

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 State 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 praying for their removal 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 indictable offence against any law of the Commonwealth, and for the venue of the trial.

**Common-
wealth
Judiciary Act
1903-1915.**

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, 1912, 1914, and 1915. 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 establish-

ment 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, in matters of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction, and in trials of indictable offences against the laws of the Commonwealth. By section 23 of the Act, as amended in 1912, 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. Subject to this enactment, 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 is to 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, is to 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 to the High Court of causes arising under the Constitution or involving its interpretation, which are pending in any State 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 (*ga*) 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. By an amending Rule of Court passed during 1913 (Statutory Rules 1913, No. 330) it has been provided that persons qualified to practise as barristers or solicitors of the Superior Courts of the United Kingdom or of any self-governing part of the British Empire may, if the High Court thinks that special and sufficient reason exists, be admitted on motion to practise as barristers or solicitors of any Federal Court.

By a further amending Rule of Court passed in 1914 (Statutory Rules, 1914, No. 148) a person who satisfies the Board that he has served for a period of ten years either in a Registry of the High Court or in the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor's office, and during the last five of those years has been intrusted with duties requiring a professional knowledge of law, is entitled to the privileges of a student-at-law who has passed the Intermediate Examination.

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 the Consolidated Act of 1915), 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:—

(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 received an advance from him in his lifetime, shall bring such estate or advance into account.
No husband or wife or children, but both father and mother	Whole to father.
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.

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

Leaving—	Proportions taken by Representatives.
Grandfather or grandmother, and uncle or aunt	Whole to grandfather or grandmother.
Aunts, nephews, and nieces	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 INTESSTATE—

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 INTESSTATE—

Husband, no children	Half to husband, half to next-of-kin.
Husband only, no children or next-of-kin	Half to husband, half to Crown.
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> . If, however, nephews were sons of a deceased brother and nieces were daughters of a deceased sister the mother's share would be one-sixth.
Husband, mother, brothers, sisters, and nephews and nieces	Half to husband; residue to others (as to nephews and nieces <i>per stirpes</i>).
Husband, brothers or sisters, and mother	Half to husband, half to others equally.

Births, deaths,
marriages, &c.,
transactions
and fees.

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 1915 :—

GOVERNMENT STATIST'S TRANSACTIONS AND FEES, 1915.

Transactions.	Fees Payable.	Number of Transactions.	Amount.
	<i>s. d.</i>		£
Searches—			
Ordinary	2 6	16,511	2,064
In church records	1 0	227	11
Free—			
On account of applications for—			
Old-age pensions ... ..	...	2,996	...
War pensions ... ..	...	646	...
Others ... ..	...	1,139	...
Certificates—			
Ordinary	5 0	4,214	1,054
Of church records	1 0	28	1
Under Commonwealth Life As- surance Act	2 6	182	23
Under Friendly Societies Act	1 0	1,689	84
Free ... ..	...	237	...
*Correction of entries	2 6	154	19
*Registration of births—			
After 60 days and under 1 year	5 0	52	10
" 1 year and under 7 years... ..	10 0	4	2
" 7 years	10 0	17	8
*Legitimation cases—			
After 60 days	5 0	141	35
Production of documents ... ..	...	7	8
Total... ..	...	28,244	3,319

* Including cases where fees were remitted as follows :—Registration of Births after 60 days—Ordinary, 12; after 7 years, 1; Legitimation cases, 2; Correction of entries, 3.

The amounts received during the previous five years were :—£2,917 in 1910, £2,748 in 1911, £3,459 in 1912, £3,136 in 1913, and £2,901 in 1914.

LITIGATION AND LEGAL BUSINESS.

The Supreme Court of Victoria was first established in 1852, and its constitution and powers remain substantially unaltered by recent legislation, although the procedure was entirely remoulded by the "Judicature Act of 1883." There were in 1915 five Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and four Puisne Judges.

Supreme
Court civil
business.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the last year of each of the five decennial periods ended 1910, and the last five years :—

SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1870 TO 1915.

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
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	91	35	26	12,343
1913 ..	637	77,867	116	106	32	11	14,293
1914 ..	662	76,755	92	53	28	22	14,501
1915 ..	572	105,468	120	66	21	21	8,081

Decline in litigation. There has been a considerable decline in litigation in the Supreme Court since 1890. In 1915, the writs issued were one-eleventh; the amount sued for was about one-sixth; and the causes which actually came to trial were about one-fourth 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.

County courts business. County Courts have a jurisdiction both in equity and common law cases, limited to £500; also in cases remitted by the Supreme Court. The cause of action must have arisen within 100 miles of the court in which proceedings are taken, which court must not be more than ten miles further away from defendant's residence than some other County Court in which the plaintiff might have sued. In 1915, there were 139 sessions lasting

488 days and held in 47 places. Particulars of litigation in the five decennial periods ended 1910, and the last five years, are as follows:—

COUNTY COURT CASES, 1870 TO 1915.

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	349,028	127,433	15,363	6,072
1900	789	160,676	49,595	5,188	2,782
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
1913	511	203,273	77,135	7,454	2,419
1914	657	203,506	77,402	7,365	3,067
1915	647	202,578	85,614	*	*

*No record.

The number of cases tried continues below the average of ten years ago. The number in 1915 was higher than in any of the preceding four years except 1914, but was only one-nineteenth of that in 1890. The amount sued for and awarded had not, however, 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.

Petty Sessions civil business.

Courts of Petty Sessions were held at 256 places in Victoria in 1915 by stipendiary magistrates and honorary justices. Clerks of courts of ten years' standing, who have passed the prescribed examination, and barristers of five years' standing are eligible for appointment as police magistrates; but there is no legal training or knowledge of the law required as a condition precedent to the appointment of a person as an honorary justice of the peace. The jurisdiction in civil cases is limited to what may be called ordinary debts, damages for assault, and restitution of

goods, where the amount in dispute does not exceed £50. Particulars of such cases heard during a series of years are given hereunder:—

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, 1870 TO 1915

Year.			Cases heard.	Amount claimed.	Amount awarded.
				£	£
1870	..	..	27,722	190,242	105,086
1880	..	..	19,983	75,684	50,764
1890	..	..	30,466	196,917	132,663
1900	..	..	17,577	95,890	80,960
1910	..	..	29,902	186,538	146,284
1911	..	..	28,575	171,763	129,172
1912	..	..	30,043	251,564	190,485
1913	..	..	39,911	266,165	204,175
1914	..	..	41,497	277,156	207,863
1915	..	..	41,055	260,707	188,542

In addition to the ordinary cases above mentioned, and to the criminal jurisdiction hereafter mentioned, Courts of Petty Sessions deal with other business of a civil and quasi-criminal nature. During the year 1915, 1,890 appeals against municipal ratings, 1,153 maintenance cases, 743 fraud summonses against debtors, 61,342 electoral revision cases, 4,048 cases relating to licences and certificates, 514 garnishee cases, 417 ejection cases, 83 prohibition cases, and 978 miscellaneous cases were heard, and 405 persons alleged to be lunatics were examined.

A statement is given below of the number of writs received by the Sheriff for the five decennial periods ended 1910, and the last five years, from which it will be seen that the decrease in later years is very considerable:—

WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1870 TO 1915.

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
1910	...	...	...	4	166	170
1911	...	...	2	5	143	150
1912	...	...	3	3	205	211
1913	...	...	4	2	201	207
1914	...	...	6	1	203	210
1915	...	...	1	6	172	179

INSOLVENCIES.

The number of failures and the declared assets and liabilities during the five decennial periods ended 1910 and in each of the last five years were as follows:—

INSOLVENCIES AND DEEDS OF ARRANGEMENT,
1870 TO 1915.

Year.	Insolvencies.			Deeds of Arrangement.		
	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.
		£	£		£	£
1870 ..	996	479,491	150,170	*	*	*
1880 ..	769	526,130	298,384	*	*	*
1890 ..	795	2,301,271	2,041,200	*	*	*
1900 ..	344	183,531	88,760	149	168,700	159,771
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
1913 ..	455	440,318	237,868	186	147,023	134,976
1914 ..	450	272,582	171,295	235	251,320	236,053
1915 ..	436	414,439	273,805	230	272,213	247,740

* Information not available.

The number of insolvencies in 1915 was slightly lower than in 1913 and 1914, but higher than in the preceding four years. The average number during the last seven years was 397, and the average declared liabilities £252,514. During the ten years 1899 to 1908 the average yearly number was 445, with declared liabilities of £244,538, whereas during the ten years 1889 to 1898, when the failures resulting from the financial crisis swelled the returns, the yearly average number was 833, with declared liabilities of £2,213,592. During the ten years 1879 to 1888 the average yearly number was 612, with declared liabilities of £661,720.

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

Year.	Voluntary.	Compulsory.	Total.
1911 ...	... 278	28	306
1912 ...	... 374	30	404
1913 ...	... 411	44	455
1914 ...	... 409	41	450
1915 ...	... 391	45	436

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 94 whose occupations were not stated:—

OCCUPATION OF INSOLVENTS, 1911 TO 1915.

Occupation Groups.	Number of Breadwinners, Census, 1911.	Average Number of Insolvents, 1911 to 1915.	Insolvents to every 10,000 Breadwinners.
Professional	43,819	16	3·65
Domestic	62,175	23	3·70
Commercial	91,611	157	17·14
Transport and Communication	39,238	23	5·86
Industrial	187,773	239	12·73
Primary Producers	144,384	122	8·45
Total	569,000*	580	10·19

* 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 1911 to 1915:—

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS.

