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SECTION XXIII.

PUBLIC JUSTICE.

§ 1. Police.

1. **Introductory.**—In previous issues of the Year Book a résumé was given of the evolution of the police force in Australia up to the passing of the Police Act of 1862 (25 Vic. No. 16) in New South Wales, but considerations of space preclude its inclusion in the present volume.

In general terms the police forces of Australia may be said to be satisfactory both in regard to physique and intelligence, while as regards methods of prevention and detection of crime it is believed that the system in vogue here compares very favourably with those of the older-settled countries of the world.

2. **Strength of Police Force.**—The strength of the police force in each State during the five years ended 1912 was as follows. It may be mentioned that the police forces are entirely under State control, but, by arrangement, the Commonwealth Government utilises their services in various directions, such as the collection of Commonwealth electoral rolls, etc.

POLICE FORCES IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1908 to 1912.

State.	Area of State in Sq. Miles.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales ...	310,372	2,417	2,435	2,447	2,487	2,554
Victoria... ..	87,884	1,552	1,598	1,605	1,640	1,662
Queensland	670,500	960	966	957	1,011	1,084
South Australia ...	380,070	429	442	465	502	522
Western Australia ...	975,920	492	475	474	481	487
Tasmania	26,215	232	234	234	232	237
Northern Territory ...	523,620	...	...	...	22	25
Commonwealth ...	2,974,581	6,082	6,150	6,182	6,375	6,571

The figures for New South Wales for 1912 are exclusive of fifty-six "black trackers," *i.e.*, natives employed in detection of offenders in outlying districts, and five female searchers. In Queensland there were ninety-nine native trackers. The South Australian returns for 1912 are exclusive of eleven "black trackers" and one female searcher. The Northern Territory had twenty-three "black trackers" in 1912. There are also fifty-three "black trackers" in Western Australia and three female searchers not included in the table.

(i.) *Average Number of Inhabitants to each Police Officer.* The average number of inhabitants to each officer in each State during the same period is as follows. In considering these figures allowance must, of course, be made for the unequal area and unequal distribution of the population of the various States.

INHABITANTS TO EACH POLICE OFFICER, 1908 to 1912.
(COMMONWEALTH.)

State.	No. of Persons per Sq. Mile, 1911 Census.	Inhabitants to each Police Officer.				
		1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales ...	5.31	659	659	667	664	680
Victoria ...	14.97	819	804	799	810	816
Queensland ...	0.90	575	585	622	608	582
South Australia ...	0.46	949	900	863	819	808
Western Australia ...	0.29	543	571	572	596	619
Tasmania ...	7.29	801	787	816	820	809
Northern Territory ...	...	...	...	...	151	134
Commonwealth ...	1.50	703	703	707	704	707

The above figures naturally show a great disparity in the relative numbers of the population protected by each police officer in the various States, and also in the relative area of territory to each officer. Western Australia and South Australia exhibit the largest figures in the latter respect, this, of course, being due to the fact that extensive areas in each State are as yet unpeopled by white settlers.

3. Duties of the Police.—In addition to the ordinary employment attaching to their office, the police are called upon to perform many duties which in other countries are carried out by various functionaries. Thus, in Queensland, according to the Commissioner's report for 1912, no less than fifty subsidiary offices are held by the police. As far as the statistician is concerned, it is found that the expert local knowledge possessed by the police renders their services in the collection of such returns as those relating to the agricultural, pastoral, and manufacturing industries, private schools, etc., more than ordinarily valuable. Then, again, the fact that their services are enlisted by such widely different departments as those dealing with mines, stock, agriculture, elections, registrations of births, deaths, and marriages, forestry, fisheries, explosives, old-age pensions, lunacy, public works, labour, etc., greatly enhances their general alertness by widening the range of their experience. Occasionally the objection is heard in some quarters that these special tasks involve some degree of sacrifice of ordinary routine duties, but that the general intelligence of the Australian police is adequate to the obligation to perform these tasks, besides being most creditable, results in a great saving of the public money.

4. Cost of Police Forces.—The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue on the police forces in each State during the five years 1908 to 1912 is shewn in the following table. Cost of buildings has been excluded from the return.

COST OF POLICE FORCES IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1908 to 1912.

State.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	466,994	472,718	504,146	515,569	578,767
Victoria ...	306,263	320,831	337,670	345,889	348,227
Queensland ...	207,043	220,344	244,945	258,538	306,431
South Australia ...	96,979	98,214	96,769	107,872	116,847
Western Australia ...	124,518	119,111	120,420	127,458	129,556
Tasmania ...	39,105	39,740	40,408	41,535	43,236
Northern Territory ...	...	...	...	9,708	10,609
Commonwealth ...	1,240,902	1,270,958	1,344,358	1,406,569	1,533,673

The total for New South Wales includes £25,000 payment to Police Superannuation Fund. Similar payments in Victoria and Queensland come to £17,000 and £23,000 respectively, while smaller amounts are included in the returns for other States. The cost per head of the population in each State for the period 1908 to 1912 was as follows:—

COST OF POLICE PER INHABITANT, 1908 to 1912.

(COMMONWEALTH.)

State.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
New South Wales ...	5 11	5 11	6 2	6 2	6 8
Victoria ...	4 10	5 0	5 2	5 1	5 2
Queensland ...	7 6	7 8	8 3	8 4	9 8
South Australia ...	4 11	5 0	4 10	5 2	5 6
Western Australia ...	9 5	8 10	8 11	8 8	8 7
Tasmania ...	4 4	4 4	4 3	4 4	4 6
Northern Territory ...	...	...	...	58 6	63 2
Commonwealth ...	5 11	5 11	6 2	6 2	6 7

The relatively high cost per head in Queensland and Western Australia is due to the fact that there are in those States extensive areas of sparsely settled country, in which mounted patrols have to be maintained.

In view of the small number of its white population and the vast extent of country to be patrolled, the figures for the Northern Territory necessarily shew a very high average.

§ 2. Lower (Magistrates') Courts.

1. Introductory.—In considering the criminal returns of the various States, due allowance must be made on account of several factors, such as the relative powers of the courts, both lower and higher, etc. In the case of lower courts, the actual number of laws in each State, the breach of which renders a person liable to fine or imprisonment, must be taken into account. Again, the attitude of the magistracy and police towards certain classes of offences is a factor, for in the case of liquor laws, or laws connected with vagrancy or gaming, the views of magistrates, and instructions issued to the police, may be responsible for considerable variations in the returns. The strength and distribution of the police forces, and the age constitution and distribution of the State's population, also influence the results. In any consideration of criminal returns, due weight should also be given to the prevalence of undetected crime, but information on this point can only be obtained for the State of Victoria. It may be mentioned that each State has its own separate judicial system, the Commonwealth jurisdiction being confined to the High Court of Australia, which is largely a Court of Appeal intermediate to the Privy Council, although it has also original jurisdiction, and the Commonwealth Court of Arbitration and Conciliation. Full particulars regarding the judicial power of the Commonwealth will be found in Chapter III. of the Commonwealth Constitution (see page 29).

