

. LAW, CRIME, ETC.

THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA.

The Commonwealth Constitution Act (section 71) provides that the judicial power of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a Federal Supreme Court, to be called the High Court of Australia, and to consist of a Chief Justice, and at least two other Justices. Power is also given to the Federal Parliament to create other Federal courts, or to invest other courts with Federal jurisdiction. Section 72 provides that the Justices shall be appointed by the Governor-General in Council, and shall not be removed, except on an address from both Houses of Parliament in the same session, on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity; also that the Parliament shall fix the remuneration, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office. The High Court is invested by the Constitution with both original and appellate jurisdiction. Section 73 provides that the High Court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals from all judgments, decrees, orders, and sentences of any Justice exercising the original jurisdiction of the court, or of any other Federal Court or court exercising Federal jurisdiction, or of the Supreme or any other court of a State, from which there was on 1st January, 1901, an appeal to the Privy Council, or of the Inter-State Commission, but in the last mentioned case as to questions of law only. The Parliament may regulate the mode in which the jurisdiction may be exercised, and may limit the jurisdiction by excluding specified cases, or classes of cases from it; but no such regulation or exception shall prevent the High Court from hearing and determining any appeal from the Supreme Court of a State in any matter in which, at the establishment of the Constitution—1st January, 1901—an appeal lay to the Privy Council. Section 74 provides that there shall be no appeal to the Privy Council “from a decision of the High Court upon any question, howsoever arising, as to the limits *inter se* of the constitutional powers of the Commonwealth and those of any State or States, or as to the limits *inter se* of the constitutional powers of any two or more States, unless the High Court shall certify that the question is one which ought to be determined by His Majesty in Council.” It is, however, provided that

except as above-mentioned the "Constitution shall not impair any right which the King may be pleased to exercise by virtue of His Royal prerogative to grant special leave of appeal from the High Court to His Majesty in Council"; but the Parliament may limit the matters in respect of which leave may be asked, and a Bill containing any such limitation shall be reserved by the Governor-General for the Royal pleasure. Section 73 provides that the judgment of the High Court, in its appellate jurisdiction, shall be final and conclusive; but this (except as regards the particular class of constitutional questions mentioned above) is qualified by the above provision, preserving the prerogative right of the King in Council to grant special leave of appeal from such a judgment. By section 75, the High Court is invested with original jurisdiction in all matters arising under any treaty; affecting consuls or other representatives of other countries; in which the Commonwealth, or a person suing or being sued on behalf of the Commonwealth, is a party; between States, or between residents of different States, or between a State and a resident of another State; or in which a writ of mandamus or prohibition or an injunction is sought against an officer of the Commonwealth. By sections 76, 77, and 78, the Parliament is empowered to confer additional original jurisdiction on the High Court in any matter arising under the Constitution, or involving its interpretation, or under any laws made by the Parliament, also in matters of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; and in those relating to the same subject-matter claimed under the laws of different States; the Parliament is also empowered to define the jurisdiction of any Federal court other than the High Court; to define the extent to which the jurisdiction of any Federal court shall be exclusive of that which belongs to or is invested in the courts of the States; to invest any court of a State with Federal jurisdiction; and to confer "rights to proceed against the Commonwealth or a State in respect of matters within the limits of the judicial power." By section 79 the Parliament may prescribe the number of Judges by whom the Federal jurisdiction of any court may be exercised; and section 80 provides for trial by jury of any offence against any law of the Commonwealth, and for the venue of the trial.

Common-
wealth
Judiciary
Acts
1903-1912.

In pursuance of the powers conferred upon it by the Constitution, and within the limits specified therein, the Commonwealth Parliament passed a Judiciary Act, which was assented to on 25th August, 1903, and has been amended by Acts of 1906, 1907, 1910, and 1912. The High Court consists of a Chief Justice and six other Justices; and its principal seat is at the seat of Government, where there shall be the principal registry of the court. A district registry in each other State is also provided for, and peripatetic sittings are to

be held when required. Chamber business may be dealt with by a single Justice of the High Court, or (except in matters within the exclusive jurisdiction of the High Court) by a single Judge in Chambers of the Supreme Court of a State. A Full Court, consisting of any two or more Justices of the High Court, sitting together, may hear and determine any case or question referred by, and appeals from judgments of, any such single Justice or Judge; appeals from judgments of any other court exercising Federal jurisdiction, or of the Inter-State Commission; applications for a new trial; and applications for leave or special leave to appeal to the High Court from a judgment of the Supreme Court of a State, or of any other court of a State from which, at the establishment of the Commonwealth, an appeal lay to the Privy Council. The jurisdiction of the High Court to hear and determine appeals from judgments of the Supreme Court of a State sitting as a Full Court, or of any other court of a State from which at the establishment of the Commonwealth an appeal lay to the Privy Council, and applications for a certificate that a question, decided by the High Court, as to the constitutional powers of the Commonwealth and a State, or of any two or more States, is one which ought to be determined by the Privy Council, shall be exercised by a Full Court consisting of not less than three Justices.

In addition to the original jurisdiction conferred by section 75 of the Constitution, previously mentioned, the High Court is, by section 30 of the Judiciary Act, invested with original jurisdiction in all matters arising under the Constitution, or involving its interpretation. A Full Court consisting of less than all the Justices cannot decide a constitutional question, unless a majority of all the Justices concur in the decision, and, except in that case, when the Full Court is divided in opinion, the question is to be decided by the decision of the majority, if there is a majority, but if the Court is equally divided, then, if a decision of a Justice of the High Court, or of a Supreme Court of a State, or a Judge thereof, is called in question by appeal or otherwise, the decision appealed from shall be affirmed; but in any other case the opinion of the Chief Justice, or, if he is absent, the opinion of the senior Justice present shall prevail. By section 33 the High Court is empowered to make orders or issue writs of mandamus, prohibition, ouster of office, and *habeas corpus* in certain cases. Part V. of the Act limits and defines the appellate jurisdiction; Part VI., as amended by the Act of 1907, defines the matters in which the jurisdiction of the

High Court is exclusive; Part VII., as amended by the same Act, provides for the removal of causes arising under the Constitution or involving its interpretation, and pending in any State Court, to the High Court, and also provides that where in any cause pending in the Supreme Court of a State there arises any question as to the limits *inter se* of the constitutional powers of the Commonwealth and those of any State or States, or as to the limits *inter se* of the constitutional powers of any two or more States, it shall be the duty of the Court to proceed no further in the cause, and the cause is, by virtue of the Act and without any order of the High Court, removed to the High Court; Part VIII. treats of the members and officers of the High Court; Part IX. of suits by and against the Commonwealth and the States; and Part X. of criminal jurisdiction, and Part XI. contains supplementary provisions, dealing with appearance of parties, applications of laws, venue, and rules of court.

By the *Judiciary Act* 1910, a new Part, viz., Part XII., was added to the Principal Act. This part enables the Governor-General to refer to the High Court any question of law as to the validity of any Act or enactment of the Federal Parliament, and confers on the Court jurisdiction to hear and determine the matter. The matter has to be heard before all the Justices, except in the case of illness or absence from the Commonwealth of any Justice. The States are entitled to be represented, also any persons interested. The decision of the High Court is final, and not subject to any appeal.

By section 49 of the Act it is provided that any person entitled to practise as a barrister or solicitor or both in any State shall have the like right to practise in any Federal Court, upon entry of his name in a Register of Practitioners at the Principal Registry; and by section 86 (9a) the Justices of the High Court are empowered to make Rules of Court for the admission of persons to practise as barristers or solicitors in any Federal Court. Rules of Court have been made accordingly (Statutory Rules, 1908, No. 35), which establish a Board, called the Commonwealth Practitioners' Board, and consisting of the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth, the Secretary to the Attorney-General's Department, the Principal Registrar of the High Court, and such practising barristers or solicitors as the Chief Justice may from time to time appoint. The Rules further provide for the admission of persons as students-at-law and for their examination and admission as practitioners.

THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN VICTORIA.

The law of Victoria, in its basic principles and main provisions, is founded on the law of England. All laws in force in England in 1828 were, so far as they should be held to apply to the circumstances of Australia, by Imperial Statute made law in New South Wales (which then included Victoria); and in case of any doubt as to their applicability, the Colonial Legislature was empowered to declare whether or not they did apply, or to establish any modification or limitation of them within the colony. The same Statute established a Legislature within New South Wales with power to make laws for that colony; and Supreme and other courts were constituted. On the separation of Port Phillip from New South Wales in 1851, the new colony of Victoria was invested with similar powers, which were widened on the establishment of responsible government in 1855. In order, therefore, to ascertain the law of Victoria as to any particular matter or point, considerable research is often involved. The first step is a search of the Victorian Statutes. If the matter is fully dealt with there, the labour is concluded; but, if it has never been dealt with by any Victorian Act, recourse must be had to the Statutes of New South Wales, and the Imperial Statutes specially applicable to New South Wales passed between 1828 and 1851. If no law on the point is obtainable from these sources, the law of England in 1828 must be ascertained, which in most cases is found in the English text-books. Having found the apparent law from one of these sources, it is still necessary to search through series of law reports for decisions which may either modify or interpret the same.

Heirship in Victoria has been since 1864 limited to cases in which probate or letters of administration have been granted, and, by *The Administration and Probate Act 1872* (now 1890), it is provided that the real estate of a deceased person shall be applied as if the same were personalty. The following are the rules by which the property and effects, both real and personal, of persons dying intestate are now by law distributed:—

Intestate
estates:
Order of
distribu-
tion.

(a) IF A MAN OR WOMAN DIE INTESTATE—

Leaving—	Proportions taken by Representatives.
No husband, wife, or child ...	All to next-of-kin of equal degree.
Husband or wife and child or children, and children of a deceased child	One-third to husband or wife, rest to child or children equally; and, if children are dead, then to their lineal descendants; but any child who had estate by settlement of intestate, or was advanced by him in his lifetime, shall bring such estate or advancement into account.
No husband or wife or children, but both father and mother	Half each to father and mother. Prior to passing of Married Woman's Property Act father would take all, one-half being in right of wife.

(a) IF A MAN OR WOMAN DIE INTTESTATE—continued.

Leaving—	Proportions taken by Representatives.
No husband or wife, but child or children, whether by one or more husbands or wives	All to him or her or to them equally.
Child and grandchild by a deceased child	Half each.
Father, brothers and sisters. ...	Whole to father.
Mother, brothers, and sisters. ...	Equally between them.
Mother, but no husband or wife, or child, father, brother, sister, nephew, or niece	Whole to mother.
Brother or sister, and children of a deceased brother or sister	Half to brother or sister <i>per capita</i> , half to such children <i>per stirpes</i> .
Brother or sister of whole blood, and brother or sister of half-blood	Equally to both.
Uncles' or aunts' children, and brothers' or sisters' grandchildren	Equally to all.
Grandfather or grandmother, and uncle or aunt	Whole to grandfather or grandmother.
Aunts, nephew, and niece	Equally to all.
Uncle and deceased uncle's child...	Whole to the uncle.
Nephew by brother, and nephew by half-sister	Equally <i>per capita</i> .
Nephew by deceased brother, and nephews or nieces by deceased brother or sister	Equally <i>per capita</i> .
Brother or sister, and nephew or niece by deceased brother or sister	Divide equally, nephews or nieces <i>per stirpes</i> .
Brother and grandfather. ...	Whole to brother.
Great grandfather and uncle. ...	Equally.
Brother's grandson and brother's or sister's daughter	Whole to daughter.
Brother and two aunts. ...	Whole to brother.

(b) IF A MAN DIE INTTESTATE—

Wife, no children. ...	If net value of estate £1,000 or under, whole to wife; if over £1,000 first £1,000 to wife; residue—half to wife, half to next-of-kin.
Wife only, no next-of-kin. ...	If net estate £1,000 or under, whole to wife; if over £1,000, first £1,000 to wife; residue—half to wife; half to Crown.
Wife and father or mother. ...	First £1,000 to wife as above; residue, half each.
Wife, mother, nephews, and nieces	First £1,000 to wife as above; residue—one-half to wife, one-fourth to mother, one-fourth to nephews and nieces <i>per stirpes</i> .
Wife, mother, brothers, sisters, nephews, and nieces	First £1,000 to wife as above; residue one-half to wife; residue to others (as to nephews and nieces <i>per stirpes</i>).
Wife, brothers or sisters, and mother	First £1,000 to wife as above; residue—half to wife, half to others.
Wife and brother. ...	First £1,000 to wife as above; residue, half to each.

(c) IF A WOMAN DIE INTTESTATE—

Leaving—	Proportions taken by Representatives.
Husband, no children	Half to husband, half to next-of-kin.
Husband only, no children or next-of-kin	Whole to husband.
Husband and father	Half each.
Husband and mother	Half each.
Husband, mother, nephews, and nieces	Half to husband, one-fourth to mother, other fourth to nephews and nieces <i>per stirpes</i> .
Husband, mother, brothers, sisters, and nephews and nieces	Half to husband; residue to others (as to nephews and nieces <i>per stirpes</i> .)
Husbands, brothers, or sisters and mother	Half to husband, half to others equally.

Subjoined is a statement of the number of transactions and fees collected in connexion with the registration of births, deaths, and marriages during the year 1912:—

Births,
deaths,
marriages,
&c., trans-
actions
and fees.

GOVERNMENT STATIST'S TRANSACTIONS AND FEES, 1912.

Transactions.	Fees Payable.	Number of Transactions.	Amount.
Searches—	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>£</i>
Ordinary	2 6	17,183	2,148
In church records	1 0	265	13
Free—			
On account of applications for old-age pensions ... ..	...	3,478	...
Others ... ..	...	682	...
Certificates—			
Ordinary	5 0	3,944	986
Of church records	1 0	31	2
Under Commonwealth Life Assurance Act	2 6	170	21
Under Friendly Societies Act	1 0	1,570	79
Free ... ..	...	313	...
*Correction of entries	2 6	162	19
*Registration of births—			
After 60 days and under 1 year	5 0	623	149
„ 1 year and under 7 years	10 0	17	8
„ 7 years	10 0	16	7
Legitimation cases—			
Under 60 days ... ..	...	19	...
After 60 days	5 0	87	21
Production of documents ... ..	...	5	6
Total... ..	...	28,565	3,459

* Including cases where fees were remitted or partly remitted as follows:—Registration of Births after 60 days—Ordinary 28, Legitimation Cases, 2; after 7 years, 1. Correction of entries, 7.

The amounts received during the previous five years were:—
 £2,912 in 1907, £2,561 in 1908, £3,382 in 1909, £2,917 in 1910,
 and £2,748 in 1911.

