

PART III.

LAW, CRIME, ETC.

Legal system
in Victoria.

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.

Supreme
Court civil
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 1948, eight Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and seven Puisne Judges.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the five years 1944 to 1948 :—

VICTORIA—SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1944 TO 1948.

Heading.	Year Ended 31st December,—				
	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Number of places at which sittings were held	6	4	6	6	6
Causes entered—					
For assessment of damages	1	3	6	10	1
For trial	142	209	345	390	411
Number of causes tried—					
By juries of six	33	29	40	48	69
By a Judge	40	47	66	68	54
Verdicts returned for—					
Plaintiff	56	56	82	91	98
Defendant	17	20	24	25	25
Amounts awarded	£ 13,746	26,776	50,315	79,496	91,784
Writs of summons issued	546	611	957	1,027	1,157
Other original proceedings	64	102	147	54	36
Appellate proceedings (other than Criminal Appeals heard and determined)—					
By Full Court	42	34	39	43	36
By a Judge	39	37	58	58	61
Fees collected	£ 2,583	3,308	4,755	6,706	7,635

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 nineteen other places in Victoria. Every Court has jurisdiction throughout the whole of Victoria.

VICTORIA—COUNTY COURT CASES, 1944 TO 1948.

Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Causes Tried.	Amount Sued for.	Amount Awarded.
		£	£
1944	976	261,361	55,648
1945	1,103	238,718	68,103
1946	1,447	325,073	81,790
1947	2,105	527,045	165,055
1948	1,460	555,884	63,252

Writs by the Sheriff.

The table hereunder records the number of writs received by the Sheriff in the five years, 1944 to 1948.

VICTORIA—WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1944 TO 1948.

Year Ended 31st December.	King's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person.	Property.	
1944 .. .. .	..	..	40	40
1945 .. .. .	..	1	52	53
1946	3	6	97	106
1947	2	5	75	82
1948	4	4	87	95

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 Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth Act.

The number of sequestrations, &c., in Victoria during each of the five years ended 31st July, 1948, under the *Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act 1924-1948*, and the amount of liabilities and assets relating thereto were as follows:—

VICTORIA—BANKRUPTCIES, 1944 TO 1948.

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.				
1944	54	..	7	61
1945	32	..	3	35
1946	25	..	7	32
1947	45	2	10	57
1948	50	2	18	70
LIABILITIES.				
	£	£	£	£
1944	49,591	..	41,455	91,046
1945	11,747	..	35,901	47,648
1946	77,308	..	38,820	116,128
1947	22,292	8,248	17,198	47,738
1948	54,014	55,612	88,687	198,313
ASSETS.				
	£	£	£	£
1944	11,616	..	16,988	28,604
1945	3,915	..	25,472	29,387
1946	20,498	..	10,290	30,788
1947	2,700	262	15,837	18,799
1948	16,788	23,201	52,433	92,422

The yearly average number of sequestrations, declared liabilities and assets are shown in the subjoined table for each of the quinquennial periods ended in 1938, 1943 and 1948.

Period.	Yearly Average Number.	Yearly Average Declared Liabilities.	Yearly Average Declared Assets.
1933-34 to 1937-38 ..	381	£ 595,056	£ 274,545
1938-39 to 1942-43 ..	296	297,886	128,033
1943-44 to 1947-48 ..	51	100,175	66,667

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 1948. 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, 1948.

	Petitions Filed by—			Decrees Granted to—		
	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.
Dissolution of marriage ..	948	953	1,901	807	853	1,660
Judicial separation ..	1	7	8	..	2	2
Nullity of marriage ..	10	8	18	11	8	19
Total ..	959	968	1,927	818	863	1,681

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1948 were as set out in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DIVORCES, GROUNDS OF, 1948.

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	264	244	..	2	..	..
Bigamy .. ..	..	..	..	..	3	4
Bigamy and adultery ..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Cruelty .. ..	..	5	..	..	..	..
Desertion	523	560	..	..	..	..
Desertion and drunkenness ..	..	5	..	..	..	..
Desertion and adultery ..	10	22	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness (habitual) ..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness and cruelty .. ..	..	6	..	..	..	..
Impotence .. ..	..	..	..	..	8	4
Insanity	10	1	..	..	..	..
Sentences for crime ..	..	6	..	..	..	..
Total	807	853	..	2	11	8

Divorce. The following table shows the number of petitioners to whom decrees were granted in 1948, 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, 1948.