2. Powers of the Magistrates.—In New South Wales there is no general limit to the powers of the magistrates in regard to offences punished summarily, their authority depending in such case on the statute which creates the offence and gives them jurisdiction. Except in the case of a very few statutes, and excluding cumulative sentences,

the power of sentence is limited to six months. Imprisonment in default of payment of fine is regulated by a scale limiting the maximum period according to the sum ordered to be paid, but in no case exceeding twelve months. Actions for debt and damage within certain limits also come within magisterial jurisdiction. In cases of debts, liquidated or unliquidated, the amount recoverable is not exceeding £50 before a court constituted of a stipendiary or police magistrate at certain authorised places, and not exceeding £30 at any other place before a court constituted of a stipendiary or police magistrate or two or more justices of the peace. The amount in actions of damage is limited to £10, but may extend to £30 by consent of parties.

In Victoria the civil jurisdiction of magistrates is restricted to what may be designated ordinary debts, damages for assault, restitution of goods, etc., where the amount in dispute does not exceed £50. No definite limit is fixed to the powers of the magistrates on the criminal side, and for some offences sentences up to two years may be imposed. The proportion of long sentences is, however, comparatively small.

In Queensland, generally speaking, the maximum term of imprisonment which justices can inflict is six months, but in certain exceptional cases, such as offences against sections 233 and 445 of the criminal code (betting-houses and illegally using animals), sentences of twelve months may be imposed. No limit exists as to the extent to which cumulative sentences may be applied, but in practice the term is never very lengthy.

In South Australia, under the Minor Offences Act, magistrates can impose sentences up to six months, and under the Summary Convictions Act, up to three months. The Police Act of 1869 gives power to sentence up to one year, with hard labour, in the case of incorrigible rogues; while under the Quarantine Act of 1877, and the Lottery and Gaming Act of 1875, sentences of two years may be imposed.

Under the Petty Sessions Act of 1867, in Tasmania, any person charged with having committed, or with having aided or abetted in the commission of an offence, in regard to property of a value not exceeding £10, may, on conviction, for a first offence, before two or more justices in Petty Sessions, be imprisoned for any term not exceeding one year, and for a term not exceeding two years for a second or subsequent offence.

3. Persons Charged at Magistrates' Courts.—The total number of persons who were charged before magistrates in each State is given below for the five years 1908 to 1912:—

PERSONS CHARGED BEFORE MAGISTRATES IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1908 to 1912.

State.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales ...	66,233	64,502	73,960	75,114	89,951
Victoria ...	58,778	52,658	52,060	44,526	53,087
Queensland ...	19,687	19,824	22,104	25,482	27,323
South Australia ...	6,589	7,332	8,328	8,435	10,685
Western Australia ...	12,685	12,961	13,260	13,862	15,092
Tasmania ...	7,048	6,831	7,079	6,597	7,084
Northern Territory...	...	...	...	92	219
Commonwealth ...	171,020	164,108	176,791	174,108	203,441

As the table shews, the number of charges at Magistrates' Courts in New South Wales increased during 1912 by nearly 20 per cent. It would, however, be rash to conclude that crime is therefore on the increase in that State, for a scrutiny of the detailed returns shews that the bulk of the increase took place in offences against good order, and in the indefinite "not included" class, which comprises breaches of various enactments, such as the Local Government Act, Commonwealth Defence Act, etc. These offences hardly come within the category of ordinary crime.

The considerable falling-off in the returns for Victoria during 1911 was due in large measure to the decline in summons cases under the Education Act, the figures for 1911 being 4695, as compared with 12,317 in the preceding year. An increase in summons cases accounted for the rise in the total for 1912, to which summonses contributed 33,273 cases, as against 25,128 in the previous year. A scrutiny of the summons returns shews that the rise was due largely to an increase in breaches of the Education Act, for which the figures advanced from 4695 in 1911 to 7470 in 1912. Further, the summons cases for 1912 include in the column "other" 2936 breaches of the Defence Act, this entry appearing, of course, for the first time in the 1912 returns. The above considerations afford an excellent illustration of the necessity for analysis of the total returns prior to drawing therefrom any deductions in regard to the increase or otherwise of criminality. (See also in this connection § 2, 1. *ante.*)

The figures given in the tabulation above include, of course, a number of people who were wrongly charged, and statistically are not of great importance. The actual number of convictions in connection with the persons who appeared before the lower courts in each year of the period 1908 to 1912 is, therefore, given hereunder. A separate line is added shewing the committals to higher courts.

CONVICTIONS AND COMMITTALS AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS, 1908 to 1912.

(COMMONWEALTH.)

State.		1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales	{ Convictions	57,630	55,767	63,671	65,058	77,611
	{ Committals	1,015	1,081	1,176	1,178	1,490
Victoria	{ Convictions	43,705	38,301	38,555	31,564	38,646
	{ Committals	577	580	551	564	571
Queensland	{ Convictions	17,710	17,584	19,805	23,072	24,996
	{ Committals	417	442	455	529	425
South Australia...	{ Convictions	5,664	6,324	7,229	7,303	9,184
	{ Committals	89	111	117	99	121
Western Australia	{ Convictions	10,695	10,910	11,433	11,936	13,251
	{ Committals	187	177	192	204	162
Tasmania	{ Convictions	5,903	5,930	6,250	5,756	6,108
	{ Committals	63	44	48	57	60
Northern Territory	{ Convictions	...	...	...	75	183
	{ Committals	...	...	...	...	8
Commonwealth	{ Convictions	141,307	135,316	146,943	144,764	169,979
	{ Committals	2,348	2,435	2,539	2,631	2,837

4. **Convictions for Serious Crime.**—While the figures given in the preceding table refer to the entire body of convictions, the fact must not be lost sight of that they include a large proportion of offences of a technical nature, many of them unwittingly committed, against various Acts of Parliaments. Cases of drunkenness and minor breaches of good order, which, if they can be said to come within the category of crime at all, at least do so in a very different sense to some other offences, also help to swell the list. The following table has, therefore, been prepared for the purpose of shewing the convictions at magistrates' courts for what may be regarded as the more serious offences, *i.e.*, against the person and property, either separately or conjointly, and forgery and offences against the currency:—

CONVICTIONS FOR SERIOUS CRIMES AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS, 1908 to 1912.
(COMMONWEALTH.)

