

## LAW, CRIME, ETC.

## THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA.

The Commonwealth Constitution Act (section 71) provides that the judicial power of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a Federal Supreme Court, to be called the High Court of Australia, and to consist of a Chief Justice, and at least two other Justices. Power is also given to the Federal Parliament to create other Federal courts, or to invest other courts with Federal jurisdiction. Section 72 provides that the Justices shall be appointed by the Governor-General in Council, and shall not be removed, except on an address from both Houses of Parliament in the same session, on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity; also that the Parliament shall fix the remuneration, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office. The High Court is invested by the Constitution with both original and appellate jurisdiction. Section 73 provides that the High Court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals from all judgments, decrees, orders, and sentences of any Justice exercising the original jurisdiction of the court, or of any other Federal Court or court exercising Federal jurisdiction, or of the Supreme or any other court of a State, from which there was on 1st January, 1901, an appeal to the Privy Council, or of the Inter-State Commission, but in the last mentioned case as to questions of law only. The Parliament may regulate the mode in which the jurisdiction may be exercised, and may limit the jurisdiction by excluding specified cases, or classes of cases from it; but no such regulation or exception shall prevent the High Court from hearing and determining any appeal from the Supreme Court of a State in any matter in which, at the establishment of the Constitution—1st January, 1901—an appeal lay to the Privy Council. Section 74 provides that there shall be no appeal to the Privy Council “from a decision of the High Court upon any question, howsoever arising, as to the limits *inter se* of the constitutional powers of the Commonwealth and those of any State or States, or as to the limits *inter se* of the constitutional powers of any two or more States, unless the High Court shall certify that the question is one which ought to be determined by His Majesty in Council.” It is, however, provided that

except as above-mentioned the "Constitution shall not impair any right which the King may be pleased to exercise by virtue of His Royal prerogative to grant special leave of appeal from the High Court to His Majesty in Council"; but the Parliament may limit the matters in respect of which leave may be asked, and a Bill containing any such limitation shall be reserved by the Governor-General for the Royal pleasure. Section 73 provides that the judgment of the High Court, in its appellate jurisdiction, shall be final and conclusive; but this (except as regards the particular class of constitutional questions mentioned above) is qualified by the above provision, preserving the prerogative right of the King in Council to grant special leave of appeal from such a judgment. By section 75, the High Court is invested with original jurisdiction in all matters arising under any treaty; affecting consuls or other representatives of other countries; in which the Commonwealth, or a person suing or being sued on behalf of the Commonwealth, is a party; between States, or between residents of different States, or between a State and a resident of another State; or in which a writ of mandamus or prohibition or an injunction is sought against an officer of the Commonwealth. By sections 76, 77, and 78, the Parliament is empowered to confer additional original jurisdiction on the High Court in any matter arising under the Constitution, or involving its interpretation, or under any laws made by the Parliament, also in matters of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; and in those relating to the same subject-matter claimed under the laws of different States; the Parliament is also empowered to define the jurisdiction of any Federal court other than the High Court; to define the extent to which the jurisdiction of any Federal court shall be exclusive of that which belongs to or is invested in the courts of the States; to invest any court of a State with Federal jurisdiction; and to confer "rights to proceed against the Commonwealth or a State in respect of matters within the limits of the judicial power." By section 79 the Parliament may prescribe the number of Judges by whom the Federal jurisdiction of any court may be exercised; and section 80 provides for trial by jury of any offence against any law of the Commonwealth, and for the venue of the trial.

Common-  
wealth  
Judiciary  
Acts  
1903-1910.

In pursuance of the powers conferred upon it by the Constitution, and within the limits specified therein, the Commonwealth Parliament passed a Judiciary Act, which was assented to on 25th August, 1903, and has been amended by Acts of 1906, 1907, and 1910. The High Court consists of a Chief Justice and four other Justices; and its principal seat is at the seat of Government, where there shall be the principal registry of the court. A district registry in

each other State is also provided for, and peripatetic sittings are to be held when required. Chamber business may be dealt with by a single Justice of the High Court, or (except in matters within the exclusive jurisdiction of the High Court) by a single Judge in Chambers of the Supreme Court of a State. A Full Court, consisting of any two or more Justices of the High Court, sitting together, may hear and determine any case or question referred by, and appeals from judgments of, any such single Justice or Judge; appeals from judgments of any other court exercising Federal jurisdiction, or of the Inter-State Commission; applications for a new trial; and applications for leave or special leave to appeal to the High Court from a judgment of the Supreme Court of a State, or of any other court of a State from which, at the establishment of the Commonwealth, an appeal lay to the Privy Council. The jurisdiction of the High Court to hear and determine appeals from judgments of the Supreme Court of a State sitting as a Full Court, or of any other court of a State from which at the establishment of the Commonwealth an appeal lay to the Privy Council, and applications for a certificate that a question, decided by the High Court, as to the constitutional powers of the Commonwealth and a State, or of any two or more States, is one which ought to be determined by the Privy Council, shall be exercised by a Full Court consisting of not less than three Justices.

