

## LAW, CRIME, ETC.

### 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.

### 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 1917 four Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and three 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 1917.

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
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
1916 ..	659	125,585	98	56	28	12	14,541
1917 ..	563	58,142	102	50	27	6	7,756

**Decline in litigation.**

There has been a considerable decline in litigation in the Supreme Court since 1890. In 1917, the writs issued were one-twelfth; the amount sued for was about one-twelfth; and the causes which actually came to trial were about one-sixth 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 1917, there were 101 sessions lasting 413 days and held in 38 places. Particulars of litigation in the last

year of each of the five decennial periods ended 1910 and in each of the last five years are as follows :—

COUNTY COURT CASES, 1870 TO 1917.

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
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	*	*
1916	480	181,054	90,424	*	*
1917	523	168,875	80,421	*	*

\*No record.

The number of cases tried continues below the average of ten years ago. The number in 1917 was the lowest recorded, with the exception of 1916 (480), 1913 (511), and 1911 (491), and was only one twenty-fourth 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 238 places in Victoria in 1917 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 1917.**

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
1913	..	..	39,911	266,165	204,175
1914	..	..	41,497	277,156	207,863
1915	..	..	41,055	260,707	188,542
1916	..	..	38,573	243,007	170,086
1917	..	..	32,187	222,825	143,469

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 1917, 347 appeals against municipal ratings, 1,021 maintenance cases, 678 fraud summonses against debtors, 22,911 electoral revision cases, 5,748 cases relating to licences and certificates, 675 garnishee cases, 394 ejection cases, 103 prohibition cases, and 312 miscellaneous cases were heard, and 271 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 by  
the Sheriff.

**WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1870 TO 1917.**

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
1913	...	...	4	2	201	207
1914	...	...	6	1	203	210
1915	...	...	1	6	172	179
1916	...	...	...	2	155	157
1917	...	...	1	1	171	178

High Court of  
Australia.

A statement showing the nature of this Court and the powers vested in it appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 433.

Intestate  
Estates.

The rules by which the property and effects, both real and personal, of persons dying intestate are by law distributed are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 437.

## INSOLVENCIES.

Insolvencies,  
&c.

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

INSOLVENCIES AND DEEDS OF ARRANGEMENT,  
1870 TO 1917.

Year.	Insolvencies.			Deeds of Arrangement.		
	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.
		£	£		£	£
1870 ..	996	479,491	150,170	*	*	*
1880 ..	768	526,130	298,384	*	*	*
1890 ..	795	2,301,271	2,041,200	*	*	*
1900 ..	344	183,531	88,760	149	168,700	159,771
1910 ..	359	132,841	54,381	131	113,597	91,271
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
1916 ..	337	213,989	127,730	167	203,940	169,962
1917 ..	222	152,338	94,390	125	120,452	77,813

\* Information not available.

The number of insolvencies in 1917 was the lowest recorded since 1857. The average number during the last nine years was 371, and the average declared liabilities £237,103. 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. The following table shows the number of petitions of each kind in the last five years:—

Year.	Voluntary.	Compulsory.	Total.
1913 ... ..	... 411	44	455
1914 ... ..	... 409	41	450
1915 ... ..	... 391	45	436
1916 ... ..	... 300	37	337
1917 ... ..	... 200	22	222

**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 86 whose occupations were not stated:—

**OCCUPATION OF INSOLVENTS, 1913 TO 1917.**

Occupation Groups.	Number of Breadwinners, Census, 1911.	Average Number of Insolvents, 1913 to 1917.	Insolvents to every 10,000 Breadwinners.
Professional .. ..	43,819	16	3·65
Domestic .. ..	62,175	24	3·86
Commercial .. ..	91,611	150	16·37
Transport and Communication	39,238	28	7·14
Industrial .. ..	187,773	234	12·46
Primary Producers .. ..	144,384	99	6·86
Total .. ..	569,000*	551	9·68

\* 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.

A table showing the occupations of insolvents in detail for the years 1912 to 1916 appears in the *Year Book* for 1916-17, page 444.

**DIVORCE.**

The present law in regard to divorce is contained in the *Marriage Act* 1915 and a summary thereof is given in the *Year Book* for 1916-17, page 445. The grounds upon which divorce might be granted were considerably extended by an Act passed in 1889.

**Number of Divorces.**

Since jurisdiction was first conferred upon the Supreme Court of Victoria in matters matrimonial in 1861, 4,095 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 99 decrees for judicial separa-

tion have been granted. Of these, 3,747 and 28 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 139 decrees per annum for dissolution of marriage have been granted, while the decrees for judicial separation have decreased to about one per annum.

**Divorces, Sex.** The following table gives the sex of the petitioner, also the number of decrees granted for divorce, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage during the year 1917:—

**DIVORCES, 1917.**

	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husband.	Wife.	Total.	Husband.	Wife.	Total.
Dissolution of Marriage	118	145	263	94	107	201
Judicial Separation ...	1	1	2	...	...	...
Nullity of Marriage ...	1	1	2	...	1	1
Total ...	120	147	267	94	108	202

**Grounds of divorce.** The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1917 were:—

Grounds on which granted.	Divorce.		Nullity of Marriage.		Judicial Separation.	
	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.
Adultery ...	35	33	...	...	...	...
Bigamy ...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cruelty, repeated acts of... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...
Desertion ...	57	65	...	...	...	...
Desertion and adultery ...	...	5	...	...	...	...
Drunkenness (habitual) and cruelty ...	2	3	...	...	...	...
Total ...	94	107	...	1	...	...

**Divorces, 1881 to 1917.** The following is a statement of the number of petitions and decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation in the State of Victoria during the four decennial periods

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

### DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN VICTORIA, 1881 TO 1917.

Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.
	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
1881	18	10	9	..	7
1891	153	1	99	..	57
1901	148	2	83	..	46
1911	262	2	211	..	99
1913	290	4	234	2	104
1914	310	4	241	1	104
1915	274	9	215	1	93
1916	264	6	205	1	90
1917	263	2	201	..	88

The extension of the grounds upon which divorce may be obtained has had the effect of greatly increasing the number of petitions and decrees.