State.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales ...	4,779	4,764	5,224	5,075	5,904
Victoria ...	2,794	2,626	2,673	2,362	2,655
Queensland ...	1,493	1,526	1,479	1,540	1,495
South Australia ...	540	513	487	488	554
Western Australia ...	1,143	1,074	996	1,025	1,053
Tasmania ...	575	548	609	557	566
Northern Territory ...	...	...	...	6	11
Commonwealth ...	11,264	11,051	11,468	11,053	12,238

Compared with the population the above figures give the following results per 10,000 inhabitants:—

CONVICTIONS FOR SERIOUS CRIME PER 10,000 INHABITANTS, 1908 to 1912.
(COMMONWEALTH.)

State.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales ...	30.2	29.7	32.0	30.7	33.9
Victoria ...	22.2	20.4	20.8	17.8	19.6
Queensland ...	26.1	27.0	25.0	25.0	23.7
South Australia ...	13.6	12.5	12.1	11.9	13.1
Western Australia ...	43.1	39.6	36.7	35.7	34.9
Tasmania ...	31.6	29.8	31.9	29.3	29.5
Northern Territory ...	...	...	...	18.1	32.7
Commonwealth ...	26.6	25.6	26.2	24.6	26.3

5. **Decrease in Crime.**—The figures quoted in the preceding table show that during the last five years the rate of serious crime has slightly declined, while if the comparison be carried back to 1881 the position is seen to be still more satisfactory. The rate of convictions at magistrates' courts per 10,000 of the population is given below for each of the years 1881, 1891, 1901, and 1912. Only the more serious offences, particularised in the preceding paragraph, have been taken into consideration.

RATE OF CONVICTIONS FOR SERIOUS CRIME IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

Year.	Convictions per 10,000 Persons				
1881	69.3
1891	44.8
1901	29.1
1912	26.3

6. **Need of Statistics of Distinct Persons.**—The figures already quoted refer to total convictions, and in respect of individuals necessarily involve a considerable amount of duplication, especially in minor offences, such as drunkenness, petty larcenies, etc., in which the same offender appears before the court many times in the course of the year. In a few of the States it is possible to obtain the number of distinct persons arrested, but there are no means of arriving at the total distinct persons convicted before the magistrates in any State.

7. **Causes of Decrease in Crime.**—The statistics given shew that there has been a considerable decrease in crime throughout Australia. The results so far quoted are restricted entirely to the lower or magistrates' courts. There has also been a gratifying decrease in regard to offences tried at the higher courts, as will be seen later.

Attempts have been made to account for this decline: *e.g.*, advance in education, enlightened penological methods, etc. Much depends upon what is meant by education. Many classed in census statistics as "educated" can barely read and write. In this connection, moreover, it ought not to be forgotten that collaterally with the introduction of ordinary intellectual education certain people have departed from their pristine virtues. The deterrent effect of punishment, in respect of many offences, notably drunkenness, vagrancy, petty larcenies, etc., appears to be almost negligible. In general, punishment has declined in brutality and severity, and has improved in respect of being based to a greater extent upon a scientific penological system, though in this latter respect there is yet much to be desired. Recent advances in penological methods will be referred to in a subsequent section. Here it will be sufficient to remark that under the old régime, a prisoner on completion of a sentence in gaol was simply turned adrift on society, and in many cases sought his criminal friends, and speedily qualified for readmission to the penitentiary. Frequently he was goaded to this by mistaken zeal on the part of the police, who took pains to inform employers of the fact of a man having served a sentence in gaol. For a long time any assistance to discharged prisoners was in the hands of private organisations, such as the Salvation Army Prison Gate Brigade, but in some of the States, and notably in New South Wales, the authorities themselves look after the welfare of discharged prisoners in the way of finding work, providing tools, etc.

Improvements in the means of communication and identification have been responsible for some of the falling-off noticeable in the criminal returns, the introduction of the Bertillon system having contributed to certainty of identification. In his report for the year 1910 the Inspector-General of Police in New South Wales states that "criminals have a wholesome dread of the finger print system, and I have not the slightest doubt that it is one of the principal causes of the diminution of serious crimes." Part of the improvement may no doubt be referred also to the general amelioration in social conditions that has taken place during the last fifty years.

8. **Drunkenness.**—The number of cases of drunkenness and the convictions recorded in connection therewith during the period 1908 to 1912 will be found in the following table:—

CASES AND CONVICTIONS—DRUNKENNESS, 1908 to 1912.

(COMMONWEALTH.)

State.	1908.		1909.		1910.		1911.		1912.	
	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.
New South Wales	27,976	27,817	27,495	27,363	27,542	27,380	29,398	29,299	32,915	32,720
Victoria	13,102	6,596	12,436	7,025	13,719	7,272	13,603	7,557	13,524	7,446
Queensland	9,303	9,185	9,109	9,102	10,870	10,849	12,824	12,767	14,225	14,213
South Australia	3,063	3,024	3,481	3,455	4,383	4,323	4,673	4,627	5,470	5,416
Western Australia	3,506	3,441	4,007	3,955	4,550	4,506	4,857	4,808	6,257	6,174
Tasmania	543	527	709	690	761	741	756	740	644	633
Northern Territory	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	34	80	80
Commonwealth	57,393	50,590	57,237	51,590	60,825	55,071	66,145	59,832	73,115	66,682

The number of convictions is, as might naturally be expected, almost identical with the number of cases. Victoria, however, is an exception, but in this State it is explained that offenders are generally discharged on a first appearance, and no conviction is recorded, a similar procedure being also adopted in the case of those arrested on Saturday and detained in custody till Monday. The logic of excluding these cases from the list of convictions is certainly open to doubt.

The convictions for drunkenness per 10,000 of the population during each of the years from 1908 to 1912 are given hereunder :—

CONVICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS PER 10,000, 1908 to 1912.

(COMMONWEALTH.)

