

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 1920 six Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and five 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 1919.

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
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
1918 ..	543	291,640	101	56	35	17	15,621
1919 ..	629	90,818	116	61	24	14	6,151

Decline in Litigation. There has been a considerable decline in litigation in the Supreme Court since 1890. In 1919, the writs issued were one-eleventh; the amount sued for was about one-eighth; and the causes which actually came to trial were about one-fifth 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 Court 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 1919, there were 100 sessions lasting 407 days and held in 36 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 1919.

Year.	Number of Cases Tried.	Amount Sued For.	Amount Awarded.	Costs Awarded to—	
				Plaintiff.	Defendant.
1870 ..	11,866	£ 277,236	£ 102,822	£ 13,815	£ 4,268
1880 ..	9,498	215,929	99,338	13,765	3,956
1890 ..	12,635	340,028	127,433	15,363	6,072
1900 ..	789	160,676	49,595	5,188	2,782
1910 ..	626	144,550	45,196	5,199	1,992
1915 ..	647	202,578	85,614	*	*
1916 ..	480	181,054	90,424	*	*
1917 ..	523	168,875	80,421	*	*
1918 ..	527	195,693	93,298	*	*
1919 ..	600	206,164	94,049	*	*

* No record.

The number of cases tried continues below the average of ten years ago. The number in 1919 was less than 5 per cent. 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 227 places in Victoria in 1919 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 1919.

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
1915	41,055	260,707	188,542
1916	38,573	243,007	170,086
1917	32,187	222,825	143,469
1918	31,870	192,281	149,755
1919	34,841	213,418	155,009

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 1919, 312 appeals against municipal ratings, 1,327 maintenance cases, 522 fraud summonses against debtors, 70,300 electoral revision cases, 9,754 cases relating to licences and certificates, 806 garnishee cases, 631 ejection cases, 131 prohibition cases, and 202 miscellaneous cases were heard, and 267 persons alleged to be lunatics were examined.

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

WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1870 TO 1919.

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
1915	1	6	172	179
1916 ... ..	...	2	155	157
1917	1	1	171	173
1918	3	3	116	122
1919	3	6	109	118

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 1919.

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
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
1918 ..	243	131,247	77,089	91	200,448	118,864
1919 ..	207	184,041	130,328	68	108,181	91,689

* Information not available.

The number of insolvencies in 1919 was the lowest recorded since 1857. The average number during the ten years 1909 to 1918 was 358, and the average declared liabilities £226,517. 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.
1915 ... ..	... 391	45	436
1916 ... ..	... 300	37	337
1917 ... ..	... 200	22	222
1918 ... ..	... 218	25	243
1919 ... ..	... 185	22	207

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 67 whose occupations were not stated :—

OCCUPATION OF INSOLVENTS, 1915 TO 1919.

Occupation Groups.	Number of Breadwinners, Census, 1911.	Average Number of Insolvents, 1915 to 1919.	Insolvents to every 10,000 Breadwinners.
Professional	43,819	12	2·74
Domestic	62,175	20	3·22
Commercial	91,611	111	12·12
Transport and Communication	39,238	22	5·61
Industrial	187,773	186	9·91
Primary Producers	144,384	61	4·22
Total	569,000*	412	7·24

* 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, 4,670 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 104 decrees for judicial separation have been granted. Of these, 4,322 and 33 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 fewer than 149 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 1919:—

DIVORCES, 1919.

	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husband.	Wife.	Total.	Husband.	Wife.	Total.
Dissolution of Marriage	284	197	481	198	147	345
Judicial Separation ...	...	9	9	...	2	2
Nullity of Marriage ...	1	1	2	1	...	1
Total ...	285	207	492	199	149	348

Grounds of divorce.

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1919 were:—

Grounds on which Granted.	Divorce.		Nullity of Marriage.		Judicial Separation.	
	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.
Adultery ...	121	52	...	...	...	2
Assaults (violent) ...	...	2	...	...	...	..
Cruelty, repeated acts of... ..	...	2	...	...	...	...
Desertion ...	73	84	...	...	...	...
Desertion and adultery ...	3	2	...	...	...	...
Drunkenness (habitual) and cruelty	1	4	...	...	...	...
Malformation ...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Sentences for crime ...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Total ...	198	147	1	...	...	2

Divorces, 1881 to 1919. 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 1919.**

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
1915	274	9	215	1	93
1916	264	6	205	1	90
1917	263	2	201	..	88
1918	304	9	230	3	101
1919	481	9	345	2	145

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 1918, 391 decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation. The number of divorces and separations in that year per 100,000 married couples living was 119. The average annual number for the five-year period 1914-18 in proportion to a like number of married couples was 115, as compared with an average of 95 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 were 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 punishment at a reformatory prison for the detention of persons not habitual criminals, the power formerly conferred on visiting justices in this regard being cancelled;
- (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 considerably to the value of the property, and include the clearing, fencing, ploughing, trenching and planting of a 10-acre block for an orchard, the enlargement of dams for water supply, and the erection of poultry pens, and of a building containing a dining room and five sleeping rooms for inmates who are allowed to sleep at the farm.