In addition to the original jurisdiction conferred by section 75 of the Constitution, previously mentioned, the High Court is, by section 30 of the Judiciary Act, invested with original jurisdiction in all matters arising under the Constitution, or involving its interpretation; and by section 33 is empowered to make orders or issue writs of mandamus, prohibition, ouster of office, and *habeas corpus* in certain cases. Part V. of the Act limits and defines the appellate jurisdiction; Part VI., as amended by the Act of 1907, defines the matters in which the jurisdiction of the High Court is exclusive; Part VII., as amended by the same Act, provides for the removal of causes arising under the Constitution or involving its interpretation, and pending in any State Court, to the High Court, and also provides that where in any cause pending in the Supreme Court of a State there arises any question as to the limits *inter se* of the constitutional powers of the Commonwealth and those of any State or States, or as to the limits *inter se* of the constitutional

powers of any two or more States, it shall be the duty of the Court to proceed no further in the cause, and the cause is, by virtue of the Act and without any order of the High Court, removed to the High Court; Part VIII. treats of the members and officers of the High Court; Part IX. of suits by and against the Commonwealth and the States; and Part X. of criminal jurisdiction, and Part XI. contains supplementary provisions, dealing with appearance of parties, applications of laws, venue, and rules of court.

By the *Judiciary Act 1910*, a new Part, viz., Part XII., was added to the Principal Act. This part enables the Governor-General to refer to the High Court any question of law as to the validity of any Act or enactment of the Federal Parliament, and confers on the Court jurisdiction to hear and determine the matter. The matter has to be heard before all the Justices, except in the case of illness or absence from the Commonwealth of any Justice. The States are entitled to be represented, also any persons interested. The decision of the High Court is final, and not subject to any appeal.

By section 49 of the Act it is provided that any person entitled to practise as a barrister or solicitor or both in any State shall have the like right to practise in any Federal Court, upon entry of his name in a Register of Practitioners at the Principal Registry; and by section 86 (9a) the Justices of the High Court are empowered to make Rules of Court for the admission of persons to practise as barristers or solicitors in any Federal Court. Rules of Court have been made accordingly (Statutory Rules, 1908, No. 35), which establish a Board, called the Commonwealth Practitioners' Board, and consisting of the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth, the Secretary to the Attorney-General's Department, the Principal Registrar of the High Court, and such practising barristers or solicitors as the Chief Justice may from time to time appoint. The Rules further provide for the admission of persons as students-at-law and for their examination and admission as practitioners.

#### THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN VICTORIA.

The law of Victoria, in its basic principles and main provisions, is founded on the law of England. All laws in force in England in 1828 were, so far as they should be held to apply to the circumstances of Australia, by Imperial Statute made law in New South Wales (which then included Victoria); and in case of any doubt as to their applicability, the Colonial Legislature was empowered to declare whether or not they did apply, or to establish any modification or limitation of them within the colony. The same Statute established

a Legislature within New South Wales with power to make laws for that colony; and Supreme and other courts were constituted. On the separation of Port Phillip from New South Wales in 1851, the new colony of Victoria was invested with similar powers, which were widened on the establishment of responsible government in 1855. In order, therefore, to ascertain the law of Victoria as to any particular matter or point, considerable research is often involved. The first step is a search of the Victorian Statutes. If the matter is fully dealt with there, the labour is concluded; but, if it has never been dealt with by any Victorian Act, recourse must be had to the Statutes of New South Wales, and the Imperial Statutes specially applicable to New South Wales passed between 1828 and 1851. If no law on the point is obtainable from these sources, the law of England in 1828 must be ascertained, which in most cases is found in the English text-books. Having found the apparent law from one of these sources, it is still necessary to search through series of law reports for decisions which may either modify or interpret the same.

## LITIGATION AND LEGAL BUSINESS.

The Supreme Court of Victoria was first established in 1852, and its constitution and powers remain substantially unaltered by recent legislation, although the procedure has been entirely remoulded by the "Judicature Act of 1883." There were in 1911 five Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and four Puisne Judges.

Supreme  
Court civil  
business.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the last year of the four decennial periods ended 1900, and the last five years:—

## SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1870 TO 1911.

Year.	Writs of Summons.		Causes Entered for Trial.	Causes Tried.	Verdicts for—		Amount Awarded.
	Number Issued.	Amount Claimed.			Plaintiff.	Defendant.	
		£					£
1870 ..	5,583	154,296	237	165	133	29	29,298
1880 ..	5,065	185,131	221	161	133	28	47,401
1890 ..	6,619	687,503	535	297	229	65	68,592
1900 ..	825.	137,083	161	106	62	31	101,896
1907 ..	564	56,182	106	61	26	10	2,408
1908 ..	673	97,221	114	62	26	12	7,621
1909 ..	774	104,831	114	68	23	15	8,538
1910 ..	743	69,182	129	85	37	16	7,984
1911 ..	640	31,524	107	70	25	19	2,026

Decline in  
litigation.

There has been a considerable decline in litigation in the Supreme Court since 1890. In 1911, the writs issued were about one-tenth; the amount sued for was about one-twenty-second; and the causes which actually came to trial were about one-fourth of the corresponding numbers and amount in 1890. The figures show that a very small proportion of writs result in actual trials, whilst a large number of trials are either abandoned before a verdict is given, postponed to the following year, or settled.

Criminal  
cases in  
superior  
courts.

The number of criminal cases tried and of convictions in the superior courts, the Supreme Court and the Court of General Sessions, throughout the State in the last year of the four decennial periods ended 1900, and in each of the last five years was as follows:—

CRIMINAL CASES — SUPREME COURT AND GENERAL SESSIONS,  
1870 TO 1911.

Year.	Total Number of Cases Tried.	Total Number of Convictions.	Proportions of Convictions per 10,000 of Population.
1870 ...	835	573	8·03
1880 ...	567	387	4·55
1890 ...	964	662	5·92
1900 ...	652	451	3·78
1907 ...	636	392	3·13
1908 ...	647	466	3·68
1909 ...	680	430	3·36
1910 ...	669	435	3·35
1911 ...	687	477	3·61

This statement shows that there was a fall in 1911 as compared with 1890 of 29 per cent. in the total number of criminal cases tried in the higher courts, and of 28 per cent. in the number of convictions.

