

PART 9.—LAW, CRIME, ETC.

1661. The system whereby persons acquiring possession of land, either by transfer, inheritance, or other means, may receive a title thereto direct from the Crown, was introduced into Victoria in the year 1862, and continues in force to the present period.*

Transfer of
Land
Statute.

1662. All lands alienated from the Crown since the introduction of the system have come at once under its provisions ; and lands alienated prior to its inauguration can be brought under them by application, provided a clear title be produced, or a title containing only a slight imperfection. In the latter case the title is given subject to such imperfection, which is noted on the deed.

Lands under
the Statute.

1663. The assurance and indemnity fund, established under the Transfer of Land Statute to secure the Government against possible losses, is formed chiefly by the payment of an amount equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £1 of the value of all lands which become subject to its operation. The balance to the credit of this fund on the 30th June, 1899, was £153,680,† of which £59,823 was invested in Government stock. Twenty-five claims upon the fund, towards which there was no claim during 1898–9, have been substantiated since its first formation, and sums amounting in the aggregate to £6,227 (including costs) have been paid to claimants.

Assurance
fund.

1664. Since 1895, when the business under the Transfer of Land Act (54 Vict. No. 1149) was exceptionally small, the number of applications to bring land under the Act has shown a gradual increase, and the extent of land included thereunder a large increase, although the area in 1898 fell off considerably as compared with 1896 and 1897; moreover the area actually brought under the Act by application increased threefold, and its value by one-fifth, in the same period, although the area of land purchased direct from the Crown fell off by

Transactions
under the
Land
Act 1894
to 1898.

* This system was originated by the late Sir R. R. Torrens, whence it is commonly known as "Torrens' System." He first introduced it into South Australia, but it has since been adopted by all the Australasian colonies.

† Since 1884-5 the Assurance Fund has been reduced by £75,073; that amount having been advanced towards the purchase of land adjoining the Titles Office (under Act 49 Vict. No. 835). On this advance the fund receives 4 per cent. per annum from the general revenue.

nearly one-seventh, and the value by about one-ninth. A slight decrease has taken place in the number of certificates of title issued; but the number of transfers, mortgages, leases, &c., and other transactions, and the amount of fees received showed a slight increase. The following were the transactions of all kinds during the five years:—

TRANSFER OF LAND ACT, 1894 TO 1898.

Transactions.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Applications to bring land under the Act number	439	393	407	418	452
Applications—Extent of land included in acres	19,114	12,587	40,072	71,092	27,301
Land brought under the Act—					
By application acres	21,365	17,221	20,580	30,321	52,937
" " " value £	492,166	493,547	412,214	601,383	584,058
By grant and purchase from the Crown acres	322,538	352,730	284,951	290,998	305,697
By grant and purchase from the Crown purchase money £	347,806	356,383	287,406	304,350	318,474
Certificates of title issued * .. number	5,888	5,663	5,475	5,338	5,453
Transfers, mortgages, discharges, leases, releases, surrenders "	28,256	26,500	27,223	27,238	28,300
Registering proprietors "	1	4	1	5	3
Other transactions "	50,875	40,452	40,464	40,007	41,407
Fees received, and assurance, &c. .. value £	28,488	25,747	25,979	26,221	27,125

Proportion of land under the Act.

1665. The total quantity of land under the Transfer of Land Act at the end of 1898 was 15,405,341 acres, the declared value of which, at the time it was placed under the Act, was £58,291,489. The land granted and sold † up to the end of 1898 was 18,421,676 acres. It therefore follows that at that period five-sixths of the alienated land in the colony was subject to the provisions of the Act.

Land under Act by application and otherwise.

1666. Of the whole extent of land under the Act, 1,725,919 acres, valued at about 41½ millions sterling, were brought thereunder by application; and the remainder, amounting to 13,679,422 acres, valued at over 17 millions sterling, came under its provisions by virtue of its having been purchased from or granted by the Crown since the Act was passed.

Transactions in equity.

1667. Since the passing of *The Judicature Act* 1883 (47 Vict. No. 761), which, with certain exceptions, came into operation on the 1st July, 1884, the business in equity has almost entirely fallen off. In 1893 the only transactions were the issue of fourteen orders and four reports. In 1894 nine orders were issued. In 1895 one petition was filed, two decrees, twenty orders, and two reports were issued; and one roll was filed. In 1896 one decree, eight orders, and one report were issued; and in 1897 fourteen reports were issued; but in 1898 there were no transactions in equity whatever.

* Including 281 friendly societies' titles in 1894, 370 in 1895, 380 in 1896, 304 in 1897, and 263 in 1898.

† *i.e.*, land finally alienated, which does not include land in process of alienation by selection under the conditional purchase system.

1668. A considerable increase has occurred in the number of probates and letters of administration issued, and in the value of property bequeathed thereunder since 1894. Thus in 1898, as compared with that year, the number increased by 28 per cent. and the value of property left by 15 per cent.* The following are the figures for the last six years :—

Probates and letters of administration.

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1893 TO 1898.

Year.	Probates.		Letters of Administration.		Both.	
	Number.	Property sworn under—	Number.	Property sworn under—	Number.	Property sworn under—
		£		£		£
1893 ...	1,834	5,477,753	967	754,178	2,801	6,231,931
1894 ...	1,834	4,739,293	971	679,932	2,805	5,419,225
1895 ...	2,001	4,589,373	1,152	750,679	3,153	5,340,052
1896 ...	2,126	5,387,988	1,209	703,433	3,335	6,091,421
1897 ...	2,102	5,004,258	1,189	777,915	3,291	5,782,173
1898 ...	2,290	5,453,593	1,300	815,752	3,590	6,269,345

1669. The rates of duty chargeable on the real and personal estates of deceased persons were amended on the 3rd October, 1892, by Act 56 Vict. No. 1261; they are now levied in Victoria on the net value—i.e., after deducting all debts—of such estates within the colony upon the following scale.† It is provided that all estates of the net value of under £1,000 shall be exempt from duty, and that estates of the net value of under £5,000 shall be exempt from the payment of duty upon £1,000 of such net value; also that half duty only shall be paid by widows, children, or grand-children when the net value of the estate does not exceed £50,000 :—

Scale of probate, &c., duties.

SCALE OF DUTIES ON ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS.

Estates up to	£1,000 in value	...	Exempt.
„ exceeding £1,000 up to £5,000	„	...	§ 2 per cent.
„ „ £5,000 „ £6,000	„	...	3 „
„ „ £10,000 „ £12,000	„	...	4 „
„ „ £20,000 „ £22,000	„	...	5 „
„ „ £30,000 „ £32,000	„	...	6 „
„ „ £40,000 „ £44,000	„	...	7 „
„ „ £60,000 „ £64,000	„	...	8 „
„ „ £80,000 „ £84,000	„	...	9 „
„ „ £100,000 and upwards	„	...	10 „

NOTE.—On estates valued between the maximum on one line and the minimum on the next specified, the rate of duty is increased by one-fifth per cent. for every fourth part of the difference. Thus, estates of from £6,000 to £7,000, £7,000 to £8,000, £8,000 to £9,000, and £9,000 to £10,000 would pay respectively 3 1-5, 3 2-5, 3 3-5, and 3 4-5 per cent. respectively; an estate valued at £8,500 would pay 3 3-5 per cent.; one valued at £46,000 would pay 7 1-5 per cent., &c.

* For results showing the average value of property left to each person dying, see paragraphs 670 and 671 ante.

† Including rules to administer granted to the Curator of Estates of Deceased Persons.

‡ The law relating to the administration of the estates of deceased persons is contained in Act 54 Vict. No. 1060, as amended by Act 55 Vict. No. 1238, 56 Vict. No. 1261, and 62 Vict. No. 1599.

§ The first £1,000 of the value of these estates is exempted from duty.

Revenue
from pro-
bate, &c.,
duties.

1670. The amount realized by the State from duties on estates of deceased persons rose gradually (although with some irregularities) from only £17,000 in 1871 to £125,000 in 1884; but since 1883 it has, as a rule, fluctuated between £125,000 and £222,000. Exceptions occurred in 1885 and 1895, when the amount was below, and in 1889 and 1892, when it was above, those limits. The largest revenue ever raised from this source in any one year was £391,000 in 1889—about the period of the general inflation—which, however, was three-fourths above the average of the two neighbouring years; the next largest was £284,000 in 1892; and the next £220,000 (or thereabouts) in the years 1888, 1890, 1897, and 1898. Excluding the exceptional year 1889, the average since 1883 has been £168,000. It should be stated that the scale of duty was raised in 1892, the estimated effect of which is to increase the revenue by about a sixth. The amounts fluctuate considerably from year to year, as will be observed by the following figures for the last twenty-eight years:—

DUTY FROM ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS, 1871 TO 1898.

			£				£
1871	...	...	17,069	1885	...	...	85,979
1872	...	...	37,643	1886	...	...	129,479
1873	...	..	39,026	1887	...	...	151,268
1874	...	...	67,998	1888	...	...	219,500
1875	...	...	50,057	1889	...	...	391,664
1876	...	...	33,638	1890	...	...	221,721
1877	...	...	82,201	1891	...	...	150,351
1878	...	...	45,470	1892	...	...	284,438
1879	...	...	47,607	1893	...	...	133,719
1880	...	...	48,697	1894	...	...	133,686
1881	...	..	78,914	1895	...	...	112,673
1882	...	...	78,547	1896	...	...	167,027
1883	...	...	96,427	1897	...	...	221,396
1884	...	...	125,697	1898	...	...	217,725

Intestate
estates.

1671. The estates dealt with by the Curator in 1893 numbered 625, of which all except 41 were intestate; those in 1894 numbered 626, of which all except 38 were intestate; those in 1895, numbered 601, all intestate except 48; those in 1896 numbered 729, all intestate except 43; in 1897 they numbered 727, all intestate except 57; and in 1898, 841, all intestate except 52.* The sums received by the Curator on these estates and on others remaining from former years were £46,550 in 1893; £36,038 in 1894; £36,434 in 1895; £38,572 in 1896; £43,450 in 1897; and £47,577 in 1898. In the twenty-eight years ended with 1898 the number of intestate estates dealt with was 9,955. The amount received by the Curator in respect to these estates during the twenty-eight years was £1,248,605.

Intestate
estates:
Order of
distribution.

1672. Heirship in Victoria has been since 1864 limited to cases in which probate or letters of administration have not been granted, and, by *The Administration and Probate Act 1872* (now 1890), it is provided that the real estate of a deceased person shall be applied as if the same

* These numbers are included in those given in the table following paragraph 1668 ante.

were personalty. The following are the rules by which the property and effects, both real and personal, of persons dying intestate are now by law distributed :—*

(a) IF A MAN OR WOMAN DIE INTESTATE—

Leaving—	Proportions taken by Representatives.
No husband, wife, or child ... Husband or wife and child or children, and children of a deceased child	All to next-of-kin of equal degree. One-third to husband or wife, rest to child or children equally ; and, if children are dead, then to their lineal descendants ; but any child who had estate by settlement of intestate, or was advanced by him in his lifetime, shall bring such estate or advancement into account.
No husband or wife or children, but both father and mother	Half each to father and mother. Prior to passing of Married Woman's Property Act father would take all, one-half being in right of wife.
No husband or wife, but child or children, whether by one or more husbands or wives	All to him or her or to them equally.
Child and grandchild by a deceased child	Half each.
Father, brothers and sisters ...	Whole to father.
Mother, brothers, and sisters ...	Equally between them.
Mother, but no husband or wife, or child, father, brother, sister, nephew, or niece	Whole to mother.
Brother or sister, and children of a deceased brother or sister	Half to brother or sister <i>per capita</i> , half to such children <i>per stirpes</i> .
Brother or sister of whole blood, and brother or sister of half-blood	Equally to both.
Uncles' or aunts' children, and brothers' or sisters' grandchildren	Equally to all.
Grandfather or grandmother, and uncle or aunt	Whole to grandfather or grandmother.
Aunts, nephew, and niece ...	Equally to all.
Uncle and deceased uncle's child ...	Whole to the uncle
Nephew by brother, and nephew by half-sister	Equally <i>per capita</i> .
Nephew by deceased brother, and nephews or nieces by deceased brother or sister	Equally <i>per capita</i> .
Brother or sister, and nephew or niece by deceased brother or sister	Divide equally, nephews or nieces <i>per stirpes</i> .
Brother and grandfather ...	Whole to brother.
Great grandfather and uncle ...	Equally.
Brother's grandson and brother's or sister's daughter	Whole to daughter.
Brother and two aunts ...	Whole to brother.

* The law of succession in Victoria, on which the information in this and the four following paragraphs has been based, is contained in the following Acts :—(a) *Imperial*—22 and 23 Char. II. Cap. 10, 29 Char. II. Cap. 3, and 1 J. II. Cap. 17 Sec. 5, and decisions thereon. (b) *Victorian*—15 Vict. No. 10 Sec. 15, *Intestates Act* 1864, *Administration and Probate Act* 1872, *Foreign Probates Act* 1886, *Duties Amendment Act* 1889, *Intestates' Widows Relief Act* 1889 (the latter six statutes now incorporated in the *Administration and Probate Act* 1890), *Married Women's Property Act* 1890 Sec. 25, *Administration and Probate Amendment Act* 1891, *Intestates' Estates Act* 1896.

(b) IF A MAN DIE INTESTATE—

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

(c) IF A WOMAN DIE INTESTATE—

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

Equal rights with men granted to women.

1673. Formerly, if a woman died intestate, leaving a husband and children or next of kin, the husband would take all, but the *Married Women's Property Act* 1890, section 25, provides that the estate of a married woman dying intestate shall be distributable between her husband and children or next of kin in like manner and proportion as the estate of a married man is distributable between his widow and children or next of kin.

Estates of illegitimates.

1674. By an Act passed in 1891 to amend the *Administration and Probate Act* 1890, it is provided that where the Curator obtains a rule to administer the estate of any illegitimate person who died intestate, leaving a widow, but no child or lineal descendant, or no widow, child, or lineal descendant, the Governor in Council shall direct how the proceeds shall be distributed, and what amount shall be paid to the Government, by virtue whereof an Order in Council now directs that the Crown shall receive 10 per cent. of the proceeds.

1675. The *Intestates' Estates Act* 1896 provides that if a man die intestate, leaving a widow but no issue, his estate shall where the net value does not exceed £1,000 go to the widow absolutely, and where the estate exceeds £1,000 the widow shall be entitled to the first £1,000, in addition to her ordinary share of the residue. Concession to widows.

1676. By virtue of the *Administration and Probate Act* 1872, the Registrar of Probates was empowered to grant probates or letters of administration in estates not exceeding £500, except in any case where a caveat is lodged or in any other case in which it may appear doubtful whether such probate or letters should be granted, but by the *Administration and Probate Act* 1892 the Registrar is empowered to make such grants in all cases (the limit of £500 being abolished) with the exceptions referred to, in either of which cases the matter is to be referred to the Court. Moreover, by the *Intestates' Widows Relief Act* 1889 in estates not exceeding £500 in value, the persons entitled may apply to the Registrar of nearest County Court, who will prepare all necessary papers for obtaining probate or letters of administration, and only Court fees are payable, the total charge on each being not more than 27s. Legal procedure simplified.

1677. Under the head of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes there were 87 decrees for dissolution of marriage in 1898, as against 117 in 1897, 106 in 1896, 85 in 1895, and 81 in 1894. No decrees for judicial separation were pronounced in 1895, 1897, and 1898, but there were 2 in 1894 and 2 in 1896. The following was the business done in the last thirteen years :— Divorce and matrimonial.

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN VICTORIA, 1886 TO 1898.

Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—	
	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.
1886	34	10	16	...
1887	27	7	18	5
1888	38	4	28	1
1889	38	7	22	3
1890	14	4	40	...
1891	153	1	99	...
1892	168	4	91	1
1893	124	7	85	7
1894	143	5	81	2
1895	136	2	85	...
1896	140	1	106	2
1897	156	5	117	...
1898	143	2	87	...

1678. Since the Act 25 Vict. No. 125—which first conferred upon the Supreme Court of Victoria jurisdiction in matters matrimonial—came into operation in 1861, 1099 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 83 decrees for judicial separation have been made—of which 751 and 12 respectively were granted since 1890. Divorces in 37 years.

Divorce Act
1889,
principal
provisions.

1679. It will be observed by the last table that there has been a large increase in the number of decrees for dissolution of marriage during the last eight years. This was in consequence of the increased facilities offered by an Act to amend the law of divorce* which was passed in November, 1889, and received the Royal assent on the 13th May, 1890. Under the old law a wife might obtain a divorce on the ground that since marriage her husband had been guilty of incestuous adultery, bigamy, rape, unnatural offence, adultery coupled with cruelty, or with desertion for the space of two years or upwards. Under the Act of 1889 the following grounds of divorce were added to those previously existing:—

(a) That the respondent has, without just cause or excuse, wilfully deserted the petitioner, and, without any such cause or excuse, left him or her continuously so deserted during three years and upwards.

(b) That the respondent has, during three years and upwards, been an habitual drunkard, and either habitually left his wife without the means of support, or habitually been guilty of cruelty towards her, or, being the petitioner's wife, has for a like period been an habitual drunkard and habitually neglected her domestic duties or rendered herself unfit to discharge them.

(c) That at the time of the presentation of the petition the respondent has been imprisoned for a period of not less than three years and is still in prison under a commuted sentence for a capital crime, or under sentence to penal servitude for seven years or upwards, or being a husband has within five years undergone frequent convictions, and been sentenced in the aggregate to imprisonment for three years or upwards and left his wife habitually without means of support.

(d) That within one year previously the respondent has been convicted of having attempted to murder the petitioner, or of having assaulted him or her with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm, or on the ground that the respondent has repeatedly during that period assaulted and cruelly beaten the petitioner.

(e) That the respondent being a husband has since the celebration of his marriage and the date of this Act been guilty of adultery in the conjugal residence, or coupled with circumstances or conduct of aggravation or of a repeated act of adultery.

Further
provisions
of new
Divorce
Act.

1680. The Divorce Act referred to further provides for simplifying and cheapening the mode of procedure in divorce cases; for the hearing and trying of divorce suits in private at the discretion of the court; for forbidding the publication of evidence in divorce cases if, in the opinion of the court, it would be prejudicial to the public morals for it to be published; for the intervention of the Attorney-General in cases where collusion is suspected; and for the abolition of applications or decrees for the restitution of conjugal rights. It can only be taken advantage of by persons who have been domiciled in the colony for two years or upwards.

Divorce
rate.

1681. To every 100,000 married couples living, the decrees for dissolution of marriage or judicial separation were in the proportion of 50 in 1898, 66 in 1897, 61 in 1896, 48 in 1895, 47 in 1894, 52 in 1893, 53 in 1892, 57 in 1891, 24 in 1890, and an average of 15 during the four years ended with 1889, which were those immediately prior to the year of passing of the Act just referred to.

Divorces
in Austral-
asian
Colonies,
1888-98.

1682. The following is a statement of the number of petitions and decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation in the various Australasian Colonies, during each of the three years ended

* *Divorce Act* 1889 (53 Vict. No. 1056) since embodied in the Consolidated Act (54 Vict. No. 1166).

with 1890 and each of the six years ended with 1898; also the proportion of decrees per 100,000 married couples living :—

DIVORCES* AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1888 TO 1898.

Colony.	Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living. †
		Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
Victoria	1888	38	4	28	1	18
	1889	38	7	22	3	15
	1890	14	4	40	...	24
	1893	124	7	85	7	52
	1894	143	5	81	2	47
	1895	136	2	85	...	48
	1896	140	1	106	2	61
	1897	156	5	117	...	66
	1898	143	2	87	...	50
New South Wales	1888	50	6	28	5	22
	1889	60	8	44	8	33
	1890	72	9	42	9	32
	1893	330	19	305	9	177
	1894	380	29	311	14	181
	1895	348	22	299	11	169
	1896	360	23	233	8	128
	1897	338	23	245	13	135
	1898	338	27	244	17	135
Queensland	1888	13	2	6	...	12
	1889	9	1	11	...	20
	1890	8	1	8	2	18
	1893	7	2	5	2	11
	1894	10	1	6	...	10
	1895	6	2	4	...	6
	1896	10	3	3	2	7
	1897	11	1	10	1	16
	1898	16	2	7	...	10
South Australia	1888	7	3	2	...	4
	1889	4	1	6	...	13
	1890	5	3	2	...	4
	1893	13	7	8	1	18
	1894	11	2	5	1	11
	1895	12	1	5	...	9
	1896	7	1	6	1	13
	1897	7	...	3	...	6
	1898	15	1	7	1	14
Western Australia	1888	1	...	...	...	...
	1889	1	...	...	...	...
	1890	3	1	2	...	30
	1893	1	...	1	...	12
	1894	2	...	1	...	10
	1895	3	...	2	...	17
	1896	7	1	1	...	6
	1897	9	...	4	...	20
	1898	15	1	3	...	14

* See also paragraph 934 *et seq.*

† Based on estimates, founded on the Census returns, of the numbers of married couples in each year. There is some doubt, however, whether such estimates for the later years are reliable, which cannot be settled until after the census of 1901 has been taken.

