in Victoria for dissolution of marriage and for judicial separation during the period 1861 to 1890, for the decennial periods 1891-1900 to 1931-40, and for each of the years 1941 to 1947.

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS, 1861 TO 1947.

Years Ended 31st December.	Decrees Granted for—	
	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.
1861-1890	348	71
1891-1900	949	14
1901-1910	1,255	6
1911-1920	2,499	14
1921-1930	4,403	16
1931-1940	6,495	16
1941	833	5
1942	953	2
1943	1,375	1
1944	1,670	2
1945	1,727	..
1946	1,619	3
1947	2,266	3
Total—1891 to 1947	26,044	82
Total—1861 to 1947	26,392	153

RACECOURSE LICENCES.

Racecourse licences and percentage fees.

The *Police Offences Act 1928* provides that no race meeting shall be held except on a racecourse which is licensed under such 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 racecourse by the owner or trustees of the race-

course during the year immediately preceding the year for which the licence is required. It is 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 amount shall be payable. 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:—

VICTORIA—REVENUE FROM RACECOURSE LICENCES AND PERCENTAGE FEES, 1937–38 TO 1946–47.

Year Ended 30th June.			Amount.	Year Ended 30th June.			Amount.
			£				£
1938	..	..	16,627	1943	..	..	13,525
1939	..	..	17,191	1944	..	..	11,688
1940	..	..	16,710	1945	..	..	14,049
1941	..	..	15,420	1946	..	..	18,429
1942	..	..	15,095	1947	..	..	21,727

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.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS.

Jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of Children's Courts is limited to children under the age of seventeen years. In 1939, the Children's Court Office was re-organized and the appointment was made of a Stipendiary Special Magistrate with jurisdiction throughout the State. He has the assistance of two Stipendiary Probation Officers who investigate problem cases which come before the Court. A clinic has been established for the purpose of dealing with cases referred to it by the court.

The table which follows shows the number of cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts during the year 1947.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF,
1947.

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Disposed of—				Committed for Trial.	
		Convicted.		Dismissed Withdrawn, Struck Out.		M.	F.
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
Against the person—							
Assaults	27	22	..	4	..	1	..
Others	59	49	1	9	..	..	..
Total	86	71	1	13	..	1	..
Against property—							
Larceny, &c.	1,829	1,500	111	212	5	1	..
Wilful damage	78	61	1	15	1	..	..
Others	77	57	3	16	1	..	..
Total	1,984	1,618	115	243	7	1	..
Against Good Order—							
Drunkenness	10	7	1	2	..	..	..
Others	78	68	..	6	4	..	..
Total	88	75	1	8	4	..	..
Other Offences, &c.—							
Traffic offences	448	368	33	41	6	..	..
Other offences	163	125	11	26	1	..	..
Neglected children ..	258	96	84	50	28	..	..
Total	869	589	128	117	35	..	..
Grand Total	3,027	2,353	245	381	46	2	..

The number of cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts in each of the five years, 1943 to 1947, is given in the following statement:—

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF 1943 TO 1947.

Nature of Offence.	Year Ended 31st December,—				
	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
Against the person—					
Assaults	111	84	66	56	27
Others	4	1	10	15	59
Against Property—					
Larceny, &c. .. .	3,426	2,757	2,462	2,143	1,829
Wilful damage .. .	157	207	212	116	78
Others	152	135	129	78	77
Against Good Order—					
Drunkenness .. .	22	8	13	9	10
Others	183	226	267	149	78
Traffic offences .. .	722	696	780	544	448
Other offences .. .	560	531	195	154	163
Neglected children .. .	701	326	428	337	258
Total	6,038	4,971	4,562	3,601	3,027
Summarily convicted .. .	5,156	4,422	3,831	3,007	2,598
Summarily dismissed, &c. .. .	878	547	726	589	427
Committed for trial .. .	4	2	5	5	2

Children's Courts—cases, how dealt with. The following statement gives particulars of the manner of by magistrates in 1947:—

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES, HOW DEALT WITH, 1947.

How Dealt With.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Adjourned for period without probation ..	689	69	758
Released on probation	595	48	643
Committed to care of Children's Welfare Department	207	64	271
Committed to reformatory	27	3	30
Fined	504	40	544
Released under Section 356 of <i>Crimes Act 1928</i>	3	..	3
Dismissed on payment of costs or damages or both	3	1	4
Discharged upon surety	14	2	16
Sentenced to term of imprisonment	5	..	5
Sentenced to imprisonment, the execution of which has been suspended	26	2	28
Convicted and discharged	178	11	189
Discharged with a caution	62	3	65
Otherwise dealt with	40	2	42
Summarily convicted	2,353	245	2,598
Summarily dismissed, &c.	381	46	427
Committed for trial	2	..	2
Grand Total	2,736	291	3,027

**Children's
Courts—
probation
cases.**

In the following table particulars are given of the cases in which children were released on probation by magistrates in Children's Courts during the five years 1943 to 1947.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: PROBATION CASES, 1943 TO 1947.