In New South Wales, where the law in regard to divorce does not differ much from that in Victoria, there were, in 1917, 385 decrees for dissolution of marriage and for judicial separation. The number of divorces and separations in that year per 100,000 married couples living was 123. The average annual number for the five year period 1913-17 in proportion to a like number of married couples was 111, as compared with an average of 96 for the same period in Victoria.

## 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 also has 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 was appointed on 18th August, 1908. Its present members are:—The Hon. S. Mauger (chairman), Mr. C. A. Topp, M.A., LL.B., and Mr. W. R. Anderson, P.M., Secretary to the Crown Law Department.

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 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.

In the early part of the financial year 1916-17, the Board was enabled to bring into operation two valuable aids to the reformation of the inmates of the reformatory prisons by the Government sanctioning the purchase of a farm in connexion with the Castlemaine Reformatory, and the establishment of a forestry settlement at French Island. The equipment of the Castlemaine Reformatory was further improved in 1917 by the addition of the necessary plant and tools for imparting technical instruction to the inmates, this being given by an expert of the local technical school. The lads are now receiving practical training in the use of tools, framing, jointing, &c., and they have already turned out much useful work. This instruction coupled with the experience they are gaining in farming operations promises to be of value to them in gaining suitable employment in the country on release. The improvements carried out on the farm have added to the value of the property and include the clearing, fencing, ploughing, trenching and planting of a 10-acre block for an orchard.

The Afforestation camp at French Island continues to work well and the industry of the prisoners has received the commendation of the officers of the Forests Department. In addition to the work of afforestation considerable improvements have been effected about the camp and additional buildings erected. The tree-planting season usually extends from May to September in each year, and in the course of the season upwards of 200,000 trees, *pinis insignis*, may be planted by the prisoners. During other months the men are occupied in cutting fire breaks, clearing and preparing for the next planting season. The experiment is of value as it provides strenuous work for the men who are drawn from those under indeterminate detention at Pentridge, and enables the "Honor" system to be carried out. At no time are the men under lock and key, and they are given a considerable amount of freedom, yet with few exceptions they have responded loyally to the trust placed in them. Any who fail to rise to the standard required of them are immediately returned to Pentridge. A few, before their perfidy could be discovered, managed to reach the mainland by appropriating a boat belonging to the Forests Department, but with two exceptions these have been recaptured. Both here and at Castlemaine the open air life and work have had a beneficial effect upon the health of the prisoners, and the privileges and freedom they enjoy have not made them less amenable to discipline.

The number of prisoners under indeterminate detention on 30th June in each of the last three years was as follows :—

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year ended 30th June.		
	1916.	1917.	1918.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	91	58	52
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	34	26	28
Reformatory for Females, Coburg ..	3	4	3
McLeod Settlement, French Island ..	..	29	30
Total .. ..	128	117	113

Probation officers to supervise first offenders released by the Courts on recognizance under the provisions of the *Crimes Act 1915* are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Board, and 234 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 dealt with by magistrates in 1917.

## ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1917.

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Convicted, &c.		Discharged by Magistrates.		Committed for Trial.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
<b>Against the Person—</b>							
Murder and attempts at	17	...	...	6	1	6	4
Manslaughter ...	3	...	...	1	...	1	1
Shooting at, wounding, &c. ...	24	4	...	4	1	14	1
Assaults ...	1,121	548	64	417	88	4	...
Others ...	194	36	8	45	9	92	4
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>1,359</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Against Property—</b>							
Robbery, burglary, &c.	231	66	2	51	4	104	4
Larceny and similar offences ...	2,187	1,383	141	435	66	149	13
Wilful damage ...	462	342	15	87	14	4	...
Others ...	316	211	10	65	4	22	4
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>3,196</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>21</b>
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	19	...	...	...	...	15	4
<b>Against Good Order—</b>							
Drunkenness ...	7,575	3,286	815	3,001	473	...	...
Others ...	6,251	4,147	615	1,249	238	2	...
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>13,826</b>	<b>7,433</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>4,250</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Other Offences—</b>							
Perjury ...	18	...	...	2	...	13	3
Breaches of—							
Defence Act ...	1,741	1,232	4	505	...	...	...
Education Act ...	6,448	4,684	973	626	165	...	...
Electoral Act ...	4,044	1,699	982	768	595	...	...
Licensing Act ...	3,033	1,595	431	780	227	...	...
Pure Food Act ...	340	219	49	63	9	...	...
Miscellaneous ...	18,151	14,470	726	2,751	173	26	5
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>33,775</b>	<b>23,899</b>	<b>3,165</b>	<b>5,495</b>	<b>1,169</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Grand Total ...</b>	<b>52,175</b>	<b>33,922</b>	<b>4,835</b>	<b>10,856</b>	<b>2,067</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>43</b>

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

Of the persons dealt with in the 39,486 summons cases, 31,130 were summarily convicted, 8,301 were discharged, and 55 were committed for trial. Of the total persons dealt with (52,175), 38,757 were summarily convicted, 12,923 were discharged, and 495 were committed for trial.

The table hereunder shows the number of arrests and summonses for various offences which were disposed of in Children's Courts during the year 1917 :—

**CHILDREN'S COURTS: ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1917.**

Nature of Offence.	Number of Offences for which—				Others (Application to board out, &c.).		Total Offences.	
	Arrests were made.		Summonses were issued.		M.	F.	M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.				
<b>Against the Person—</b>								
Assaults .. ..	26	..	47	18	..	..	73	18
Others .. ..	1	..	4	1	..	..	5	1
Total .. ..	27	..	51	19	..	..	78	19
<b>Against Property—</b>								
Larceny, &c. .. ..	370	16	922	35	..	..	1,292	51
Wilful Damage .. ..	8	..	301	..	..	..	309	..
Others .. ..	2	..	38	3	..	..	40	3
Total .. ..	380	16	1,261	38	..	..	1,641	54
<b>Against Good Order—</b>								
Drunkenness .. ..	4	1	1	..	..	..	5	1
Others .. ..	32	9	845	17	..	..	877	26
Total .. ..	36	10	846	17	..	..	882	27
<b>Other Offences—</b>								
Breaches of Defence Act ..	..	..	301	..	..	..	301	..
„ Licensing Act .. ..	1	..	15	5	..	..	16	5
Miscellaneous .. ..	388	231	1,221	33	755	632	2,364	899
Total .. ..	389	231	1,537	41	755	632	2,681	904
<b>Grand Total .. ..</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>3,695</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>5,282</b>	<b>1,004</b>