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES,
1888 TO 1898—*continued.*

Colony.	Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.
		Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
Tasmania	1888	6	...	4	...	19
	1889	2	1	3	1	19
	1890	4	1	2	...	9
	1893	6	...	6	...	27
	1894	5	1	5	...	22
	1895	4	...	3	1	17
	1896	4	...	3	...	13
	1897	7	1	4	1	20
	1898	7	1	2	...	8
New Zealand	1888	35	3	32	...	36
	1889	26	7	17	1	20
	1890	24	8	21	3	27
	1893	33	9	24	1	26
	1894	26	3	20	4	25
	1895	30	6	18	5	23
	1896	55	6	36	2	37
	1897	48	10	33	1	33
	1898	51	13	32	2	33

Divorce rates in different colonies compared.

1683. It will be observed from the preceding table that, in proportion to the number of married couples resident, divorces are much more prevalent in New South Wales and Victoria than in the other colonies, New Zealand being third, and Tasmania fourth in this respect. The large number of divorces in the two former colonies may be in part accounted for by the Acts passed in Victoria in 1889, and in New South Wales in 1892, enlarging the grounds upon which divorce may be obtained. In New South Wales, however, the proportion since 1892 has been nearly three times as great as in Victoria, although the grounds for divorce are substantially the same.

Fees in equity, &c.

1684. The fees in equity amounted in the aggregate to £112 in 1894, to £133 in 1895, to £74 in 1896, to £66 in 1897, and to £49 in 1898; those on probates amounted to £2,571 in 1892, to £4,903 in 1893, to £4,361 in 1894, to £4,346 in 1895, to £4,913 in 1896, to £4,585 in 1897, and to £5,207 in 1898; those in divorce amounted to £389 in 1894, to £382 in 1895, to £448 in 1896, to £450 in 1897, and to £388 in 1898. The total amount of these fees was thus—£4,862 in 1894, £4,861 in 1895, £5,435 in 1896, £5,101 in 1897, and £5,644 in 1898.

Collections in lunacy.

1685. The moneys collected and appropriated in the department of the Master-in-Lunacy on behalf of patients (including "percentage" and fees) amounted to £23,355 in 1894, to £23,259 in 1895, to £26,007 in 1896, to £27,062 in 1897, and to £29,529 in 1898, the amount being greater this year than in any other year since 1888. It may be

mentioned that the total expenditure in 1898 on Hospitals for the Insane was £109,389, so that, after allowing for the moneys collected from private sources, the net cost to the State on account of lunatic patients in that year was £79,860.

1686. The *Insolvency Act* 1897, which came into force on 1st January, 1898, made some important alterations in the law and procedure in insolvency. The Act is to be read in conjunction with that of 1890, several sections of which are repealed. The principal alterations are as follow :— *Insolvency Act 1897.*

Trustees of insolvent estates must be registered and security given for strict performance of duties. Solicitation by trustees is prohibited and provided against. Remuneration of trustees is to be a commission or percentage on the net amount realized, to be fixed by the creditors ; and, where none is so fixed, such proper costs and expenses incurred as the court may allow.

An officer, styled the Official Accountant, is appointed, whose duties are to see to the appointment, security, and conduct of trustees ; and to report any irregularities therein to the court, and to make audits, investigations, and inquiries.

Certain deeds, called deeds of arrangement (assignments for benefit of creditors, &c.), are to be registered ; also voluntary and marriage settlements on wife or children.

An estate shall not be released from sequestration unless the composition offered appears to the court to be reasonable, or calculated to benefit the general body of creditors.

1687. In the thirty-one years ended with 1898, 22,991 sequestrations in insolvency took place in Victoria, with liabilities amounting to nearly 35 millions sterling. The following is a statement of the number in each year, also of the declared liabilities of the estates :— *Sequestrations in insolvency.*

SEQUESTRATIONS IN INSOLVENCY, 1868 TO 1898.

Year.	Number of Sequestrations.	Declared Liabilities.	Year.	Number of Sequestrations	Declared Liabilities.
		£			£
1868 ...	863	617,764	1884 ...	495	479,700
1869 ...	818	653,614	1885 ...	467	591,957
1870 ...	996	479,491	1886 ...	559	830,176
1871 ...	631	444,117	1887 ...	619	563,894
1872 ...	804	696,868	1888 ...	479	347,658
1873 ...	672	330,337	1889 ...	697	2,389,731
1874 ...	776	543,157	1890 ...	795	2,301,271
1875 ...	773	641,390	1891 ...	807	1,824,595
1876 ...	712	551,814	1892 ...	1,024	2,463,936
1877 ...	715	462,651	1893 ...	1,109	2,678,334
1878 ...	781	677,364	1894 ...	1,017	4,025,582
1879 ...	1,007	1,655,485	1895 ...	892	3,589,708
1880 ...	768	526,130	1896 ...	741	1,125,783
1881 ...	620	303,892	1897 ...	673	1,270,846
1882 ...	500	536,194	1898 ...	578	466,132
1883 ...	603	782,116			
			Total ...	22,991	34,851,686

NOTE.—It should be pointed out that the sequestrations (voluntary and compulsory) represent only a portion of the failures, as there are also large numbers of "liquidations by arrangement," and "compositions with creditors," of which no returns were obtained until 1892, and "deeds of arrangement," of which no returns were available until 1898, for particulars of which, for 1898, see table following paragraph 1690 *post*.

Sequestrations, 1893 and previous years.

1688. It is satisfactory to find that the number of sequestrations, which exceeded 1,000 annually in the three years 1892-4—about the time of the financial crisis—has since rapidly fallen to 578 in 1898—an exceptionally low number; whilst the declared liabilities of the estates, due to the collapse of enormous land and other speculations—which varied from nearly 2 millions sterling in 1891 to 4 in 1894 and to 3½ millions in 1895 respectively, and averaged 2¾ millions per annum in the seven years 1889 to 1895—have also speedily been reduced to less than half-a-million in 1898. Insolvencies caused by the land boom and bank crisis may now be said to have died out, the condition of affairs in this respect being, as stated, below normal.

Assets not taken into account.

1689. The declared assets are not shown in the table, as the information is considered to be of little or no value as a guide to the amount subsequently realized for the benefit of creditors. In two years—1889 and 1887—the declared assets were, apparently, even in excess of the liabilities.

Insolvencies of all kinds, 1898.

1690. The last table is defective, inasmuch as it takes no account of liquidations by arrangement, compositions, and deeds of arrangement, which are of considerable importance as bearing on the number and liabilities of persons who become unable to meet their obligations. Thus in 1898 there were, to every 100 sequestrations, nearly three compositions, and about 28 private arrangements; whilst the proportional amount of liabilities at stake under compositions was £12, and under private arrangements (by deed) £45, to every £100 under sequestrations. So that the inclusion of compositions, and private arrangements with sequestrations has the effect of raising the number of insolvencies from 578 to 741, and the total amount of liabilities from £466,000 to £710,000. The following are the particulars for 1898:—

INSOLVENCIES OF ALL KINDS, 1898.

Nature of Relief Sought.	Number of Failures.	Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
		£	£	£
Sequestrations, voluntary ...	551	466,132*	224,193*	241,939*
„ compulsory ...	27			
Compositions ...	10	38,618	29,121	9,497
Deeds of arrangement † ...	153	205,531	156,913	48,618
Total ...	741	710,281	410,227	300,054

* As shown by the schedules.

† Registered for the first time in 1898 by virtue of the provisions of the *Insolvency Act 1897*. There was, in prior years, no record of these private arrangements with creditors.

1691. The following table shows the occupations or callings of the persons who became insolvent in Victoria during the last five years— including liquidations by arrangement and compositions, but exclusive of private arrangements by deed, which were recorded for the first time in 1898 :—

Occupations
of insol-
vents.

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS,* 1894 TO 1898.

Occupations.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
GOVERNMENT, PROFESSIONS, ARTS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE—					
Architect ... ..	...	...	1	...	1
Artist	1	...	...	...	...
Chemist	5	1	6	1	1
Civil engineer ... ..	...	...	1	...	3
Civil servant, Government employé, &c.	18	15	14	12	15
Clergyman ... ..	...	1	...	...	...
Comedian, tragedian, actor ...	2	2	2	...	...
Dentist	5	3	1	1	...
Draughtsman	1	2	2	1	...
Medical man	4	3	2	5	1
Musician, music teacher, singer ...	4	3	...	2	2
Newspaper proprietor, journalist	4	3	1	...	1
Photographer ... ..	...	1	...	1	1
Printer, compositor, reader	8	4	2	2	5
Schoolmaster, teacher, dancing master	11	4	1	6	2
Municipal officer	1	1	1	3	...
Solicitor, barrister, law clerk ...	10	9	7	5	1
Surveyor	5	6	1	...	1
Theatrical manager, agent ...	1	1	...	...	...
Police sergeant, constable ...	...	2	9	15	5
Others*†	3	1	1	...	5
BOARD AND LODGING, DOMESTIC DUTIES, ATTENDANCE—					
Baths proprietor	1	...	1	...	...
Boarding-house keeper	13	9	...	3	1
Hotel, coffee-palace keeper, manager	48	31	18	20	21
Nurse	1	1	3	...	...
Widow, married woman, spinster ...	27	40	30	29	30
Others‡ ... ..	...	4	1	3	3
COMMERCIAL PURSUITS—					
Accountant, bookkeeper, clerk, financier	34	24	26	21	24
Agent, commission agent ...	27	18	22	12	5
Auctioneer, estate agent ...	13	4	3	3	1
Bookseller, news agent, stationer, &c.	7	4	5	...	2

* Liquidations by arrangement and compositions are included.

† Consisting of 1 circus proprietor, 1 herbalist, and 1 curator of museum in 1894; 1 lecturer in 1895; 1 metallurgist in 1896; and 1 curator of museum, 1 notary public, 2 retired civil servants, and 1 professor of elocution, in 1898.

‡ Consisting of 2 caretakers, 1 caterer, and 1 cook in 1895; 1 caterer in 1896; 1 barman and 2 domestic servants in 1897; and 1 barman, 1 caretaker, and 1 charwoman in 1898.

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1894 TO 1898—*continued.*

Occupations.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
COMMERCIAL PURSUITS—<i>continued.</i>					
Commercial traveller, salesman, canvasser, &c,	7	10	9	9	9
Dealer (undefined), storekeeper ...	22	16	12	6	30
Debt collector	2	...	...	1	1
Grocer and assistants	12	12	16	8	39
Hawker	2	2	...	1	2
Ironmonger, machinery merchant	1	1	...	...	4
Mercantile, stock and share broker	4	2	1	1	2
Merchant, importer	18	6	3	3	4
Secretary, director	1	1	2	...	...
Speculator ... ..	...	...	1	1	...
Warehouseman, storeman ...	7	3	...	1	...
Others*	1	1	2	1	2
CARRIERS—					
Cab, coachman, driver	4	1	4	2	4
Carrier, carter	9	15	8	10	5
Coach proprietor ... ..	...	1	...	...	...
Gripman, tramway official, proprietor	3	2	2	3	1
Mail contractor	1	...	...	...	...
Mariner, seaman, boatman, steward	4	10	3	2	2
Railways, employed on	54	82	73	54	51
Shipping agent ... ..	...	...	1	...	...
Engine-driver, stoker (undefined)	8	3	2	3	4
ARTISANS, MECHANICS, LABOURERS—					
Bricklayer, mason, plasterer, slater	2	3	3	3	2
Builder, contractor	35	26	22	11	11
Cabinetmaker	2	...	1	...	...
Carpenter	17	9	11	10	7
Coach-builder, painter, trimmer, smith	10	4	2	3	3
Engineer, engine-fitter	11	8	6	5	9
Fancy-goods maker, dealer ...	...	1	...	1	2
Furniture maker, dealer; warehouseman	2	...	4	1	3
Labourer (undefined)	81	68	65	73	69
Line repairer	3	...	2	...	1
Lithographer ... ..	...	...	...	1	...
Manufacturer (undefined) ...	8	2	4	...	7
Painter, sign writer, house decorator	20	9	4	5	5
Plumber	2	4	...	1	4
Saddler, whipmaker	5	2	5	1	4
Shipwright	1	...	...	1	...
Watchmaker, jeweller	3	7	1	3	2
Wheelwright	2	5	1	1	3
Others †	5	2	9	4	6

* Consisting of—1 powder magazine keeper in 1894; 1 bookmaker in 1895; 2 wheat buyers in 1896; 1 insurance manager in 1897; 1 bank manager and 1 co-operative society (undefined) in 1898.

† Consisting of—1 instrument fitter, 1 mill-wright, 2 picture-framers, and 1 blindmaker in 1894; 1 upholsterer and 1 poundkeeper in 1895; 2 artisans (undefined), 1 chairmaker, 2 coopers, 2 carvers, 1 turner, and 1 inspector of works in 1896; 1 brushmaker, 1 picture-framer, 1 upholsterer, and 1 inspector of works in 1897; and 1 bookbinder, 1 mill-wright, 1 turner, 1 cycle proprietor, 1 cooper, and 1 carver in 1898.

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1894 TO 1898—*continued.*

Occupations.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
TEXTILE FABRICS AND DRESS—					
Boot, shoe—maker, dealer ...	9	12	8	8	15
Clothing and cap manufacturer ...	...	...	...	...	1
Draper, assistant to ditto ...	8	3	4	2	17
Dyer ...	...	...	...	...	1
Dressmaker, milliner ...	3	1	2	1	4
Hairdresser ...	1	1	5	1	3
Hatter ...	...	1	1	...	2
Laundry proprietor, laundryman ...	...	...	...	1	...
Machinist ...	1	...	...	2	2
Men's mercer ...	1	...	...	...	...
Tailor ...	3	6	5	1	7
FIBROUS MATERIALS—					
Mat manufacturer ...	1	...	...	...	1
Ropemaker ...	...	1	...	...	...
Tentmaker ...	1	...	...	...	...
ANIMAL FOOD—					
Bacon curer ...	1	...	...	1	1
Butcher ...	23	12	14	10	19
Creamery, butter or cheese factory—proprietor, manager ...	4	3	3	2	...
Dairy produce dealer, milk seller ...	6	2	4	...	2
Fishmonger ...	...	...	1	...	...
Meat preserver ...	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterman ...	1	...	...	...	...
VEGETABLE FOOD—					
Baker, pastrycook, confectioner ...	7	22	8	10	19
Fruiterer, fruit preserver ...	6	4	5	3	8
Greengrocer ...	2	2	1	...	...
Jam manufacturer ...	...	1	1	...	...
Miller ...	2	5	...	...	...
DRINKS AND STIMULANTS—					
Aerated water, cordial—manufacturer ...	4	2	2	...	...
Brewer, distiller, maltster, &c. ...	2	5	...	3	1
Tea merchant, agent ...	2	...	3	...	...
Tobacconist, cigar manufacturer ...	2	7	3	2	6
Wine seller, merchant ...	1	2	...	...	2
ANIMAL MATTERS—					
Fellmonger ...	...	...	...	1	1
Hide, leather—merchant, dresser ...	3	1	...	2	1
Soapmaker ...	...	...	...	1	1
Tanner ...	1	1	1	2	...
Wool-broker ...	1	...	...	...	...
Wool-classer ...	1	1	...	1	...
VEGETABLE MATTERS—					
Hay, corn, and produce dealer ...	13	4	...	2	3
Saw-mill owner, sawyer ...	4	...	1	1	1
Timber merchant ...	2	1	...	...	3
Wood, coal—merchant ...	2	...	1	2	3
Wood splitter, carter ...	3	4	1	1	1
Others* ...	1	1	...	...	1

* Consisting of 1 boxmaker in 1894, 1 chaffcutter in 1895, and 1 bark merchant in 1898.

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1894 TO 1898—*continued.*

Occupations.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
COAL, STONE, CLAY, EARTHENWARE, AND GLASS—					
Asphalter	1	...	...	1	...
Brickmaker	2	1	1	...	...
Charcoal burner, carter ...	1	...	...	...	...
Potter ... ..	...	...	...	1	...
Quarryman	3	2	1	1	...
MINERALS AND METALS—					
Blacksmith, farrier	17	15	7	7	11
Boilermaker	3	1	...	...	...
Brass, iron founder, &c. ...	6	1	2	1	...
Machinist ... ..	...	...	1	2	...
Tinsmith	1	2	1	1	...
MINING, ENGAGED IN—					
Miner	54	81	116	132	111
Mining engineer ... ..	...	...	1	1	...
Mining manager, legal manager, agent ... ..	...	4	4	2	...
Mining speculator	2	2	1	1	...
AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS AND LAND—					
Farmer, selector	120	107	39	42	27
Village settler ... ..	...	...	4	3	1
Gardener	8	5	4	4	3
Vine, hop, tobacco-grower ...	...	1	1	3	...
Labourer on farm	1	1	...	...	1
Nurseryman, florist, seedsman ...	6	4	...	2	...
PASTORAL PURSUITS AND ANIMALS—					
Boundary rider, drover, shepherd, station hand	2	2	4	2	1
Dairyman ... ..	...	5	...	1	...
Fisherman	4	2	1	...	...
Grazier	14	13	2	7	5
Groom, jockey	1	...	1	1	1
Horse proprietor, dealer, trainer, breaker, cattle dealer	8	5	5	4	3
Liverystable-keeper	1	...	1	...	1
Rabbit trapper	1	...	...	...	1
Stock and station agent	1	2	1	...	1
Veterinary surgeon ... ..	...	1	1	...	...
Others*	1	2	...	...	...
INDEFINITE AND NON-PRODUCTIVE—					
Fireman ... ..	...	2	5	4	2
Gentleman	19	18	14	6	6
Gentlewoman ... ..	...	...	...	1	...
Manager (undefined)	2	3	3	2	...
No occupation	4	9	9	7	3
Out of business	39	15	8	12	4
Inspector (undefined) ... ..	...	...	...	1	1
Overseer (undefined) ... ..	...	...	3	1	1
Total	1,067	926	755	688	741

* Viz.:—1 rabbit trapper in 1894 ; 1 poundkeeper and 1 veterinary surgeon in 1895.

1692. It will be noticed that the occupations which contributed most largely to the list of insolvents in the five years under review were those of—Miners, 494 ; farmers and selectors, 335 ; labourers, 356 ; railway employés, 314 ; hotel-keepers, &c., 138 ; widows, married women, spinsters, 156 ; accountants, bookkeepers, clerks, 129 ; builders and contractors, 105 ; commission agents, 84 ; butchers, 78 ; store-keepers, 86 ; carpenters, 54 ; carriers, 47 ; blacksmiths, 57 ; graziers, 41 ; bakers, 66 ; gentlemen, 63 ; out of business, 78 ; no occupation, 32.

Chief occupations of insolvents.

1693. In the eleven years, ending with 1898, regular insolvencies have been much more numerous in New South Wales than in Victoria, although they have decreased in both colonies year by year since 1893. In the five years prior to 1889, the liabilities, as shown by the insolvents' schedules, were also much the larger in New South Wales ; but it appears that the results of the collapse of the extensive land and other speculations, commencing with 1889, were much more disastrous in Victoria than in New South Wales, since in that and every subsequent year except 1898 the amount of insolvents' liabilities was far greater in the former than in the latter. Taking the last ten years as a whole the insolvencies numbered 8,333 in Victoria, but as many as 12,340 in New South Wales ; whereas the liabilities amounted to £22,135,000 in the former as against only £11,390,000 in the latter—or nearly £11,000,000 less. These figures give an average of liabilities per insolvent of £2,650 in Victoria as against only £930 in New South Wales. It is satisfactory to find, however, that whilst the failures—both as regards number and amount—have fallen considerably in both colonies, they were even lower in Victoria than in New South Wales in 1898. The following are the figures for New South Wales :—

INSOLVENCIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES, 1888 TO 1898.

Year.	Number of Insolvencies. *	As shown by the Insolvents' Schedules.	
		Liabilities.	Assets.
		£	£
1888	851	659,307	459,677
1889	1,101	794,603	396,723
1890	1,243	1,203,685	540,726
1891	1,238	989,778	454,211
1892	1,506	2,035,316	793,045
1893	1,744	1,527,985	905,763
1894	1,512	1,852,235	905,935
1895	1,280	1,142,637	747,053
1896	1,086	627,314	409,928
1897	845	610,111	347,469
1898	785	605,563	263,500

* During the last ten years they have been called Bankruptcies.

Insolvencies,
liquidations, &c.,
in Australasian
Colonies.

1694. The returns of failures are imperfect in most of the Australasian Colonies, inasmuch as liquidations by arrangement and compositions, in which the liabilities are usually very large, are seldom returned. The following are the particulars available for 1893 to 1898 for the various colonies:—

INSOLVENCIES IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1893 TO 1898.

Colony.	Number of Insolvencies in:—					
	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Victoria * ...	1,175	1,067	926	755	688	588
New South Wales	1,744	1,512	1,280	1,086	845	785
Queensland ...	306	399	394	436	597	451
South Australia †	87	80	76	64	73	51
Western Australia	44	32	40	42	92	157
Total Australia	3,356	3,090	2,716	2,383	2,295	2,032
Tasmania ...	146	111	88	62	66	55
New Zealand ...	484	626	485	412	419	407
Total Australasia	3,986	3,827	3,289	2,857	2,688	2,494

DECLARED LIABILITIES.