Year Ended 31st December.	Cases Released on Probation.	Results of Probation.		
		Satisfactory.	Fair.	Unsatisfactory.
		%	%	%
1943	1,122	79	7	14
1944	1,007	78	9	13
1945	731	76	8	16
1946	663	73	8	19
1947	643	78	6	16

VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Petty Sessions civil business. In 1947, Courts of petty Sessions by stipendiary magistrates and honorary justices were held at 224 places in Victoria. Clerks of courts of ten years' standing, who have passed the prescribed examination, and barristers of five years' standing are eligible for appointment as stipendiary 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 civil cases, &c., heard during the five years, 1943 to 1947, are as follows :—

VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, ETC., 1943 TO 1947

Heading.	Year Ended 31st December—				
	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
Civil cases—					
Number heard	36,667	30,064	31,191	31,686	34,624
Debts or damages—					
Claimed £	333,543	270,378	304,896	342,484	375,640
Awarded £	228,572	186,305	210,210	244,146	261,860
Other cases—					
Appeals against rates	812	233	1,128	534	217
Ejectment cases	1,784	1,501	1,819	3,681	3,526
Examination of lunatics	131	118	113	110	113
Fraud summonses	2,294	1,960	2,147	1,980	2,278
Garnishee cases	1,644	1,222	1,129	876	883
Licences and certificates	10,221	12,124	13,035	17,582	15,191
Maintenance cases	1,347	1,057	1,033	1,560	1,364
Show cause summonses	1,727	1,523	1,181	1,367	1,487
Fair rent applications	9,056	8,027	5,975	3,836	494
Other				3,402	4,911

**VICTORIA—ARREST CASES SUMMARILY DISPOSED OF
IN COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS, 1947.**

How Disposed of.	Year Ended 31st December, 1947.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	10,143	780	10,923
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	3,403	542	3,945
1 month and under 6 months	1,181	110	1,291
6 months and under 12 months	248	10	258
1 year and under 2 years	36	..	36
Admonished	4,603	459	5,062
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	439	85	524
Sent to reformatory schools	23	..	23
Committed to Children's Welfare Department	96	14	110
Otherwise dealt with	162	19	181
Total convicted	20,334	2,019	22,353
Dismissed, withdrawn, struck out	936	181	1,117
Total summarily disposed of	21,270	2,200	23,470

**VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS AND
CHILDREN'S COURTS.**

In the following statistical tables details are given of the total number of cases dealt with in Courts of Petty Sessions and Children's Courts. If it be desired to compare the figures in these tables with those relating to other States or countries it is necessary that consideration be given to several points. The first 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 points 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.

**VICTORIA—ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS
OFFENCES, 1947.**

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Disposed of—				Committed for Trial.	
		Convicted.		Dismissed, Withdrawn, Struck Out.		M.	F.
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
Against the person—							
Murder* ..	11	..	..	10	1	..	..
Intent to murder ..	8	..	..	3	1	4	..
Manslaughter* ..	3	..	..	3	..	..	..
Shooting at, wounding, &c. ..	72	7	..	8	1	54	2
Assaults ..	1,516	761	70	535	102	48	..
Others ..	346	103	3	39	6	184	11
Total ..	1,956	871	73	598	111	290	13
Against property—							
Robbery, Shop-breaking, house-breaking &c. ..	755	102	2	39	1	597	14
Larceny and similar offences ..	4,054	2,713	326	470	60	433	52
Wilful damage ..	258	167	16	57	11	7	..
Others ..	1,077	725	20	117	15	186	14
Total ..	6,144	3,707	364	683	87	1,223	80
Forgery and offences against the currency	74	7	6	..	1	54	6
Against good order—							
Drunkenness† ..	14,952	13,520	1,330	87	15	..	..
Others ..	7,030	5,626	574	656	158	16	..
Total ..	21,982	19,146	1,904	743	173	16	..
Other offences—							
Breaches of—							
Education Act ..	11,599	10,692	256	629	22	..	..
Licensing Act ..	1,709	1,063	327	235	84	..	..
Motor Car Act ..	3,122	2,479	194	388	61	..	..
Traffic Regulations	7,876	7,062	451	328	35	..	..
Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act ..	252	189	12	45	6	..	..
Miscellaneous ..	19,276	15,640	1,643	1,721	171	98	3
Total ..	43,834	37,125	2,883	3,346	379	98	3
Grand Total..	73,990	60,856	5,230	5,370	751	1,681	102

* See page 168—Inquests—on proceedings relating to persons charged with these offences.

† See footnote on page 164.

Arrest and
summons
cases.

Particulars of the arrest and summons cases for the five years, 1943 to 1947, are given in the subjoined table.