The arrests of neglected children, which in 1917 numbered 1,338, viz., 724 males and 614 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 persons who were brought before magistrates during the past five years, 32 per cent. were arrested, and 68 per cent. summoned. The great increase in summons cases since 1906 is due principally to the number of prosecutions under the Licensing, Pure Foods, Commonwealth Electoral, and Defence

Arrests and summons cases.

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 last year of each of the four decennial periods ended with 1911, and for each of the last five years, are given in the subjoined table:—

### ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES, 1881 TO 1917.

Year.	Arrested by the Police.	Brought before Magistrates on Summons.	Total.
1881 ... ..	22,640	19,384	42,024
1891 ... ..	31,971	24,525	56,496
1901 ... ..	27,855	21,130	48,985
1911 ... ..	19,398	25,128	44,526
1913 ... ..	21,554	34,504	56,058
1914 ... ..	21,084	36,893	57,977
1915 ... ..	20,276	42,864	63,140
1916 ... ..	17,599	41,716	59,315
1917 ... ..	12,639	39,436	52,175

**Neglected  
children  
arrested.**

The arrests of neglected children, which are excluded from this and the following tables, numbered 1,465 in 1913, 1,443 in 1914, 1,846 in 1915, 1,495 in 1916, and 1,338 in 1917.

**Offences dealt  
with by  
magistrates.**

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, 1913 TO 1917.

Number of Persons.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Arrested or summoned ... ..	56,058	57,977	63,140	59,315	52,175
Discharged by magistrates ... ..	15,661	16,373	17,559	15,746	12,923
Summarily convicted or dealt with ... ..	39,786	41,033	44,947	43,017	38,757
Committed for trial ... ..	611	571	624	552	495
Persons summarily convicted or com- mitted per 1,000 of population ...	29.0	29.2	32.0	30.9	27.9

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.**

The following table shows, for a series of years, the number of persons arrested or summoned, also the proportion per 1,000 of the population, for the only classes of offence for which complete comparisons can be made:—

**CRIME IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA, 1890 TO 1917.**

Year.				Number of Persons Arrested or Summoned for—				
				Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	Total.
1890	...	...	...	4,091	5,036	18,501	36,456	64,084
1895	...	...	...	2,544	3,336	11,143	20,843	37,666
1900	...	...	...	2,103	3,106	15,878	28,003	49,090
1910	...	...	...	1,663	3,052	12,719	34,626	52,060
1913	...	...	...	1,598	3,096	14,782	36,582	56,058
1914	...	...	...	1,544	3,239	14,437	38,757	57,977
1915	...	...	...	1,539	3,634	13,453	44,514	63,140
1916	...	...	...	1,418	3,401	11,316	43,180	59,315
1917	...	...	...	1,359	3,196	7,575	40,045	52,175

  

				Proportion per 1,000 of the Population.				
1890	...	...	...	3·66	4·50	16·54	32·59	57·29
1895	...	...	...	1·98	2·82	9·41	17·60	31·81
1900	...	...	...	1·76	2·60	13·31	23·47	41·14
1910	...	...	...	1·30	2·38	9·92	27·00	40·60
1913	...	...	...	1·15	2·22	10·61	26·26	40·24
1914	...	...	...	1·08	2·28	10·14	27·23	40·73
1915	...	...	...	1·08	2·55	9·43	31·20	44·26
1916	...	...	...	1·01	2·41	8·03	30·64	42·09
1917	...	...	...	·97	2·27	5·39	28·49	37·12

**Drunkenness.** The most noticeable feature of the above table is the large decrease in the arrests for drunkenness in 1917 as compared with earlier years.

**Offences against the person and property.** Almost all serious crimes are either offences against the person or offences against property. The first-named consist mainly of assault, but include murder, manslaughter, shooting, wounding, and all crimes of lust. Offences against property consist principally of larceny and similar offences; but include burglary, robbery, &c., cattle stealing, and wilful damage to property.

**Other Offences.** The only serious crimes included under "Other Offences" are forgery, counterfeiting, conspiracy, and perjury, and these are very few in number, there having been in

Victoria in 1917 only 38 of such crimes out of a total of 40,045 in the category to which they belong. A large proportion of the cases under the heading "Other Offences" are merely breaches of various Acts of Parliament, by-laws, &c., which indicate no degree of criminal instinct or intent on the part of the person charged. There is also among them a large number of offences against good order, including insulting behaviour, vagrancy, &c.

If it be desired to compare the above figures with those relating to other States or countries several considerations must be taken into account. The first point necessary is that the criminal law in the places compared be substantially the same; the second, that it be administered with equal strictness; and the third, that proper allowances be made for differences in the age and sex constitution of the population. 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.

#### SENTENCES PASSED.

The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates during 1917 were as follows:—

#### SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF PERSONS ARRESTED, 1917.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid ... ..	2,770	448	3,218
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month ... ..	1,945	698	2,643
1 and under 6 months ... ..	476	133	609
6 and under 12 months ... ..	133	50	183
1 to 2 years ... ..	16	5	21
2 years ... ..	2	...	2
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety ...	283	70	353
Admonished ... ..	233	12	245
Sent to Industrial or Reformatory Schools	106	19	125
Otherwise dealt with ... ..	203	25	228
Total sentenced ... ..	6,167	1,460	7,627
Discharged ... ..	3,958	664	4,622
Total summarily disposed of ...	10,125	2,124	12,249
Sentenced per 10,000 of population ...	92·21	19·82	51·27



Sentences in  
superior  
courts.