	£	£	£	£	£	£
Victoria * ...	4,014,733	5,239,010	4,365,194	1,414,752	1,500,093	504,750
New South Wales	1,527,985	1,852,235	1,142,637	627,314	610,111	605,563
Queensland ...	113,330	485,805	332,744	332,731	420,791	231,759
South Australia	104,085	122,156	32,179	47,609	424,290	23,226
Western Australia	67,678	18,405	77,131	358,175	122,637	228,790
Total Australia	5,827,811	7,717,611	5,949,885	2,780,581	3,077,922	1,594,088
Tasmania ...	118,862	52,648	23,388	34,943	21,637	20,731
New Zealand ...	628,281	498,850	442,696	460,545	280,377	285,854
Total Australasia	6,574,954	8,269,109	6,415,969	3,276,069	3,379,936	1,900,673

Failures in
the United
Kingdom.

1695. The figures in the following table, which represent the number of failures † in England and Wales in the eleven years ended with 1898, together with the liabilities and assets of the insolvents, and the proportion of the latter to the former, have been taken from

* Inclusive of compositions and liquidations by arrangement; but exclusive of 153 private arrangements, with liabilities £205,531, which were first registered in 1898.

† Exclusive of 250, 252, 237, 176, 193, and 223 private arrangements under the Act of 1875 for the years 1893 to 1898 respectively.

‡ Including, besides adjudicated bankruptcies, liquidations by arrangements, compositions with creditors, and orders for administration of deceased debtors' estates.

official sources. It will be noticed that the number of failures have gradually decreased since 1893, and also the amount of liabilities, although a temporary rise again occurred in 1898 :—

FAILURES IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1888 TO 1898.

Year.	Number of Cases.	Total Amounts of—		Percentage— Assets to Liabilities.
		Liabilities.	Assets.	
		£	£	
1888	4,859	7,148,950	2,256,379	31·6
1889	4,542	6,380,362	1,998,957	31·3
1890	4,044	6,184,146	2,238,584	36·2
1891	4,242	8,600,726	3,164,966	36·8
1892	4,657	8,892,162	3,089,791	34·7
1893	4,901	7,547,794	2,834,553	37·5
1894	4,794	7,018,168	2,373,884	33·8
1895	4,415	6,547,700	2,046,627	31·3
1896	4,170	5,919,197	2,339,936	39·5
1897	4,098	5,771,557	2,802,602	48·6
1898	4,310	6,827,728	2,622,492	38·4

NOTE.—Administration orders made by County Courts in cases where the total indebtedness does not exceed £50 are not included. They numbered 2,535 in 1888, 2,214 in 1889, 1,803 in 1890, 1,895 in 1891, 2,112 in 1892, 2,763 in 1893, 3,284 in 1894, 3,898 in 1895, 3,715 in 1896, 3,951 in 1897, and 3,959 in 1898.

1696. Important duties in connexion with the registration of deeds and other documents, public companies, bills and contracts for sale ; * and patents, copyrights, and trade-marks are performed by the Registrar-General. In 1898, as compared with the previous four years, there was an increase in the total number of transactions, whilst the amount of fees received in that year showed a slight decrease as compared with 1897, but an increase as compared with the three preceding years. The following are the returns for the years 1894 to 1898 :—

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TRANSACTIONS AND FEES, 1894 TO 1898.

Nature of Transaction.	Transactions.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Registry	14,742	14,744	14,887	13,970	15,178
Companies Statute	4,284	4,064	4,722	5,506	5,526
Bills and contracts of sale	7,859	6,989	7,449	7,354	7,816
Firms	1,263	1,037	1,296	1,025	1,292
Assignments and settlements † .. ..	..	..	..	..	239
Patents	2,538	2,681	3,024	3,047	786
Copyrights †	949	413	475	98	312
Trade-marks	957	1,192	1,132	1,381	1,192
Searches in connexion with the above	14,451	13,192	13,241	19,012	20,492
Total	47,043	44,312	46,226	51,393	54,833

* The greater proportion of these fees are received by the Collector of Imposts appointed under the Stamps Act 1890.

† I.e., under The Insolvency Act 1897, which came into operation on 1st January, 1898.

‡ These fees were taken at the Patents Office after 30th April, 1897.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TRANSACTIONS AND FEES, 1894 TO 1898—
continued.

Nature of Transaction.	Fees.*				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Registry	3,715 6 8	3,497 4 0	3,448 15 0	3,240 12 10	3,482 6 4
Companies Statute ..	1,084 3 0	990 7 0	1,126 2 0	2,119 2 0	1,546 10 0
Bills and contracts of sale	392 19 0	349 9 0	372 9 0	367 14 0	390 16 0
Firms	282 18 6	239 9 0	288 4 6	223 3 6	227 3 0
Assignments and settle- ments*					11 19 0
Patents	2,822 15 0	3,001 15 6	3,391 1 6	3,444 12 0	3,253 17 0
Copyrights †	131 16 6	61 8 6	76 5 6	19 15 0	55 4 0
Trade-marks	551 0 0	654 17 6	607 6 0	742 3 0	712 2 6
Searches in connexion with the above ..	913 0 0	847 17 0	841 6 0	1,130 0 0	1,215 9 6
Total	9,893 18 8	9,642 7 6	10,151 9 6	11,287 2 4	10,895 7 4

Births,
deaths,
marriages,
&c., transac-
tions and
fees.

1697. The duties performed by the Registrar-General in connexion with the registration of births, deaths, and marriages were, under the *Births Deaths and Marriages Transfer Act 1893*, transferred to the Government Statist on 1st August, 1892. The following table shows the number of such transactions and fees during the five years 1894 to 1898 :—

GOVERNMENT STATIST'S TRANSACTIONS AND FEES, 1894 TO 1898.

Year.	Births, Deaths, and Marriages.	
	Number of Certificates, Searches, &c.	Fees Received.
		£
1894	9,517	1,648
1895	9,225	1,552
1896	11,070	1,851
1897	11,420	1,891
1898	11,157	1,796

Offences
reported.

1698. The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during 1887 and from 1893 to 1898 is given in the following table, those offences being distinguished :—1. In respect to which persons were brought before magistrates on summons, but were never in custody. 2. In respect to which arrests were made by the police. 3. In respect to which no person had been arrested or brought before magistrates up to the end of the month of March of the year following that in which

* *I.e.*, under the *Insolvency Act 1897*, which came into operation on 1st January, 1898.

† These fees were taken at the Patents Office after 30th April, 1897.

the offence was reported.* It will be seen that since 1895 there has been an annual increase in the number of offences reported, although in 1898 they were still only slightly more numerous than in 1893, and much fewer than in 1887. The proportion of summons cases to apprehensions varies considerably in different years, the latter nearly always preponderating; thus, the latter exceeded the former by 40 per cent. in 1887, by 75 per cent. in 1893, by 83 per cent. in 1894, by 64 per cent. in 1895, by 48 per cent. in 1898, but by only 24½ per cent. in 1896; whereas in 1897 the former exceeded the latter by 12½ per cent. :—

OFFENCES REPORTED, 1887, 1893 TO 1898.

Offences in respect to which persons were—	1887.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
1. Brought before magistrates on summons	24,563	17,004	14,423	15,294	19,917	24,524	19,327
2. Apprehended by the police †	34,473	29,711	26,404	25,003	24,792	21,812	28,649
3. Still at large ‡	6,220	6,331	6,836	6,585	5,922	6,368	5,899
Total ...	65,256	53,046	47,663	46,882	50,631	52,704	53,875

1699. Forty per cent. of the offences dealt with in 1898, as compared with 53 per cent. in 1897, 44 per cent. in 1896, and smaller proportions in previous years, consisted of those in respect to which persons were brought before magistrates on summons, but were not taken into custody.§ These cases must obviously be of a lighter character generally than those for which arrests are made, and therefore do not demand lengthened consideration. The offences in this category classed as against the person are principally assault cases resulting from petty quarrels; those against property are chiefly cases of wilful damage to or illegal detention of property; and the remainder consist for the most part of breaches of the Education Act, the clause in the Public Works Statute relating to railways and water supply, the Local Government Act or municipal by-laws, the Masters and Servants or Wines and Spirits Statutes, &c. Comparing 1898 with 1893, a large increase is shown under each class of offences. A large and sudden increase took place in the number of cases in 1897, which was

Summons cases.

* It does not follow that in these instances the offender escaped altogether. He may have been arrested after the date at which the returns were made up, or, on other charges, even prior to that period.

† Corresponding to 28,623 distinct arrests in 1893, to 24,846 in 1894, to 23,139 in 1895, to 22,787 in 1896, to 20,105 in 1897, and to 26,587 in 1898.

‡ It should be pointed out that the offences for which arrests have been made or summonses have been issued, and those in respect of which the offender is still at large are not strictly comparable. They are reckoned in the former case according to the individual arrests effected (the unit being each separate charge) in the latter according to the offences reported, although in the perpetration of many of these more than one person may have been concerned. For the proportion of separate charges to arrests. See paragraph 1700 *post*.

§ Excepting those (few in number) who, after being summoned, were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, in which cases they would necessarily be taken into custody, and be included amongst the cases of arrest.

not sustained in the following year. The following are the figures for 1887 and the last six years :—

OFFENCES DEALT WITH BY SUMMONS, 1887, 1893 TO 1898.*

—	1887.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Offences against the person	1,500	665	1,028	1,226	1,090	1,262	973
Offences against property	535	252	459	668	809	1,009	679
Minor offences †	22,528	16,087	12,936	13,400	18,018	22,253	17,675
Total	24,563	17,004	14,423	15,294	19,917	24,524	19,327
Cases dismissed by magistrates	6,590	4,282	3,683	3,638	3,513	4,634	2,899
Offender summarily dealt with by fine, &c.	17,940	12,694	10,678	11,617	16,348	19,804	16,417
Committed for trial	33	28	62	39	56	86	11

Methods adopted.

1700. In dealing with criminal statistics, one of three units may be adopted, viz., (1) charges, on account of which arrests are made; (2) arrests, some of which are of persons on two or more charges; or (3) distinct individuals arrested during a year, irrespective of the number of times arrested, or the number of offences with which charged. Prior to 1893 the first method was followed in Victoria; but in 1893 the second one was substituted. The statistics are tabulated by means of cards received monthly from the Police Department, and, although a card is received for each charge, from 1893 onwards all the cards with particulars of minor charges against the same individual were eliminated. The following table will show the percentage of charges to arrests for the years 1893 to 1898, setting out the number of charges to every 100 arrests. These proportions must be borne in mind in the following paragraphs in comparing the figures for 1893 to 1898 with those for previous years :—

PERCENTAGE OF CHARGES † ON WHICH ARRESTED TO ARRESTS, 1893 TO 1898.

Year.	All Offences.			Offences Summarily Dealt With.			Committed for Trial.		
	Males.	Females.	Both.	Males.	Females.	Both.	Males.	Females.	Both.
1893	104·1	102·5	103·8	103·8	102·4	103·5	112·8	107·6	112·4
1894	106·9	103·4	106·3	106·5	103·4	106·0	118·7	107·0	117·4
1895	108·5	103·3	108·2	109·1	103·3	108·0	116·7	105·6	115·6
1896	109·8	104·8	108·8	109·1	104·7	108·3	127·8	109·5	125·8
1897	109·4	104·9	108·5	109·1	104·3	108·2	119·0	145·0	122·2
1898	108·5	104·8	106·6	108·2	104·8	107·5	117·1	111·5	116·6

* See footnote (§) previous page.

† Persons apprehended for lunacy, or as neglected and deserted children, &c., are included in this line as well as actual offenders.

‡ It is not uncommon for multiple charges to be laid against persons arrested and committed for trial. In 1893 one case occurred where the same individual was charged with thirteen different offences as follows:—Forgery, four charges; uttering a forgery; forging a promissory note, two charges; uttering a forged promissory note, three charges; conspiring to defraud; uttering a promissory note with intent to defraud, two charges.

1701. The reduction, as compared with the number of charges, is not nearly so great by the second method (now adopted) as by the third, which, on account of the time and labour involved in tabulation, is not at present a practicable one. By the results obtained by the third method in 1884,* the distinct individuals arrested were fewer than the charges by 26 per cent. in the case of males, and 35 per cent. in the case of females.

Proportion of distinct individuals arrested to charges made.

1702. The next table shows the number of arrests for the years 1893 to 1898, and the number of charges for 1887, and the disposal of such arrests or charges, *i.e.*, whether discharged, convicted summarily, or committed for trial.

Arrests, 1887 to 1898, and results thereof.

NUMBER OF ARRESTS, 1887, 1893 TO 1898.†

Number of Persons.	1887.† Charges.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Taken into custody ...	34,473	28,623	24,846	23,139	22,787	20,105	26,587
Discharged by magistrates	12,031	9,365	7,750	7,331	7,353	6,523	8,933
Summarily convicted or held to bail	21,622	18,408	16,440	15,133	14,759	13,078	16,987
Committed for trial ...	820	850	656	675	675	504	667

1703. At the first period, it will be observed, charges against persons arrested were far more numerous than arrests at any of the other periods. If the numbers of the population be taken into account, the proportion will be found to have decreased year by year, with the exception of 1898, when it was higher than in any year since 1893. The charges were, therefore, in the proportion of 1 to every 29 persons living in 1887, while the arrests were 1 to 41 in 1893, 1 to 47 in 1894, 1 to 51 in 1895, 1 to 52 in 1896, 1 to 58 in 1897, and 1 to 44 in 1898.

Arrests in proportion to total population.

1704. The number of arrests which resulted in persons being summarily convicted, held to bail, or committed for trial, were, to the whole number arrested, in the proportion of 67 per cent. in 1893, 69 per cent. in 1894, 68 in 1895 and 1896, nearly 68 in 1897, and nearly 66½ in 1898.

Proportion of times charge sustained.

1705. The following table will show the result of all cases in which persons were arrested or brought before the court on summons for the years 1887, and 1893 to 1898. The three previous tables show arrests

Arrests and summons cases how disposed of.

* See issue of this work for 1889-90, Vol. II., paragraphs 62 to 67.

† In this year the number of charges is given, for the other years the numbers of arrests are given. For proportions of arrests to charges for years 1893 to 1898, see paragraph 1700 *ante*.

‡ A statement showing, during a series of years, the numbers taken into custody, the numbers committed for trial, and the numbers convicted after commitment, will be found in the Statistical Summary of Victoria (first folding sheet) at the end of this volume.

and summons cases separately. A greater degree of uniformity is noticeable than when summons cases and arrests were treated separately:—

PERSONS* ARRESTED OR SUMMONED, 1887, AND 1893 TO 1898.

Number of Persons.*	1887.†	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Taken into custody or summoned	59,036	45,627	39,269	38,433	42,704	44,629	45,914
Discharged by magistrates	18,621	13,647	11,433	10,969	10,866	11,157	11,832
Summarily convicted or dealt with	39,562	31,102	27,118	26,750	31,107	32,882	33,404
Committed for trial ...	853	878	718	714	731	590	678

1706. The proportion of commitments for trial was 1 to every 42 charges for 1887, 1 to every 38 arrests for 1893 and 1894, 1 to 34 for 1895 and 1896, and 1 to 40 for 1897 and 1898.

1707. The sexes of the persons arrested, and of such of them as were discharged by magistrates, summarily dealt with, or sent for trial for the years 1894 to 1898, were as follow:—

MALES AND FEMALES ARRESTED, 1894 TO 1898.

	1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Taken into custody	20,344	4,502	18,707	4,432	18,381	4,406	16,119	3,986	21,496	5,091
Discharged by magistrates	6,259	1,491	5,779	1,552	5,679	1,674	5,124	1,399	7,147	1,786
Summarily convicted or held to bail	13,501	2,939	12,325	2,808	12,101	2,658	10,551	2,527	13,734	3,253
Committed for trial	584	72	603	72	601	74	444	60	615	52

1708. The males and females summarily convicted, held to bail, or committed for trial, were, to the whole numbers of the same sexes arrested, in the proportions respectively of 68 per cent. and 66 per cent. in 1893, of 69 per cent. and 67 per cent. in 1894, of 69 and 65 in 1895, of 69 and 62 in 1896, of 68 and 65 in 1897, and of 67 and 65 in 1898.

1709. The next table shows the relative proportion of males and females arrested, and of those of them who were discharged, summarily dealt with, or committed for trial at the five periods. At all the periods, the proportion of female to male criminals was much lower than the proportion that females bore to males in the total

* In the case of persons arrested, the unit taken is each separate arrest. In summons cases the unit is each separate charge. For percentage of charges to arrests, see paragraph 1700 *ante*.

† In 1887, in the case of persons arrested as well as summoned, the unit taken was each separate charge.

Proportion of commitments.

Males and females arrested.

Cases in which charge was sustained.

Relative proportions of male and female criminals.

population ; for in 1894 the females in the colony were in the proportion of 94, and in 1898 of 98, to every 100 males.

MALES AND FEMALES.—RELATIVE PROPORTIONS ARRESTED, 1893 TO 1898.

	Number of Females to 100 Males.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Taken into custody	22·13	23·69	23·97	24·73	23·68
Discharged by magistrates	23·82	26·85	29·48	27·30	24·99
Summarily convicted or held to bail	21·77	22·78	21·96	23·95	23·69
Committed for trial	12·33	11·94	12·31	13·51	8·46

1710. It should be pointed out that, under the varying age conditions of the Victorian population, a comparison of the arrests with the total population does not afford, over a series of years, a correct indication as to whether crime is increasing or the contrary. To ascertain this it is necessary to compare the proportion of arrests of each sex at various ages with the population of each sex at the same ages. This is done in the following table for the last three census years and approximately for the year 1898 :—

Arrests at various ages.

MALES AND FEMALES.—ARRESTS AT VARIOUS AGES, 1871 TO 1898.

Ages.	Males.				Females.			
	1871. Charges.	1881. Charges.	1891. Charges.	1898. Arrests.*	1871. Charges.	1881. Charges.	1891. Charges.	1898. Arrests.*
NUMBER OF CHARGES OR ARRESTS.								
Under 10 years	310	256	263	524	188	170	186	427
10 to 15 "	448	601	564	410	155	140	92	119
15 to 20 "	889	1,605	1,747	1,300	225	463	292	240
20 to 25 "	1,857	2,922	4,380	2,474	358	771	867	599
25 to 30 "	2,409	2,262	4,903	3,060	588	590	947	840
30 to 40 "	5,497	3,985	6,922	5,370	1,445	1,264	1,258	1,331
40 to 50 "	4,123	3,915	4,865	4,247	796	1,309	983	790
50 to 60 "	2,100	2,642	3,406	2,252	325	543	762	365
60 and over ...	943	1,638	2,569	1,859	144	254	412	380
Unspecified ...	...	15	8	...	...	1	3	...
Total ...	18,576	19,841	29,627	21,496	4,224	5,505	5,802	5,091

PROPORTIONS PER 10,000 OF EITHER SEX LIVING.

Under 10 years	28	23	19	36	17	15	14	30
10 to 15 "	104	111	96	63	36	26	16	18
15 to 20 "	339	325	305	251	80	90	50	45
20 to 25 "	774	720	688	639	141	178	139	129
25 to 30 "	834	823	777	717	232	219	171	156
30 to 40 "	767	865	869	506	303	290	189	135
40 to 50 "	724	721	1,053	764	272	322	238	161
50 to 60 "	830	623	755	599	244	222	215	103
60 and over ...	756	661	586	366	186	165	144	98
Total ...	463	439	495	363	128	134	107	88

* For proportion of charges to arrests for 1897 and 1898, see paragraph 1700 ante.

Decrease of
arrest rates
at various
ages.

1711. Comparing 1881 with 1871, it will be seen that, in the case of males, the proportions of arrests per 10,000 of the population show a decrease at all the age-groups except 10 to 15 years, and 30 to 40. In the case of females there was a decrease at all the age-groups, except 15 to 20 years, 20 to 25, and 40 to 50. Comparing 1891 with 1881, it will be observed that, in the case of males, although the proportion of arrests at all ages per 10,000 of the population was higher at the later than at the earlier period by 56—or by 12 per cent., the increase was confined to the age-periods between 30 and 60—more especially between 40 and 60—there being a decrease at all other age-periods; whilst, in the case of females, the proportion at all ages fell off by 27—or by 20 per cent., distributed over all the age-groups. Moreover, in 1898, as compared with each of the former periods, there was a marked decrease in the total proportions for both sexes, which was participated in by males at all the age-groups except under 10, and 40 to 50 (as regards the years 1871 and 1881), and by females at all except under 10.

Adjusted
arrest
rates.

1712. Adjusting the totals at the three census periods, and for 1898 to allow for abnormal conditions in regard to age,* the proportions would be as follow, the males showing a falling-off at each successive period, except 1881-91, and the females showing a decided decrease from period to period, since 1881 :—

ADJUSTED ARREST RATES, 1871, 1881, 1891, AND 1898.