County  
Courts  
business.

County Courts have a jurisdiction both in equity and common law cases, limited to £500; also in cases remitted by the Supreme Court. The cause of action must have arisen within 100 miles of the court in which proceedings are taken, which court must not be more than ten miles further away from defendant's residence than some other County Court in which the plaintiff might have sued. In 1911, there were 111 sessions lasting 374 days and held in 45

places. Particulars of litigation in the four decennial periods ended 1900, and the last five years, are as follows:—

COUNTY COURT CASES, 1870 TO 1911.

Year.	Number of Cases tried.	Amount sued for.	Amount awarded.	Costs awarded to—	
				Plaintiff.	Defendant.
				£	£
1870	11,866	277,236	102,822	13,815	4,268
1880	9,498	215,929	99,338	13,765	3,956
1890	12,635	349,028	127,433	15,363	6,072
1900	789	160,676	49,595	5,188	2,782
1907	633	133,962	43,662	4,579	2,485
1908	721	203,169	69,460	9,136	2,808
1909	665	141,443	51,247	5,649	2,593
1910	626	144,550	45,196	5,199	1,992
1911	499	161,720	52,526	5,657	1,986

The number of cases tried continues below the average of ten years ago. The number in 1911 was lower than in any of the preceding four years, and only one-twenty-fifth of that in 1890; but the amount sued for and awarded, and the costs awarded, had not fallen off to anything like the same extent. This would seem to indicate that the public is less inclined than formerly to institute legal proceedings for the settlement of disputes; and that the County Court is not resorted to for the recovery of petty and trade debts to the same extent as in former years.

Courts of Petty Sessions were held at 241 places in Victoria in 1911 by stipendiary magistrates and honorary justices. Clerks of courts of ten years' standing, who have passed the prescribed examination, and barristers of five years' standing are eligible for appointment as police magistrates; but there is no legal training or knowledge of the law required as a condition precedent to the appointment of a person as an honorary justice of the peace. The jurisdiction is limited to what may be called ordinary debts, damages for assault, and restitution of goods, where the amount in dispute does not exceed £50. Particulars of such cases heard during a series of years are given hereunder:—

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, 1870 TO 1911.

Year.	Cases heard.	Amount claimed.	Amount awarded.
		£	£
1870	27,722	190,242	105,086
1880	19,983	75,684	50,764
1890	30,466	196,917	132,663
1900	17,577	95,890	80,900
1907	26,255	147,044	123,732
1908	32,005	181,028	157,334
1909	36,894	200,836	162,393
1910	29,902	186,538	146,284
1911	28,575	171,763	129,172

Petty Sessions civil business.

In addition to the ordinary civil cases above mentioned, and to the criminal jurisdiction hereafter mentioned, Courts of Petty Sessions deal with other business of a civil and quasi-criminal nature. During the year 1911, 651 appeals against municipal ratings, 980 maintenance cases, 661 fraud summonses against debtors, 32,290 electoral revision cases, 5,414 cases relating to licences and certificates, 405 garnishee cases, 376 ejectment cases, 87 prohibition cases, and 689 miscellaneous cases were heard, and 411 persons alleged to be lunatics were examined.

## INSOLVENCIES.

Insolven-  
cies, &c.

The number of failures and the declared assets and liabilities during the last five years were:—

## INSOLVENCIES AND PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS, 1907 TO 1911.

Year.	Insolvencies.			Private Arrangements.		
	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.
		£	£		£	£
1907 ..	448	196,879	53,849	133	115,057	94,913
1908 ..	514	179,050	62,998	170	204,011	154,692
1909 ..	370	129,627	98,041	185	207,235	167,639
1910 ..	359	132,841	54,381	131	113,597	91,271
1911 ..	306	112,748	55,374	122	151,641	138,502

The number of insolvencies in 1911 was the lowest recorded since 1857. The average number during the last five years was 399, and the average declared liabilities £150,229, whereas during the ten years, 1879 to 1888, the average yearly number was 612, with declared liabilities of £661,720. During the eleven years, 1889 to 1899, when the failures resulting from the financial crisis swelled the returns, the yearly average number was 790, with declared liabilities of £2,037,292.

Insolvencies are of two kinds, voluntary and compulsory, and the following table contains the number of petitions of each kind in the last five years:—

Year.	Voluntary.	Compulsory.	Total.
1907 ... ..	... 431	17	448
1908 ... ..	... 484	30	514
1909 ... ..	... 345	25	370
1910 ... ..	... 328	31	359
1911 ... ..	... 278	28	306

Occupations  
of insol-  
vents.

In the next return will be found the occupations, in six classes, of those who became insolvent or compromised with their creditors during the last five years, also the number of breadwinners in each class at the census of 1901, and the proportion of the former

to the latter. The total number of insolvents does not include 112 whose occupations were not returned:—

OCCUPATION OF INSOLVENTS, 1907 TO 1911.

Occupation Groups.	Number of Breadwinners, Census, 1901.*	Number of Insolvents, 1907 to 1911.	Proportion of Insolvents to every 1,000 Breadwinners.
Professional .. ..	35,224	86	2·44
Domestic .. ..	66,815	115	1·72
Commercial .. ..	79,048	664	8·40
Transport and Communication	31,516	125	3·97
Industrial .. ..	146,233	1,058	7·24
Primary Producers ..	165,147	578	3·50
Total .. ..	523,983†	2,626	5·01

\* Breadwinners at the Census of 1911 were not available when this part was sent to press.  
 † Exclusive of 10,066 persons of independent means.