VICTORIA—ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES, 1943 TO 1947.

Year Ended 31st December.	Arrest Cases.		Summons Cases.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
1943	22,505	2,652	38,115	7,821	71,093
1944	21,575	2,521	35,685	5,108	64,889
1945	18,545	1,897	35,884	4,418	60,744
1946	20,117	1,904	38,407	4,055	64,483
1947	22,784	2,300	45,123	3,783	73,990

The following table shows, for each of the five years specified, the number of offences for which persons were arrested or summoned, summarily convicted, dismissed, or committed for trial.

VICTORIA—DISPOSAL OF ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES, 1943 TO 1947.

Year Ended 31st December.	Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Dismissed, Struck Out, or Withdrawn.	Committed for Trial.
1943	71,093	62,361	7,088	1,644
1944	64,889	56,939	6,333	1,617
1945	60,744	53,101	6,048	1,595
1946	64,483	56,623	6,327	1,533
1947	73,990	66,086	6,121	1,783
Number per 10,000 of Population.				
1943	359·5	315·4	35·8	8·3
1944	325·4	285·5	31·8	8·1
1945	301·9	263·9	30·1	7·9
1946	317·5	278·8	31·1	7·5
1947	362·7	323·9	30·0	8·7

NOTE.—The convictions in respect of drunkenness include those cases in which offenders were discharged by magistrates on a first appearance. Prior to 1936 such cases were not treated as convictions.

CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS.

**Alteration in
method of
tabulation.**

The statistics of crime and drunkenness for the years subsequent to 1932 were compiled on a basis which differed from that for the years 1893 to 1932. The particulars for the years 1933 to 1947 represent, in respect of multiple charges, the total number of all offences with which arrested persons were charged whereas, for the period 1893 to 1932, only the most serious offence in each case was tabulated: Summons cases in 1933 to 1947 relate, as in previous years, to all offences with which a person was charged. The statistics for the past fifteen years are comparable, therefore, with those for the years prior to 1893, appearing in earlier issues of the *Year Book*.

**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, house and shop-breaking, 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. These were very few in number, there having been in Victoria in 1947 only 83 of such charges out of a total of 50,938 in the category to which they belong. A large proportion of the cases under the heading "Other Offences" were 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 were also among them a large number of offences against good order, including insulting behaviour, vagrancy, &c.

**Offences and
drunkenness.**

The following table shows, for a series of years, the numbers of arrest and summons cases, and also the numbers per 1,000 of the population, tabulated according to the only classes of offences for which complete comparisons can be made. The particulars include cases (other than those of neglected children) disposed of in Children's Courts.

VICTORIA—OFFENCES AND DRUNKENNESS, 1890 TO 1947.

Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Arrest and Summons Cases—				
	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
1930*	1,680	5,078	8,132	41,859	56,749
1940	1,346	7,698	11,619	65,624	86,287
1941	1,380	7,329	12,064	56,230	77,003
1942	1,632	8,210	12,887	51,769	74,498
1943	1,618	8,268	12,561	48,646	71,093
1944	1,660	7,874	12,518	42,837	64,889
1945	1,711	6,535	10,534	41,964	60,744
1946	1,920	6,591	11,720	44,252	64,483
1947	1,956	6,144	14,952	50,938	73,990
	Number of Arrest and Summons Cases per 1,000 of 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
1930*	0.94	2.84	4.55	23.44	31.77
1940	0.71	4.04	6.10	34.47	45.32
1941	0.71	3.79	6.23	29.04	39.77
1942	0.83	4.18	6.57	26.37	37.95
1943	0.82	4.18	6.35	24.60	35.95
1944	0.83	3.95	6.28	21.48	32.54
1945	0.85	3.25	5.23	20.86	30.19
1946	0.95	3.25	5.77	21.79	31.75
1947	0.96	3.01	7.33	24.97	36.27

* See paragraph "Alteration in method of tabulation" on page 164.

Drunkenness. The number of persons and the number per 1,000 of the population arrested or summoned for drunkenness during the five years 1943 to 1947 are given hereunder :—

VICTORIA—PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS, 1943 TO 1947.

Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Persons—			Number per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1943	12,527	34	12,561	6.35
1944	12,449	69	12,518	6.28
1945	10,506	28	10,534	5.23
1946	11,704	16	11,720	5.77
1947	14,921	31	14,952	7.33

Drunkenness — Comparison with previous years. If the amount of drunkenness in proportion to population, as measured by the number of charges therefor, be represented as 100 for the period 1874–78, the corresponding numbers for subsequent periods will show the comparative increase or decrease. These numbers are given in the following table :—

VICTORIA—DRUNKENNESS, 1874 TO 1947.