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.
19 .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 .. ..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	1
21	5	6	..	..	..	..	4	4
22-25 ..	46	92	..	..	..	1	23	70
26-29 ..	124	133	..	..	5	3	68	120
30-34 ..	193	196	..	..	2	1	144	222
35-39 ..	165	162	..	1	3	1	175	212
40-44 ..	117	124	..	..	1	1	139	192
45-49 ..	70	78	..	..	..	..	114	153
50-54 ..	33	31	..	1	..	1	55	59
55-59 ..	34	14	..	..	..	..	67	23
60	4	3	..	..	..	..	7	1
61	5	1	..	..	..	..	7	..
62	2	3	..	..	..	..	2	4
63	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	..
65	2	2	..	..	..	..	5	3
66	2	..	..	..	..	..	11	..
67	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
68 .. ..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	10
71	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
74	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Not stated ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	9	..
Total ..	807	853	..	2	11	8	835	1,074

* Of the total of 1,909, 1,904 relate to decrees for dissolution of marriage, 3 to the decrees for judicial separation, and 2 to the decrees of nullity of marriage.

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 1948 :—

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, PETITIONS GRANTED ; DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1948.

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	12			
Under 1 year ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
1 year ..	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	2
2 ..	15	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	5
3 ..	38	13	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	54	19
4 ..	76	25	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	103	29
5 ..	83	43	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	131	53
6 ..	85	38	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	135	62
7 ..	56	51	13	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	125	93
8 ..	59	41	14	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	125	104
9 ..	25	26	8	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	67	66
10 ..	27	34	17	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	83	84
11 ..	23	34	19	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81	88
12 ..	18	31	22	3	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	79	106
13 ..	12	16	11	4	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47	68
14 ..	17	18	18	8	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64	92
15 ..	11	19	15	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51	69
16 ..	12	16	12	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	61
17 ..	12	19	7	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44	53
18 ..	6	12	12	6	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	71
19 ..	3	18	17	11	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55	110
20 ..	6	12	7	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	51
21 ..	5	9	9	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	48
22 ..	6	8	10	5	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	52
23 ..	2	4	11	4	1	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	27	73
24 ..	4	8	5	8	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	56
25 ..	4	5	8	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	38
26 ..	3	4	7	5	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	22	50
27 ..	3	4	3	4	3	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	19	47
28 ..	..	5	3	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	29
29 ..	1	2	4	3	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	13	37
30 ..	1	1	3	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	25
31 ..	2	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	7	29
32 ..	2	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	6	16
33 ..	2	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	9	33
34 ..	..	1	3	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	20
35 ..	2	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	12
36 ..	..	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	10
37 ..	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	6
38 ..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	9
39 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
40 ..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	12
41 ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
42 ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
43 ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
46 ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
47 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	8
Total Dissolution of marriage ..	633	529	292	120	38	26	11	6	4	1	..	..	..	1,660	..
Total Children ..	..	529	584	360	152	130	66	42	32	9	..	..	..	..	1,904

**Dissolution
of Marriage—
Ages of
Parties.**

The following table shows the ages of the parties concerned in the decrees for dissolution of marriage, petitions for which had been granted during 1948:—

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, PETITIONS,
GRANTED—AGES OF PARTIES, 1948.

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 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21-25 ..	13	59	21	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	97
26-29 ..	2	114	98	24	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	242
30-34	2	43	133	154	24	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	359
35-39 ..	..	10	35	128	122	19	4	1	..	..	..	1	320
40-44 ..	..	3	20	44	98	90	14	2	..	1	2	..	274
45-49 ..	..	1	3	10	34	62	55	7	1	..	..	..	173
50-54 ..	..	..	1	2	8	18	30	25	10	1	..	..	95
55-59 ..	..	..	..	1	2	4	14	18	14	2	..	..	55
60 and over ..	..	..	..	1	1	2	5	7	8	15	..	..	39
Not stated ..	..	..	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	6
Total Wives..	17	230	311	370	294	199	122	60	33	19	5	..	1,660

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 to 1948.

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS, 1861 TO 1948.

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
1945	1,727	..
1946	1,619	3
1947	2,266	3
1948	1,660	2
Total—1891 to 1948	27,704	84
Total—1861 to 1948	28,052	155

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 race-

course 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, 1938-39 TO 1947-48.

Year Ended 30th June.			Amount.	Year Ended 30th June.			Amount.
			£				£
1939	..	..	17,191	1944	..	..	11,688
1940	..	..	16,710	1945	..	..	14,049
1941	..	..	15,420	1946	..	..	18,429
1942	..	..	15,095	1947	..	..	21,727
1943	..	..	13,525	1948	..	..	26,316

CRIME.

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

Administration of the criminal law.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS.

Jurisdiction. 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 1948.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF,
1948.

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	24	14	1	8	1	..	..
Others	51	27	..	19	..	5	..
Total	75	41	1	27	1	5	..
Against property—							
Larceny, &c.	1,739	1,427	94	205	7	6	..
Wilful damage	57	28	..	29	..	..	..
Others	20	13	2	5	..	..	..
Total	1,816	1,468	96	239	7	6	..
Against Good Order—							
Drunkenness	13	8	1	4	..	..	..
Others	81	65	3	13	..	..	..
Total	94	73	4	17	..	..	..
Other Offences, &c.—							
Traffic offences	356	310	23	22	1	..	..
Other offences	138	97	14	25	2	..	..
Neglected children ..	294	114	96	44	40	..	..
Total	788	521	133	91	43	..	..
Grand Total	2,773	2,103	234	374	51	11	..

