

PART VI.

LAW, CRIME, ETC.

A statement, giving the basic principles and main provisions of the law of Victoria, appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 189.

LITIGATION AND LEGAL BUSINESS.

The Supreme Court of Victoria was established in 1852, and although the procedure was entirely remoulded by *The Judicature Act* 1883 (now incorporated in the *Supreme Court Act* 1928), its constitution and powers remain practically unaltered. There were in 1944, six Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and five Puisne Judges.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the last five years:—

VICTORIA—SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1940 TO 1944.

Heading.	Year ended 31st December—				
	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Number of Places at which Sittings were held	7	7	6	8	6
Causes Entered—					
For Assessment of Damages	14	5	3	1	1
For Trial	152	148	137	67	142
Number of Causes Tried—					
By Juries of Six	20	27	34	29	33
By a Judge	24	30	41	22	40
Verdicts returned for—					
Plaintiff	32	45	61	41	56
Defendant	12	12	14	10	17
Amount Awarded	26,573	10,165	17,947	9,764	13,746
Writs of Summons issued	616	604	562	440	546
Other Original Proceedings	122	147	118	111	64
Appellate Proceedings (other than Criminal Appeals heard and determined)—					
By Full Court	45	37	44	32	42
By a Judge	42	51	57	47	39
Fees Collected	3,537	4,347	3,900	2,555	2,583

County Courts. County Courts have jurisdiction, both in equity and common law cases, limited to £500; but actions of tort or contract, commenced in the Supreme Court, may under certain conditions be remitted to the County Court, even although the amount claimed may exceed £500. At the present time County Courts are held at Melbourne and at twelve other places in Victoria. Every Court has jurisdiction throughout the whole of Victoria.

VICTORIA—COUNTY COURT CASES, 1940 TO 1944.

Year ended 31st December.	Number of Causes Tried.	Amount Sued For.	Amount Awarded.
		£	£
1940	1,352	616,248	207,527
1941	2,173	448,292	140,764
1942	1,695	361,644	112,117
1943	1,154	320,882	73,660
1944	976	261,361	55,648

Petty Sessions civil business.

In 1944, Courts of Petty Sessions by stipendiary magistrates and honorary justices were held at 223 places in Victoria. Clerks of courts of ten years' standing, who have passed the prescribed examination, and barristers of five years' standing are eligible for appointment as police magistrates, but there is no legal training or knowledge of the law required as a condition precedent to the appointment of a person as an honorary justice of the peace. The jurisdiction in civil cases is limited to what may be called ordinary debts, damages for assault, and restitution of goods, where the amount in dispute does not exceed £50. Particulars of civil cases, &c., heard during the last five years are as follows:—

VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, ETC., 1940 TO 1944.

Heading.	Year ended 31st December—				
	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Civil Cases—					
Number heard	97,811	73,013	52,786	36,667	30,064
Debts or Damages—					
Claimed	881,744	616,434	468,652	333,543	270,378
Awarded	646,197	431,948	351,886	228,572	186,305
Other Cases—					
Appeals against Rates	1,020	758	413	812	233
Ejectment Cases	2,601	2,034	910	1,784	1,501
Examination of Lunatics	150	304	144	131	118
Fraud Summonses	4,893	3,695	2,616	2,294	1,960
Garnishee Cases	4,611	4,662	3,277	1,644	1,222
Licences and Certificates	15,384	14,043	10,179	10,221	12,124
Maintenance Cases	1,828	1,610	1,263	1,347	1,057
Prohibition Cases	91	41	55	..	..
Show Cause Summonses	5,150	3,705	2,199	1,727	1,523
Other	5,442	4,769	10,615*	9,056	8,027

* Increase as compared with previous years due mainly to cases dealt with under Commonwealth wartime legislation (National Security Regulations, &c.).

Writs by the Sheriff. A statement is given below of the number of writs received by the Sheriff in the last five years.

VICTORIA—WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1940 TO 1944.

Year ended 31st December.	King's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person.	Property.	
1940	10	1	110	121
1941	4	1	73	78
1942	6	1	41	48
1943	1	..	44	45
1944 .. ..	..	..	40	40

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

BANKRUPTCIES.

A Bankruptcy Act passed by the Federal Parliament in October, 1924, and amended in 1927, was brought into operation on 1st August, 1928. It supersedes the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Acts of the States, with the exception of any provisions relating to matters not dealt with in the Federal Act.

The number of sequestrations, &c., in Victoria during each of the five years ended 31st July, 1944, under the *Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act 1924-1933*, and the amount of liabilities and assets relating thereto were as follows:—

VICTORIA—BANKRUPTCIES, 1940 TO 1944.

Year ended 31st July—	Sequestration Orders and Orders for Administration of Deceased Debtors' Estates.	Compositions, Assignments, &c., under Part XI. of the Act.	Deeds of Arrangement under Part XII. of the Act.	Total.
NUMBER.				
1940	266	6	160	432
1941	190	11	112	313
1942	141	1	72	214
1943	73	..	18	91
1944	54	..	7	61
LIABILITIES.				
	£	£	£	£
1940	188,926	24,742	193,683	407,351
1941	149,908	7,933	145,215	303,056
1942	148,615	2,505	101,723	252,843
1943	75,344	..	21,225	96,569
1944	49,591	..	41,455	91,046
ASSETS.				
	£	£	£	£
1940	6,205	17,986	126,869	151,060
1941	34,128	6,138	97,058	137,324
1942	36,024	551	64,814	101,389
1943	25,272	..	14,604	39,876
1944	11,616	..	16,988	28,604

The yearly average number of sequestrations, &c., and the average declared liabilities and assets are shown in the subjoined table for each of the quinquennial periods ended in 1933, 1938 and 1943.

Period.	Yearly Average Number.	Average Declared Liabilities.	Average Declared Assets.
1928-29 to 1932-33 ..	690	£ 1,419,060	£ 1,009,294
1933-34 to 1937-38 ..	381	595,056	274,545
1938-39 to 1942-43 ..	296	297,886	128,033

DIVORCE.