State.	1908.	1909	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales ...	175.9	170.4	167.7	167.0	188.1
Victoria ...	52.4	54.7	56.7	56.8	54.9
Queensland ...	167.1	161.1	183.4	207.8	225.0
South Australia ...	76.0	84.1	107.7	112.5	128.4
Western Australia ...	129.8	146.0	166.2	167.7	204.8
Tasmania ...	29.0	37.5	38.8	38.9	33.0
Northern Territory...	...	...	...	102.4	238.1
Commonwealth ...	119.5	119.4	126.0	133.2	143.5

The convictions for drunkenness taken by themselves are not an altogether satisfactory test of the relative sobriety of the inhabitants of each State, inasmuch as several important factors must be taken into consideration. The age and sex constitution of the people, for example, is by no means identical in each State, Western Australia having by far the largest proportion of adult males. Owing to the smallness of the population the figures for the Northern Territory are, of course, abnormal. The avocations of the people affect the result, since persons engaged in strenuous callings are, on the whole, more likely to indulge in alcoholic stimulants than those employed in less arduous ones. The distribution of the population is also a factor, the likelihood of arrest or summons for drunkenness obviously being greater in the more densely populated regions, and lastly, allowance must be made for the attitude of the magistracy, the police, and the public generally in regard to the offence.

It is not unusual to supplement statistics of drunkenness by furnishing also the relative consumption of alcoholic beverages. Deductions drawn therefrom will be very misleading if they fail to take into account also the consumption of non-intoxicating beverages such as tea and coffee, and the general habit of the people. Throughout the greater part of Europe, tea and coffee are consumed but sparingly, while Australia, as is well known, is one of the greatest tea-drinking countries of the world.

The following table shewing the consumption of spirits, wine, and beer per head of the population has, with the exception of the figures relating to the Commonwealth, been compiled from returns prepared by the British Board of Trade. The figures quoted for the Commonwealth refer to the year 1912, and for the other countries mentioned cover the quinquennium 1907-11.

CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Country.	Consumption per Head of Population.			Country.	Consumption per Head of Population.		
	Spirits.	Wine.	Beer.		Spirits.	Wine.	Beer.
	Imp. Galls.	Imp. Galls.	Imp. Galls.		Imp. Galls.	Imp. Galls.	Imp. Galls.
United Kingdom...	0.76	0.27	26.94	Canada ...	0.96	0.11	6.22
Commonwealth ...	0.86	0.5	13.16	German Empire ...	1.37	1.12	22.86
New Zealand ...	0.78	0.15	9.88	France ...	1.38	34.32	8.48
Union of South Africa	0.33	0.70	1.28	United States ...	1.04	0.54	16.72

9. **Treatment of Drunkenness as Crime.**—Though the problem of the correct method of dealing with dipsomania is by no means an easy one, it seems fairly clear that the present plan of bringing offenders before magistrates, and subjecting them to the penalty of imprisonment or fine, has little deterrent effect, as the same offenders are constantly reappearing before the courts. Further, the casting of an inebriate into prison, and placing him in his weakened mental state in the company of professional malefactors, doubtless tends to swell the ranks of criminals and certainly tends to lower his self-respect. Examination of the prison records in New South Wales some years ago disclosed the fact that over 40 per cent. of the gaol population had commenced their criminal career with a charge of drunkenness. During the last few years the dangers of moral contamination in this way have been more accurately appreciated, and a system of classification of prisoners has been adopted whereby the petty offender is as far as possible kept from association with the more evilly-disposed. With regard to drunkards, however, the Comptroller of Prisons in New South Wales advocates the entire abandonment of the system of repeated fine or imprisonment in favour of a course of hospital treatment, and this has to some extent been accomplished by the Inebriates Acts of 1900 and 1909, under which habitual drunkards may be detained for long periods. The Comptroller-General of Prisons in Queensland states in his report for the year 1907 that "the drunken habit in many cases is merely one of many symptoms which jointly indicate the existence of a graver condition than simple habitual drunkenness."

10. **Remedial Treatment of Inebriates.**—Legislation has been passed in each State providing for the commitment of inebriates to special Government institutions, but so far New South Wales and Victoria are the only States in which such institutions have been established. The laws in the various States are as follows:—New South Wales, Inebriates Act 1900; Victoria, Inebriates Act 1904; Queensland, Inebriate Institutions Act of 1896; South Australia, Inebriates Act of 1881; Western Australia, Lunacy Act 1903, Pt. iv., Habitual Drunkards; Tasmania, Inebriates Act 1885, Inebriate Hospitals Act 1892. Curative work was first undertaken by the Government of New South Wales in 1907. The institutes are connected with the gaols, and, naturally, custodial measures are still a strong feature in their management; nevertheless the results so far have been encouraging. In Victoria an institute purporting to be wholly remedial was founded in 1907. It may be mentioned that there are private retreats in each State, but these are not officially subsidised or inspected.

11. **Treatment of Habitual Offenders.**—In New South Wales the Habitual Criminal Act of 1905 gives judges the power of declaring a prisoner, after a certain number of sentences, to be an habitual criminal, and as such to be detained until, in the opinion of the authorities, he is fit to be at large. At the end of 1912 there were forty persons in prison under this Act. The Indeterminate Sentences Act came into force in Victoria in July, 1908, and during the five years the Act has been in operation, 157 prisoners have been admitted to the three reformatory prisons, and fifty-three have been released on probation on the recommendation of the Indeterminate Sentences Board. Somewhat similar Acts are in force in South Australia and Tasmania. The provisions of the Habitual Criminals Amendment Act of 1907 were put into force in

South Australia in 1909, and twelve criminals declared to be habitual offenders were in confinement in the Labour Prison at the end of 1912. Legislation of this character has not yet been adopted in Queensland, but its introduction is proposed. Naturally it will be some time before the full effect of these measures on the prevalence of crime can be estimated. The Comptroller-General of Prisons in New South Wales states, however, that the system has exercised a wholesome deterrent effect on the criminal who is not a prisoner.

12. Treatment of First Offenders.—In all the States and in New Zealand statutes dealing with first offenders have been in force for some years, the dates of passing the Acts being as follows: New South Wales, 1894; Victoria, 1890; Queensland and South Australia, 1887; Western Australia, 1892; Tasmania and New Zealand, 1886. The method of procedure is practically the same in all cases, *i.e.*, with regard to most first offenders the magistrate or judge is empowered to allow the offender to go free on recognisances being entered into for his good behaviour for a certain period. In practice, this humane law has been found to work excellently, very few of those to whom its provisions have been extended having been found to relapse into crime.

13. Children's Courts.—Special courts for the trial of juvenile offenders have been established in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, and New Zealand within the last few years, while Children's Courts, although not under that name, are practically provided for by the State Children's Acts of 1895 and 1900 in South Australia. The object of these courts is to avoid, as far as possible, the unpleasant surroundings of the ordinary police court. This subject is also dealt with in detail in the section dealing with Public Hygiene.