Years Ended 31st December.	Index Number.	Years Ended 31st December.	Index Number.
1874–78	100	1923–27	41
1879–85	88	1928–32	30
1886–92	106	1933–37	36
1893–97	65	1938–42	42
1898–1902	84	1943	44
1903–07	77	1944	43
1908–12	68	1945	36
1913–17	59	1946	37
1918–22	32	1947	50

A considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown for the five years 1893-97, which was a period of general depression, followed by an increase in the subsequent five-yearly period. A similar trend is shown for the depression years 1928-32 and subsequent years. 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 possibly accounts for the marked decrease in the number of arrests for drunkenness in the period immediately following.

The accompanying table shows for the five years 1943 to 1947 the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness.

VICTORIA—ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1943 TO 1947.

Year Ended 31st December.	Numbers.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
1943	150	20	170
1944	169	23	192
1945	155	25	180
1946	210	17	227
1947	267	19	286

INQUESTS.

A Coroner has jurisdiction to hold an inquest concerning the manner of death of any person who is slain or drowned, or who dies suddenly, or in prison, or while detained in any hospital for the insane, or whose body is lying dead within the district in which such coroner has jurisdiction.

His duties in relation thereto are regulated by the *Coroners Act 1928*, and there are special provisions relating to inquests in other Acts, such as the *Mines Act*, *Children's Welfare Act*, and *Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act*. Coroners and deputy-coroners are appointed by the Governor-in-Council, every Stipendiary Magistrate being appointed a coroner for the State of Victoria. Deputy-coroners have jurisdiction in the districts for which they have been appointed. In addition, a justice of the peace has jurisdiction, within his bailiwick, to hold an inquest, but only if requested to do so by a police officer in charge of a station, or by a coroner.

In the majority of cases the coroner acts alone in holding an inquest, but in certain cases a jury is empanelled. This is done (a) when the coroner considers it desirable; (b) when in any specified case a law officer so directs; and (c) when it is expressly provided in any Act, (as is the case under the *Mines Act*) that an inquest shall be taken with jurors. It is an essential preliminary in all cases that the coroner and the jury, if any, shall view the body, otherwise the inquest is void.

When a person is arrested and charged before a Justice or Court with murder or manslaughter, those proceedings are adjourned from time to time pending the holding of the inquest. If the inquest results in a finding against that person of murder or manslaughter, the coroner issues his warrant committing him for trial, the other proceedings being then withdrawn.

The following shows the number of inquest cases in Victoria during the years 1946 and 1947 and the number of persons subsequently committed for trial.

Year Ended 31st December.	Inquests into Deaths of—			Persons Committed for Trial.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1946	1,184	558	1,742	20	2	22
1947	1,226	586	1,812	16	..	16

The charges on which persons were committed for trial by Coroners were :—

Year.	Murder.			Manslaughter.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1946.. ..	7	1	8	13	1	14
1947.. ..	8	..	8	8	..	8

HIGHER COURTS.

The following table shows the offences of distinct persons who were convicted in the Supreme Court and in Courts of General Sessions in Victoria during 1947 after committal from Children's Courts, Courts of Petty Sessions and Coroner's Inquests. Where a person was charged with more than one offence the principal offence only has been counted :—

**Committals
for trial—
convictions.**

HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

Offence.	Males (Ages in Years).													
	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 59.	60 to 69.
MALES.														
Against the Person—														
Murder								1						
Manslaughter								2						
Wounding, &c., or inflict grievous bodily harm					1	2	4	2	3		1	1	1	
Unlawfully wounding							2				2	2	1	
Assault						1	3	2			2		2	
Against Females—														
Rape					1					1				
Rape, assault with intent to			2		1		1	1						
Carnal knowledge			1	1	4	2	6	4				1		3
Carnal knowledge, attempt				1	1				1					
Incest and attempted														1
Indecent assault			3	3	2	2	3	4	6	3	3	1	1	2
Unnatural offence				3	2		4	1			3	2	1	4
Unnatural offence, attempted								1	1				1	
Indecent assault on male				2		1	4	3				2	2	
Bigamy		1					1	4	2	7	3	4	2	
Suicide, attempted										1				
Unlawful use Instrument to Procure Miscarriage														1
Total against the Person	1	6	10	12	8	28	25	13	12	14	13	11	11
Against Property—														
Robbery and attempted robbery				1	1		1	1						
Robbery under Arms						1	1							
Robbery with violence			2		1		3		1	2				
Robbery in company			1		1	1	4		2					
Robbery, assault with intent		1		1						1				
Burglary			1	1					1		1			
Housebreaking			19	23	19	13	24	20	10	4	4	1	2	1
Shop, office, store, factory, &c., breaking					14	16	14	11	34	27	18	6	4	3
Cattle stealing			1		2	2	1		1					

For reference see footnote, page 174.

CONVICTED 1947 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED).