The present law in regard to divorce is contained in the *Marriage Act 1928*, as amended by the *Marriage (Divorce) Act 1933*.

The following table gives the number of petitions filed by husbands and wives respectively, and the number of decrees granted for dissolution of marriage, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage during the year 1944. Every decree of dissolution of marriage is in the first instance a decree *nisi* and is not made absolute till the expiration of not less than three months thereafter.

VICTORIA—DIVORCES, 1944.

	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.
Dissolution of Marriage ..	1,066	866	1,932	914	756	1,670
Judicial Separation ..	1	3	4	..	2	2
Nullity of Marriage ..	14	14	28	12	10	22
Total ..	1,081	883	1,964	926	768	1,694

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1944 were as set out in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DIVORCES, GROUNDS OF, 1944.

Grounds on which Granted.	Dissolution of Marriage.		Judicial Separation.		Nullity of Marriage.	
	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.
Adultery	436	193	..	1	..	..
Bigamy .. ..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Bigamy and adultery ..	..	6	..	..	..	..
Cruelty .. ..	..	5	..	..	..	..
Consanguinity .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Desertion	454	512	..	1	..	..
Desertion and cruelty ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Desertion and drunkenness ..	..	3	..	..	..	..
Desertion and Convictions for crime ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Desertion and adultery ..	8	15	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness (habitual) ..	3	..	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness and cruelty .. ..	..	8	..	..	..	..
Impotence .. ..	..	..	..	..	9	8
Insanity	13	5	..	..	..	..
Sentences for crime .. ..	..	6	..	..	..	..
Sodomy .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Total ..	914	756	..	2	12	10

The following table shows the number of petitioners to whom decrees were granted in 1944, the ages of such petitioners and the number of their issue as at date of decree:—

VICTORIA—DIVORCE PETITIONS GRANTED, AGES OF PETITIONERS AND ISSUE TO EXISTING MARRIAGE, 1944:—

Ages (Years).	Dissolution of Marriage.		Judicial Separation.		Nullity of Marriage.		Number of Children*	
	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.
18 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
19 ..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 ..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	4
21 ..	2	9	..	..	..	..	2	7
22-25 ..	86	63	..	..	4	3	38	50
26-29 ..	148	137	..	..	2	3	107	111
30-34 ..	221	169	..	..	1	..	221	163
35-39 ..	173	147	..	..	1	1	194	185
40-44 ..	111	93	..	1	2	2	147	149
45-49 ..	76	62	..	..	1	..	121	141
50-54 ..	58	40	..	..	..	1	127	93
55-59 ..	20	16	..	..	..	..	47	40
60 ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
61 ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	13	..
62 ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	5	2
63 ..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	7
64 ..	3	2	..	..	..	..	16	6
65 ..	1	2	..	..	..	..	8	..
66 ..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
67 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
68 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
69 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
72 ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
77 ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Not stated	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1
Total ..	914	756	..	2	12	10	1,053	963

* Of the total of 2,016, 2,012 relate to the decrees for dissolution of marriage 3 to the decree for judicial separation and 1 to the decree of nullity of marriages.

Dissolutions of Marriage—Duration and Issue. In the following table particulars are given of the duration of marriage and the issue in respect of the petitions granted for dissolution of marriage during 1944:—

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, PETITIONS GRANTED; DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1944.

Duration of Marriage in Years.	Number of Children.											Total Dissolutions of Marriage.	Total Children.			
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			11		
Under 1 year ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
1 ..	26	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	2
2 ..	42	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	7
3 ..	62	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73	12
4 ..	70	42	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	115	48
5 ..	63	27	8	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	99	46
6 ..	48	30	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	89	52
7 ..	54	41	14	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114	85
8 ..	47	30	21	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	103	89
9 ..	35	37	10	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87	75
10 ..	33	28	15	5	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84	86
11 ..	20	28	15	12	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	79	110
12 ..	14	28	14	5	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64	83
13 ..	14	18	22	5	5	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63	94
14 ..	16	23	15	3	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	74
15 ..	17	13	20	10	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66	107
16 ..	11	13	12	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	53
17 ..	14	10	9	3	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	59
18 ..	10	16	13	5	3	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	81
19 ..	14	16	8	6	6	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	46	61
20 ..	6	11	10	2	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	68
21 ..	3	4	10	9	1	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	84
22 ..	12	11	7	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	51
23 ..	..	9	11	9	3	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	85
24 ..	5	7	6	3	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	48
25 ..	6	5	6	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	56
26 ..	3	2	3	..	3	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	43
27 ..	1	2	3	..	3	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	36
28 ..	2	1	6	3	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	43
29 ..	1	4	4	2	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	41
30 ..	1	2	6	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	47
31 ..	1	3	3	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	10	25
32 ..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	24
33 ..	1	1	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	21
34 ..	..	1	2	..	5	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	9	30
35 ..	..	2	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	14
36 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5
37 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	9
38 ..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
39 ..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	9
40 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	12
42 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	14
43 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7
44 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
45 ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
Total Dissolutions of marriage ..	656	485	290	116	70	26	11	9	4	2	1	..	..	1,670	..	..
Total children ..	..	485	580	348	280	130	66	63	32	18	10	..	..	..	2,012	..

The following table shows the ages of the parties concerned in the decrees for dissolution of marriages, petitions for which had been granted during 1944:—

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, PETITIONS GRANTED—AGES OF PARTIES, 1944.

Ages of Husbands in Years.	Ages of Wives in Years.										Total Husbands.	
	Under 21.	21-25.	26-29.	30-34.	35-39.	40-44.	45-49.	50-54.	55-59.	60 and Over.		Not Stated.
Under 21 ..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
21-25 ..	18	87	15	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	126
26-29 ..	8	106	103	17	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	240
30-34 ..	2	40	152	173	25	3	..	..	..	..	..	395
35-39 ..	1	10	36	129	108	11	4	2	1	..	..	302
40-44 ..	1	1	9	37	95	69	7	4	..	..	..	223
45-49 ..	..	..	1	9	30	56	51	14	3	1	..	165
50-54 ..	..	1	4	4	7	21	42	32	12	..	1	124
55-59 ..	..	..	..	1	2	6	9	15	15	1	..	49
60 and over ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	5	7	9	16	..	39
Not stated ..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
Total wives	31	247	320	377	276	167	118	74	40	18	2	1,670

In 1861 jurisdiction was conferred on the Supreme Court of Victoria in matrimonial matters. The *Divorce Act* 1889, which received the Royal Assent on 13th May, 1890, considerably extended the grounds upon which divorce might be granted.