The number of cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts in each of the five years, 1944 to 1948, is given in the following statement:—

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF
1944 TO 1948.

Nature of Offence.	Year Ended 31st December,—				
	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Against the person—					
Assaults	84	66	56	27	24
Others	1	10	15	59	51
Against Property—					
Larceny, &c. .. .	2,757	2,462	2,143	1,829	1,739
Wilful damage .. .	207	212	116	78	57
Others	135	129	78	77	20
Against Good Order—					
Drunkenness .. .	8	13	9	10	13
Others	226	267	149	78	81
Traffic offences .. .	696	780	544	448	356
Other offences .. .	531	195	154	163	138
Neglected children .. .	326	428	337	258	294
Total	4,971	4,562	3,601	3,027	2,773
Summarily convicted .. .	4,422	3,831	3,007	2,598	2,337
Summarily dismissed, &c. .. .	547	726	589	427	425
Committed for trial .. .	2	5	5	2	11

Children's
Courts—cases,
how dealt with.

The following statement gives particulars of the manner in which the cases in the Children's Courts were disposed of by magistrates in 1948:—

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES, HOW DEALT
WITH, 1948.

How Dealt With.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Adjourned for period without probation ..	512	65	577
Released on probation	701	36	737
Committed to care of Children's Welfare Department	226	88	314
Committed to reformatory	34	1	35
Fined	404	36	440
Dismissed on payment of costs or damages or both	9	..	9
Discharged upon surety	4	1	5
Sentenced to term of imprisonment ..	4	..	4
Sentenced to imprisonment, the execution of which has been suspended	21	4	25
Convicted and discharged	126	2	128
Discharged with a caution	37	..	37
Otherwise dealt with	25	1	26
Summarily convicted	2,103	234	2,337
Summarily dismissed, &c.	374	51	425
Committed for trial	11	..	11
Grand Total	2,488	285	2,773

**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 five years 1944 to 1948.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: PROBATION CASES,
1944 TO 1948.

Year Ended 31st December.	Cases Released on Probation.	Results of Probation.		
		Satisfactory.	Fair.	Unsatisfactory.
	No.	%	%	%
1944	1,007	78	9	13
1945	731	76	8	16
1946	663	73	8	19
1947	643	78	6	16
1948	737	79	6	15

VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Petty Sessions civil business.

In 1948, Courts of petty Sessions by stipendiary magistrates and honorary justices were held at 224 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 stipendiary 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 five years, 1944 to 1948, are as follows :—

VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, ETC., 1944 TO 1948.

Heading.	Year Ended 31st December—				
	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Civil cases—					
Number heard	30,064	31,191	31,686	34,624	34,914
Debts or damages—					
Claimed £	270,378	304,896	342,484	375,640	355,318
Awarded £	186,305	210,210	244,146	261,860	261,229
Other cases—					
Appeals against rates ..	233	1,128	534	217	331
Ejectment cases	1,501	1,819	3,681	3,526	3,322
Examination of lunatics ..	118	113	110	113	110
Fraud summonses	1,960	2,147	1,980	2,278	2,409
Garnishee cases	1,222	1,129	876	883	873
Licences and certificates ..	12,124	13,035	17,582	15,191	14,251
Maintenance cases	1,057	1,033	1,560	1,364	1,267
Show cause summonses ..	1,523	1,181	1,367	1,487	1,672
Fair rent applications ..	} 8,027	5,975	3,836	494	451
Other			3,402	4,911	3,243

**VICTORIA—ARREST CASES SUMMARILY DISPOSED OF
IN COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS, 1948.**

How Disposed of.	Year Ended 31st December, 1948.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fined	10,894	817	11,711
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	3,358	397	3,755
1 month and under 6 months	1,096	155	1,251
6 months and under 12 months	177	12	189
1 year and under 2 years	12	..	12
Admonished	5,384	531	5,915
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	348	103	451
Sent to reformatory schools	20	..	20
Committed to Children's Welfare Department	110	1	111
Otherwise dealt with	115	21	136
Total convicted	21,514	2,037	23,551
Dismissed, withdrawn, struck out	1,076	145	1,121
Total summarily disposed of	22,590	2,182	24,672

**VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS AND
CHILDREN'S COURTS.**

In the following statistical tables details are given of the total number of cases dealt with in Courts of Petty Sessions and Children's Courts. If it be desired to compare the figures in these tables 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.

VICTORIA—ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1948.