14. Committals to Superior Courts.—In a previous section it has been pointed out that comparisons of criminality based on a consideration of the total returns from magistrates' courts are somewhat inadequate, seeing that the figures include numbers of cases which are merely technical breaches of laws having in some instances a purely local significance. The committals to higher courts give a better basis of comparison, although even in this connection allowance must be made for the want of uniformity in jurisdiction. The table below gives the number of committals in each year from 1908 to 1912, with the proportion of such committals per 10,000 of the population. The rates are shewn on a separate line.

COMMITTALS TO SUPERIOR COURTS (COMMONWEALTH), 1908 to 1912.

State.				1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales	...	...	No.	1,060	1,135	1,233	1,223	1,923
			Rate	6.7	7.1	7.6	7.4	11.1
Victoria	...	...	No.	577	580	551	564	571
			Rate	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.2
Queensland	...	...	No.	417	442	455	529	425
			Rate	7.6	7.8	7.7	8.6	6.7
South Australia	...	...	No.	89	111	117	99	121
			Rate	2.2	2.7	2.9	2.4	2.9
Western Australia	...	...	No.	187	177	192	204	162
			Rate	7.0	6.5	7.1	7.1	5.4
Tasmania	...	...	No.	63	44	48	57	60
			Rate	3.5	2.4	2.5	3.0	3.1
Northern Territory	...	...	No.	...	...	...	...	8
			Rate	...	...	...	...	23.8
Commonwealth	...	...	No.	2,393	2,489	2,596	2,676	3,270
			Rate	5.7	5.8	5.9	6.0	7.0

The above figures shew that the rate of committals for serious crime has increased slightly during the last five years, but if the comparison be carried farther back, it will be found that, as compared with the earlier years, there has been a considerable improvement. This will be evident from an examination of the following figures, which shew the rate of committals per 10,000 persons in Australia at various periods since 1861:—

RATE OF COMMITTALS IN AUSTRALIA, 1861 to 1912.

Year	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1912.
Committals per 10,000 inhabitants ...	22	14	12	11	8	7

The decline in proportion to population since 1861 has therefore been about 70 per cent.

§ 3. Superior Courts.

1. **Convictions at Superior Courts.**—The total number of convictions at superior courts, together with the rate per 10,000 of the population, is shewn below for each of the years 1908 to 1912:—

CONVICTIONS AT SUPERIOR COURTS (COMMONWEALTH), 1908 to 1912.

State.		1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales	No.	614	619	546	538	620
	Rate	3.9	3.9	3.3	3.3	3.6
Victoria	No.	466	430	435	477	501
	Rate	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.7
Queensland	No.	292	345	376	328	384
	Rate	4.8	6.1	6.4	5.3	6.1
South Australia	No.	68	86	101	74	86
	Rate	1.7	2.1	2.5	1.8	2.0
Western Australia	No.	106	87	95	98	92
	Rate	4.0	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.1
Tasmania	No.	29	24	27	38	25
	Rate	1.6	1.3	1.4	2.0	1.3
Northern Territory	No.	...	...	...	4	3
	Rate	...	...	...	12.0	8.9
Commonwealth	No.	1,575	1,591	1,580	1,557	1,711
	Rate	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.7

The figures for Victoria, which in previous editions were exclusive of summons cases, have been adjusted for the last five years so as to include all cases.

In considering the above figures allowance must be made for the various factors enumerated in a preceding paragraph. Tasmania, it will be noted, shews by far the smallest proportion of serious crime, while the figures available shew that the island State is relatively the smallest consumer of alcoholic beverages. That a definite causal relation exists between the figures shewn by the respective tables is not, however, obvious. The figures for the Northern Territory are, of course, somewhat abnormal.

2. **Offences for which Convictions were Recorded at Superior Courts.**—In the following table will be found a classification of the principal offences for which persons were convicted at the higher courts during each year of the period 1908 to 1912. Owing

to lack of uniformity in the presentation of the returns for the several States the information is confined to the chief offences against the person only. In the case of Victoria no information is available regarding the convictions on summons committals. The figures quoted refer to convictions in the Commonwealth during the period dealt with.

CONVICTIONS FOR SERIOUS CRIME, SUPERIOR COURTS, 1908 to 1912.

(COMMONWEALTH.)

Offences.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Murder and attempts at ...	26	24	31	18	33
Manslaughter ...	20	21	15	15	16
Rape and crimes of lust ...	60	59	77	97	88
Other offences against the person ...	278	260	250	235	221

While the individual totals shew considerable fluctuations, the returns generally manifest considerable improvement. The general total of convictions for all offences against the person shews a decline since 1901 of about 17 per cent., and since 1908 of about 7 per cent.

3. **Capital Punishment.**—The table below gives the number of executions in each State during the period 1908 to 1912:—

EXECUTIONS (COMMONWEALTH), 1908 to 1912.

State.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales ...	...	...	...	...	1
Victoria ...	1	...	...	...	1
Queensland ...	...	2	1	...	...
South Australia ...	1	...	3	...	...
Western Australia ...	2	1	1	2	...
Tasmania ...	...	...	...	...	...
Commonwealth ...	4	3	5	2	2

In the early days of the history of Australia the penalty of death was attached to a large number of offences, many of which at the present time would be dealt with in the lower or magistrates' courts. With the growth of settlement, and the general amelioration in social and moral conditions, the list was, however, considerably curtailed, and the existing tendency is practically to restrict death sentences to cases of murder. It may be remarked that in cases of rape, which is a capital offence in some of the Australian States, the penalty has been but sparingly inflicted during the last few years. Juries are reputed to be loth to convict on this charge, owing to the uncertainty whether sentence of death will be pronounced.

During the period 1861 to 1880 the average number of executions in the Commonwealth was nine, from 1881 to 1900 the average was six, while for the period 1901 to 1910 the figure stood at four.

§ 4. Prisons.

1. **Prison Accommodation and Prisoners in Gaol.**—The table below shows the number of prisons in each State and the accommodation therein at the end of 1912:—

PRISONS AND PRISON ACCOMMODATION (COMMONWEALTH), 1912.

State.	Number of Prisons.	Accommodation in—		Prisoners at End of Year.
		Separate Cells.	Wards.	
New South Wales	30	2,279	*	1,257
Victoria	18	1,487	730	880
Queensland	12	574	380	529
South Australia	12	756	385	287
Western Australia	24	795	117	356
Tasmania	2	200	228	69
Northern Territory	3	19	5	12
Commonwealth	101	6,110	...	3,390

* Not available.

The number of prisoners in gaol, exclusive of debtors, at the 31st December in each of the years 1908 to 1912, is given below. A separate line is added in each instance shewing the proportion per 10,000 of the population.