LITIGATION AND LEGAL BUSINESS.

Supreme
Court civil
business.

The Supreme Court of Victoria was first established in 1852, and its constitution and powers remain substantially unaltered by recent legislation, although the procedure has been entirely remoulded by the "Judicature Act of 1883." There were in 1912 five Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and four Puisne Judges.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the last year of the four decennial periods ended 1900, and the last five years:—

SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1870 TO 1912.

Year.	Writs of Summons.		Causes Entered for Trial.	Causes Tried.	Verdicts for—		Amount Awarded.
	Number Issued.	Amount Claimed.			Plaintiff.	Defendant.	
		£					£
1870 ..	5,583	154,296	237	165	133	29	29,298
1880 ..	5,065	185,131	221	161	133	28	47,401
1890 ..	6,619	687,503	535	297	229	65	68,592
1900 ..	825	137,083	161	106	62	31	101,896
1908 ..	673	97,221	114	62	26	12	7,621
1909 ..	774	104,831	114	68	23	15	8,538
1910 ..	743	69,182	129	85	37	16	7,984
1911 ..	640	31,524	107	70	25	19	2,026
1912 ..	745	80,156	108	92	35	26	12,343

Decline in
litigation

There has been a considerable decline in litigation in the Supreme Court since 1890. In 1912, the writs issued were about one-ninth; the amount sued for was about one-eighth; and the causes which actually came to trial were about one-third of the corresponding numbers and amount in 1890. The figures show that a very small proportion of writs result in actual trials, whilst a large number of trials are either abandoned before a verdict is given, postponed to the following year, or settled.

The number of criminal cases tried and of convictions in the superior courts, the Supreme Court and the Court of General Sessions, throughout the State in the last year of the four decennial periods ended 1900, and in each of the last five years was as follows :—

Criminal cases in superior courts.

CRIMINAL CASES — SUPREME COURT AND GENERAL SESSIONS,
1870 TO 1912.

Year.	Total Number of Cases Tried.	Total Number of Convictions.	Proportions of Convictions per 10,000 of Population.
1870 ...	835	573	8·03
1880 ...	567	387	4·55
1890 ..	964	662	5·92
1900 ...	652	451	3·78
1908 ...	647	466	3·68
1909 ...	680	430	3·36
1910 ...	669	435	3·35
1911 ...	687	477	3·61
1912 ...	753	501	3·70

This statement shows that there was a fall in 1912 as compared with 1890 of 22 per cent. in the total number of criminal cases tried in the higher courts, and of 24 per cent. in the number of convictions.

County Courts have a jurisdiction both in equity and common law cases, limited to £500; also in cases remitted by the Supreme Court. The cause of action must have arisen within 100 miles of the court in which proceedings are taken, which court must not be more than ten miles further away from defendant's residence than some other County Court in which the plaintiff might have sued. In 1912, there were 115 sessions lasting 345 days and held in 43

County Courts business.

places. Particulars of litigation in the four decennial periods ended 1900, and the last five years, are as follows :—

COUNTY COURT CASES, 1870 TO 1912.

Year.	Number of Cases tried.	Amount sued for.	Amount awarded.	Costs awarded to—	
				Plaintiff.	Defendant.
		£	£	£	£
1870	11,866	277,236	102,822	13,815	4,268
1880	9,498	215,929	99,338	13,765	3,956
1890	12,635	340,028	127,433	15,363	6,072
1900	789	160,676	49,595	5,188	2,782
1908	721	203,169	69,460	9,136	2,808
1909	665	141,443	51,247	5,649	2,593
1910	626	144,550	45,196	5,199	1,992
1911	491	161,720	52,526	5,657	1,986
1912	545	201,472	63,543	6,216	2,555

The number of cases tried continues below the average of ten years ago. The number in 1912 was lower than in any of the preceding four years, except 1911, and only one-twenty-third of that in 1890; but the amount sued for and awarded, and the costs awarded, had not fallen off to anything like the same extent. This would seem to indicate that the public is less inclined than formerly to institute legal proceedings for the settlement of disputes; and that the County Court is not resorted to for the recovery of petty and trade debts to the same extent as in former years.

Courts of Petty Sessions were held at 252 places in Victoria in 1912 by stipendiary magistrates and honorary justices. Clerks of courts of ten years' standing, who have passed the prescribed examination, and barristers of five years' standing are eligible for appointment as police magistrates; but there is no legal training or knowledge of the law required as a condition precedent to the appointment of a person as an honorary justice of the peace. The jurisdiction is limited to what may be called ordinary debts, damages for assault, and restitution of goods, where the amount in

dispute does not exceed £50. Particulars of such cases heard during a series of years are given hereunder:—

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, 1870 TO 1912.

Year.			Cases heard.	Amount claimed.	Amount awarded.
				£	£
1870	..	..	27,722	190,242	105,086
1880	..	..	19,983	75,684	50,764
1890	..	..	30,466	190,917	132,663
1900	..	..	17,577	95,890	80,960
1908	..	..	32,005	181,028	157,334
1909	..	..	36,894	200,836	162,393
1910	..	..	29,902	186,538	146,284
1911	..	..	28,575	171,763	129,172
1912	..	..	36,043	251,564	190,485

In addition to the ordinary civil cases above mentioned, and to the criminal jurisdiction hereafter mentioned, Courts of Petty Sessions deal with other business of a civil and quasi-criminal nature. During the year 1912, 301 appeals against municipal ratings, 947 maintenance cases, 625 fraud summonses against debtors, 44,165 electoral revision cases, 4,546 cases relating to licences and certificates, 361 garnishee cases, 350 ejectment cases, 85 prohibition cases, and 547 miscellaneous cases were heard, and 345 persons alleged to be lunatics were examined.

Hereunder is a statement of the number of writs received by the Sheriff for the four decennial periods ended 1900, and the last five years, from which it will be seen the decrease in later years is very considerable:—

WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1870 TO 1912.

Year.			King's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
				The Person.	Property.	
1870	...	...	35	75	2,146	2,256
1880	...	...	35	58	1,944	2,037
1890	...	...	13	21	2,282	2,316
1900	...	...	4	3	199	206
1908	...	...	1	7	193	201
1909	...	...	2	3	232	237
1910	...	...	...	4	166	170
1911	...	...	2	5	143	150
1912	...	...	3	3	205	211

Writs by the Sheriff.

INSOLVENCIES.

Insolvencies, &c.

The number of failures and the declared assets and liabilities during the four decennial periods ended 1900 and in each of the last five years were:—

INSOLVENCIES AND PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS, 1870 TO 1912.

Year.	Insolvencies.			Private Arrangements.		
	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.
		£	£		£	£
1870 ..	996	479,491	150,170	*	*	*
1880 ..	768	526,130	298,384	*	*	*
1890 ..	795	2,301,271	2,041,200	*	*	*
1900 ..	344	183,531	88,760	149	168,700	159,771
1908 ..	514	179,050	62,998	170	204,011	154,692
1909 ..	370	129,627	98,041	185	207,235	167,639
1910 ..	359	132,841	54,381	131	113,597	91,271
1911 ..	306	112,748	55,374	122	151,641	138,502
1912 ..	404	265,046	159,723	172	177,061	168,218

* Information not available.

The number of insolvencies in 1912 was higher than in the preceding three years, but lower than in 1908. The average number during the last five years was 391, and the average declared liabilities £163,862, whereas during the ten years, 1879 to 1888, the average yearly number was 612, with declared liabilities of £661,720. During the eleven years, 1889 to 1899, when the failures resulting from the financial crisis swelled the returns, the yearly average number was 790, with declared liabilities of £2,037,292.

Insolvencies are of two kinds, voluntary and compulsory, and the following table contains the number of petitions of each kind in the last five years:—

Year.	Voluntary.	Compulsory.	Total.
1908 ...	... 484	30	514
1909 ...	... 345	25	370
1910 ...	... 323	31	359
1911 ...	... 278	28	306
1912 ...	... 374	30	404

Occupations of insolvents.

In the next return will be found the occupations, in six classes, of those who became insolvent or compromised with their creditors during the last five years, also the number of breadwinners in each class at the census of 1911, and the proportion of the former

to the latter. The total number of insolvents does not include 106 whose occupations were not returned:—

OCCUPATION OF INSOLVENTS, 1908 TO 1912.

Occupation Groups.	Number of Breadwinners, Census, 1911.	Number of Insolvents, 1908 to 1912.	Insolvents to every 1,000 Breadwinners (five years).
Professional	43,819	82	1·87
Domestic	62,175	105	1·69
Commercial	91,611	679	7·41
Transport and Communication	39,238	97	2·47
Industrial	187,773	1,048	5·58
Primary Producers	144,384	616	4·27
Total	569,000*	2,627	4·62

* Exclusive of 8,053 persons of independent means.

Fewer breadwinners of the domestic and professional classes became insolvent than those of other classes, in proportion to their numbers in the community, whilst a greater proportion of the commercial than of any other class found it necessary to file their schedules or compound with their creditors.

The following figures show the occupations of insolvents for each of the five years 1908 to 1912:—

Occupations
of
insolvents
in detail.

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS.

Occupations.	Number of Insolvents during—				
	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
<i>Professional Class.</i>					
Barrister, solicitor .. ..	..	..	..	1	3
Chemist	1	..	..	2	..
Civil servant	4	9	2	4	5
Dentist	1	..	..	3	..
Police	1	5	2	..	2
Others	11	10	6	6	4
<i>Domestic Class.</i>					
Boardinghouse keeper	4	8	2	4	3
Hotelkeeper	11	12	10	8	11
Others	6	5	5	10	6
<i>Commercial Class.</i>					
Agent	10	7	15	6	7
Butcher	20	2	5	10	24
Clerk, accountant	7	8	7	11	6
Commercial traveller, salesman, canvasser	11	9	4	2	8
Dealer	13	12	8	10	12
Draper	14	9	6	7	12

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS—*continued.*

Occupations.	Number of Insolvents during—				
	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
<i>Commercial Class—continued.</i>					
Grocer	19	27	26	15	25
Hawker	3	2	2	1	3
Merchant, importer	20	11	7	3	4
Storekeeper	38	26	26	26	29
Others	22	10	15	16	21
<i>Transport and Communication Class.</i>					
Carrier, cart, driver	17	12	10	7	11
Railway service	6	4	4	1	5
Tramway service .. .. .	..	1	1	4	1
Others	3	4	3	2	1
<i>Industrial Class.</i>					
Blacksmith, farrier	15	4	6	5	6
Bootmaker	7	2	7	5	3
Builder, contractor	25	18	23	17	22
Carpenter	15	7	5	7	10
Coachbuilder, painter .. .. .	..	6	8	6	6
Engineer, engine-driver	7	4	9	12	6
Labourer	92	88	88	72	91
Miller, baker	11	14	4	5	6
Saddler	3	2	1	1	3
Tailor, dressmaker	7	6	10	6	10
Watchmaker .. .. .	..	1	2	2	..
Others	66	58	41	36	49
<i>Primary Producers.</i>					
Farmer	25	31	26	45	82
Grazier	5	6	6	2	9
Miner	114	69	53	27	30
Others	23	18	15	9	21
<i>Indefinite Class</i>	27	28	20	12	19
Total	684	555	490	428	576

DIVORCE.

Divorce, &c.

Under the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act, passed in 1861, a petition might be presented to the Supreme Court (*a*) by a husband praying that his marriage might be dissolved, on the ground that his wife had, since the celebration thereof, been guilty of adultery; (*b*), by a wife praying that her marriage might be dissolved on the ground that since the celebration thereof, her husband had been guilty of incestuous adultery, or of bigamy with adultery, or of rape, or of sodomy, or bestiality, or of adultery, coupled with cruelty, or of adultery, coupled with desertion without reasonable excuse for two years.

Judicial separation was obtainable either by husband or wife on the ground of adultery, or cruelty, or of desertion, without cause, for a period of two years.

The Divorce Act 1889 extended the grounds upon which divorces might be granted, those added being as follows:—

- (a) That the respondent has, without just cause or excuse, wilfully deserted the petitioner, and, without any such cause or excuse, left him or her continuously so deserted during three years and upwards.
- (b) That the respondent has, during three years and upwards, been an habitual drunkard, and either habitually left his wife without the means of support, or habitually been guilty of cruelty towards her, or, being the petitioner's wife, has for a like period been an habitual drunkard and habitually neglected her domestic duties or rendered herself unfit to discharge them.
- (c) That at the time of the presentation of the petition the respondent has been imprisoned for a period of not less than three years and is still in prison under a commuted sentence for a capital crime, or under sentence to penal servitude for seven years or upwards, or, being a husband, has within five years undergone frequent convictions, and been sentenced in the aggregate to imprisonment for three years or upwards and left his wife habitually without means of support.
- (d) That within one year previously the respondent has been convicted of having attempted to murder the petitioner, or of having assaulted him or her with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm, or on the ground that the respondent has repeatedly during that period assaulted and cruelly beaten the petitioner.
- (e) That the respondent, being a husband, has since the celebration of his marriage and the date of this Act been guilty of adultery in the conjugal residence, or coupled with circumstances or conduct of aggravation or of a repeated act of adultery.

The Act further provides for simplifying and cheapening the mode of procedure, for the hearing and trying of suits in private at the discretion of the court, for prohibiting the publication of evidence, for the intervention of the Attorney-General where collusion is suspected, and for the abolition of applications or decrees for the restoration of conjugal rights. The Act can only be taken advantage of by persons domiciled in the State for at least two years.

Since jurisdiction was first conferred upon the Supreme Court of Victoria in matters matrimonial in 1861, 2,999 decrees for dissolution of marriage, and 94 decrees for judicial separation have been granted. Of these, 2,651 and 23 respectively have been issued since 1890; so that, during the 30 years ended 1890 only 348 decrees for dissolution of marriage were issued, and 71 for judicial separation, or an average per annum of about twelve of the former and two of the latter; whereas, since the Divorce Act of 1889 received the Royal Assent in 1890 no less than 120 decrees per annum for dissolution of marriage have been granted, while the decrees for judicial separation have decreased to about one per annum.

Divorces,
Sex.

The next table gives the sex of the petitioner, also decrees granted for divorce, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage during the year 1912:—

DIVORCES, 1912.