70 and Over.		How Dealt with.														Death Sentence.	Sentence Suspended on Entering a Bond.	Sent to Reformatory Prison.		
		Imprisoned for—																		
		Fined.	Months.								Years.								Life.	
			Under 1 Month.	1 Month and Under 3 Months.	3 Months to 6 Months Inclusive.	9.	12.	15.	18.	2.	2½.	3.	4.	4½.	5.					7.
Total.																				
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(a)1	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	15	..	..	..	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..
..	7	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	10	2	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	(b)1	..	..
..	5	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	(c)1	..	..	..	2	..
..	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	18	..
..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	33	..	..	1	4	..	..	3	..	2	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	20	..
..	20	..	..	..	5	(c)1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(d)1	11	..
..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	14	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..
..	24	..	..	..	3	1	..	2	..	4	3	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	7	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	164	2	1	1	27	4	13	..	12	8	1	6	1	..	3	1	2	2	79	1
..	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	9	..	..	..	..	..	(c)4	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	1	..	(c)1	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
..	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
..	140	..	..	3	(e)18	1	(c)29	..	4	(c)8	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	58	15
..	149	..	..	..	(c)26	(c)4	12	..	10	13	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	70	13
..	7	..	..	..	(c)1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..

For reference see footnote, page 174.

For reference see footnote, page 174.

HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

Offence.	Females (Ages in Years).													
	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 59.	60 to 69.
FEMALES.														
Against the Person—														
Bigamy	1	1	1	2	1	..	1	..	..
Unlawfully use Instrument to Procure Miscarriage	1
Total	1	1	1	2	1	..	1	..	1
Against Property—														
Housebreaking and stealing	1	1	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shopbreaking and stealing	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larceny in dwelling	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larceny as a clerk or servant	1	..	..	..	..
Larceny as a bailee	1	..
Larceny, all other	1	..	2	..	1	2	1	..	1	..
Receiving	2	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fraudulent omission	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Unlawful pawning	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	4	2	6	..	6	2	2	3	1	..	2	..
Forgery and uttering	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other offences—														
Breach of Registration Birth, Death, Marriage Act	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total—Females	5	2	9	1	7	3	4	4	1	1	2	1
Total—Males	2	57	72	75	46	141	133	89	54	39	32	26	19
Females

(a) Without the benefit of regulations relating to remission of sentences.
 (b) Commuted to 6 years imprisonment cumulative with sentence of 4 years already serving.
 (c) Including one to be detained in Reformatory Prison after expiration of sentence.
 (d) Commuted to 2 years imprisonment and then to be detained in Reformatory Prison during Governor's pleasure.

CONVICTED 1947 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED)—continued.

		How Dealt with.																		
		Imprisoned for—																		
		Months.												Years.						
70 and Over.	Total.	Fined.	Under 1 Month.	1 Month and Under 3 Months.	3 Months to 6 Months Inclusive.	9.	12.	15.	18.	2.	2½.	3.	4.	4½.	5.	7.	Life.	Death Sentence.	Sentence Suspended on Entering a Bond.	Sent to Reformatory Prison.
..	38	..	..	3	12	..	(c) 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	3
..	6	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	93	..	1	3	22	3	10	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48	..
..	6	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
..	25	..	..	..	(f) 11	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..
..	33	..	..	1	5	3	8	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	..
..	5	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	538	..	1	10	100	14	74	3	20	31	5	5	..	3	..	..	..	..	239	33
..	25	..	..	1	(f) 8	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	6	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
..	3	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	2	..	..	..	(g) 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	2	(h) 1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	17	1	..	1	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..
..	745	3	2	13	143	19	92	3	32	39	6	11	1	3	3	1	2	2	336	34

For reference see footnote, page 174.

HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

Offence.	Females (Ages in Years).													
	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 59.	60 to 69.
FEMALES.														
Against the Person—														
Bigamy	1	1	1	2	1	..	1	..	..
Unlawfully use Instrument to Procure Miscarriage	1
Total	1	1	1	2	1	..	1	..	1
Against Property—														
Housebreaking and stealing	1	1	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shopbreaking and stealing	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larceny in dwelling	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larceny as a clerk or servant	1	..	..	..	..
Larceny as a bailee	1
Larceny, all other	1	..	2	..	1	2	1	..	..	1
Receiving	2	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fraudulent omission	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Unlawful pawning	1	..	..	..	..	..
Total	4	2	6	..	6	2	2	3	1	..	2	..
Forgery and uttering	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other offences—														
Breach of Registration Birth, Death, Marriage Act	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total—Females	5	2	9	1	7	3	4	4	1	1	2	1
Total—Males	2	57	72	75	46	141	133	89	54	39	32	26	19
Females

(a) Without the benefit of regulations relating to remission of sentences.

(b) Commuted to 6 years imprisonment cumulative with sentence of 4 years already serving.

(c) Including one to be detained in Reformatory Prison after expiration of sentence.