PRISONERS IN GAOL (COMMONWEALTH), 1908 to 1912.

State.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales ... { Number	1,417	1,333	1,235	1,173	1,257
... { Proportion	9.0	8.3	7.6	7.1	7.2
Victoria { Number	875	844	859	797	880
... .. { Proportion	7.0	6.5	6.7	6.0	6.5
Queensland { Number	493	516	527	514	529
... .. { Proportion	9.0	9.1	8.9	8.4	8.4
South Australia { Number	247	276	269	224	287
... .. { Proportion	6.2	6.7	6.7	5.4	6.8
Western Australia { Number	351	365	311	323	356
... .. { Proportion	13.2	13.5	11.5	11.3	11.8
Tasmania { Number	96	81	72	65	69
... .. { Proportion	5.3	4.4	3.8	3.4	3.6
Northern Territory { Number	...	...	...	...	12
... .. { Proportion	...	...	...	...	35.7
Commonwealth { Number	3,479	3,415	3,273	3,096	3,390
... .. { Proportion	8.2	7.9	7.5	6.9	7.3

From the preceding table it will be seen that the proportion to population of prisoners in gaol has fallen considerably during the last five years, while, if the comparison be carried farther back, the position is seen to be still more favourable, the prisoners in gaol in the Commonwealth numbering as much as 16 per 10,000 of the population in 1891.

2. Improvement of Penological Methods.—During recent years Australia, in common with most other civilised countries, has introduced considerable modifications and improvements in methods of prison management. Under the old régime punishment partook more or less of the character of reprisal for wrongdoing, and the idea of constituting the prison as a reformatory agency was in the background. But of recent years there has been an earnest attempt at effecting a moral reformation in the unfortunates who lapse into crime. This aspect of prison management has been specially prominent in New South Wales. A short account of the re-organisation of the prison system in this State appears in preceding Year Books (see No. V., p. 922), but considerations of space preclude its repetition here. At the present time it is found that good results have followed the principles of scientific classification and restricted association of prisoners, *together with the provision of separate institutions for the treatment of inebriates.* It is proposed to introduce in New South Wales the system of carrying on afforestation by prison labour, somewhat after the manner of that in vogue for several years in New Zealand, and in 1911 a site near Tuncurry, on the Manning River, was selected for the purpose of initiating the scheme. That there is some connection between mental and physical health and crime is proved by the condition in which many persons are received into gaol. In a large number of instances prisoners are found to be suffering from contagious diseases. Under the Prisoners Detention Act such persons may be kept in gaol until cured, but unfortunately the provisions of the Act do not apply to short sentenced prisoners detained in lieu of paying fines, many of whom have been known to be afflicted with disease.

In 1902 the system of finger-print identification of criminals was introduced, and by the year 1903 bureaux had been established in the various States for the exchange of records. Very successful results have attended the introduction of the system.

Space will not permit of more than a passing reference to the improvements brought about in prison management in the other States. In Victoria there is an excellent system of classification and allocation of prisoners to different gaols, while at the important penal establishment at Pentridge a careful segregation into no less than five distinct classes is carried out. It is proposed to make better provision at the Pentridge prison for the accommodation and classification of habitual offenders. In common with the other States the latest humane methods of accommodation and prison treatment have for some time been employed.

Queensland prisons have been considerably modernised during the last few years. The prison for females at Brisbane has been built on the radiating plan, and embodies the latest ideas in penological methods. Classification of prisoners has been fully carried out in the male and female divisions of Brisbane prison, and at the Stewart's Creek penal establishment. The construction of the buildings does not, however, permit of the plan being adopted in its entirety in all Queensland prisons. Amongst reforms in 1912 were the reduction of the period of separate treatment undergone by prisoners sentenced to hard labour or penal servitude, a remodelling of the remission clauses, and allowance of more liberal privileges in the way of correspondence and visits from friends. Electric light has been installed in the Brisbane prison, and prisoners are allowed to read up to 8 o'clock each evening.

Unusual circumstances have combined to keep crime at a low point in South Australia. In the first place there was never any transportation of criminals to the State, while in the earlier years of its history South Australian lawbreakers were transported elsewhere. The present system was drafted mainly on English and European lines by

the late W. R. Boothby, C.M.G., and under his directions and that of his successor has been found to work admirably. Excellent work for the benefit and assistance of discharged prisoners is performed by the Prisoners' Aid Association.

A Royal Commission in 1911 recommended the adoption of various reforms in connection with the prison system of Western Australia. The bulk of these have been carried out, and include, amongst other things, an extension of the principle of separate treatment, improvement in prisoners' dietary scale, more satisfactory arrangements in regard to remission of sentences, and improvements in regard to hours of labour, leave of absence, etc., for the staff. In his report for the year 1912, the Comptroller-General refers to the heavy cost of the common gaols as compared with the Police Gaols, and recommends the abolition of some of the former. Aid to discharged prisoners in Western Australia is provided for by a strong committee with branches in-country towns.

§ 5. Civil Courts.

1. **Lower Courts.**—The transactions of the lower courts on the civil side during each of the last five years are given in the table hereunder. As pointed out previously, the jurisdiction of the courts is by no means uniform in the various States.

LOWER COURTS.—CIVIL CASES, COMMONWEALTH, 1908 to 1912.

State.		1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales	{ Cases No.	30,472	32,637	30,059	29,570	32,531
	{ Amount £	83,372	87,432	77,700	74,461	93,592
Victoria	{ Cases No.	32,005	36,894	29,902	28,575	36,043
	{ Amount £	157,334	162,393	146,284	129,172	190,485
Queensland	{ Cases No.	12,016	12,244	11,951	12,511	14,962
	{ Amount £	42,863	43,363	45,432	48,374	61,047
South Australia	{ Cases No.	13,068	13,627	13,845	14,996	18,905
	{ Amount £	39,627	41,811	45,380	51,282	60,813
Western Australia	{ Cases No.	10,570	10,681	9,598	9,773	12,735
	{ Amount £	59,863	50,261	42,636	43,413	60,774
Tasmania	{ Cases No.	4,120	4,868	3,620	5,189	4,487
	{ Amount £	25,717	30,855	29,199	33,601	28,571
Commonwealth	{ Cases No.	102,251	110,951	98,975	100,614	119,663
	{ Amount £	408,776	416,115	386,631	380,303	495,282

The figures just given represent the returns from Petty Sessions Courts in New South Wales and Victoria, the Petty Debts cases in Queensland, the Local Courts of South Australia and Western Australia, and the Court of Requests in Tasmania.