	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husband.	Wife.	Total.	Husband.	Wife.	Total.
Dissolution of Marriage	118	182	300	96	151	247
Judicial Separation ...	...	2	2	...	2	2
Nullity of Marriage ...	2	1	3	2	1	3
Total ...	120	185	305	98	154	252

The grounds on which divorces were granted during the last five years were :—

	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Adultery	41	32	42	65	76
Assaults (violent)	1	...	...	1	...
Bigamy ... ..	...	...	1	...	1
Cruelty, repeated acts of... ..	...	...	1	1	4
Desertion	100	90	76	120	146
Desertion and adultery	4	6	9	13	8
Drunkenness (habitual) and cruelty	5	8	11	11	11
Sentences for crime ... ..	...	2	...	...	1
Total	151	138	140	211	247

Grounds of Divorce.

The following is a statement of the number of petitions and decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation in the Australian States and the Dominion of New Zealand during the three decennial periods ended 1901, and each of the last five years, also of the proportion of decrees per 100,000 married couples living :—

Divorces in Australian States and New Zealand.

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1881, 1891, 1901, AND 1908 TO 1912.

State.	Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.
		Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
Victoria	1881	18	10	9	..	7
	1891	153	1	99	..	57
	1901	148	2	83	..	46
	1908	187	4	151	1	74
	1909	188	3	138	1	67
	1910	191	1	140	..	67
	1911	262	2	211	..	99
	1912	300	2	247	2	113
New South Wales	1881	23	..	15	..	14
	1891	99	17	50	17	40
	1901	354	33	253	20	133
	1908	367	22	206	12	83
	1909	414	28	287	14	113
	1910	413	21	257	7	97
	1911	426	22	200	10	76
	1912	*	*	*	*	*
Queensland	1881	7	1	2	..	7
	1891	12	4	5	1	10
	1901	15	1	14	..	19
	1908	14	6	11	2	15
	1909	24	2	16	..	18
	1910	33	6	20	..	22
	1911	17	2	27	1	29
	1912	*	*	*	*	*

* Figures not available.

**DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND
NEW ZEALAND, 1881, 1891, 1901, AND 1908 TO 1912—continued.**

State.	Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.
		Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
South Australia	1881	7	4	3	1	9
	1891	13	1	5	..	10
	1901	13	1	6	..	11
	1908	20	..	8	..	12
	1909	16	..	12	..	18
	1910	27	1	3	1	6
	1911	23	..	20	..	29
	1912	11	..	12	..	17
Western Australia	1881	1	..	2	1	73
	1891	3	..	4	..	59
	1901	16	1	12	1	44
	1908	21	2	10	..	22
	1909	21	1	15	1	36
	1910	39	8	13	1	30
	1911	35	2	25	2	54
	1912	70	2	21	..	41
Tasmania	1881	2	..	1	..	6
	1891	4	..	3	..	14
	1901	11	..	11	..	43
	1908	13	..	7	..	23
	1909	12	1	12	1	41
	1910	5	..	5	..	16
	1911	4	1	3	1	13
	1912	8	..	8	..	25
Total, Australian States	1881	58	15	32	2	10
	1891	284	23	166	18	39
	1901	557	38	379	21	70
	1908	622	34	393	15	59
	1909	675	35	480	17	70
	1910	708	37	438	9	62
	1911	767	29	486	14	68
	1912	*	*	*	*	*
Dominion of New Zealand	1881	*	*	*	*	*
	1891	31	5	20	3	25
	1901	136	1	101	1	86
	1908	207	..	171	3	108
	1909	219	2	163	..	99
	1910	200	7	154	2	92
	1911	226	4	161	..	94
	1912	274	3	222	2	127

* Figures not available.

The grounds of divorce have been extended in New South Wales and New Zealand, and are now substantially the same in Victoria and New South Wales. The extension of the grounds upon which divorce may be obtained has had in New South Wales and New Zealand, as in Victoria, the effect of greatly increasing the number of petitions and decrees.

The divorce rate is higher in Australia than in the United Kingdom, but lower than in most of the other principal countries of the world. Japan, the United States, and Switzerland are the countries where the marriage knot is untied most frequently, and in the United States the enormous increase in the number of divorces in recent years has attracted the attention of sociologists. In Ireland, on the other hand, there was only one divorce during the five-year period, 1899-1903. The number of divorces in various countries and their proportions to the populations are shown in the accompanying table:—

Divorces in various countries.

DIVORCES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Country.	Period.	Population.	Divorces (Annual Average).	
			Number.	Per 100,000 Popu- lation.
Australia	1907-11	4,308,400	453*	11
Austria	1898-1902	26,150,700	179	1
Belgium	1905-9	7,311,200	858	12
Bulgaria	1896-1900	3,744,280	396	11
Denmark	1905-9	2,633,600	637	24
England and Wales ..	1906-9	34,884,200	647	2
France	1906-10	39,264,300	11,790	30
German Empire	1905-10	62,610,800	13,159	21
Bavaria	"	6,700,500	808	12
Prussia	"	38,728,000	8,188	21
Saxony	"	4,655,500	1,462	32
Hungary	1898-1902	19,254,560	2,130	11
Ireland	1899-1903	4,458,770	†	†
Italy	"	32,475,250	819	3
Japan	1905-9	48,917,000	61,275	125
Netherlands	"	5,700,600	773	14
New Zealand	1908-12	1,005,180	174	17
Norway	1906-10	2,353,400	339	14
Scotland	1899-1903	4,472,100	175	4
Servia	1896-1900	2,492,880	312	13
Sweden	1898-1902	5,136,440	390	8
Switzerland	1904-8	3,553,400	1,341	38
United States	1902-6	81,697,200	66,500	81

* Fourteen Judicial Separations included.

† Annual average less than one. Only one divorce granted during the five-year period.

CRIME.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE CRIMINAL LAW.

In nearly all cases where the criminal law has been broken, the alleged offender is brought at the very first opportunity before a Court of Petty Sessions, before two honorary justices or a police magistrate, or both, or in some cases a single magistrate, and the court, if the matter is one which comes within its summary jurisdiction, disposes of the case summarily. If the offence is an indictable one, the magistrates hold a preliminary investigation and, if they are satisfied that a *prima facie* case has been made out by the prosecution, the accused is committed for trial to a superior court. There are two superior courts with criminal jurisdiction, viz., the Supreme Court, and a Court of General Sessions, which are held at various places throughout the State. The latter court may deal with all cases of an indictable nature except such as are expressly excluded from its jurisdiction, viz., ten of the most serious crimes. A person may be brought before magistrates by three modes of procedure, viz., by an arrest by a police officer on warrant issued on a sworn information, or in a limited number of cases without warrant if the offence has been witnessed by the arresting constable; or by a summons. If at a coroner's inquest a verdict is returned of murder or manslaughter, the accused person is sent for trial to the Supreme Court without any investigation before magistrates. The Attorney-General or Solicitor-General has also the power of presenting any person for trial before a superior court without the necessity of a preliminary magisterial hearing; and upon the application of any person, properly supported by affidavit, a grand jury may be summoned, on the order of the Full Court, if the affidavit discloses that an indictable offence has been committed by a corporate body; or that such an offence has been committed by any person, and that some justice has refused to commit such person for trial; or in the case of a committal that no presentment has been made at the court at which the trial would in due course have taken place. The grand jury consists of 23 men, who investigate the charge, and if they are of opinion that a *prima facie* ground of action has been made out, the case is sent for trial. The cases which are presented under these latter forms of procedure are, however, very rare.

Indeterminate sentences.

The Indeterminate Sentences Act came into force on 1st July, 1908. Its principal provisions are—

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

A Board, consisting of Mr. C. A. Topp, M.A., LL.B. (chairman), Mr. W. R. Anderson, P.M., Secretary to the Crown Law Department, and the Rev. J. H. Ingham, was appointed on 18th August, 1908. Mr. Topp resigned his position on the Board on 24th April, 1912, and the Hon. S. Mauger was appointed by the Governor in Council in his stead on 1st May, 1912. Mr. Mauger was subsequently elected chairman.

The chief functions of the Board are to make visits of inspection monthly to each reformatory prison, to examine the conduct reports of the inmates, and accounts of their earnings, to authorize promotion in grade, to approve of indulgences, and to make careful inquiries as to whether any persons detained in a reformatory prison are sufficiently reformed to be released on probation, and to submit recommendations accordingly to the Governor in Council; also generally to report on the working of the Indeterminate Sentences Act and the regulations. Regulations governing the treatment of declared habitual criminals, and of offenders, not habituals, who are detained under indeterminate sentence in a reformatory prison are now in operation.

On 30th June, 1913, there were 59 males and 4 females detained under indeterminate sentence in the portions of the Pentridge Penal Establishment and the Female Penitentiary respectively, set apart as reformatory prisons for habitual criminals. On the same date there were 25 youths under similar detention in the Castlemaine reformatory prison.

Up to 30th June, 1913, there had been released on probation, on the Board's recommendation, 29 inmates from the Castlemaine prison, 19 habitual criminals from the Pentridge prison, and 5 from the Female prison. Of those released from Castlemaine, 7 had satisfactorily completed their probation of two years, 5 had relapsed and were again under sentence, and, as far as could be ascertained, the remaining 17 were doing well. Two habitual criminals had been reconvicted and returned to prison.

Probation officers to supervise first offenders released by the Courts in recognisance under the provisions of the Indeterminate Sentences Act are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Board. One hundred and seventy such officers have been appointed to date.

OFFENCES HEARD BY MAGISTRATES.

Prior to 1902, information relating to various offences was incomplete on account of there being no returns as to summons cases other than "against the person," "against property," and "other offences." As will be seen below, there is a large proportion of assaults and offences against good order initiated by summons. The following are particulars of the different classes of offences in

Arrests and
summonses
for various
offences.

1912, distinguishing between arrests and summons cases, multiple charges against the same individual being each counted as an offence:—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1912.

Nature of Offence.	Number of Offences for which—		Total Offences.	How disposed of—		
	Arrests were made.	Summonses were issued.		Summarily convicted, held to bail, &c.	Discharged.	Committed for trial.
Against the Person—						
Murder and attempts at	19	...	19	...	2	17
Manslaughter ...	12	...	12	...	1	11
Shooting at, wounding, &c. ...	39	...	39	3	9	27
Assaults ...	506	878	1,384	776	607	1
Others ...	135	119	254	51	104	99
Against Property—						
Robbery, burglary, &c.	361	...	361	103	96	162
Larceny and similar offences ...	1,297	753	2,050	1,398	472	180
Wilful damage ...	155	360	515	353	162	...
Others ...	363	110	473	247	142	84
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	32	...	32	2	4	26
Against Good Order—						
Drunkenness ...	13,481	43	13,524	7,446	6,078	...
Others ...	4,219	7,042	11,261	9,022	2,239	...
Perjury ..	36	...	36	...	2	34
Breaches of Education Act	47	7,470	7,517	6,751	766	...
„ Licensing „	5	1,243	1,248	982	266	...
„ Pure Food „	...	510	510	381	129	...
Other Offences ...	563	14,745	15,308	12,173	3,102	33
Total... ..	21,270	33,273	54,543	39,688	14,181	674

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

Of the 21,270 offences for which arrests were made, 1,456 were multiple charges, leaving the number of separate arrests 19,814. In 11,795 of these the subjects were summarily convicted, in 7,501 they were discharged, and in 518 they were committed for trial. Of the persons dealt with in the 33,273 summons cases, 26,851 were summarily convicted, 6,369 were discharged, and 53 were committed for trial. Of the total persons dealt with (53,087), the number summarily convicted was 38,646, 13,870 were discharged, and 571 were committed for trial.

The table hereunder shows the number of arrests and summonses for various offences in Children's Courts during the year 1912 :—

Children's
Courts.

CHILDREN'S COURTS : ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1912.

Nature of Offence.	Number of Offences for which—		Other Offences (Application to board out, &c).	Total Offences.
	Arrests were made.	Summonses were issued.		
Against the Person—				
Assaults	6	28	..	34
Others	9	11	..	20
Against Property—			..	
Larceny, &c... ..	343	509	..	852
Wilful damage ..	4	191	..	195
Others	4	17	..	21
Against Good Order—				
Drunkenness ..	3	..	..	3
Others	44	898	..	942
Other Offences.. ..	516	1,425	1,191	3,132
Total.. ..	929	3,079	1,191	5,199

The arrests of neglected children, which in 1912 numbered 1,228, viz., 626 males and 602 females, have been included in this table to indicate the business done by Children's Courts, but they are eliminated from all other criminal tabulations.

Of the offenders who were reported as having committed offences during the past five years, 35 per cent. were arrested, 55 per cent. were summoned, and 10 per cent. had not been arrested at the end of the year in which the offence was reported. The great increase in summons cases since 1906 is due principally to the number of prosecutions under the new Licensing and Pure Foods Acts, and also on account of more parents having been summoned for neglecting to send their children to school than in previous years—the compulsory clauses of the Amending Education Act requiring children to attend a greater number of times than formerly. The particulars for the

Offences reported and undetected crimes.

three decennial periods ended with 1901, and during the last five years are shown in the subjoined table:—

ARRESTS, SUMMONSES, AND UNDETECTED CRIMES, 1881 TO 1912.

Year.	Offences in respect to which persons were—			
	Arrested by the Police.	Brought before Magistrates on Summons.	Not Arrested.	Total.
1881	24,195	19,384	4,631	48,210
1891	34,161	24,525	6,584	65,270
1901	29,771	21,130	6,472	57,373
1908	22,008	38,596	5,050	65,654
1909	20,964	33,349	4,835	59,148
1910	20,518	32,990	6,129	59,637
1911	20,742	25,128	5,357	51,227
1912	21,270	33,273	8,934	63,477

In this table each separate charge against a person is considered as a separate offence; for instance, a charge of drunk and disorderly, of resisting the police, of riotous conduct, and of tearing uniform would appear as four separate offences, although all the events happened on the same occasion. Of the offences in respect of which persons were not arrested, 95 per cent. were against property, 2 per cent. were against the person, and the balance, 3 per cent., were of a miscellaneous character.

The arrests of neglected children, which are excluded from this and the following tables, numbered 744 in 1908, 1,049 in 1909, 1,030 in 1910, 926 in 1911, and 1,228 in 1912.

The following are particulars of cases brought before magistrates, from which it will be seen that about 74 per cent. of the persons are generally summarily convicted, and 25 per cent. are discharged, whilst 1 per cent. are sent for trial to superior courts:—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES DEALT WITH BY MAGISTRATES,
1908 TO 1912.

Number of Persons.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Arrested or summoned	58,778	52,658	52,060	44,526	53,087
Discharged by magistrates	14,747	13,277	12,954	12,398	13,870
Summarily convicted or dealt with	43,454	38,801	38,555	31,564	38,646
Committed for trial	577	580	551	564	571
Persons summarily convicted or committed per 1,000 of population ...	34·8	30·7	30·1	24·3	29·0

In regard to persons arrested included in these figures, minor charges are excluded, and only that charge which throughout the hearing of the case has been most prominent is taken account of; but in regard to summons cases, the unit is each separate charge or case.