Occupations.	Number of Insolvents during—				
	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
<i>Professional Class.</i>					
Barrister, solicitor	1	3	..	..	1
Chemist	2	..	1	..	..
Civil servant	4	5	1	1	1
Dentist	3	..	..	1	2
Police .. ..	..	2	2	2	2
Others	6	4	18	11	9
<i>Domestic Class.</i>					
Boardinghouse keeper	4	3	4	..	5
Hotelkeeper	8	11	10	6	14
Others	10	6	7	12	12
<i>Commercial Class.</i>					
Agent	6	7	8	14	14
Butcher	10	24	14	23	22
Clerk, accountant	11	6	14	10	9
Commercial traveller, salesman, canvasser	2	8	6	10	14
Dealer	10	12	5	22	12
Draper	7	12	13	8	17

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS—*continued.*

Occupations.	Number of Insolvents during—				
	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
<i>Commercial Class—continued.</i>					
Grocer	15	25	29	30	30
Hawker	1	3	3	2	3
Merchant, importer	3	4	7	16	9
Storekeeper	26	29	21	32	27
Others	16	21	34	24	25
<i>Transport and Communication Class.</i>					
Carrier, carter, driver	7	11	13	17	16
Railway service	1	5	15	8	5
Tramway service	4	1	1	3	2
Others	2	1	1	3	1
<i>Industrial Class.</i>					
Blacksmith	5	6	9	17	5
Bootmaker	5	3	3	6	4
Builder, contractor	17	22	26	42	39
Carpenter	7	10	16	15	15
Coachbuilder, painter	6	6	..	4	8
Engineer, engine-driver	12	6	12	8	9
Labourer	72	91	87	81	108
Miller, baker	5	6	8	11	10
Saddler	1	3	2	6	2
Tailor, dressmaker	6	10	14	6	12
Watchmaker	2	..	3	1	1
Others	36	49	56	70	90
<i>Primary Producers.</i>					
Farmer	45	82	102	86	42
Grazier	2	9	8	6	11
Miner	27	30	21	24	20
Others	9	21	22	23	17
<i>Indefinite Class</i>	12	19	25	17	21
Total	428	576	641	685	666

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, 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 (now incorporated with the *Marriage Act* 1915) 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 for crime, 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, and for the intervention of the Attorney-General where collusion is suspected, but there is no provision as in earlier legislation for 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, 3,689 decrees for dissolution of marriage, and 98 decrees for judicial separation have been granted. Of these, 3,341 and 27 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 134 decrees per annum for dissolution of marriage have been granted, while the decrees for judicial separation have decreased to about one per annum.

The next table gives the sex of the petitioner, also decrees granted for divorce, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage during the year 1915:—

DIVORCES, 1915.

	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husband.	Wife.	Total.	Husband.	Wife.	Total.
Dissolution of Marriage	117	157	274	85	130	215
Judicial Separation ...	...	9	9	...	1	1
Nullity of Marriage ...	2	1	3	...	3	3
Total ...	119	167	286	85	134	219

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the last two years were:—

Grounds for Divorce.	Divorces granted to—			
	Husband.		Wife.	
	1914.	1915.	1914.	1915.
Adultery ...	39	42	26	28
Assaults (violent) ...	...	...	2	...
Cruelty, repeated acts of... ..	...	...	1	...
Desertion ...	48	38	107	95
Desertion and adultery ...	4	...	5	3
Drunkenness (habitual) and cruelty ...	2	1	6	7
Sentences for crime ...	...	1	1	...
Total ...	93	82	148	133

**Divorces in
Australian
States and
New
Zealand.**

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 four decennial periods ended 1911, and each of the last four years, also of the proportion of decrees per 100,000 married couples living :—

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1881 TO 1915.

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
	1911	262	2	211	..	99
	1912	300	2	247	2	113
	1913	290	4	234	2	104
	1914	310	4	241	1	104
	1915	274	9	215	1	93
New South Wales	1881	23	..	15	..	14
	1891	99	17	50	17	40
	1901	353	33	208	20	111
	1911	426	22	206	12	79
	1912	494	27	343	12	122
	1913	602	24	313	9	107
	1914	583	32	295	5	97
	1915	564	29	346	6	112
Queensland	1881	7	1	2	..	7
	1891	12	4	5	1	10
	1901	15	1	14	..	19
	1911	17	2	27	1	29
	1912	22	5	15	1	16
	1913	38	2	31	1	31
	1914	30	2	29	1	28
	1915	34	3	31	2	31
South Australia	1881	7	4	3	1	9
	1891	13	1	5	..	10
	1901	13	1	6	..	11
	1911	23	..	20	..	29
	1912	14	1	11	..	15
	1913	39	2	9	..	12
	1914	26	2	20	..	27
	1915	23	1	19	..	25

**DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES
AND NEW ZEALAND, 1881 TO 1915—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.	
Western Australia	1881	1	..	2	1	73
	1891	3	..	4	..	59
	1901	16	1	12	1	44
	1911	37	2	30	2	66
	1912	70	2	36	..	70
	1913	87	2	37	..	69
	1914	80	6	16	1	31
1915	56	4	31	2	60	
Tasmania	1881	2	..	1	..	6
	1891	4	..	3	..	14
	1901	11	..	11	..	43
	1911	4	1	3	1	13
	1912	8	..	8	..	25
	1913	12	..	5	..	15
	1914	9	..	9	..	28
1915	5	..	5	..	15	
Northern Territory	1913	2	..	1	..	250
	1914	1	..	2	..	455
	1915	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	1881	58	15	32	2	10
	1891	284	23	166	18	39
	1901	556	38	334	21	63
	1911	769	29	497	16	70
	1912	908	37	660	15	88
	1913	1,070	34	630	12	81
	1914	1,039	46	612	8	76
1915	956	46	647	11	81	
Dominion of New Zealand	1881	*	*	*	*	*
	1891	31	5	20	3	25
	1901	136	1	101	1	86
	1911	226	4	161	..	94
	1912	274	3	222	2	127
	1913	260	5	223	..	123
	1914	290	3	234	..	126
1915	256	3	224	..	120	

* 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.

Divorce in various countries.

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. The number of divorces in various countries and their proportions to the populations are shown in the accompanying table for the latest periods for which the information is available :—

DIVORCES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Country.	Period.	Population.	Divorces (Annual Average).	
			Number.	Per 100,000 Popu- lation.
Australia	1911-1915	4,745,400	609	13
Austria	1906-1910	27,943,000	342	1
Belgium	1908-1912	7,460,400	1,052	14
Bulgaria	1896-1900	3,744,280	396	11
Denmark	1906-1910	2,669,000	677	25
England and Wales	"	35,063,000	639	2
Finland	"	3,005,000	166	6
France	"	39,376,000	13,119	33
German Empire	"	62,863,000	13,460	21
Bavaria	"	6,719,000	833	12
Prussia	"	38,777,000	8,441	22
Saxony	"	4,661,000	1,490	32
Hungary	"	17,908,000	6,082	34
Ireland	1899-1903	4,458,770	*	*
Italy	"	32,475,250	819	3
Japan	1906-1910	49,546,000	61,089	123
Netherlands	1909-1913	6,038,600	908	15
New Zealand	1911-1915	1,062,500	213	20
Norway	1909-1913	2,416,900	434	18
Romania	1906-1910	6,776,000	2,357	35
Scotland	"	4,679,000	199	4
Servia	"	2,821,000	438	16
Sweden	1909-1913	5,560,700	634	11
Switzerland	1906-1910	3,647,000	1,490	41
United States	1902-1906	81,697,200	66,500	81

* 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. Topp was re-appointed a member of the Board *vice* Rev. J. H. Ingham, deceased, on 5th October, 1914. 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 Chief Secretary; also generally to report on the working of the Indeterminate Sentences Act and the regulations. Additional important powers have been vested in the Board under the provisions of the Amending Indeterminate Sentences Act of 1915, chief among which are—

- (a) To parole a prisoner temporarily for the purpose of testing his reform;
- (b) To impose conditions of release;
- (c) To transfer prisoners from one reformatory prison to another;
- (d) To hear charges of misconduct and impose punishments in place of the visiting justice at a reformatory prison for the detention of persons not habitual criminals;
- (e) To control the disbursement of a prisoner's earnings upon release; and
- (f) To recommend to the Minister that he make an order permitting a prisoner detained in a reformatory prison to leave such prison temporarily—
 - (1) for the purpose of being treated in a hospital; or
 - (2) to visit a relative believed to be dying; or
 - (3) for any other reason which appears to the Board to be sufficient.

Another important change under the Amending Act is the substitution of "Minister" for "Governor in Council" as the authority by whose direction a prisoner may be released on probation on the Board's recommendation. 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 the 30th June, 1916, there were 91 males and 3 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 34 youths under similar detention in the Castlemaine reformatory prison.

Up to 30th June, 1916, there had been released on probation, on the Board's recommendation, 105 inmates from the Castlemaine prison, as well as 79 habitual criminals from the Pentridge prison, and 11 from the Female prison. On the same date there were on parole on the Board's order 9 inmates of the Castlemaine reformatory, and 5 prisoners of the Pentridge reformatory prison. Of those released on probation from Castlemaine, 34 had satisfactorily completed their probationary term of two years, 25 had been reconvicted, and, as far as could be ascertained, the remaining 45 were doing well. Twenty-six habitual criminals had been reconvicted in Victoria, and 10 were known to have been convicted in other States during their probationary term.

Probation officers to supervise first offenders released by the Courts in recognizance under the provisions of the Indeterminate Sentences Act are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Board. Two hundred and twenty-nine such officers have been appointed to date.

OFFENCES HEARD BY MAGISTRATES.

Arrests and
summonses
for various
offences.