Arrests per 10,000 persons living.			Males.		Females.		Both sexes.
1871	...	...	478	...	146	...	337
1881	...	...	461	...	148	...	316
1891	...	...	487	...	111	...	314
1898	...	...	370	...	89	...	231

Causes of
arrest.

1713. A condensed statement of the offences for which arrests were made, together with the number of arrests under each class of offence for 1887 and for 1893 to 1898, will be found in the following table :—

CAUSES OF ARREST, 1887, 1893 TO 1898.

Offences.	1887. Charges.†	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Murder and attempt at murder	28	27	31	24	16	13	21
Manslaughter ...	7	13	9	10	9	7	16
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm, &c.	106	68	47	68	62	36	52
Assault ...	2,163	1,548	920	801	708	660	796

* This is done according to the method which has been adopted for years past in adjusting the death rates, for a description of which see *Victorian Year-Book* 1892, Vol. I., paragraph 656, also previous issues. The model population used on the present occasion is that of England and Wales 1891, the proportions in the different age-groups being as follow:—0 to 10, 2,396; 10 to 15, 1,111; 15 to 20, 1,017; 20 to 25, 913; 25 to 30, 811; 30 to 40, 1,313; 40 to 50, 994; 50 to 60, 705; 60 and upwards, 740; total, 10,000.

† For this year the figures refer to the number of charges for which persons were arrested. For proportion of total charges to arrests for the years 1893 to 1898, see par. 1700, *ante*.

CAUSES OF ARREST, 1887, 1893 TO 1898—*continued.*

Offences.	1887. Charges.*	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Rape and indecent assault on females	59	101	81	97	102	74	103
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit	18	8	14	8	8	7	14
Minor offences against the person	136	127	113	110	97	88	96
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	421	335	302	288	265	224	256
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c.	131	239	158	142	168	110	176
Other offences against property	3,933	3,591	2,810	2,556	2,383	2,073	2,423
Forgery and offences against the currency	84	62	46	34	40	27	31
Drunkenness ...	15,578	12,688	11,357	11,143	10,960	9,982	13,728
Other offences against good order	9,939	8,189	7,337	6,412	6,422	5,403	7,051
Offences relating to carrying out laws	247	238	192	179	209	121	154
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	101	209	199	112	86	101	128
Offences against public welfare	1,522	1,180	1,230	1,155	1,252	1,179	1,542
Total ...	34,473	28,623	24,846	23,139	22,787	20,105	26,587

1714. It will be observed that drunkenness is the cause of more than half the total arrests, other offences against good order of more than a fourth, other offences against property of about a tenth, and offences against public welfare of about $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Over nine-tenths of the arrests are thus accounted for. A glance at the table will also show that under most heads crime, as indicated by the arrests, was exceptionally low in 1896, and more especially so in 1897; but that a considerable rise occurred in 1898, chiefly in regard to drunkenness, the arrests for which increased by over a third, and were by far the most numerous recorded in the last six years. This sudden increase in drunkenness in 1898, following on the gradual fall for so many years previously, may, if continued, be regarded as a sure, although not a desirable, sign of a turn in the tide of depression. The arrests in 1898 for the following offences were, however, still below the average:—Murder, shooting at with intent, assaults, minor offences against the person, and robbery, &c. Assaults show a very marked falling off in recent years as compared with 1893, and a still greater one as compared with 1887, but this is accounted for by the fact that assaults against the police are included in 1887 and 1893, but, when accompanying drunkenness, are not included in the subsequent years,

Most prominent causes of arrest and diminished crime in recent years.

* See footnote (†) on previous page.

being treated as secondary offences, the arrests being ascribed to drunkenness. Eliminating these, the number of ordinary assaults decreased from 1,156 in 1887 to 1,030 in 1893, and to 796 in 1898. Unnatural offences show but little variation in the last six years, and offences against the public welfare in the five years ended with 1897. Smuggling was exceedingly rife in 1893 and 1894. The arrests for sexual offences have greatly increased in the last six years as compared with 1887, but this is entirely accounted for by the raising of the age of consent since 1891. A gradual falling off since 1887 is noticeable in regard to the following offences:—Minor offences against the person, robbery, burglary, &c., other offences against property, forgery, &c., drunkenness (1898 excepted), and other offences against good order (except 1898), offences relating to carrying out the laws, and offences against public welfare (1898 excepted).

1715. The offences for which arrests are made have not been classified according to age, but until the age of 15 the amount of criminality is so small (many of those arrested being neglected or deserted children, and in no sense offenders), that for present purposes the population below that age may be left out of consideration altogether. Subjoined is a statement of the proportions to the population over fifteen of those arrested for the following offences in the last three census years, and in 1897 and 1898:—

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1897, AND 1898.

Offences for which arrests were made.	Per 10,000 of the Population, aged 15 and upwards.				
	1871. Charges.	1881. Charges.	1891. Charges.	1897.* Arrests.	1898.* Arrests.
Murder, manslaughter, shooting at or wounding	2·27	2·15	1·78	0·74	1·17
Assaults	33·07	35·10	29·72	8·74	10·49
Sexual offences	2·08	1·43	1·01	1·07	1·54
Total offences against the person	40·92	40·73	34·20	11·69	14·47
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	5·30	3·68	5·77	2·97	3·37
Horse, sheep, or cattle stealing ...	3·64	2·88	2·35	1·46	2·32
Total offences against property ...	90·64	70·36	59·17	31·83	37·63
Drunkenness	235·78	208·54	242·29	131·91	180·97
Other offences	171·97	158·07	139·72	90·27	117·40

1716. Comparing the various periods shown from 1871 to 1897, it will be noticed that assaults show a slight increase in 1881, but a marked decrease subsequently; although the exceptional decrease—two-thirds—between 1891 and 1897—was more apparent than real, being largely accounted for by the omission in the latter years of secondary charges, such as assaults by persons arrested for

* For proportion of arrests to charges see paragraph 1700 *ante*.

Proportions
of arrests
for various
offences.

Decline in
all kinds of
crime from
1871 to 1898.

drunkenness. Sexual offences also, which had decreased regularly to 1891, show a slight increase in 1897, but this is more than accounted for by the raising of the age of consent. Every other class of offence, however, excepting robbery and drunkenness in 1891, when such crimes were more frequent than at any other period shown, show a marked decrease from period to period. In 1898, the rates were, in all cases, much higher than in 1897, but with the single exception of sexual offences, much lower than in any other previous year shown.

1717. The number of arrests for drunkenness affords ample evidence that the efforts of those who are seeking to suppress or mitigate the evil are not unavailing. In many cases, no doubt, the same individual was arrested over and over again; but supposing each arrest had represented a distinct individual, the following would represent the number of persons living to each person taken into custody for drunkenness:—

NUMBER OF PERSONS LIVING IN VICTORIA TO EACH CHARGE OF DRUNKENNESS.

Year.	Persons to each charge.	Year.	Persons to each charge.
1874	71	1887	65
1875	68	1888	57
1876	69	1889	61
1877	65	1890	60
1878	69	1891	63
1879	77	1892	73
1880	85	1893	90(92)*
1881	79	1894	100(103)*
1882	76	1895†	106
1883	74	1896†	107
1884	73	1897†	117
1885	72	1898†	86
1886	68		

1718. Never during the whole course of the last 25 years has the rate for drunkenness been nearly so low as in the four years—1894 to 1897—following the financial crisis of 1893, when there were over 100 persons in the population to each charge for drunkenness. In 1888, when the mania for land speculation was at its height, there was the high proportion of one charge to every 57 persons, and in the three following years it averaged one to 61; but soon after, a gradual but rapid fall ensued until a minimum of one to 117 was reached in 1897. The highest rate previously attained was 65 persons per charge in 1887 and 1877; whilst the lowest previously recorded was 85 per charge in 1880—at a time of depression. In connexion with the high rates which prevailed during the years 1886–91, it is probable that some of the excess arose from the circumstance that the proportion of the male population old enough to drink to excess was larger than formerly; whereas portion of the

* The number in brackets represents the proportion to each arrest, thus in 1893 there was 1 charge of drunkenness to every 90 persons living in the colony, or 1 arrest to every 92 such persons.

† In these four years the charges and arrests for drunkenness are the same numerically. The reason for this is that for the two years prior to 1895 if a person were arrested for drunkenness coupled with some other offence (*e.g.*, resisting the police), drunkenness was generally treated as the secondary and not the primary charge, and therefore an arrest of one person for, say, drunkenness and resisting the police would be treated as one arrest for resisting the police, and as two charges, *viz.*, drunkenness and resisting the police. Prior to 1893, the figures are strictly comparable with those for 1895 and subsequent years.

diminution in the more recent years was undoubtedly due to the exodus of adults (especially men) to Western Australia and elsewhere, whilst the only accession to the population was the natural one accruing by births. In striking contrast to the low rate in 1897, a marked and sudden increase occurred in the rate for 1898, when the offence was more rife than in any other year since 1892. It remains to be seen whether this is merely an accidental increase, or is a sign of returning prosperity; although, to some extent it may be attributed to exceptional climatic conditions, the number of days on which the temperature exceeded 100° in the shade being fifteen in 1898, as against an average of three during the last 39 years, and the rainfall amounting to only 15·61 inches, as against an average of 24 inches during the preceding ten years.*

Drunkenness coupled with other offences.

1719. Persons arrested for drunkenness are sometimes charged with one or more other offences in addition, such, for instance, as insulting behaviour, abusive language, resisting the police, &c. The following table shows for the years 1895 to 1898, the number of arrests for drunkenness only, and for drunkenness coupled with some other offence, and the number of charges for such other offences:—

DRUNKENNESS AND CONSEQUENT OFFENCES, 1895 TO 1898.

Year.	Arrests for—						Number of charges for other offences.	
	Drunkenness only.		Drunkenness combined with other offences.		Total.			
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1895	8,874	1,669	545	55	9,419	1,724	661	56
1896	8,731	1,690	485	54	9,216	1,744	504	57
1897	7,893	1,608	431	50	8,324	1,658	445	51
1898	11,133	1,952	580	63	11,713	2,015	606	66

Principal minor offences committed by drunkards.

1720. Of the 606 other offences charged against males in 1898, 277 were for insulting behaviour or obscene, threatening, or abusive language; 152 for obstructing the police, &c.; 32 for common assault; 49 for wilful damage to property; 25 for riotous conduct, and 32 for larceny. Of the 66 offences charged against females, 25 were for insulting behaviour, and 11 for having no visible lawful means of support.

Minor offences.

1721. Drunkenness, "other offences against property," "other offences against good order," and "offences against public welfare," although they may, and probably do—especially the first named—lead to more serious offences, may be considered as being, in themselves, comparatively speaking, minor offences, hardly amounting to crimes. These numbered 30,972 in 1887, 25,648 in 1893, 22,734 in 1894,

* For particulars of the recommendations of a Royal Commission for the prevention and cure of drunkenness, see latter portion of "Social Condition," *post*.

21,266 in 1895, 21,017 in 1896, 18,639 in 1897, and 24,744 in 1898; thus only 10 per cent. of the offences in 1887 and 1893, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in 1894, 8 in 1895, $7\frac{3}{4}$ in 1896, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in 1897 and 1898 were for crimes in the strict sense of the word.

1722. The degree of instruction possessed by those taken into custody in 1898 is shown in the following table according to their respective ages :—

Education of arrested persons.

DEGREE OF INSTRUCTION AND AGE OF PERSONS* ARRESTED, 1898.

Ages.	Superior Education.	Read and Write well.	Read only, or Read and Write imperfectly.	Unable to Read.	Total.
Under 10 years	...	...	190	761	951
10 to 15 "	...	...	464	65	529
15 to 20 "	...	55	1,430	55	1,540
20 to 25 "	4	139	2,849	81	3,073
25 to 30 "	11	202	3,587	100	3,900
30 to 40 "	32	372	6,036	261	6,701
40 to 50 "	57	308	4,408	264	5,037
50 to 60 "	13	121	2,215	268	2,617
60 years and upwards	7	81	1,826	325	2,239
Total	124	1,278	23,005	2,180	26,587

1723. The returns of those under 15 years of age taken in charge by the police embrace neglected and deserted children as well as other offenders. The whole number in 1898, according to the table, was 1,480, as against 1,080 in 1897, and of these not one was possessed of superior instruction, or could read and write well; and 826, or nearly three-fifths, were unable to read. The children under 15 committed for trial consisted of 9 boys, all of whom could read and write more or less imperfectly.

Education of children arrested.

1724. Those over 15 years arrested numbered 25,107, and of these 1,402, or over $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (including 124 possessed of superior education), could read and write well; whilst 1,354, or about $5\frac{1}{3}$ per cent., were unable to read. Those over 15 years committed for trial numbered 658, of whom 87, or over $13\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., could read or write well or were possessed of superior instruction, and 32, or 4.86 per cent., were unable to read. According to these figures the persons charged with offences serious enough to call for their commitment for trial were better educated than the other arrested persons. Those arrested, whether committed for trial or otherwise dealt with, were on the average not nearly so well educated as the general population (exclusive of Chinese and Aborigines), for at the census of 1891 all over 15 years of age, except about one in every 24, were returned as able to read and write, and only one in every 43 was returned as entirely illiterate. A special paper dealing with the influence of secular education on crime will be found in an appendix.

Education of criminals.

* See paragraph 1700 ante.

Birthplaces
and reli-
gions of
criminals.

1725. The following table shows the birthplaces and religions of the persons taken into custody and of those committed for trial in 1898, also the ratio of each country and religion to the estimated numbers of the same country and religion in the population :—

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PERSONS* ARRESTED AND COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1898.

Birthplace and Religion.	Persons Arrested.		Persons Committed for Trial.	
	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 Living.	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 Living.
BIRTHPLACE.				
Victoria	12,273	14·27	410	·47
Other Australasian Colonies ...	2,197	22·34	63	·64
England and Wales	4,384	43·17	69	·68
Scotland	1,614	50·75	16	·50
Ireland	4,237	78·24	42	·77
China	172	19·14	13	1·44
Other countries	1,710	85·56	54	2·70
Total	26,587	22·67	667	·57
RELIGION.				
Protestants	14,656	16·78	422	·49
Roman Catholics	11,119	43·07	209	·81
Jews	98	14·66	9	1·35
Buddhists, Confucians, Mohammedans, &c.	225	33·12	19	2·81
Others	489	14·55	8	·24

Arrests of
Victorians.

1726. It has always been found that fewer Victorians have been arrested, in proportion to their numbers in the population, than persons of any other nationality. This, without doubt, has been mainly due to the fact of a very large proportion of children being embraced within their numbers; for, with the increasing ages of the Victorian-born population, the proportion of Victorian-born criminals is becoming larger. In 1871, only 2,123, charges were made against persons of Victorian birth taken into custody, but in 1881 the number rose to 6,231, in 1891 to 11,755, and in 1898 to 12,273; moreover, the rate per 1,000 of the Victorian-born population rose from $6\frac{1}{2}$ in 1871, to $12\frac{1}{2}$ in 1881, to $16\frac{1}{2}$ in 1891, but the rate (of arrests, not charges) has since fallen to $14\frac{1}{4}$ in 1898. According, however, to the proportion of persons of an age to commit crimes, or say of 21 years or upwards, there has been a considerable falling-off between the last two census years, as is shown by the following figures :—

CHARGES AGAINST VICTORIANS ARRESTED IN PROPORTION TO ADULT POPULATION.

		Charges.
1881 ...	Per 10,000 Victorians aged 21 and upwards ...	550
1891 ...	” ” ” ...	396

* See paragraph 1700 ante.

1727. Of places outside Victoria, the country which, in 1898, supplied the largest number of arrested persons is England and Wales, the number exceeding those of Irish birth by 147, or $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ; but in proportion to their numbers living in the colony, the number of Irish-born was nearly twice as large as in the case of English-born. A large proportion of the offences with which the Irish were charged, however, must have been of a less serious nature than those in respect to which the English and Welsh were arrested, as, whilst the proportion of Irish arrested nearly doubled that of the English, the number of the former committed for trial in proportion to their numbers in the population exceeded the latter by only one-sixth ; the proportion of Scotch arrested was also above, but that of the Scotch committed for trial was below, that of the English. The proportion of Chinese arrested was below that of persons of any other nationality except the Victorians, but the proportion committed for trial was much higher than that of any other specified nationality. In proportion to their numbers in the population, arrests of natives of other Australasian colonies were about half as numerous again as, and commitments for trial about a sixth more than, those of Victoria.

Arrests of persons born outside Victoria.

1728. In proportion to their numbers in the community, the Roman Catholics supplied more than two and a half times as many arrested persons as the Protestants ; three times as many as the Jews ; and a fourth more than the Buddhists, Confucians, &c. In view of a similar proportion, the Roman Catholics committed for trial were two-thirds more numerous than the Protestants, but were two-fifths fewer than the Buddhists, &c., and three-fifths the number of the Jews.

Arrests and committals different religions.

1729. The religions and cause of offence of persons taken into custody in 1898 are given in the following table :—

Religions, various offences.

CAUSES OF ARREST AND RELIGIONS, 1898.

Offence.	Religions.					Total.
	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Jews.	Buddhists, Confucians, Mohammedans, &c.	Others.	
Murder and attempt at murder	14	5	...	1	1	21
Manslaughter	11	4	...	1	...	16
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	26	25	...	1	...	52
Assault	438	324	8	12	14	796
Rape and indecent assault on females	66	34	1	1	1	103
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit	9	5	...	...	...	14
Other offences against the person	66	28	...	2	...	96
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	137	101	5	7	6	256
Horse, sheep, cattle stealing, &c.	123	51	...	1	1	176

CAUSES OF ARREST AND RELIGIONS, 1898—*continued.*

Offence.	Religions.					Total.
	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Jews.	Buddhists, Confucians, Mohammedans, &c.	Others.	
Other offences against property	1,423	905	24	31	40	2,423
Forgery and offences against the currency	17	13	1	...	...	31
Drunkenness	7,286	6,134	15	23	270	13,728
Other offences against good order	3,855	2,931	39	117	109	7,051
Offences relating to the carrying out of laws	105	44	...	4	1	154
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	44	67	2	10	5	128
Offences against public welfare	1,036	448	3	14	41	1,542
Total	14,656	11,119	98	225	489	26,587

Frequency of certain crimes amongst followers of each religion.

1730. From this table it may be ascertained that out of every 1,000 arrests of persons of each of the respective religions 1 of Protestants, about half that proportion of Roman Catholics, none of Jews, $4\frac{1}{2}$ of Confucians, &c., and 2 of others, were for murder; $2\frac{1}{2}$ of Protestants and of Roman Catholics, none of Jews, and 9 of Buddhists, &c., for manslaughter and shooting at or wounding; 5 of Protestants, $3\frac{1}{2}$ of Roman Catholics, 10 of Jews (although only one actual arrest was made), $4\frac{1}{2}$ of Confucians, &c., and 2 of others, for sexual offences; 9 of Protestants and of Roman Catholics, 50 of Jews, 31 of Confucians, &c., and 12 of others, for robbery with violence and burglary; 105 of Protestants, 86 of Roman Catholics, 240 of Jews, 142 of Confucians, &c., and 84 of others, for other offences against property (including horse-stealing, &c.); 1 of Protestants and of Roman Catholics, 10 of Jews, but none of Confucians, &c., or others, for forgery, &c.; 3 of Protestants, 6 of Roman Catholics, 20 of Jews, 45 of Confucians, &c., and 10 of others, for smuggling, &c.; and 71 of Protestants, 40 of Roman Catholics, 30 of Jews, 62 of Confucians, &c., and 84 of others, for offences against the public welfare. To arrive at a fairer idea of the frequency of different offences amongst members of the various religions than these figures indicate it would be well to bear in mind that, relatively to their numbers in the population, there are approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ arrests (for all causes) of Roman Catholics, and 2 of Confucians, &c., to every single arrest of a Protestant or a Jew.

Religions of drunkards.

1731. Arrests in 1898 for drunkenness and other offences against good order were in the proportion of 76 per cent. of the total arrests of Protestants, of 81 per cent. of those of Roman Catholics, of 55 per cent. of those of Jews, of 62 per cent. of those of Buddhists, &c., and of 78 per cent. of those of other sects and no religion.

1732. The next table shows the occupations of the males and females taken into custody in each of the five years ended with 1898:— Occupations of persons arrested.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1894 TO 1898.