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 Castle-maine 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 five years was as follows:—

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year ended 30th June.				
	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	91	58	52	66	55
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	34	26	28	32	51
Reformatory for Females, Coburg ..	3	4	3	5	1
McLeod Settlement, French Island ..	..	29	30	27	28
Total	128	117	113	130	135

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. The number of such officers who have been appointed to date is 234.

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 1919 :—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1919.

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Convicted, &c.		Discharged by Magistrates.		Committed for Trial.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against the Person—							
Murder and attempts at	20	...	...	1	...	18	1
Manslaughter	12	...	...	..	...	9	3
Shooting at, wounding, &c. ...	30	...	...	6	2	21	1
Assaults ...	1,294	651	62	509	72	...	...
Others ...	186	35	5	53	2	80	11
Total ...	1,542	686	67	569	76	128	16
Against Property—							
Robbery, burglary, &c.	371	107	7	67	15	161	14
Larceny and similar offences ...	2,617	1,348	116	904	64	172	13
Wilful damage	539	254	37	219	25	3	1
Others ...	507	346	8	130	6	16	1
Total ...	4,034	2,055	168	1,320	110	352	29
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	10	...	...	...	...	9	1
Against Good Order—							
Drunkenness ...	6,237	2,520	480	2,841	396	...	...
Others ...	6,827	4,576	520	1,505	225	1	...
Total ...	13,064	7,096	1,000	4,346	621	1	...
Other Offences--							
Perjury ...	12	...	..	...	...	11	1
Breaches of—							
Defence Act ...	1,818	1,274	14	524	6	...	...
Education Act ...	5,361	4,010	681	554	116	...	...
Electoral Act ...	1,644	799	335	318	192	...	...
Licensing Act ...	3,090	1,786	439	679	186	...	...
Pure Food Act ...	691	551	38	89	13	...	...
Miscellaneous ...	27,204	22,073	1,551	3,211	342	23	4
Total ...	39,820	30,493	3,058	5,375	855	34	5
Grand Total ...	58,470	40,330	4,293	11,610	1,662	524	51

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 46,477 summons cases, 37,529 were summarily convicted, 8,879 were discharged, and 69 were committed for trial. Of the total persons dealt with (58,470), 44,623 were summarily convicted, 13,272 were discharged, and 575 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 1919:—

CHILDREN'S COURTS: ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1919.

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.				
Against the Person—								
Assaults	14	..	49	2	..	..	63	2
Others	2	..	8	1	..	..	10	1
Total	16	..	57	3	..	..	73	3
Against Property—								
Larceny, &c.	481	10	1,103	35	..	..	1,584	45
Wilful Damage	4	..	248	2	..	..	252	2
Others	4	..	61	..	..	..	65	..
Total	489	10	1,412	37	..	..	1,901	47
Against Good Order—								
Drunkenness	9	..	..	..	..	..	9	..
Others	27	4	957	16	..	..	984	20
Total	36	4	957	16	..	..	993	20
Other Offences—								
Breaches of Defence Act .. .. .	..	..	157	..	..	..	157	..
„ Licensing Act .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Miscellaneous	384	166	1,383	34	757	665	2,524	865
Total	384	166	1,541	34	757	665	2,682	865
Grand Total	925	180	3,967	90	757	665	5,649	935

The arrests of neglected children, which in 1919 numbered 1,190, viz., 633 males and 557 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, 25 per cent. were arrested, and 75 per cent. summoned. The great increase in summons

Arrests and summons cases.

cases since 1906 is due principally to the number of prosecutions under the Licensing, Pure Foods, Commonwealth Electoral, and Defence Acts, and is also partially accounted for by more parents having been summoned for neglecting to send their children to school than in previous years—the compulsory clauses of the Amending Education Act requiring children to attend a greater number of times than formerly. The particulars for the 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 1919.

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
1915	20,276	42,864	63,140
1916	17,599	41,716	59,315
1917	12,689	39,466	52,175
1918	10,346	48,619	58,965
1919	11,993	46,477	58,470

Neglected children arrested.

The arrests of neglected children, which are excluded from this and the following tables, numbered 1,846 in 1915, 1,495 in 1916, 1,338 in 1917, 1,327 in 1918, and 1,190 in 1919.

Arrests and summons cases.