Nature of Offence.	Total Cases.	Summarily Disposed of—				Committed for Trial.	
		Convicted.		Dismissed, Withdrawn, Struck Out.		M.	F.
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
Against the person—							
Murder*	9	..	..	5	4	..	..
Intent to murder	8	..	..	3	..	5	..
Manslaughter*	8	..	..	8	..	..	..
Shooting at, wounding, &c.	84	3	..	13	..	67	1
Assaults	1,529	771	62	565	119	12	..
Others	334	61	1	44	3	219	6
Total	1,972	835	63	638	126	303	7
Against property—							
Robbery, Shop-breaking, house-breaking, &c.	964	117	1	28	2	807	9
Larceny and similar offences	4,219	2,817	358	465	43	507	29
Wilful damage	251	155	6	66	4	20	..
Others	944	588	24	133	11	187	1
Total	6,378	3,677	389	692	60	1,521	39
Forgery and offences against the currency	61	..	..	11	..	49	1
Against good order—							
Drunkenness†	16,600	15,115	1,301	167	17	..	..
Others	7,210	5,753	578	735	134	10	..
Total	23,810	20,868	1,879	902	151	10	..
Other offences—							
Breaches of—							
Education Act	2,355	1,680	427	180	68	..	..
Licensing Act	2,748	2,186	175	331	56	..	..
Motor Car Act	11,249	10,492	217	529	11	..	..
Traffic Regulations	8,193	7,555	370	252	16	..	..
Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act	236	168	16	38	14	..	..
Miscellaneous	19,514	16,195	1,051	2,011	191	50	16
Total	44,295	38,276	2,256	3,341	356	50	16
Grand Total	76,516	63,656	4,587	5,584	693	1,933	63

* See Inquests, page 154, on proceedings relating to persons charged with these offences.
 † See footnote on page 150.

Arrest and summons cases.

Particulars of the arrest and summons cases for the five years, 1944 to 1948, are given in the subjoined table.

VICTORIA—ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES, 1944 TO 1948.

Year Ended 31st December.	Arrest Cases.		Summons Cases.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
1944	21,575	2,521	35,685	5,108	64,889
1945	18,545	1,897	35,884	4,418	60,744
1946	20,117	1,904	38,407	4,055	64,483
1947	22,784	2,300	45,123	3,783	73,990
1948	24,394	2,233	46,779	3,110	76,516

The following table shows, for each of the five years specified, the number of offences for which persons were arrested or summoned, summarily convicted, dismissed, or committed for trial.

VICTORIA—DISPOSAL OF ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES, 1944 TO 1948.

Year Ended 31st December.	Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Dismissed, Struck Out, or Withdrawn.	Committed for Trial.
1944	64,889	56,939	6,333	1,617
1945	60,744	53,101	6,048	1,595
1946	64,483	56,623	6,327	1,533
1947	73,990	66,086	6,121	1,783
1948	76,516	68,243	6,277	1,996
Number per 10,000 of Population.				
1944	325·4	285·5	31·8	8·1
1945	301·9	263·9	30·1	7·9
1946	317·5	278·8	31·1	7·5
1947	362·7	323·9	30·0	8·7
1948	366·1	326·5	30·0	9·5

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.

CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS.

**Alteration in
method of
tabulation.**

The statistics of crime and drunkenness for the years subsequent to 1932 were compiled on a basis which differed from that for the years 1893 to 1932. The particulars for the years 1933 to 1948 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 1948 relate, as in previous years, to all offences with which a person was charged. The statistics for the past sixteen years are comparable, therefore, with those for the years prior to 1893, appearing in earlier issues of the *Year Book*.

**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, house and shop-breaking, 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 1948 only 87 of such charges out of a total of 51,566 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 was also among them a large number of offences against good order, including offensive behaviour, indecent language, vagrancy, &c.

**Offences and
drunkenness.**

The following 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 those of neglected children) disposed of in Children's Courts.

VICTORIA—OFFENCES AND DRUNKENNESS, 1890 TO 1948.

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
1945	1,711	6,535	10,534	41,964	60,744
1946	1,920	6,591	11,720	44,252	64,483
1947	1,956	6,144	14,952	50,938	73,990
1948	1,972	6,378	16,600	51,566	76,516

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*	0.94	2.84	4.55	23.44	31.77
1940	0.71	4.04	6.10	34.47	45.32
1941	0.71	3.79	6.23	29.04	39.77
1942	0.83	4.18	6.57	26.37	37.95
1943	0.82	4.18	6.35	24.60	35.95
1944	0.83	3.95	6.28	21.48	32.54
1945	0.85	3.25	5.23	20.86	30.19
1946	0.95	3.25	5.77	21.79	31.75
1947	0.96	3.01	7.33	24.97	36.27
1948	0.94	3.05	7.94	24.68	36.61

* See paragraph "Alteration in method of tabulation" on page 150.

Drunkenness. The number of persons and the number per 1,000 of the population arrested or summoned for drunkenness during the five years 1944 to 1948 are given hereunder:—

VICTORIA—PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS, 1944 TO 1948.

Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Persons—			Number per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1944	12,449	69	12,518	6.28
1945	10,506	28	10,534	5.23
1946	11,704	16	11,720	5.77
1947	14,921	31	14,952	7.33
1948	16,554	46	16,600	7.94

Drunkenness—Comparison with previous years.