Occupations.	1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
GOVERNMENT, PROFESSIONS, ARTS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE.										
Government officer ..	19	1	8	..	4	1	14	..	14	..
Police, penal officer ..	2	..	1	..	2	..	2	..	2	..
Army, navy - officer, man ..	7	..	6	..	..	..	5	..	6	..
Clergyman, &c. ..	1	..	3	..	2	..	1	..	5	1
Lawyer ..	18	..	18	..	28	..	16	..	30	..
Law clerk, law student ..	8	..	6	..	6	..	5	..	6	..
Medical man, student ..	23	..	31	..	11	..	12	..	15	..
Dentist ..	8	..	12	..	6	..	3	..	6	..
Chemist, druggist ..	44	..	34	..	30	..	19	..	36	..
Nurse (not servant) ..	..	13	..	11	..	23	..	12	..	13
Author, editor, reporter ..	35	..	42	..	42	..	33	..	31	..
Bookseller, news vendor ..	74	2	65	..	92	1	42	4	66	4
Printer ..	133	..	114	..	134	..	119	..	196	..
Education, engaged in ..	28	10	19	9	25	2	16	5	18	2
Fine arts, engaged in ..	11	..	12	..	17	..	11	1	16	..
Photographer ..	11	..	7	..	6	..	8	..	18	..
Music, teacher of; musician ..	46	8	36	8	33	7	25	4	30	11
Theatres and exhibitions, connected with ..	26	7	27	4	27	..	26	..	34	2
Palmist ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Herbalist ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	8	2
BOARD AND LODGING, DOMESTIC DUTIES, ATTENDANCE.										
Hotelkeeper ..	47	32	37	4	25	3	14	4	28	3
Board and lodging, connected with ..	5	11	8	16	6	22	7	14	8	31
Domestic servant, cook ..	229	534	202	514	213	457	180	364	256	451
Laundry-keeper, assistant, washerwoman, mangler ..	..	64	9	67	3	106	12	78	9	88
Hotel, boarding-house, &c. - servant ..	34	44	51	8	63	42	28	20	88	26
Attendance, engaged in ..	27	2	7	1	8	1	31	18	11	24
COMMERCIAL PURSUITS.										
Merchant, capitalist ..	25	..	7	..	8	..	6	..	14	..
Auctioneer, &c. ..	12	..	6	..	3	..	1	..	1	..
Broker, agent, &c. ..	176	..	127	..	129	..	88	..	155	..
Commercial clerk, &c. ..	467	..	510	..	328	..	336	..	465	..
Commercial traveller, salesman ..	124	..	128	..	207	..	159	..	151	..
Other mercantile persons ..	33	1	8	..	6	..	17	..	6	2
Ironmonger ..	9	..	9	..	8	..	11	..	11	..
Shopkeeper, dealer ..	276	6	303	1	301	..	308	7	397	..
Grocer and assistants ..	98	1	99	2	90	3	87	1	97	1
Hawker, pedler ..	492	12	444	15	464	12	431	18	544	10
Marine storekeeper ..	39	..	16	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
CARRYING AND MESSAGES.										
Railway service ..	24	..	6	..	18	..	10	1	23	..
Omnibus, cab - driver, owner ..	130	..	117	..	97	..	85	..	155	..
Drayman, carter, carrier ..	221	..	225	..	229	..	213	..	267	..
Ship owner, master; officer, seamen (not navy) ..	900	..	827	..	751	..	700	..	965	..
Ship servant, steward, &c. ...	26	..	17	..	33	..	26	1	79	..

* See paragraph 1700 ante.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1894 TO 1898—
continued.

Occupations.	1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
CARRYING AND MESSAGES— <i>continued.</i>										
Boatman, waterman, &c. ..	6	..	2	..	6	..	..	..	..	..
Stevedore; or otherwise connected with ships	6	..	1	..	3	..	4	..	4	..
Telegraph service ..	8	..	10	..	9	..	6	..	14	..
Messenger, porter, errand boy	18	..	5	..	11	..	11	..	19	..
Others connected with conveyance	72	..	41	..	15	..	9	..	12	..
Tramway service .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..
AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS AND LAND.										
Farmer, market gardener; farm servant, labourer, &c.	535	2	501	3	474	2	444	2	557	..
Land, estate—agent, proprietor, &c.	1	..	6	..	3	..	2	..	2	..
Land surveyor and assistant	21	..	7	..	13	..	7	..	24	..
Others connected with land	3	..	1	..	14	..	..	..	..	..
Florist .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
PASTORAL PURSUITS AND ANIMALS.										
Squatter, grazier; station servant, labourer, &c.	31	..	25	2	36	..	36	2	37	1
Horse dealer, proprietor, &c.	4	..	6	..	16	..	7	..	6	..
Veterinary surgeon, farrier	2	..	1	..	3	..	3	..	5	..
Horse-breaker, groom, jockey	298	..	307	..	353	..	294	..	380	..
Fisherman	38	..	26	..	26	..	30	..	40	..
Drover and others engaged about animals	73	..	66	..	54	..	38	..	71	..
ARTISANS, MECHANICS, LABOURERS.										
Bookbinder	6	1	8	..	5	..	6	2	16	..
Musical-instrument maker, dealer	4	..	1	..	5	..	8	..	9	..
Prints and pictures, connected with	4	..	2	..	3	..	14	..	1	..
Watch and clock maker, dealer	44	..	22	..	23	..	25	..	19	..
Gunsmith	2	..	83	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mechanical or undefined engineer	154	..	231	..	163	..	107	..	179	..
Designer, engraver ..	8	1	7	..	4	..	12	..	5	..
Toolmaker, cutler, &c. ..	20	..	20	..	30	..	25	..	22	..
Carriage-maker, wheelwright	72	..	74	..	54	..	47	..	58	..
Saddle, harness, and whip-maker, dealer	63	..	49	..	64	..	63	..	71	..
Tinsmith .. .. .	..	..	..	..	79	..	109	..	116	..
Shipwright, rigger, boat-builder	21	..	9	..	10	..	12	..	14	..
Sailmaker, shipchandler, &c.	26	..	9	..	19	..	18	..	16	..
Builder, architect, contractor	72	..	14	..	13	..	19	..	47	..
Carpenter, joiner	402	..	348	..	320	..	282	..	347	..
Cooper, turner	34	..	33	..	38	..	31	..	48	..
Bricklayer, mason, plasterer, shingler, slater	284	..	259	..	229	..	222	..	289	..
Road and railway contractor, surveyor	14	..	2	..	4	..	1	..	..	..
Painter, paperhanger, plumber, &c.	257	..	288	..	261	..	225	..	376	..

* See paragraph 1700 ante.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1894 TO 1898—
continued.

Occupations.	1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
ARTISANS, MECHANICS, LABOURERS—continued.										
Others connected with buildings	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cabinet, &c., maker, dealer	58	..	44	2	45	..	39	..	65	..
Undertaker	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Labourer (undefined) ..	8,780	..	8,004	..	7,861	..	6,791	..	9,126	..
Navy	2	..	4	..	1	..	11	..	4	..
Chemicals, working or dealing in	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TEXTILE FABRICS AND DRESS.										
Textile fabrics, manufacturer of; weaver	3	..	14	2	5	8	4	11	6	8
Draper and assistants ..	44	..	55	..	78	..	68	..	83	..
Hairdresser, wigmaker, &c.	58	..	61	..	47	..	59	..	74	..
Hat and cap maker ..	17	..	12	2	15	..	15	..	26	..
Tailor, tailorress, dealer in clothing	121	40	117	28	144	31	126	21	175	26
Milliner, dressmaker ..	..	55	..	34	..	40	..	41	..	31
Boot and shoe maker ..	486	..	464	..	530	..	493	7	503	4
Umbrella maker, mender ..	3	2	4	..	1	..	3	..	3	..
Shoeblick	18	..	2	..	3	..	7	..	12	..
FIBROUS MATERIALS.										
Rope, mat, sack—maker ..	6	..	5	..	7	..	4	1	13	..
Tent, tarpaulin — maker; canvas dealer	3	..	4	..	8	..	4	..	4	..
ANIMAL FOOD.										
Cowkeeper, dairyman, woman	26	..	27	..	23	3	26	1	28	..
Butcher, &c.	197	..	170	..	198	..	146	..	163	..
Poulterer, fishmonger ..	19	..	10	..	18	..	6	..	27	..
Others dealing in animal food	4	..	3	..	3	1	2	..	2	..
VEGETABLE FOOD.										
Miller, grain and flour dealer, and assistants	9	..	21	..	15	..	7	..	10	..
Baker, confectioner ..	238	..	194	..	150	..	160	..	185	..
Greengrocer, fruiterer ..	24	..	19	..	35	..	15	1	27	..
Others dealing in vegetable food	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
DRINKS AND STIMULANTS.										
Brewing, connected with ..	8	..	4	..	6	..	3	..	11	..
Wine and spirit merchant, vigneron	4	..	2	2	5	..	2	..	..	..
Gingerbeer and sodawater maker	5	..	5	..	5	..	..	..	5	..
Sugar refiner	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tobacco manufacture, engaged in	22	..	24	4	38	3	15	1	21	..
Tobacconist	4	2	5	..	11	..	13	..	12	..
ANIMAL MATTERS.										
Soapboiler, candlemaker, tallowmelter	3	..	4	..	1	..	2	..	4	..
Tanner, fellmonger, currier	38	..	37	..	51	..	45	..	50	..
Brush, broom—maker ..	9	1	8	..	9	..	4	..	5	2
Wool classer	31	..	21	..	24	..	21	..	26	..
Animal matters, working or dealing in	4	..	2	..	..	..	5	..	1	2

* See paragraph 1700 ante.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1894 TO 1898—
continued.

Occupations.	1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
VEGETABLE MATTERS.										
Japanner, french polisher ..	24	..	21	..	18	..	13	..	21	..
Firewood dealer, chopper, splitter, fencer	16	..	74	..	47	..	31	..	47	..
Sawyer; saw-mill owner, worker	23	..	26	..	26	..	19	..	19	..
Basketmaker	13	..	13	..	6	..	6	..	3	..
Papermaker	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
MINING, ENGAGED IN.										
Miners, &c.	1,229	..	1,071	..	967	..	915	..	1,105	..
COAL, STONE, CLAY, EARTHENWARE, GLASS.										
Coal and charcoal, working or dealing in	8	..	2	..	4	..	14	..	3	..
Chimney sweep	9	..	8	..	7	..	12	..	14	..
Quarryman, limeburner, &c.	17	..	9	..	9	..	25	..	16	..
Brickmaker, potter ..	30	..	22	..	14	..	15	..	34	..
Nightman, scavenger ..	1	..	2	..	2	..	3	..	2	..
Earth, stone, glass, &c., others working or dealing in	40	..	34	..	41	..	8	..	33	..
MINERALS AND METALS.										
Goldsmith, silversmith, jeweller	23	..	16	..	30	..	23	..	35	..
Engine-driver (undefined), fireman, cleaner, fitter	163	..	236	..	276	..	296	..	418	..
Ironfounder, blacksmith, locksmith	273	..	242	..	293	..	270	..	341	..
Brass founder, finisher, gasfitter	9	..	8	..	16	..	11	..	13	..
Working or dealing in water or ice	4	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	7	..
Other metals, working or dealing in	125	..	70	..	11	..	2	..	9	..
INDEFINITE AND NON-PRODUCTIVE.										
Independent means, persons of	12	..	17	..	18	..	12	..	20	..
Mechanic, manager, apprentice, &c.	196	30	176	14	146	..	52	..	104	..
Prostitute, brothel-keeper ..	..	1,537	..	1,657	..	1,449	..	1,304	..	1,639
Gambler, gaminghouse-keeper	20	..	17	..	11	..	14	..	31	..
No stated occupation, over fifteen years of age	589	1,824	556	1,729	562	1,868	423	1,647	574	2,160
No stated occupation, under fifteen years of age	770	258	688	293	721	321	630	391	893	546
Total	20,344	4,502	18,707	4,432	18,381	4,406	16,119	3,986	21,496	5,091

Chief occupations of persons arrested.

1733. It will be observed that of the males arrested nearly half were labourers (undefined); and that of other occupations those most frequently arrested were miners, sailors, farmers and farm labourers, hawkers, shoemakers, clerks, carpenters, grooms and jockeys, bricklayers, shopkeepers, and ironfounders and blacksmiths, in the order named. No occupation was returned in 1,359 cases in 1894, 1,244 in 1895, 1,283 in 1896, 1,055 in 1897, and 1,467 in 1898, but of these

* See paragraph 1700 ante.

770, 688, 721, 630, and 893 respectively were youths or children, and of the others it is probable that most of them belonged to the criminal classes. Of the females arrested, about one-third were set down as prostitutes or brothel-keepers, about one-half, including 258 young girls in 1894, 293 in 1895, 321 in 1896, 391 in 1897, and 546 in 1898, were of no specified occupation; and of the few returned as following regular occupations, about three-fifths in 1894, 1896, 1897, and 1898, and two-thirds in 1895, were domestic servants, and the remainder were chiefly engaged in attendance, laundry work, or were dressmakers and tailoresses. The number of young girls of no occupation, under 15 years of age, arrested since 1893 has steadily increased year by year, although the number of females arrested had decreased up to 1897.

1734. The result of summary disposal of cases by magistrates in the years 1894 to 1898 were as follow :—

Summary disposal by magistrates.

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF ARRESTED PERSONS,* 1894 TO 1898.

Sentence.	1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.	
	Males.	Fe-males.	Males.	Fe-males.	Males.	Fe-males.	Males.	Fe-males.	Males.	Fe-males.
Imprisonment for—										
3 years	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2 years	25	2	13	..	8	..	13	..	14	..
1 and under 2 years ..	210	87	155	59	108	48	111	45	156	78
6 and under 12 months ..	239	136	149	105	209	102	217	81	233	108
5 months	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 months	21	2	10	3	26	5	21	4	7	2
3 months	667	180	557	169	552	109	445	61	556	87
2 and under 3 months ..	168	36	170	14	143	76	156	47	115	54
1 and under 2 months ..	777	200	729	161	677	137	658	124	732	151
15 days and under 1 month	59	11	34	2	41	11	29	11	47	5
8 and under 15 days ..	549	159	507	109	508	110	395	128	611	171
7 days and under ..	4,339	1,164	4,538	1,149	4,488	1,099	3,718	941	4,730	1,183
Fined	5,559	563	4,651	637	4,488	584	3,992	581	5,460	745
Ordered to find bail ..	140	18	153	10	142	14	120	11	141	15
Sent to lunatic asylum ..	262	127	251	121	231	121	236	132	252	157
Sent to industrial school or reformatory	394	226	371	250	395	235	386	356	570	480
Otherwise dealt with ..	88	28	36	19	85	7	54	5	110	17
Total sentenced	13,501	2,939	12,325	2,808	12,101	2,658	10,551	2,527	13,734	3,253
Discharged	6,259	1,491	5,779	1,552	5,679	1,674	5,124	1,399	7,147	1,786
Total summarily disposed of	19,760	4,430	18,104	4,360	17,780	4,332	15,675	3,9	20,881	5,039

1735. Of the persons sentenced by magistrates during 1894, 41 per cent. of the males and 19 per cent. of the females were fined; in 1895, 37 $\frac{3}{4}$ and 22 $\frac{2}{3}$; in 1896, 37 and 22; in 1897, 38 and 23; and, in 1898, 40 and 23 per cent. Imprisonment for terms under one month 37 per cent. of the males and 45 per cent. females in 1894, 41 and 45 in 1895, 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 46 in 1896, 39 and 43 in 1897, and 39 and 42 per cent. in 1898; 1 to 12 months, 14 and 19 per cent. in 1894, 13 and 16 in 1895, 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ and 16 in 1896, 14 and 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ in 1897, and 12 and 12 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. in 1898; 1 year and over, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. of the males and 3 per cent. of the females in 1894, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ and 2 in 1895, 1 and 2 $\frac{1}{5}$ in 1896, 1 $\frac{1}{6}$ and 1 $\frac{5}{6}$ in 1897, and 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ and 2 $\frac{2}{5}$ in 1898—the balance or 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ and 14

Sentences by magistrates.

* See paragraph 1700 ante.

per cent. in 1894, 7 and $14\frac{1}{2}$ in 1895, $6\frac{1}{4}$ and $13\frac{4}{5}$ in 1896, $7\frac{5}{6}$ and $19\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. in 1897, and $7\frac{3}{4}$ and $20\frac{4}{5}$ in 1898 were sent to lunatic asylums, industrial, and reformatory schools, ordered to find bail, or otherwise disposed of.

Whippings
ordered.

1736. Corporal punishment to males may be ordered by magistrates for certain offences. In such cases the offender, if an adult, may be sentenced to be whipped with a cat-o'-nine-tails once, twice, or thrice, at the discretion of the bench. Ten were so sentenced in 1894, nine to receive one whipping, and one two whippings; in 1895 seven one whipping and one two whippings; in 1896 three one whipping and one two; in 1897 one two whippings; and in 1898 one one whipping.

Results of
committals
for trial.

1737. The results of the commitments for trial in 1887 and in each of the last five years were as follow:—

RESULTS OF COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL,* 1887, AND 1894 TO 1898.

—		1887.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Number for trial	...	796	675	671	692	515	631
Convicted	...	506	435	403	424	332	402
Acquitted	...	220	213	246	242	162	214
Not prosecuted	...	70	27	22	26	21	15

Proportion of
convictions.

1738. In 1887, $63\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; in 1894, $64\frac{1}{2}$; in 1895, 60; in 1896, 61; in 1897, $64\frac{1}{2}$; and in 1898, $63\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. of the trials resulted in convictions.

Sentences in
superior
courts.

1739. The following are the sentences of the prisoners tried and convicted in superior courts during the last five years:—

SENTENCES OF PRISONERS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1894 TO 1898.

Sentence.	1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Death	7	2	4	1	2	2	4	2	2	...
Hard labour † for—										
10 and under 15 years	9	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	4	...
7 and under 10 years	4	...	7	...	4	...	5	...	1	...
4 and under 7 years	26	...	31	...	18	1	14	...	17	1
Imprisonment for—										
2 and under 4 years	100	4	71	2	68	3	56	2	65	2
1 and under 2 years	79	9	89	6	95	4	76	5	84	5
6 and under 12 months	93	6	79	4	84	8	63	3	87	8
1 and under 6 months	55	3	55	10	60	7	60	14	68	2
Under 1 month	4	2	7	1	9	1	7	3	9	3
Fined	4	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	3	1
Recognisances estreated	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
To find bail to appear when called upon	18	2	21	3	31	5	8	4	27	6
Sent to lunatic asylum or reformatory	4	2	5	1	16	3	2	3	6	1
Total tried and convicted	405	30	375	28	390	34	296	36	373	29

* Including those who were remaining for trial from the previous year, but excluding those awaiting trial at the end of the year.—† On roads or public works.

CRIMINALS EXECUTED, 1842 TO 1898—*continued.*

Birthplace, Religion, and Offence.							Number.
Birthplace—	Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	42
"	Scotland	...	...	...	...	...	8
"	Belgium	...	..	...	...	...	1
"	France	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	Germany	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	Sweden	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	Sicily	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	United States of America *	...	...	...	...	...	6
"	India	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	West Indies	...	...	...	...	...	2
"	Philippine Islands	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	China	...	...	...	...	...	8
"	At sea	...	...	...	...	...	1
Religion —	Church of England	...	...	...	...	...	45
"	Presbyterian	...	...	...	...	...	7
"	Methodist	...	...	...	...	...	11
"	Baptist	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	Lutheran	...	...	...	...	...	2
"	Protestant undefined	...	...	...	...	...	30
"	Roman Catholic	...	...	...	...	...	56
"	Buddhist, Confucian, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	7
"	No religion	...	...	...	...	...	5†
Offence —	Murder	...	...	...	...	...	126
"	Attempt to murder	...	...	...	...	...	17
"	Rape	...	...	...	...	...	10
"	Unnatural offence on a child	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	Robbery with violence, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	10

Undetected
crime.

1745. The offences in respect to which no persons were apprehended numbered 5,899 in 1898. The majority of these were offences against property; they show a considerable falling off since 1894. The following are the undetected offences in the last ten years:—

UNDETECTED CRIME, 1888 TO 1898.

Year.	Number of Offences.			
	Against the Person.	Against Property.	Other Offences.	Total.
1888 ...	270	5,627	577	6,474
1889 ...	271	6,152	859	7,282
1890 ...	805	5,177	895	5,877
1891 ...	401	5,218	965	6,584
1892 ...	715	4,785	570	6,070
1893 ...	440	5,222	669	6,331
1894 ...	504	5,634	698	6,836
1895 ...	265	5,783	537	6,585
1896 ...	274	4,920	728	5,922
1897 ...	268	5,362	738	6,368
1898 ...	315	4,965	619	5,899

* One of these, executed in 1894, was an American negro.—† Aborigines.

1746. With reference to the offences set down as undetected, it should be remarked that in all probability the malefactors do not in all such cases escape entirely. The returns are made up in the month of April of the year following that in which the offence is reported, and he who committed it may be arrested after that date, or may even before that date have been arrested, and perhaps punished, for other misdeeds. Offender perhaps arrested on other grounds.

1747. The next four tables, giving details of crime in the various Australasian Colonies, have been compiled in the office of the Government Statist, Melbourne, from their respective *Statistical Registers*. The first of these gives for each colony, and for the whole of Australasia, for the years 1880, 1885, 1890, and each of the six years ended with 1898, a statement of the number of offences for which persons were apprehended or summoned, were summarily convicted or held to bail, were committed for trial, and were convicted after commitment. In the returns of the number of cases in respect of which persons were summoned, those so dealt with on account of matters coming under the head of civil jurisdiction are omitted in all the colonies :— Crime in Australasian colonies.

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1880, 1885, 1890, AND 1893 TO 1898.