The following are particulars of the different classes of offences in 1915, distinguishing between arrests and

summons cases, multiple charges against the same individual being each counted as an offence :—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1915

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	13	...	13	...	2	11
Manslaughter ...	11	...	11	...	...	11
Shooting at, wounding, &c. ...	26	...	26	...	4	22
Assaults ...	543	801	1,344	777	566	1
Others ...	131	114	245	50	96	99
Total ...	724	915	1,639	827	668	144
Against Property—						
Robbery, burglary, &c.	353	...	353	80	85	188
Larceny and similar offences ...	1,630	971	2,601	1,686	661	254
Wilful damage ...	212	457	669	439	228	2
Others ...	286	174	460	251	126	83
Total ...	2,481	1,602	4,083	2,456	1,100	527
Forgery and Offences against the Currency						
	20	...	20	...	1	19
Against Good Order—						
Drunkenness ...	13,390	63	13,453	7,086	6,367	...
Others ...	4,180	5,132	9,312	7,057	2,253	2
Total ...	17,570	5,195	22,765	14,143	8,620	2
Other Offences—						
Perjury ...	20	...	20	...	1	19
Breaches of—						
Defence Act ...	142	2,284	2,426	2,054	372	...
Education Act ...	72	5,443	5,515	4,861	654	...
Electoral Act ...	...	10,954	10,954	7,530	3,424	...
Licensing Act ...	114	2,016	2,130	1,417	713	...
Pure Food Act ...	...	489	489	381	108	...
Miscellaneous ...	553	13,966	14,519	12,279	2,191	49
Total ...	901	35,152	36,053	28,522	7,463	68
Grand Total ...	21,696	42,864	64,560	45,948	17,852	760

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

Of the 21,696 offences for which arrests were made, 1,420 were multiple charges, leaving the number of separate arrests 20,276. In 11,742 of these the subjects were summarily convicted, in 7,973 they were discharged, and in 561 they were committed for trial. Of the persons dealt with in the 42,864 summons cases, 33,205 were summarily convicted, 9,586 were discharged, and 73 were committed for trial. Of the total persons dealt with (63,140), the number summarily convicted was 44,947, 17,559 were discharged, and 634 were committed for trial.

The table hereunder shows the number of arrests and summonses for various offences in Children's Courts during the year 1915 :—

CHILDREN'S COURTS: ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1915.

Nature of Offence.	Number of Offences for which—		Others (Application to board out, &c.).	Total Offences.
	Arrests were made.	Summonses were issued.		
Against the Person—				
Assaults	13	33	..	46
Others	14	2	..	16
Total	27	35	..	62
Against Property—				
Larceny, &c.	511	694	..	1,205
Wilful Damage	6	321	..	327
Others	1	63	..	64
Total	518	1,078	..	1,596
Against Good Order—				
Drunkenness	2	..	..	2
Others	33	853	..	886
Total	35	853	..	888
Other Offences—				
Breaches of Defence Act .. ..	..	597	..	597
" Licensing Act .. ..	..	6	..	6
Miscellaneous	720	586	1,726	3,032
Total	720	1,189	1,726	3,635
Grand Total	1,300	3,155	1,726	6,181

The arrests of neglected children, which in 1915 numbered 1,846, viz., 947 males and 899 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, 34 per cent. were arrested, 54 per cent. were summoned, and 12 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

Offences reported and undetected crimes.

1906 is due principally to the number of prosecutions under the Licensing, Pure Foods, Commonwealth Electoral, and Defence Acts, and is also partially accounted for by 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 four decennial periods ended with 1911, and for the last four years are shown in the subjoined table:—

**ARRESTS, SUMMONSES, AND UNDETECTED CRIMES,
1881 TO 1915.**

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
1911	20,742	25,128	5,357	51,227
1912	21,270	33,273	8,934	63,477
1913	23,140	34,504	7,603	65,247
1914	22,632	36,893	8,996	68,521
1915	21,696	42,864	9,421	73,981

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, 94 per cent. were against property, 2 per cent. were against the person, and the balance, 4 per cent., were of a miscellaneous character.

The arrests of neglected children, which are excluded from this and the following tables, numbered 926 in 1911, 1,228 in 1912, 1,465 in 1913, 1,443 in 1914, and 1,846 in 1915.

The following are particulars of cases brought before magistrates, from which it will be seen that about 72 per cent. of the persons are generally summarily convicted and 27 per cent. are discharged, whilst 1 per cent. are sent for trial to superior courts:—

**ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES DEALT WITH BY MAGISTRATES,
1911 TO 1915.**

Number of Persons.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Arrested or summoned	44,526	53,087	56,058	57,977	63,140
Discharged by magistrates	12,398	13,870	15,661	16,373	17,559
Summarily convicted or dealt with	31,564	38,646	39,786	41,033	44,947
Committed for trial	564	571	611	571	634
Persons summarily convicted or committed per 1,000 of population	24·3	29·0	29·0	29·2	32·0

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.

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:—

CRIME IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1890 TO 1914.

State.	Year.	Number of Charges against Persons Arrested or Summoned for—				Total.
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	
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
	1910	1,730	3,500	12,719	35,559	53,508
	1911	1,738	3,081	13,603	27,448	45,870
	1912	1,708	3,399	13,524	35,912	54,543
	1913	1,694	3,666	14,782	37,502	57,644
	1914	1,627	3,721	14,437	39,740	59,525
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
	1910	3,608	6,517	27,542	36,293	73,960
	1911	3,725	5,924	29,398	36,067	75,114
	1912	4,197	7,055	32,915	45,784	89,951
	1913	4,177	7,440	32,676	47,814	92,107
	1914	4,454	7,427	33,393	49,492	94,766

CRIME IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND,
1890 TO 1914—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
	1910	371	1,699	10,870	8,664	22,104
	1911	913	1,613	12,824	10,132	25,482
	1912	782	1,642	14,225	10,674	27,323
	1913	951	1,580	14,852	11,783	29,166
	1914	837	1,567	16,510	10,721	29,635
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
	1910	333	449	4,333	3,163	8,323
	1911	320	484	4,673	2,958	8,435
	1912	306	552	5,470	4,357	10,685
	1913	328	598	5,994	4,898	11,818
	1914	385	657	5,282	4,369	10,693
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
	1910	545	1,083	4,550	7,082	13,260
	1911	454	1,189	4,857	7,362	13,862
	1912	479	1,161	4,908	8,544	15,092
	1913	505	1,153	5,353	9,431	16,442
	1914	536	1,269	5,795	10,279	17,879
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
	1910	267	600	761	5,451	7,079
	1911	237	549	756	5,055	6,597
	1912	234	545	644	5,661	7,084
	1913	219	581	729	5,572	7,101
	1914	222	567	685	5,007	6,481
Northern Territory	1911	13	...	34	45	92
	1912	25	9	80	105	219
	1913	8	8	61	62	139
	1914	24	10	76	93	203
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
	1910	7,354	13,848	60,825	96,212	178,239
	1911	7,400	12,840	66,145	89,067	175,452
	1912	7,731	14,363	71,766	111,037	204,897
	1913	7,882	15,026	74,447	117,062	214,417
	1914	8,085	15,218	76,178	119,701	219,182
Dominion of New Zealand (excluding Maoris)	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
	1910	1,178	3,555	11,695	21,566	37,994
	1911	1,190	3,487	11,495	21,923	38,095
	1912	1,165	3,733	11,627	25,869	42,394
	1913	1,219	4,092	11,691	29,845	46,847
	1914	1,290	4,082	13,258	30,741	49,371

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 TO 1914.

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
	1910	1·33	2·69	9·79	27·37
	1911	1·32	2·33	10·30	20·77
	1912	1·26	2·51	9·99	26·52
	1913	1·22	2·63	10·61	26·92
	1914	1·14	2·61	10·14	27·92
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
	1910	2·23	4·02	17·00	22·40
	1911	2·24	3·56	17·66	21·67
	1912	2·42	4·06	18·95	26·36
	1913	2·31	4·12	18·07	26·44
	1914	2·40	4·01	18·03	26·72
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
	1910	1·47	2·87	18·36	14·63
	1911	1·50	2·64	21·00	16·59
	1912	1·24	2·69	22·52	16·90
	1913	1·46	2·42	22·76	18·06
	1914	1·24	2·32	24·46	15·89
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
	1910	·83	1·12	10·93	7·88
	1911	·78	1·17	11·33	7·17
	1912	·72	1·30	12·90	10·27
	1913	·76	1·38	13·82	11·30
	1914	·88	1·49	12·00	9·93
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
	1910	2·01	4·00	16·79	26·13
	1911	1·58	4·15	16·94	25·69
	1912	1·59	3·85	16·28	28·35
	1913	1·61	3·67	17·05	30·03
	1914	1·66	3·92	17·92	31·78

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALIAN STATE AND THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1890 TO 1914—*continued.*

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.
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
	1910	1·39	3·12	3·95	28·33
	1911	1·22	2·84	3·90	26·11
	1912	1·20	2·79	3·30	23·98
	1913	1·12	2·96	3·72	28·45
	1914	1·12	2·86	3·45	25·24
Northern Territory	1911	3·97	...	10·39	13·74
	1912	7·44	2·68	23·83	31·25
	1913	2·19	2·19	16·66	16·94
	1914	6·40	2·67	20·23	24·79
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
	1910	1·68	3·17	13·92	22·01
	1911	1·65	2·86	14·73	19·84
	1912	1·66	3·09	15·45	23·91
	1913	1·64	3·13	15·50	24·37
	1914	1·64	3·09	15·49	24·33
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
	1910	1·19	3·58	11·78	21·72
	1911	1·17	3·44	11·33	21·60
	1912	1·12	3·59	11·19	24·90
	1913	1·14	3·83	10·94	27·93
	1914	1·18	3·74	12·16	28·20

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 1914 only 38 of such crimes out of a total of 39,740 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.

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 Tasmania, closely followed by Victoria, New Zealand, and Queensland, then Western Australia, New South Wales, and Northern Territory in that order.

Offences
against
property.

A decrease, as compared with 1890, has also occurred in the proportion of offences against property in all the Australian States, but there has been an increase in 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, Queensland coming next, followed by Victoria, Northern Territory, Tasmania, New Zealand, Western Australia, and New South Wales 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.

In three Australian States, viz., Victoria, Western Australia, and Tasmania, there was a decrease in drunkenness cases before magistrates in 1914, 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 South Australia, New Zealand, Western Australia, New South Wales, Northern Territory, 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.

Charges
against
persons
arrested, 1871
to 1915.