The following table shows for each of the last five years the number of offences for which persons were arrested or summoned, summarily convicted, discharged by magistrates, committed for trial, and convicted after commitment, also the number per 10,000 of the population:—

NUMBER OF ARRESTS AND SUMMONS CASES, 1915 TO 1919.

Year.	Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Discharged by Magistrates.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.
1915	63,140	44,947	17,559	634	431
1916	59,315	40,246	18,517	552	366
1917	52,175	38,757	12,923	495	303
1918	58,965	44,900	13,659	406	245
1919	58,470	44,623	13,272	575	347
Number per 10,000 of Population.					
1915	442·6	315·1	123·1	4·4	3·0
1916	421·0	285·7	131·4	3·9	2·6
1917	371·2	275·8	91·9	3·5	2·2
1918	415·9	316·7	96·3	2·9	1·7
1919	398·7	304·3	90·5	3·9	2·4

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

CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS.

Offences and drunkenness. The subjoined table shows, for a series of years, the number of persons arrested or summoned, also the number 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 1919.

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	2,344	3,336	11,143	20,843	37,666
1900	2,103	3,106	15,878	28,003	49,090
1910	1,663	3,052	12,719	34,626	52,060
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
1918	1,426	3,484	5,987	48,068	58,965
1919	1,542	4,034	6,237	46,657	58,470

Number 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
1915	1·08	2·55	9·43	31·20	44·26
1916	1·01	2·41	8·03	30·65	42·10
1917	·97	2·27	5·39	28·49	37·12
1918	1·01	2·46	4·22	33·90	41·59
1919	1·05	2·75	4·25	31·82	39·87

The most noticeable feature of the above table is the **Drunkenness.** large decrease in the arrests for drunkenness in the last three years 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 1919 only 32 of such crimes out of a total of 46,657 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 1919 were as follows:—

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF PERSONS ARRESTED, 1919.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	2,992	333	3,325
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	1,544	396	1,940
1 and under 6 months	628	125	753
6 and under 12 months	137	23	160
1 to 2 years	2	...	2
2 years	2	...	2
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	431	50	481
Admonished	213	15	228
Sent to Industrial or Reformatory Schools	97	13	110
Otherwise dealt with	77	16	93
Total sentenced	6,123	971	7,094
Discharged	3,836	557	4,393
Total summarily disposed of	9,959	1,528	11,487
Sentenced per 10,000 of population	85·64	12·93	48·38

In addition to being sent to gaol, one prisoner was ordered to be kept in solitary confinement for four days.

Sentences in superior courts.

The following were the sentences of the arrested persons tried and convicted in superior courts during 1919:—

SENTENCES OF ARRESTED PERSONS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1919.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	3	...	3
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	3	2	5
1 and under 6 months	46	2	48
6 " 12 " 	104	4	108
1 " 4 years	56	1	57
4 " 7 " 	8	...	8
7 " 11 " 	2	...	2
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	54	4	58
Sent to Reformatory Prison	18	...	18
<hr/>			
Total convicted	294	13	307
Aacquitted	155	26	181
Not prosecuted	19	4	23
<hr/>			
Convictions per 10,000 of population...	4·11	·17	2·09

In addition to being sent to gaol, two prisoners were ordered one whipping each 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 of 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

Arrest of distinct individuals.

Individuals arrested more than once. Of the total number of arrests, 11,993, only 9,420, or 79 per cent., were of distinct individuals. Of these, 7,993, or 85 per cent., were arrested only once; 945, or 10 per cent., twice; 255, or 3 per cent., three times; 107, or 1 per cent., four times; and 120, or 1 per cent., five times and over—one of these persons having been arrested twenty times, and one twenty-five times. The table which follows gives a comparison of 1919 with 1884—the year preceding that in which an important Act relating to the obtaining and holding of licences was passed. From this it will be seen that there was a large decline in the later year in the number of distinct persons arrested, and that proportionately fewer persons were arrested more than once during the year:—

DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED, 1884 AND 1919.

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
1919 ...	8,407	1,013	9,420	1,175	135	642	85	10	3	1	1

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 14 per cent. of the males who fell into the hands of the police were arrested more than once, as many as 21 per cent. of the females were so arrested.

Distinct persons arrested more than once for drunkenness. The distinct persons arrested for drunkenness during 1919 numbered 4,635, and, of these, 753, or 16 per cent., were arrested more than once, viz., 452 twice; 150 thrice; 64 four times; 36 five times; and 51 more than five times, of whom 1 was arrested twenty-five times.

Drunkenness, 1884 and 1919. The number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness was 10,287 in the year 1884, and 4,635 in 1919. The proportions per 1,000 of the population were 11·03 and 3·16 respectively in the years mentioned, the decrease in the later year being equivalent to a reduction of 71 per cent.