Name of Colony.	Number of Offences for which Persons were—				
	Apprehended or Summoned.*	Summarily Convicted or held to Bail.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.	
Victoria ...	1880	41,788	26,950	680	398
	1885	52,566	34,180	768	444
	1890	64,784	44,515	1,129	662
	1893	46,715	32,025	983	565
	1894	40,827	28,036	832	526
	1895	40,327	28,081	819	462
	1896	44,709	32,439	905	568
	1897	46,336	34,024	696	415
	1898	47,976	34,824	789	446
New South Wales †	1880	57,784	42,205	1,717	1,148
	1885	77,092	59,345	1,540	785
	1890	66,087	48,102	1,476	954
	1893	74,575	54,863	1,533	874
	1894	65,931	50,479	1,493	892
	1895	64,978	51,468	1,496	884
	1896	63,317	55,870	1,591	879
	1897	62,314	54,294	1,632	891
	1898	62,177	49,689	1,862	758
Queensland †	1880	9,133	6,051	316	170
	1885	15,763	11,451	538	267
	1890	18,996	14,570	494	275
	1893	16,958	12,983	441	205
	1894	15,945	11,808	484	226
	1895	17,673	13,707	466	239
	1896	18,692	14,681	490	256
	1897	19,784	15,820	393	188
	1898	20,437	16,633	447	248

* Not including civil cases.

† Cases brought up for lunacy are not included in the returns of New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania. In New South Wales 730 lunatics, in Queensland 293, and in Tasmania 83, were admitted to asylums during 1898. Probably four-fifths of these were apprehended by the police.

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES 1880, 1885, 1890, AND 1893 TO 1898—continued.

Name of Colony.		Number of Offences for which Persons were—			
		Apprehended or Summoned.*	Summarily Convicted or held to Bail.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.
South Australia ...	1880	15,063	12,814	353	199
	1885	10,406	8,901	240	133
	1890	6,999	5,953	169	82
	1893	7,850	6,654	215	118
	1894	7,097	5,977	221	131
	1895	4,979	4,101	214	130
	1896	6,179	5,234	202	131
	1897	5,867	4,565	209	134
	1898	5,979	4,726	216	157
Western Australia ...	1880	5,577	4,221	50	25
	1885	4,900	3,436	86	51
	1890	4,690	3,201	66	41
	1893	6,288	4,068	106	60
	1894	7,152	4,403	132	82
	1895	8,377	5,310	104	59
	1896	13,318	8,426	273	177
	1897	15,433	9,584	324	194
	1898	14,902	9,659	330	154
Tasmania † ...	1880	6,908§	5,418	117	73
	1885	5,983	4,876	71	31
	1890	6,411	4,962	117	46
	1893	5,036	3,859	97	61
	1894	4,954	3,744	93	42
	1895	4,766	3,645	78	32
	1896	4,514	3,450	70	35
	1897	4,472	3,439	69	31
	1898	4,336	3,363	58	33
New Zealand † ...	1880	20,750	14,778	520	295
	1885	22,709	17,566	385	223
	1890	18,247	13,885	458	192
	1893	17,932	13,457	502	260
	1894	17,353	12,613	614	300
	1895	17,581	13,067	602	344
	1896	18,815	14,149	529	291
	1897	19,949	14,875	583	303
	1898	22,234	16,642	641	351
Australasia ...	1880	156,993	112,437	3,753	2,308
	1885	189,419	139,755	3,628	1,934
	1890	186,214	135,188	3,909	2,252
	1893	175,354	127,909	3,877	2,181
	1894	159,259	117,060	3,693	2,180
	1895	158,681	119,379	3,635	2,190
	1896	169,544	134,249	3,830	2,284
	1897	174,155	136,601	3,906	2,156
1898	178,041	135,536	4,343	2,147	

Crime in Victoria and New South Wales compared.

1748. By this table it would appear that crime has been much more prevalent in New South Wales than in Victoria, and that—

* Not including civil cases.—† See footnote (†) previous page.—‡ Exclusive of Maoris. In 1898 the number of cases in which they were concerned was 518—in 349 of which summary convictions were obtained, in 98 cases the prisoner was discharged, and in 71 cases committed for trial.—§ In Tasmania in 1880 a number of civil cases were improperly included.

although containing practically equal populations*—there has been at each period, under all the heads, much larger numbers of criminals in the former colony than in the latter. This is particularly observable in regard to serious offences, the commitments for trial and convictions thereafter in New South Wales having been at the first period more than two and a half times as numerous, and at the second period about twice as numerous, as in Victoria; whilst at the third period they were respectively 30 and 45 per cent., and in the six years ended with 1898, 91 to 74 per cent. more numerous. In 1880 the apprehensions and summonses in New South Wales exceeded those in Victoria by about 40 per cent., and in 1898 by 30 per cent., and the summary convictions by 56 per cent. in 1880, and by 43 per cent. in 1898.

1749. The position of the different colonies in respect to crime will be better ascertained by means of the next table, which shows the proportion that the number of apprehensions and summons cases,† of summary convictions, of commitments for trial, and of convictions after commitment, occurring in each colony during the same nine years, bore to the average population of the same colony; also, the proportion in each colony of summary convictions to apprehensions and summons cases, and of convictions after commitment to commitments:—

Proportion of crime in each colony.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, COMMITMENTS, AND CONVICTIONS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES TO POPULATION, ETC., 1880, 1885, 1890, AND 1893 TO 1898.

Name of Colony.	Proportion per 1,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per 10,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per Cent. of—		
	Apprehensions and Summons Cases.†	Summary Convictions.	Commitments for Trial.	Convictions after Commitment.	Summary Conviction to Apprehensions and Summons Cases.†	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments	
Victoria	1880	49·13	31·69	8·00	4·68	64·5	58·5
	1885	54·94	35·72	8·03	4·64	65·0	57·8
	1890	57·92	39·80	10·09	5·92	68·7	58·6
	1893	39·92	27·36	8·40	4·83	68·5	57·5
	1894	34·34	23·87	7·08	4·48	68·7	63·2
	1895	34·18	23·80	6·94	3·92	69·6	56·6
	1896	37·97	27·55	7·69	4·82	72·6	62·8
	1897	39·52	28·89	5·93	3·54	73·4	59·7
	1898	40·90	29·68	6·73	3·80	72·6	56·5
New South Wales	1880	79·63	58·16	23·66	15·83	73·0	66·9
	1885	83·14	64·00	16·61	8·47	77·0	53·5
	1890	59·98	43·66	13·40	8·66	72·8	64·6
	1893	61·21	45·32	12·67	7·14	73·6	57·0
	1894	50·83	40·80	12·07	7·21	76·6	59·7
	1895	51·39	40·70	11·83	6·99	79·2	59·1
	1896	49·17	43·70	12·36	6·82	88·2	55·3
	1897	47·57	41·43	12·45	6·80	87·1	54·6
	1898	46·50	37·23	13·95	5·68	79·9	40·7

* In all the years up to 1890 the population of Victoria was the larger, but, according to the subsequent official estimates of the two colonies, the population of New South Wales grew more rapidly than that of Victoria, until in 1899 the former was the greater by 16 per cent.

† Not including civil cases.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, COMMITMENTS, AND CONVICTIONS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES TO POPULATION, ETC., 1880, 1885, 1890, AND 1893 TO 1898—*continued.*

Name of Colony.	Proportion per 1,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per 10,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per Cent. of—		
	Apprehensions and Summons Cases.*	Summary Convictions.	Commitments for Trial.	Convictions after Commitment.	Summary Convictions to Apprehensions and Summons Cases.*	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.	
Queensland ...	1880	41·15	27·26	14·24	7·66	66·3	53·8
	1885	51·05	37·08	17·42	8·65	72·6	49·6
	1890	49·24	37·77	12·80	7·13	76·7	55·7
	1893	39·73	30·42	10·33	4·80	76·6	46·5
	1894	36·34	27·08	11·03	5·07	74·5	46·7
	1895	39·03	30·26	10·29	5·28	77·6	51·3
	1896	40·08	31·48	10·51	5·49	78·9	52·3
	1897	41·34	33·07	8·21	3·93	80·0	47·9
	1898	41·49	33·80	9·08	5·04	85·6	55·5
South Australia ...	1880	57·16	48·63	13·40	7·55	85·1	56·4
	1885	33·23	25·84	7·67	4·25	77·8	55·4
	1890	22·12	18·81	5·34	2·59	85·1	48·5
	1893	22·96	19·32	6·24	3·43	84·8	54·9
	1894	20·37	17·15	6·34	3·76	84·2	59·3
	1895	14·29	11·77	6·14	3·73	82·4	60·8
	1896	17·32	14·68	5·66	3·67	84·7	64·9
	1897	16·37	12·74	5·83	3·74	77·8	64·1
	1898	16·48	13·02	5·95	4·33	79·0	72·7
Western Australia	1880	193·35	146·34	17·33	8·67	75·7	50·0
	1885	143·81	100·85	25·27	14·97	70·1	59·3
	1890	97·81	66·76	13·76	8·55	68·2	62·1
	1893	100·60	65·10	16·96	9·60	64·7	56·6
	1894	92·71	57·03	17·10	10·62	61·6	62·1
	1895	90·41	57·32	11·23	6·37	63·4	56·7
	1896	108·50	68·61	22·23	14·41	63·3	64·8
	1897	99·11	61·55	20·81	12·46	62·1	60·0
	1898	88·00	57·06	19·50	9·10	64·8	46·7
Tasmania ...	1880	60·80†	47·69	10·30	6·43	80·2	62·4
	1885	46·68	38·05	5·54	2·42	81·5	43·6
	1890	44·60	34·52	8·14	3·20	77·4	39·3
	1893	33·37	25·09	6·31	3·97	76·6	62·9
	1894	31·77	24·01	5·96	2·69	75·6	45·2
	1895	29·95	22·90	4·90	2·01	76·5	41·0
	1896	27·63	21·11	4·28	2·14	76·4	50·0
	1897	20·17	20·36	4·09	1·84	76·9	44·9
	1898	24·83	19·26	3·32	1·89	77·6	57·0
New Zealand ...	1880	43·75	31·16	10·96	6·22	71·2	56·7
	1885	40·11	31·03	6·80	3·94	77·3	57·9
	1890	29·39	22·37	7·38	3·09	76·1	41·9
	1893	28·01	20·35	7·59	3·93	75·0	51·8
	1894	25·55	18·57	9·04	4·42	72·7	48·8
	1895	25·41	18·87	8·69	4·97	74·3	57·1
	1896	26·62	20·01	7·48	4·12	75·2	55·0
	1897	27·63	20·61	8·08	4·20	74·6	52·0
	1898	30·19	22·60	8·70	4·76	74·8	54·8

* Not including civil cases.—† Some civil cases were improperly included in Tasmania in 1880.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, COMMITMENTS, AND CONVICTIONS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES TO POPULATION, ETC., 1880, 1885, 1890, AND 1893 TO 1898—*continued.*

Name of Colony.	Proportion per 1,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per 10,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per Cent. of—		
	Apprehensions and Summons Cases.*	Summary Convictions.	Commitments for Trial.	Convictions after Commitment.	Summary Convictions to Apprehensions and Summons Cases.*	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.	
Total Australasia	1880	58·55	41·94	14·00	8·61	71·6	61·5
	1885	58·56	43·21	11·22	5·98	73·8	53·3
	1890	49·86	36·20	10·47	6·03	72·6	57·6
	1893	43·55	31·77	9·63	5·42	72·9	58·4
	1894	38·65	28·41	8·99	5·30	73·5	59·0
	1895	37·84	28·49	8·67	5·24	75·2	60·4
	1896	39·60	31·36	8·94	5·34	79·2	59·7
	1897	39·85	31·26	8·94	4·93	78·4	55·2
	1898	40·07	30·50	9·77	4·83	76·6	49·4

1750. It will be seen from the preceding table that, in regard to offences for which persons were apprehended or summoned, Western Australia shows a far greater number in proportion to population than any other colony; but it should, however, be borne in mind that the ratio for that colony is greatly increased by reason of the small relative number of females and children in the population, the number of males being double that of females in 1898, whereas in the same year in Victoria the former exceeded the latter by nearly 2 per cent., in New South Wales by 15½ per cent., in Queensland by 28, in South Australia by 9, in Tasmania by 17, and in New Zealand by 11½ per cent. New South Wales takes second place at each period, and Queensland third at each period except 1893, in which year Victoria filled that position. The latter colony was fourth in every other year except 1893 and 1880. The two colonies in which the proportion was least were South Australia and Tasmania in that order, the decrease in those two colonies being considerable from year to year, the proportion in 1898 being about one-third of that in 1880. In Australasia, as a whole, the decrease has been fairly constant, the proportion in 1898 being nearly a third less than in 1880. The following is the order of the various colonies in this respect in 1898, the

Order of colonies in respect to apprehensions and summons cases.

* Not including civil cases.

colony with the highest proportion of persons apprehended or summoned on criminal charges being placed first, and that with the lowest last :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS APPREHENDED OR SUMMONED IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1898.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | | 5. New Zealand. |
| 2. New South Wales. | | 6. Tasmania. |
| 3. Queensland. | | 7. South Australia. |
| 4. Victoria. | | |

1751. As regards the persons summarily convicted, in proportion to population, Western Australia* and New South Wales have always been at the top of the list. In 1898 Victoria occupied fourth place, Queensland being above it, whilst the proportion in South Australia was far lower than in any other colony. The following is the order in which the colonies stood in this particular in 1898, the colony with the highest proportion of summary convictions being placed first and the rest in succession :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO SUMMARY CONVICTIONS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1898.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | | 5. New Zealand. |
| 2. New South Wales. | | 6. Tasmania. |
| 3. Queensland. | | 7. South Australia. |
| 4. Victoria. | | |

1752. In recent years Victoria showed, relatively to population, a much smaller number of persons committed for trial than any of the other colonies except South Australia (where it was about the same) and Tasmania. The largest proportion prevailed in Western Australia* and the next in New South Wales, where it was twice as high as in Victoria. In respect to the proportion of commitments for trial to population, the colonies stood in the following order in 1898 :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS COMMITTED FOR TRIAL IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1898.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | | 5. Victoria. |
| 2. New South Wales. | | 6. South Australia. |
| 3. Queensland. | | 7. Tasmania. |
| 4. New Zealand. | | |

1753. In respect to convictions in superior courts, Western Australia* and New South Wales are at the head of the list. The following is the order in 1898 :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1898.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | | 5. Victoria. |
| 2. New South Wales. | | 6. South Australia. |
| 3. Queensland. | | 7. Tasmania. |
| 4. New Zealand. | | |

* In regard to Western Australia the proportion is greatly increased by reason of the small number of females and children in the population. See paragraph 1750 *ante*.

Order of colonies in respect to summary convictions.

Order of colonies in respect to commitments for trial.

Order of colonies in respect to convictions in superior courts.

1754. In proportion to arrests, either a larger proportion of persons are apprehended unjustly in Western Australia and, in a lesser degree, in Victoria than in the other colonies, or punishment for minor offences does not follow their commission with such certainty in those two colonies as in the others, since the number of summary convictions obtained in proportion to the apprehensions is usually slightly lower in Victoria, and much lower in Western Australia than in any of the others. The following is the order of the colonies in respect to convictions of this kind in 1898, the colony in which the rate of summary convictions to apprehensions is highest being placed first, and that in which it is lowest last :—

Order of colonies in respect to summary conviction obtained.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF SUMMARY CONVICTIONS TO ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES, 1898.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Queensland. | 5. New Zealand. |
| 2. New South Wales. | 6. Victoria. |
| 3. South Australia. | 7. Western Australia. |
| 4. Tasmania. | |

1755. It will be seen from the table that in 1898 the highest proportion of convictions to commitments was in South Australia, and the next highest in Tasmania ; and that, taking the average of the last six years, conviction appears to follow commitment with more certainty in those two colonies than in any others. In the subjoined table the colonies are placed in order, the one in which the convictions, during the years 1893 to 1898, bore the highest proportion to the commitments being placed first :—

Order of colonies in respect to convictions obtained in superior courts.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS TO COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL. 1893 TO 1898.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. South Australia. | 5. New Zealand. |
| 2. Victoria. | 6. Tasmania. |
| 3. Western Australia. | 7. Queensland. |
| 4. New South Wales. | |

1756. It is to be regretted that the information as to the offences for which persons are arrested or summoned is very incomplete in several of the colonies. In Queensland the only specific offence mentioned in the returns is drunkenness, the balance being grouped as offences against the person, offences against property, or as other offences. This, except that drunkenness was not separated from " other offences," was likewise the grouping adopted in Western Australia until after 1893, since when the arrests for drunkenness have been given separately.

Incomplete returns in some colonies.

1757. In proportion to population, the numbers apprehended or summoned in New South Wales for offences against the person and property in general, and for drunkenness, greatly exceed those in Victoria, yet for the more serious classes of offences this is not the case. In 1898, for instance, the proportions arrested for murder and manslaughter, for robbery, burglary, &c., and for cattle-stealing, &c., were

Arrests, &c., for various offences in Australasian Colonies

greater in Victoria ; and the proportion for sexual offences was about the same in the two colonies. On the other hand, "other offences against the person" (mainly assaults) and "others" against property (mainly larceny, wilful damage to property, false pretences, possession of stolen property, &c.) were much more prevalent in New South Wales. The proportion of the former in 1898 being nearly twice as high, and of the latter more than half as high again as in Victoria. The following table shows the offences for which apprehensions were made or summons issued in the various Australasian colonies in 1880, 1885, 1890, and 1893 to 1898, as far as the information can be gathered from their respective *Statistical Registers* :—

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1880, 1885, 1890, AND 1893 TO 1898.

Colony.	Year.	Number of Arrests or Summonses for—							
		Murder, Attempts at Murder, and Manslaughter.	Rape and other Offences against Females.	Other Offences against the Person.	Robbery with Violence, Burglary, &c.	Horse, Sheep, and Cattle Stealing, &c.	Other Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.
Victoria	1880	36	81	4,376	245	171	3,880	10,056	22,933
	1885	31	57	4,071	287	149	3,797	13,580	30,594
	1890	56	69	3,966	465	129	4,442	18,501	37,156
	1893	41	103	2,555	364	156	4,249	12,986	26,261
	1894	40	89	2,327	332	136	3,724	11,357	22,282
	1895	36	103	2,361	299	122	3,647	11,143	22,616
	1896	30	111	2,105	296	160	3,788	10,960	27,259
	1897	20	77	2,185	216	90	3,633	9,982	30,133
	1898	37	112	2,087	275	146	3,661	13,728	27,930
New South Wales	1880	75	95	9,364	245	469	6,154	18,777	22,605
	1885	50	115	9,353	230	403	6,576	26,291	34,074
	1890	61	64	8,604	362	259	6,995	18,654	31,088
	1893	81	65	6,110	490	252	6,804	17,809	42,522
	1894	64	53	4,668	334	236	6,254	17,509	33,813
	1895			4,459			6,153	18,379	35,987
	1896	29	115	4,511	230	250	7,055	19,499	31,628
	1897	29	155	4,529	297	204	6,393	19,326	31,397
	1898	31	127	4,578	244	149	6,901	19,397	30,750
Queensland	1880		1,320			1,186		2,867	3,760
	1885		2,230			1,748		5,508	6,277
	1890		2,713			2,487		6,332	7,464
	1893		2,338			2,264		4,644	7,712
	1894		2,192			2,090		3,902	7,761
	1895		2,073			2,085		4,993	8,522
	1896		1,936			2,141		6,105	8,511
	1897		2,204			2,159		6,683	8,738
	1898		2,098			2,133		7,121	9,085

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1880, 1885, 1890, AND 1893 TO 1898 —continued.

Colony.	Year.	Number of Arrests or Summonses for—							
		Murder, Attempts at Murder, and Manslaughter.	Rape and other Offences against Females.	Other Offences against the Person.	Robbery with Violence, Burglary, &c.	Horse, Sheep, and Cattle Stealing, &c.	Other Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.
South Aus- tralia	1880	13	37	1,026	52	51	971	4,325	8,588
	1885	9	36	598	38	19	708	3,361	5,647
	1890	8	24	488	16	14	471	2,382	3,596
	1893	8	11	461	29	15	683	2,746	3,897
	1894	5	11	508	31	8	681	2,370	3,483
	1895	7	14	390	71	22	584	1,763	2,128
	1896	6	6	289	45	13	707	1,937	3,176
	1897	7	16	335	64	15	685	1,859	2,886
	1898	9	8	294	67	10	672	1,847	3,072
Western Aus- tralia	1880		331			355		4,891	
	1885		403			323		4,174	
	1890		371			536		3,783	
	1893		534			884		4,870	
	1894		584			933		1,661	3,974
	1895		654			1,080		2,154	4,489
	1896		1,010			1,565		3,491	7,252
	1897		1,079			1,943		3,720	8,691
	1898		1,071			1,955		3,100	8,776
Tasmania	1880	2	14	651	103	37	723	1,543	†3,835
	1885	3	13	544	34	22	565	1,470	3,332
	1890	4	6	473	14	17	588	1,151	4,158
	1893	1	6	326	30	14	791	632	3,331
	1894	6	7	375	29	22	784	565	3,166
	1895	2	3	348	2	20	688	463	3,240
	1896	2	8	331	13	15	776	658	2,711
	1897	1	12	303	18	23	711	596	1,664
	1898	...	14	330	12	7	675	608	2,690
New Zealand*	1880	27	56	1,852	85	55	2,185	6,281	10,209
	1885	20	28	1,686	92	49	1,961	6,912	11,961
	1890	10	32	1,474	120	55	2,122	5,830	8,604
	1893	24	24	1,503	83	65	2,208	5,289	8,736
	1894	9	39	1,381	184	45	2,235	4,996	8,464
	1895	34	18	1,229	206	83	2,268	5,104	8,639
	1896	12	31	1,259	148	75	2,051	5,640	9,599
	1897	24	56	1,453	191	35	2,376	5,942	9,872
	1898	13	69	1,313	140	38	2,616	6,495	11,550

* Exclusive of Maoris. In 1898 the number of Maoris arrested or summoned for the respective classes set out above was 1, 3, 41, 9, 9, 72, 78, and 305 respectively.

