

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 1954, ten Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and nine Puisne Judges.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the five years 1950 to 1954:—

VICTORIA—SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1950 TO 1954.

Heading.	Year Ended 31st December—				
	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.
Number of places at which sittings were held	10	10	10	10	10
Cases entered—					
For assessment of damages	2	12	5	2	3
For trial	604	831	1,093	1,236	886
Number of cases tried—					
By juries of six	70	169	119	144	144
By a Judge	51	63	76	52	53
Verdicts returned for—					
Plaintiff	95	132	92	158	120
Defendant	26	44	42	38	24
Amounts awarded	£ 124,104	193,575	193,432	279,434	343,315
Writs of summons issued	1,512	2,081	2,655	2,434	2,045
Other original proceedings	107	55	60	54	53
Appellate proceedings (other than Criminal Appeals heard and determined)—					
By Full Court	44	42	51	49	65
By a Judge	49	75	109	65	80
Fees collected	£ 11,344	13,918	19,904	19,374	50,378

County Courts.

County Courts have jurisdiction, both in equity and common law cases, limited to £1,000 but, in the case of any action arising out of any accident in which any vehicle is involved, the limit is £2,500, and all personal actions where the amount, value, or damages sought to be recovered is more than the appropriate sum aforesaid if both parties or their respective solicitors consent thereto in writing, and all actions in respect of which jurisdiction is given by any Act, and 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 such sums. At the present time County Courts are held at Melbourne and at seventeen other places in Victoria. Every Court has jurisdiction throughout the whole of Victoria.

VICTORIA—COUNTY COURT CASES, 1950 TO 1954.

Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Causes Tried.	Amount Sued for.	Amount Awarded.
		£	£
1950	1,576	954,466	46,332
1951	1,591	1,092,465	47,600
1952	1,672	1,587,992	46,138
1953	1,783	4,038,969	94,621
1954	1,816	4,336,141	107,464

Writs by the Sheriff.

The table hereunder records the number of writs received by the Sheriff in the five years, 1950 to 1954.

VICTORIA—WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1950 TO 1954.

Year Ended 31st December.	Sovereign's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person.	Property.	
1950	7	2	106	115
1951	18	..	126	144
1952	14	1	213	228
1953	42	5	202	249
1954	9	6	233	248

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, 1954, under the *Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act* 1924-1955, and the amount of liabilities and assets relating thereto were as follows:—

VICTORIA—BANKRUPTCIES, 1950 TO 1954.

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.				
1950	78	4	14	96
1951	58	..	14	72
1952	67	4	17	88
1953	129	4	51	184
1954	124	5	46	175
LIABILITIES.				
	£	£	£	£
1950	139,743	85,965	43,959	269,667
1951	91,613	..	82,507	174,120
1952	111,669	20,083	74,543	206,295
1953	262,764	15,981	318,499	597,244
1954	338,308	16,517	242,265	597,090
ASSETS.				
	£	£	£	£
1950	39,152	28,716	38,745	106,613
1951	30,965	..	53,193	84,158
1952	35,043	27,663	54,488	117,194
1953	139,280	17,302	226,512	383,094
1954	101,950	5,787	178,117	285,854

The yearly average number of sequestrations, declared liabilities and assets are shown in the subjoined table for each of the quinquennial periods ended in 1943, 1948, and 1953.

	Yearly Average Number.	Yearly Average Declared Liabilities.	Yearly Average Declared Assets.
		£	£
1938-39 to 1942-43 ..	296	297,886	128,033
1943-44 to 1947-48 ..	51	100,175	66,667
1948-49 to 1952-53 ..	102	286,421	173,897

RACECOURSE LICENCES AND PERMITS.**Racecourse
licences and
permits.**

The Police Offences Acts provide that no professional race meetings shall be held except on a racecourse which is licensed under such Acts for horse races or for trotting races. A licence shall, unless cancelled, be in force for twelve months. For each licence there shall be paid a fee of £1.

For a permit to hold a picnic race meeting, or a mixed sports gathering, i.e., sports at which there is horse racing or trotting racing, or trotting races at the annual show of an Agricultural Society a fee of £1 per day is payable. The fee for a permit for a race meeting for charitable purposes is ten shillings.

The amounts paid into Consolidated Revenue in each of the last ten years were as follows:—

**VICTORIA—REVENUE FROM RACECOURSE LICENCES,
PERMITS, AND PERCENTAGE FEES, 1945-46 TO 1954-55.**

Year Ended 30th June.	Amount.	Year Ended 30th June.	Amount.
	£		£
1946	18,429	1951	34,101
1947	21,727	1952	34,214
1948	26,316	1953	35,092
1949	27,862	1954	36,064
1950	32,163	1955	397

Until 1953-54, a percentage of the gross revenue derived from the racecourse during the year was payable in addition to the licence fee. Such percentage charges were abolished by the *Finance (Racing) Act 1954*.

Under the *Police Offences (Race Meetings) Act* 1948, the percentage charges received in each of the years 1948-49 to 1953-54 from racecourses not being within 30 miles of the General Post Office, Melbourne, were paid into a Treasury Fund known as the Country Racecourses Improvement Fund and used for subsidizing local expenditure on improvements to racecourses not being within 30 miles from Melbourne.

The amounts paid to the Fund were £7,800 in 1952-53 and £8,823 in 1953-54.

CRIME.

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

The *Crimes Act* No. 5379 of 1949, provided for amendments to certain penalties contained in the *Crimes Act* 1928. The most important of these are the abolition of the death penalty in all cases other than treason and murder, and that the sentence of death shall not be pronounced on persons under the age of eighteen years.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS.

The jurisdiction of Children's Courts is limited to children under the age of seventeen years. In 1939, the Children's Court Office was reorganized 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 number of cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts in each of the five years 1950 to 1954 is given in the following statement:—

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF,
1950 TO 1954.