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 1915:—

**CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED AT FIVE
DECENNIAL PERIODS AND IN 1915.**

Offences.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1915.
<i>Against the Person—</i>						
Murder and attempts at ...	28	16	44	12	17	13
Manslaughter ...	14	16	9	11	6	11
Shooting at, or wounding with intent to do bodily harm, &c.	63	82	84	83	44	26
Assaults ...	1,023	1,155	1,317	832	487	543
Rape, and other offences against females ...	88	71	66	116	93	93
Unnatural offence and at- tempts at ...	18	5	14	13	3	7
Suicide, attempted ...	79	81	96	57	45	16
Others ...	11	28	21	18	19	15
<i>Against Property—</i>						
Robbery, burglary, house- breaking, &c. ...	421	367	609	460	324	353
Horse, cattle, and sheep stealing ...	121	89	96	56	37	67
Larceny ...	2,052	2,024	2,384	1,807	1,175	1,457
Embezzlement ...	43	32	70	23	16	21
False pretences and imposing or endeavouring to impose ...	195	206	243	137	142	152
Wilful damage ...	581	547	503	314	146	212
Others ...	413	468	253	157	163	219
Forgery and offences against the currency ...	82	58	109	47	44	20
<i>Against Good Order—</i>						
Drunkenness ...	9,968	11,065	18,057	17,360	13,538	13,390
Indecent, riotous, or offensive conduct, and obscene, threatening, or abusive language ...	1,099	3,997	5,010	4,269	2,698	2,519
Having no visible lawful means of support, begging, and vagrancy (unspecified)	886	1,419	2,020	1,035	421	469
Offences against Gambling Suppression Act ...	85	95	177	324	65	190
Others ...	2,825	1,366	1,940	1,988	655	1,002
<i>Other Offences—</i>						
Perjury ...	32	21	56	33	21	20
Marriage and Matrimonial Causes Act (desertion of family, &c.) ...	174	150	211	188	191	224
Others ...	1,190	837	772	426	387	657
Total ...	21,491	24,195	34,161	29,771	20,742	21,696

Proportion of
arrests for
various
offences, 1871
to 1915.

Subjoined is a statement of the proportions to the population aged 15 years and upwards of those arrested for different offences in the five census years ended with 1911, and in 1915:—

CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED PER 10,000 OF POPULATION, AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, AT FIVE DECENNIAL PERIODS AND IN 1915.

Offences.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1915.
<i>Against the Person—</i>						
Murder and attempts at ...	·66	·30	·59	·15	·19	·13
Manslaughter ...	·33	·30	·12	·14	·07	·11
Shooting at, or wounding with intent to do bodily harm, &c.	1·49	1·54	1·12	1·05	·48	·26
Assaults ...	24·20	21·70	17·62	10·49	5·31	5·52
Rape, and other offences against females ...	2·08	1·34	·88	1·46	1·01	·95
Unnatural offence and attempts at ...	·43	·09	·19	·16	·09	·07
Suicide, attempted ...	1·87	1·52	1·28	·72	·49	·16
Others ...	·26	·53	·28	·23	·21	·15
<i>Against Property—</i>						
Robbery, burglary, house-breaking, &c. ...	9·95	6·90	8·15	5·80	3·54	3·59
Horse, cattle, and sheep stealing	2·86	1·67	1·29	·71	·40	·68
Larceny ...	48·54	38·04	31·90	22·79	12·82	14·80
Embezzlement ...	1·02	·60	·94	·35	·18	·21
False pretences and imposing or endeavouring to impose ...	4·61	3·87	3·25	1·73	1·55	1·54
Wilful damage ...	13·74	10·28	6·73	3·96	1·59	2·15
Others ...	9·77	8·80	3·39	1·98	1·78	2·23
Forgery and offences against the currency ...	1·94	1·09	1·46	·59	·48	·20
<i>Against Good Order—</i>						
Drunkenness ...	235·79	207·95	241·61	218·98	147·72	135·99
Indecent, riotous, or offensive conduct, and obscene, threatening, or abusive language ...	26·00	75·12	67·04	53·85	29·44	25·58
Having no visible lawful means of support, begging, and vagrancy (unspecified) ...	20·96	26·67	27·03	13·06	4·59	4·76
Offences against Gambling Suppression Act ...	2·01	1·78	2·37	4·10	·71	1·93
Others ...	66·82	25·67	25·95	25·06	7·15	10·18
<i>Other Offences—</i>						
Perjury ...	·76	·39	·75	·42	·23	·20
Marriage and Matrimonial Causes Act (desertion of family, &c.) ...	4·11	2·82	2·82	2·37	2·08	2·28
Others ...	28·15	15·73	10·33	5·38	4·22	6·67
Total ...	508·35	454·70	457·09	375·53	226·33	220·34

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 1915, were as follows:—

MALES AND FEMALES ARRESTED, 1915.

Disposal.	Arrests.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Summarily Convicted	9,399	2,343	11,742
Discharged by Magistrates	6,791	1,180	7,971
Committed for Trial	524	37	561
Total	16,714	3,560	20,274

SENTENCES PASSED.

Sentences by
Magistrates.

The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates during 1915 were as follows:—

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF PERSONS ARRESTED, 1915.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	4,184	556	4,740
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	3,159	1,361	4,520
1 and under 6 months	873	261	1,134
6 and under 12 months	174	51	225
1 to 2 years	11	5	16
2 years	3	...	3
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	335	46	381
Admonished	374	45	419
Sent to Industrial or Reformatory Schools	102	5	107
Otherwise dealt with	184	13	197
Total sentenced	9,399	2,343	11,742
Discharged	6,793	1,180	7,973
Total summarily disposed of	16,192	3,523	19,715
Sentenced per 10,000 of population	133·35	32·48	82·34

In addition to being sent to gaol, one prisoner was ordered one whipping of ten strokes.

Sentences in superior courts.

The following were the sentences of the arrested persons tried and convicted in superior courts during 1915 :—

SENTENCES OF ARRESTED PERSONS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1915.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	16	2	18
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	4	...	4
1 and under 6 months	49	2	51
6 " 12 "	57	4	61
1 " 4 years	129	4	133
4 " 7 "	6	...	6
7 " 10 "	2	...	2
Death recorded	1	2	3
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	75	10	85
Sent to Reformatory Schools	3	...	3
" " Prison	16	1	17
" " Salvation Army Home	7	...	7
" " Lunatic Asylum ... ..	...	1	1
Total convicted	365	26	391
Acquitted	162	11	173
Not prosecuted	11	1	12
Convictions per 10,000 of population...	5·18	·36	2·74

In addition to being sent to gaol, four persons were ordered to be kept in solitary confinement during various portions of their terms of imprisonment, and three 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.

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 ages 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

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

Ages.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.
	FEMALES.				
10 to 15 years	37	26	16	15	15
15 to 20 "	80	90	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,

Arrests of
distinct
individuals.

DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1915.

Sex, Birthplace, Age, Religion and Occupation of Persons Arrested.	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	16	18	19	20	21	23	26	29	30						
SEX.																																
Males	16,716	12,800	10,516	1,512	428	164	73	40	23	15	10	5	4	..	2	1	1	3	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Females	3,560	1,916	1,397	255	94	44	29	19	11	10	8	12	6	7	2	5	3	4	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Total	20,276	14,716	11,913	1,767	522	208	102	59	34	25	18	17	10	7	4	6	4	7	1	1	3	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
BIRTH-PLACE.																																
Victoria	11,728	8,600	7,002	1,018	294	116	55	33	18	15	10	11	7	6	4	2	1	2	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	1	..	1	1		
Other Australian States ..	2,195	1,538	1,233	180	59	25	17	10	3	..	2	1	1	1	..	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Zealand	319	236	189	31	8	4	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
England and Wales	2,349	1,713	1,389	212	61	17	11	5	3	4	4	2	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Scotland	995	669	522	82	34	12	6	5	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ireland	1,538	1,021	774	153	41	24	10	2	5	3	2	2	1	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other British Possessions ..	174	123	96	15	6	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
France	41	34	28	5	1	
Germany	126	106	92	11	2	1	
United States	25	16	10	3	3	
America (so stated)	103	88	78	6	3	1	
China	103	108	103	5	
Other Countries	580	464	397	46	10	6	2	1	1	1	

Y 2

ages, birth-places, religions, occupations, &c., of the individuals dealt with. This was done for 1884, so far as sex and birth-place were concerned, and has been done again for the past nine years for sexes, birth-places, ages, religions, and occupations of the persons arrested. The results for 1915 are given in the following table:—

DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1915—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	16	18	19	20	21	23	26	29	30				
PROFESSIONAL CLASS.																														
Actor, actress, showman ..	30	26	23	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Barrister, solicitor ..	17	12	9	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chemist ..	25	20	15	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dentist ..	7	6	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Electrician ..	35	30	28	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jockey ..	46	41	37	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Journalist, reporter, authoress	25	17	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Medical practitioner ..	5	4	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Musician, teacher of music ..	39	23	16	3	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nurse ..	10	8	6	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Soldier ..	737	607	523	59	13	7	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Teacher, tutor, governess ..	14	11	9	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others ..	99	84	73	8	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
DOMESTIC CLASS.																														
Barman, barmaid, waiter, waitress	144	98	81	9	4	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Charwoman, laundryman, laundress	114	85	65	15	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cook, domestic servant ..	982	610	449	82	39	14	6	6	3	5	1	1	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hairstress ..	74	57	46	7	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others ..	281	197	158	25	6	1	2	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
COMMERCIAL CLASS.																														
Accountant, cashier, clerk ..	391	303	258	31	8	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Agent ..	95	76	63	10	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Butcher ..	123	96	80	9	5	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canvasser, commercial traveller, salesman ..	224	151	120	24	3	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dealer ..	184	144	114	23	6	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Draper ..	33	23	17	4	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grocer ..	23	21	19	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawker ..	197	121	85	20	5	4	4	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marine dealer, collector ..	31	23	16	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others ..	315	268	238	21	5	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION CLASS.																														
Cabman, driver ..	41	37	33	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Carrier, carter, driver ..	393	345	313	20	10	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Driver, motor car ..	28	24	21	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fireman ..	435	319	251	46	13	3	1	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Groom ..	125	91	74	12	1	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Law, Crime, &c.