2. **Superior Courts.**—In the next table will be found the transactions on the civil side in the Superior Courts during each of the years 1908 to 1912.

The New South Wales returns are to some extent defective, as the figures quoted for amount of judgments include, in the case of the Common Law jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, the total judgments signed, while in the case of the other States the figures refer to sums actually adjudged after trial. For New South Wales, also, the transactions of

district courts refer to the total amounts sued for, and not the sums actually awarded after trial. Statistically the chief importance of the table consists in the fact that it shews a decline in litigiousness in Australia.

SUPERIOR COURTS.—CIVIL CASES, 1908 to 1912.

COMMONWEALTH.

State.		1908	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales	{ Causes No.	694	800	519	729	847
	{ Amount £	356,210	397,681	269,518	369,145	528,324
Victoria	{ Causes No.	783	733	711	561	637
	{ Amount £	77,081	59,785	53,180	54,552	75,886
Queensland	{ Causes No.	148	142	138	119	108
	{ Amount £	11,574	40,964	18,336	12,208	16,013
South Australia...	{ Causes No.	27	34	23	29	26
	{ Amount £	5,378	14,081	799	13,195	29,352
Western Australia	{ Causes No.	449	414	342	423	496
	{ Amount £	63,649	60,537	39,721	90,078	78,068
Tasmania	{ Causes No.	185	257	210	110	113
	{ Amount £	10,433	8,487	11,879	7,810	7,866
Commonwealth	{ Causes No.	2,286	2,380	1,943	1,971	2,227
	{ Amount £	524,325	581,535	393,433	543,988	735,569

3. **Divorces and Judicial Separations.**—The number of divorces and judicial separations in each State during the period 1908 to 1912 is shewn below :—

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS, 1908 to 1912.

(COMMONWEALTH.)

State.	1908		1909.		1910.		1911.		1912.	
	Divorces.	Judicial Separations	Divorces.	Judicial Separations	Divorces.	Judicial Separations	Divorces.	Judicial Separations	Divorces.	Judicial Separations
New South Wales	206	13	287	15	257	9	206	12	343	12
Victoria	151	1	138	1	141	...	214	...	250	2
Queensland	11	2	16	...	21	...	27	1	17	1
South Australia	8	...	12	1	3	1	20	...	11	...
Western Australia	19	...	13	1	27	1	30	2	38	...
Tasmania	7	...	12	1	5	1	5	1	8	...
Commonwealth	402	16	478	19	454	12	502	16	667	15

The average annual number of divorces and judicial separations in the Commonwealth at decennial periods from 1871 to 1910 is given hereunder :—

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS, 1871 to 1910.

	1871-1880.	1881-90.	1891-1900.	1901-10.
Commonwealth	29	70	358	401

The bulk of the divorces and judicial separations refer, as the table shews, to New South Wales and Victoria, the Acts of 1892 and 1889 in the respective States making the separation of the marriage tie comparatively easy. In some statistical works it is customary to compare the divorces in any year with the marriages in the same year. The comparison is, however, quite valueless, as there is no necessary connection between the figures.

4. **Probates.**—The number of probates and letters of administration granted, together with the value of the estates concerned, is shewn below for each State for the period 1908 to 1912:—

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, COMMONWEALTH, 1908 to 1912.

State.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	
New South Wales	{ Number	3,094	3,185	3,336	3,589	3,648
	{ Value £	7,838,572	11,142,068	8,834,934	13,138,068	13,389,806
Victoria	{ Number	4,345	4,069	4,128	4,614	4,585
	{ Value £	7,128,085	6,480,376	7,430,949	8,469,163	8,533,502
Queensland	{ Number	706	679	704	729	755
	{ Value £	1,376,255	1,508,883	1,652,691	2,409,495	2,730,039
South Australia	{ Number	1,025	1,115	1,121	1,057	1,246
	{ Value £	2,165,351	1,939,599	2,422,519	2,855,089	1,993,106
Western Australia	{ Number	455	413	492	584	552
	{ Value £	955,995	939,318	868,638	844,151	605,622
Tasmania	{ Number	346	361	375	399	465
	{ Value £	1,023,629	722,011	797,439	596,870	983,618
Commonwealth	{ Number	9,971	9,822	10,156	10,972	11,251
	{ Value £	20,427,887	22,732,165	22,007,170	28,312,836	28,235,693

As may naturally be expected, the figures in the above table, giving the value of property left each year, shew considerable variations.

5. **Bankruptcies.**—The returns in bankruptcy during each of the last five years are given in the following table.

For several reasons comparisons drawn from the figures in the following table are of little value. In the first place, the statements of assets and liabilities are notably unsatisfactory, particularly in regard to the former. Then, again, there is wide dissimilarity in regard to the laws in force in the various States and the method of procedure thereunder in connection with bankruptcy. Further, there are no means of knowing how many persons in each State who were in a bankrupt condition made private arrangements with their creditors either personally or by intervention of a solicitor. The figures quoted in the table exclude the private arrangements in Victoria and South Australia, and the liquidations in Queensland and Tasmania.

BANKRUPTCIES, COMMONWEALTH, 1908 to 1912.

State.		1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales ...	{ Number	356	381	352	331	395
	{ Liabilities £	322,850	168,169	176,088	109,359	210,504
	{ Assets £	185,507	82,563	119,377	49,390	153,633
Victoria ...	{ Number	514	370	359	306	404
	{ Liabilities £	179,050	129,627	132,841	112,748	265,046
	{ Assets £	62,998	98,041	54,381	55,374	159,723
Queensland ...	{ Number	303	323	214	227	246
	{ Liabilities £	70,064	63,321	44,475	41,261	45,508
	{ Assets £	10,031	34,541	12,691	9,286	17,020
South Australia ...	{ Number	105	108	76	106	154
	{ Liabilities £	142,450	64,775	77,471	75,347	188,483
	{ Assets £	92,719	42,340	44,195	47,314	135,771
Western Australia ...	{ Number	100	86	79	75	83
	{ Liabilities £	49,485	31,791	30,967	24,150	52,276
	{ Assets £	17,423	19,252	14,169	9,600	34,920
Tasmania ...	{ Number	1	5	1	2	2
	{ Liabilities £	...	3,903	29,368	7,066	7,012
	{ Assets £	...	954	68,183	5,654	2,635
Northern Territory ...	{ Number	...	...	...	1	3
	{ Liabilities £	...	...	...	348	1,123
	{ Assets £	...	...	...	66	44
Commonwealth ...	{ Number	1,379	1,273	1,081	1,048	1,287
	{ Liabilities £	763,899	461,586	491,210	370,279	769,952
	{ Assets £	368,678	277,691	312,966	176,684	503,746

6. High Court of Australia.—Under the provisions of section 71 of the Commonwealth Constitution Act, the judicial power of the Commonwealth is vested in a Federal Supreme Court, called the High Court of Australia, and in such other courts as the Parliament creates or invests with federal jurisdiction. The Federal High Court possesses both original and appellate jurisdiction, but so far its activities have been confined principally to the latter form. The powers of the court are defined in Chapter III. of the Constitution Act and in the Judiciary Acts of 1903, 1906, 1907, and 1910. At present the court consists of a Chief Justice and six other judges. Sittings of the court are held in the capitals of the various States as occasion may require. The following statement shews the transactions of the High Court for the quinquennium 1908-12:—

COMMONWEALTH HIGH COURT TRANSACTIONS, 1908 to 1912.