Nature of Offence.	Year Ended 31st December—				
	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.
Against the person—					
Assaults	33	46	39	28	52
Other	33	82	103	106	81
Against property—					
Larceny, &c.	1,917	2,362	2,427	2,609	3,396
Wilful damage	76	74	78	110	92
Other	64	262	386	312	405
Against good order—					
Drunkenness	7	13	13	11	2
Other	75	90	223	375	239
Other Offences—					
Traffic offences	297	352	288	182	350
Other offences	156	207	179	181	170
Neglected children	371	368	447	333	544
Total	3,029	3,856	4,183	4,247	5,331
Summarily convicted	2,305	3,075	3,457	3,596	4,461
Summarily dismissed, &c. ..	724	778	720	646	864
Committed for trial .. ..	..	3	6	5	6

The following statement gives particulars of the manner of by magistrates in 1953 and 1954 :—

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES, HOW DEALT WITH, 1953 AND 1954.

How Dealt With.	Year Ended 31st December—					
	1953.			1954.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Adjudged for period without probation	987	116	1,103	1,132	121	1,253
Released on probation	1,165	78	1,243	1,338	97	1,435
Committed to care of Children's Welfare Department	424	103	527	554	122	676
Committed to reformatory	112	9	121	152	6	158
Fined	395	38	433	549	34	583
Released under Section 356 of <i>Crimes Act 1923</i>	3	..	3	3	1	4
Dismissed on payment of costs or damages or both	2	..	2	8	..	8
Discharged upon surety	15	..	15	4	..	4
Sentenced to term of imprisonment	10	2	12	51	..	51
Sentenced to imprisonment, the execution of which has been suspended	19	1	20	46	..	46
Convicted and discharged	62	..	62	124	..	124
Discharged with a caution	41	1	42	92	9	101
Otherwise dealt with	13	..	13	18	..	18
Summarily convicted	3,248	348	3,596	4,071	390	4,461
Summarily dismissed, &c.	593	53	646	784	80	864
Committed for trial	5	..	5	6	..	6
Grand Total	3,846	401	4,247	4,861	470	5,331

VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Petty Sessions civil business. In 1954, Courts of Petty Sessions before stipendiary magistrates and/or honorary justices were held at 227 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 £100. Particulars of civil cases, &c., heard during the five years 1950 to 1954 as shown below, were compiled from quarterly statements prepared by Clerks of Petty Sessions for the Law Department.

VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, ETC., 1950 TO 1954.

Heading.	Year Ended 31st December—				
	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.
Civil cases—					
Number heard	45,174	40,352	51,058	59,388	66,740
Debts or damages—					
Claimed	£ 505,908	471,828	626,478	785,019	825,371
Awarded	£ 365,257	352,269	462,107	598,315	650,619
Other cases—					
Appeals against rates	350	559	712	1,117	619
Ejectment cases (a)	3,875	3,766	3,311	2,867	2,542
Fraud summonses	2,178	2,070	1,792	1,842	2,716
Garnishee cases	991	949	938	1,147	1,297
Maintenance cases	1,274	1,233	1,428	1,452	1,404
Show cause summonses	2,350	2,354	2,517	2,826	2,732
Applications under Landlord and Tenant Acts	1,455	1,711	1,443	1,152	801
Other	4,090	3,577	8,667	7,585	4,965
Licences and certificates issued	17,744	16,495	17,178	17,681	17,864

(a) Figures shown represent the total cases listed before Courts. Ejectment Orders granted are available for the Metropolitan Area only; see next statement.

Ejectment orders. The number of ejectment orders granted is available for the "Metropolitan area" (a) only. No information is available prior to the year 1950.

EJECTMENT ORDERS GRANTED IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF MELBOURNE, 1950 TO 1954.

Year ended 31st December—	Metropolitan Area.	
	Cases heard.	Ejectment orders granted.
	No.	No.
1950	2,658	1,551
1951	3,057	1,553
1952	2,595	1,292
1953	2,528	1,383
1954	2,051	1,289

(a) Courts of Petty Sessions at Box Hill, Brighton, Brunswick, Camberwell, Carlton, Caulfield, Cheltenham, Coburg, Collingwood, Dandenong, Fitzroy, Flemington, Footscray, Geelong, Hawthorn, Heidelberg, Kew, Malvern, Melbourne, Moonee Ponds, Northcote, North Melbourne, Oakleigh, Port Melbourne, Prahran, Preston, Richmond, Ringwood, Sandringham, South Melbourne, St. Kilda, Sunshine and Williamstown.

VICTORIA—ARREST CASES SUMMARILY DISPOSED OF
IN COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS, 1953 AND 1954.

How Disposed of.	Year Ended 31st December, 1953.			Year Ended 31st December, 1954.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fined	10,840	1,041	11,881	12,038	1,010	13,048
Imprisonment for—						
Under 1 month	4,955	545	5,500	4,490	336	4,826
1 month and under 6 months	1,713	129	1,842	1,677	95	1,772
6 months and under 12 months	266	12	278	242	4	246
1 year and over	27	..	27	38	..	38
Admonished (convicted and dis- charged)	6,298	568	6,866	6,645	544	7,189
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	567	77	644	520	57	577
Otherwise dealt with	381	17	398	398	27	425
 Total convicted	 25,047	 2,389	 27,436	 26,048	 2,073	 28,121
Dismissed, withdrawn, struck out	1,612	213	1,825	1,692	187	1,879
 Total summarily disposed of	 26,659	 2,602	 29,261	 27,740	 2,260	 30,000

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, 1953.

Nature of Offence.	Total Cases.	Summarily Disposed of—				Committed for Trial.	
		Dismissed, Withdrawn, Struck Out.		Convicted.			
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against the person—							
Murder*	13	12	1	..	..	..	..
Intent to murder	6	4	..	..	..	2	..
Manslaughter*	7	6	1	..	..	..	..
Shooting at, wounding, &c... .. .	95	20	3	..	..	68	4
Assaults	1,807	737	99	896	65	10	..
Other	516	84	11	116	34	243	28
Total	2,444	863	115	1,012	99	323	32
Against property—							
Robbery, Shopbreaking, house-breaking, &c.	1,107	37	2	162	4	887	15
Larceny and similar offences	5,501	739	89	3,956	349	338	30
Wilful damage	226	38	5	157	19	7	..
Other	1,549	210	18	1,112	35	167	7
Total	8,383	1,024	114	5,387	407	1,399	52
Forgery and offences against the currency							
	231	6	17	..	..	177	31
Against good order—							
Drunkenness†	19,424	181	17	17,563	1,663	..	..
Other	8,804	1,045	158	6,740	852	9	..
Total	28,228	1,226	175	24,303	2,515	9	..
Other offences—							
Breaches of—							
Education Act	2,049	165	58	1,352	474	..	..
Licensing Act	4,122	433	85	3,300	304	..	..
Motor Car Act	27,900	1,660	69	25,587	584	..	..
Traffic Regulations... .. .	23,104	1,125	36	21,320	623	..	..
Miscellaneous	38,451	3,804	369	32,095	2,135	41	7
Total	95,626	7,187	617	83,654	4,120	41	7
Grand Total	134,912	10,306	1,038	114,356	7,141	1,949	122

* See Inquests, page 182, on proceedings relating to persons charged with these offences.