Neglected children arrested.

Offences dealt with by magistrates.

CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS IN AUSTRALASIA.

A proper comparison of crime cannot be made between different States or countries unless several considerations are taken into account. The first point necessary is that the criminal law, in the places compared, should be substantially the same; the second, that it should be administered with equal strictness; and the third, that proper allowances are made for differences in the age and sex constitution of the population. The last consideration is one that must also be taken into account in comparing crime in recent years with that for previous periods when the population was very differently constituted in regard to sex and age. The returns of the States and the Dominion of New Zealand do not afford sufficient data to enable one to allow for these differences; but, in regard to the first two points above mentioned, the basis and main provisions of the criminal law are the same in each State; and it must be presumed, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, that the law is administered with equal strictness in each State. The following table shows, for a series of years, the number of charges against persons arrested or summoned for the only classes of offences for which complete comparisons can be made:—

Offences and drunkenness in Australia and New Zealand.

CRIME IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND,
1890, 1895, 1900, AND 1907 TO 1911.

State.	Year.	Number of Charges against Persons Arrested or Summoned for—				
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	Total.
Victoria	1890	4,091	5,036	18,501	36,456	64,084
	1895	2,500	4,068	11,143	21,844	39,555
	1900	2,238	3,540	15,878	29,189	50,845
	1907	1,759	3,769	14,783	42,029	62,340
	1908	1,793	3,993	13,102	41,716	60,604
	1909	1,767	3,685	12,436	36,425	54,313
	1910	1,730	3,500	12,719	35,559	53,508
	1911	1,738	3,081	13,603	27,448	45,870
New South Wales	1890	8,729	7,616	18,654	31,088	66,087
	1895	4,459	6,153	18,379	35,987	64,978
	1900	4,435	6,675	21,003	30,747	62,860
	1907	3,981	6,411	28,255	35,657	74,304
	1908	3,629	6,765	27,976	34,794	73,164
	1909	3,471	7,365	27,495	33,987	72,318
	1910	3,608	6,517	27,542	36,293	73,960
	1911	3,725	5,924	29,398	36,067	75,114

**CRIME IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND,
1890, 1895, 1900, AND 1907 TO 1911—continued.**

State.	Year.	Number of Charges against Persons Arrested or Summoned for—				
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	Total.
Queensland	1890	2,713	2,487	6,332	7,464	18,996
	1895	2,073	2,085	4,993	8,522	17,673
	1900	1,937	2,552	9,254	10,621	24,364
	1907	991	1,534	9,066	7,030	18,621
	1908	770	1,638	9,203	8,076	19,687
	1909	859	1,745	9,109	8,111	19,824
	1910	871	1,699	10,870	8,664	22,104
	1911	913	1,613	12,824	10,132	25,482
South Australia	1890	520	501	2,382	3,572	6,975
	1895	411	677	1,763	2,128	4,979
	1900	304	575	2,249	2,847	5,975
	1907	296	560	2,338	2,653	6,347
	1908	328	516	3,063	2,682	6,589
	1909	333	499	3,481	3,019	7,332
	1910	333	449	4,383	3,163	8,328
	1911	320	484	4,673	2,958	8,435
Western Australia	1890	371	536	1,181	2,602	4,690
	1895	654	1,080	2,154	4,489	8,377
	1900	1,037	1,746	3,070	8,920	14,773
	1907	529	1,558	3,591	8,290	13,968
	1908	586	1,321	3,506	7,272	12,685
	1909	564	1,161	4,007	7,229	12,961
	1910	545	1,083	4,550	7,082	13,260
	1911	454	1,189	4,857	7,362	13,862
Tasmania	1890	483	619	1,151	4,143	6,396
	1895	353	710	463	3,237	4,763
	1900	368	676	832	3,475	5,351
	1907	192	490	535	5,041	6,258
	1908	249	570	543	5,686	7,048
	1909	207	543	709	5,372	6,831
	1910	267	600	761	5,451	7,079
	1911	237	549	756	5,055	6,597
Northern Territory	1911	13	...	34	45	92
Total Australia	1890	16,907	16,795	48,201	85,325	167,228
	1895	10,450	14,773	38,895	76,207	140,325
	1900	10,319	15,764	52,286	85,799	164,168
	1907	7,748	14,322	59,068	100,700	181,838
	1908	7,355	14,803	57,393	100,226	179,777
	1909	7,201	14,998	57,237	94,143	173,579
	1910	7,354	13,848	60,825	96,212	178,239
	1911	7,400	12,840	66,145	89,067	175,452
Dominion of New Zealand	1890	1,516	2,297	5,830	8,604	18,247
	1895	1,281	2,557	5,104	8,639	17,581
	1900	1,526	2,680	7,319	13,165	24,690
	1907	1,654	3,203	10,288	21,465	36,610
	1908	1,513	3,600	10,689	20,484	36,286
	1909	1,412	3,536	10,762	21,010	36,720
	1910	1,178	3,555	11,695	21,566	37,994
	1911	1,190	3,487	11,495	23,110	39,282

The next table gives the number of charges laid against persons arrested or summoned per 1,000 of the population in the Australian States and New Zealand during a series of years:—

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALIAN STATE AND THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1890, 1895, 1900, AND 1907 TO 1911.

State.	Year.	Charges against Persons Arrested or Summoned per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.
Victoria	1890	3·66	4·50	16·54	32·59
	1895	2·12	3·45	9·44	18·45
	1900	1·88	2·97	13·31	24·46
	1907	1·40	3·01	11·80	33·56
	1908	1·42	3·15	10·35	32·96
	1909	1·38	2·88	9·71	28·43
	1910	1·33	2·69	9·79	27·37
	1911	1·32	2·33	10·30	20·77
New South Wales	1890	7·92	6·91	16·93	28·21
	1895	3·53	4·87	14·53	28·46
	1900	3·28	4·93	15·51	22·70
	1907	2·59	4·17	18·40	23·22
	1908	2·32	4·32	17·88	22·22
	1909	2·18	4·63	17·29	21·38
	1910	2·23	4·02	17·00	22·40
	1911	2·24	3·56	17·68	21·67
Queensland	1890	7·03	6·45	16·41	19·35
	1895	4·58	4·60	11·03	18·82
	1900	3·95	5·21	18·90	21·68
	1907	1·83	2·83	16·75	12·99
	1908	1·39	2·95	16·58	14·54
	1909	1·50	3·06	15·95	14·20
	1910	1·47	2·87	18·36	14·63
	1911	1·50	2·64	21·00	16·59
South Australia	1890	1·64	1·60	7·53	11·35
	1895	1·18	1·94	5·06	6·11
	1900	·85	1·60	6·26	7·93
	1907	·78	1·47	7·45	6·97
	1908	·85	1·34	7·94	6·95
	1909	·84	1·26	8·81	7·64
	1910	·83	1·12	10·93	7·88
	1911	·78	1·17	11·33	7·17
Western Australia	1890	8·28	11·97	26·37	58·09
	1895	7·06	11·66	23·25	48·45
	1900	5·86	9·86	17·34	51·45
	1907	2·07	6·10	14·05	32·44
	1908	2·27	5·12	13·60	28·21
	1909	2·14	4·41	15·22	27·46
	1910	2·01	4·00	16·79	26·13
	1911	1·58	4·15	16·94	25·69

**PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH
AUSTRALIAN STATE AND THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND,
1890, 1895, 1900, AND 1907 TO 1911—continued.**

State.	Year.	Charges against Persons Arrested or Summoned per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunken- ness.	Other Offences.
Tasmania ...	1890	3·36	4·31	8·01	28·93
	1895	2·22	4·46	2·91	20·36
	1900	2·13	3·91	4·82	20·29
	1907	1·03	2·64	2·88	27·15
	1908	1·32	3·03	2·89	30·26
	1909	1·09	2·86	3·73	28·25
	1910	1·39	3·12	3·95	28·33
	1911	1·22	2·84	3·90	26·11
Northern Territory ..	1911	3·97	...	10·39	13·74
Australia ...	1890	5·43	5·39	15·48	27·64
	1895	2·98	4·22	11·11	21·99
	1900	2·75	4·21	13·96	20·18
	1907	1·88	3·49	14·30	24·40
	1908	1·75	3·53	13·66	23·88
	1909	1·68	3·50	13·37	21·99
	1910	1·68	3·17	13·92	22·01
	1911	1·65	2·86	14·73	19·84
Dominion of New Zealand	1890	2·44	3·70	9·39	13·86
	1895	1·85	3·71	7·37	12·48
	1900	2·00	3·51	9·58	17·24
	1907	1·80	3·49	11·19	23·35
	1908	1·60	3·81	11·31	21·67
	1909	1·45	3·64	11·07	21·62
	1910	1·19	3·58	11·78	21·72
	1911	1·17	3·44	11·33	22·77

Almost all serious crimes are either offences against the person or offences against property. The only serious crimes included under "Other Offences" are forgery, counterfeiting, conspiracy, and perjury, and these are very few in number, there having been in Victoria in 1911 only 67 of such crimes, out of a total of 27,448 in the category to which they belong. A large proportion of the cases under the heading "Other Offences" are merely breaches of various Acts of Parliament, by-laws, &c., which indicate no degree of criminal instinct or intent on the part of the person charged. There is also among

them a large number of offences against good order, including insulting behaviour, vagrancy, &c. A comparison of the relative proportions in the various States of charges under the heading "Other Offences" is not of much value, on account of the differences in the laws of the States in these matters, and of the large proportion of the offences which are not crimes, but mere breaches of various Acts and by-laws.

Offences against the person set out in the first column of the preceding table, consist mainly of assault, but include murder, manslaughter, shooting, wounding, and all crimes of lust. A glance at the figures shows that since 1890 there has been a very large decline in these crimes in every State in proportion to population. South Australia easily holds the pride of place, then comes New Zealand, closely followed by Tasmania, Victoria, and Queensland, then Western Australia, New South Wales, and Northern Territory in that order.

Offences
against the
person.

A decrease, as compared with 1890, has also occurred in the proportion of offences against property in all the Australian States, and New Zealand. The decrease in respect of these offences in Australia is, however, not nearly so marked as that in respect of offences against the person. Offences against property are far less rife in South Australia than in any other State or New Zealand, Victoria coming next, followed by Queensland, Tasmania, New Zealand, New South Wales, and Western Australia, in that order. Offences against property consist principally of larceny and similar offences; but include burglary, robbery, &c., cattle stealing, and wilful damage to property.

Offences
against
property.

In three Australian States, viz., Victoria, Western Australia, and Tasmania, there was a decrease in drunkenness cases before magistrates in 1911, as compared with 1890; but there was an increase in New Zealand. This offence is much less frequent in Tasmania than in any other State, Victoria coming next, and Northern Territory, South Australia, New Zealand, Western Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland following in that order. In Victoria, summons cases for drunkenness were not included previous to 1902, but the number of such cases was so small that the comparison is not appreciably affected by their omission.

Drunken-
ness.

Charges
against
persons
arrested,
1871 to
1912.

Appended is a summary showing the number of charges against persons arrested under each class of offence in the five census years ended with 1911, and in 1912:—

CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED AT FIVE DECENNIAL PERIODS
AND IN 1912.

Offences.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1912.
<i>Against the Person—</i>						
Murder and attempts at ...	28	16	44	12	17	19
Manslaughter ...	14	16	9	11	6	12
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm, &c. ...	63	82	84	83	44	39
Assaults ...	1,023	1,155	1,317	832	487	506
Rape, and other offences against females ...	88	71	66	116	93	85
Unnatural offence and at- tempts at ...	18	5	14	13	8	7
Suicide, attempted ...	79	81	96	57	45	35
Others ...	11	28	21	18	19	8
<i>Against Property—</i>						
Robbery, burglary, house- breaking, &c. ...	421	367	609	460	324	360
Horse, cattle, and sheep stealing ...	121	89	96	56	37	39
Larceny ...	2,052	2,024	2,384	1,807	1,175	1,297
Embezzlement ...	43	32	70	28	16	18
False pretences and imposing or endeavouring to impose ...	195	206	243	137	142	143
Wilful damage ...	581	547	503	314	146	155
Others ...	413	468	253	157	163	164
Forgery and offences against the currency ...	82	58	109	47	44	32
<i>Against Good Order—</i>						
Drunkenness ...	9,968	11,065	18,057	17,360	13,538	13,481
Indecent, riotous, or offensive conduct, and obscene, threatening, or abusive language ...	1,099	3,997	5,010	4,269	2,698	2,749
Having no visible lawful means of support, begging, and vagrancy (unspecified) ...	886	1,419	2,020	1,035	421	582
Offences against Gambling Suppression Act ...	85	95	177	324	65	109
Others ...	2,825	1,366	1,940	1,988	655	779
<i>Other Offences—</i>						
Perjury ...	32	21	56	33	21	36
Marriage and Matrimonial Causes Act (desertion of family, &c.) ...	174	150	211	188	191	210
Others ...	1,190	837	772	426	387	405
Total ...	21,491	24,195	34,161	29,771	20,742	21,270

Subjoined is a statement of the proportions to the population aged 15 years and upwards of those arrested for different offences at the five census periods ended with 1911, and in 1912:—

Proportion
of arrests
for various
offences,
1871 to
1912.

**CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED PER 10,000 OF POPULATION,
AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, AT FIVE DECENNIAL PERIODS, AND
IN 1912.**

Offences.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1912.
Against the Person—						
Murder and attempts at ...	·66	·30	·59	·15	·19	·20
Manslaughter ...	·33	·30	·12	·14	·07	·13
Shooting at, or wounding with intent to do bodily harm, &c.	1·49	1·54	1·12	1·05	·48	·41
Assaults ...	24·20	21·70	17·62	10·49	5·31	5·36
Rape and other offences against females ...	2·08	1·34	·88	1·46	1·01	·90
Unnatural offence and attempts at ...	·43	·09	·19	·16	·09	·07
Suicide, attempted ...	1·87	1·52	1·28	·72	·49	·37
Others ...	·26	·53	·28	·23	·21	·08
Against Property—						
Robbery, burglary, house- breaking, &c. ...	9·95	6·90	8·15	5·80	3·54	3·82
Horse, cattle, and sheep stealing ...	2·86	1·67	1·29	·71	·40	·41
Larceny ...	48·54	38·04	31·90	22·79	12·82	13·75
Embezzlement ...	1·02	·60	·94	·35	·18	·19
False pretences and imposing or endeavouring to impose ...	4·61	3·87	3·25	1·73	1·55	1·52
Wilful damage ...	13·74	10·28	6·73	3·96	1·59	1·64
Others ...	9·77	8·80	3·39	1·98	1·78	1·74
Forgery and offences against the currency ...	1·94	1·09	1·46	·59	·48	·34
Against Good Order—						
Drunkenness ...	235·79	207·95	241·61	218·98	147·72	142·89
Indecent, riotous, or offensive conduct, and obscene, threatening, or abusive language ...	26·00	75·12	67·04	53·85	29·44	29·14
Having no visible lawful means of support, begging, and vagrancy (unspecified) ...	20·96	26·67	27·03	13·06	4·59	6·17
Offences against Gambling Suppression Act ...	2·01	1·78	2·37	4·10	·71	1·16
Others ...	66·82	25·67	25·95	25·06	7·15	8·26
Other Offences—						
Perjury ...	·76	·39	·75	·42	·23	·38
Marriage and Matrimonial Causes Act (desertion of family, &c.) ...	4·11	2·82	2·82	2·37	2·08	2·23
Others ...	28·15	15·73	10·33	5·38	4·22	4·29
Total ...	508·35	454·70	457·09	375·53	226·33	225·45

Males and
females
arrested.