The following is a statement of the number of decrees granted in Victoria for dissolution of marriage and for judicial separation during the period 1861 to 1890, for the decennial periods 1891-1900 to 1931-40, and for each of the years 1941, 1942, 1943, and 1944.

VICTORIA—DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS, 1861 TO 1944.

Years ended 31st December.	Decrees Granted for—	
	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.
1861-1890	348	71
1891-1900	949	14
1901-1910	1,255	6
1911-1920	2,499	14
1921-1930	4,403	16
1931-1940	6,495	16
1941	833	5
1942	953	2
1943	1,375	1
1944	1,670	2
Total—1891 to 1944	20,432	76
Total—1861 to 1944	20,780	147

RACECOURSE LICENCES.

Racecourse licences and percentage fees.

The *Police Offences Act* 1928 provides that no race-meeting shall be held except on a racecourse which is licensed under such Act for horse races or for pony races or for trotting races. Any licence shall, unless cancelled, be in force for twelve months from the date of its issue. For each such licence there shall be paid into the Consolidated Revenue a fee of £1, and also an annual sum equal to 3 per cent. of the gross revenue from all sources received from such racecourse by the owner or trustees of the racecourse during the year immediately preceding the year for which the licence is required. It is provided, however, that where the gross revenue is less than £1,500 but more than £600, the annual sum payable shall be 2 per cent. of the gross revenue, and where the gross revenue is £600 or less no amount shall be payable. The amounts paid into the Consolidated Revenue in licence fees and percentages on gross revenue during each of the last ten years were as follows:—

VICTORIA—REVENUE FROM RACECOURSE LICENCES AND PERCENTAGE FEES, 1934-35 TO 1943-44.

Year ended 30th June.			Amount.	Year ended 30th June.			Amount.
			£				£
1935	..	..	14,885	1940	..	..	16,710
1936	..	..	15,554	1941	..	..	15,420
1937	..	..	15,718	1942	..	..	15,095
1938	..	..	16,627	1943	..	..	13,525
1939	..	..	17,191	1944	..	..	11,688

CRIME.

Administration of the criminal law.

Information relating to the administration of the criminal law in Victoria appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 196.

CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS.

Alteration in method of tabulation.

The statistics of crime and drunkenness for the years subsequent to 1932 have been compiled on a basis which differs from that for the years 1893 to 1932. The particulars for the years 1933 to 1944 represent, in respect of multiple charges, the total number of all offences with which arrested persons were charged whereas, for the period 1893 to 1932, only the most serious offence in each case was tabulated. Summons cases in 1933 to 1944 relate, as in previous years, to all offences with which a person was charged. The statistics for the last twelve years are comparable, therefore, with those for the years prior to 1893 appearing in earlier issues of the *Year-Book*.

Offences and drunkenness. The subjoined table shows, for a series of years, the numbers of arrest and summons cases, and also the numbers per 1,000 of the population, tabulated according to the only classes of offences for which complete comparisons can be made. The particulars include cases (other than arrests of neglected children) disposed of in Children's Courts.

VICTORIA—OFFENCES AND DRUNKENNESS, 1890 TO 1944.

Year ended 31st December.	Number of Arrest and Summons Cases—				
	Offences Against the Person.	Offences Against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	Total.
1890	4,091	5,036	18,501	36,456	64,084
1895*	2,344	3,336	11,143	20,843	37,666
1900*	2,103	3,106	15,878	28,003	49,090
1910*	1,663	3,052	12,719	34,626	52,060
1920*	1,909	4,877	7,154	42,758	56,698
1930*	1,680	5,078	8,132	41,859	56,749
1940	1,346	7,698	11,619	65,624	86,287
1941	1,380	7,329	12,064	56,230	77,003
1942	1,632	8,210	12,887	51,769	74,498
1943	1,618	8,268	12,561	48,646	71,093
1944	1,660	7,874	12,518	42,837	64,889

Number of Arrest and Summons Cases per 1,000 of Population.					
1890	3·66	4·50	16·54	32·59	57·29
1895*	1·98	2·82	9·41	17·60	31·81
1900*	1·76	2·60	13·31	23·47	41·14
1910*	1·30	2·38	9·92	27·00	40·60
1920*	1·26	3·23	4·73	28·27	37·49
1930*	·94	2·84	4·55	23·44	31·77
1940	·71	4·06	6·12	34·61	45·50
1941	·71	3·75	6·17	28·77	39·40
1942	·83	4·16	6·53	26·24	37·76
1943	·80	4·16	6·32	24·46	35·74
1944	·83	3·93	6·24	21·35	32·35

* See paragraph "Alteration in method of tabulation" on page 253.

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

Other offences. The only serious crimes included under "Other Offences" are forgery, counterfeiting, conspiracy, and perjury. These were very few in number, there having been in Victoria in 1944 only 99 of such charges out of a total of 42,837 in the category to which they belong. A large proportion of the cases under the heading "Other Offences" were merely breaches of various Acts of Parliament, by-laws, &c., which indicate no degree of criminal instinct or intent on the part of the person charged. There were also among them a large number of offences against good order, including insulting behaviour, vagrancy, &c.

If it be desired to compare the above figures with those relating to other States or countries, it is necessary that consideration be given to several points. The first is that the criminal law in the places compared be substantially the same; the second, that it be administered with equal strictness; and the third, that proper allowances be made for differences in the age and sex constitution of the population. These points must also be taken into account in comparing crime in recent years with that in previous periods when there may have been differences in the law and when the population was very differently constituted in regard to sex and age.