Drunkards charged with other offences. Whilst the number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness in 1919 was 4,635, the charges of drunkenness brought against them numbered 6,161; these persons were also charged with 879 other offences, so that the total number of charges of all kinds against drunkards was 7,040. Fifty-one per cent. of the arrests during 1919 consisted of persons who were charged with drunkenness.

Education of persons arrested. Two per cent. of the distinct individuals arrested in 1919 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.

Drunkennes, 1915 to 1919. The number of persons and the number per 1,000 of the population arrested or summoned for drunkenness during the last five years are given hereunder :—

PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS, 1915 TO 1919.

Year.	Number of Persons			Number per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1915 ...	13,390	63	13,453	9·43
1916 ...	11,264	52	11,316	8·03
1917 ...	7,502	73	7,575	5·39
1918 ...	5,924	63	5,987	4·22
1919 ...	6,161	76	6,237	4·25

Drunkennes — Comparison with previous years. The amount of drunkenness in proportion to population, as evidenced by arrests, being taken as 100 in 1874-8, the corresponding numbers for subsequent periods will show the increase or decrease by comparison. These numbers are given in the following statement :—

Period.	Index Number.	Period.	Index Number.
1874-78	100	1913	72
1879-85	88	1914	69
1886-92	106	1915	64
1893-97	65	1916	55
1898-1902	84	1917	37
1903-07	77	1918	29
1908-12	68	1919	29

A very considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown for the five years 1893-97, 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. 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 probably accounts for the marked decrease in drunkenness in the last four years. It will be noticed that the index numbers for the years 1918 and 1919 were the lowest on record.

The accompanying table shows the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness, also the number 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 1919.

Year.	Number.	Number per 100,000 of the Population under 20 years of age.
1895	185	35·60
1900	222	42·38
1910	128	24·19
1915	135	22·96
1916	113	19·25
1917	106	18·11
1918	80	13·55
1919	138	23·11

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

Consumption of intoxicating liquor.

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, 1st July, 1914, to 30th June, 1919.			Consumption per Head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
Commonwealth of Australia ..	2,974,400	61,134,500	1,310,800	·60	12·37	·27
*Dominion of New Zealand ..	749,200	11,652,600	149,000	·68	10·51	·13

* Average for five years ended 31st December, 1919.

The quantities consumed per head in Australia during the quin-
quennium 1909-13 were : spirits, ·82, beer, 12·40, and wine, ·42 gal-
lons ; and for New Zealand : spirits, ·79, beer, 9·69, and wine, ·14
gallons.

With the assistance of the figures in the preceding table,
Expenditure by the people on intoxicating liquor. it is possible to estimate for Australia, with some degree of
accuracy, the approximate expenditure of the people on
intoxicating liquors in a year. The following table shows
the average yearly 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 ..	6,591,100	9,484,400	655,400	16,730,900	3 7 8	5 18 0
†Dominion of New Zealand ..	1,699,400	1,843,900	74,500	3,617,800	3 5 2	5 14 5

* Average for five years ended 30th June, 1919.

† Average for five years ended 31st December, 1919.

These figures show that the average yearly expenditure on drink in Australia during the five years ended 30th June, 1919, was £16,730,900, and that in New Zealand during the quinquennium, 1915 to 1919, it was £3,617,800. The expenditure per head for the Commonwealth was £3 7s. 8d., and for New Zealand £3 5s. 2d. The corresponding expenditure for the quinquennium, 1909-13, were £3 10s. 2d., and £2 18s. 2d. per head.

LOCAL OPTION.

Local Option. At the general elections for the State Legislative Assembly, to be held in October, 1920, the provision in the *Licensing Act 1906* (incorporated in the Act of 1915), which requires a poll of the electors to be taken on the question of the number (if any) of liquor licences to be held in the various licensing districts in the State, will be submitted to the electors. The resolutions are:—

- A. That the number of licences existing in this district continue.
- B. That the number of licences existing in this district be reduced.
- C. That no licences be granted in this district.

Where resolution C has been previously carried and is in force in the district, the following will be submitted instead of the resolutions mentioned above:—

- D. That licences be restored in this district.

Resolution A or B is carried if a majority of the votes given is in favour of such resolution. Resolution C is carried if three-fifths at least in number of the votes given is in favour of that resolution, provided that, where less than such number is given, the votes recorded in favour of resolution C shall be added to the votes given for resolution B. Resolution D is carried, if three-fifths at least in number of the votes given is in favour of that resolution. Resolutions C and D cannot be carried unless 30 per cent. or more of the number of electors on the electoral rolls for the district vote for the resolution.