The sexes of persons brought up on summons are not recorded ; but it usually happens that about 20 per cent. of the persons arrested are females. The males and females arrested, and the disposal of the cases, in 1912, were as follows :—

MALES AND FEMALES ARRESTED, 1912.

Disposal.	Arrests.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Summarily Convicted	9,855	1,940	11,795
Discharged by Magistrates	6,248	1,253	7,501
Committed for Trial	478	40	518
Total	16,581	3,233	19,814

SENTENCES PASSED.

Sentences
by Magis-
trates.

The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates during 1912 were as follows :—

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF PERSONS ARRESTED, 1912.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	4,723	472	5,195
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	3,166	1,032	4,198
1 and under 6 months	843	273	1,116
6 and under 12 months	127	43	170
1 to 2 years	49	21	70
2 years	6	...	6
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety ...	259	29	288
Admonished	18	45	563
Sent to Industrial or Reformatory Schools	73	3	76
Otherwise dealt with	91	22	113
Total sentenced	9,855	1,940	11,795
Discharged	6,248	1,253	7,501
Total summarily disposed of ...	16,103	3,193	19,296
Sentenced per 10,000 of population ...	145.7	28.6	87.1

The following were the sentences of the arrested prisoners tried and convicted in superior courts during 1912:—

Sentences in superior courts.

SENTENCES OF ARRESTED PRISONERS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1912.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	2	...	2
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	4	2	6
1 and under 6 months	32	2	34
6 " 12 " 	73	6	79
1 " 4 years 	102	4	106
4 " 7 " 	23	...	23
7 " 10 " 	4	...	4
10 " 15 " 	1	...	1
Life ... ..	...	...	...
Death recorded	3	...	3
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	75	8	83
Sent to Reformatory Schools	2	...	2
Sent to Reformatory Prison	7	2	9
Total convicted	328	24	352
Acquitted	161	16	177
Not prosecuted	12	...	12
Convictions per 10,000 of population...	4·8	4	2·6

In addition to being sent to gaol, ten prisoners were ordered one whipping each with a cat-o'-nine tails. Prisoners remaining for trial from the previous year are included in the above statement, but those awaiting trial at the end of the year are excluded.

DECREASE IN CRIME.

Decrease of
crime in
Victoria.

To enable a comparison to be made of the relative criminality of the population at different ages, it is necessary to separate the sexes of arrested persons, to divide each sex into age groups, and to show the number of charges laid against the males and females in the different groups between 10 and 60 per 10,000 persons living in each group. The following are the particulars on this basis for the last five census years:—

CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED AT DIFFERENT AGES PER
10,000 OF POPULATION, 1871 TO 1911.

Ages.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.
	MALES.				
10 to 15 years	104	111	96	49	26
15 to 20 "	338	335	305	228	145
20 to 25 "	773	720	691	593	284
25 to 30 "	834	823	777	713	393
30 to 40 "	771	865	869	702	462
40 to 50 "	726	721	1,054	872	498
50 to 60 "	830	623	756	804	519
60 years and over	756	661	586	430	309
	FEMALES.				
10 to 15 years	37	26	16	15	15
15 to 20 "	80	60	50	28	13
20 to 25 "	141	178	141	117	32
25 to 30 "	232	219	171	173	95
30 to 40 "	303	290	189	168	114
40 to 50 "	272	322	239	171	117
50 to 60 "	245	223	215	119	86
60 years and over	186	166	144	109	45

These figures prove that there has been a great decrease in crime in recent, as compared with former, years. In every age group there has been a considerable falling-off. The spread of education has

doubtless had much to do with this result. Religious teaching was struck out of the curriculum of the State schools in 1873, and many attempts have been made to ascertain the effect on the community as revealed by statistics of crime. No definite conclusion can, however, be arrived at by merely examining these statistics for a series of years.

In comparing the criminal records of different periods many factors must be taken into account, some of which have a tendency to increase and others to decrease the numbers of arrests and summonses issued. For example, new laws are constantly being passed the contravention of which will lead to proceedings being taken against the person concerned. During a period of prosperity the earnings of the people are increased, a larger sum than usual is spent on alcoholic liquors, and there may be an increase in the number of arrests for drunkenness. On the other hand, when work is plentiful, the temptation to commit offences against property is less than during periods of depression. The work carried out by reformatory agencies also will tend to reduce the number of arrests of persons who have previously been convicted.

It is not possible from the records of a single community to ascertain the effect of a change in one element of the social economy unless the effect of all other changes is known. An approximate idea of the consequences of a change in one particular may, however, be obtained if a comparison be made between the criminal statistics of two communities during a term of years when the conditions were very similar except in regard to the special element under consideration.

It has been already stated that in making up the returns, a person arrested more than once is counted as a separate individual in respect to each arrest, but it is possible to ascertain approximately the number of distinct persons passing through the hands of the police by making a close comparison of names, ages, birth-places, religions,

Arrests of
distinct
individuals.

DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1912—continued.

Age and Religion.	Number of Arrests.	Number of Distinct Individuals Arrested.	Number of Times on which Distinct Individuals were Arrested.																			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	16	17	19	25		
AGE.																						
Under 10 years	13	12	11	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10 to 15	108	100	92	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 to 20	1,085	960	864	75	14	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 to 25	2,105	1,774	1,539	175	41	10	5	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25 to 30	2,395	1,943	1,661	194	52	18	8	3	2	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
30 to 40	4,695	3,411	2,705	445	145	52	19	15	9	9	3	3	2	1	1	..	1	..	..	..
40 to 50	4,786	3,199	2,394	478	162	72	31	24	16	8	7	3	2	3	..	..	2	..	1	1
50 to 60	2,398	1,986	1,509	398	98	31	17	11	10	8	3	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
60 to 70	1,311	872	656	136	38	16	7	7	1	2	2	3	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..
70 to 80	366	253	199	34	11	1	4	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
80 years and over	52	42	35	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
RELIGION.																						
Church of England	6,817	5,101	4,158	618	175	58	26	23	11	10	7	6	4	1	1	..	2	1	..	..
Presbyterian	2,553	1,891	1,580	234	63	23	17	5	5	3	1	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1
Methodist	808	683	531	71	18	3	1	3	4	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Independent	41	32	27	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Baptist	153	123	104	10	7	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lutheran	367	285	236	29	12	7	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Salvation Army	11	10	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Protestants	44	41	39	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Protestants	10,794	8,116	6,634	966	278	99	44	31	20	14	9	9	4	1	3	..	2	1	..	1		
Roman Catholics	8,550	6,046	4,698	838	279	102	48	30	20	11	8	5	2	3	2	1	1	..	3	..		
Jews	56	43	38	3	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	55	51	47	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mohammedans	13	12	11	1		
Other Sects	10	8	6	2		
No religion	336	276	231	35	5	5		

Law, Crime, &c.

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DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1912—continued.

Occupation.	Number of Arrests.	Number of Distinct Individuals Arrested.	Number of Times on which Distinct Individuals were Arrested.																		
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	17	19	25	
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION CLASS.																					
Cabman, driver	58	47	40	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Carrier, carter, driver	350	303	260	32	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Driver, motor car	27	22	18	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Groom	157	130	106	21	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shipmaster, officer, seaman	565	442	381	38	12	7	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Steward, stewardess, ship servant	47	46	45	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wharf labourer, stevedore	53	46	39	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others	70	61	53	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
INDUSTRIAL CLASS.																					
Baker	99	81	70	7	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blacksmith, farrier	134	111	96	11	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Boot, shoe maker	272	210	171	24	10	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bricklayer	123	101	89	10	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Carpenter	298	228	192	21	9	..	4	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Compositor, printer	115	78	63	9	2	..	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dressmaker, milliner	26	14	9	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Engineer, engine-driver, stoker	194	168	147	18	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fireman	293	219	179	26	7	4	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Labourer, road	38	31	27	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" (undefined)	7,714	5,739	4,545	802	224	83	33	18	15	9	3	3	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Machinist	41	30	24	4	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Painter	168	125	101	12	7	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plasterer	57	45	38	6	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plumber	55	43	37	4	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stonemason	24	17	11	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tailor, tailoress	95	69	54	10	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tinsmith	56	46	37	8	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others	1,084	843	706	90	25	12	3	2	1	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
PRIMARY PRODUCERS.																					
Drover, shearer, station employé, wool classer	168	130	107	16	4	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Farmer	188	172	157	14	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gardener	164	125	104	14	3	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Labourer, farm	883	612	443	114	33	11	5	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miner	302	249	209	30	8	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others	158	136	121	11	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
INDEFINITE CLASS.																					
Prostitute	705	307	166	56	34	14	12	8	5	4	3	1	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	..
No occupation, over 15 years	1,612	983	752	107	50	25	9	10	8	7	4	5	..	1	1	1	1	..	2	..	
" under 15 years	110	101	92	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others	17	17	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Individuals
arrested
more than
once.

Of the total number of arrests, 19,814, only 14,552, or 73 per cent., were of distinct individuals. Of these 11,665, or 80 per cent., were arrested only once; 1,844, or 13 per cent., twice; 562, or 4 per cent., three times; 207, or 1 per cent., four times; and 274, or 2 per cent., five times and over—three of these persons having been arrested nineteen times, and one as many as twenty-five times. The following table gives a comparison of 1912 with 1884, from which it will be seen that there has been a slight decrease in the proportionate number of persons arrested more than once:—

DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED, 1884 AND 1912.

Year.	Distinct Persons Arrested.						Percentage Arrested.				
	Number.			Per 100,000 of the Population.			Once.	Twice.	Thrice.	Four Times.	More than Four Times.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.					
1884 ...	16,229	3,628	19,857	3,309	820	2,129	78	14	4	2	2
1912 ...	12,726	1,806	14,552	1,882	269	1,074	80	13	4	1	2

Sexes of
those
arrested
more than
once.

The tendency of females to be arrested over and over again is much greater than that of males, for, while only 18 per cent. of the males who fell into the hands of the police were arrested more than once, as many as 30 per cent. of the females were so arrested.

Distinct
persons
arrested
more than
once for
drunken-
ness.

The distinct persons arrested for drunkenness during 1912 numbered 9,619, and, of these, 2,065, or 21 per cent., were arrested more than once, viz., 1,302 twice; 407 thrice, 136 four times, 74 five times, and 146 more than five times, of whom 1 was arrested twenty-two times.

Drunkards
charged
with other
offences.

Whilst the number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness was 9,619, the charges of drunkenness brought against them numbered 13,481; these persons were also charged with 1,479 other offences, so that the total number of charges of all kinds against drunkards was 14,960, as compared with 21,270 charges of all descriptions. Thus 70 per cent. of the offences for which persons were arrested during 1912 were committed by persons who were arrested for drunkenness.

The table below contains a classification of distinct persons arrested during 1912 according to birth-place, and shows the proportion per 10,000 which the persons in each class bear to those of the same nationality living in the State at the middle of 1912:—

Birthplaces of distinct persons arrested and committed for trial.

BIRTHPLACES OF DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED AND COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1912.

Birthplace.	Distinct Persons Arrested.				
	Total Number.	Summarily Convicted, Held to Bail, &c.	Discharged by Magistrates.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.
Victoria	8,294	5,217	2,724	353	232
Other Australian States ..	1,456	848	549	59	48
New Zealand	259	155	94	10	4
England and Wales	1,732	938	758	36	24
Scotland	690	375	309	6	5
Ireland	1,268	721	535	12	9
China	43	25	14	4	3
Other Countries.. ..	810	422	360	28	22
Total	14,552	8,701	5,343	508	347
Proportion per 10,000 of Population of same nationality.					
Victoria	79.75	50.16	26.19	3.40	2.23
Other Australian States ..	143.25	83.43	54.02	5.80	4.72
New Zealand	250.00	149.62	90.73	9.65	3.86
England and Wales	188.24	101.95	82.38	3.91	2.61
Scotland	252.19	137.06	112.94	2.19	1.83
Ireland	296.95	168.85	125.29	2.81	2.11
China	74.52	43.33	24.26	6.93	5.20
Other Countries.. ..	234.85	122.35	104.38	8.12	6.38
Total	107.45	64.25	39.45	3.75	2.56

The proportion of arrests of distinct persons of Victorian birth does not afford a proper comparison with the proportions indicated for natives of other Australian States, Great Britain, and foreign countries. The Victorian born population includes a large number of children of whom, as has been shown, few are arrested, whereas the number of children

in the State born in places outside Victoria is very small. Partly for this reason the ratio obtained by comparing the arrests of natives with the corresponding population is less than the ratios relating to the arrests of persons born in other States and countries.

Religions of
distinct
persons
arrested
and
convicted.

The religions professed by the distinct persons arrested during 1912, and the proportions of persons from each denomination so arrested or dealt with per 10,000 of their numbers in the population of 1912 are shown hereunder:—

RELIGIONS OF DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED AND COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1912.