Fewer breadwinners of the domestic and professional classes became insolvent than those of other classes, in proportion to their numbers in the community, whilst a greater proportion of the commercial than of any other class found it necessary to file their schedules or compound with their creditors.

The following figures show the occupations of insolvents for each of the five years 1907 to 1911:—

Occupations of insolvents in detail.

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS.

Occupations.	Number of Insolvents during—				
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
<i>Professional Class.</i>					
Barrister, solicitor .. ..	1	..	..	..	1
Chemist .. ..	1	1	..	..	2
Civil servant .. ..	8	4	9	2	4
Dentist .. ..	..	1	..	..	3
Police .. ..	4	1	5	2	..
Others .. ..	5	11	10	5	6
<i>Domestic Class.</i>					
Boardinghouse keeper .. ..	2	4	8	2	4
Hotelkeeper .. ..	24	11	12	10	8
Others .. ..	6	4	5	5	10
<i>Commercial Class.</i>					
Agent .. ..	10	10	7	15	6
Butcher .. ..	9	20	2	5	10
Clerk, accountant .. ..	10	7	8	7	11
Commercial traveller, salesman, canvasser .. ..	10	8	9	4	2
Dealer .. ..	9	13	12	8	10
Draper .. ..	11	14	9	6	7

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS—*continued.*

Occupations.	Number of Insolvents during—				
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
<i>Commercial Class—continued.</i>					
Grocer .. .. .	21	19	27	26	15
Hawker .. .. .	3	3	2	2	1
Merchant, importer .. .. .	2	20	11	7	3
Storekeeper .. .. .	15	38	26	26	26
Others .. .. .	36	25	10	16	15
<i>Transport and Communication Class.</i>					
Carrier, cart, driver .. .. .	6	16	11	10	7
Railway service .. .. .	29	6	4	4	1
Tramway service .. .. .	..	..	1	1	4
Others .. .. .	10	4	5	4	2
<i>Industrial Class.</i>					
Blacksmith, farrier .. .. .	9	15	4	6	5
Bootmaker .. .. .	3	7	2	7	5
Builder, contractor .. .. .	23	25	18	23	17
Carpenter .. .. .	15	15	7	5	7
Coachbuilder, painter .. .. .	5	..	6	8	6
Engineer, engine-driver .. .. .	8	7	4	9	12
Labourer .. .. .	84	92	88	88	72
Miller, baker .. .. .	5	11	14	4	5
Saddler .. .. .	1	3	2	1	1
Tailor, dressmaker .. .. .	8	7	6	10	6
Watchmaker .. .. .	..	..	1	2	2
Others .. .. .	60	66	58	41	37
<i>Primary Producers.</i>					
Farmer .. .. .	17	24	31	26	45
Grazier .. .. .	2	5	6	6	2
Miner .. .. .	69	114	69	53	27
Others .. .. .	15	26	18	14	9
<i>Indefinite Class</i>					
.. .. .	25	27	28	20	12
Total .. .. .	581	684	555	490	428

## DIVORCE.

Divorce, &amp;c.

Under the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act, passed in 1861, a petition might be presented to the Supreme Court (a) by a husband praying that his marriage might be dissolved, on the ground that his wife had, since the celebration thereof, been guilty of adultery; (b) by a wife praying that her marriage might be dissolved on the ground that since the celebration thereof, her husband had been guilty of incestuous adultery, or of bigamy with adultery, or of rape, or of sodomy, or bestiality, or of adultery, coupled with cruelty, or of adultery, coupled with desertion without reasonable excuse for two years.

Judicial separation was obtainable either by husband or wife on the ground of adultery, or cruelty, or of desertion, without cause, for a period of two years.

*The Divorce Act 1889* extended the grounds upon which divorces might be granted, those added being as follows:—

- (a) That the respondent has, without just cause or excuse, wilfully deserted the petitioner, and, without any such cause or excuse, left him or her continuously so deserted during three years and upwards.
- (b) That the respondent has, during three years and upwards, been an habitual drunkard, and either habitually left his wife without the means of support, or habitually been guilty of cruelty towards her, or, being the petitioner's wife, has for a like period been an habitual drunkard and habitually neglected her domestic duties or rendered herself unfit to discharge them.
- (c) That at the time of the presentation of the petition the respondent has been imprisoned for a period of not less than three years and is still in prison under a commuted sentence for a capital crime, or under sentence to penal servitude for seven years or upwards, or, being a husband, has within five years undergone frequent convictions, and been sentenced in the aggregate to imprisonment for three years or upwards and left his wife habitually without means of support.
- (d) That within one year previously the respondent has been convicted of having attempted to murder the petitioner, or of having assaulted him or her with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm, or on the ground that the respondent has repeatedly during that period assaulted and cruelly beaten the petitioner.
- (e) That the respondent, being a husband, has since the celebration of his marriage and the date of this Act been guilty of adultery in the conjugal residence, or coupled with circumstances or conduct of aggravation or of a repeated act of adultery.

The Act further provides for simplifying and cheapening the mode of procedure, for the hearing and trying of suits in private at the discretion of the court, for prohibiting the publication of evidence, for the intervention of the Attorney-General where collusion is suspected, and for the abolition of applications or decrees for the restoration of conjugal rights. The Act can only be taken advantage of by persons domiciled in the State for at least two years.