During the period 1885 to 1905, 217 hotels were closed as 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. 2584) 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, by 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 spirit merchants' licences, 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 was subsequently extended to include alterations due to the "6 o'clock Closing Act." Under the provisions of these Acts over 700 applications were received from licensees for adjustment of rent and licence-fee rebates.

Up to 30th June, 1920, 1,336 hotels had been closed by the Board or had surrendered their licences. Compensation has so far been awarded in 1,288 cases, and the total sum paid has been £680,611, or an average of £528 each. Three hundred and fifty of these hotels were located in the Greater Melbourne district, and their compensation totalled £307,452, making an average of £878 each; there were

938 in country districts, whose owners and licensees received £373,159, or an average of £398 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, 1920.

Licensing District.	Licences in Existence.		Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
	31st Dec. 1906.	30th June, 1920.		Owner.	Licensee.
GREATER MELBOURNE.					
				£	£
Barkly (Collingwood)	27	13	14	9,045	1,830
Beaconsfield	26	15	11	4,400†	780†
Bourke	82	33	49	31,994§	7,210§
Broadmeadows	23	12	11	3,666	490
Cardigan	58	21	37	21,466‡	3,682‡
Clifton	6	5	1	...	...
Collingwood East	22	15	7	4,444	737
Darling (Collingwood)	30	16	14	10,570	1,855
Eltham	13	9	5	1,530	165
Emerald Hill	58	31	26	18,409	3,530
Essendon	7	6	1	375	75
Fitzroy Central	22	16	6	4,270	600
Fitzroy South	36	20	16	12,226	2,090
Footscray	17	14	3	1,900	325
Gipps	84	32	52	41,290	10,548
Hawthorn	13	10	3	...	...
Jolimont	12	8	4	1,673*	325*
Kew	6	5	1	...	...
Lutrobe	53	35	18	16,128	3,919
Lonsdale	51	37	14	13,195	2,381
Mulgrave	10	8	2	975	175
North Melbourne	33	29	4	3,295	670
Nunawading	4	3	1	250	No claim
Port Melbourne	46	23	18	12,239	2,260
Prahran	27	19	7	5,427	1,005
Princes Hill	34	17	17	13,046	1,868
Richmond Central	24	20	4	2,980	640
Richmond North	24	18	6	4,662	837
Richmond South	17	13	4	2,775	410
South Yarra	20	15	5	4,320	615
St. Kilda East	10	8	2	1,850	375
St. Kilda West	10	8	2	1,475	320
Williamstown North	14	11	3	1,675	295
Williamstown South	26	17	9	5,010	880
Total, Greater Melbourne ...	945	567	377	256,560	50,892

NOTE.—In one licensing district in Greater Melbourne a new licence has been granted since 1906, and in two licensing districts two licences have lapsed since that date.

Compensation for—

* Two hotels. † Six hotels. ‡ Thirty-one hotels. § Forty hotels.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENSING COURT AND LICENCES REDUCTIONS
BOARD TO 30TH JUNE, 1920—continued.

Licensing District.	Licences in existence.		Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
	31st December, 1903.	30th June, 1920.		Owner.	Licensee.
COUNTRY.					
Alexandra	19	14	5	£ 1,706	£ 145
Allansford	12	9	3	1,045	210
Ararat	17	9	8	2,705	720
Arcadia	6	5	1	20	105
Bacchus Marsh	11	6	5	1,818	155
Bairnsdale	14	13	1	400	100
Ballan	21	9	12	2,835	340
Ballarat East	41	29	12	4,145†	775†
Ballarat West	83	43	40	21,172||	4,356||
Balmoral	4	3	1	375	55
Barkly (Bendigo)	34	18	16	6,681	1,170
Beaufort	26	9	16	4,317	375
Beechworth	33	9	22	5,719§	265§
Benalla	14	9	5	1,720	405
Berwick	15	12	2	585	100
Birchip	6	4	2	660	20
Boort	5	4	1	260	Nil
Branxholme	12	7	3	1,260	60
Bridgewater	23	11	12	3,194	495
Bright	28	11	16	4,783	520
Bullarook	8	4	4	1,102	170
Bungaree	20	10	10	1,917	310
Buninyong	25	8	17	3,938	743
Carisbrook	11	4	6	1,436	142
Casterton	12	9	3	1,560	250
Castlemaine	49	16	33	7,969	1,666
Charlton	20	13	7	2,495	460
Chiltern	15	6	9	2,595	300
Clunes	36	7	28	6,668	603
Corong	8	9	1	...	...
Creswick	22	8	14	3,506	536
Dargo	8	5	1	75	Nil
Darling (Bendigo)	71	28	43	26,447	4,095
Daylesford	20	11	9	3,665	660
Dimboola	12	10	1	225	No claim
Dowling Forest	19	8	11	3,085†	306†
Drouin	11	9	1	175	50
Dunmunkle	16	10	6	1,325*	135*
Dunolly	24	9	14	4,004	656
Eaglehawk	42	16	26	10,488	1,470
Echuca	22	15	7	5,034	830
Franklin	31	11	20	4,026	436
Fryers	18	4	13	2,358	289
Geelong East	26	21	5	3,510	480
Geelong West	31	24	7	4,862	620
Gisborne	15	10	5	1,594	302
Glenorchy	10	6	4	790	98

Compensation for—

* Four hotels

† Eight hotels.