Religion.	Total number.	Summarily convicted, held to bail, &c.	Discharged by Magistrates.	Committed for trial.	Convicted after commitment.
Church of England ...	5,101	2,993	1,885	223	147
Presbyterian ...	1,891	1,112	720	59	38
Methodist ...	633	398	203	32	27
Other Protestants ...	491	266	203	22	16
Total Protestants	8,116	4,769	3,011	336	228
Roman Catholics ...	6,046	3,723	2,169	154	108
Jews ...	43	22	17	4	2
Other Denominations	71	46	21	4	3
No Religion...	276	141	125	10	6
Total ...	14,552	8,701	5,343	508	347
Proportion per 10,000 persons connected with each denomination.					
Church of England ...	109·84	64·45	40·59	4·80	3·17
Presbyterian ...	78·31	46·05	29·82	2·44	1·57
Methodist ...	34·80	21·88	11·16	1·76	1·48
Other Protestants ...	43·44	23·53	17·96	1·95	1·42
Total Protestants	81·10	47·65	30·09	3·36	2·28
Roman Catholics ...	205·04	126·26	73·56	5·22	3·66
Jews ...	66·56	34·05	26·32	6·19	3·10
Other Denominations	42·26	27·38	12·50	2·38	1·79
No religion...	77·86	39·78	35·26	2·82	1·69
Total ...	107·45	64·25	39·45	3·75	2·56

The ages of those arrested in 1912, and the degree of instruction possessed by them, are shown in the subjoined table :—

Age and
degree of
instruc-
tion.

AGE AND DEGREE OF INSTRUCTION OF DISTINCT PERSONS
ARRESTED, 1912.

Ages.	Education Superior.	Education Good.	Read Only, or Read and Write.	Illiterate.	Total.
Under 10 years ..	..	..	12	..	12
10 to 15 „ ..	..	..	95	5	100
15 to 20 „ ..	..	..	948	12	960
20 to 25 „ ..	..	2	1,749	23	1,774
25 to 36 „ ..	1	4	1,917	21	1,943
30 to 40 „ ..	3	7	3,341	60	3,411
40 to 50 „ ..	3	12	3,105	79	3,199
50 to 60 „ ..	6	5	1,906	69	1,986
60 to 70 „ ..	1	2	815	54	872
70 to 80 „ ..	..	1	229	23	253
80 years and over ..	..	..	34	8	42
Total ..	14	33	14,151	354	14,552

About 2 per cent. of the distinct individuals arrested in 1912 were entirely illiterate, over 97 per cent. could read only, or read and write, and under 1 per cent. were possessed of superior or good education.

Education
of persons
arrested.

The statistics to hand relating to the United Kingdom give the commitments for trial and convictions in the superior courts. The following table shows the number of commitments for trial and convictions, and their respective proportions to the population of each division of the United Kingdom during the last year of each of the

Crime in
United
Kingdom.

three decennial periods ended 1900, and during each of the five years ended 1911:—

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1880, 1890, 1900, AND
1907 TO 1911.

Country.	Year.	Commitments for trial.	Convictions.	Proportion per 10,000 of Population of—	
				Commitments.	Convictions.
England and Wales...	1880	14,770	11,214	5·74	4·36
	1890	11,974	9,242	4·16	3·21
	1900	10,331	8,157	3·20	2·53
	1907	13,054	10,834	3·74	3·10
	1908	14,554	12,060	4·15	3·44
	1909	14,287	11,865	4·03	3·35
	1910	14,330	11,987	4·00	3·35
	1911	13,644	11,338	3·78	3·14
Scotland ...	1880	2,583	2,046	6·97	5·52
	1890	2,312	1,825	5·77	4·56
	1900	2,167	1,835	4·88	4·14
	1907	2,456	2,012	5·13	4·22
	1908	2,559	2,115	5·30	4·38
	1909	1,977	1,618	4·19	3·44
	1910	1,488	1,225	3·14	2·59
	1911	1,401	1,122	2·94	2·36
Ireland ...	1880	4,716	2,383	9·06	4·58
	1890	2,061	1,193	4·39	2·54
	1900	1,682	1,087	3·76	2·43
	1907	2,193	1,338	5·01	3·06
	1908	2,242	1,375	5·13	3·15
	1909	2,219	1,507	5·08	3·45
	1910	2,036	1,373	4·66	3·14
	1911	2,114	1,496	4·82	3·41
Total United Kingdom	1880	22,069	15,643	6·37	4·52
	1890	16,347	12,260	4·36	3·27
	1900	14,180	11,079	3·45	2·69
	1907	17,698	14,179	4·01	3·22
	1908	19,355	15,550	4·34	3·49
	1909	18,483	14,990	4·15	3·37
	1910	17,854	14,585	3·98	3·25
	1911	17,159	13,956	3·79	3·09

Proportion
of commit-
ments for
trial and
convictions
in Austro-
lian States,
New Zea-
land, and
Britain.

From the next table it will be observed that, in proportion to the population, the commitments in the United Kingdom were above those in Tasmania and South Australia, also that the convictions in Scotland, England, and Ireland exceeded those in South Australia and Tasmania; in all other cases the commitments

and convictions in the three portions of the United Kingdom were below those in the Australian States and New Zealand:—

PROPORTION OF COMMITMENTS AND CONVICTIONS TO EVERY 10,000 PERSONS LIVING IN THE AUSTRALIAN STATES, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1907 TO 1911.

Commitments for Trial to every 10,000 of Population.				Convictions after Commitment to every 10,000 of Population.			
New Zealand	...	...	9.50	New Zealand	...	...	4.78
Queensland	...	...	7.89	Queensland	...	...	4.45
Western Australia	...	...	7.14	Western Australia	...	...	4.42
New South Wales	...	...	7.03	New South Wales	...	...	3.67
Victoria	...	...	5.36	Victoria	...	...	3.42
Ireland	...	...	4.94	Scotland	...	...	3.40
Scotland	...	...	4.14	England and Wales	...	...	3.28
England and Wales	...	...	3.94	Ireland	...	...	3.24
Tasmania	...	...	2.91	South Australia	...	...	2.06
South Australia	...	...	2.67	Tasmania	...	...	1.58

The following figures show that in the five years 1907 to 1911, convictions followed commitment with more certainty in England and Scotland than in any of the Australian States and New Zealand, but South Australia, in this respect, stood above Ireland. All the other Australian States and New Zealand occupy positions below these, New Zealand being at the bottom of the list with about 50 convictions to every 100 commitments:—

Proportion of convictions to commitments in Australian States, New Zealand, and Britain.

PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS TO COMMITMENTS IN THE AUSTRALIAN STATES, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1907 TO 1911.

Per Cent.				Per Cent.			
England and Wales	...	...	83.25	Western Australia	...	...	61.90
Scotland	...	...	82.13	Queensland	...	...	56.40
South Australia	...	...	77.15	Tasmania	...	...	54.30
Ireland	...	...	65.59	New South Wales	...	...	52.20
Victoria	...	...	63.81	New Zealand	...	...	50.32

Drunken-
ness, 1908
to 1912.

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

PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS, 1908 TO 1912.

Year.	Number of Persons—			Proportion per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1908 ...	13,029	73	13,102	10·35
1909 ...	12,386	50	12,436	9·71
1910 ...	12,653	66	12,719	9·79
1911 ...	13,538	65	13,603	10·30
1912 ...	13,481	43	13,524	9·99

Drunken-
ness—Com-
parison
with pre-
vious years.

The amount of drunkenness, as evidenced by arrests, being taken as 100 in 1874-8, the numbers for subsequent periods will show the increase or decrease by comparison:—

Period.	Index Number.				
1874-8	Average 5 years	...	...	...	100
1879-85	" 7 "	...	...	...	88
1886-92	" 7 "	...	...	...	106
1893-97	" 5 "	...	...	...	65
1898-1902	" 5 "	...	...	...	83
1903-7	" 5 "	...	...	...	77
1908	...	...	...	...	71
1909	...	...	...	...	66
1910	...	...	...	...	67
1911	...	...	...	...	70
1912	...	...	...	...	68

A very considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown during the five years 1893-7, which was a period of general depression. In the five years following an increase occurred, but since that time the arrests for this offence have declined, and during the last five years they have been only slightly above the lowest point of previous years.

Young
persons
charged
with
drunken-
ness.

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

ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1895 TO 1912.

Year.					Number.	Proportion per 100,000 of the Population under 20 years of age.
1895	...	...	...	...	185	35·60
1900	...	...	...	...	222	42·38
1908	...	...	...	...	133	25·81
1909	...	...	...	...	104	19·94
1910	...	...	...	...	128	24·19
1911	...	...	...	...	137	25·46
1912	...	...	...	...	146	26·48

The religions professed by the distinct persons arrested for drunkenness during the past five years are given in the following table:—

Religions of persons arrested for drunkenness.

RELIGIONS OF DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED FOR DRUNKENNESS,
1908 TO 1912.

Religion.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Church of England ...	3,209	2,949	2,872	3,031	3,138
Presbyterian ...	1,268	1,227	1,237	1,284	1,328
Methodist ...	342	323	344	332	334
Other Protestants ...	309	264	290	306	313
Total Protestants	5,128	4,763	4,743	4,953	5,113
Roman Catholics ...	4,231	3,871	4,090	4,296	4,275
Jews ...	9	12	6	7	11
Other Denominations ...	27	20	21	24	25
No Religion ...	189	184	192	174	195
Total ...	9,584	8,850	9,052	9,454	9,619
Proportion per 1,000 persons connected with each denomination.					
Church of England ...	7.04	6.39	6.14	6.72	6.76
Presbyterian ...	6.28	6.01	5.97	5.47	5.50
Methodist ...	1.60	1.68	1.76	1.88	1.84
Other Protestants ...	2.92	2.46	2.67	2.79	2.77
Total Protestants	5.38	4.94	4.85	5.10	5.11
Roman Catholics ...	15.22	13.76	14.34	15.00	14.50
Jews ...	1.44	1.91	.94	1.12	1.70
Other Denominations...	2.46	1.80	1.87	1.47	1.49
No Religion ...	10.95	10.53	10.84	5.05	5.50
Total ...	7.57	6.91	6.97	7.19	7.10

Drunkenness was the cause of arrest of distinct persons connected with the various religious bodies in the following proportions:— Church of England, 62 per cent. of total arrests; Presbyterian, 70 per cent.; Methodist, 53 per cent.; other Protestants, 64 per cent.; Roman Catholic, 71 per cent.; Jews, 26 per cent.; and other denominations, 35 per cent. In the case of those persons who were classified as "no religion," the arrests for drunkenness comprised 71 per cent.

Apparent
leniency of
magis-
trates in
drunken-
ness cases
in Victoria.

The following tabulation shows the number of charges of drunkenness made against persons in each State and in New Zealand during 1911, also the number of convictions and the percentage of the latter to the former:—

PERCENTAGE OF CONVICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1911.

State.	Charges of Drunkenness.	Convictions.	
		Total.	Percentage of Charges.
Victoria	13,603	7,557	55·55
New South Wales	29,398	29,299	99·66
Queensland	12,824	12,767	99·56
South Australia	4,673	4,627	99·02
Western Australia	4,857	4,808	98·99
Tasmania	756	740	97·88
Northern Territory	34	34	100·00
Australia	66,145	59,832	90·46
Dominion of New Zealand ..	11,495	11,400	99·17
Australasia	77,640	71,232	91·75

It will be seen from the last column in the above table that the percentage of convictions in Victoria was much less than in the other States and the Dominion of New Zealand, nearly every case resulting in a conviction in the latter places, and about one out of every two cases in the former. These figures seem to denote a comparative leniency on the part of magistrates in drunkenness cases in Victoria, but investigations show that in that State an offender on his first appearance is generally discharged, and that those who have been arrested on a Saturday and detained in custody until Monday, are similarly dealt with. In some cases also, when an offender has been admitted to bail after arrest, he is discharged on putting a donation in the poor-box. In all these cases no conviction is recorded in Victoria, but in the other States a conviction is entered on the records in nearly every case, whether any punishment is inflicted or not.

The next table shows for a period of five years the average yearly consumption of intoxicating liquors in the principal countries of the world, the information for foreign countries having been compiled from a return prepared to the order of the British House of Commons, dated 21st November, 1910:—

AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS, BEER, AND WINE IN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE PRINCIPAL BRITISH POSSESSIONS AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Countries.	Yearly Average Quantity Consumed, 1908 to 1912.			Proportion per Head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
British—						
Commonwealth of Australia ..	3,342,800	52,673,700	2,031,600	·76	11·95	·46
Dominion of New Zealand ..	779,600	9,722,100	147,600	·79	9·79	·15
	1907 to 1911.					
Canada ..	6,464,800	41,909,000	737,200	·96	6·22	·11
Cape of Good Hope*	1,391,400	3,812,200	4,689,000	·56	1·56	1·84
Natal* ..	336,000	955,800	51,000	·28	·81	·04
Newfoundland ..	93,400	76,400	9,500	·39	·32	·04
United Kingdom	33,815,600	1,197,924,000	11,772,800	·76	26·94	·27
	1905 to 1909.					
Foreign—						
Austria ..	39,050,000	422,721,000	127,362,000	1·41	15·18	4·52
Belgium ..	7,907,000	355,438,000	7,660,000	1·08	48·58	1·04
Bulgaria ..	449,000	2,622,000	26,721,600	·11	·63	6·42
Denmark ..	6,026,000	53,878,000	..	2·29	20·50	..
France ..	51,902,000	313,286,000	1,353,823,000	1·33	7·96	34·52
German Empire ..	92,664,000	1,485,004,000	73,986,000	1·48	23·74	1·19
Holland ..	7,955,000	..	1,989,000	1·39	..	·85
Hungary ..	37,030,000	44,559,000	98,534,000	1·85	2·20	4·74
Italy ..	14,498,000	10,850,000	875,464,000	·43	·32	25·84
Norway ..	1,338,000	9,376,000	..	·57	4·06	..
Portugal ..	..	..	108,574,000	..	..	20·60
Roumania ..	5,130,000	3,507,000	35,468,000	·76	·53	5·36
Russian Empire ..	173,600,000	173,731,000	..	1·15	1·15	..
Servia ..	..	2,020,000	12,241,000	..	·73	4·40
Spain ..	..	..	325,015,000	..	..	17·32
Sweden ..	7,137,000	68,231,000	..	1·33	12·80	..
Switzerland ..	2,698,000	53,095,000	53,174,000	·77	15·22	15·26
United States ..	105,844,000	1,439,525,000	42,181,000	1·23	16·78	·49

NOTE.—Where blanks occur the information is not available.

* Figures refer to period 1905 to 1909.

By comparing the figures for Australia in the foregoing table with those of several other countries it will be seen that the consumption of intoxicants was proportionately less in Australia. As regards spirits, whilst the consumption in Australia was three-fourths of a gallon per head per year, in Denmark it amounted to $2\frac{1}{2}$ gallons; in Hungary to nearly 2 gallons; in Germany and Austria to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons; in Holland, Sweden, France, Belgium, the Russian Empire, and the United States to more than a gallon; and in the United

Consumption of intoxicating liquor.