Since jurisdiction was first conferred upon the Supreme Court of Victoria in matters matrimonial in 1861, 2,752 decrees for dissolution of marriage, and 92 decrees for judicial separation have been granted. Of these, 2,404 and 21 respectively have been issued since 1890; so that, during the 30 years ended 1890 only 348 decrees for dissolution of marriage were issued, and 71 for judicial separation, or an average per annum of about twelve of the former and two of the latter; whereas, since the Divorce Act of 1889 received the Royal Assent in 1890 no less than 114 decrees per annum for dissolution of marriage have been granted, while the decrees for judicial separation have decreased to about one per annum.

Grounds of Divorce.

The grounds on which divorces were granted during the last five years were:—

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Adultery ... ..	37	41	32	42	65
Assaults (violent) ... ..	...	1	...	...	1
Bigamy ... ..	...	...	...	1	...
Cruelty, repeated acts of... ..	...	...	...	1	1
Desertion ... ..	84	100	90	76	120
Desertion and adultery ... ..	7	4	6	9	13
Drunkenness (habitual) and cruelty ... ..	5	5	8	11	11
Sentences for crime ... ..	1	...	2	...	...
Total ... ..	134	151	138	140	211

Divorces in Australian States and New Zealand.

The following is a statement of the number of petitions and decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation in the Australian States and the Dominion of New Zealand during the three decennial periods ended 1901, and each of the last five years, also of the proportion of decrees per 100,000 married couples living:—

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1881, 1891, 1901, AND 1907 TO 1911.

State.	Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.
		Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
Victoria	1881	18	10	9	..	7
	1891	153	1	99	..	57
	1901	148	2	83	..	46
	1907	182	4	134	..	66
	1908	187	4	151	1	74
	1909	188	3	138	1	67
	1910	191	1	140	..	67
	1911	262	2	211	..	99
New South Wales	1881	23	..	15	..	14
	1891	99	17	50	17	40
	1901	354	33	252	20	133
	1907	359	36	221	14	91
	1908	365	22	196	15	80
	1909	415	28	306	12	119
	1910	413	21	251	6	95
	1911	426	22	200	10	76
Queensland	1881	7	1	2	..	7
	1891	12	4	5	1	10
	1901	15	1	14	..	19
	1907	11	3	12	1	15
	1908	14	6	11	2	15
	1909	24	2	16	..	18
	1910	33	6	20	..	22
1911	17	2	27	1	23	

**DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1881, 1891, 1901, AND 1907 TO 1911—continued.**

State.	Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.
		Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
South Australia	1881	7	4	3	1	9
	1891	13	1	5	..	10
	1901	13	1	6	..	11
	1907	16	..	11	..	18
	1908	20	..	8	..	12
	1909	16	..	12	..	18
	1910	27	1	3	1	6
	1911	23	..	20	..	29
Western Australia	1881	1	..	2	1	73
	1891	3	..	4	..	59
	1901	16	1	12	1	44
	1907	19	2	11	..	25
	1908	21	2	10	..	22
	1909	21	1	15	1	36
	1910	39	8	13	1	30
	1911	35	2	25	2	54
Tasmania	1881	2	..	1	..	6
	1891	4	..	3	..	14
	1901	11	..	11	..	43
	1907	5	..	8	..	26
	1908	13	..	7	..	23
	1909	12	1	12	1	41
	1910	5	..	5	..	16
	1911	4	1	3	1	13
Total, Australian States	1881	58	15	32	2	10
	1891	284	23	166	18	39
	1901	557	38	378	21	70
	1907	592	45	397	15	60
	1908	620	34	383	18	58
	1909	676	35	499	15	73
	1910	708	37	432	8	61
	1911	767	29	486	14	68
Dominion of New Zealand	1881	*	*	*	*	*
	1891	31	5	20	3	25
	1901	136	1	101	1	86
	1907	192	6	147	1	101
	1908	207	..	171	3	115
	1909	242	2	163	..	105
	1910	207	7	160	2	104
	1911	228	4	162	..	103

\* Figures not available.

The grounds of divorce have been extended in New South Wales and New Zealand, and are now substantially the same in Victoria and New South Wales. The extension of the grounds upon which divorce may be obtained has had in New South Wales and New Zealand, as in Victoria, the effect of greatly increasing the number of petitions and decrees.

Divorces in  
various  
countries.

The divorce rate is higher in Australia than in the United Kingdom, but lower than in most of the other principal countries of the world. Japan, the United States, and Switzerland are the countries where the marriage knot is untied most frequently, and in the United States the enormous increase in the number of divorces in recent years has attracted the attention of sociologists. In Ireland, on the other hand, there was only one divorce during the five-year period, 1899-1903. The number of divorces in various countries and their proportions to the populations are shown in the accompanying table:—

#### DIVORCES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Country.	Period.	Population.	Divorces (Annual Average).	
			Number.	Per 100,000 Popu- lation.
Australia .. ..	1907-11	4,308,400	453*	11
Austria .. ..	1898-1902	26,150,700	179	·1
Belgium .. ..	1904-8	7,071,200	837	11
Bulgaria .. ..	1896-1900	3,744,280	396	11
Denmark .. ..	1905-9	2,633,600	637	24
England and Wales .. ..	1903-9	34,884,200	647	2
France .. ..	1906-10	39,264,300	11,790	30
German Empire .. ..	1904-9	62,058,600	12,552	20
Prussia .. ..	"	37,500,000	7,736	21
Saxony .. ..	"	4,560,000	1,452	32
Bavaria .. ..	"	6,600,000	757	11
Hungary .. ..	1898-1902	19,254,560	2,130	11
Ireland .. ..	1899-1903	4,458,770	†	†
Italy .. ..	"	32,475,250	819	3
Japan .. ..	1901-5	46,560,200	63,534	136
Netherlands .. ..	1905-9	5,700,600	773	14
New Zealand .. ..	1907-11	968,300	162	17
Norway .. ..	1906-10	2,346,300	302	13
Scotland .. ..	1899-1903	4,472,100	175	4
Servia .. ..	1896-1900	2,492,880	312	13
Sweden .. ..	1898-1902	5,136,440	390	8
Switzerland .. ..	1904-8	3,553,400	1,341	38
United States .. ..	1902-6	81,697,200	66,500	81

\* Fourteen Judicial Separations included.