† See footnote on page 178.

VICTORIA—ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1954.

Nature of Offence.	Total Cases.	Summarily Disposed of—				Committed for Trial.	
		Dismissed, Withdrawn, Struck Out.		Convicted.			
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against the person—							
Murder*	13	9	4	..	..	9	2
Intent to murder .. .	13	1	1	..	..	..	..
Manslaughter* .. .	14	12	2	..	..	..	..
Shooting at, wounding, &c... ..	94	17	3	..	..	65	3
Assaults	1,955	791	86	1,009	59	10	..
Other	566	54	4	131	5	364	8
Total	2,655	884	100	1,146	64	448	13
Against property—							
Robbery, Shopbreaking, house-breaking, &c .. .	1,118	43	4	157	4	896	14
Larceny and similar offences .. .	6,098	1,024	99	4,330	333	306	6
Willful damage	249	54	4	162	14	14	1
Other	1,674	224	19	1,200	42	163	26
Total	9,139	1,345	126	5,849	393	1,379	47
Forgery and offences against the currency	143	4	..	19	..	120	..
Against good order—							
Drunkenness†	20,167	186	26	18,554	1,401	..	..
Other	8,035	903	137	6,175	813	7	..
Total	28,202	1,089	163	24,729	2,214	7	..
Other offences—							
Breaches of—							
Education Act	2,334	255	65	1,576	438	..	..
Licensing Act	3,878	531	117	2,990	240	..	..
Motor Car Act	31,769	2,116	91	28,793	769	..	..
Traffic Regulations .. .	20,245	882	46	18,600	717	..	..
Miscellaneous	37,044	3,319	275	31,152	2,230	29	39
Total	95,270	7,103	594	83,111	4,394	29	39
Grand Total	135,409	10,425	983	114,854	7,065	1,983	99

* See Inquests, page 182, on proceedings relating to persons charged with these offences.

† See footnote on page 178.

**Arrest and
summons
cases.**

Particulars of the arrest and summons cases for the five years 1950 to 1954 are given in the subjoined table.

VICTORIA—ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES. 1950 TO 1954.

Year Ended 31st December.	Arrest Cases.		Summons Cases.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
1950	30,431	2,572	59,696	4,502	97,201
1951	32,843	2,711	69,404	4,108	109,066
1952	32,957	2,883	88,093	5,158	129,091
1953	28,381	2,690	98,230	5,611	134,912
1954	29,560	2,317	97,702	5,830	135,409

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,
1950 TO 1954.**

Year Ended 31st December.	Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Dismissed, Struck Out, or Withdrawn.	Committed for Trial.
1950	97,201	87,873	7,690	1,638
1951	109,066	98,369	9,047	1,650
1952	129,091	115,534	11,886	1,671
1953	134,912	121,497	11,344	2,071
1954	135,409	121,919	11,408	2,082
Number per 10,000 of Population.				
1950	441·0	398·7	34·9	7·4
1951	480·7	433·5	39·9	7·3
1952	550·8	493·0	50·7	7·1
1953	563·1	507·1	47·4	8·6
1954	551·9	496·9	46·5	8·5

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 1954 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 1954 relate, as in previous years, to all offences with which a person was charged. The statistics for the past twenty 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 sexual offences. 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 other serious crimes included under "Other Offences" are forgery, counterfeiting, conspiracy, and perjury. These were very few in number, there having been in Victoria in 1954 only 134 of such charges out of a total of 103,448 in the category to which they belong. The cases under the heading "Other Offences" were mainly 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 was also among them a large number of offences against good order, including offensive behaviour, indecent language, 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 1954.

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
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
1948	1,972	6,378	16,600	51,566	76,516
1949	1,945	5,909	17,972	54,685	80,511
1950	2,092	6,498	21,248	67,363	97,201
1951	2,478	7,724	23,151	75,713	109,066
1952	2,590	9,236	21,751	95,514	129,091
1953	2,444	8,383	19,424	104,661	134,912
1954	2,655	9,139	20,167	103,448	135,409
	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
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	31·76
1947	0·96	3·01	7·33	24·97	36·27
1948	0·94	3·05	7·94	24·68	36·61
1949	0·91	2·76	8·40	25·57	37·64
1950	0·95	2·95	9·64	30·57	44·11
1951	1·09	3·40	10·20	33·37	48·06
1952	1·10	3·94	9·29	40·75	55·08
1953	1·02	3·50	8·11	43·68	56·31
1954	1·08	3·73	8·22	42·16	55·19

* See paragraph "Alteration in method of tabulation" on page 179.

Drunkness. The number of persons and the number per 1,000 of the population charged with drunkenness during the ten years 1945 to 1954 are given hereunder:—

VICTORIA—PERSONS CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1945 TO 1954.

Year ended 31st December—	Number of Persons charged.	Number per 1,000 of Population	Year ended 31st December—	Number of Persons charged.	Number per 1,000 of Population.
1945	10,534	5.23	1950	21,248	9.64
1946	11,720	5.77	1951	23,151	10.20
1947	14,952	7.33	1952	21,751	9.29
1948	16,600	7.94	1953	19,424	8.11
1949	17,972	8.40	1954	20,167	8.22

Drunkness—Comparison with previous years. If the amount of drunkenness in proportion to population, as measured by the number of charges therefor, be represented by 100 as the yearly average 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 1954.

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	1943-47	42
1903-07	77	1948-52	62
1908-12	68	1953	55
1913-17	59	1954	56
1918-22	32		

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.

The accompanying table shows for the five years 1950 to 1954 the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness.

VICTORIA—ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1950 TO 1954.

Year Ended 31st December.	Numbers.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
1950	323	16	339
1951	352	21	373
1952	321	16	337
1953	326	23	349
1954	306	13	319

INQUESTS.