Consumption of drink in various countries compared.

Kingdom to three-fourths of a gallon. The greatest beer-producing countries of the world are the German Empire, the United States, and the United Kingdom, in that order; but in consumption per head of the population Belgium, with $48\frac{1}{2}$ gallons; the United Kingdom, with 27 gallons; Germany, with $23\frac{3}{4}$ gallons; and Denmark, with $20\frac{1}{2}$ gallons, are the foremost. The particulars in this table would indicate that Belgium consumes more beer than any other country in the world, but the statistics of the States composing the German Empire show that Bavaria is entitled to that distinction, with a consumption of $50\frac{1}{2}$ gallons per head. The consumption in Würtemberg and in Baden was also high, reaching 32 gallons per head. The Australian consumption of nearly 12 gallons does not appear to be large by comparison with those figures. The chief wine-producing countries of the world—France and Italy—are also the greatest consumers, the former averaging $34\frac{1}{2}$ gallons, and the latter 26 gallons per head. Portugal, with $20\frac{1}{2}$ gallons; Spain, with $17\frac{1}{2}$ gallons; and Switzerland, with $15\frac{1}{4}$ gallons, are also large consumers. The inhabitants of the British Empire are small wine-drinkers. At the Cape of Good Hope the consumption is highest, with nearly 2 gallons per head; Australia consumes less than half-a-gallon per head; the United Kingdom about one-quarter of a gallon; and Canada one-ninth of a gallon.

Expenditure
by the
people on
intoxicat-
ing liquor.

With the assistance of the figures in the preceding table, it is possible to estimate for Australia, with some degree of accuracy, the approximate expenditure of the people on intoxicating liquors in a year, and this is done in the following table, taking as a basis the yearly average consumption over a period of five years:—

AUSTRALIAN DRINK BILL.—YEARLY AVERAGE, 1908 TO 1912.

	Expenditure by the People on—					
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Total.		
				Amount.	Per Head.	Per Adult Individual
	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Commonwealth of Australia	5,849,900	7,901,100	1,015,800	14,766,800	3 7 0	5 19 6
Dominion of New Zealand	1,364,300	1,458,300	73,800	2,896,400	2 18 4	5 0 6

These figures show that the average yearly expenditure on drink in Australia during the quinquennium 1908 to 1912, amounted to £14,766,800, and that in New Zealand to £2,896,400. The proportion per head for the Commonwealth was £3 7s., and for New Zealand £2 18s. 4d. The corresponding proportions for the quinquennium, 1907-11, were £3 6s. 1d. and £2 18s. 5d. per head.

The subjoined table shows the average quantity and the proportion per head of population of alcoholic liquors consumed in Victoria during the five-year periods ended 1885 and 1909. The period immediately preceding 1886 has been selected for comparison because in the year 1885 was passed an important measure—the Licensing Act 1885—relating to the obtaining and holding of licenses:—

Average consumption of alcoholic liquors, 1881 to 1885 and 1905 to 1909.

AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS, BEER, AND WINE IN VICTORIA, 1881 TO 1885 AND 1905 TO 1909.

Average of five years ended—	Quantity Consumed.			Proportion per head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
	gallons	gallons	gallons	gallons	gallons	gallons
1885	1,130,000*	14,110,800	713,500	1·21*	15·45	·78
1909	832,100	14,933,900	600,100	·66	11·92	·48

* Average of three years ended 1885.

After allowing for the increase of population, the fall between the five-year periods ended 1885 and 1909 in the quantities consumed per head represents a reduced consumption in the period ended 1909 of 683,300 gallons of spirits, 4,416,300 gallons of beer, and 376,800 gallons of wine. As the Commonwealth Government has discontinued keeping records of Inter-State trade, it is not possible to obtain the Victorian consumption for a later year than 1909. The consumption per head for the whole of Australia has not varied much during the last four years.

The Licences Reduction Board provided for by the Licensing Act of 1906 was appointed on 21st May, 1907. At the same time, a Compensation Fund was instituted, which is raised by means of a percentage fee of £3 for every £100 of purchases of liquor, the owner of the premises being chargeable with two-thirds and the tenant with one-third of the fee. The amount paid into this fund was £48,233 in 1907, £48,542 in 1908, £49,300 in 1909, £48,875 in 1910, £51,716 in 1911, £55,275 in 1912, and £60,288 in 1913. The duties of the Board are to close sufficient hotels to absorb the funds in hand, and to re-assess the licence-fees thus lost and distribute them among the remaining houses which the Board thinks will benefit by the closing; also to fix the amount of the compensation that can ever be paid to the owner and occupier of each hotel in the State, no matter when such hotel may be closed. In re-assessing the licence-fees where hotels have been closed, if the Board consider that the trade of a licensed house was so limited as not to warrant the distribution of the whole of the lost fee, or where the trade of any remaining licensed house is so limited that such allotment would be oppressive, or where by reason of distance or sparsity of population the trade of the licensed houses will not be materially affected in consequence of such closing, the Board is authorized to remit portion

Licences Reduction Board.

of the licence-fees, not being less than one-half, as appears to be equitable. The maximum compensation is to be based on the results of three years preceding the Act of 1906, the period being 1904-6 in the case of owners and 1903-5 in the case of licensees, the object of taking a past period being to stop the unearned increment to those hotels that remain in consequence of their rivals being closed, and to prevent any inflation of returns. Up to 30th June, 1913, 702 hotels had been closed by the Board, or had surrendered their licences. Compensation has so far been awarded in 617 cases, and the total sum paid has been £297,006, or an average of £481 each. One hundred and sixty-nine of these hotels were located in the Greater Melbourne district, and their compensation totalled £144,319, making an average of £854 each; there were 448 in country districts, whose owners and licensees received £152,687, or an average of £341 for each hotel. In the appended table particulars are given regarding the hotels in the various licensing districts dealt with by the Board:—

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD
TO 30TH JUNE, 1913.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
GREATER MELBOURNE.						
					£	£
Barkly (Collingwood)	27	12	15	7	4,570	655
Beaconsfield	26	20	6	3	2,352	280
Bourke	82	24	58	29	13,665†	2,900†
Broadmeadows	23	10	13	6	1,796	175
Cardigan	58	19	39	15	10,226	1,597
Collingwood East	22	18	4	3	1,639	262
Darling (Collingwood)	30	16	14	6	3,640	485
Eltham	13	10	3	3	635	Nil
Emerald Hill	58	26	32	25	7,663*	1,335*
Fitzroy Central	22	13	9	4	2,820	350
Fitzroy South	36	15	21	6	5,211	720
Gipps	84	12	72	32	26,020	6,203
Jolimont	12	11	1	2	1,673	325
Latrobe	53	17	36	11	9,603	1,899
Lonsdale	51	29	22	9	8,875	1,421
North Melbourne	33	21	12	4	3,295	670
Port Melbourne	46	23	23	8	4,954	865
Prahran	27	21	6	3	2,157	325
Princes Hill	34	19	15	8	6,371	863
Richmond North	24	21	3	2	1,762	232
Williamstown South	26	14	12	6	3,215	615
Total Greater Melbourne ...	787	371	416	192	122,142	22,177

NOTE.—Where blanks occur the compensation has not yet been awarded.

* Compensation for thirteen hotels. —† Compensation for eighteen hotels.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE,
1913—continued.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
COUNTRY.						
Alexandra	17	9	8	5	£ 1,706	£ 145
Allansford	12	11	1	1	375	60
Ararat	17	6	11	1	170	35
Bacchus Marsh	11	6	5	4	1,568	155
Bairnsdale	13	10	3	1	400	100
Ballan	21	12	9	8	310*	25*
Ballarat East	41	39	2	2	750	165
Ballarat West	83	36	47	16	9,267	2,046
Barkly (Bendigo)	34	19	15	8	3,206	555
Beaufort	26	11	15	11	2,587	135
Beechworth	33	12	21	13	3,004	130
Benalla	14	11	3	3	920	195
Boort	5	5	...	1	260	Nil
Branxholme	12	10	2	1	350	Nil
Bridgewater	23	8	15	8	1,914	815
Bright	26	10	16	7	1,773	150
Bullarook	8	5	3	2	522	100
Bungaree	21	11	10	6	892	260
Buninyong	25	11	14	9	1,833	339
Carisbrook	11	3	8	3	706	92
Castlemaine	49	12	37	27	3,109§	651§
Charlton	20	10	10	4	245*	Nil *
Chiltern	15	6	9	8	2,270	270
Clunes	36	12	24	16	3,298‡	363‡
Creswick	22	10	12	4	894	203
Dargo	6	6	...	1	75	Nil
Darling (Bendigo)	71	13	58	24	14,158	1,975
Daylesford	20	6	14	5	1,655	465
Dowling Forest	19	9	10	5	875†	156†
Dunmunkle	19	8	11	4	1,325	135
Dunolly	24	10	14	10	2,049	381
Eaglehawk	42	16	26	5	1,384	245
Echuca	22	8	14	5	3,354	540
Franklin	31	11	20	10	1,446	226
Fryers	18	6	12	9	1,618	129
Geelong East	26	21	5	3	1,860	220
Geelong West	31	22	9	3	1,932	800
Gisborne	15	8	7	3	745	72
Glenorchy	10	8	2	1	160	48
Golden Square	57	26	31	7	2,986	485
Goulburn	26	12	14	10	3,547	324

* Compensation for two hotels. —† Compensation for four hotels. —‡ Compensation for fifteen hotels. —§ Compensation for seventeen hotels.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE,
1913—continued.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
COUNTRY—continued.					£	£
Healesville	7	4	3	1	...	...
Heathcote	24	9	15	13	1,077§	159§
Horsham	16	10	6	1	115	50
Huntly	21	7	14	9	2,771	520
Inglewood	20	8	12	4	531	63
Kangaroo Flat	31	14	17	13	3,193	388
Kerang	20	12	8	1	...	...
Kilmore	13	8	5	1	175	Nil
Koroit	15	11	4	2	710	90
Kyneton	31	14	17	6	1,119	142
Lancefield	19	7	12	2	660	55
Landsborough	8	6	2	2	311	1
Lara	7	7	...	1	200	90
Leigh	6	5	1	1	445	Nil
Lexton	7	3	4	2	465	35
Maldon	23	10	13	13	2,212||	455||
Mansfield	13	8	5	3	753	82
Melton	26	8	18	11	3,697	490
Meredith	5	4	1	1	275	Nil
Moyston	12	8	4	1	205	Nil
Newstead	10	7	3	4	367†	53†
Numurkah	27	13	14	8	255*	75*
Penshurst	8	6	2	1	370	30
Pitfield	15	12	3	4	1,003	20
Port Fairy	14	11	3	2	700	90
Portland	10	7	3	1	374	Nil
Queenscliff	16	13	3	1	...	...
Rochester	13	9	4	2	855	270
Rochester East	7	7	...	1	200	Nil
Rosedale	7	6	1	1	57	3
Runnymede	8	5	3	3	660	115
Rushworth	19	9	10	5	465†	56†
Rutherglen	19	13	6	5	321†	80†
Sale	17	7	10	6	2,511	440
Sebastopol	22	11	11	4	1,285	161
Serpentine	6	4	2	1	75	30
Seymour	10	8	2	1	450	110
Shepparton	13	9	4	1	...	...
St. Arnaud	15	7	8	4	2,610	455
Stawell	28	9	19	13	3,278	649
Strathfieldsaye	17	6	11	6	1,179	149
Talbot	26	12	14	11	2,163	285
Taradale	17	7	10	9	1,658	30

NOTE.—Where blanks occur the compensation has not yet been awarded.

* Compensation for one hotel. —† Compensation for two hotels. —‡ Compensation for four hotels. —§ Compensation for five hotels. —|| Compensation for ten hotels.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE,
1913—continued.

Licensing District.				Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
				Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
COUNTRY—continued.								£	£
Timor	...	...	...	25	12	13	10	1,954	181
Towong	...	...	...	21	14	7	7	345†	58†
Trentham	...	...	...	15	7	8	5	1,458	100
Walhalla	...	...	...	22	10	12	12	365†	70†
Wangaratta	...	...	...	24	11	13	6	2,520	200
Warrenheip	...	...	...	12	6	6	2	500	32
Warrnambool	...	...	...	19	12	7	4	2,260	390
Whittlesea	...	...	...	11	8	3	3	1,050	185
Wodonga	...	...	...	9	6	3	2	215*	Nil
Woods Point	...	...	...	10	7	3	1	120	Nil
Yackandandah	...	...	...	10	9	1	1	255	No claim
Yarrawonga	...	...	...	23	12	11	1	270	Nil
Total Country	...	...	...	1,901	960	941	510	133,560	19,127
Grand Total	...	...	...	2,688	1,331	1,357	702	255,702	41,304

* Compensation for one hotel. — † Compensation for three hotels.

The return given hereunder shows the number of hotels in Victoria in 1885 and 1913, and the persons to each hotel in both years. The year 1885 has been selected because in that year an important alteration was made in the liquor licensing laws :—

Hotels, 1885
and 1913.

NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885 AND 1913.

Year.				Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.	Persons to each Hotel.
1885	...	...	...	969,200	4,265	227
1913 (30th June)	...	...	...	1,395,000	2,722	512
Increase	...	...	...	425,800	...	285
Decrease	...	...	...	...	1,543	...

While the population has increased by 44 per cent., the number of hotels has decreased by 36 per cent., and the number of persons to an hotel is now 126 per cent. more than in 1885. During the period 1885-1913, 217 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 702 hotels were deprived of their licences by the Licences Reduction Board, or surrendered their licences to the Board, and 624 closed voluntarily.

Race-course
licences
and per-
centage
fees.

The Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act 1906 provides that all race-courses must be licensed, for which a fee of £1 per annum is charged. In addition to this fee it is stipulated that there shall be paid annually a sum equal to 3 per cent. of the gross revenue derived from all sources. Where the gross revenue is less than £1,500, but more than £600, the annual sum payable is 2 per cent., and where the gross revenue is £600 or less no percentage is charged. The amounts paid into the Consolidated Revenue for licence fees and percentages on receipts during the past seven years were as follows:—

Year ended 30th June.	Amount. £	Year ended 30th June.	Amount. £
1907 ...	4,962	1911 ...	7,977
1908 ...	5,818	1912 ...	9,216
1909 ...	6,007	1913 ...	9,257
1910 ...	6,201		

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

Gaols and
Prisoners.