The following were the sentences of the arrested persons tried and convicted in superior courts during 1917 :—

SENTENCES OF ARRESTED PERSONS TRIED AND  
CONVICTED, 1917.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid ... ..	6	...	6
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month ... ..	1	...	1
1 and under 6 months ... ..	28	2	30
6 " 12 " ... ..	54	1	55
1 " 4 years ... ..	84	3	87
4 " 7 " ... ..	9	...	9
7 " 10 " ... ..	2	...	2
Fifteen years ... ..	2	...	2
Death recorded ... ..	4	...	4
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety ... ..	60	9	69
Sent to Reformatory Schools ... ..	1	...	1
" " Prison ... ..	9	...	9
Handed over to Military Authorities ... ..	1	...	1
Total convicted ... ..	261	15	276
Acquitted ... ..	111	24	135
Not prosecuted ... ..	17	2	19
Convictions per 10,000 of population...	3·90	·20	1·96

In addition to being sent to gaol, one person was ordered to be kept in solitary confinement during a portion of his term of imprisonment, and one prisoner was ordered a whipping with a cat-o'-nine tails. Prisoners remaining for trial from the previous year and sentenced in the year mentioned are included in the above statement, but those awaiting trial at the end of the year are excluded.

It has already been 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,

Arrest of  
distinct  
individuals.

## DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1917.

Sex and Age 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	17	18	19	20	25	26	27				
<b>SEX.</b>																													
Males .. ..	10,527	8,298	7,031	836	238	86	47	22	9	8	10	3	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	2	..	1				
Females .. ..	2,162	1,356	1,042	176	52	36	10	10	7	5	1	2	2	1	3	..	1	1	1	3	1	1	..	1	..				
Total .. ..	12,689	9,654	8,073	1,012	290	122	57	32	16	13	11	5	3	1	4	..	1	2	2	4	1	1	2	1	1				
<b>AGE.</b>																													
Under 10 years ..	13	13	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
10 to 15 .. ..	114	107	102	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
15 to 20 .. ..	784	727	681	39	5	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
20 to 25 .. ..	1,270	1,122	1,012	82	19	8	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
25 to 30 .. ..	1,432	1,216	1,075	108	20	7	..	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	
30 to 40 .. ..	2,708	2,017	1,683	216	62	20	9	6	2	6	3	..	1	1	3	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	
40 to 50 .. ..	2,800	2,030	1,624	241	81	39	22	7	8	1	2	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
50 to 60 .. ..	2,262	1,537	1,196	200	67	29	17	9	4	4	3	1	2	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	
60 to 70 .. ..	997	702	551	90	27	18	4	7	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
70 to 80 .. ..	274	160	117	30	7	1	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	
80 years and over..	85	23	19	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	

ages, birth-places, religions, occupations, &c., of the individuals dealt with. This has been done for 1917, so far as sex and age of the persons arrested are concerned, and the result is given in the following table:—

**Individuals arrested more than once.** Of the total number of arrests, 12,689, only 9,654, or 76 per cent., were of distinct individuals. Of these, 8,073 or 84 per cent., were arrested only once; 1,012, or 10 per cent., twice; 290, or 3 per cent., three times; 122, or 1 per cent., four times; and 157, or 2 per cent., five times and over—two of these persons having been arrested twenty-five times, one twenty-six times, and one twenty-seven times. The table which follows gives a comparison of 1917 with 1884, from which it will be seen that there has been a large decline in the number of distinct persons arrested, but that little change has occurred in the proportions arrested once, twice or oftener:—

**DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED, 1884 AND 1917.**

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
1917 ...	8,298	1,356	9,654	1,241	184	687	84	10	3	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 15 per cent. of the males who fell into the hands of the police were arrested more than once, as many as 23 per cent. of the females were so arrested.

**Distinct persons arrested more than once for drunkenness.** The distinct persons arrested for drunkenness during 1917 numbered 5,357, and, of these, 1,040, or 19 per cent., were arrested more than once, viz., 625 twice; 204 thrice; 93 four times; 39 five times; and 79 more than five times, of whom 1 was arrested twenty-seven times.

**Drunkenness, 1884 and 1917.** The number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness was 10,287 in the year 1884, and 5,357 in 1917. The proportions per 1,000 of the population were 11.03 and 3.81 respectively in the years mentioned, the decrease in the later year being equivalent to a reduction of 65 per cent.

**Drunkards charged with other offences.** Whilst the number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness in 1917 was 5,357, the charges of drunkenness brought against them numbered 7,502; these persons were also charged with 864 other offences, so that the total number of charges of all kinds against drunkards was 8,366. Fifty-nine per cent. of the arrests during 1917 consisted of persons who were charged with drunkenness.

**Education of persons arrested.** Two per cent. of the distinct individuals arrested in 1917 were entirely illiterate, over 97 per cent. could read only, or read and write, and under 1 per cent. were possessed of superior or good education.

**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 1917.

Year.	Total Number of Cases Tried.	Total Number of Convictions.	Proportion of Convictions per 10,000 of Population.
1870 ...	835	573	8·03
1880 ...	567	387	4·55
1890 ...	964	662	5·92
1900 ...	652	451	3·78
1910 ...	669	435	3·35
1913 ...	757	506	3·63
1914 ...	708	494	3·47
1915 ...	777	533	3·74
1916 ...	644	462	3·28
1917 ...	606	360	2·56

This statement shows that there was a fall in 1917 as compared with 1890 of 48 per cent. in the number of criminal cases tried in the higher courts, and of 46 per cent. in the number of convictions.