(d) Commuted to 2 years imprisonment and then to be detained in Reformatory Prison during Governor's pleasure.

CONVICTED 1947 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED)—continued.

70 and Over. Total.		How Dealt with.														Life.	Death Sentence.	Sentence Suspended on Entering a Bond.	Sent to Reformatory Prison.	
		Imprisoned for—																		
		Months.							Years.											
		Under 1 Month.	1 Month and Under 3 Months.	3 Months to 6 Months Inclusive.	9.	12.	15.	18.	2.	2½.	3.	4.	4½.	5.	7.					
..	7	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	8	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	6	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	8	..	1	..	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4
..	6	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	40	..	2	..	8	4	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	1
..	785	3	4	13	151	23	93	3	32	39	6	12	1	3	3	1	2	2	359	35

(e) Including three to be detained in Reformatory Prison during the Governor's pleasure and one to be released on good behaviour bond after expiration of sentences.

(f) Including two to be detained in Reformatory Prison during Governor's pleasure after expiration of sentences.

(g) In addition fined £20.

(h) In addition good behaviour bond entered into.

REGULATION OF LIQUOR TRADE.

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.

To 31st December, 1947, 1,862 hotels had been closed by the Board or had surrendered their licences. Of these hotels 530 were located in metropolitan districts, and the compensation paid amounted to £581,662, or an average of £1,097 each. There were 1,332 hotels closed in country districts, and compensation amounting to £720,679 was paid, or an average of £541 each. The total sum paid in compensation in all districts of the State was £1,302,341, or an average of £691 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, 11 grocers' and 100 Australian wine licences have been taken away, for which compensation to the amount of £20,371 has been awarded.

Improvement and Extension of Licensed accommoda- tion.

A section of the Board's work which has grown rapidly in extent and importance since 1922 is the consideration given to enforcing 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 thereof being £6,296,730 exclusive of the cost of sewerage and new equipment. National Security Regulations and the Victorian *Building Operations and Building Materials Control Act* 1946 have restricted since 1940 all building operations in regard to hotels. During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1947, plans to the value of £216,115 were approved subject to permits being obtained from the Building Directorate.

Licensing Fund.

The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1947, amounted to £503,026. The amounts received from the various sources were :—Licences, certificates, &c., £480,957; interest on investments, £10,982; fees and fines, £7,979; and miscellaneous, £3,108. The expenditure, which totalled £503,026 consisted of the following items :—Annual payments to municipalities, £58,984; compensation, £465; 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 Act No. 4909, £397,648; and salaries, expenses, &c., £22,929. The amount at credit of the fund at 30th June, 1947, was £410,976, of which £341,000 was invested.

The following return shows the number of hotels, including roadside licences, in Victoria in 1885, 1906, and certain subsequent years, and the average 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.

VICTORIA—NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885 TO 1947.

Year Ended 31st December.	Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.*	Average Number of Persons to Each Hotel.
1885	969,200	4,339	223
1906	1,219,832	3,520	347
1930	1,792,605	1,803	994
1935	1,843,023	1,744	1,057
1940	1,914,813	1,691	1,312
1941	1,946,310	1,683	1,156
1942	1,962,658	1,671	1,175
1943	1,981,889	1,670	1,187
1944	1,998,320	1,666	1,199
1945	2,015,583	1,665	1,211
1946	2,040,281	1,665	1,225
1947	2,061,689	1,666	1,237

* Including Roadside Licences.

During the period 1885 to 31st December, 1947, 227 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 1,861 were deprived of or surrendered their licences, and 60 hotel licences lapsed. During the period 1907 to 31st December, 1947, 80 new licences were granted.

The trading hours of hotels in Victoria are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., but trading is not permitted on Sundays, Anzac Day (25th April), and Good Friday. The various legislative enactments, which from time to time have curtailed such trading hours, are given in the *Year-Book* for 1935-36, page 110.

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.

Hours for Sale of Intoxicants.

Local Option Acts of 1920 and 1922.

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.

Hotels closed by Local Option. During the period 1885 to 1938, compensation paid to the 227 hotels closed as the result of local option polls amounted to £224,870, or an average of £990 for each hotel. This sum was provided out of the Licensing Fund, and, when this was insufficient for the purpose, out of Consolidated Revenue.

Licensing Polls. 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 Act provided that the resolution should be carried if three-fifths at least in number of the votes given was in favour of the resolution. 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). A similar poll was held on the 8th October, 1938. Particulars relating to the number of votes recorded at each of these polls appears in the *Year-Book* for 1939-40, page 71. Licensing polls were abolished by Section 3 of the *Licensing Act* 1946, No. 5197.