† A number of civil cases were improperly included in Tasmania in 1880.

Proportion
of each
group of
offences
in each
colony.

1758. Subjoined is a statement of the proportion of the various offences, grouped under four heads, to the population of each colony during the same nine years :—

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1880, 1885, 1890, AND 1893 TO 1898.

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.
Victoria ...	1880	5·28	5·05	11·83	26·97
	1885	4·35	4·42	14·19	31·97
	1890	3·66	4·50	16·54	33·22
	1893	2·31	4·07	11·09	22·44
	1894	2·09	3·57	9·67	19·01
	1895	2·12	3·45	9·44	19·17
	1896	1·91	3·60	9·31	23·15
	1897	1·95	3·36	8·51	25·70
	1898	1·91	3·48	11·70	23·81
New South Wales ...	1880	13·14	9·46	25·88	31·15
	1885	10·26	7·77	28·35	36·75
	1890	7·92	6·91	16·93	28·21
	1893	5·17	6·20	14·71	35·13
	1894	3·85	5·50	14·15	27·33
	1895	3·53	4·87	14·53	28·46
	1896	3·62	5·85	15·14	24·56
	1897	3·60	5·26	14·75	23·96
	1898	3·47	5·46	14·53	23·04
Queensland ...	1880	5·95	5·34	12·92	16·94
	1885	7·22	5·66	17·84	20·33
	1890	7·03	6·45	16·41	19·35
	1893	5·48	5·30	10·88	18·07
	1894	5·00	4·76	8·89	17·69
	1895	4·58	4·60	11·03	18·82
	1896	4·15	4·59	13·09	18·25
	1897	4·60	4·51	13·97	18·26
	1898	4·26	4·33	14·46	18·44
South Australia ...	1880	4·08	4·08	16·41	32·59
	1885	2·10	2·41	10·73	18·03
	1890	1·64	1·60	7·53	11·35
	1893	1·41	2·13	8·00	11·42
	1894	1·50	2·07	6·80	10·00
	1895	1·18	1·94	5·06	6·11
	1896	·84	2·15	5·43	8·90
	1897	1·00	2·13	5·19	8·05
	1898	·86	2·07	5·09	8·46
Western Australia ...	1880	11·48	12·31	169·57	
	1885	11·83	9·48	122·53	
	1890	7·74	11·18	78·89	
	1893	8·54	14·14	77·91	
Western Australia ...	1894	7·56	12·18	21·51	51·46
	1895	7·06	11·66	23·25	48·45
	1896	8·22	12·66	28·43	59·05
	1897	6·93	12·48	23·89	55·81
	1898	6·33	11·50	18·32	51·85

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1880, 1885, 1890, AND 1893 TO 1898 —continued.

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.
Tasmania ...	1880	5·87	7·60	13·58	33·75 *
	1885	4·37	4·85	11·47	26·00
	1890	3·36	4·31	8·01	28·93
	1893	2·17	5·43	4·11	21·66
	1894	2·49	5·36	3·62	20·30
	1895	2·22	4·46	2·91	20·36
	1896	2·09	4·92	4·03	16·59
	1897	1·87	4·45	3·53	10·32
New Zealand †	1880	4·16	4·93	13·22	21·50
	1885	3·06	3·71	12·21	21·13
	1890	2·44	3·70	9·39	13·86
	1893	2·34	3·56	8·90	13·21
	1894	2·10	3·63	7·36	12·46
	1895	1·85	3·71	7·37	12·48
	1896	1·84	3·22	7·98	13·58
	1897	2·12	3·60	8·23	13·68
1898	1·88	3·79	8·82	15·69	

1759. It will be observed that, according to population, arrests or summonses for offences against the person were, during the years 1893 to 1898, much more numerous in Western Australia † than in any other colony, Queensland being second, and New South Wales third. In Western Australia the proportion in 1898 was over three times, in Queensland more than twice, and in New South Wales over one and a half times as high as in Victoria, which occupied the fifth place. The following is the order of the colonies in this respect during 1898, the colony in which the proportion was highest being placed first, and that in which it was lowest last:—

Order of colonies as to offences against the person.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON, 1898.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | 5. Victoria. |
| 2. Queensland. | 6. New Zealand. |
| 3. New South Wales. | 7. South Australia. |
| 4. Tasmania. | |

1760. In 1898, arrests for offences against property in Western Australia † were upwards of three and a half times as numerous, in proportion to population, as they were in Victoria, where they were fewer than in any colony except South Australia. The proportion in Victoria was about three-fourths that in New South Wales, Tasmania, and Queensland. In this respect the order of the colonies was as

Order of colonies as to offences against property.

* Some civil cases were improperly included in 1880.

† Exclusive of Maoris. For number of Maoris arrested for each class of offence, see footnote (*) on page 1051.

‡ See, however, paragraph 1750 ante.

follows, the colonies with the largest proportion of such arrests being placed first, and the rest in succession :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY, 1898.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | 5. New Zealand. |
| 2. New South Wales. | 6. Victoria. |
| 3. Queensland. | 7. South Australia. |
| 4. Tasmania. | |

Order of colonies as to drunkenness.

1761. In the matter of drunkenness, Western Australia* also heads the list, with New South Wales next, and Victoria fourth, Tasmania ranking as the most sober colony, in which the proportion in 1898 was only one-sixth of that in Western Australia, less than one-fourth of that in New South Wales and Queensland, less than one-third of that in Victoria, about two-fifths of that in New Zealand, and 32 per cent. less than in South Australia. The tendency has been to a constant yearly decrease in Tasmania, South Australia, and New Zealand; but in Victoria the proportion in 1898 is very little below that in 1880, and is 30 per cent. below that in 1890, since which year there was an annual decrease until 1898, when an exceptional increase occurred. In Queensland, on the other hand, there has been a yearly increase since 1894; whilst in New South Wales the proportion has been about the same during the last six years, although it was less during that period than in 1880, 1885, or 1890. In the following list the colony in which the largest proportion of inebriates was brought before magistrates in 1898 is placed first, and that in which the number was smallest last :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO APPREHENSIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1898.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | 5. New Zealand. |
| 2. New South Wales. | 6. South Australia. |
| 3. Queensland. | 7. Tasmania. |
| 4. Victoria. | |

Order of colonies as to "other offences."

1762. "Other offences," which include vagrancy, insulting behaviour, neglected children, and breaches of various Acts of Parliament and municipal by-laws, are rather violations of good order than actual crimes, and are consequently generally dealt with by summons. Relatively to population, they were, in each year under review, more numerous in Western Australia* than in any other colony. In Western Australia drunkenness was included with these offences until 1894, and consequently the figures, prior to that year, are not comparable with those of the other colonies. The following is the order of the colonies in 1898 in respect to irregularities of this description, the colony in which the proportion was highest being placed first, and that in which it was lowest last :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR "OTHER OFFENCES," 1898.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | 5. New Zealand. |
| 2. Victoria. | 6. Tasmania. |
| 3. New South Wales. | 7. South Australia. |
| 4. Queensland. | |

* See, however, paragraph 1750 ante.

1763. The statistics at hand relating to the United Kingdom give the commitments for trial and convictions in the superior courts, but do not afford any information respecting the cases dealt with in courts of petty sessions. The following table shows the number of commitments and convictions and their respective proportions to the population of each division of the United Kingdom, also the proportion of commitments to convictions during 1880, 1885, 1890, and 1893 to 1898 :—

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1880, 1885, 1890,
AND 1893 to 1898.

Country.	Commitments for Trial.	Convictions.	Proportion of—			
			Commitments to Population.	Convictions to Population.	Convictions to Commitments.	
			per 10,000.	per 10,000.	per cent.	
England and Wales	1880	14,770	11,214	5.74	4.36	75.92
	1885	13,586	10,500	4.99	3.86	77.28
	1890	11,974	9,242	4.16	3.21	77.18
	1893	12,296	9,797	4.14	3.30	79.70
	1894	12,155	9,634	4.04	3.21	79.26
	1895	11,621	9,169	3.82	3.02	78.91
	1896	11,214	8,856	3.65	2.88	78.98
	1897	11,342	8,992	3.65	2.90	79.27
	1898	11,594	9,273	3.65	2.95	79.98
Scotland	1880	2,583	2,046	6.97	5.52	79.21
	1885	2,535	1,956	6.57	5.07	77.16
	1890	2,312	1,825	5.77	4.56	78.94
	1893	2,394	1,903	5.85	4.65	79.49
	1894	2,371	1,937	5.75	4.70	81.70
	1895	2,027	1,652	4.88	3.98	81.50
	1896	2,120	1,704	5.06	4.07	80.38
	1897	2,203	1,796	5.22	4.26	81.56
	1898	2,290	1,877	5.39	4.42	81.97
Ireland	1880	4,716	2,383	9.06	4.58	50.53
	1885	2,850	1,573	5.78	3.19	55.19
	1890	2,061	1,193	4.39	2.54	57.88
	1893	2,339	1,378	5.07	2.99	58.91
	1894	2,408	1,469	5.23	3.19	61.00
	1895	1,775	1,096	3.88	2.39	61.74
	1896	2,055	1,310	4.51	2.87	63.75
	1897	1,855	1,242	4.08	2.77	66.95
	1898	2,111	1,367	4.64	3.01	64.75
Total	1880	22,069	15,643	6.37	4.52	70.88
	1885	18,971	14,029	5.27	3.90	73.94
	1890	16,347	12,260	4.36	3.27	75.00
	1893	17,029	13,078	4.43	3.40	76.80
	1894	16,934	13,040	4.37	3.36	77.00
	1895	15,423	11,917	3.94	3.05	77.27
	1896	15,389	11,870	3.90	3.01	77.14
	1897	15,399	12,029	3.87	3.02	78.11
	1898	16,095	12,517	4.00	3.11	77.77

Crime in United Kingdom.

Decrease of
crime in
United
Kingdom.

1764. According to the commitments for trial, crime, in proportion to population, has fallen off in the United Kingdom by 37 per cent. since 1880, the decrease being most marked in the case of Ireland, where, probably in consequence of political disturbances, the commitments in 1880 were exceptionally numerous. The proportion of both commitments and convictions has usually been most numerous in Scotland, and least so in England; whilst generally the proportion of commitments is least in England and that of convictions least in Ireland.

Crime in
proportion
to adults
in colonies
and Britain.

1765. As scarcely any persons under 15 years of age are committed for trial, it is necessary, in order to ascertain more fairly the relative criminality of the several Australasian Colonies and the various divisions of the United Kingdom, to compare the commitments and convictions which took place in each during 1891 with the population over 15 years of age as enumerated at the census taken in the same year. The following are the results of such a comparison:—

PROPORTION OF COMMITMENTS AND CONVICTIONS TO POPULATION
AGED 15 YEARS AND UPWARDS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES
AND UNITED KINGDOM, 1891.

Per 10,000 Persons Living, aged 15 years and upwards.

Commitments for Trial.		Convictions after Commitment.	
Western Australia	... 29·87	New South Wales	... 13·92
Queensland	... 23·27	Western Australia	... 13·54
New South Wales	... 22·84	Victoria†	... 9·79
Victoria*	... 15·03	Queensland	... 9·79
New Zealand	... 12·28	Tasmania	... 7·06
Tasmania	... 10·98	Scotland ...	... 7·03
Scotland ...	... 9·07	New Zealand	... 5·69
South Australia	... 8·80	England and Wales	... 4·95
Ireland ...	... 6·65	South Australia	... 4·63
England and Wales	... 6·21	Ireland ...	... 3·95

Crime in
Britain
generally
below that
in colonies.

1766. It will be observed that, in proportion to the population of 15 years of age and upwards, the commitments in Scotland were above those in South Australia, and the convictions in Scotland were above those in New Zealand and that colony; also that the convictions in England were above those in South Australia; but, in all other cases, that the commitments and convictions in the British Isles were below those in any of the Australasian colonies.

Proportion of
convictions
to commit-
ments in
colonies and
Britain.

1767. From the following figures it appears that in 1898 conviction followed commitment with more certainty in England and Scotland than in any of the Australasian colonies, but South Australia in this respect stood above Ireland. All the other colonies stand below these, New South Wales being at the bottom of the list with less than 41 convictions to every 100 commitments:—

PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS TO COMMITMENTS IN AUSTRALASIAN
COLONIES AND UNITED KINGDOM, 1898.

	Per cent.		Per cent.
1. Scotland ...	... 82·0	6. Victoria	... 56·4
2. England and Wales	... 80·0	7. Queensland	... 55·5
3. South Australia	... 72·7	8. New Zealand	... 54·9
4. Ireland ...	... 64·7	9. Western Australia	... 46·7
5. Tasmania	... 57·0	10. New South Wales	... 40·7

* Since fallen to 10·40 in 1898.

† Since fallen to 5·88 in 1898.

1768. The Victorian police force is an admirably organized body of men, and although, in proportion to population, it is smaller than similar bodies in the other Australasian Colonies with the exception of New Zealand and South Australia, its efficiency is such that crime is kept effectively in check, and has generally been less rife in Victoria than elsewhere. The following figures show the number of police and the number of persons to each policeman in each colony :—

Police in Australasian colonies

POLICE IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1898.

1. New Zealand	had	533	police, or	1	to	1,395	persons.
2. South Australia	„	382	„	„	„	963	„
3. Victoria	„	1,415	„	„	„	831	„
4. New South Wales	„	1,957	„	„	„	688	„
5. Tasmania	„	274	„	„	„	647	„
6. Queensland	„	829	„	„	„	601	„
7. Western Australia	„	530*	„	„	„	317	„

1769. The following figures show the average number of persons protected by one policeman in each of the Australasian capitals :—

Police in Australasian capitals.

POLICE IN AUSTRALASIAN CAPITAL CITIES, 1898.

1. Adelaide	had	134	police, or	1	to	1,102	persons.
2. Hobart†	„	44	„	„	„	905	„
3. Wellington‡	„	54	„	„	„	874	„
4. Melbourne	„	710	„	„	„	662	„
5. Sydney	„	707	„	„	„	597	„
6. Brisbane	„	198	„	„	„	597	„
7. Perth	„	119	„	„	„	333	„

1770. The numbers of cases tried in the superior courts, viz., the Supreme Court and Court of General Sessions, at the various places throughout the colony where sittings were held in the years 1887, 1890, and 1893 to 1898 were as follows :—

Criminal cases in superior courts.

CRIMINAL CASES.

(Supreme Court and General Sessions 1887, 1890, and 1893 to 1898.)

Year.	Total Number of Cases.	Total Number of Convictions.
1887	661	472
1890	964	662
1893	795	565
1894	736	526
1895	735	462
1896	806	568
1897	627	415
1898	700	446

* Including 82 native trackers.

† Figures for 1897.

‡ The cities of Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin are of about equal importance to Wellington, and the numbers for those cities in 1898 were 50, 41, and 41.

Supreme
Court,
criminal
business.

1771. For the years under review the number of Supreme Court Criminal Sittings were 62, 65, 59, 63, 59, 57, 60, and 56 respectively; and duration of sittings 149, 191, 208, 191, 199, 205, 196, and 185 days respectively; and the number of places where courts were held 18, 19, 18, 19, 16, 18, 19, and 17 respectively.

General
Sessions,
criminal
business.

1772. For the same years the numbers of Courts of General Sessions held were 77, 73, 62, 58, 66, 56, 41, and 61 respectively; duration of sittings 144, 170, 126, 135, 163, 134, 110, and 121 days respectively; and the number of places where such courts were held 28, 27, 23, 25, 25, 24, 17, and 27 respectively.

Supreme
Court, civil
business.

1773. The following table will show the particulars of civil cases entered and tried in the Supreme Court, with the results of the trials, for the years 1887, 1890, and 1893 to 1898 :—

SUPREME COURT, CIVIL CASES.

(1887, 1890, and 1893 to 1898.)

Year.	Number of Places where Sittings held.	Writs issued.	Causes entered for Trial or Assessment of Damages.	Number of Causes tried.		Verdicts for—		Amount claimed.	Amount awarded.
				Defended.	Undefended.	Plaintiff.	Defendant.		
1887	12	4,661	391	159	...	118	43	£ 333,386	£ 22,964
1890	17	6,619	548	297	...	229	67	687,503	68,592
1893	7	4,007	346	245	3	136	58	289,177	82,733
1894	8	3,001	319	201	1	134	56	281,650	49,115
1895	8	2,115	258	186	1	101	33	140,292	41,487
1896	10	1,434	201	141	1	87	42	157,107	14,271
1897	5	1,082	191	132	2	64	37	177,902	21,793
1898	10	1,020	189	138	...	74	35	233,679	9,770

Decrease of
litigation.

1774. It will be seen from the above table that Supreme Court litigation has greatly decreased since 1890, the number of writs issued in 1898 being less than one-sixth the number in 1890. The number of cases tried has also greatly diminished during the same period—although not nearly to the same extent as writs—the number in 1898 being less than half that in 1890; whilst the amount claimed in 1898 was little more than one-third that in 1890, although considerably in excess of that in the three years 1895 to 1897; and the amount recovered only one-seventh of that in 1890, and less than one-half of that in 1897.

1775. The County Courts have jurisdiction in civil cases up to £500, and also above that amount in cases in which the parties mutually agree that the case shall be tried in the County Court, and in cases commenced in the Supreme Court and remitted therefrom to the County Court. The following table will show the number of causes tried, amount sued for, amount recovered, and costs awarded during the years 1887, 1890, and 1893 to 1898 :—

Litigation,
County
Court.

COUNTY COURT CASES 1887, 1890, AND 1893 TO 1898.

Year.	Number of Causes tried.	Amount sued for.	Amount recovered.	Costs awarded to—	
				Plaintiff.	Defendant.
		£	£	£	£
1887	8,370	205,894	79,617	12,336	4,699
1890	12,635	340,028	127,433	15,363	6,072
1893	2,457	339,734	137,826	12,827	7,616
1894	1,781	288,964	119,167	13,127	6,208
1895	1,361	219,285	73,091	7,256	5,514
1896	1,216	175,064	56,990	6,512	3,730
1897	1,070	178,293	50,410	6,969	3,635
1898	973	177,725	51,719	6,076	3,474

1776. From the above table it will be seen that litigation has fallen off in the County Court to a very great extent, the number of causes tried in 1898 being about one-thirteenth of that in 1890; whilst the amount sued for fell off by about one-half, and the amount recovered by two-fifths, costs awarded to plaintiff by less than two-fifths, and those awarded to defendant by more than one-half.

Decrease of
litigation in
County
Court.

1777. The numbers of places where County Courts were held for the years 1887, 1890, and 1893 to 1898 were 64, 63, 51, 52, 50, 48, 54, and 49 respectively; the number of courts held 192, 182, 162, 155, 130, 128, 128, and 127 respectively; and the total duration of courts 452, 386, 489, 452, 437, 402, 385, and 357 days respectively.

County
Courts
business.

1778. Courts of Mines have jurisdiction concerning all questions or disputes which may arise out of mining on Crown lands. The places at which they were held in 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, and 1898 numbered 5, 10, 4, 6, and 5 respectively, and the courts held numbered 6, 18, 10, 12, and 10 respectively, occupying 6, 26, 10, 10, and 7 days respectively. The total number of suits was 5, 17, 11, 6, and 12 respectively, and the aggregate amount or value of demand, £350, £2,741, £198, £1,835, and £99 respectively. The gross amount of costs awarded to the plaintiffs was *nil*, £29, £32, £5, and £33 respectively, and to the defendants £10, £121, £56, £33, and £149 respectively. These figures do not include all mining disputes which took place during the year, as those of minor importance are adjudicated on by the wardens of the gold-fields. In the ten years prior to 1897 the value sued for in Courts of Mines amounted in the aggregate to £16,416. The business has fallen off considerably.

Courts of
Mines.

Petty Sessions, criminal cases.

1779. The following table will show the business of the Courts of Petty Sessions in their criminal jurisdiction for the years 1887, 1890, and 1893 to 1898 :—

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS—CRIMINAL CASES—1887, 1890, AND 1893 TO 1898.