**Drunkenness, 1913 to 1917.** 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, 1913 TO 1917.**

Year.	Number of Persons —			Proportion per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1913 ...	14,726	56	14,782	10·61
1914 ...	14,388	49	14,437	10·14
1915 ...	13,390	63	13,453	9·43
1916 ...	11,264	52	11,316	8·03
1917 ...	7,502	73	7,575	5·39

**Drunkenness — Comparison with previous years.** The amount of drunkenness in proportion to population, 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.	Period.	Index Number.
1874–78	100	1908–12	68
1879–85	88	1913 ..	72
1886–92	106	1914 ..	69
1893–97	65	1915 ..	64
1898–1902	84	1916 ..	55
1903–07	77	1917 ..	37

A very considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown for 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 eight years ended 1915 the number relatively to population was only slightly above the lowest point of previous years. It will be noticed that the index number for the year 1917 was the lowest on record. In the middle of the year 1915 an Act was passed limiting the number of hours during which alcoholic liquors could be sold in hotels and a further limitation was made in the following year. This may account in part for the decrease in drunkenness in the years 1916 and 1917.

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 1917.

Year.	Number.	Proportion per 100,000 of the Population under 20 years of age.
1895 ... ..	185	35·60
1900 ... ..	222	42·33
1910 ... ..	128	24·19
1913 ... ..	148	26·09
1914 ... ..	163	28·12
1915 ... ..	135	22·96
1916 ... ..	113	19·25
1917 ... ..	106	18·11

### CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR.

Consumption of  
intoxicating  
liquor.

The next table shows for a period of years the average yearly consumption of intoxicating liquors in Australia and New Zealand. It is not possible to give the Victorian consumption for a later year than 1909, as the Commonwealth Government discontinued keeping records of Inter-State trade in the following year.

### AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS, BEER, AND WINE IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

	Yearly Average Quantity Consumed. 1913 to 1917.			Proportion per Head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
*Commonwealth of Australia ..	3,305,400	60,709,000	1,588,300	·68	12·35	·32
Dominion of New Zealand ..	847,100	10,911,800	141,700	·78	10·02	·14

\* Average for three years ended 30th June, 1917.

The proportions per head in Australia during the quinquennium 1908-12 were: spirits, ·76, beer, 11·95, and wine, ·46; and for New Zealand: spirits, ·79, beer, 9·79, and wine, ·15 gallons.

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 years :—

**AUSTRALIAN DRINK BILL.—YEARLY AVERAGE.**

	Expenditure by the People on—					
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Total.		
				Amount.	Per Head.	Per Adult Individual.
	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
*Commonwealth of Australia	6,578,600	9,106,400	794,100	16,479,100	3 7 1	5 19 5
†Dominion of New Zealand	1,597,400	1,641,300	74,800	3,313,500	3 0 8	5 6 2

\* Average for three years ended 30th June, 1917.

† Average for five years ended 31st December, 1917.

These figures show that the average yearly expenditure on drink in Australia during the three years ended 30th June 1917, was £16,479,100, and that in New Zealand during the quinquennium, 1913 to 1917, it was £3,313,500. The proportion per head for the Commonwealth was £3 7s. 1d., and for New Zealand £3 0s. 8d. The corresponding proportions for the quinquennium, 1903–12, were £3 7s. and £2 18s. 4d. per head.

During the period 1885 to 1905, 217 hotels were closed as **Local Option** the result of local option polls. The amount of compensation awarded was £212,771, or an average of £980 for each hotel. This sum was provided partly out of the Licensing Fund, and, when this was insufficient for the purpose, out of the general revenue.

**Restricting the hours for the sale of intoxicants.** In the year 1915 an Act was passed (No. 2534) which fixed the hours during which alcoholic liquors might be sold in hotels during the period of the war at from 9 o'clock in the morning until half-past 9 at night. By an Act passed in 1916 (No. 2827) the closing hour was fixed at 6 o'clock instead of 9.30.

## LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD.

Licences  
Reduction  
Board.

The Licences Reduction Board provided for by the *Licensing Act* 1906 was appointed on 21st May, 1907. At the same time a Compensation Fund was instituted which was 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 duties of the Board are referred to in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, page 476. Just before the close of the year 1916 an amending Licensing Act (No. 2855) was passed, in which the members of the Licences Reduction Board were constituted a Licensing Court for the whole State. The taking of a local option poll was postponed to the second general election after January, 1917, and the Court was authorized in the meantime to close hotels to the extent of the Compensation Fund available, as if reduction had been carried in every Licensing District. No alteration was made in the provisions abolishing the statutory number of hotels for a district, so that the number existing on 1st January, 1917, is now the maximum number; a similar provision applying to grocers' licences, Australian wine licences, and club licences. The Mallee area was made the subject of special legislation, under which it is possible after a petition and a poll to obtain victuallers' licences in proclaimed areas containing at least 500 electors. These hotels are to be 12 miles apart, except at Mildura, where there can be three hotels. The whole system of licence-fees was re-cast, fixed fees in the retail liquor trade being abolished and percentage fees substituted. In the wholesale section there are now percentage fees for the sales to private customers, and fixed fees in respect of the balance of the trade. The percentage fee in the case of hotels has been fixed at 6 per cent. on the annual liquor purchases, the owner paying three-eighths and the licensee five-eighths. This combines and takes the place of the old fixed fees, the 3 per cent. compensation fee, and the assessments for lost licence fees arising out of the closing of hotels. Spirit merchants and holders of grocers' licences and Australian wine licences pay 4 per cent. on the cost of liquors sold to non-licensed purchasers.

Provision was also made for the adjustment of rents owing to the reduction in the hours for selling liquor. This work was intrusted to the Board under the "9.30 Closing Act," and is now extended to include alterations due to the "6 o'clock Closing Act." Under the provisions of the latter Act 330 applications were received for adjustment of rent in addition to 340 received under the "9.30 Closing Act."