Of the total number of arrests, 20,276, only 14,716, or 73 per cent., were of distinct individuals. Of these, 11,913 or 81 per cent., were arrested only once; 1,767, or 12 per cent., twice; 522, or 4 per cent., three times; 208, or 1 per cent., four times; and 306, or 2 per cent., five times and over—four of these persons having been arrested twenty-three times, one twenty-six times, one twenty-nine times, and one as many as thirty times. The table which follows gives a comparison of 1915 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 1915.

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
1915 ...	12,800	1,916	14,716	1,816	266	1,032	81	12	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 27 per cent. of the females were so arrested.

Distinct persons arrested more than once for drunkenness.

The distinct persons arrested for drunkenness during 1915 numbered 9,306, and, of these, 1,948, or 22 per cent., were arrested more than once, viz., 1,174 twice; 373 thrice; 166 four times; 71 five times; and 164 more than five times, of whom 1 was arrested twenty-nine times.

Drunkenness, 1884 and 1915.

The number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness was 10,287 in the year 1884, and 9,306 in 1915. The proportions per 1,000 of the population were 11.03 and 6.53 respectively in the years mentioned, the decrease in the later year being equivalent to a reduction of 41 per cent.

Drunksards charged with other offences.

Whilst the number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness was 9,306, the charges of drunkenness brought against them numbered 13,390; these persons were also charged with 1,428 other offences, so that the total number of charges of all kinds against drunksards was 14,818, as compared with 21,696 charges of all descriptions. Thus 68 per cent. of the offences for which persons were arrested during 1915 were committed by persons who were arrested for drunkenness.

Birthplaces of distinct persons arrested and committed for trial. The table below contains a classification of distinct persons arrested during 1915 according to birthplace, 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 1915:—

BIRTHPLACES OF DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED AND COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1915.

Birthplace.	Distinct Persons Arrested.				
	Total Number.	Summarily Convicted, Held to Bail, &c.	Discharged by Magistrates.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.
Victoria	8,600	5,105	3,095	400	283
Other Australian States ..	1,538	916	560	62	34
New Zealand	236	143	86	7	4
England and Wales	1,713	893	786	34	30
Scotland	669	333	322	14	9
Ireland	1,021	555	459	7	5
China	108	43	60	5	2
Other Countries.. ..	831	445	362	24	19
Total	14,716	8,433	5,730	553	386
	Proportion per 10,000 of Population of same Nationality.				
Victoria	78·53	46·62	28·26	3·65	2·58
Other Australian States ..	143·80	85·64	52·36	5·80	3·18
New Zealand	214·94	130·24	78·32	6·38	3·64
England and Wales	176·90	92·22	81·17	3·51	3·10
Scotland	232·21	115·58	111·77	4·86	3·12
Ireland	227·29	123·55	102·18	1·56	1·11
China	176·18	70·15	97·88	8·15	3·26
Other Countries.. ..	228·48	122·35	99·53	6·60	5·22
Total	103·19	59·13	40·18	3·88	2·71

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 1915, and the proportions of persons from each denomination so arrested or dealt with per 10,000

of their numbers in the population of 1915 are shown hereunder:—

RELIGIONS OF DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED AND COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1915.

Religion.	Total Number.	Summarily Convicted, Held to Bail, &c.	Discharged by Magistrates.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.
Church of England ...	5,173	2,985	1,934	254	178
Presbyterian ...	1,866	1,024	777	65	36
Methodist ...	612	353	220	39	27
Other Protestants ...	492	267	200	25	17
Total Protestants	8,143	4,629	3,131	383	258
Roman Catholics ...	6,054	3,566	2,330	158	116
Jews ...	46	30	13	3	3
Other Denominations ...	149	68	76	5	4
No Religion... ..	324	140	180	4	5
Total	14,716	8,431	5,730	553	386
Proportion per 10,000 persons connected with each Denomination.					
Church of England ...	105·79	61·04	39·55	5·20	3·64
Presbyterian ...	73·47	40·32	30·59	2·56	1·42
Methodist ...	31·95	18·43	11·49	2·03	1·41
Other Protestants ...	41·32	22·42	16·80	2·10	1·43
Total Protestants	77·29	43·94	29·72	3·63	2·45
Roman Catholics ...	194·91	114·81	75·01	5·09	3·73
Jews ...	67·15	43·79	18·98	4·38	4·38
Other Denominations ...	84·28	38·46	42·99	2·83	2·26
No Religion ...	86·70	37·46	48·17	1·07	1·34
Total	103·19	59·13	40·18	3·88	2·71

The ages of those arrested in 1915, and the degree of instruction possessed by them, are shown in the subjoined table:—

AGE AND DEGREE OF INSTRUCTION OF DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED, 1915.

Ages.	Education Superior.	Education Good.	Read Only, or Read and Write.	Illiterate.	Total.
Under 10 years ..	..	..	7	1	8
10 to 15 years ..	..	..	106	1	107
15 to 20 ..	..	1	858	18	877
20 to 25 ..	..	2	1,794	28	1,824
25 to 30 ..	2	6	1,877	24	1,909
30 to 40 ..	2	9	3,550	57	3,618
40 to 50 ..	7	11	3,050	97	3,165
50 to 60 ..	5	4	2,000	81	2,090
60 to 70 ..	2	1	806	50	859
70 to 80 ..	..	..	197	24	221
80 years and over..	..	..	32	6	38
Total ..	18	34	14,277	387	14,716

Education of persons arrested. Over 2 per cent. of the distinct individuals arrested in 1915 were entirely illiterate, 97 per cent. could read only, or read and write, and under 1 per cent. were possessed of superior or good education.

Criminal cases in superior courts. 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 each of the five decennial periods ended 1910, and in each of the last five years, was as follows:—

CRIMINAL CASES—SUPREME COURT AND GENERAL SESSIONS, 1870 TO 1915.

Year.	Total Number of Cases Tried.	Total Number of Convictions.	Proportions of Conviction 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
1910 ...	669	435	3·35
1911 ...	687	477	3·61
1912 ...	753	501	3·70
1913 ...	757	506	3·63
1914 ...	708	494	3·47
1915 ...	777	533	3·74

This statement shows that there was a fall in 1915 as compared with 1890 of 24 per cent. in the number of criminal cases tried in the higher courts, and of 24 per cent. in the number of convictions.

Crime in United Kingdom. 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 three decennial periods ended 1910, and during each of the four years ended 1914 :—

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1880, 1890, 1900, AND 1910 TO 1914.

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
	1910	14,330	11,987	4·00	3·35
	1911	13,643	11,338	3·78	3·14
	1912	14,021	11,666	3·84	3·19
	1913	13,125	10,779	3·55	2·92
	1914	11,409	9,277	3·10	2·52
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
	1910	1,488	1,225	3·14	2·59
	1911	1,401	1,122	2·94	2·36
	1912	1,533	1,189	3·24	2·51
	1913	1,358	1,056	2·87	2·23
	1914	1,292	1,012	2·73	2·14
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
	1910	2,036	1,373	4·66	3·14
	1911	2,114	1,496	4·82	3·41
	1912	2,109	1,443	4·81	3·29
	1913	2,238	1,483	5·11	3·39
	1914	1,970	1,410	4·50	3·22
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
	1910	17,854	14,585	3·98	3·25
	1911	17,158	13,956	3·79	3·09
	1912	17,663	14,298	3·87	3·13
	1913	16,719	13,316	3·63	2·89
	1914	14,671	11,699	3·20	2·55

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

From the next table it will be observed that, in proportion to the population, the commitments in the years 1910-14 in England were above those in Scotland, South Australia, and Tasmania, also that the convictions in Ireland, England, and Scotland 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, 1910 TO 1914.

Commitments for Trial to every 10,000 of Population.			Convictions after Commitment to every 10,000 of Population.		
New South Wales	...	7.89	Queensland	...	5.59
Queensland	...	7.06	New South Wales	...	4.71
Western Australia	...	6.23	New Zealand	...	3.97
New Zealand	...	5.35	Western Australia	...	3.59
Victoria	...	5.16	Victoria	...	3.50
Ireland	...	4.78	Ireland	...	3.29
England and Wales	...	3.65	England and Wales	...	3.02
Scotland	...	2.98	Scotland	...	2.37
South Australia	...	2.86	South Australia	...	2.05
Tasmania	...	2.83	Tasmania	...	1.62

The following figures show that in the five years 1910 to 1914, convictions followed commitment with more certainty in England and Scotland than in any of the Australian States and New Zealand, but Queensland, New Zealand and South Australia in this respect stood above Ireland. All the other Australian States occupy positions below these, Tasmania being at the bottom of the list with about 57 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, 1910 TO 1914.

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
England and Wales	82.74	Ireland	68.83
Scotland	79.53	Victoria	67.83
Queensland	79.18	New South Wales	59.70
New Zealand	74.21	Western Australia	57.62
South Australia	71.68	Tasmania	57.24

Drunkenness, 1911 to 1915. 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, 1911 TO 1915.

Year.	Number of Persons —			Proportion per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1911 ...	13,538	65	13,603	10·30
1912 ...	13,481	43	13,524	9·99
1913 ...	14,726	56	14,782	10·61
1914 ...	14,388	49	14,437	10·14
1915 ...	13,390	63	13,453	9·43

Drunkenness — Comparison with previous 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
1908-12 .. 5	68
1913	73
1914	69
1915	64

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 eight years they have been only slightly above the lowest point of previous years. It will be noticed that the index number was specially low for the year 1915, in the middle of which year an Act was passed limiting the number of hours during which alcoholic liquors could be sold in hotels.

Young persons charged with drunkenness. 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 1915.

Year.	Number.	Proportion per 100,000 of the Population under 20 years of age.
1895	185	35·60
1900	222	42·38
1910	128	24·19
1911	137	25·46
1912	146	26·48
1913	148	26·09
1914	163	28·12
1915	135	22·96

Religions of persons arrested for drunkenness.