Year.	Number of Places where Courts held.	Indictable Offences.		Summary Jurisdiction.	
		Cases heard.	Committed for Trial.	Cases heard.	Convictions.
1887	230	2,176	853	56,860	38,742
1890	239	2,648	1,096	62,136	44,515
1893	240	2,626	983	44,089	32,025
1894	245	2,414	832	38,413	28,036
1895	236	2,380	819	37,947	28,081
1896	237	2,408	905	42,301	32,439
1897	240	1,863	696	44,473	34,024
1898	238	2,215	789	45,761	34,824

Petty Sessions, decrease in crime.

1780. It will be seen from the above table that there has been a considerable falling off in the number of indictable offences and committals for trial, although those in 1898 were not so low as in 1897. There was also a great falling off in cases summarily dealt with until 1895, but a yearly increase since.

Petty Sessions Litigations.

1781. Courts of Petty Sessions have jurisdiction in ordinary civil cases, trover and conversion, and in master and servant cases, up to £50 ; and also jurisdiction in regard to appeals against municipal rates, purification of voters' roll, &c. The following table shows the business of such courts for the years 1887, 1890, and 1893 to 1898 ; and it will be observed that there has been a falling off year by year from 1893 until 1897 in the number of cases and amounts claimed and awarded. The number in 1898, however, showing an increase on that of 1897 :—

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS : CIVIL CASES 1887, 1890, AND 1893 TO 1898.

Year.	Number of Places where Courts held.	Number of Cases heard.	Amount Claimed.	Amount Awarded.	Percentage of Awards to Claims.
1887	230	23,115	£ 141,821	£ 78,023	55
1890	239	30,466	196,917	132,663	67
1893	240	35,203	219,322	178,731	82
1894	245	32,564	193,007	156,140	81
1895	236	30,609	168,143	138,722	83
1896	237	26,067	132,230	108,945	82
1897	236	23,163	117,978	95,257	81
1898	238	24,113	124,844	108,380	87

1782. The net results of the civil cases tried in 1898 may be gathered from the following table, which shows the total amount of debts and damages sued for in the various courts, and the aggregate value of the awards, also the percentage of the latter to the former, in 1898 and the previous decennium. It will be noticed that the whole amount at stake was £536,248, and that less than one-third was recovered :—

DEBTS AND DAMAGES CLAIMED AND AWARDED.*

Name of Court.	Amount of Debts and Damages, 1898.		Proportion of Debts and Damages Recovered.	
	Claimed.	Awarded.	1898.	Average of previous Ten Years.
Supreme Court	£ 233,679	£ 9,770	per cent. 4 $\frac{1}{3}$	per cent. 13
County Courts	177,725	51,719	29	38
Courts of Petty Sessions ...	124,844	108,380	86 $\frac{1}{3}$	74
Total	536,248	169,869	31 $\frac{2}{3}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$

1783. The number of writs† issued in 1898, in the six bailiwick into which the colony is divided, was 268 as against 337 in 1897 and 510 in 1896, or 173 less than in the previous year. Of the whole number in 1898, 5 were Queen's writs against both person and property, 9 were subjects' writs against the person alone, and 254 were subjects' writs against property alone.

1784. Places for the reception of prisoners in Victoria are of three kinds: ordinary gaols, police gaols, and a penal establishment. The ordinary gaols and the penal establishment are houses of correction. The police gaols are used for the detention of prisoners sentenced to very short periods of imprisonment, or awaiting trial or transfer to some other gaol or penal establishment, or to a lunatic asylum.

* The amounts claimed and awarded, especially in the Supreme Court, are not strictly comparable, for whereas the amount claimed is set down for every case entered, whether tried or not, the amount awarded obviously only applies to cases actually tried. In the Supreme Court only about two-thirds of the cases entered are actually tried.

† I.e. writs received by the Sheriff for enforcing orders or judgments of the Court, not ordinary writs commencing an action.

1785. The gross, distinct, and the average number of prisoners detained in each description of prison during 1894 to 1898 will be found in the following table :—

GAOLS AND PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS, 1894 TO 1898.*

Year.	Description of Prison.	Number of Institutions.	Prisoners Detained during the Year.								
			Gross Number. †			Distinct Individuals. ‡			Daily Average.		
			M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1894	Gaols ...	9	6,716	2,031	8,747	6,563	1,607	8,170	688	329	1,017
	Penal Establishment	1	953	...	953						
	Police Gaols	6	596	28	624							506	24	530	10	1	11
	Total ...	16	8,265	2,059	10,324	7,069	1,631	8,700	1,285	330	1,615
1895	Gaols ...	9	6,119	1,720	7,839	6,007	1,393	7,400	657	215	872
	Penal Establishment	1	828	...	828						
	Police Gaols	6	518	31	549							440	27	467	11	1	12
	Total ...	16	7,465	1,751	9,216	6,447	1,420	7,867	1,208	216	1,424
1896	Gaols ...	9	6,188	1,753	7,941	6,035	1,351	7,386	597	193	790
	Penal Establishment	1	841	...	841						
	Police Gaols	6	530	25	555							450	21	471	13	1	14
	Total ...	16	7,559	1,778	9,337	6,485	1,372	7,857	1,153	194	1,347
1897	Gaols ...	9	6,108	1,790	7,898	5,747	1,271	7,018	530	181	711
	Penal Establishment	1	824	...	824						
	Police Gaols	6	461	25	486							391	21	412	8	1	9
	Total ...	16	7,393	1,815	9,208	6,138	1,292	7,430	1,044	182	1,226
1898	Gaols ...	9	7,089	1,955	9,044	6,202	1,294	7,496	579	222	801
	Penal Establishment	1	806	...	806						
	Police Gaols	6	471	31	502							370	21	391	8	1	9
	Total ...	16	8,366	1,986	10,352	6,572	1,315	7,887	1,065	223	1,288

* In 1899, the gross number of prisoners was 10,018, the distinct individuals 7,651, and the daily average 1,197.

† Exclusive of prisoners transferred from one gaol to another. The numbers here given represent imprisonments, each person being counted afresh every time imprisoned.

‡ See table following paragraph 1790 *post*. The numbers in police gaols have been estimated.

1786. According to this table, the number of individual prisoners detained, during the whole or some portion of 1898, in the gaols and penal establishments of the colony, was 7,887, viz., 6,572 males and 1,315 females. This total number was 457 larger than in 1897, and slightly larger than in 1895 or 1896, but much smaller than in 1894.

Decrease of distinct prisoners since 1894.

1787. Comparing the figures for 1898 with those showing the mean population of that year, it appears that 1 person in every 149 persons in the colony, or 1 male in every 90, and 1 female in every 442, passed some portion of the year in prison. In 1897 1 person in every 158, or males 1 in 97, females 1 in 449; in 1896 1 person in 150, males 1 in 92, females 1 in 421; in 1895 1 person in 150, males 1 in 94, females 1 in 404; and in 1894 1 in 135, males 1 in 86, females 1 in 341. In the estimates made no account is taken of persons lodged temporarily in watch-houses, &c., pending examination before magistrates, the prisoners here referred to being only those detained in regular gaols or penal establishments.

Proportion of distinct prisoners to population.

1788. If a comparison be made between the gross number of prisoners (exclusive of transfers) and the distinct prisoners, it will be found that 76.19 per cent. of the prisoners dealt with in 1898—viz., 78.56 per cent. in the case of males, and 66.21 per cent. in the case of females—were distinct individuals, as against 80.76 in 1897, viz., 83.14 males, 71.18 females; in 1896, 84.15, viz., 85.79 males, 77.17 females; in 1895, 85.36, viz., 86.36 males, 81.14 females; and in 1894, 84.27, viz., 85.53 males, and 79.21 females.

Proportion of distinct to gross prisoners.

1789. If the figures in the table showing the average number of prisoners are compared with the mean population, it follows that 1 person in every 911 persons living was constantly in prison during 1898; or, distinguishing the sexes, that, during that year, 1 male in every 560 males living, and 1 female in every 2,617 females living, were constantly in detention. By the following table, which gives the figures for the last six years, it will be seen that the proportion of prisoners to the population has been substantially decreasing, although the proportion in 1898 was somewhat larger than in 1897:—

Proportion of prisoners to population.

PROPORTION OF PRISONERS TO POPULATION, 1893 TO 1898.

Year.	Of the Total Population one Person was constantly in Prison to every—		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1893	428	1,870	680
1894	475	1,728	727
1895	506	2,671	829
1896	527	2,996	874
1897	573	3,202	956
1898	560	2,617	911

Number
of times
individuals
were in
prison.

1790. In the Inspector-General's annual reports a return appears showing the number of times each individual was imprisoned during the year. The following are the particulars for 1898* also the proportions per cent. :—

DISTINCT PRISONERS, 1898.

(Exclusive of those in Police Gaols.)

Number of Times imprisoned during year.	Number.			Percentage.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Once	4,344	883	5,227	70·04	68·24	69·73
Twice	704	183	887	11·35	14·14	11·83
Three times	176	56	232	2·84	4·33	3·09
Four times	61	13	74	·98	1·00	·99
Five times	32	12	44	·52	·93	·59
Six times and upwards †	24	30	54	·39	2·32	·72
Total received ...	5,341	1,177	6,518	86·12	90·96	86·95
In detention at commencement of year ...	861	117	978	13·88	9·04	13·05
Grand Total ...	6,202	1,294	7,496	100·00	100·00	100·00

Prisoners
imprisoned
more than
once.

1791. Adding the numbers at the commencement of the year to those in the first line of the table, it is found that nearly 83 per cent. of the distinct prisoners in 1898 were imprisoned only once during the year, and consequently 17 per cent. were imprisoned more than once. In the case of males, the proportions were 84 and 16 per cent.; and in the case of females $77\frac{1}{4}$ and $22\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. respectively. The tendency of females to be imprisoned over and over again is greater than that of males; thus, during the year, over $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole number of females were imprisoned three times or upwards, and about $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. four times or upwards; whereas only about $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. of the males were imprisoned more than twice, and only $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. more than three times.

Grounds of
imprison-
ment.

1792. The following is a classification of the prisoners in confinement at the end of 1898, according to the grounds in respect to which they were detained. It will be noticed that 77, or over $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.,

* See Inspector-General's Report for 1893, Parliamentary Paper No 22, Session 1899.

† Twelve males and twelve females admitted six times; six males and eight females admitted seven, two males and two females admitted eight, one male and three females nine, one male and three females ten times, two males eleven times, one female thirteen times, and one female fourteen times

were untried ; also that of those tried, three-fifths of the males, and one-half of the females, had been convicted of felony :—

GROUNDS FOR DETENTION OF PRISONERS, END OF 1898.

Grounds for Detention.	Gaols.		Police Gaols.		Penal Establishment.	Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Felony, tried ...	219	34	1	1	347	567	35	602
" untried ...	35	3	1	...	...	36	3	39
Misdemeanours, tried...	110	20	...	...	67	177	20	197
" untried	9	6	3	...	...	12	6	18
Other offences, tried ...	164	134	3	...	36	203	134	337
" untried	13	5	...	...	...	13	5	18
Total ...	550	202	8	1	450	1,008	203	1,211

1793. The total number of prisoners (exclusive of transfers) admitted, in 1898, to ordinary gaols and Pentridge penal establishment was 7,818, but of these 1,115 were imprisoned on charges of vagrancy, some of whom, really received for medical attention or for shelter, went to swell the ranks of the prison population, instead of being otherwise provided for as objects of charity.

Destitution a cause of imprisonment.

1794. During the year 1898 the total number of distinct cases in which prisoners were treated in the gaol hospital on account of sickness was 1,525, as against 1,353 in 1897 ; being in the proportion of 1 case to every 5.2 in 1898, as against 1 to 5.5 in 1897 of the individual prisoners. The daily average number of prisoners incapacitated by reason of sickness was 70, as against 61 in 1897, or 1 in every 18, as against 1 in 19 in 1897, of the average number constantly imprisoned. The greatest number of cases of sickness at any one time was 116, as against 98 in 1897.

Sickness in prisons.

1795. Thirty-nine deaths occurred in prisons during 1898, as against 46 in 1897 ; and there was one criminal executed in 1898, and one in 1897. The deaths were in the proportion of 1 to every 162 of the estimated individual prisoners ; or in the proportion of 1 to every 33 in 1898, and 1 to 28 in 1897, of the daily average number of prisoners detained.

Deaths in prisons.

1796. An abstract of the estimated mean population at various ages, of the average number of prisoners at the same age, and the proportion of the latter to the former, will be found in the following table :—

Ages of prisoners.

AGES OF PRISONERS, 1898.

Ages.	Estimated Mean Population, 1898.	Average Number of Prisoners Constantly Detained. *	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
Under 20 years ...	519,502	109	2.10
20 to 30 " ...	181,719	400	22.01
30 to 40 " ...	204,518	364	17.79
40 to 50 " ...	104,595	190	18.16
50 to 60 " ...	73,071	105	14.37
60 years and upwards ...	89,545	120	13.40
Total ...	1,172,950	1,288	10.98

* Estimated.

Proportion
of prisoners
at various
ages.

1797. It appears from this table that, in 1898, the proportion of prisoners constantly detained to the population was greatest between the ages of 20 and 50. Of persons over 20 living in Victoria, 1 in every 553, as against 1 in 575 in 1897; of those between 20 and 40, 1 in every 504 in 1898, as against 540 in 1897; of those over 40, 1 in every 642, as against 635 in 1897; and of those over 60, 1 in every 744, as against 750 in 1897, were constantly in prison throughout the year.

Birthplaces
and reli-
gions of
prisoners.

1798. The birthplaces and religions of the prisoners constantly detained during the year, deduced from the total numbers of each nationality and religion returned as passing through the institutions, also the totals of the same nationality and religion, living in the colony, are compared in the following table:—

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PRISONERS, 1898.

Native Country and Religion.	Estimated Mean Population.	Average Number of Prisoners Constantly Detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
NATIVE COUNTRY.			
Australasian Colonies	956,434	751	7·85
England and Wales	101,563	209	20·58
Scotland	31,809	64	20·12
Ireland	54,160	159	29·38
China	8,997	13	14·45
Other Countries	19,987	92	46·03
Total	1,172,950	1,288	10·98
RELIGION.			
Protestants	867,779	744	8·57
Roman Catholics	258,108	510	19·76
Jews	6,686	8	11·91
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	6,761	14	20·71
Others	33,616	12	3·57

Relative
numbers
of each
country and
sect.

1799. It will be observed that, in view of their respective numbers in the population, natives of the Australasian Colonies contributed much less than their share to the number of inmates of prisons; but it should be remembered that there is a much larger proportion of children amongst the Victorian-born population; but the Chinese contributed 32 per cent. more, natives of Scotland contributed 83 per cent. more, natives of England and Wales 87 per cent. more, natives of Ireland 167 per cent. more, and natives of other countries 319 per cent. more, than their share to that number; whilst the proportion of Chinese was smaller than that of any other nationality except the natives of Australasia. Also that of the religious denominations shown, Protestants contributed less, but Roman Catholics contributed 80 per cent., Jews 11 per cent., Buddhists, &c., 89 per cent. more than their share to the number of such inmates.

1800. According to the following figures, which show the state of Education of education of prisoners at various periods since 1873, the proportion of those able to read and write has considerably increased, and the proportion of the entirely illiterate has largely diminished since 1873-80 :—

EDUCATION OF PRISONERS, 1873 TO 1898.

Period.	Numbers in every 100—		
	Able to Read and Write.	Able to Read only.	Unable to Read.
1873 to 1876	64	18	18
1877 to 1880	74	8	18
1881 to 1883	83	6	11
1884 to 1886	84	6	10
1887 to 1889	86	4	10
1890 to 1892	88	3	9
1893 to 1895	90	2	8
1896	89	2	9
1897	90	2	8
1898	90	2	8

NOTE.—The present system of free, secular, and compulsory State education was inaugurated in 1873.

1801. The following cases of punishment for offences committed within the prison took place in 1898. It will be observed that solitary confinement, which is said to be more dreaded by prisoners than any other punishment, was prescribed in three-fourths of the cases. The "other punishments" include "separate confinement," which is gradually taking the place of solitary confinement; but do not include whipping, as corporal punishment is not administered in Victoria for any breach of prison regulations :—

PUNISHMENTS FOR OFFENCES WITHIN PRISONS, 1898.

Nature of Punishment.	Gaols.			Penal Establish-ment.	Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Hard labour	2	...	2	7	9	...	9
Solitary confinement ...	722	70	792	484	1,206	70	1,276
Other punishments ...	105	17	122	164	269	17	286
Total	829	87	916	655	1,484	87	1,571

1802. The punishments for offences within the prison, as detailed in the last table, were in the proportion of 1 to every 5 individual prisoners, 1 punishment of a male to every 4 individual male prisoners, 1 punishment of a female to every 15 individual female prisoners.

1803. The gross cost of the maintenance and control of prisoners in 1898 (including cost of stores for manufacturing purposes) was £51,286, as against which there were cash earnings of prisoners amounting to £6,069, which reduces the cost to £45,217.

Prisoners in
Victoria and
New South
Wales.

1804. By the following comparative statement of the number of prisoners detained in the gaols and penal establishments of Victoria and New South Wales at the end of each of the six years ended with 1898, it appears that in proportion to population the average number of prisoners in the mother colony exceeds that in Victoria by 62 per cent. :—

PRISONERS IN VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES, 31ST DECEMBER,
1893 TO 1898.

Year ending 31st December.	Number of Prisoners.		Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.	
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	New South Wales.
1893	1,598	2,440	13·61	19·94
1894	1,463	2,602	12·45	21·03
1895	1,314	2,497	11·14	19·76
1896	1,238	2,354	10·54	18·14
1897	1,248	2,257	10·61	16·93
1898	1,211	2,081	10·30	15·46

Expenditure
on police,
gaols, &c.

1805. In the 34½ years ended with 1898-9, the total amount expended in connexion with the police and penal establishments and gaols of Victoria was £9,631,987, viz., £7,603,875 on the former and £2,028,112 on the latter.* The following table shows the amounts and the amounts per head expended in connexion with the police and the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria during each of the seven years ended with 1898-9. The cost of buildings is not included :—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE, GAOLS, ETC., 1892-3 TO 1898-9.

Year.	Amount expended † on—			Amount per Head of Population.
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Total.	
	£	£	£	s. d.
1892-3	271,162	59,336	330,498	5 8
1893-4	254,864	54,472	309,336	5 3
1894-5	247,344	52,071	299,415	5 1
1895-6	244,054	49,371	293,425	5 0
1896-7	249,136	50,099	299,235	5 1
1897-8	251,351	49,372	300,723	5 1
1898-9	255,991	51,857	307,848	5 3

* For figures for earlier years, see paragraph 672 in issue of this work for 1893, Vol. II.

† Exclusive of the cost of buildings, which amounted in 1892-3 to £20,675, in 1893-4 to £25,118, in 1894-5 to £4,670, in 1895-6 to £4,302, in 1896-7 to £5,475, in 1897-8 to £5,242, and in 1898-9 to £4,091.

1806. By the figures in the last column it will be observed that the police and gaols expenditure fell from 5s. 8d. per head in 1892-3 to about 5s. 3d. in 1898-9, the latest year shown. The average for the last four years being a trifle over 5s 1d. Expenditure per head.

1807. The inquests held in the five years ended with 1898 numbered 1,664, 1,530, 1,628, 1,641, and 1,604 respectively. In 912, 863, 946, 966, and 995 instances respectively the death was found to have resulted from disease or natural causes; in 6, 7, 6, 6, and 3 cases respectively from intemperance; in 733, 652, 657, 654, and 597 cases respectively from violence; in 8, 7, 14, 10, and 7 cases from doubtful causes; and in 5, 1, 5, 5, and 2 cases respectively a verdict of "still-born" was returned. Of the deaths set down to violence, the verdict in 516, 389, 443, 412, and 376 cases respectively was to the effect that the death had resulted from accident; in 28, 24, 17, 17, and 6 respectively from homicide; in 105, 129, 105, 118, and 132 respectively from suicide; in 5, 2, 1, 1, and 1 respectively from execution; and in 79, 108, 91, 106, and 82 cases respectively that the cause of the violent death was doubtful. In 1898 the proportion which verdicts of death from causes other than violence (*i.e.*, "disease or natural causes" and intemperance) bore to the total number of specified verdicts given was 62½ per cent., as compared with 59 in 1897, 58 in 1896, 57 in 1895, 55 per cent. in 1894, and an average of 51 per cent. during the five years 1888 to 1892, and of 55 per cent. in the seven years 1881 to 1887. Inquests in cases of death occurring under suspicious circumstances are held at the discretion of the coroner of the district within which the death takes place, subject to instructions issued by the Governor in Council under the 4th section of the *Coroners Act* 1890 (54 Vict. No. 1077). Inquests.

1808. No fire inquests were held in 1898, 2 were held in 1897, none in 1896, 2 in 1895, 1 in 1894, none in 1893, and 8 in 1892. Under the *Coroners Act* 1890 (54 Vict. No. 1077), fire inquests may be held at the request of any individual who lodges with his application a fee of £5 5s., or in pursuance of Ministerial authority, which is only given when circumstances appear sufficiently suspicious to warrant action being taken. Fire inquests.