† Annual average less than one. Only one divorce granted during the five-year period.

## CRIME.

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE CRIMINAL LAW.

In nearly all cases where the criminal law has been broken, the alleged offender is brought at the very first opportunity before a Court of Petty Sessions, before two honorary justices or a police magistrate, or both, or in some cases a single magistrate, and the court, if the matter is one which comes within its summary jurisdiction, disposes of the case summarily. If the offence is an indictable one, the magistrates hold a preliminary investigation and, if they are satisfied that a *prima facie* case has been made out by the prosecution, the accused is committed for trial to a superior court. There are two superior courts with criminal jurisdiction, viz., the Supreme Court, and a Court of General Sessions, which are held at various places throughout the State. The latter court may deal with all cases of an indictable nature except such as are expressly excluded from its jurisdiction, viz., ten of the most serious crimes. A person may be brought before magistrates by three modes of procedure, viz., by an arrest by a police officer on warrant issued on a sworn information, or in a limited number of cases without warrant if the offence has been witnessed by the arresting constable; or by a summons. If at a coroner's inquest a verdict is returned of murder or manslaughter, the accused person is sent for trial to the Supreme Court without any investigation before magistrates. The Attorney-General or Solicitor-General has also the power of presenting any person for trial before a superior court without the necessity of a preliminary magisterial hearing; and upon the application of any person, properly supported by affidavit, a grand jury may be summoned, on the order of the Full Court, if the affidavit discloses that an indictable offence has been committed by a corporate body; or that such an offence has been committed by any person, and that some justice has refused to commit such person for trial; or in the case of a committal that no presentment has been made at the court at which the trial would in due course have taken place. The grand jury consists of 23 men, who investigate the charge, and if they are of opinion that a *prima facie* ground of action has been made out, the case is sent for trial. The cases which are presented under these latter forms of procedure are, however, very rare.

The Indeterminate Sentences Act came into force on 1st July, 1908. Its principal provisions are—

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

Indeter-  
minate  
sentences.

A Board, consisting of Mr. C. A. Topp, M.A., LL.B. (chairman), Mr. W. R. Anderson, P.M., Secretary to the Crown Law Department, and the Rev. J. H. Ingham, was appointed on 18th August, 1908. Mr. Topp resigned his position on the Board on 24th April, 1912, and the Hon. S. Mauger was appointed by the Governor in Council in his stead on 1st May, 1912. Mr. Mauger was subsequently elected chairman.

The chief functions of the Board are to make visits of inspection monthly to each reformatory prison, to examine the conduct reports of the inmates, and accounts of their earnings, to authorize promotion in grade, to approve of indulgences, and to make careful inquiries as to whether any persons detained in a reformatory prison are sufficiently reformed to be released on probation, and to submit recommendations accordingly to the Governor in Council; also generally to report on the working of the Indeterminate Sentences Act and the regulations. Regulations governing the treatment of declared habitual criminals, and of offenders, not habituals, who are detained under indeterminate sentence in a reformatory prison are now in operation.

On 30th June, 1912, 56 males and 9 females had reached the indeterminate stage of their sentences, and were confined in portions of the Pentridge Penal Establishment and the Female Penitentiary respectively, set apart as reformatory prisons for habitual criminals. On the same date there were 15 youths under indeterminate detention in the Castlemaine reformatory prison. The reformatory prisons mentioned are but temporary expedients. Up to the 30th June, 1912, 19 inmates had been released on probation from the Castlemaine prison on the recommendation of the Board. Of this number 5 had satisfactorily completed their probation of two years; 4 had relapsed and were again under sentence, and the remaining 10 were reported to be doing well. Three "habituals" released on probation from the Pentridge Reformatory Prison had been placed in situations, and were regarded as promising cases. Probation officers, to supervise first offenders released by the Courts on recognisance under the provisions of the Indeterminate Sentences Act, are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Board. One hundred and sixty such officers have been appointed to date.

#### OFFENCES HEARD BY MAGISTRATES.

Prior to 1902, information relating to various offences was incomplete on account of there being no returns as to summons cases other than "against the person," "against property," and "other offences." As will be seen below, there is a large proportion of assaults and offences against good order initiated by summons. The following are particulars of the different classes of offences in

Arrests and  
summonses  
rious  
offences.