Coroner's jurisdiction. 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 and whose body is lying dead within the district in which such coroner has jurisdiction.

His duties in relation thereto are regulated by the Coroners Acts 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 in the case under the Mines Act) that an inquest shall be taken with jurors. Amending legislation in 1953 provided that the viewing of the body is not essential and is necessary only where the coroner or jury deems it advisable.

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 1950 to 1954, 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.
1950	1,314	602	1,916	36	6	42
1951	1,403	667	2,070	31	3	34
1952	1,401	664	2,065	25	1	26
1953	1,405	566	1,971	18	2	20
1954	1,392	654	2,046	26	6	32

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

Year.	Murder.			Manslaughter.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1950	26	6	32	10	..	10
1951	18	2*	20*	13	1	14
1952	13	1	14	12	..	12
1953	13	2	15	5	..	5
1954	11	5	16	15	1	16

* Including one for abortion.

HIGHER COURTS.

The number of distinct persons convicted in the Supreme Court and in Courts of General Sessions in Victoria during each of the years 1950 to 1954 is shown below. The offences of distinct persons convicted during 1953 and 1954 are detailed in tabulations immediately following :—

HIGHER COURTS—DISTINCT PERSONS CONVICTED—
1950 TO 1954.

Year Ended 31st December—	Males.			Total.
	Against the Person.*	Against Property.	Other.	
1950	177	476	22	675
1951	206	498	27	731
1952	194	613	42	849
1953	179	651	59	889
1954	256	576	48	880

Year Ended 31st December—	Females.			Total.
	Against the Person.*	Against Property.	Other.	
1950	13	19	15	47
1951	6	17	7	30
1952	8	18	8	34
1953	6	19	4	29
1954	10	18	4	32

* See page 196 for detailed tabulation 1946 to 1954.

Committals
for trial—
convictions.

The following table shows the offences of distinct persons
Sessions in Victoria during 1953 after committal from
Where a person was charged with more than one offence

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	2	1		3			
Manslaughter												1		
Wounding, &c., or inflict grievous bodily harm			3	2	3	1	3	6	3		1			
Shoot at with intent to do grievous bodily harm							2	2	1	2	1	2		1
Unlawfully wounding					1			3	2	1	1			
Assault						1	3	3		2			1	
Against Females—														
Rape								1						
Rape, assault with intent to Carnal knowledge		1												
Incest		3	1	4		1	3	2	2					1
Incest, attempted		1	1			1	1			1	2		1	
Indecent assault			3		3		2	2	3	2	3	3	5	2
Unnatural offence			2		2		2	3	6	2	5	2	3	1
Indecent offence, attempted Indecent assault on male											1		1	
Bigamy							2	4		3	2	1		2
Abduction									1					
Obscene exposure							1			1				1
Demanding money by menaces							1		1					
Total against the Person			13	4	13	6	24	34	20	17	16	10	13	8
Against Property—														
Robbery								2						
Robbery under arms									2					
Robbery under arms, attempted Robbery with violence							1							
Robbery in company			1		1				3	2	1	1		
Robbery, assault with intent Burglary				1		3								
Housebreaking	1		15	12	9	5	26	28		9	2	6	4	3

(a) Including 1 commuted to imprisonment for 15 years; 2 commuted to imprisonment for 20 of his life. All without the benefits of regulations relating to the remission of Sentences.

(b) Including one who at the expiration of sentence is to be detained in a Reformatory Prison

who were convicted in the Supreme Court and in Courts of General Children's Courts, Courts of Petty Sessions and Coroner's Inquests. the principal offence only has been counted :—

CONVICTED 1953 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED).

70 and over.	Total.	How Dealt With.											Death Sentence.	Sentence Suspended on Entering a Bond.	Sent to Reformatory Prison.	
		Fined.	Imprisoned for—													
			Months.					Years.								
			Under 3.	3 and Under 6.	6 and Under 12.	12.	Over 12 to 18.	2 to 2½.	3.	4.	5.	7.				12.
..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(a) 7	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	22	..	..	..	1	1	3	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	4
..	11	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	4	..
..	8	..	..	..	2	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
..	10	..	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	17	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	14	..
..	8	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	2	1
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
..	29	..	..	..	5	3	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	18	..
..	29	..	..	1	3	1	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	21	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	10	..	..	1	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..
..	16	..	1	1	4	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
1	179	..	3	5	19	17	12	15	5	1	2	1	1	7	85	6
..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	8	..	..	..	1	..	1	(b)2	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	4	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	122	..	4	15	29	..	5	10	3	1	2	..	..	..	43	10

years; 3 commuted to imprisonment for life; and 1 commuted to imprisonment for the full term

during the Governor's pleasure.

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.
<i>Against Property—continued—</i>														
Shop, office, store, factory, &c., breaking			43	18	22	8	45	65	44	19	9	5	4	5
Larceny in a dwelling							2	1	3	1				
Larceny as a clerk or servant				1				4	1	1				1
Larceny as an agent								1		1		1		
Larceny as a bailee								2	1	1	1			
Larceny, all other			3	7	2		19	17	8	10	4	2	4	
Stealing postal articles								1						
Cattle stealing			1					7	2		1		1	
Sheep stealing								1						
Breaking and entering				1		1					1			
Killing cattle with intent to steal		1					3	1						
Illegally pawning							1							
Accessory after the fact to a felony										1				
Possession of explosives								1	1	1				
Fraudulent conversion								1	1		1			
Embezzlement								1		3	1	1		
False pretences				1	1		1	2	1	5	2	2	2	
Unlawfully receiving			1	1	2	1	8	15	11	8	2	1	6	
Setting fire to a building								1					1	
Arson								1						
Maliciously damaging property							1	1		1	1	2		
Total against Property	1	1	65	42	40	17	111	155	85	55	30	18	22	8
Forgery and uttering—			1	1	4	2	6	8	6	4	5		2	1
<i>Against Good Order—</i>														
Common Law (public mischief)							3	4						
Attempt to prevent lawful apprehension				1										
Total against Good Order				1			3	4						
<i>Other Offences—</i>														
Perjury									2					
Conspiracy							1		1					
Escape from lawful custody							2			1				
Willfully make false statement								1				1		
Making a secret profit out of office of Crown														
Fabricating evidence								1						
Total Other Offences							3	2	3	1		1	1	
Grand Total—Males	1	1	79	48	57	25	147	203	114	77	51	29	38	17