Arrests and
summonses
for various
offences.

The following are particulars of the different classes
of offences dealt with by magistrates in 1943 and 1944 :—

VICTORIA—ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS
OFFENCES, 1943.

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Disposed of—				Committed for Trial.	
		Convicted.		Dismissed, Withdrawn, Struck Out.			
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
<i>During 1943.</i>							
Against the Person—							
Murder and attempts at	12	..	..	6	2	2	2
Manslaughter	10	..	..	7	1	2	..
Shooting at, wounding, &c.	78	13	1	26	..	34	4
Assaults	1,246	672	74	394	70	35	1
Others	272	46	5	28	9	166	18
Total	1,618	731	80	461	82	239	25
Against Property—							
Robbery, burglary, &c.	850	235	13	44	1	539	18
Larceny and similar offences	5,750	3,959	439	785	92	416	59
Wilful damage	330	237	9	77	7	..	..
Others	1,338	713	50	323	30	204	18
Total	8,268	5,144	511	1,229	130	1,159	95
Forgery and Offences against the Currency ..	63	5	..	3	..	44	11
Against Good Order—							
Drunkenness*	12,561	11,177	1,267	97	20	..	..
Others	8,219	6,295	759	902	259	4	..
Total	20,780	17,472	2,026	999	279	4	..
Other Offences—							
Breaches of—							
Education Act	10,360	5,796	3,591	515	458	..	..
Licensing Act	4,380	3,000	610	561	209	..	..
Motor Car Act	4,952	4,526	179	222	25	..	..
Traffic Regulations ..	5,398	4,868	416	97	17	..	..
Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act	208	118	29	54	7	..	..
Miscellaneous	15,066	11,773	1,486	1,549	191	51	16
Total	40,364	30,081	6,311	2,998	907	51	16
Grand Total	71,093	53,433	8,928	5,690	1,398	1,497	147

* See footnote on page 258.

VICTORIA—ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1944.

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Disposed of—				Committed for Trial.	
		Convicted.		Dismissed, Withdrawn, Struck Out.		M.	F.
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
<i>During 1944.</i>							
Against the Person—							
Murder and attempts at	15	..	..	11	1	3	..
Manslaughter .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shooting at, wounding, &c.	58	2	..	16	..	34	6
Assaults	1,373	706	78	469	82	37	1
Others	214	23	2	41	1	136	11
Total	1,660	731	80	537	84	210	18
Against Property—							
Robbery, burglary, &c.	777	183	15	41	2	532	4
Larceny and similar offences	5,459	3,658	501	688	85	479	48
Wilful damage	407	279	22	96	9	1	..
Others	1,231	682	31	305	29	168	16
Total	7,874	4,802	569	1,130	125	1,180	68
Forgery and Offences against the Currency ..	72	4	..	2	..	65	1
Against Good Order—							
Drunkenness*	12,518	11,122	1,266	106	24	..	..
Others	7,797	6,096	582	889	222	8	..
Total	20,315	17,218	1,848	995	246	8	..
Other Offences—							
Breaches of—							
Education Act	4,738	2,673	1,490	351	224	..	..
Licensing Act	2,256	1,494	290	358	114	..	..
Motor Car Act	5,081	4,671	115	284	11	..	..
Traffic Regulations ..	6,260	5,662	451	141	6	..	..
Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act	32	25	2	5	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	16,601	13,201	1,613	1,463	257	50	17
Total	34,968	27,726	3,961	2,602	612	50	17
Grand Total	64,889	50,481	6,458	5,266	1,067	1,513	104

* See footnote on page 258.

Arrest and
summons
cases.

Particulars of the arrest and summons cases for the last five years are given in the subjoined table.

VICTORIA—ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES, 1940 TO 1944.

Year ended 31st December.	Arrest Cases.		Summons Cases.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
1940	20,666	2,406	57,516	5,699	86,287
1941	19,710	2,624	48,617	6,052	77,003
1942	22,542	2,515	42,567	6,874	74,498
1943	22,505	2,652	38,115	7,821	71,093
1944	21,575	2,521	35,685	5,108	64,889

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

VICTORIA—DISPOSAL OF ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES, 1940 TO 1944.

Year ended 31st December.	Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Discharged by Magistrates.	Committed for Trial.
1940	86,287	75,712	9,032	1,543
1941	77,003	67,520	8,083	1,400
1942	74,498	66,511	6,565	1,422
1943	71,093	62,361	7,088	1,644
1944	64,889	56,939	6,333	1,617
Number per 10,000 of Population.				
1940	455·0	399·3	47·6	8·1
1941	394·0	345·5	41·3	7·2
1942	377·6	337·1	33·3	7·2
1943	357·4	313·5	35·6	8·3
1944	323·5	283·8	31·6	8·1

NOTE.—The convictions in respect of drunkenness include those cases in which offenders were discharged by magistrates on a first appearance. Prior to 1936 such cases were not treated as convictions.

Children's Courts.

The jurisdiction of Children's Courts is limited to children under the age of seventeen years. In 1939, the Children's Court Office was re-organized and the appointment was made of a Stipendiary Special Magistrate with jurisdiction throughout the State. He has the assistance of two Stipendiary Probation Officers who investigate problem cases which come before the Court. A clinic has been established for the purpose of dealing with cases referred to it by the Court.

The table which follows shows the number of cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts during the year 1944.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF, 1944.

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Disposed of—				Committed for Trial.	
		Convicted.		Dismissed, Withdrawn, Struck Out.		M.	F.
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
Against the Person—							
Assaults	84	68	1	12	1	2	..
Others	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Total	85	68	2	12	1	2	..
Against Property—							
Larceny, &c. ..	2,757	2,332	98	316	11	..	..
Wilful Damage ..	207	164	3	39	1	..	..
Others	135	109	1	24	1	..	..
Total	3,099	2,605	102	379	13	..	..
Against Good Order—							
Drunkenness	8	6	1	1	..	..	..
Others	226	204	4	17	1	..	..
Total	234	210	5	18	1	..	..
Other Offences, &c.—							
Traffic Offences ..	696	589	70	35	2	..	..
Other Offences ..	531	438	48	44	1	..	..
Neglected Children ..	326	168	117	29	12	..	..
Total	1,553	1,195	235	108	15	2	..
Grand Total	4,971	4,078	344	517	30	2	..