1911, distinguishing between arrests and summons cases, multiple charges against the same individual being each counted as an offence:—

## ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1911.

Nature of Offence.	Number of Offences for which—		Total Offences.	How disposed of—		
	Arrests were made.	Summonses were issued.		Summarily convicted, held to bail, &c.	Discharged.	Committed for trial.
<b>Against the Person—</b>						
Murder and attempts at	17	...	17	...	1	16
Manslaughter ...	6	...	6	...	...	6
Shooting at, wounding, &c. ...	44	...	44	4	12	28
Assaults ...	487	876	1,363	770	590	3
Others ...	165	143	308	54	142	112
<b>Against Property—</b>						
Robbery, burglary, &c.	324	...	324	66	106	152
Larceny and similar offences ...	1,333	638	1,971	1,234	470	267
Wilful damage ...	146	295	441	279	162	...
Others ...	200	145	345	206	99	40
<b>Forgery and Offences against the Currency</b>	44	...	44	2	8	34
<b>Against Good Order—</b>						
Drunkenness ...	13,538	65	13,603	7,557	6,046	...
Others ...	3,839	6,037	9,876	7,944	1,930	2
Perjury ..	21	...	21	...	1	20
Breaches of Licensing Act	82	1,149	1,231	963	268	...
" Pure Food "	...	409	409	316	93	...
" Education "	28	4,695	4,723	4,219	504	...
Other Offences ...	468	10,676	11,144	8,880	2,232	32
<b>Total...</b>	<b>20,742</b>	<b>25,128</b>	<b>45,870</b>	<b>32,494</b>	<b>12,664</b>	<b>712</b>

These particulars include the arrests and summonses in Children's Courts detailed in the next table other than arrests of neglected children.

Of the 20,742 offences for which arrests were made, 1,344 were multiple charges, leaving the number of separate arrests 19,398. In 11,543 of these the subjects were summarily convicted, in 7,333 they were discharged, and in 522 they were committed for trial. Of the persons dealt with in the 25,128 summons cases, 20,021 were summarily convicted, 5,065 were discharged, and 42 were committed for trial. Of the total persons dealt with (44,526), the number summarily convicted was 31,564, 12,398 were discharged, and 564 were committed for trial.

Children's  
Courts.

The table hereunder shows the number of arrests and summonses for various offences in Children's Courts during the year 1911:—

CHILDREN'S COURTS: ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1911.

Nature of Offence.	Number of Offences for which—		Other Offences (Application to board out, &c).	Total Offences.
	Arrests were made.	Summonses were issued.		
Against the Person—				
Assaults .. ..	9	52	..	61
Others .. ..	18	26	..	44
Against Property—			..	
Larceny, &c... ..	267	429	..	696
Wilful damage ..	14	173	..	187
Others .. ..	22	43	..	65
Against Good Order—			..	
Drunkenness ..	7	3	..	10
Others .. ..	40	792	..	832
Breaches of Licensing Act	..	..	..	..
Other Offences.. ..	340	257	811	1,408
Total.. ..	717	1,775	811	3,303

The arrests of neglected children, which in 1911 numbered 926, viz., 498 males and 428 females, have been included in this table to indicate the business done by Children's Courts, but they are eliminated from all other criminal tabulations.

Offences  
reported  
and unde-  
tected  
crimes

Of the offenders who were reported as having committed offences during the past five years, 56 per cent. were summoned, 36 per cent. were arrested, and 8 per cent. had not been arrested at the end of the year in which the offence was reported. There was a great increase in summons cases in 1907 and 1908, which arose principally through prosecutions under the new Licensing and Pure Foods Acts, and also on account of more parents having been summoned for neglecting to send their children to school than in previous years—the compulsory clauses of the Amending Education Act requiring children to attend a greater number of times than formerly. This advance has not been sustained, owing to a diminution in the number

of prosecutions under the Education Act, and in 1911 the total of the summons cases was about the same as five years previously. The particulars for the last five years are shown in the subjoined table:—

SUMMONSES, ARRESTS, AND UNDETECTED CRIMES, 1907 TO 1911.

Offences in respect to which persons were—	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Brought before magistrates on summons ...	38,008	38,596	33,349	32,990	25,128
Arrested by the police ... ..	24,332	22,008	20,964	20,518	20,742
Not arrested ... ..	4,416	5,050	4,835	6,129	5,357
Total ... ..	66,756	65,654	59,148	59,637	51,227

In this table each separate charge against a person is considered as a separate offence; for instance, a charge of drunk and disorderly, of resisting the police, of riotous conduct, and of tearing uniform would appear as four separate offences, although all the events happened on the same occasion. Of the offences in respect of which persons were not arrested, 94 per cent. were against property, 2 per cent. were against the person, and the balance, 4 per cent., were of a miscellaneous character.

The arrests of neglected children, which are excluded from this and the following tables, numbered 1,121 in 1907, 744 in 1908, 1,049 in 1909, 1,030 in 1910, and 926 in 1911.

The following are particulars of cases brought before magistrates, from which it will be seen that about 74 per cent. of the persons are generally summarily convicted, and 25 per cent. are discharged, whilst 1 per cent. are sent for trial to superior courts:—

Neglected children arrested.

Offences dealt with by magistrates.

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES DEALT WITH BY MAGISTRATES,  
1907 TO 1911.

Number of Persons.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Arrested or summoned ... ..	60,687	58,778	52,658	52,060	44,526
Discharged by magistrates ... ..	13,395	14,747	13,277	12,954	12,398
Summarily convicted or dealt with ...	46,731	43,454	38,801	38,555	31,564
Committed for trial ... ..	561	577	580	551	564
Persons summarily convicted or committed per 1,000 of population ...	37·8	34·8	30·7	30·1	24·3

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

## CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS IN AUSTRALASIA.

Offences and drunkenness in Australia and New Zealand.

A proper comparison of crime cannot be made between different States or countries unless several considerations are taken into account. The first point necessary is that the criminal law, in the places compared, should be substantially the same; the second, that it should be administered with equal strictness; and the third, that proper allowances are made for differences in the age and sex constitution of the population. The last consideration is one that must also be taken into account in comparing crime in recent years with that for previous periods when the population was very differently constituted in regard to sex and age. The returns of the States and the Dominion of New Zealand do not afford sufficient data to enable one to allow for these differences; but, in regard to the first two points above mentioned, the basis and main provisions of the criminal law are the same in each State; and it must be presumed, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, that the law is administered with equal strictness in each State. The following table shows, for a series of years, the number of charges against persons arrested or summoned for the only classes of offences for which complete comparisons can be made:—

CRIME IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND,  
1890, 1895, 1900, AND 1906 TO 1910.