‡ Ten hotels.

§ Twenty-one hotels.

|| Thirty-six hotels

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENSING COURT AND LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE, 1920—*continued.*

Licensing District.	Licences in Existence.		Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
	31st Dec., 1906.	30th June, 1920.		Owner.	Licensee.
COUNTRY—<i>continued.</i>					
Golden Square	57	32	25	£ 13,066	£ 1,865
Goulburn	27	15	12	5,107	544
Hamilton	12	9	3	1,970	355
Healesville	7	6	1	210	Nil
Heathcote	24	9	15	4,344	571
Heywood	4	3	1	250	No claim
Horsham	16	12	4	2,565	255
Huntly	21	10	11	3,476	660
Inglewood	20	7	13	3,566	498
Kangaroo Flat	31	8	22	6,438	843
Katamatite	4	2	2	600	100
Kerang	20	17	3	950	145
Kilmore	13	10	4	1,655	180
Koroit	15	11	4	1,375	295
Kyneton	31	12	19	6,504	797
Lancefield	19	8	11	2,700*	550*
Landsborough	8	6	2	311	1
Lara	7	6	2	450	155
Lawloit	4	3	1	160	50
Leigh	6	3	3	1,145	75
Lexton	7	3	4	1,005	75
Lilydale	17	15	3	1,400	230
Maldon	23	7	16	3,977	650
Mansfield	17	11	6	1,653	267
Melton	26	13	13	4,447	640
Meredith	5	2	3	1,175	150
Mirboo	6	5	1	500	100
Mortlake	5	3	1	300	50
Moyston	12	6	4	960	170
Newstead	10	5	5	1,287	138
Newtown and Chilwell	8	7	1	700	100
Nhill	8	7	1	600	150
Numurkah	27	15	11	6,265	920
Omeo	18	12	5	1,300	170
Orbost	19	15	1	85	Nil
Otway	7	8	1	No claim	No claim
Oxley	8	5	3	670	105
Penshurst	8	6	2	1,120	135
Phillip Island	12	16	2	390	110
Pitfield	15	5	10	2,778	157
Port Fairy	14	10	4	1,975	280
Portland	10	9	1	374	Nil
Queenscliff	16	14	2	650	145

Compensation for—

* Nine hotels.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENSING COURT AND LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE, 1920—*cont. nued.*

Licensing District.	Licences in Existence.		Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
	31st Dec., 1906.	30th June, 1920.		Owner.	Licensee
<i>COUNTRY—continued.</i>					
				£	£
Rochester	13	8	5	2,075	445
Rochester East... ..	7	5	1	200	Nil
Rosedale	7	5	1	57	3
Runnymede	8	5	3	660	115
Rushworth	19	9	10	2,980	291
Rutherglen	19	9	10	2,641*	515*
Sale	17	9	8	3,441	640
Sebastopol	22	7	15	4,000†	641†
Serpentine	6	5	1	75	30
Seymour	10	9	1	450	110
Shepparton	13	9	4	1,810	625
St. Arnaud	14	8	4	2,610	455
Stawell	28	9	19	5,934	1,169
Strathfieldsaye	17	9	8	1,885	214
Talbot	26	10	16	3,550	360
Taradale	17	4	13	2,444	130
Terrick	5	4	1	200	No claim
Timor	25	8	15	3,354	401
Towong	30	14	11	1,825	278
Traralgon	14	13	3	1,295	200
Trentham	15	10	5	1,458	100
Walhalla	24	9	15	3,910	575
Wangaratta	24	15	9	5,045	525
Warracknabeal... ..	12	9	2	...	...
Warragul	9	8	1	350	No claim
Warrenheip	13	7	6	1,655	257
Warrnambool	19	15	4	2,260	390
Whittlesea	11	8	3	1,050	185
Wodonga	9	5	4	1,185	75
Wood's Point	14	12	2	220	25
Yackandandah	13	8	3	1,305	Nil
Yarrowouga	23	14	9	4,400	345
Yea	7	6	1	300	75
Total Country	2,180	1,198	959	325,326	47,833
Grand Total	3,125	1,765	1,336	581,886	98,725

Compensation for—* Eight hotels. † Thirteen hotels.