If the amount of drunkenness in proportion to population, as measured by the number of charges therefor, be represented by 100 as the yearly average 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 1948.

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	1938–42	42
1893–97	65	1943	44
1898–1902	84	1944	43
1903–07	77	1945	36
1908–12	68	1946	37
1913–17	59	1947	50
1918–22	32	1948	54
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.

The accompanying table shows for the five years 1944 to 1948 the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness.

VICTORIA—ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1944 TO 1948.

Year Ended 31st December.	Numbers.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
1944	169	23	192
1945	155	25	180
1946	210	17	227
1947	267	19	286
1948	249	9	258

INQUESTS.

A Coroner has jurisdiction to hold an inquest concerning the manner of death of any person who is slain or drowned, or who dies suddenly, or in prison, or while detained in any hospital for the insane, or whose body is lying dead within the district in which such coroner has jurisdiction.

His duties in relation thereto are regulated by the *Coroners Act 1928*, and there are special provisions relating to inquests in other Acts, such as the *Mines Act*, *Children's Welfare Act*, and *Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act*. Coroners and deputy-coroners are appointed by the Governor-in-Council, every Stipendiary Magistrate being appointed a coroner for the State of Victoria. Deputy-coroners have jurisdiction in the districts for which they have been appointed. In addition, a justice of the peace has jurisdiction, within his bailiwick, to hold an inquest, but only if requested to do so by a police officer in charge of a station, or by a coroner.

In the majority of cases the coroner acts alone in holding an inquest, but in certain cases a jury is empanelled. This is done (a) when the coroner considers it desirable; (b) when in any specified case a law officer so directs; and (c) when it is expressly provided in any Act, (as is the case under the Mines Act) that an inquest shall be taken with jurors. It is an essential preliminary in all cases that the coroner and the jury, if any, shall view the body, otherwise the inquest is void.

When a person is arrested and charged before a Justice or Court with murder or manslaughter, those proceedings are adjourned from time to time pending the holding of the inquest. If the inquest results in a finding against that person of murder or manslaughter, the coroner issues his warrant committing him for trial, the other proceedings being then withdrawn.

The following shows the number of inquest cases in Victoria during the years 1946, 1947, and 1948, and the number of persons subsequently committed for trial.

Year Ended 31st December.	Inquests into Deaths of--			Persons Committed for Trial.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1946	1,184	558	1,742	20	2	22
1947	1,226	586	1,812	16	..	16
1948	1,207	577	1,784	18	2	20

The charges on which persons were committed for trial by Coroners were :—

Year.	Murder.			Manslaughter.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1946.. ..	7	1	8	13	1	14
1947.. ..	8	..	8	8	..	8
1948.. ..	10	2	12	8	..	8

HIGHER COURTS.

Committals for trial—convictions.

The following table shows the offences of distinct persons who were convicted in the Supreme Court and in Courts of General Sessions in Victoria during 1948 after committal from Children's Courts, Courts of Petty Sessions and Coroner's Inquests. Where a person was charged with more than one offence the principal offence only has been counted :—

HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

Offence.	Males (Ages in Years).													
	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 59.	60 to 69.
MALES.														
Against the Person—														
Murder											1			
Wound with Intent to Murder					1									
Manslaughter								1		2			2	
Wounding, &c., or inflict grievous bodily harm					1		2	4	5	3			1	
Wound with intent to do grievous bodily harm							1	1	1		1	1		
Unlawfully wounding							1			1	1			
Assault					1	2	3	3	2	3				1
Against Females—														
Rape														
Rape, assault with intent to								1			1			
Carnal knowledge				3	3	1	10	4	3			1	1	
Carnal knowledge, attempted					1					1	1			1
Incest and attempted										1	1			
Indecent assault			1	1	1	1	2	5	7	6		4	4	3
Unnatural offence							2	2		3	4	3	1	2
Unnatural offence, attempted					1					1			1	
Indecent assault on male				1		1	3	1	2	1	1			
Bigamy							2	3	5	4		1	1	2
Suicide, attempted											1			
Concealment of birth												1		
Unlawfully administer poison				1										
Demand money with menaces							1		1					
Total against the Person			1	6	9	5	27	25	26	26	12	12	13	9
Against Property—														
Robbery and attempted robbery										1				
Robbery under Arms, attempted			2				1							
Robbery with violence				1	1	2	1	2		1				
Robbery in company				2			2	2				1	1	
Robbery, assault with intent								1			1			
Burglary				3			1	2		1		1		
Housebreaking	1	2	20	6	15	30	15	12	7	3	5	3	2	
Shop, office, store, factory, &c., breaking			15	14	14	10	34	37	14	15	11	2	4	
Larceny in a dwelling			2	1	7	4	6	8	2	1	3		1	
Larceny as a clerk or servant					1	2			1			2	2	
Larceny as a bailee								1	1					
Larceny, all other			1	5	6	3	24	17	9	13	6	4	2	2

For reference see footnote, pages 160-1.