Consumption of beer. The estimated quantity of beer consumed in Victoria in each of the five years 1943 to 1947 was as follows:—

CONSUMPTION OF BEER IN VICTORIA, 1943 TO 1947

Year Ended 30th June.	Estimated Quantity of Beer Consumed.	Per Head of Population.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
1943	25,113,950	12·75
1944	25,549,300	12·86
1945	24,866,100	12·41
1946	26,921,500	13·32
1947	31,506,800	15·45

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

Gaols and prisoners. In Victoria there are 5 gaols and 4 reformatory prisons as set out hereunder. The following statement contains information (other than for police gaols) for the year 1947 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.

VICTORIA—GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1947.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For Whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received (Including Transfers).		In Confinement at End of Year. *	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge	928	89	715	39	4,889	671	667	42
Pentridge Reformatory Prison	64	3	34	1	135	3	34	2
Ballarat Gaol	66	18	35	..	216	..	22	..
Beechworth Reformatory Prison	78	..	37	..	43	..	31	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison	91	..	47	..	65	..	47	..
Coorimungle Prison Camp	32	..	30	..	47	..	26	..
Geelong	172	..	47	..	264	..	59	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison	52	..	31	..	35	..	36	..
Sale Gaol	26	9	6	..	72	..	6	..
Total	1,509	119	982	40	5,766	674	928	44

* Including 52 males and 5 females awaiting trial.

Prisoners received and discharged. The number of prisoners received at and discharged from the gaols and reformatory prisons (excluding police gaols) in Victoria is given in the following table for the year 1947 :—

VICTORIA—PRISONERS RECEIVED AT AND DISCHARGED FROM GAOLS AND REFORMATORY PRISONS, 1947.

(Exclusive of Police Gaols.)

Classification.	1947.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number in confinement at beginning of year—			
Convicted	927	25	952
Awaiting trial	51	4	55
Total	978	29	1,007
Received during year—			
Convicted of—			
Felony	895	44	939
Misdemeanour	2,676	471	3,147
Other offences	363	7	370
Transfers from—			
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons	396	2	398
Hospitals, Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c. ..	31	7	38
For Trial, not subsequently convicted	1,405	143	1,548
Total	5,766	674	6,440

VICTORIA—PRISONERS RECEIVED AT AND DISCHARGED FROM GAOLS
AND REFORMATORY PRISONS, 1947—*continued.*

(*Exclusive of Police Gaols.*)

Classification.	1947.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Discharged during year—			
By remission of sentence	475	14	489
On expiration of sentence and payment of fines ..	3,232	476	3,708
Bailed to appeal	42	7	49
On bond from Court, Judge's Order, Attorney- General's Order, &c.	19	3	22
By special authority	24	2	26
On parole	140	1	141
Died	6	1	7
Executed .. .. .	..	..	..
Deported	14	..	14
Absconded	22	..	22
Transfers to—			
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons	410	2	412
Hospitals, Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c. ..	29	11	40
Unconvicted	1,403	142	1,545
Total	5,816	659	6,475
Number in confinement at 31st December—			
Convicted	876	39	915
Awaiting trial	52	5	57
Total	928	44	972

Prisoners
under
sentence.

The following table shows the number of prisoners under sentence at the end of each of the ten years 1938 to 1947.

VICTORIA—PRISONERS UNDER SENTENCE, 1938 TO 1947.

At 31st December.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Number per 10 000 of Population.
1938	1,043	41	1,084	5·71
1939	1,107	37	1,144	6·06
1940	998	48	1,046	5·45
1941	904	35	939	4·82
1942	1,066	43	1,109	5·64
1943	1,024	65	1,089	5·48
1944	1,055	46	1,101	5·50
1945	932	34	966	4·78
1946	927	25	952	4·65
1947	876	39	915	4·48

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 1941 inclusive, and in each of the five years 1943 to 1947.

VICTORIA—DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1947.

Year Ended 31st December.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners in Confinement.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1871	1,345	274	1,619
1881	1,294	304	1,598
1891	1,550	350	1,900
1901	951	200	1,151
1911	713	100	813
1921	741	54	795
1931	1,391	50	1,441
1941	1,023	50	1,073
1943	1,120	71	1,191
1944	1,152	67	1,219
1945	1,067	44	1,111
1946	1,013	41	1,054
1947	982	40	1,022

Indeterminate sentences. The *Indeterminate Sentences Act* 1908 came into force on 1st July of that year. 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 to minors.

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

The number of prisoners under indeterminate detention on 30th June in each of the five years 1943 to 1947 was as follows:—

VICTORIA—PRISONERS UNDER INDETERMINATE
DETENTION, 1943 TO 1947.

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year Ended 30th June—				
	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	51	64	61	35	22
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	43	50	36	44	42
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	79	71	72	61	49
McLeod Settlement, French Island ..	51	45	55	44	29
Total	224	230	224	184	142

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. A number of persons connected with religious and philanthropic organizations has been appointed to the office, which is honorary.