NOTE.—In seven licensing districts in country districts fifteen new licences have been granted since 1906, and in twenty-five licensing districts thirty-eight licences have lapsed since that date.

Particulars of the hotels closed and compensation awarded in metropolitan and country districts in each year since the constitution of the Board are shown in the following table :—

NUMBER OF HOTELS CLOSED AND COMPENSATION AWARDED, 1907 TO 1920.

Year Ended—	Number of Hotels Closed.			Amounts Awarded Owners and Licensees.		
	Greater Melbourne.	Country.	Total.	Greater Melbourne.	Country.	Total.
31st December—				£	£	£
1907 ..	26	37	63	26,471	6,125	32,596
1908 ..	43	90	133	33,764	32,817	66,581
1909 ..	30	78	108	20,021	21,648	41,669
1910 ..	28	78	106	27,636	26,507	54,143
1911 ..	17	85	102	15,501	32,953	48,454
1912 ..	24	72	96	20,511	30,877	51,388
1913 ..	26	76	102	24,775	25,346	50,121
1914 ..	19	70	89	20,040	30,033	50,073
1915 ..	30	82	112	25,800	35,883	61,683
1916 ..	40	103	143	35,485	48,658	84,143
1917 ..	23	60	83	19,193	30,415	49,608
30th June—						
1918 ..	10	34	44	7,475	15,802	23,277
(six months)						
30th June—						
1919 ..	23	57	80	20,335	29,635	49,970
1920 ..	38	37	75	10,445*	6,460†	16,905
Total ..	377	959	1,336	307,452	373,159	680,611

* Compensation for eleven hotels.

† Compensation for sixteen hotels.

The return given hereunder shows the number of hotels including roadside licences in Victoria in 1885, 1906 and 1920, 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 1920.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.*	Persons to each Hotel.
1885	969,200	4,339	223
1906	1,244,474	3,520	354
1920 (30th June)	1,504,260	2,155	698
Increase, 1885 to 1920	535,060	...	475
Decrease, " " ... ..	...	2,184	...

* Including Roadside Licences.

While the population has increased by 55 per cent. since 1885, the number of hotels has decreased by 50 per cent., and the number of persons to an hotel is now 213 per cent. more than it was in that year. During the period 1885-1920, 217 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 1,336 were deprived of their licences by the Licences Reduction Board, or surrendered their licences to the Board, and 631 were closed voluntarily.

Race-course licences and percentage fees. The *Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act 1906* (now Section 152 of the *Police Offences Act 1915*) provides that all race-courses shall 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 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 ten years were as follows:—

**REVENUE FROM RACE-COURSE LICENCES AND
PERCENTAGE FEES, 1911 TO 1920.**

Year ended 30th June.	Amount.	Year ended 30th June.	Amount.
	£		£
1911	7,977	1916	11,758
1912	9,216	1917	13,380
1913	10,019	1918	11,346
1914	12,034	1919	11,557
1915	13,611	1920	13,577*

* Subject to revision.

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

Gaols and prisoners. There are seven gaols in Victoria, including the Pentridge Penal Establishment, and four reformatory prisons, also four police gaols which are used as receiving stations, and the figures below show that there is accommodation in the gaols for over three times the average number of prisoners in confinement.

The following statement gives for the year 1919 the accommodation for prisoners, the daily average in confinement, the number received during the year, and the number in confinement at the end of the year:—

GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1919.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received.		In Confinement. 31.12.19.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge ..	732	..	317	..	659	..	368	..
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	86	..	56	..	56	..	55	..
Ballarat ..	62	18	8	..	167	7	7	..
Bendigo ..	116	28	10	..	132	3	11	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	92	..	31	..	46	..	41	..
Coburg Female Prison ..	..	324	..	45	..	210	..	44
Jika Reformatory Female Prison ..	..	9	..	4	..	2	..	3
Geelong ..	187	29	38	..	180	4	39	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison ..	41	..	31	..	24	..	27	..
Melbourne ..	249	60	77	10	2,395	499	91	8
Sale ..	30	..	6	..	45	..	1	..
Police Gaols ..	93	21	2	..	104	3	1	..
Total ..	1,688	489	576	59	3,808	728	641	55

A statement is given below of the average number of prisoners in detention in the gaols of the State in the last years of the 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 1919, 57 per cent. less than in 1901, 76 per cent.

Prisoners in confinement, 1871 to 1919—decrease.

less than in 1891, 79 per cent. less than in 1881, and 84 per cent. less than in 1871.

PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1919.

Year.	Average number of Prisoners in Confinement.			Number 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
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
1918 ...	566	86	652	12·63	1·65	6·73
1919 ...	576	59	635	11·56	1·13	6·22

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 1919 :—

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED, 1871 TO 1919.