The number of cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts in each of the last five years is given in the following statement:—

**VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF
1940 TO 1944.**

Nature of Offence.	Year ended 31st December—				
	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Against the Person—					
Assaults	60	70	82	111	84
Others	10	4	11	4	1
Against Property—					
Larceny, &c.	3,031	3,383	3,865	3,426	2,757
Wilful Damage	136	185	146	157	207
Others	114	261	296	152	135
Against Good Order—					
Drunkenness	9	10	25	22	8
Others	234	249	278	183	226
Traffic Offences	589	589	731	722	696
Other Offences	346	240	240	560	531
Neglected Children	558	527	604	701	326
Total	5,087	5,518	6,278	6,038	4,971
Summarily Convicted	4,232	4,557	5,414	5,156	4,422
Summarily Dismissed, &c. ..	852	958	860	878	547
Committed for Trial	3	3	4	4	2

The following statement gives particulars of the manner in which the cases in the Children's Courts were disposed of by magistrates in 1944:—

**Children's
Courts—cases,
how dealt with.**

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES, HOW DEALT WITH, 1944.

How dealt with.	1944.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Adjourned for period without probation ..	1,052	63	1,115
Released on probation	968	39	1,007
Committed to care of Children's Welfare Department	324	99	423
Committed to reformatory	45	..	45
Committed to care of a private person or institution	14	4	18
Fined	1,086	105	1,191
Released under Section 356 of <i>Crimes Act</i> 1928	9	..	9
Dismissed on payment of costs or damages or both	14	4	18
Discharged upon surety	37	1	38
Sentenced to term of imprisonment	7	..	7
Sentenced to imprisonment, the execution of which has been suspended	45	1	46
Convicted and discharged	322	18	340
Discharged with a caution	126	8	134
Otherwise dealt with	29	2	31
Summarily Convicted	4,078	344	4,422
Summarily Dismissed, &c.	517	30	547
Committed for Trial	2	..	2
Grand Total	4,597	374	4,971

Children's Courts—probation cases.

In the following table particulars are given of the cases in which children were released on probation by magistrates in Children's Courts during the last five years.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: PROBATION CASES, 1940 TO 1944.

Year ended 31st December.	Cases Released on Probation.	Results of Probation.		
		Satisfactory.	Fair.	Unsatisfactory.
		%	%	%
1939	1,401	90	4	6
1940	1,291	82	8	10
1941	1,254	81	9	10
1942	1,449	81	9	10
1943	1,122	79	7	14
1944	1,007	78	9	13

Arrest cases
summarily
disposed of by
magistrates.

The following is a statement of the arrest cases summarily disposed of by magistrates in Courts of Petty Sessions during 1943 and 1944:—

VICTORIA—ARREST CASES SUMMARILY DISPOSED OF BY MAGISTRATES IN COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS, 1943 and 1944.

How disposed of.	Year ended 31st December—					
	1943.			1944.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	8,400	848	9,248	9,459	955	10,414
Imprisonment for—						
Under 1 month	3,821	486	4,307	3,080	418	3,498
1 month and under 6 months ..	1,614	185	1,799	1,407	147	1,554
6 months and under 12 months ..	216	37	253	209	33	242
1 year and under 2 years	32	2	34	42	..	42
2 years	1	..	1	..	..	..
Admonished	4,183	463	4,646	3,459	417	3,876
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety ..	438	126	564	387	140	527
Sent to Reformatory Schools, &c... ..	248	20	268	30	..	30
Otherwise dealt with	625	51	676	627	59	686
Total Convicted	19,578	2,213	21,791	18,700	2,169	20,869
Dismissed, Withdrawn, Struck Out	1,580	317	1,897	1,521	269	1,790
Total summarily disposed of	21,158	2,530	23,688	20,221	2,438	22,659

Committals for
trial—convic-
tions.

The following table shows the offences of distinct persons who were convicted in the Supreme Court and in Courts of General Sessions during 1943 and 1944. Where a person was charged with more than one offence, the principal offence only has been counted:—

VICTORIA—COMMITTALS FOR TRIAL, DISTINCT PERSONS CONVICTED, 1943 AND 1944.

Offence.	Year ended 31st December—					
	1943.			1944.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Against the Person—						
Murder	2	..	2	2	..	2
Manslaughter	3	1	4	4	..	4
Wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm, &c.	14	2	16	21	1	22
Rape and other offences against females	54	..	54	48	..	48
Unnatural offences	24	..	24	22	..	22
Indecent assault on males	17	..	17	11	..	11
Bigamy	34	14	48	32	10	42
Assault	6	..	6	8	..	8
Demanding money with menaces ..	..	5	5	2	3	5
Other	4	5	9	2	3	5

VICTORIA—COMMITTEES FOR TRIAL, DISTINCT PERSONS CONVICTED,
1943 and 1944—*continued.*

Offence.	Year ended 31st December—					
	1943.			1944.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Against Property—						
Robbery and Stealing from the Person	19	2	21	19	1	20
Burglary, Housebreaking, &c.	255	12	267	281	5	286
Stealing Horses, Cattle, and Sheep	5	..	5	2	..	2
Other Larceny	190	27	217	163	19	182
Embezzlement	15	..	15	8	..	8
Fraud and False Pretences	18	..	18	15	1	16
Receiving	44	2	46	55	6	61
Arson, Incendiarism .. .. .	..	1	1	5	..	5
Other	6	1	7	5	1	6
Forgery and offences against the Currency	10	7	17	15	..	15
Other offences—						
Perjury and Subornation	7	6	13	8	2	10
Conspiracy	7	2	9	4	..	4
Breaches of Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act 1928	1	2	3	..	4	4
Other	7	..	7	6	1	7
Total	742	84	826	738	54	792

Drunkness. The number of persons and the number per 1,000 of the population arrested or summoned for drunkness during the last five years are given hereunder.