From 1st July, 1908, to 30th June, 1947, admissions to the several reformatories totalled 5,552 (5,499 males and 53 females) as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admitted to 30th June, 1947 (including 221 recaptured)	5,499	53	5,552
Discharged—			
By parole	4,817	52	4,869
„ effluxion of time	95	..	95
„ transfer to hospitals and asylums	41	..	41
„ special authority	43	..	43
„ deportation	22	..	22
„ escape	248	..	248
„ transfer to serve additional sentences	64	..	64
„ death	28	..	28
In reformatories on 30th June, 1947	5,358	52	5,410
	141	1	142
Total	5,499	53	5,552

POLICE PROTECTION.

Numerical strength of Police Force in Victoria.

The numbers and classification of the various ranks of the police force in Victoria on 31st December, 1946 and 1947 were 2,198 and 2,272 respectively as shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA — POLICE FORCE, CLASSIFICATION AND NUMERICAL STRENGTH AT 31st DECEMBER, 1946 AND 1947.

Designation.	At 31st December, 1946.			At 31st December, 1947.		
	Metro-politan.	Country.	Total.	Metro-politan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Chief Commissioner	1	..	1	1	..	1
Superintendents	3	8	11	4	7	11
Chief Inspectors	1	..	1	..	..	..
Inspectors	8	8	16	8	..	15
Sub-Inspectors	21	4	25	26	5	31
Sergeants, First Class	35	12	47	30	10	40
Sergeants, Second Class	39	12	51	36	15	51
Senior Constables	157	82	239	156	84	240
Senior Constables (brevet rank)	2	..	2	3	..	3
First Constables	652	395	1,047	624	406	1,030
Constables	439	65	504	515	88	603
Total	1,358	586	1,944	1,403	622	2,025
<i>Detectives.</i>						
Superintendent	1	..	1	1	..	1
Inspectors	1	..	1	1	..	1
Sub-Inspectors	3	..	3	1	..	1
Sub-Inspectors (brevet rank)	1	..	1	1	..	1
Sergeants, First Class	4	..	4	7	..	7
Sergeants, Second Class	7	..	7	8	..	8
Senior Detectives	23	4	27	24	3	27
First Detectives	94	9	103	88	12	100
Detectives	10	1	11	10	..	10
Total	144	14	158	141	15	156
<i>Mounted.</i>						
First Constables	21	54	75	19	54	73
Constables	6	15	21	5	13	18
Total	27	69	96	24	67	91
Grand Total	1,529	669	2,198*	1,568	704	2,272†

* The above particulars include 15 police-women and 10 members with Defence Forces but exclude 49 members of the Victoria Police Women's Auxiliary, 2 members of the Police Auxiliary Force, 1 matron, and 1 black tracker.

† The above particulars include 16 police-women, and 4 members with Defence Forces, but exclude 47 members of the Victoria Police Women's Auxiliary, 1 matron, and 1 black tracker.

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 ten years 1938 to 1947:—

**VICTORIA—POLICE FORCE, NUMERICAL STRENGTH,
1938 TO 1947.**

Year Ended 31st December.	Total Strength Including Police-women.	Number of Inhabitants to Each. Police-officer.	Year Ended 31st December.	Total Strength Including Police-women.	Number of Inhabitants to Each. Police-officer.
1938 ..	2,271	825	1943 ..	2,263*	882
1939 ..	2,312*	816	1944 ..	2,209*	908
1940 ..	2,352*	824	1945 ..	2,131*	948
1941 ..	2,327*	838	1946 ..	2,198†	931
1942 ..	2,318*	855	1947 ..	2,272†	898

* Including members with Defence Forces but excluding recalled Police Pensioners.

† Including members with Defence Forces.

Expenditure on police, gaols, &c.

The next table shows the total amount and the amount per head of population expended from Consolidated Revenue in connexion with the police, and with the Penal establishments and gaols of Victoria, in each of the five years 1943 to 1947.

**VICTORIA—EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS,
1942-43 TO 1946-47.**

Year Ended 30th June.	Amount Expended (Exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Salaries, &c.		Buildings and Rents.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.		
	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.
1943 ..	1,019,144	143,716	33,007	7,542	1,203,409	12 2
1944 ..	1,073,304	159,226	32,279	5,757	1,270,566	12 9
1945 ..	1,055,791	152,267	39,142	9,133	1,256,333	12 6
1946 ..	1,083,145	161,447	38,900	9,023	1,292,515	12 9
1947 ..	1,249,601	166,232	37,253	7,142	1,460,228	14 4

During the 43 years ended with 1947 there were only fourteen 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, one in 1932, two in 1936, two in 1939, and one in 1941. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 182 criminals (178 males and 4 females) have been executed within the State on account of the following offences :—Murder, 142; attempted murder, 17; robbery with violence, 9; burglary and wounding, 1; sexual offences, 12; and arson, 1.