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

RELIGIONS OF DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED FOR DRUNKENNESS, 1911 TO 1915.

Religion.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Church of England ...	3,031	3,138	3,437	3,147	3,033
Presbyterian ...	1,284	1,328	1,454	1,402	1,260
Methodist ...	332	334	313	310	309
Other Protestants ...	306	313	350	360	286
Total Protestants	4,953	5,113	5,554	5,219	4,888
Roman Catholics ...	4,296	4,275	4,333	4,299	4,126
Jews ...	7	11	14	18	12
Other Denominations...	24	25	19	28	37
No Religion ...	174	195	238	257	243
Total ...	9,454	9,619	10,158	9,821	9,306
Proportion per 1,000 persons connected with each Denomination.					
Church of England ...	6·72	6·76	7·19	6·45	6·20
Presbyterian ...	5·47	5·50	5·86	5·53	4·96
Methodist ...	1·88	1·84	1·67	1·62	1·61
Other Protestants ...	2·79	2·77	3·01	3·03	2·40
Total Protestants	5·10	5·11	5·40	4·96	4·64
Roman Catholics ...	15·00	14·50	14·28	13·87	13·28
Jews ...	1·12	1·70	2·09	2·64	1·75
Other Denominations...	1·47	1·49	1·10	1·59	2·09
No Religion ...	5·05	5·50	6·52	6·89	6·50
Total ...	7·19	7·10	7·29	6·90	6·53

Drunkenness was the cause of arrest of distinct persons connected with the various religious bodies in the following proportions:—Church of England, 59 per cent. of total arrests; Presbyterian, 68 per cent.; Methodist, 50 per cent.; other Protestants, 58 per cent.; Roman Catholic, 68 per cent.; Jews, 26 per cent.; and other denominations, 25 per cent. In the case of those persons who were classified as “no religion,” the arrests for drunkenness comprised 75 per cent. of the total.

The birthplaces of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness during the past five years are given in the subjoined table:—

BIRTHPLACES OF DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED FOR DRUNKENNESS, 1911 TO 1915.

Birthplace.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Victoria	4,946	5,047	5,296	5,164	5,068
Other Australian States ..	828	871	855	891	864
New Zealand	170	157	169	168	141
England and Wales	1,271	1,310	1,425	1,398	1,271
Scotland	581	595	662	619	536
Ireland	1,096	1,092	1,116	960	856
China	3	4	4	11	6
Other Countries	559	543	631	610	564
Total	9,454	9,619	10,158	9,821	9,306
Proportion per 1,000 of Population of same Nationality.					
Victoria	4·90	4·85	4·95	4·72	4·63
Other Australian States ..	8·39	8·57	8·18	8·35	8·08
New Zealand	16·89	15·15	15·75	15·33	12·84
England and Wales	14·22	14·24	15·06	14·46	13·13
Scotland	21·86	21·75	23·53	21·52	18·60
Ireland	26·42	25·57	25·43	21·41	19·05
China	·54	·69	·67	1·80	·98
Other Countries	16·69	15·74	17·77	16·80	15·51
Total	7·19	7·10	7·29	6·90	6·53

Drunkenness was the cause of arrest of distinct persons according to birthplaces in the following proportions:—Victoria, 59 per cent. of total arrests; other Australian States, 56 per cent.; New Zealand, 60 per cent.; England and Wales, 74 per cent.; Scotland, 80 per cent.; Ireland, 84 per cent.; China, 6 per cent.; and other countries, 68 per cent.

Apparent leniency of magistrates in drunkenness cases in Victoria.

The following tabulation shows the number of charges of drunkenness made against persons in each State and in New Zealand during 1914, 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, 1914.

State.	Charges of Drunkenness.	Convictions.	
		Total.	Percentage of Charges.
Victoria	14,437	7,425	51·43
New South Wales	33,393	33,208	99·45
Queensland	16,510	16,443	99·59
South Australia	5,282	5,243	99·26
Western Australia	5,795	5,770	99·57
Tasmania	685	661	96·50
Northern Territory	76	76	100·00
Australia	76,178	68,826	90·35
Dominion of New Zealand	13,258	13,145	99·15
Australasia	89,436	81,971	91·65

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, as compared with 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 this 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.

CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR.

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. 1911 to 1915.			Proportion per Head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
British—						
Commonwealth of						
Australia ..	3,614,700	62,181,600	1,822,200	·76	13·05	·38
Dominion of New Zealand ..	870,700	10,339,900	152,700	·82	9·73	·14
	1909 to 1913.					
Canada ..	7,523,400	48,785,000	889,200	1·04	6·74	·12
Cape of Good Hope*	1,391,400	3,812,200	4,589,000	·56	1·56	1·84
Natal*	336,000	955,800	51,000	·28	·81	·04
Newfoundland ..	100,400	66,200	9,600	·41	·30	·04
United Kingdom ..	30,667,000	1,213,269,000	11,577,400	·70	26·80	·26
	1905 to 1909.					
Foreign—						
Austria ..	39,050,000	422,721,000	127,362,000	1·41	15·18	4·52
Belgium ..	7,907,000	355,436,000	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	313,236,000	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	..	·35
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	..	·78	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 for the other countries mentioned therein it will be seen that the consumption of intoxicants was proportionately less in Australia than in many of them. As regards spirits, whilst the consumption in Australia was four-fifths of a gallon per head per year, in Denmark it amounted to 2½ gallons; in Hungary to nearly 2 gallons; in Germany and Austria to about 1½ gallons; in Holland,

Consumption of drink in various countries compared.

Sweden, France, Belgium, the Russian Empire, and the United States to more than a gallon; and in the United Kingdom to nearly 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 48½ gallons; the United Kingdom, with 27 gallons; Germany, with 23¾ gallons; and Denmark, with 20½ 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 comprising the German Empire show that Bavaria is entitled to that distinction, with a consumption of 50½ gallons per head. The consumption in Würtemberg and in Baden was also high, reaching 32 gallons per head. The Australian consumption of 13 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 34½ gallons, and the latter 26 gallons per head. Portugal, with 20½ gallons; Spain, with 17½ gallons; and Switzerland, with 15½ 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 two-fifths of a gallon per head; the United Kingdom about one-quarter of a gallon; and Canada nearly one-eighth of a gallon.

It will be observed that the figures for foreign countries relate to a period which terminated some years before the commencement of the war.

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, 1911 TO 1915.

	Expenditure by the People on—					
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Total.		
				Amount.	Per Head.	Per Adult Individual.
	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Commonwealth of Australia	6,325,700	9,327,200	911,100	16,564,000	3 9 9	6 4 1
Dominion of New Zealand	1,523,700	1,551,000	76,300	3,151,000	2 19 4	5 2 8

These figures show that the average yearly expenditure on drink in Australia during the quinquennium 1911 to 1915, amounted to £16 564,000, and that in New Zealand to £3,151,000. The proportion

per head for the Commonwealth was £3 9s. 9d., and for New Zealand £2 19s. 4d. The corresponding proportions for the quinquennium, 1906-10, were £3 4s. 7d., and £2 18s. 4d. per head.

The subjoined table shows the average quantity and the amount 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 licences:—

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

Average of five years ended—	Quantity Consumed.			Amount per head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
1885	gallons 1,130,000*	gallons 14,110,800	gallons 713,500	gallons 1·21*	gallons 15·45	gallons ·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 increased slightly during the last five years.

INTOXICATING LIQUOR (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION) ACT 1915.

Owing to the necessity which existed after the outbreak of war for removing all obstacles to its successful prosecution, it was considered desirable to limit the time during which alcoholic liquors may be sold in hotels. With this end the State Parliament passed a measure [Intoxicating Liquor (Temporary Restriction) Act No. 2584], which came into force on 6th July, 1915. Its principal provisions are as follows:—

In any licensed premises or club premises the hours during which intoxicating liquor may be sold are fixed at from nine o'clock in the morning until half-past nine o'clock at night. Power is given to keep billiard-rooms in hotels open until half-past eleven o'clock at night. Masters of vessels conveying passengers from any place within Victoria to any other place within the State are not allowed to sell liquor on Sundays. *Bona-fide* travellers, who may be served on Sundays, are defined as persons who have travelled at least twenty miles in a direct

Restricting
the hours for
sale of
intoxicants

line to the licensed premises where they apply for refreshments. The penalty for drinking on unlicensed premises during prohibited hours is fixed at a sum not exceeding £2, and, for supplying drink on such premises, for a first offence the penalty is not less than £5 or more than £20, and for a second offence not less than £25 or more than £50. The term unlicensed premises embraces any premises where meals or refreshments are ordinarily sold for consumption on the premises, and includes any café, restaurant, oyster saloon, or other eating-house for which a victuallers' licence or Australian wine licence is not in force, and any building used in connexion therewith. Power is given to the members of the police force to execute search warrants at any time by day or night. If admittance to any unlicensed premises be refused or wilfully delayed to a member of the police force the offender is liable to a penalty of not less than £2 or more than £10, and such officer may break into the premises. The penalties for the sale of liquor by unlicensed persons are increased. Consumption or intended consumption of liquor on premises is considered *prima facie* evidence of sale. The Act is to operate only during the continuance of the war.

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 total amount paid into this Fund in each year since its inauguration was as follows:—

**AMOUNT PAID INTO THE COMPENSATION FUND, 1907
TO 1916.**

Year.			Amount.	Year.			Amount.
			£				£
1907..	..	..	48,244	1912..	..	..	55,275
1908..	..	..	48,532	1913..	..	..	58,948
1909..	..	..	49,283	1914..	..	..	60,139
1910..	..	..	48,893	1915..	..	..	63,624
1911..	..	..	51,716	1916..	..	..	60,396
				Total	..	..	545,050

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 such portion 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, 1916, 966 hotels had been closed by the Board, or had surrendered their licences. Compensation has so far been awarded in 918 cases, and the total sum paid has been £459,813, or an average of £501 each. Two hundred and forty-three of these hotels were located in the Greater Melbourne district, and their compensation totalled £214,519, making an average of £883 each; there were 675 in country districts, whose owners and licensees received £245,294, or an average of £363 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, 1916.