—	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1919.
Total	1,619	1,598	1,900	1,151	813	635
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand	259	584	845	689	595	495
England and Wales	628	401	420	149	87	61
Scotland	129	105	129	56	26	18
Ireland	430	378	336	160	62	25
China	75	27	14	18	4	2
Others	98	103	156	79	39	34
Religion—						
Protestants	977	888	1,098	651	476	366
Roman Catholics	556	671	729	465	317	243
Jews	7	7	14	8	4	5
Buddhists, Confucians, &c. .	74	27	14	12	1	1
Others	5	5	45	15	15	20
Age—						
Under 20 years	Information not available.	229	129	75	54	61
20 to 30 years		473	669	316	205	198
30 to 40 years		312	457	337	211	150
40 to 50 years		294	279	234	193	120
50 to 60 years		166	193	102	96	69
60 years and over		124	173	87	54	37

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS
CONSTANTLY DETAINED PER 10,000 OF POPULATION,
1871 TO 1919.*

—	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1919.
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand	7·23	10·84	10·65	7·25	5·32	3·97
England and Wales	36·75	27·20	25·78	12·72	9·73	6·13
Scotland	22·95	21·81	25·46	15·66	9·78	6·08
Ireland	42·80	43·58	39·39	26·01	14·95	5·41
China	42·00	22·88	16·53	28·89	7·14	3·17
Others	35·22	35·34	39·24	25·80	11·64	9·09
Religion—						
Protestants	18·88	14·36	13·12	7·19	4·90	3·38
Roman Catholics	32·59	32·98	29·33	17·63	11·07	7·61
Jews	19·60	16·17	21·68	13·54	6·38	7·10
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	41·63	24·20	20·75	21·95	3·89	3·41
Others	2·27	2·00	10·78	7·03	3·11	3·73
Age—						
Under 20 years		35·30	2·53	1·42	1·01	1·02
20 to 30 years		34·18	27·36	15·30	8·67	7·51
30 to 40 years		34·82	31·30	18·23	11·66	7·44
40 to 50 years		20·95	32·00	20·07	11·64	6·50
50 to 60 years		34·84	23·95	15·35	9·60	6·19
60 years and over		0·88	23·90	8·73	5·58	3·43

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

POLICE PROTECTION.

The following table shows the numbers in the various grades of the police force in Victoria on the 31st December, 1919 :—

POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31ST DECEMBER, 1919.

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner	1	...	1
Superintendents	2	9	11
Inspectors	6	2	8
Sub-Inspectors	12	6	18
Sergeants, First class	28	19	47
" Second class	24	23	47
Senior Constables	110	81	191
Constables	720	360	1,080
Detectives	34	11	45
Others	2	...	2
Total	939	511	1,450
<i>Mounted.</i>			
Sergeants, Second class	1	...	1
Senior Constables	4	...	4
Constables	50	214	264
Total	55	214	269
Grand Total	994	725	1,719

The number of police in Victoria per 10,000 of the population and the corresponding proportions for other States at the end of 1919 were as follows :—Victoria, 11·49 ; New South Wales, 12·85 ; Queensland, 15·48 ; South Australia, 12·17 ; Western Australia, 14·02 ; Tasmania, 11·07 ; and Northern Territory, 65·87.

Strength of
police force in
proportion to
population.

**Expenditure
on police,
gaols, &c.**

The next 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 1918-19 :—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1871-2 TO 1918-19.

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
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
1918 ..	339,292	53,151	2,072	1,876	396,391	5 7
1919 ..	363,189	51,543	2,890	2,725	420,347	5 11

Executions.

During the fifteen years ended with 1919 there were only six executions in Victoria, one of which took place in 1908, one in 1912, two in 1916, and two in 1918. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 174 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, 1915 TO 1919.

Cause of Death found to be due to—	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
External Causes—					
Accident	438	436	387	370	385
Homicide	14	13	12	13	12
Suicide	128	126	111	93	129
Execution .. .. .	..	2	..	2	..
Doubtful	62	48	35	30	28
Disease or Natural Causes	741	665	616	583	720
Intemperance	4	2	1	6	1
Unspecified or Doubtful Causes	6	8	..	5	10
Being "Still Born"	2	2	1	2	..
Total	1,395	1,302	1,163	1,104	1,285
Number per 10,000 of Population	9·78	9·24	8·27	7·79	8·76

Of the deaths from external causes during the last five years, 70 per cent. were due to accidental causes, 2 per cent. to homicide, and 20 per cent. to suicide, while in 8 per cent. of the cases the nature or motive of the violence which caused death was doubtful.