CONVICTED 1948 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED).

Not Stated.	How Dealt with.																	Death Sentence.	Sentence Suspended on Entering a Bond.	Sent to Reformatory Prison.	Committed to Children's Welfare Department.	
	Total.	Fined.	Imprisoned for—														Life.					
			Months.							Years.												
			Under 3.	3 and Under 6.	6 and Under 12.	12.	Over 12 to 18.	21.	2 to 2½.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	20.							
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(a) 1	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	16	..	..	5	1	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
..	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
..	15	1	(e) 1	4	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	26	..	1	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(d) 1	1	..
..	4	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	35	..	..	5	3	3	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	..	..
..	17	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(e) 1	10	..
..	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	12	..	3	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
..	18	..	..	5	..	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	171	1	7	20	12	18	13	..	7	..	2	..	2	6	1	..	..	3	79	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
..	8	..	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..
..	8	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
..	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	8	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
..	141	..	2	(f) 25	(g) 4	16	8	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56	16	1
..	170	..	..	(g) 29	4	24	9	1	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85	7	..
..	35	..	(g) 1	(g) 7	2	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(h) 18	2	..
..	8	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
..	92	..	2	24	3	9	5	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44	2	..

For reference see footnote, pages 160-1.

HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

Offence.	Males (Ages in Years).													
	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 59.	60 to 69.
<i>Against Property—continued.</i>														
Breaking and Entering	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Entering house with intent to commit a felony	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fraudulent omission	1	..
Unlawfully killing animals	1	..	..	..	..
Unlawful possession of ex- plosives	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Embezzlement	2	..	..	3	1	1	1	..	2	..
False pretences	1	2	1	7	4	2	1	2	..
Receiving	2	3	2	3	7	7	4	4	2	..	1
Illegally pawning	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Setting fire to material in a building	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malicious damage	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total against Property	1	2	42	46	42	41	107	97	55	51	31	18	18	5
Forgery and uttering	1	1	1	2	4	1	..	..	2	1	..
<i>Against Good Order—</i>														
Publishing obscene libel	1	..	..	..
Indecent exposure	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total against Good Order	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
<i>Other Offences—</i>														
Conspiracy	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Perjury	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..
Escape from legal custody	1	..	..	..	..	..
Breach of Registration Birth, Death, Marriage Act	1
Unlawfully marrying minor	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Breach of <i>Post and Telegraph Act 1901-1946</i>	1	..	..	..	..
Common Law (public mis- chief)	2	..	1	1	3	..	..	..	1	..	..
Total Other Offences	2	..	1	6	4	4	4	..	1	..	1
Grand Total—Males ..	1	2	44	55	52	48	142	130	86	81	44	33	32	15

For reference see footnote, pages 160-1.

CONVICTED 1948 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED)—continued.

Not Stated.	Total.	Fined.	How Dealt with.														Life.	Death Sentence.	Sentence Suspended on Entering a Bond.	Sent to Reformatory Prison.	Committed to Children's Welfare Department.
			Imprisoned for—																		
			Months.					Years.													
			Under 3.	3 and Under 6.	6 and Under 12.	12.	Over 12 to 18.	21.	2 to 2½.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	20.						
..	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	3	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	10	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..
..	20	..	4	5	1	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..
..	35	..	1	7	3	6	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	..
..	1	..	(g)	..	(g)	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	556	..	10	110	19	70	29	1	37	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	246	30	1
..	13	..	1	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	..
1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	5	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	8	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
..	23	3	1	6	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..
1	766	6	19	138	32	90	42	1	44	2	2	1	2	6	1	..	3	345	31	1	

For reference see footnote, pages 160-1.

HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

Offence.	Females (Ages in Years).													
	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 59.	60 to 69.
FEMALES.														
Against the Person—														
Bigamy	1	1	2	2	1	1	..	..
Permitting Defilement of Girl on her Premises	1	..	..
Attempt to procure mis- carriage	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..
Abandoning or exposing a child under two years	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total against the Person	3	1	2	2	3	3	..	..
Against Property—														
Robbery with violence	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Housebreaking and stealing	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Shokbreaking and stealing	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larceny in a dwelling	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larceny as a clerk or servant	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larceny as a bailee	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larceny, all other	1	..	2	2	1	..	1	..
Total against Property	3	2	..	..	3	1	2	2	1	..	2	..
Forgery and uttering	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Offences—														
Conspiracy	1	..	..	..	..	..
Perjury	1	1	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Breach of <i>Bankruptcy Act</i> 1924-46	1	..	..	..
Total other Offences	1	1	2	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..
Grand Total—Females	3	3	2	2	7	4	5	4	5	3	2	..
Total — Males and Females	1	2	47	58	54	50	149	134	91	85	49	36	34	15

(a) Commuted to imprisonment for life without the benefit of regulations relating to remission of sentences.