Up to 30th June, 1918, 1,183 hotels had been closed by the Board, or had surrendered their licences. Compensation has so far been awarded in 1,142 cases, and the total sum paid has been £592,389, or an average



of £519 each. Three hundred and six of these hotels were located in the Greater Melbourne district, and their compensation totalled £269,197, making an average of £880 each; there were 836 in country districts, whose owners and licensees received £323,192, or an average of £387 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 LICENSING COURT AND LICENCES  
REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE, 1918.**

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
<b>GREATER MELBOURNE.</b>					£	£
Barkly (Collingwood) ...	27	12	15	11	7,070	1,270
Beaconsfield ...	26	20	6	6	4,400	780
Bourke ...	82	24	58	40	31,994	7,210
Broadmeadows ...	23	10	13	11	3,666	490
Cardigan ...	58	19	39	31	21,466	3,682
Collingwood East ...	22	18	4	7	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	4,270	600
Fitzroy South ...	36	15	21	16	12,226	2,090
Footscray ...	17	23	-6	3	...	...
Gipps ...	84	12	72	43	34,230	8,673
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
Mulgrave ...	10	12	-2	2	975	175
North Melbourne ...	33	21	12	4	3,295	670
Nunawading ...	4	8	-4	1	250	No claim
Port Melbourne ...	46	23	23	18	12,239	2,260
Prahran ...	27	21	6	3	2,157	325
Princes Hill ...	34	19	15	12	9,926	1,253
Richmond Central ...	24	26	-2	4	2,980	640
Richmond North ...	24	21	3	6	4,662	837
Richmond South ...	17	18	-1	4	2,775	410
South Yarra ...	20	22	-2	5	4,320	615
Williamstown North ...	14	17	-3	3	...	...
Williamstown South ...	26	14	12	9	5,010	880
<b>Total Greater Melbourne ...</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>225,110</b>	<b>44,087</b>

\* Compensation for three hotels.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENSING COURT AND LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE 1918—continued.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
<b>COUNTRY.</b>					£	£
Alexandra	17	9	8	5	1,706	145
Allansford	11	10	1	3	375*	60*
Ararat	17	6	11	7	2,255	570
Arcadia	6	7	-1	1	20	105
Bacchus Marsh	11	6	5	5	1,818	155
Bairnsdale	13	10	3	1	400	100
Ballan	21	12	9	12	2,575§	300§
Ballarat East	41	39	2	8	1,905†	295†
Ballarat West	83	36	47	35	20,672	4,356
Barkly (Bendigo)	34	19	15	14	5,756	970
Beaufort	26	11	15	12	3,062	210
Beechworth	33	12	21	21	5,719	265
Benalla	14	11	3	5	920†	195†
Berwick	14	14	...	2	585	100
Birchip	6	9	-3	2	...	...
Boort	5	5	...	1	260	Nil
Branxholme	12	10	2	3	350*	Nil
Bridgewater	23	8	15	11	2,714	415
Bright	26	10	16	16	4,783	520
Bullarook	8	5	3	4	1,102	170
Bungaree	21	11	10	10	1,917	310
Buninyong	25	11	14	16	3,513	743
Carisbrook	11	3	8	6	1,436	142
Castlemaine	49	12	37	33	7,969	1,666
Charlton	20	10	10	5	1,800	285
Chiltern	15	6	9	8	2,270	270
Clunes	36	12	24	28	6,668	603
Creswick	22	10	12	14	3,506	536
Dargo	6	6	...	1	75	Nil
Darling (Bendigo)	71	13	58	39	23,707	3,535
Daylesford	20	6	14	9	3,665	660
Dimboola	12	10	2	1	225	No claim
Downing Forest	19	9	10	10	3,085	306
Drouin	11	11	...	1	175	50
Dunmunkle	16	8	8	4	1,325	135
Dunolly	24	10	14	14	3,754	616
Eaglehawk	42	16	26	22	8,533	1,150
Echuca	22	8	14	7	5,034	830
Franklin	31	11	20	20	4,026	436
Fryers	18	6	12	13	2,358	289
Geelong East	26	21	5	5	3,510	480
Geelong West	31	22	9	7	4,862	620
Gisborne	15	8	7	5	1,594	302
Glenorchy	10	8	2	3	570	48

Compensation for—

\* One hotel † Three hotels. ‡ Four hotels. § Eleven hotels. || Thirteen hotels.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES COURT AND LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE, 1918—continued.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
<b>COUNTRY—continued.</b>					£	£
Golden Square ... ..	57	26	31	22	11,346	1,520
Goulburn ... ..	26	12	14	12	5,107	544
Healesville ... ..	7	4	3	1	210	Nil
Heathcote ... ..	24	9	15	15	3,634	38
Heywood ... ..	4	7	-3	1	250	No claim
Horsham ... ..	16	10	6	3	1,765	125
Huntly ... ..	21	7	14	11	3,476	660
Inglewood ... ..	20	8	12	12	3,216	448
Kangaroo Flat ... ..	31	14	17	20	5,438	718
Katamatite ... ..	4	6	-2	2	600	100
Kerang ... ..	20	12	8	3	250*	Nil
Kilmore ... ..	13	8	5	4	1,655	180
Koroit ... ..	15	11	4	4	710†	9†
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	...	2	450	155
Lawloit ... ..	4	5	-1	1	160	50
Leigh ... ..	6	5	1	2	695	Nil
Lexton ... ..	7	3	4	3	710	75
Lilydale ... ..	17	17	...	3	1,400	230
Maldon ... ..	23	10	13	13	2,872	510
Mansfield ... ..	13	8	5	6	1,653	267
Melton ... ..	26	8	18	13	3,697§	490§
Meredith ... ..	5	4	1	3	1,175	150
Mirboo ... ..	6	7	-1	1	500	100
Moyston ... ..	10	8	2	3	635	95
New-tead ... ..	10	7	3	4	1,067	98
Newtown and Chilwell ... ..	8	10	-2	1	700	100
Numurkah ... ..	27	13	14	11	6,265	920
Omeo ... ..	11	10	1	1	510	50
Otway ... ..	3	8	-5	1	No claim	No claim
Oxley ... ..	7	9	-2	2	395	35
Penshurst ... ..	8	6	2	2	370*	30*
Phillip Island ... ..	12	12	...	2	390	110
Pitfield ... ..	15	12	3	9	2,253‡	145‡
Port Fairy ... ..	14	11	3	4	700†	90†
Portland ... ..	8	7	1	1	374	Nil
Pyalong ... ..	4	4	...	1	...	...
Queenscliff ... ..	16	13	3	2	650	145