There are eight gaols in Victoria, including the Pentridge Penal Establishment, and three reformatory prisons, also seven police gaols which are used as receiving stations, and the figures below show that there is still accommodation in the gaols for nearly three times the average number of prisoners in confinement. The following statement gives for the year 1912 the accommodation, the daily average in confinement, the number received during the year, and the number in confinement at the end of the year:—

GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1912.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommoda- tion.		Daily Average.		Total Received.		In Confinement, 31.12.12.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge ..	684	..	370	..	469	..	397	..
Pentridge Refor- matory Prison ..	116	..	53	..	33	..	59	..
Ballarat ..	62	18	24	2	359	31	30	3
Beechworth ..	66	15	17	..	122	9	11	..
Bendigo ..	116	28	18	1	320	26	13	2
Castlemaine Re- formatory Prison ..	97	..	12	..	18	..	15	..
Coburg Female Prison ..	..	324	..	73	..	212	..	76
Jika Reformatory Female Prison ..	..	9	..	8	..	1	..	6
Geelong ..	187	29	77	..	309	12	75	..
Melbourne ..	249	60	143	28	2,837	969	153	25
Sale ..	30	5	6	..	93	6	9	..
Police Gaols ..	99	23	6	..	332	12	6	..
Total ..	1,706	511	726	112	4,892	1,278	768	112

Hereunder is a statement of the average number of prisoners in detention in the gaols of the State at the end of decennial periods from 1871, and during the past five years, from which it will be seen that the decrease in later years is very considerable. The rate per 10,000 of population, aged fifteen years and over, was, in 1912, 39 per cent. less than in 1901, 65 per cent. less than in 1891, 70 per cent. less than in 1881, and 77 per cent. less than in 1871.

Prisoners in confinement, 1871 to 1912—decrease.

PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1912.

Year.	Average number of Prisoners in confinement.			Proportion per 10,000 of Population, 15 years and over.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1871 ...	1,345	274	1,619	54·77	15·46	38·30
1881 ...	1,294	304	1,598	45·25	12·35	30·03
1891 ...	1,550	350	1,900	38·78	10·07	25·43
1901 ...	951	200	1,151	23·92	5·06	14·53
1908 ...	799	98	897	18·35	2·20	10·18
1909 ...	769	115	884	17·44	2·55	9·91
1910 ...	765	111	876	17·08	2·43	9·68
1911 ...	713	100	813	15·73	2·16	8·87
1912 ..	726	112	838	15·56	2·35	8·88

The birthplaces, religions, and ages of prisoners constantly detained, as deduced from the numbers passing through the gaols, are shown below for the five decennial periods ended with 1911 and for 1912:—

Birthplaces, religions, and ages of prisoners.

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED, 1871 TO 1912.

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1912.
Total	1,619	1,598	1,900	1,151	813	838
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand	259	584	845	689	595	620
England and Wales ..	628	401	420	149	87	89
Scotland	120	105	129	56	26	26
Ireland	430	378	336	160	62	54
China	75	27	14	18	4	5
Others	98	103	156	79	39	44

**BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY
DETAINED, 1871 TO 1912—continued.**

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1912.
Religion—						
Protestants	977	888	1,098	651	476	494
Roman Catholics.. ..	556	671	729	465	317	321
Jews	7	7	14	8	4	5
Buddhists, Confucians, &c. ..	74	27	14	12	1	2
Others	5	5	45	15	15	16
Age—						
Under 20 years	Information not available.	229	129	75	54	64
20 to 30 years		473	669	316	205	221
30 to 40 years		312	457	337	211	210
40 to 50 years		294	279	234	193	188
50 to 60 years		166	193	102	96	100
60 years and over		124	173	87	54	55

**BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY
DETAINED PER 10,000 OF POPULATION, 1871 TO 1912.***

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1912.
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand ..	7·23	10·84	10·65	7·25	5·32	5·38
England and Wales	36·75	27·20	25·78	12·72	9·73	9·67
Scotland	22·95	21·81	25·46	15·66	9·78	9·50
Ireland	42·80	43·58	39·39	26·01	14·95	12·65
China	42·00	22·88	16·53	28·89	7·14	8·67
Others	35·22	35·34	39·24	25·80	11·64	12·76
Religion—						
Protestants	18·88	14·36	13·12	7·19	4·90	4·94
Roman Catholics.. ..	32·59	32·98	29·33	17·63	11·07	10·89
Jews	19·60	16·17	21·68	13·54	6·38	7·74
Buddhists, Confucians, &c. ..	41·63	24·20	20·75	21·95	3·89	7·55
Others	2·27	2·00	10·78	7·03	3·11	3·23
Age—						
Under 20 years	Information not available.	5·30	2·53	1·42	1·01	1·16
20 to 30 years		34·18	27·36	15·30	8·67	9·07
30 to 40 years		34·82	31·30	18·23	11·66	11·28
40 to 50 years		30·95	32·00	20·07	11·64	11·02
50 to 60 years		24·84	23·95	15·35	9·60	9·72
60 years and over		30·88	23·90	8·73	5·58	5·52

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

Education
of prisoners.

It will be seen from the following figures that there has been a steady increase during the last 42 years in the proportion of prisoners who are able to read and write, and that there has been a

corresponding diminution in the number of those who are entirely illiterate :—

EDUCATION OF PRISONERS, 1871 TO 1912.

Year.	Number of Prisoners in every 100—		
	Able to Read and Write.	Able to Read Only.	Illiterate.
1871	63	23	14
1881	81	7	12
1891	88	3	9
1901	91	1	8
1912	96	...	4

The accompanying table shows the number of prisoners in confinement in the Australian States and New Zealand, also the proportion per 10,000 of the population, on 31st December, in the last year of each of the four decennia ended 1901, and in each of the past five years :—

Prisoners in confinement in Australian States and New Zealand, 1871 to 1912.

PRISONERS IN GAOLS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1871 TO 1912.

State.	Number of Prisoners in Confinement on the 31st December.								
	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Victoria..	1,623	1,509	1,810	1,150	875	844	859	797	880
New South Wales	1,430	2,075	2,616	1,812	1,500	1,430	1,323	1,249	1,257
Queensland	231	304	613	574	493	516	527	514	529
South Australia	185	489	278	238	245	276	269	229	275
Western Australia	*	*	*	360	382	400	372	330	364
Tasmania	..	..	165	117	94	79	72	65	164
Northern Territory	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	37
Australia ..	..	..	..	4,251	3,589	3,545	3,422	3,205	3,406
Dominion of New Zealand (including Maoris)	*	698	534	713	879	950	882	873	866
State.	Prisoners per 10,000 of Population.								
	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Victoria..	21.71	17.15	15.63	9.48	6.88	6.54	6.57	5.96	6.40
New South Wales	27.62	26.53	22.51	13.13	9.51	8.91	8.08	7.38	7.07
Queensland	18.46	13.70	15.81	11.35	8.85	8.93	8.80	8.26	8.31
South Australia	9.80	17.10	8.56	6.51	6.29	6.96	6.56	5.43	6.39
Western Australia	..	*	*	18.55	14.71	15.06	13.44	11.22	11.89
Tasmania	..	..	10.92	6.71	4.90	4.09	3.72	3.36	3.25
Northern Territory	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64.66	106.47
Australia ..	..	..	..	11.11	8.45	8.01	7.50	7.02	7.20
Dominion of New Zealand ..	..	12.81	7.90	8.58	8.72	9.22	8.38	8.12	7.86

* Information not available.

Convicted
prisoners,
31st
December,
1912

The total number of prisoners in gaol in Victoria under sentence at the end of the year 1912 was 840, of whom 639, or 76 per cent., were natives of Australia and New Zealand—the number born in Victoria being 501, or 60 per cent. The entirely illiterate persons convicted and under detention at that date numbered only 15. Particulars are given in the following table:—

AGES, BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND EDUCATION OF PRISONERS IN
GAOL IN VICTORIA UNDER SENTENCE ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1912.

	Ages.							Males.	Fe- males.	Total.
	Under 20 years.	20 to 30 years.	30 to 40 years.	40 to 50 years.	50 to 60 years.	60 years and over.	Not stated.			
Total Number ..	52	248	214	193	92	40	1	731	109	840
<i>Birthplaces.</i>										
Victoria ..	42	185	153	118	37	8	..	435	60	501
Other Australian States ..	6	40	40	20	13	9	..	110	18	128
New Zealand ..	..	1	5	4	..	..	..	7	3	10
England and Wales ..	1	15	13	22	15	8	..	66	8	74
Scotland ..	..	7	4	4	1	3	..	18	1	19
Ireland ..	..	4	7	11	15	7	..	35	9	44
China ..	1	1	..	1	..	2	1	6	..	6
Other Countries ..	2	15	12	15	11	8	..	54	4	58
<i>Religions.</i>										
Church of England ..	27	125	95	77	35	11	..	335	35	370
Presbyterian ..	5	24	24	22	6	5	..	74	12	86
Methodist ..	8	29	17	14	10	4	..	70	6	82
Roman Catholic ..	8	63	69	68	32	16	..	261	55	256
Other Christian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Religions ..	1	4	2	4	6	1	..	18	..	18
Hebrew ..	..	1	3	..	1	1	..	5	1	6
Mahomedan ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	2
Buddhist ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
No Religion ..	2	2	4	8	2	..	1	19	..	19
<i>Education.</i>										
English Language— Read and Write ..	59	239	212	191	90	34	..	709	107	816
Read only ..	..	3	2	1	..	..	..	5	1	6
Foreign Language only—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Read and Write ..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	2
Read only ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1
Cannot Read ..	2	5	..	1	2	5	..	14	1	15

The table below contains the number and designation of the police force in Victoria on the 31st December, 1912 :—

Strength of
police force
in Victoria.

POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31ST DECEMBER, 1912.

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner	1	...	1
Superintendents	2	9	11
Inspectors	2	5	7
Sub-Inspectors	15	4	19
Sergeants, First class	32	16	48
" Second class	27	21	48
Senior Constables	82	84	166
Constables	737	284	1,021
Detectives	35	4	39
Others	4	...	4
Total	937	427	1,364
<i>Mounted.</i>			
Sergeants, First class ... ..	...	1	1
Senior Constables	1	3	4
Constables	9	284	293
Total	10	288	298
Grand Total	947	715	1,662

POLICE PROTECTION.

The figures given hereunder show the numerical strength of the police force in Australia and New Zealand, and the proportion of same to population on 31st December, 1912 :—

Strength of
police force
in Australia
and New
Zealand.

POLICE IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1912.

State.	Number.			Proportion per 10,000 of Population.
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.	
Victoria	947	715	1,662	12.09
New South Wales	1,109	1,445	2,554	14.37
Queensland (1911)	291	709	1,000	16.07
South Australia	303	219	522	12.14
Western Australia	164	323	487	15.91
Tasmania	54	184	238	12.07
Northern Territory .. ..	..	25	25	71.94
Total Australia	2,868	3,620	6,488	13.71
Dominion of New Zealand	379	458	837	7.95

It will be seen that the Northern Territory and Western Australia have the greatest police protection in proportion to population, Queensland and New South Wales having the next greatest, and New

Zealand by far the lowest. Of course, where the population is scattered, it is natural that more police in proportion to population will be required than in a densely populated centre where the area requiring protection is comparatively small.

Expenditure
on police,
gaols, &c.

The following table shows the amounts and the amount per head of population expended in connexion with the police, and the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria, for the year 1871-2, and for subsequent years in decennial intervals until 1901-2 inclusive, also for each of the five years ended with 1911-12 :—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1871-2 TO 1911-12.

Year.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablishments.	Buildings.		Total.	
			Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablishments.		
	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.
1871-2 ..	190,711	57,855	5,722	2,133	256,421	6 10
1881-2 ..	201,063	53,032	14,996	3,328	272,419	6 2
1891-2 ..	283,409	65,679	19,113	23,319	391,520	6 9
1901-2 ..	271,561	51,948	7,064	3,613	334,186	5 6
1907-8 ..	281,751	49,645	9,713	1,654	342,763	5 5
1908-9 ..	282,044	49,025	10,117	1,708	342,894	5 5
1909-10 ..	293,846	49,869	10,448	2,139	356,302	5 6
1910-11 ..	308,676	48,706	11,987	1,691	371,060	5 8
1911-12 ..	316,456	48,514	12,856	2,300	380,126	5 8

Expenditure
on police
and gaols
in Austral-
asia.

The following were the amounts expended on police and gaols in the Australian States and New Zealand during the year 1911-12 :—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1911-12.

State.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions and the Cost of Buildings) on—			Amount per Head of Population.
	Police.	Gaols.	Total.	
	£	£	£	s. d.
Victoria	316,456	48,514	364,970	5 5
New South Wales	507,986	94,871	602,857	7 1
Queensland (1910-11)	212,003	25,036	237,039	7 11
South Australia	106,845	17,539	124,384	5 11
Western Australia	125,165	23,718	148,883	10 1
Tasmania	42,283	5,572	47,855	4 11
Northern Territory	2,507	1,115	3,622	21 4
Australia	1,313,245	216,365	1,529,610	6 8
Dominion of New Zealand	201,949	44,159	246,108	4 10

During the eight years ended with 1912 there were only two Executions. executions in Victoria, one of which took place in 1908 and one in 1912. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 170 criminals have been executed within the State, of whom only four were females. The following table shows the crimes for which they were executed, also their birthplaces and religions :—

OFFENCES FOR WHICH CRIMINALS WERE EXECUTED, ALSO THEIR
BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS, 1842 TO 1912.

Offence—

Murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Attempt to murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Rape	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Carnally knowing and abusing a girl under 12 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unnatural offence on a child	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Robbery with violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Burglary and wounding	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Arson	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	170

Birthplace—

Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Other Australian States and New Zealand	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Scotland	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
China	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Other Countries	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

Religion—

Protestants	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Roman Catholics	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Mahommedans, Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
No religion (Aborigines)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Inquests.

The number of inquiries into the causes of deaths of individuals during the last five years is given below :—

INQUESTS, 1908 TO 1912.

Causes of Death found to be due to—	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
External Causes—					
Accident	406	373	398	381	420
Homicide	7	6	6	9	14
Suicide	121	92	119	145	133
Execution	1	..	..	..	1
Doubtful	78	69	55	55	68
Disease or Natural Causes	709	612	604	666	736
Intemperance	3	..	2	1	2
Unspecified or Doubtful Causes ..	3	5	4	7	2
Being "Still Born"	4	5	3	1	1
Total	1,332	1,162	1,191	1,266	1,377
Proportion per 10,000 of Population ..	10·52	9·07	9·17	9·58	10·17

Of the violent deaths during the last five years, 67 per cent. were due to accidental causes, 1 per cent. to homicide, and 21 per cent. to suicide, while in 11 per cent. of the cases the cause or motive of the violence which caused death was doubtful.