(b) Without the benefit of regulations relating to remission of sentences.

(c) In addition fined £10.

(d) Commuted to imprisonment for ten years and then to be detained in close custody during Governor's pleasure.

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, 1948, 1,862 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 1,332 hotels closed in country districts, and compensation amounting to £720,679 was paid, or an average of £541 each. The total sum paid in compensation in all districts of the State was £1,302,341, or an average of £691 for each hotel.

In addition to the above closings, the following were 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 100 Australian wine licences have been taken away, for which compensation to the amount of £20,371 has been awarded.

Improvement and Extension of Licensed accommoda- tion.

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 £6,296,730 exclusive of the cost of sewerage and new equipment. National Security Regulations and the Victorian *Building Operations and Building Materials Control Act* 1946 have restricted since 1940 all building operations in regard to hotels. During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1948, plans to the value of £90,974 were approved subject to permits being obtained from the Building Directorate.

The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1948, amounted to £572,804. The amounts received from the various sources were :—Licences, certificates, &c., £544,238 ; interest on investments, £10,982 ; fees and fines, £10,686 ; and miscellaneous, £6,898. The expenditure, which totalled £572,804 consisted of the following items :—Annual payments to municipalities, £58,984 ; compensation, Nil ; 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. 5089, £465,607 ; and salaries, expenses, &c., £25,213. The amount at credit of the fund at 30th June, 1948, was £410,976, of which £341,000 was invested.

Licensing Fund.

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 1948.

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	1,914,813	1,691	1,132
1941	1,946,310	1,683	1,156
1942	1,962,658	1,671	1,175
1943	1,981,889	1,670	1,187
1944	1,998,320	1,666	1,199
1945	2,015,583	1,665	1,211
1946	2,040,281	1,665	1,225
1947	2,061,689	1,666	1,237
1948	2,106,315	1,666	1,264

* Including Roadside Licences.

During the period 1885 to 31st December, 1948, 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, 1948, 81 new licences were granted.

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.

Hours for Sale of Intoxicants.

Local Option Acts of 1920 and 1922.

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.

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 provided that the resolution should be carried if three-fifths at least in number of the votes given were 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. Licensing polls were abolished by Section 3 of the *Licensing Act* 1946, No. 5197.

Consumption of beer.

The estimated quantity of beer consumed in Victoria in each of the five years 1944 to 1948 was as follows:—

CONSUMPTION OF BEER IN VICTORIA, 1944 TO 1948.

Year Ended 30th June.	Estimated Quantity of Beer Consumed.	Per Head of Population.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
1944	25,549,300	12·86
1945	24,866,100	12·41
1946	26,921,500	13·32
1947	31,506,800	15·45
1948	34,086,600	16·47

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

Gaols and prisoners.

In Victoria there are 5 gaols and 4 reformatory prisons as set out hereunder. The following statement contains information (other than for police gaols) for the year 1948, 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, 1948.

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 ..	928	89	672	40	4,971	595	621	48
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	64	3	..	..	166	1	32	1
Ballarat Gaol ..	66	18	..	..	161	..	19	..
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	78	..	40	..	65	..	50	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	80	..	46	..	70	..	50	..
Coorimungie Prison Camp ..	32	..	27	..	64	..	31	..
Geelong ..	172	..	55	..	289	..	72	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison ..	22	..	27	..	13	..	19	..
Sale Gaol ..	26	9	5	..	69	..	10	..
Total ..	1,468	119	872	40	5,868	596	904	49

* Including 41 males awaiting trial.

Prisoners received and discharged. 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 year 1948 :—

VICTORIA—PRISONERS RECEIVED AT AND DISCHARGED FROM GAOLS AND REFORMATORY PRISONS, 1948.

(Exclusive of Police Gaols.)

Classification.	1948.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number in confinement at beginning of year—			
Convicted	876	39	915
Awaiting trial	52	5	57
Total	928	44	972
Received during year—			
Convicted of—			
Felony	825	35	860
Misdemeanour	2,705	427	3,132
Other offences	343	..	343
Transfers from—			
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons ..	560	1	561
Hospitals, Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c... ..	23	8	31
For Trial, not subsequently convicted ..	1,412	125	1,537
Total	5,868	596	6,464

VICTORIA—PRISONERS RECEIVED AT AND DISCHARGED FROM GAOLS
AND REFORMATORY PRISONS, 1948—*continued.*

(*Exclusive of Police Gaols.*)

Classification.	1948.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Discharged during year—			
By remission of sentence	435	14	449
On expiration of sentence and payment of fines ..	3,244	416	3,660
Bailed to appeal	57	10	67
On bond from Court, Judges' Order Attorney- General's Order, &c.	188	16	204
By special authority	20	3	23
On parole	100	2	102
Died	5	..	5
Executed .. .. .	..	..	..
Deported	39	..	39
Absconded	15	..	15
Transfers to—			
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons	507	1	508
Hospitals, Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c. ..	32	9	41
Unconvicted	1,250	120	1,370
Total	5,892	591	6,483
Number in confinement at 31st December—			
Convicted	863	49	912
Awaiting trial	41	..	41
Total	904	49	953

**Prisoners
under
sentence.**

The following table shows the number of prisoners under sentence at the end of each of the ten years 1939 to 1948.