CONVICTED 1953 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED)—*continued.*

		How Dealt With.														
		Fined.	Imprisoned for—										Death Sentence.	Sentence Suspended on Entering a Bond.	Sent to Reformatory Prison.	
			Months.					Years.								
70 and over.	Total.		Under 3.	3 and Under 6.	6 and Under 12.	12.	Over 12 to 18.	2 to 2½.	3.	4.	5.	7.				12.
1	288	..	2	5	40	48	22	24	4	1	..	..	..	..	125	17
..	7	..	..	..	4	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	8	..	..	..	3	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	7	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	76	..	3	5	15	10	4	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	14	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..
..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	5	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	6	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
..	17	..	..	1	1	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..
..	56	..	1	2	4	4	4	1	4	3	1	..	..	..	23	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	6	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
1	651	..	6	21	112	110	40	49	17	4	3	..	..	..	259	30
..	40	..	..	1	11	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	1
..	7	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	8	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
..	3	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	11	..	..	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	889	1	11	30	143	133	53	64	22	5	6	1	1	7	375	37

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—														
Wound with intent to do grievous bodily harm	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bigamy	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Being an accessory after the fact to wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm	1	..	..	..	..	..
Infanticide	1	..	..	..	..	..
Total against the Person	1	..	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..
Against Property—														
Robbery in company	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Robbery	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Housebreaking and stealing	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Shopbreaking and stealing	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larceny as a ballee	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Larceny, all other	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
False pretences	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Receiving	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total against Property	2	..	..	1	5	6	2	1	..	2	..	..
Forgery and uttering	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total—Females	2	..	1	1	7	9	6	1	..	2	..	..
1953 — Total — Males and Females ..	1	1	81	48	58	26	154	212	120	78	51	31	38	17

CONVICTED 1953 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED)—continued.

70 and over.	Total.	How Dealt With.											Death Sentence.	Sentence Suspended on Entering a Bond.	Sent to Reformatory Prison.		
		Fined.	Imprisoned for—														
			Months.					Years.									
			Under 3.	3 and Under 6.	6 and Under 12.	12.	Over 12 to 18.	12 to 18½.	3.	4.	5.	7.				12.	
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	6	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	19	..	1	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..
..	4	..	..	..	(a)1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	29	..	1	3	3	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..
2	918	1	12	33	146	137	53	65	22	5	6	1	1	7	392	37	

Committals
for trial—
convictions.

The following table shows the offences of distinct persons
Sessions in Victoria during 1954 after committal from
Where a person was charged with more than one offence

HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

Offence.	Males (Ages in Years).															
	14.	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					1							
Wounding with intent to murder												1				
Manslaughter								1	1	1	3					
Wounding, &c., or inflict grievous bodily harm				1	1	1	1	3	3	3	4	1	1		1	
Shoot at with intent to do grievous bodily harm				1					3	2			1			
Unlawfully wounding							1	2	1			3		3	1	
Assault					1	2		1	5	1					1	
Against Females—																
Rape		1		1	3				1	1						
Rape, attempted										1						
Rape, assault with intent to								1								
Carnal knowledge					3	5	8	8	5	1	1	1	3	1		
Carnal knowledge, attempted				1												
Incest							2		1	1				1		
Indecent assault				4	1	2	3	9	5	6	2	5	3	1	3	
Unnatural offence				2	3	2	2	4	7	7	4	4	3	4	5	
Unnatural offence, attempted									2	2						
Indecent assault on male				1	4			3	3	4	1		1	4	3	
Bigamy									5	3	3	7				
Aid and abet the offence of bigamy								1						1		
Demand money with menaces									1							
Attempted suicide									1		1	1				
Total against the Person	1	12	16	12	17	33	45	33	19	23	19	14	12			
Against Property—																
Robbery								2			2	1				
Robbery under arms			2	2			7									
Robbery with violence			1	1	2		2								1	
Robbery in company			1	1	1		2	1	2		1					
Robbery, assault with intent			1	2	1		1	1			1	1				
Burglary			1								1					
Housebreaking			12	20	12	9	13	24	11	10	7	4	3	1		

(a) Commuted to imprisonment for 25 years without the benefit
(b) Including two who on expiration of sentence to be detained
(c) After expiration of sentence to be detained in Reformatory
(d) To be detained during the Governor's pleasure.

who were convicted in the Supreme Court and in Courts of General Children's Courts, Courts of Petty Sessions and Coroner's Inquests. the principal offence only has been counted:—

CONVICTED 1954 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED).

70 and over.	How Dealt With.															Death Sentence.	Sentence Suspended on Entering a Bond.	Sent to Reformatory Prison.		
	Total.	Fined.	Imprisoned for—																	
			Months.						Years.											
			Under 3.	3 and Under 6.	6 and Under 12.	12.	Over 12 to 18.	Over 18 and Under 24.	2 to 2½.	3.	4 to 4½.	5.	7.	8.	12.				13.	15.
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(a)1	..	(d)1
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	6	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	20	..	..	2	(b)5	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	1
..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	11	..	..	1	3	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
..	11	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1
..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	36	..	..	1	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	25	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	5	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
..	44	..	..	..	8	7	4	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	..
..	47	..	..	1	5	5	2	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	30	..
..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	24	..	..	1	2	2	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	..
..	22	..	1	1	5	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	256	2	3	7	36	25	11	1	11	7	6	5	2	..	1	1	1	1	133	3
..	5	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	7	..	..	..	..	3	(c)1	..	1	..	..	2	..	3	..	..	..	..	1	1
..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
..	8	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	127	1	5	17	25	7	..	..	8	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47	14

of regulations relating to remission of sentences. in a Reformatory Prison at Governor's pleasure. Prison at Governor's pleasure.

HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

Offence.	Males (Ages in Years).															
	14.	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.	
<i>Against Property—continued—</i>																
Sacrilege									1							
Shop, office, store, factory, &c., breaking			1	30	22	18	13	42	40	14	16	6	7	4		
Larceny in a dwelling				1	1				2	1	2	1		1	1	
Larceny as a clerk or servant									2	2	1	2				
Larceny as a bailee			1						3		1					
Larceny, all other			7	5	5	3	24	17	13	6	8	4	4			
Stealing postal articles									1							
Cattle stealing													1			
Sheep stealing											1					
Breaking and entering								2		1						
Fraudulent conversion						1			1			1				
Accessory after the fact to a felony													1			
Possession of explosives under suspicious circum- stances										1	1					
Embezzlement										1		1				
False pretences									3	1	3	1			1	
Unlawfully receiving						1		3	6	9	5	4	2	1	1	
Setting fire to a building						1			3	1	2	1	1			
Arson									1							
Maliciously damaging prop- erty			4	3	1	1	1	1	1							
Total against Property		1	60	56	44	26	97	109	57	49	36	22	14	4		
Forgery and uttering					1	2	1	7	3	6	2	1	1	3	1	
<i>Against Good Order— Common Law (public mischief)</i>								1				1				
<i>Other Offences—</i>																
Perjury								1			2		2			
Conspiracy				1				1								
Escape from lawful custody								2	2							
Against Post and Telegraph Act								1			1				1	
Other								1	2		1					
Total Other Offences			1				6	4		4		2	1			
Grand Total—Males	1	1	73	73	58	44	144	161	96	74	61	44	32	17		

(e) Including one declared an Habitual criminal to be detained

HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

Offence.	Females (Ages in Years).														
	14.	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—															
Manslaughter										1					
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm										1		1			
Infanticide				1				1		1					
Bigamy									1		1				
Abandoning a child under the age of 2 years								1							
Abduction								1							
Total against the Person				1				3	1	3	1	1			
Against Property—															
Assault with intent to rob									1						
Robbery in company									1						
Housebreaking and stealing									1			1			
Shopbreaking and stealing				1					1						
Larceny as a clerk or servant								1			1	2			
Larceny as a bailee									1						
Larceny, all other											1	1			
False pretences											1	1			
Receiving											4				
Total against Property				1				2	4		6	5			
Forgery and uttering							1								
Other Offences—															
Perjury				1			1	1							
Total Other Offences				1			1	1							
Grand Total—Females				2	1		2	6	5	3	7	6			
1954 — Total — Males and Females	1	1	75	74	58	46	150	166	99	81	67	44	32	17	

CONVICTED 1954 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED)—continued.

		How Dealt With.																		
		Imprisoned for—																		
		Months.							Years.											
70 and over.	Total.	Fined.	Under 3.	3 and Under 6.	6 and Under 12.	12.	Over 12 to 18.	Over 18 and Under 24.	2 to 2½.	3.	4 to 4½.	5.	7.	8.	12.	13.	15.	Death Sentence.	Sentence Suspended on Entering a Bond.	Sent to Reformatory Prison.
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	10	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	4	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	18	..	..	2	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	32	..	1	2	3	1	4	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	..
1	912	3	13	35	129	120	58	2	47	17	9	8	5	3	1	1	1	1	421	88

VICTORIA—HIGHER COURTS: CONVICTIONS FOR OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON, 1946 TO 1954.

The number of distinct persons convicted in Higher Courts during each year 1946 to 1954 and the type of the offences are shown below:—

Offence.	Year Ended 31st December—									
	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.	
<i>Males.</i>										
Murder	2	1	1	..	5	2	2	7	2	
Attempted murder .. .. .	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	1
Manslaughter	2	2	5	3	10	12	9	1	6	
Unlawfully wounding, grievous bodily harm, etc.	25	22	24	18	34	26	23	41	38	
Assault	6	10	15	7	12	4	8	10	11	
Against Females—										
Carnal knowledge, and attempted	25	25	30	29	21	30	31	17	37	
Indecent Assault	23	33	35	29	38	42	32	29	44	
Incest, and attempt- ed	6	1	3	4	3	3	11	9	5	
Other	4	..	2	1	4	9	8	2	9	
Against Males—										
Unnatural Offence, and attempted	15	23	20	12	21	33	31	31	51	
Indecent Assault	7	14	12	12	11	18	21	10	24	
Bigamy	14	24	18	9	13	21	14	16	22	
Other	7	9	5	4	4	4	4	6	6	
Total Males	136	164	171	128	177	206	194	179	256	
<i>Females.</i>										
Murder .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Manslaughter .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1
Unlawfully wounding, grievous bodily harm, assault	1	..	..	..	1	2	2	2	2
Bigamy	7	7	8	1	8	3	2	2	2	
Attempt to procure miscarriage	1	1	4	..	..	..	3	..	..
Other	5	..	2	3	1	1	1	2	5	
Total, Females	14	8	14	4	13	6	8	6	10	
Against the Person										
Total Persons con- victed	150	172	185	132	190	212	202	185	266	

REGULATION OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.

The *Licensing (Amendment) Act*, No. 5767 of 1953, came into operation on 30th June, 1954. A summary of the Act is published in part *Constitution and Government* of this *Year-Book*.

Plans of new or improved hotels approved by the Court during the year ended 31st December, 1953, amounted to £1,123,943. For the years ended 31st December, 1954, and 1955, approvals totalled £1,333,271 and £1,991,813 respectively. The amending Act makes provision for the appointment of supervisors who are required to report, where required, on the nature of accommodation and meals in licensed premises, and on every plan for proposed new licensed premises of any licensed victualler or holder of an Australian wine licence, or for any alterations or additions thereto.

The Receipts and Expenditure for the years ended 30th June, 1953 and 1954 are shown below:—

THE LICENSING FUND.

	Year ended 30th June.	
	1953.	1954.
	£	£
Revenue.		
Licences, certificates and permits	1,761,238	1,962,927
Interest on investments	10,982	10,982
Fees and fines	13,812	15,048
Miscellaneous	512	373
Total ..	1,786,544	1,989,330
Expenditure.		
Annual payments to Municipalities	58,901	58,900
Compensation	300	3,460
Transfer to Police Superannuation Fund	23,000	23,000
Transfer to Revenue	1,650,747	1,851,586
Salaries, office expenses, etc.	53,596	52,384
Total ..	1,786,544	1,989,330

The amount to the credit of the fund at 30th June, 1954 was £410,976, of which £341,000 was invested.