VICTORIA—PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR
DRUNKENNESS, 1940 TO 1944.

Year ended 31st December.	Number of Persons—			Number per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1938	11,282	29	11,311	6·06
1939	11,577	32	11,609	6·17
1940	11,590	29	11,619	6·12
1941	12,035	29	12,064	6·17
1942	12,857	30	12,887	6·53
1943	12,527	34	12,561	6·32
1944	12,449	69	12,518	6·24

The continuity of the above statistics has not been materially affected by the alteration in the method of tabulation referred to on page 253.

Drunkness—Comparison with previous years. If the amount of drunkness in proportion to population, as measured by the number of arrests therefor, be represented as 100 for the period 1874–78, the corresponding numbers for subsequent periods will show the comparative increase or decrease. These numbers are given in the following table :—

VICTORIA—DRUNKENNESS, 1874 TO 1944.

Years ended 31st December.	Index Number.	Years ended 31st December.	Index Number.
1874-78	100	1928-32	30
1879-85	88	1933-37	36
1886-92	106	1938	41
1893-97	65	1939	42
1898-1902	84	1940	42
1903-07	77	1941	42
1908-12	68	1942	44
1913-17	59	1943	43
1918-22	32	1944	43
1923-27	41		

A considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown for the five years 1893-97, which was a period of general depression, followed by an increase in the subsequent five-yearly period. A similar trend is shown for the depression years 1928-32 and subsequent years. In the middle of the year 1915, an Act was passed reducing the number of hours during which alcoholic liquors could be sold in hotels, and a further reduction was made in the following year. This possibly accounts for the marked decrease in the number of arrests for drunkenness in the period immediately following.

**Young persons
charged
with
drunkenness.**

The accompanying table shows for the last five years the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness.

VICTORIA—ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1940 TO 1944.

Year ended 31st December.	Number.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
1940	*	*	142
1941	*	*	126
1942	156	24	180
1943	150	20	170
1944	169	23	192

* Not available.

REGULATION OF LIQUOR TRADE.**Licences
Reduction
Board.**

Information relating to the nature of the duties of and the powers vested in the Licences Reduction Board is given in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, page 476, and in that for 1928-29, page 213.

To 31st December, 1944, 1,861 hotels had been closed by the Board or had surrendered their licences. Of these hotels 530 were located in metropolitan districts, and the compensation paid amounted to £581,662, or an average of £1,097 each. There were 1,331 hotels closed in country districts, and compensation amounting to £719,829 was paid, or an average of £541 each. The total sum paid in compensation in all districts of the State was £1,301,491, or an average of £699 for each hotel.

In addition to the above closings, the following have been deprived of their licences as a result of the local option poll held on 21st October, 1920:—5 spirit merchants, 4 grocers, 1 club, and 4 Australian wine licensees. The amount of compensation awarded was £550. Since 1922, 11 grocers' and 98 Australian wine licences have been taken away, for which compensation to the amount of £20,206 has been awarded.

**Improvement
and Extension
of Licensed
accommodation.**

A section of the Board's work which has grown rapidly in extent and importance since 1922 is the consideration given to enforcing improvement in the type of structure and in the class of accommodation of licensed houses.

Since 1922 plans have been passed by the Board for new and improved licensed premises, the estimated cost thereof being £6,080,615 exclusive of the cost of sewerage and new equipment. National Security Regulations have restricted since 1940 all building operations in regard to hotels. During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1944, only £7,042 was expended throughout the State.

**Number of
Hotels.**

The following return shows the number of hotels, including roadside licences, in Victoria in 1885, 1906, and certain subsequent years, and the average number of persons to each hotel in those years. The years 1885 and 1906 have been selected because in those years important alterations were made in the liquor licensing laws.

VICTORIA—NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885 TO 1944.

Year ended 31st December.	Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.*	Average Number of Persons to each Hotel.
1885	969,200	4,339	223
1906	1,219,832	3,520	347
1930	1,792,605	1,803	994
1935	1,843,023	1,744	1,057
1940	1,918,660	1,691	1,135
1941	1,952,153	1,683	1,160
1942	1,969,977	1,671	1,179
1943	1,988,938	1,670	1,191
1944	2,005,600	1,666	1,204

* Including Roadside Licences.

During the period 1885 to 31st December, 1944, 227 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 1,861 were deprived of or surrendered their licences, and 60 hotel licences lapsed. During the period 1907 to 31st December, 1944, 79 new licences were granted.

The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1944, amounted to £402,287. The amounts received from the various sources were :—Licences, certificates, &c., £382,649 ; interest on investments, £10,982 ; fees and fines, £8,547 ; and miscellaneous, £109. The expenditure, which totalled £402,287, consisted of the following items :—Annual payments to municipalities, £59,032, compensation, £4,585 ; transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 311 of Act No. 3717, £23,000 ; transferred to revenue under section 312 of Act No. 3717, as amended by Act No. 4909, £295,464 ; and salaries, expenses, &c., £20,206. The amount at credit of the fund at 30th June, 1944, was £410,976, of which £341,000 was invested.

The trading hours* of hotels in Victoria are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., but trading is not permitted on Sundays, Anzac Day (25th April), and Good Friday. The various legislative enactments, which from time to time have curtailed such trading hours, are given in the *Year-Book* for 1935-36, page 110.

A statement, giving particulars of the provisions of the Local Option Acts of 1920 and 1922 appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, pages 211 and 212.

* By National Security Regulations, the trading hours in the Metropolitan Electoral District were, as from 24th August, 1942, confined to the period between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Local option poll held 21st October, 1920.

Particulars relating to the Local Option Poll, held on 21st October, 1920, are given in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 211.

Hotels closed by local option.

During the period 1885 to 1938, compensation paid to the 227 hotels closed as the result of local option polls amounted to £224,870, or an average of £990 for each hotel. This sum was provided out of the Licensing Fund, and, when this was insufficient for the purpose, out of Consolidated Revenue.