VICTORIA—PRISONERS UNDER SENTENCE, 1939 TO 1948.

At 31st December.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Number per 10 000 of Population.
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	5.64
1943	1,024	65	1,089	5.48
1944	1,055	46	1,101	5.50
1945	932	34	966	4.78
1946	927	25	952	4.65
1947	876	39	915	4.45
1948	863	49	912	4.36

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 five years 1944 to 1948.

VICTORIA—DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1948.

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
1941	1,023	50	1,073
1944	1,152	67	1,219
1945	1,067	44	1,111
1946	1,013	41	1,054
1947	982	40	1,022
1948	872	40	912

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 five years 1945 to 1949 was as follows:—

VICTORIA—PRISONERS UNDER INDETERMINATE
DETENTION, 1945 TO 1949.

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year Ended 30th June—				
	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	61	35	22	27	33
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	36	44	42	46	50
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	72	61	49	57	72
McLeod Settlement, French Island ..	55	44	29	26	23
Total	224	184	142	156	178

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 has been appointed to the office, which is honorary.

From 1st July, 1908, to 30th June, 1949, admissions to the several reformatories totalled 5,867 (5,811 males and 56 females) as follows:—

Heading.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admitted to 30th June, 1949 (including 255 recaptured)	5,811	56	5,867
Discharged—			
By parole	5,027	56	5,083
" effluxion of time	95	..	95
" transfer to hospitals and asylums	41	..	41
" special authority	43	..	43
" deportation	22	..	22
" escape	282	..	282
" transfer to serve additional sentences	94	..	94
" death	28	..	28
" release on appeal	1	..	1
In reformatories on 30th June, 1949	5,633	56	5,689
	178	..	178
Total	5,811	56	5,867

POLICE PROTECTION.

Numerical
strength of
Police Force
in Victoria.

The numbers and classification of the various ranks of the police force in Victoria on 31st December, 1948, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—POLICE FORCE, CLASSIFICATION AND
NUMERICAL STRENGTH AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1948.

Designation.	At 31st December, 1948.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner	1	..	1
Inspecting Superintendent	1	..	1
Superintendents	5	11	16
Chief Inspector .. .. .	..	1	1
Inspectors	12	8	20
Sub-Inspectors	22	9	31
Sergeants, First Class	48	17	65
Sergeants, Second Class	38	13	51
Senior Constables	178	115	293
Senior Constables (brevet rank)	3	..	3
First Constables	550	372	922
Constables	597	104	701
Recruits	23	..	23
Total	1,478	650	2,128
<i>Detectives.</i>			
Superintendent	1	..	1
Sub-Inspectors	6	..	6
Sergeants, First Class	6	..	6
Sergeants, Second Class	10	1	11
Senior Detectives	47	8	55
First Detectives	76	15	91
Detectives	8	..	8
Total	154	24	178
<i>Mounted.</i>			
Senior Constables	2	..	2
First Constables	13	45	58
Constables	11	9	20
Total	26	54	80
Grand Total	1,658	728	2,386*

* The above particulars include 14 police-women and 1 member with the Defence Force, but exclude 36 members of the Victoria Police Women's Auxiliary, 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 ten years 1939 to 1948 :—

**VICTORIA—POLICE FORCE, NUMERICAL STRENGTH,
1939 TO 1948.**

Year Ended 31st December.	Total Strength.*	Number of Inhabitants to Each. Police-officer.	Year Ended 31st December.	Total Strength.*	Number of Inhabitants to Each. Police-officer.
1939 ..	2,312	816	1944 ..	2,209	908
1940 ..	2,352	824	1945 ..	2,131	948
1941 ..	2,327	838	1946 ..	2,198	931
19 2 ..	2,318	855	1947 ..	2,272	904
1943 ..	2,263	882	1948 ..	2,386	876

* Including policewomen and members with Defence Forces.

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 five years 1944 to 1948.

**VICTORIA—EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS,
1943-44 TO 1947-48.**

Year Ended 30th June.	Amount Expended (Exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Salaries, &c.		Buildings and Rents.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.		
	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.
1944 ..	1,073,304	159,226	32,279	5,757	1,270,566	12 9
1945 ..	1,055,791	152,267	39,142	9,133	1,256,333	12 6
1946 ..	1,083,145	161,447	38,900	9,023	1,292,515	12 9
1947 ..	1,249,601	166,232	37,253	7,142	1,460,228	14 4
1948 ..	1,415,303	185,424	39,236	9,198	1,649,161	15 11

Executions. During the 44 years ended with 1948 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.