Items.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
I. ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.					
Number of writs issued ...	30	27	28	39	63
Number of causes entered for trial ...	8	4	5	7	7
Verdicts for plaintiffs ...	4	3	1	4	6
Verdicts for defendants ...	5	1	2	3	...
Otherwise disposed of ...	11	17	23	20	20
Amount of judgments ...	£1,058	£182	£2,040	£133	£769
II. APPELLATE JURISDICTION.					
Number of appeals set down for hearing ...	87	76	51	64	89
Number allowed ...	31	40	34	32	43
Number dismissed ...	36	29	14	23	36
Otherwise disposed of ...	20	7	3	9	10
III. AMOUNT OF FEES COLLECTED.					
Amount in each year...	£558	£505	£437	£493	£590

§ 6. Cost of Administration of Justice.

The table below shews the expenditure from Consolidated Revenue during each of the last five years in connection with the administration of justice in each of the States. Expenditure on police and prisons has been separately shewn. With regard to the figures quoted for "other" expenditure, a slight allowance has to be made for the fact that some extraneous expenditure has been included which it was found impossible to disentangle from the total, but the amount is in no instance large. Cost of buildings has been excluded from the return.

EXPENDITURE ON JUSTICE, COMMONWEALTH, 1908 to 1912.

State.		1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
		£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	Police	466,694	472,718	504,146	515,569	578,767
	Gaols	84,129	79,814	78,932	81,473	89,712
	Other	242,796	245,024	241,510	260,217	351,886
Victoria	Police	306,263	320,831	337,670	345,889	348,227
	Gaols	49,025	49,869	48,714	50,822	50,952
	Other	135,248	147,146	160,627	162,453	165,078
Queensland	Police	207,043	220,344	244,945	258,538	306,431
	Gaols	23,797	24,174	25,036	28,257	28,603
	Other	85,804	99,914	104,739	109,507	100,156
South Australia	Police	96,979	98,214	96,771	107,872	116,847
	Gaols	15,981	16,841	17,060	17,678	17,776
	Other	30,884	33,662	34,412	37,433	41,392
Western Australia	Police	124,518	119,111	120,420	127,458	129,556
	Gaols	32,638	28,536	27,228	23,755	22,291
	Other	69,761	66,072	69,772	78,022	77,544
Tasmania	Police	39,105	39,740	40,331	41,535	43,236
	Gaols	5,795	5,698	5,466	5,320	5,664
	Other	16,901	14,511	11,513	14,688	19,524
Northern Territory	Police	...	...	...	9,708	10,609
	Gaols	...	...	...	2,247	2,309
	Other	...	...	...	555	2,513
Commonwealth	Police	1,240,902	1,270,958	1,344,283	1,406,569	1,533,673
	Gaols	211,365	204,932	202,436	209,552	217,307
	Other	581,394	606,329	622,573	662,875	758,093

With the exception of that of the Northern Territory, the expenditure shewn in the foregoing table is that incurred by the State Governments only, and does not include expenditure in connection with the Federal High Court, which is shewn below for the period 1908-9 to 1912-13:—

EXPENDITURE OF FEDERAL HIGH COURT, 1908-9 to 1912-13.

Year.		Amount.	Year.		Amount.
		£			£
1908-9	...	24,037	1911-12	...	26,320
1909-10	...	23,677	1912-13	...	23,334
1910-11	...	25,850			

Other items of Federal legal expenditure also not included in the table are Arbitration Court £4690, Crown Solicitor £6046, and general £9679.

For the purposes of comparison the figures in the first table above have been reduced to a population basis, and the results are given in the table following:—

EXPENDITURE ON JUSTICE PER INHABITANT, COMMONWEALTH, 1908 to 1912.

State			1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
			s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
New South Wales	...	Police	5 11	5 11	6 2	6 3	6 8
		Gaols	1 1	1 0	1 0	0 11	1 0
		Other	3 1	3 1	2 11	3 2	4 1
Victoria	...	Police	4 10	4 11	5 3	5 2	5 2
		Gaols	0 9	0 9	0 9	0 9	0 9
		Other	2 2	2 3	2 6	2 5	2 4
Queensland	...	Police	7 6	7 10	8 3	8 2	9 8
		Gaols	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 11	0 11
		Other	3 1	3 6	3 6	3 7	3 2
South Australia	...	Police	4 11	4 9	4 10	5 3	5 7
		Gaols	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
		Other	1 7	1 8	1 9	1 9	1 11
Western Australia	...	Police	9 5	8 10	8 11	8 11	8 7
		Gaols	2 6	2 2	2 1	1 9	1 6
		Other	5 3	4 10	5 2	5 5	5 1
Tasmania	...	Police	4 4	4 4	4 3	4 4	4 6
		Gaols	0 8	0 7	0 7	0 7	0 7
		Other	1 10	1 7	1 2	1 6	2 0
Northern Territory	...	Police	...	...	...	58 6	63 2
		Gaols	...	...	...	13 6	13 9
		Other	...	...	...	3 4	15 0
Commonwealth	...	Police	5 10	5 11	6 2	6 3	6 7
		Gaols	1 0	0 11	0 11	1 0	0 11
		Other	2 9	2 10	2 10	2 11	3 3

Owing to the smallness of the white population, large area to be policed, and cost of supplies, transport, etc., the figures for the Northern Territory must necessarily appear somewhat abnormal.

The total expenditure in the Commonwealth in connection with the administration of justice has risen from ten shillings per inhabitant in 1901 to ten shillings and ninepence in 1912. Police expenditure has increased by about twopence per head, the average for gaols is about threepence per head less, while the expenditure on courts and the remaining machinery of justice has increased by twopence per head, during the same period.