Compensation for—

\* One hotel, † Two hotels, ‡ Eight hotels, § Eleven hotels, || Thirteen hotels.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENSING COURT AND LICENCES REDUCTION  
BOARD TO 30TH JUNE, 1918—continued.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licencees.
<b>COUNTRY—continued.</b>					£.	£
Rochester ... ..	13	9	4	3	965	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	10	2,980	291
Rutherglen ... ..	19	13	6	6	2,011	415
Sale ... ..	17	7	10	8	3,441	640
Sebastopol ... ..	22	11	11	12	3,575	641
Serpentine ... ..	6	4	2	1	75	30
Seymour ... ..	10	8	2	1	450	110
Shepparton ... ..	13	9	4	4	1,810	625
St. Arnaud ... ..	15	7	8	4	2,610	455
Stawell ... ..	28	9	19	19	5,934	1,169
Strathfieldsaye ... ..	17	6	11	8	1,885	214
Talbot ... ..	26	12	14	15	3,425	335
Taradale ... ..	17	7	10	13	2,194*	70*
Terrick ... ..	5	6	-1	1	200	No claim
Timor ... ..	25	12	13	15	2,774†	266†
Towong ... ..	21	14	7	10	1,710	243
Trentham ... ..	15	7	8	5	1,458	100
Walhalla ... ..	22	10	12	15	3,910	575
Wangaratta ... ..	24	11	13	9	5,045	525
Warragul ... ..	9	9	...	1	350	No claim
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	3	1,305	Nil
Yarrowonga ... ..	23	12	11	6	2,335	25
Yea ... ..	6	7	-1	1	...	...
<b>Total Country ... ..</b>	<b>2,042</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>282,691</b>	<b>40,501</b>
<b>Grand Total ... ..</b>	<b>2,035</b>	<b>1,624</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>507,801</b>	<b>84,588</b>

\* Compensation for twelve hotels.

† Compensation for thirteen hotels.

The return given hereunder shows the number of hotels in Victoria in 1885, 1906 and 1918, and the number of persons to each hotel in those years. The years 1885 and 1906 have been selected because in those years important alterations were made in the liquor licensing laws:—

NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885, 1906 AND 1918.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.	Persons to each Hotel.
1885 ... ..	969,200	4,265	227
1906 ... ..	1,244,474	3,473	358
1918 (30th June) ... ..	1,416,982	2,234	634
Increase, 1885 to 1918 ...	447,782	...	407
Decrease, ,, ,, ...	...	2,031	..

While the population has increased by 46 per cent. since 1885, the number of hotels has decreased by 48 per cent., and the number of persons to an hotel is now 179 per cent. more than in that year. During the period 1885-1918, 217 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 1,183 were deprived of their licences by the Licences Reduction Board, or surrendered their licences to the Board, and 631 closed voluntarily.

The *Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act 1906* (now Section 152 of the *Police Offences Act 1915*) provides that all race-courses must be licensed, for which a fee of £1 per annum is charged. It is stipulated that, in addition to this fee, there shall be paid annually a sum equal to 3 per cent. of the gross revenue derived from all sources. Where the gross revenue is less than £1,500, but more than £600, the annual sum payable is 2

Race-course  
licences and  
percentage  
fees.

per cent. of the revenue, 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 twelve years were as follows:—

**REVENUE FROM RACE-COURSE LICENCES AND  
PERCENTAGE FEES, 1907 to 1918.**

Year ended 30th June.	Amount.	Year ended 30th June.	Amount.
	£		£
1907 .. ..	4,962	1913 .. ..	10,019
1908 .. ..	5,818	1914 .. ..	12,034
1909 .. ..	6,007	1915 .. ..	13,611
1910 .. ..	6,201	1916 .. ..	11,758
1911 .. ..	7,977	1917 .. ..	13,380
1912 .. ..	9,216	1918 .. ..	10,958

**GAOLS AND PRISONERS.**

There are eight gaols in Victoria, including the Pentridge Penal Establishment, and four reformatory prisons, also three police gaols which are used as receiving stations, and the figures below show that there is accommodation in the gaols for over two and a half times the average number of prisoners in confinement. The following statement gives for the year 1917 the accommodation for prisoners, the daily average in confinement, the

**Gaols and  
Prisoners.**

number received during the year, and the number in confinement at the end of the year :—

## GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1917.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received.		In Confinement, 31.12.17.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge ..	732	..	375	..	459	..	372	..
Pentridge Reformatory Prison	86	..	60	..	57	..	51	..
Ballarat ..	62	18	11	1	120	13	13	1
Beechworth ..	66	15	3	..	39	..	1	..
Bendigo ..	28	3	8	..	128	7	9	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	92	..	26	..	30	..	18	..
Coburg Female Prison ..	..	324	..	60	..	220	..	75
Jika Reformatory Female Prison	..	9	..	4	..	4	..	5
Geelong ..	213	3	67	..	222	11	47	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison ..	35	..	27	..	42	..	28	..
Melbourne ..	249	60	86	20	2,209	807	72	23
Sale ..	30	5	4	..	41	1	3	..
Police Gaols ..	37	7	2	..	68	6	2	..
Total ..	1,630	444	669	85	3,415	1,069	616	104

Prisoners in confinement, 1871 to 1917—decrease.

A statement is given below of the average number of prisoners in detention in the gaols of the State in the last years of decennial periods 1871 to 1911 inclusive, and in each of the last five years. From this it will be seen that there has been a considerable decrease in late years as compared with earlier periods. The rate per 10,000 of population, aged fifteen years and

over, was, in 1917, 46 per cent. less than in 1901, 69 per cent. less than in 1891, 74 per cent. less than in 1881, and 80 per cent. less than in 1871.

### PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1917.

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
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
1916 ...	752	101	853	16·44	1·98	8·81
1917 ..	669	85	754	14·56	1·68	7·81

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 1917:—

### BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED, 1871 TO 1917.

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1917.
Total .. .. .	1,619	1,598	1,900	1,151	813	754
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand	259	584	845	689	595	579
England and Wales ..	628	401	420	149	87	64
Scotland .. .. .	129	105	129	56	26	25
Ireland .. .. .	430	378	336	160	62	40
China .. .. .	75	27	14	18	4	5
Others .. .. .	98	103	156	79	39	41
Religion—						
Protestants .. .. .	977	888	1,098	651	476	454
Roman Catholics .. ..	556	671	729	465	317	274
Jews .. .. .	7	7	14	8	4	4
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	74	27	14	12	1	2
Others .. .. .	5	5	45	15	15	20
Age—						
Under 20 years .. .. .		229	129	75	54	59
20 to 30 years .. .. .		473	669	316	205	209
30 to 40 years .. .. .		312	457	337	211	189
40 to 50 years .. .. .		294	279	234	193	161
50 to 60 years .. .. .		166	193	102	96	85
60 years and over .. ..		124	173	87	54	51
	Information not available.					



**BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS  
CONSTANTLY DETAINED PER 10,000 OF POPULATION,  
1871 TO 1917.\***

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1917.-
<b>Birthplace—</b>						
Australia and New Zealand	7·23	10·84	10·65	7·25	5·32	4·84
England and Wales ..	36·75	27·20	25·78	12·72	9·73	6·71
Scotland .. ..	22·95	21·81	25·46	15·66	9·78	8·81
Ireland .. .. .	42·80	43·58	39·39	26·01	14·95	9·04
China .. .. .	42·00	22·88	16·53	23·89	7·14	8·28
Others .. .. .	35·22	35·34	39·24	25·80	11·64	11·44
<b>Religion—</b>						
Protestants .. ..	18·88	14·36	13·12	7·19	4·90	4·37
Roman Catholics.. ..	32·59	32·98	29·33	17·63	11·07	8·95
Jews .. .. .	19·60	16·17	21·68	13·54	6·38	5·93
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	41·63	24·20	20·75	21·95	3·89	7·12
Others .. .. .	2·27	2·00	10·78	7·03	3·11	3·89
<b>Age—</b>						
Under 20 years .. ..		35·30	2·53	1·42	1·01	1·01
20 to 30 years .. ..		34·18	27·36	15·30	8·67	8·76
30 to 40 years .. ..		34·82	31·30	18·23	11·66	10·01
40 to 50 years .. ..		20·95	32·00	20·07	11·64	9·01
50 to 60 years .. ..		34·84	23·95	15·35	9·60	7·82
60 years and over ..		0·88	23·90	8·73	5·58	4·84

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

## POLICE PROTECTION.

The table below contains the numbers in the various grades of the police force in Victoria on the 31st December, 1917 :—

Strength of  
police force in  
Victoria.

## POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31st DECEMBER, 1917.

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner ... ..	1	...	1
Superintendents ... ..	2	9	11
Inspectors ... ..	5	2	7
Sub-Inspectors ... ..	11	6	17
Sergeants, First class ... ..	28	20	48
"    Second class ... ..	24	24	48
Senior Constables ... ..	105	74	179
Constables ... ..	750	295	1,045
Detectives ... ..	42	2	44
Others ... ..	2	...	2
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>1,402</b>
<i>Mounted.</i>			
Sergeants, Second class ... ..	...	...	...
Senior Constables ... ..	1	...	1
Constables ... ..	3	244	247
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>248</b>
<b>Grand Total ... ..</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>1,650</b>

The number of police in Victoria per 10,000 of the population and the corresponding proportions for other States at the latest available dates were as follows:—Victoria, 11·69; New South Wales, 13·84; Queensland, 17·97; South Australia, 12·59; Western Australia, 15·32; Tasmania, 11·65; and Northern Territory, 54·54.

Strength of  
Police force in  
proportion to  
population.

The following table contains a statement of the amount and the amount per head of population expended in connexion with the police, and the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria, for the year 1871-2, and for every tenth year thereafter until 1911-12 inclusive, also for each of the five years ended with 1916-17:—

## EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1871-2 TO 1916-17.

Year ended 30th June.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Maintenance, &c.		Buildings.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablishments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablishments.		
	£	£	£	£	£	
1872 ..	190,711	57,855	5,722	2,133	256,421	6 10
1882 ..	201,063	53,032	14,996	3,328	272,419	6 2
1892 ..	283,409	65,679	19,113	23,319	391,520	6 9
1902 ..	271,561	51,948	7,064	3,613	334,186	5 6
1912 ..	316,456	48,514	12,856	2,300	380,126	5 8
1913 ..	333,027	50,952	24,369	2,237	410,585	5 11
1914 ..	343,518	54,083	20,174	2,472	420,247	5 11
1915 ..	358,624	57,272	11,757	1,593	429,246	6 0
1916 ..	341,821	57,791	1,725	604	401,941	5 8
1917 ..	332,322	56,459	1,688	3,155	393,624	5 8

**Executions.** During the thirteen years ended with 1917 there were only four executions in Victoria, one of which took place in 1908, one in 1912, and two in 1916. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 172 criminals have been executed within the State, of whom only four were females.

The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains on page 490 a table showing the offences for which criminals were executed; also their birthplaces and religions for the years 1842 to 1916.

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

**INQUESTS, 1913 TO 1917.**

Cause of Death found to be due to—	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
<b>External Causes—</b>					
Accident .. .. .	392	433	438	436	387
Homicide .. .. .	12	14	14	13	12
Suicide .. .. .	135	115	128	126	111
Execution .. .. .	..	..	..	2	..
Doubtful .. .. .	59	64	62	48	35
Disease or Natural Causes .. .. .	596	669	741	665	616
Intemperance .. .. .	9	3	4	2	1
Unspecified or Doubtful Causes .. .. .	2	3	6	8	..
Being "Still Born" .. .. .	1	..	2	2	1
Total .. .. .	1,206	1,301	1,395	1,302	1,163
Proportion per 10,000 of Population ..	8.66	9.14	9.78	9.24	8.27

Of the deaths from external causes during the last five years, 69 per cent. were due to accidental causes, 2 per cent. to homicide, and 20 per cent. to suicide, while in 9 per cent. of the cases the nature or motive of the violence which caused death was doubtful.