Licensing Areas. Under the amending Act, the whole of Victoria was constituted one licensing district in respect of which there is to be no numerical limitation of licences. By order of the Governor in Council the State was finally divided into licensing areas to take effect from 1st September, 1954. Such areas are shown in the following statement—

**LICENSING ACTS—*Re*—DIVISION OF VICTORIA INTO
LICENSING AREAS.**

Licensing Area.	Electoral Districts for the Legislative Assembly of Victoria.
Bairnsdale	Gippsland East, Gippsland South
Ballarat	Allendale, Ballarat, Midlands
Bendigo	Bendigo, Korong, Rodney
Geelong	Barwon, Geelong, Polwarth
Hamilton	Borong, Dundas, Ripon
Mildura	Mildura, Rainbow, Swan Hill
Shepparton	Goulburn, Shepparton
Wangaratta	Benalla, Benambra, Murray Valley
Warragul	Gippsland West, Gippsland North, Wonthaggi
Warrnambool	Hampden, Portland, Warrnambool
Central Metropolitan	Carlton and Melbourne
Northern Metropolitan	Clifton Hill, Collingwood, Ivanhoe (North of the Yarra River), Mernda (North of the Yarra River), Northcote and Preston
Western Metropolitan	Brunswick, Coburg, Essendon, Footscray, Grant, Moonee Ponds, Sunshine and Williamstown
Eastern Metropolitan	Box Hill, Camberwell, Evelyn, Glen Iris, Hawthorn, Ivanhoe (South of the Yarra River), Kew, Malvern, Mernda (South of the Yarra River), Prahran, Richmond, Scoresby, and Toorak
Southern Metropolitan	Albert Park, Brighton, Caulfield, Dandenong, Elsternwick, Mentone, Mornington, Oakleigh, Port Melbourne and St. Kilda

The following statement shows the number of hotels, including roadside licences, in Victoria for the years stated.

VICTORIA—NUMBER OF HOTELS.

Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Hotels. (including Roadside Licences*).	Average Number of Persons to Each Hotel.	Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Hotels. (including Roadside Licences*).	Average Number of Persons to Each Hotel.
1885 ..	4,339	223	1951	1,666	1,375
1906 ..	3,520	347	1952 ..	1,663	1,409
1921 (June) ..	2,064	744	1953 ..	1,664	1,440
1930 ..	1,803	994	1954 ..	1,660	1,477
1940 ..	1,691	1,132	1955 ..	1,654	1,527
1950 ..	1,666	1,333			

* Roadside licences were abolished in 1953 but, subject to the provisions of the Licensing Acts relating to victuallers licences, were made renewable as such.

In addition to hotels, liquor licences under the following headings were held during the five years 1948 and 1952-1955 :—

	Year Ended 31st December—				
	1948.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.
Australian Wine Licences ..	126	115	113	111	109
Registered Clubs	122	122	122	125	141
Railway Refreshment Rooms ..	26	26	23	23	23
Grocers' Licences	251	256	258	263	278

Licensing Polls.

Information on this subject will be found on page 252 of the *Year-Book* for 1949-50. Licensing polls were abolished in 1946. The amending Act of 1953 provides that the power of the Court to grant licences is not to be limited by any licensing poll already taken but in any such case the Court "may order a vote of electors to be taken in the neighbourhood surrounding the proposed site of the premises in respect of which a licence has been applied for . . ." before granting the licence. No hotel licences were surrendered and no hotel licences lapsed during 1953. During 1954 seven hotel licences were surrendered. Six hotel licences were surrendered and the renewals of two licences were refused during the year ended 31st December, 1955.

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 amending Act extended the times during which liquor may be supplied *with meals*, in the case of licensed premises to ten o'clock in the evening.

A referendum was held on 24th April, 1956, at which the following question was submitted to the vote of electors for the Legislative Assembly throughout the State, namely, "are you in favour of the extension of hotel trading hours on week days until 10 o'clock in the evening". The result was as follows:—

Number of votes given for YES 529,899

Number of votes given for NO 804,524

During the year ended 31st December, 1953, 1,165 **Liquor Permits.** permits authorizing the sale, disposal, or supply of liquor with bona fide meals between 6 p.m. and 8 or 10 p.m. were renewed or granted by the Licensing Court in licensed premises which include Hotels, Australian Wine Licences, and Registered Clubs. Permits for the years ended 31st December, 1954 and 1955 were 1,170 and 1,144 respectively.

The estimated quantity of beer consumed in Victoria in each of the five years 1951 to 1955 was as follows:—

CONSUMPTION OF BEER IN VICTORIA, 1951 TO 1955.

Year ended 30th June.	Estimated Quantity of Beer Consumed.	Per Head of Population.
1951	Gallons. 46,713,700	Gallons. 20·89
1952	50,310,900	21·78
1953	50,235,600	21·17
1954	55,055,900	22·72
1955	59,165,400	23·78

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The following statement contains information relating to gaols (excluding police gaols) and reformatory prisons in Victoria for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

VICTORIA—GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1954.

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.
Gaols—								
Pentridge ..	928	52	739	39	7,100	662	766	45
Ballarat ..	80	..	35	..	285	..	30	..
Beechworth Training Prison ..	76	..	49	..	71	..	53	..
Bendigo ..	100	..	48	..	88	..	47	..
Castlemaine ..	106	..	4	..	23	..	20	..
Coorimungle Prison Farm ..	42	..	36	..	63	..	37	..
Geelong ..	172	..	132	..	516	..	114	..
Sale ..	35	..	14	..	190	..	10	..
Reformatory Prisons—								
Pentridge ..	64	3	66	..	103	..	60	..
McLeod Settlement (French Island)	63	..	49	..	20	..	44	..
Langi Kal Kal ..	40	..	29	..	51	..	38	..
Total ..	1,706	55	1,201	39	8,510	662	1,219	45

* Including 75 males and 3 females awaiting trial.

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 years 1953 and 1954 :—

Prisoners received and discharged.

VICTORIA—PRISONERS RECEIVED AT AND DISCHARGED FROM GAOLS AND REFORMATORY PRISONS, 1953 AND 1954.

(Exclusive of Police Gaols.)