Licensing polls 1930 and 1938.

On the 29th March, 1930, a Referendum, called a Licensing Poll, was conducted under Part XIV. of the *Licensing Act 1928* (as amended) to determine whether or not licences should be abolished throughout Victoria. The Act provides that the resolution shall be carried if three-fifths at least in number of the votes given is in favour of the resolution. The poll was State-wide, and was the first of the octennial polls provided for by the *Licensing Act of 1922* (now incorporated in the *Licensing Act 1928*). A similar poll was held on the 8th October, 1938. Particulars relating to the number of votes recorded at each of these polls appears in the *Year-Book* for 1939-40, page 71.

Consumption of beer.

The estimated quantity of beer consumed in Victoria in each of the last five years was as follows :—

CONSUMPTION OF BEER IN VICTORIA, 1940 TO 1944.

Year ended 30th June.	Quantity of Beer Consumed.	Per Head of Population.
	gallons	gallons
1940	24,524,500	12·97
1941	26,364,500	13·90
1942	27,288,500	13·96
1943	25,113,950	12·73
1944	25,549,300	12·85

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

Gaols and prisoners. In Victoria there are 4 gaols and 4 reformatory prisons as set out hereunder. The following statement contains information (other than for police gaols) for the year 1943 in regard to the accommodation for prisoners, the daily average number in confinement, the number received during the year, and the number in confinement at the end of the year:—

VICTORIA—GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1943.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received (including transfers).		In Confinement at end of year.*	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge	908	83	803	70·3	5,708	913	754	73
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	62	3	53	0·7	170	2	59	..
Ballarat Gaol	66	18	51	..	267	..	42	..
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	78	..	48	..	28	..	48	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	91	..	79	..	95	..	70	..
Coorlemungle Prison Camp	32	..	30	..	76	..	32	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison ..	52	..	48	..	47	..	46	..
Sale Gaol	26	9	8	..	58	..	6	..
Total	1,315	113	1,120	71·0	6,449	915	1,057	73

* Including 33 males and 8 females awaiting trial.

VICTORIA—GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1944.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received (including transfers).		In Confinement at end of year.*	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge	951	89	840	66·7	5,260	761	786	48
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	62	3	56	0·3	183	1	57	..
Ballarat Gaol	66	18	..	..	279	..	49	..
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	78	..	..	..	49	..	49	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	91	..	..	..	69	..	63	..
Coorlemungle Prison Camp	32	..	31	..	50	..	30	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison ..	52	..	45	..	45	..	46	..
Sale Gaol	26	9	10	..	45	..	6	..
Total	1,358	119	982	66·10	5,935	762	1,086	48

* Including 31 males and 2 females awaiting trial.

The number of prisoners received at and discharged from the gaols and reformatory prisons (excluding police gaols) in Victoria is given in the following table for the years 1943 and 1944:—

VICTORIA—PRISONERS RECEIVED AT AND DISCHARGED FROM GAOLS AND REFORMATORY PRISONS, 1943 AND 1944.

(Exclusive of Police Gaols.)

Classification.	1942.			1943.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number in Confinement at 31st December, 1942, and 31st December, 1943—						
Convicted	1,066	43	1,109	1,024	65	1,089
Awaiting trial	46	3	49	33	8	41
Total	1,112	46	1,158	1,057	73	1,130
Received during 1943 and 1944—						
Convicted of—						
Felony	1,413	145	1,558	1,381	106	1,487
Misdemeanour	2,851	428	3,279	2,459	363	2,822
Other offences	421	38	459	492	70	562
Transfers from—						
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons	389	1	390	424	2	426
Hospitals, Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c.	24	2	26	34	6	40
For Trial, not subsequently convicted	1,351	301	1,652	1,225	215	1,440
Total	6,449	915	7,364	6,015	762	6,777
Discharged during 1943 and 1944—						
By remission of sentence	558	39	597	495	46	541
On expiration of sentence and payment of fines	3,902	516	4,418	3,524	484	4,008
Bailed to appeal	19	6	25	13	2	15
On bond from Court, Judge's Order, Attorney-General's Order, &c.	22	15	37	55	12	67
By special authority	13	6	19	27	8	35
On parole	182	2	184	163	1	164
Died	2	..	2	3	..	3
Executed .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deported	5	..	5	4	..	4
Absconded	11	..	11	15	..	15
Transfers to—						
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons	396	1	397	428	1	429
Hospitals, Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c.	30	7	37	37	12	49
Unconvicted	1,364	296	1,660	1,222	221	1,443
Total	6,504	888	7,392	5,986	787	6,773
Number in Confinement at 31st December, 1943, and 31st December, 1944—						
Convicted	1,024	65	1,089	1,055	46	1,101
Awaiting trial	33	8	41	31	2	33
Total	1,057	73	1,130	1,086	48	1,134

The following table shows the number of prisoners under sentence. under sentence at the end of each of the last ten years:—

VICTORIA—PRISONERS UNDER SENTENCE, 1935 TO 1944.

At 31st December.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Number per 1,000 of Population.
1935	1,118	41	1,159	6·29
1936	1,057	37	1,094	5·31
1937	955	34	989	5·32
1938	1,043	41	1,084	5·71
1939	1,107	37	1,144	6·06
1940	998	48	1,046	5·45
1941	904	35	939	4·82
1942	1,066	43	1,109	5·55
1943	1,024	65	1,089	5·48
1944	1,055	46	1,101	5·49

A statement is given below of the daily average number of prisoners in detention in the gaols of the State in the last year of each of the decennial periods 1871 to 1941 inclusive, and in each of the last three years.

VICTORIA—DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1943.