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	11	£ 7,070	£ 1,270
Beaconsfield	26	20	6	3	2,352	280
Bourke	82	24	58	29	23,029	4,955
Broadmeadows	23	10	13	7	2,066	200
Cardigan	58	19	39	31	21,466	3,682
Collingwood East	22	18	4	3	1,639	262
Darling (Collingwood)	30	16	14	10	7,245	1,035
Eltham	13	10	3	3	635	Nil
Emerald Hill	58	26	32	26	18,409	3,530
Fitzroy Central	22	13	9	6	2,820*	350*
Fitzroy South	36	15	21	16	5,661†	720†
Gipps	84	12	72	32	26,020	6,203
Jolimont	12	11	1	2	1,673	325
Latrobe	53	17	36	17	15,703	3,844
Lonsdale	51	29	22	13	12,495	2,231
North Melbourne	33	21	12	4	3,295	670
Port Melbourne	46	23	23	18	12,239	2,260
Prahran	27	21	6	3	2,157	325
Princes Hill	34	19	15	12	9,326	1,253
Richmond North	24	21	3	2	1,762	232
Williamstown South	26	14	12	6	3,215	615
Total Greater Melbourne ...	787	371	416	254	180,277	34,242

* Compensation for four hotels.—† Compensation for seven hotels.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE,
1916—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	7	2,255	570
Bacchus Marsh	11	6	5	4	1,568	155
Bairnsdale	13	10	3	1	400	100
Ballan	21	12	9	10	1,860†	250†
Ballarat East	41	39	2	3	1,530	165
Ballarat West	83	36	47	32	18,962	4,121
Barkly (Bendigo)	34	19	15	8	3,206	555
Beaufort	26	11	15	11	2,587	135
Beechworth	33	12	21	20	3,894§	240§
Benalla	14	11	3	3	920	195
Boort	5	5	...	1	260	Nil
Branxholme	12	10	2	1	350	Nil
Bridgewater	23	8	15	11	2,714	415
Bright	26	10	16	13	2,448†	170†
Bullarook	8	5	3	4	1,162	170
Bungaree	21	11	10	10	1,917	310
Buninyong	25	11	14	12	2,333	443
Carisbrook	11	3	8	6	1,436	142
Castlemaine	49	12	37	33	5,954**	1,211**
Charlton	20	10	10	4	1,050	185
Chiltern	15	6	9	8	2,270	270
Clunes	36	12	24	27	4,793||	463||
Creswick	22	10	12	13	1,611*	228*
Dargo	6	6	...	1	75	Nil
Darling (Bendigo)	71	13	58	26	14,916¶	2,075¶
Daylesford	20	6	14	9	3,165*	640*
Dowling Forest	19	9	10	10	3,085	306
Dunmunkle	19	8	11	4	1,325	135
Dunolly	24	10	14	10	2,049	381
Eaglehawk	42	16	26	17	6,243	930
Echuca	22	8	14	7	5,034	830
Franklin	31	11	20	17	3,221	306
Fryers	18	6	12	12	2,083‡	224‡
Geelong East	26	21	5	3	1,860	220
Geelong West	31	22	9	3	1,932	300
Gisborne	15	8	7	5	1,594	302
Glenorchy	10	8	2	1	160	48
Golden Square	57	26	31	17	8,531	1,135
Goulburn	26	12	14	10	3,547	324

Compensation for—

* Eight hotels.

† Nine hotels.

‡ Eleven hotels.

§ Sixteen hotels.

** Twenty-eight hotels.

¶ Twenty-one hotels.

|| Twenty-five hotels.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE, 1916—continued.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
<i>COUNTRY—continued.</i>						
Healesville	7	4	3	1	£ 210	Nil
Heathcote	24	9	15	13	3,634	331
Horsham	16	10	6	3	1,765	125
Huntly	21	7	14	10	3,001	555
Inglewood	20	8	12	12	3,216	448
Kangaroo Flat	31	14	17	16	3,768†	488†
Kerang	20	12	8	1	250	Nil
Kilmore	13	8	5	4	1,655	180
Koroit	15	11	4	2	710	90
Kyneton	31	14	17	14	4,619	447
Lancefield	19	7	12	9	2,700	550
Landsborough	8	6	2	2	311	1
Lara	7	7	...	1	200	90
Leigh	6	5	1	1	445	Nil
Lexton	7	3	4	3	710	75
Maldon	23	10	13	13	2,872	510
Mansfield	13	8	5	4	1,103	182
Melton	26	8	18	11	3,697	490
Meredith	5	4	1	1	275	Nil
Moyston	12	8	4	2	405	45
Newstead	10	7	3	4	1,067	98
Numurkah	27	13	14	8	4,090	565
Penshurst	8	6	2	1	370	30
Pitfield	15	12	3	6	1,428	80
Port Fairy	14	11	3	2	700	90
Portland	10	7	3	1	374	Nil
Queenscliff	16	13	3	1	300	145
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	9	2,580	291
Rutherglen	19	13	6	5	1,726	380
Sale	17	7	10	8	2,511*	440*
Sebastopol	22	11	11	11	3,310	591
Serpentine	6	4	2	1	75	30
Seymour	10	8	2	1	450	110
Shepparton	13	9	4	1	No claim	150
St. Arnaud	15	7	8	4	2,610	455
Stawell	28	9	19	17	3,633†	714†
Strathfieldsaye	17	6	11	6	1,179	149
Talbot	26	12	14	14	3,113	335
Taradale	17	7	10	11	1,944	70

* Compensation for six hotels.—† Compensation for fourteen hotels.—‡ Compensation for fifteen hotels.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE,
1916—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	12	£ 2,574	£ 231
Towong	21	14	7	7	1,265	148
Trentham	15	7	8	5	1,458	100
Walhalla	22	10	12	15	3,910	575
Wangaratta	24	11	13	9	2,520*	200*
Warrenheip	12	6	6	6	1,655	257
Warrnambool	19	12	7	4	2,260	390
Whittlesea	11	8	3	3	1,050	185
Wodonga	9	6	3	3	785	Nil
Wood's Point	10	7	3	1	120	Nil
Yackandandah	10	9	1	1	255	No claim
Yarrawonga	23	12	11	5	1,610	25
Total Country	1,901	960	941	712	214,561	30,733
Grand Total	2,688	1,331	1,357	966	394,838	64,975

* Compensation for six hotels.

The return given hereunder shows the number of hotels in Victoria in 1885 and 1916, 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:—

NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885 AND 1916.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.	Persons to each Hotel.
1885	969,200	4,265	227
1916 (30th June)	1,406,000	2,450	574
Increase	436,800	...	347
Decrease ... ..	...	1,815	...

While the population has increased by 45 per cent., the number of hotels has decreased by 43 per cent., and the number of persons to an hotel is now 154 per cent. more than in 1885. During the period 1885-1916, 217 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 966 were deprived of their licences by the Licences Reduction Board, or surrendered their licences to the Board, and 632 closed voluntarily.

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

Race-course
licences and
percentage
fees.

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 ten years were as follows :—

REVENUE FROM RACECOURSE LICENCES AND PERCENTAGE FEES, 1907 to 1916.

Year ended 30th June.			Amount.	Year ended 30th June.			Amount.
			£				£
1907	..	..	4,962	1912	..	..	9,216
1908	..	..	5,818	1913	..	..	10,019
1909	..	..	6,007	1914	..	..	12,034
1910	..	..	6,201	1915	..	..	13,611
1911	..	..	7,977	1916	..	..	14,259

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

There are eight gaols in Victoria, including the Pentridge Penal Establishment, and three reformatory prisons, also six police gaols which are used as receiving stations, and the figures below show that there is still accommodation in the gaols for about two and a half times the average number of prisoners in confinement. The following statement gives for the year 1915 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, 1915.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received.		In Confinement, 31.12.15.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge ..	681	..	429	..	573	..	402	..
Pentridge Reformatory Prison	86	..	69	..	46	..	80	..
Ballarat ..	62	18	22	1	324	28	18	1
Beechworth ..	66	15	19	..	129	4	25	..
Bendigo ..	116	28	13	1	219	28	12	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	92	..	34	..	48	..	41	..
Coburg Female Prison	..	324	..	66	..	246	..	61
Jika Reformatory Female Prison	..	9	..	4	..	2	..	5
Geelong ..	187	29	64	1	254	6	53	..
Melbourne ..	249	60	133	31	3,135	1,346	123	31
Sale ..	30	5	4	..	89	1	6	..
Police Gaols ..	60	12	5	..	214	9	3	..
Total ..	1,629	500	792	104	5,031	1,670	763	98

Prisoners in
confinement,
1871 to 1915
—decrease.

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 four 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 1915, 38 per cent. less than in 1901, 64 per cent. less than in 1891, 70 per cent. less than in 1881, and 76 per cent. less than in 1871.

PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1915.

Year.	Average number of Prisoners in confinement.			Proportion per 10,000 of Population, aged 15 years and over.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1871 ...	1,345	274	1,619	54·77	15·46	38·30
1881 ...	1,294	304	1,598	45·25	12·35	30·03
1891 ...	1,550	350	1,900	38·78	10·07	25·43
1901 ...	951	200	1,151	23·92	5·06	14·53
1911 ...	713	100	813	15·73	2·16	8·87
1912 ..	726	112	838	15·56	2·35	8·88
1913 ...	776	127	903	16·01	2·61	9·30
1914 ...	774	103	877	15·71	2·06	8·84
1915 ...	792	104	896	16·73	2·03	9·10

Birthplaces,
religions,
and ages of
prisoners.

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 1915 :—

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED, 1871 TO 1915.