Classification.	Year ended 31st December—					
	1953.			1954.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number in confinement at beginning of year—						
Convicted	1,209	39	1,248	1,134	42	1,176
Awaiting trial	85	3	88	42	2	44
Total	1,294	42	1,336	1,176	44	1,220
Received during year—						
Convicted of—						
Felony	1,271	52	1,323	1,110	52	1,162
Misdemeanour	1,001	118	1,119	925	45	970
Other offences	3,386	491	3,877	3,948	411	4,359
Transfers from—						
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons	809	..	809	759	..	759
Hospitals, Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c.	28	9	37	30	..	30
For Trial, not subsequently convicted	1,717	115	1,832	1,666	154	1,820
Returned on Order	98	2	100	72	..	72
Total	8,310	787	9,097	8,510	662	9,172
Discharged during year	8,428	785	9,213	8,467	661	9,128
Number in confinement at 31st December—						
Convicted	1,134	42	1,176	1,144	42	1,186
Awaiting trial	42	2	44	75	3	78
Total	1,176	44	1,220	1,219	45	1,264

Prisoners under sentence.

The following table shows the number of prisoners under sentence at the end of each of the ten years 1945 to 1954.

VICTORIA—PRISONERS UNDER SENTENCE, 1945 TO 1954.

At 31st December—.				Males.	Females.	Total.	Number per 10,000 of Population.
1945	..	..	..	932	34	966	4.78
1946	..	..	..	927	25	952	4.65
1947	..	..	..	876	39	915	4.45
1948	..	..	..	863	49	912	4.36
1949	..	..	..	1,021	45	1,066	4.98
1950	..	..	..	986	55	1,041	4.72
1951	..	..	..	1,089	38	1,127	4.97
1952	..	..	..	1,294	42	1,336	5.64
1953	..	..	..	1,134	42	1,176	4.87
1954	..	..	..	1,144	42	1,186	4.78

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 1950 to 1954.

VICTORIA—DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS
IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1954.

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
1950	1,030	51	1,081
1951	1,050	52	1,102
1952	1,258	53	1,311
1953	1,263	48	1,311
1954	1,201	39	1,240

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 1950 to 1954 was as follows:—

VICTORIA—PRISONERS UNDER INDETERMINATE
DETENTION, 1950 TO 1954.

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year Ended 30th June—				
	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	78	44	58	63	66
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	12	19	(a)	..	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	41	..	(b)	..	..
McLeod Settlement, French Island ..	13	17	38	56	48
Langi Kal Kal Training Centre ..	..	27	31	30	28
Total	144	107	127	149	142

(a) Closed 30th July, 1951.

(b) Closed 19th March, 1951.

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.

	Year Ended 30th June, 1954.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Institutions at 1st July, 1953	148	1	149
Received during the year:—			
New cases	44	..	44
Returned from parole	27	..	27
Returned from probation	20	..	20
Returned after serving additional sentence	12	..	12
On transfer from other reformatories	86	..	86
Transferred from hospitals	2	..	2
Re-arrested after absconding	2	..	2
Total	193	..	193
Discharged during the year:—			
Released on parole	96	1	97
Transferred to other reformatories	87	..	87
Transferred to gaols to serve additional sentences	10	..	10
Absconded	3	..	3
Transferred to hospitals	1	..	1
Definite sentences, etc.	2	..	2
Total	199	1	200
In Institutions at 30th June, 1954	142	..	142

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, 1953, and 1954 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—POLICE FORCE, CLASSIFICATION AND
NUMERICAL STRENGTH AT 31st DECEMBER, 1953,
AND 1954.

Designation.	At 31st December, 1953.			At 31st December, 1954.		
	Metro- politan.	Country.	Total.	Metro- poli'tan.	Country.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
<i>Foot.</i>						
Chief Commissioner	1	..	1	1	..	1
Inspecting Superintendent	1	..	1	1	..	1
Superintendents	5	12	17	5	11	16
Chief Inspector	1	..	1	1	..	1
Inspectors	36	21	57	36	21	57
Inspector (brevet rank)	1	..	1	1	..	1
Sergeants	111	40	151	111	40	151
Senior Constables	268	150	418	263	151	414
Senior Constables (brevet rank) ..	..	..	..	1	..	1
First Constables	423	382	805	417	389	806
Constables	1,033	208	1,241	1,020	209	1,229
Recruits	34	..	34	29	..	29
Total	1,914	813	2,727	1,886	821	2,707
<i>Detectives.</i>						
Superintendent	1	..	1	1	..	1
Inspectors	8	..	8	8	..	8
Sergeants	23	2	25	26	1	27
Senior Constables	42	7	49	38	7	45
First Constables	81	20	101	87	21	108
Constables	42	2	44	40	3	43
Total	197	31	228	200	32	232
<i>Mounted.</i>						
Senior Constables	1	..	1	1	..	1
First Constables	7	40	47	3	34	37
Constables	31	13	44	26	18	44
Total	39	53	92	30	52	82
Grand Total	2,150	897	3,047*	2,116	905	3,021†

* The above particulars include 28 police-women but excludes 1 black tracker.

† The above particulars include 30 police-women but excludes 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 1945 to 1954:—

VICTORIA—POLICE FORCE, NUMERICAL STRENGTH,
1945 TO 1954.

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.
1945 ..	2,131	948	1950 ..	2,751	801
1946 ..	2,198	931	1951 ..	2,879	796
1947 ..	2,272	904	1952 ..	2,992	783
1948 ..	2,386	876	1953 ..	3,047	786
1949 ..	2,597	824	1954 ..	3,021	812

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 1950 to 1954.

VICTORIA—EXPENDITURE FROM CONSOLIDATED REVENUE
ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1949-50 TO 1953-54.

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.	
1950 ..	2,070,697	258,715	51,927	11,761	2,393,100	1 2 1
1951 ..	2,534,318	308,891	65,347	20,213	2,928,769	1 6 2
1952 ..	3,231,461	429,510	68,221	25,762	3,754,954	1 12 6
1953 ..	3,720,712	436,621	71,040	30,072	4,258,445	1 15 11
1954 ..	4,009,466	501,446	64,031	39,156	4,614,099	1 18 1

Executions. During the 50 years ended with 1954 there were seventeen 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, one in 1941, and three in 1951. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 185 persons (180 males and 5 females) have been executed within the State on account of the following offences: murder, 145; attempted murder, 17; robbery with violence, 9; burglary and wounding, 1; sexual offences, 12; and arson, 1.