Year ended 31st December.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners in Confinement.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1871	1 345	274	1,619
1881	1,294	304	1,598
1891	1,550	350	1,900
1901	951	200	1,151
1911	713	100	813
1921	741	54	795
1931	1,391	50	1,441
1940	1,128	53	1,181
1941	1,023	50	1,073
1942	1,077	52	1,129
1943	1,120	71	1,191
1944	1,152	67	1,219

The *Indeterminate Sentences Act* 1908 came into force on 1st July of that year. It is now incorporated in the *Crimes Act* 1928. The principal provisions are—

1. The adoption of the indeterminate sentence for (a) habitual criminals, and (b) certain classes of other offenders.
2. The appointment of an Indeterminate Sentences Board.
3. The establishment of reformatory prisons.
4. A system of probation applicable to adults as well as to minors.

The Board was appointed on 18th August, 1908. A statement of its chief functions appears in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, pages 106 to 108.

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

VICTORIA—PRISONERS UNDER INDETERMINATE DETENTION, 1940 TO 1944.

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year ended 30th June—				
	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	73	59	46	51	64
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	65	55	43	43	50
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	97	58	70	79	71
Geelong Reformatory Prison ..	6	6	*	*	*
McLeod Settlement, French Island ..	49	47	52	51	45
Total	290	225	211	224	230

* By order of the Governor in Council this institution ceased to be a reformatory gaol as from and inclusive of 16th February, 1942.

Probation officers to supervise first offenders released by the courts on recognizance under the provisions of the *Crimes Act* 1928 are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Board. A number of persons connected with religious and philanthropic organizations have been appointed to the office, which is honorary.

From 1st July, 1908, to 30th June, 1944, admissions to the several reformatories totalled 5,059 (5,008 males and 51 females). Particulars of those released on parole or probation (inclusive of cases released more than once) and of those otherwise dealt with during the same period are given hereunder :—

Heading.	Number.	Per Cent.
Reconvicted or returned to prison	1,821	35·99
Probation satisfactorily completed	2,155	42·6
Still on parole or probation	374	7·39
Deaths—		
In institutions	27	0·53
On parole or probation	27	0·53
Escapes*	197	3·89
Released by Special Authority, deported, effluxion of time, &c.	228	4·52
In institutions at 30th June, 1944	230	4·55
Total to 30th June, 1944	5,059	100·00

* Of 197 who escaped, 177 were subsequently recaptured.

POLICE PROTECTION.

Numerical strength of Police Force in Victoria.

The following table shows the numbers in the various ranks of the police force in Victoria on 31st December, 1944:—

VICTORIA—POLICE FORCE, CLASSIFICATION AND NUMERICAL STRENGTH AT 31st DECEMBER, 1944.

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner	1	..	1
Superintendents	3	8	11
Chief Inspectors	1	..	1
Inspectors	8	5	13
Sub-Inspectors	19	6	25
Sergeants, First class	30	15	45
Sergeants, Second class	44	10	54
Senior Constables	165	74	239
Senior Constables (brevet rank)	2	..	2
First Constables	644	375	1,019
Constables	441	80	521
Total	1,358	573	1,931
<i>Detectives.</i>			
Superintendent	1	..	1
Inspectors .. .. .	..	..	..
Sub-Inspectors	6	..	6
Sub-Inspector (brevet rank)	1	..	1
Sergeants, First class	5	..	5
Sergeants, Second class	2	..	2
Senior Detectives	27	2	29
First Detectives	89	13	102
Detectives	14	..	14
Total	145	15	160
<i>Mounted.</i>			
First Constables	21	73	94
Constables	5	19	24
Total	26	92	118
Grand Total	1,529	680	2,209

The above particulars include 12 police-women, and 37 members with Defence Forces, but exclude 29 recalled police pensioners, 50 members of the Victoria Police Women's Auxiliary, 4 members of the Police Auxiliary Force, 3 matrons, and 1 black tracker.

The following statement gives the numerical strength of the police force in Victoria and the number of inhabitants to each police officer at the end of each of the last ten years:—

VICTORIA—POLICE FORCE, NUMERICAL STRENGTH,
1935 to 1944.

Year ended 31st December.	Total Strength Including Police-women.	Number of Inhabitants to Each Police-officer.	Year ended 31st December.	Total Strength Including Police-women.	Number of Inhabitants to Each Police-officer.
1935 ..	2,247	820	1940 ..	2,352*	824
1936 ..	2,289	809	1941 ..	2,327*	838
1937 ..	2,280	815	1942 ..	2,318*	855
1938 ..	2,271	825	1943 ..	2,263*	882
1939 ..	2,313*	816	1944 ..	2,209*	908

* Including members with Defence Forces but excluding recalled Police Pensioners.

Expenditure on police, gaols, &c.

The next table shows the total amount and the amount per head of population expended from Consolidated Revenue in connexion with the police, and with the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria, in each of the last five years.

VICTORIA—EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS,
1939-40 TO 1943-44.

Year ended 30th June.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Maintenance, &c.		Buildings and Rents.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.		
	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.
1940 ..	799,450	122,260	32,527	9,306	963,543	10 2
1941 ..	800,071	129,850	32,143	6,264	968,328	10 2
1942 ..	813,010	136,193	30,557	5,875	985,635	10 1
1943 ..	1,019,144	143,716	33,007	7,542	1,203,409	12 2
1944 ..	1,073,304	159,226	32,279	5,757	1,270,566	12 9

Executions. During the 39 years ended with 1944 there were only fourteen executions in Victoria, one of which took place in 1908, one in 1912, two in 1916, two in 1918, one in 1922, one in 1924, one in 1932, two in 1936, two in 1939, and one in 1941. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 182 criminals (178 males and 4 females) have been executed within the State on account of the following offences:—Murder, 142; attempted murder, 17; robbery with violence, 9; burglary and wounding, 1; sexual offences, 12; and arson 1.

Inquests. The number of inquest cases in Victoria during each of the last five years is given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—INQUESTS, 1940 TO 1944.

Year ended 31st December.	Inquests into the Deaths of—			Total Persons per 1,000 Deaths.
	Males.	Females.	Total Persons.	
1940	1,190	509	1,699	83·7
1941	1,139	568	1,707	83·2
1942	1,386	577	1,963	89·3
1943	1,193	559	1,752	82·1
1944	1,111	566	1,677	81·8