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1915.
Total	1,619	1,598	1,900	1,151	813	896
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand	259	584	845	689	595	684
England and Wales ..	628	401	420	149	87	93
Scotland	129	105	129	56	26	29
Ireland	430	378	336	160	62	50
China	75	27	14	18	4	5
Others	98	103	156	79	39	35

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY
DETAINED, 1871 TO 1915—*continued.*

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1915.
Religion—						
Protestants	977	888	1,098	651	476	526
Roman Catholics.. ..	556	671	729	465	317	333
Jews	7	7	14	8	4	5
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	74	27	14	12	1	2
Others	5	5	45	15	15	30
Age—						
Under 20 years	Information not available.	229	129	75	54	62
20 to 30 years		473	669	316	205	243
30 to 40 years		312	457	337	211	229
40 to 50 years		294	279	234	193	184
50 to 60 years		166	193	102	96	118
60 years and over		124	173	87	54	60

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS
CONSTANTLY DETAINED PER 10,000 OF POPULATION,
1871 TO 1915.*

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1915.
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand	7·23	10·84	10·65	7·25	5·32	5·64
England and Wales	36·75	27·20	25·78	12·72	9·73	9·60
Scotland	22·95	21·81	25·46	15·66	9·78	10·07
Ireland	42·80	43·58	39·39	26·01	14·95	11·13
China	42·00	22·88	16·53	28·89	7·14	8·16
Others	35·22	35·34	39·24	25·80	11·64	9·62
Religion—						
Protestants	18·88	14·36	13·12	7·19	4·90	4·99
Roman Catholics.. ..	32·59	32·98	29·33	17·63	11·07	10·72
Jews	19·60	16·17	21·68	13·54	6·38	7·30
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	41·63	24·20	20·75	21·95	3·89	7·02
Others	2·27	2·00	10·78	7·03	3·11	5·75
Age—						
Under 20 years	Information not available.	5·30	2·53	1·42	1·01	1·05
20 to 30 years		34·18	27·36	15·30	8·67	9·90
30 to 40 years		34·82	31·30	18·23	11·66	11·86
40 to 50 years		30·95	32·00	20·07	11·64	10·10
50 to 60 years		24·84	23·95	15·35	9·60	10·67
60 years and over		30·88	23·90	8·73	5·58	5·61

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

It will be seen from the following figures that there has been a steady increase during the last 45 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 1915.

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
1911	96	...	4
1915	98	...	2

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 five decennia ended 1911, and in each of the past four years :—

PRISONERS IN GAOLS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1871 TO 1915.

State.	Number of Prisoners in Confinement on the 31st December.								
	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Victoria	1,623	1,509	1,810	1,150	797	880	863	898	861
New South Wales	1,430	2,075	2,616	1,812	1,249	1,363	1,456	1,641	1,532
Queensland	231	304	613	574	514	529	450	518	427
South Australia	185	439	278	238	229	287	305	341	274
Western Australia	*	*	*	360	330	364	311	233	243
Tasmania	*	*	165	117	65	64	69	70	55
Northern Territory .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	12	8	11	18
Australia .. .. .	..	..	..	4,251	3,186	3,499	3,462	3,762	3,460
Dominion of New Zealand (including Maoris)	*	698	534	713	873	866	919	1,045	998
	Prisoners per 10,000 of Population.								
Victoria	21.71	17.15	15.63	9.48	5.96	6.40	6.11	6.28	6.07
New South Wales	27.62	26.53	22.51	13.13	7.38	7.67	7.95	8.32	8.47
Queensland	13.46	13.70	15.31	11.35	8.26	8.31	6.82	7.65	6.28
South Australia	9.80	17.10	8.56	6.51	5.43	6.67	6.93	7.72	6.23
Western Australia	*	*	*	18.55	11.22	11.89	9.70	8.76	7.64
Tasmania	*	*	10.92	6.71	3.36	3.25	3.42	3.48	2.74
Northern Territory .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6.16	34.53	21.79	27.69	39.45
Australia .. .. .	..	..	..	11.11	6.97	7.39	7.11	7.61	7.02
Dominion of New Zealand .. .. .	..	12.81	7.90	8.58	8.12	7.86	8.01	9.12	8.66

* Information not available.

Convicted prisoners, 31st December, 1915.

The number of prisoners in gaol in Victoria under sentence at the end of the year 1915 was 825, of whom 648, or 79 per cent., were natives of Australia and New Zealand—the number born in Victoria being 519, or 63 per cent.

The entirely illiterate persons convicted and under detention at that date numbered only 8. Particulars are given in the following table:—

AGES, BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND EDUCATION OF PRISONERS IN GAOL IN VICTORIA UNDER SENTENCE ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1915.

	Ages.							Males.	Fe-males.	Total.
	15 to 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 ..	72	281	197	156	79	39	1	733	92	825 •
<i>Birthplaces.</i>										
Victoria ..	61	197	115	92	42	12	..	461	58	519
Other Australian States ..	5	46	32	25	5	4	..	101	16	117
New Zealand ..	1	2	7	1	1	..	..	12	..	12
England and Wales ..	3	18	21	11	11	9	..	65	8	73
Scotland ..	..	1	5	5	3	4	..	14	4	18
Ireland ..	..	1	4	8	9	7	..	23	6	29
China ..	..	1	3	2	1	..	1	8	..	8
Other Countries ..	2	15	10	12	7	3	..	49	..	49
<i>Religions.</i>										
Church of England ..	43	142	106	63	31	17	..	367	35	402
Presbyterian ..	9	27	14	16	5	4	..	65	10	75
Methodist ..	8	20	9	11	13	3	..	60	4	64
Roman Catholic ..	11	79	53	52	23	12	..	139	41	230
Other Christian Religions ..	..	7	3	5	4	1	..	20	..	20
Hebrew ..	..	2	1	1	..	1	..	3	2	5
Mahomedan ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2	..	2
Buddhist ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
No Religion ..	..	4	10	8	2	1	1	26	..	26
<i>Education.</i>										
English Language—										
Read and Write ..	71	278	195	154	75	38	..	720	91	811
Read only ..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	2	1	3
Foreign Language only—										
Read and Write ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Read only ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cannot Read ..	..	1	2	1	3	1	..	8	..	8
Not Stated..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1

POLICE PROTECTION.

Strength of
police force
in Victoria.

The table below contains the numbers in the various grades of the police force in Victoria on the 31st December, 1915 :—

POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31st DECEMBER, 1915.

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner	1	...	1
Superintendents	2	9	11
Inspectors	4	3	7
Sub-Inspectors	11	6	17
Sergeants, First class	33	17	50
„ Second class	31	16	47
Senior Constables	101	77	178
Constables	779	324	1,103
Detectives	37	4	41
Others	2	...	2
Total	1,001	456	1,457
<i>Mounted.</i>			
Sergeants, Second class	1	...	1
Senior Constables	2	...	2
Constables	24	253	277
Total	27	253	280
Grand Total	1,028	709	1,737

Strength of
police force
in Australia
and New
Zealand.

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, 1915 :—

POLICE IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1915.

State.	Number.			Proportion per 10,000 of Population.
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.	
Victoria	1,028	709	1,737	12·25
New South Wales	1,226	1,387	2,613	13·98
Queensland	399	811	1,210	17·78
South Australia	232	324	556	12·65
Western Australia	173	322	495	15·57
Tasmania	64	169	233	11·59
Northern Territory .. ..	..	26	26	56·98
Total Australia	3,122	3,748	6,870	13·93
Dominion of New Zealand	127	794	921	7·99

It will be seen that the Northern Territory and Queensland have the greatest police protection in proportion to population, Western Australia 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.

The following table shows the amount 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 1914-15 :—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1871-2 TO 1914-15.

Year.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Maintenance, &c.		Buildings.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.		
	£	£	£	£	£	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
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
1912-13 ..	333,027	50,952	24,369	2,237	410,585	5 11
1913-14 ..	343,518	54,083	20,174	2,472	420,247	5 11
1914-15 ..	358,624	57,272	11,757	1,593	429,246	6 0

The following were the amounts expended on police and gaols in the Australian States and New Zealand during the year 1914-15 :—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1914-15.

State.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Maintenance, &c.		Buildings.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.		
	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.
Victoria ..	358,624	57,272	11,757	1,593	429,246	6 0
New South Wales ..	579,225	99,743	9,013	4,100	692,081	7 5
Queensland ..	269,931	29,103	11,916	1,500	312,450	9 3
South Australia ..	130,041	22,130	6,103	3,163	161,437	7 4
Western Australia ..	130,426	21,662	4,365	259	156,712	9 8
Tasmania ..	44,743	7,070	1,079	..	52,892	5 3
Northern Territory ..	10,328	2,365	255	346	13,294	66 11
Australia ..	1,523,318	239,345	44,488	10,961	1,818,112	7 4
Dominion of New Zealand	244,556	59,192	29,249	19,318	352,315	6 2

Executions. During the eleven years ended with 1915 there were only two 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 1915.

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
						170
Birthplace—						
Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	16
Other Australian States	...	...	...	...	...	9
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	69
Scotland	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	42
China	...	...	...	...	...	8
Other Countries	...	...	...	...	...	18
						101
Religion—						
Protestants	...	...	...	...	...	101
Roman Catholics	...	...	...	...	...	57
Mahomedans, Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	7
No Religion (Aborigines)	...	...	...	...	...	5

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

INQUESTS, 1911 TO 1915.

Causes of Death found to be due to—	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
External Causes—					
Accident	381	420	392	433	438
Homicide	9	14	12	14	14
Suicide	145	133	135	115	128
Execution	..	1	..	..	..
Doubtful	56	68	59	64	62
Disease or Natural Causes	666	736	596	669	741
Intemperance	1	2	9	3	4
Unspecified or Doubtful Causes	7	2	2	3	6
Being "Still Born"	1	1	1	..	2
Total	1,266	1,377	1,206	1,301	1,395
Proportion per 10,000 of Population	9.58	10.17	8.66	9.14	9.78

Of the deaths from external causes during the last five years, 67 per cent. were due to accidental causes, 2 per cent. to homicide, and 21 per cent. to suicide, while in 10 per cent. of the cases the cause or motive of the violence which caused death was doubtful.