State.	Year.	Number of Charges against Persons Arrested or Summoned for—				
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	Total
Victoria	1890	4,091	5,036	18,501	36,456	64,084
	1895	2,500	4,068	11,143	21,844	39,555
	1900	2,238	3,540	15,878	29,189	50,845
	1906	1,811	3,797	14,029	30,376	50,013
	1907	1,757	3,646	14,783	42,154	62,340
	1908	1,793	3,894	13,102	41,815	60,604
	1909	1,766	3,686	12,436	36,425	54,313
	1910	1,730	3,500	12,719	35,559	53,508
New South Wales	1890	8,729	7,616	18,654	31,088	66,087
	1895	4,459	6,153	18,379	35,987	64,978
	1900	4,435	6,675	21,003	30,747	62,860
	1906	3,685	5,998	25,399	34,689	69,771
	1907	3,981	6,411	28,255	35,657	74,304
	1908	3,629	6,765	27,976	34,794	73,164
	1909	3,471	7,365	27,495	33,987	72,318
	1910	3,608	6,517	27,542	36,293	73,960

CRIME IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND,  
1890, 1895, 1900, AND 1906 TO 1910—continued.

State.	Year.	Number of Charges against Persons Arrested or Summoned for—				
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	Total.
Queensland	1890	2,713	2,487	6,332	7,464	18,996
	1895	2,073	2,085	4,993	8,522	17,673
	1900	1,937	2,552	9,254	10,621	24,364
	1906	1,682	1,811	7,493	7,863	18,849
	1907	991	1,534	9,066	7,030	18,621
	1908	770	1,638	9,203	8,076	19,687
	1909	859	1,745	9,109	8,111	19,824
	1910	871	1,699	10,870	8,664	22,104
South Australia	1890	520	501	2,382	3,572	6,975
	1895	411	677	1,763	2,128	4,979
	1900	304	575	2,249	2,847	5,975
	1906	254	472	2,483	3,115	6,324
	1907	296	560	2,838	2,653	6,347
	1908	328	516	3,063	2,682	6,589
	1909	333	499	3,481	3,019	7,332
	1910	333	449	4,383	3,163	8,328
Western Australia	1890	371	536	1,181	2,602	4,690
	1895	654	1,080	2,154	4,489	8,377
	1900	1,037	1,746	3,070	8,920	14,773
	1906	579	1,334	3,588	8,833	14,384
	1907	529	1,558	3,591	8,290	13,968
	1908	586	1,321	3,506	7,272	12,685
	1909	564	1,161	4,007	7,229	12,961
	1910	545	1,083	4,550	7,082	13,260
Tasmania	1890	483	619	1,151	4,143	6,396
	1895	353	710	463	3,237	4,763
	1900	368	676	832	3,475	5,351
	1906	194	627	459	5,111	6,391
	1907	192	490	535	5,041	6,258
	1908	249	570	543	5,686	7,048
	1909	207	543	709	5,372	6,831
	1910	267	600	761	5,451	7,079
Total Australian States	1890	16,907	16,795	48,201	85,325	167,228
	1895	10,450	14,773	38,895	76,207	140,325
	1900	10,319	15,764	52,286	85,799	164,168
	1906	8,205	14,089	53,451	89,987	165,732
	1907	7,746	14,199	59,068	100,325	181,338
	1908	7,355	14,704	57,393	100,325	179,777
	1909	7,200	14,999	57,237	94,143	173,579
	1910	7,354	13,848	60,825	96,212	178,239
Dominion of New Zealand	1890	1,516	2,297	5,830	8,604	18,247
	1895	1,281	2,557	5,104	8,639	17,581
	1900	1,526	2,680	7,319	13,165	24,690
	1906	1,508	3,150	9,486	18,494	32,638
	1907	1,654	3,203	10,288	21,465	36,610
	1908	1,513	3,600	10,689	20,484	36,286
	1909	1,412	3,536	10,762	21,010	36,720
	1910	1,178	3,555	11,695	21,566	37,994

The next table gives the number of charges laid against persons arrested or summoned per 1,000 of the population in the Australian States and New Zealand during a series of years:—

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALIAN STATE AND THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1890, 1895, 1900, AND 1906 TO 1910.

State.	Year.	Charges against Persons Arrested or Summoned per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.
Victoria	1890	3·66	4·50	16·54	32·59
	1895	2·12	3·45	9·44	18·45
	1900	1·88	2·97	13·31	24·46
	1906	1·46	3·07	11·34	24·56
	1907	1·40	2·91	11·80	33·66
	1908	1·42	3·07	10·35	33·04
	1909	1·38	2·88	9·71	28·43
	1910	1·33	2·69	9·79	27·37
New South Wales	1890	7·92	6·91	16·93	28·21
	1895	3·53	4·87	14·53	28·46
	1900	3·28	4·93	15·51	22·70
	1906	2·46	4·00	16·95	23·14
	1907	2·59	4·17	18·40	23·22
	1908	2·32	4·32	17·88	22·22
	1909	2·18	4·63	17·29	21·38
	1910	2·23	4·02	17·00	22·40
Queensland	1890	7·03	6·45	16·41	19·35
	1895	4·58	4·60	11·03	18·82
	1900	3·95	5·21	18·90	21·68
	1906	3·16	3·40	14·06	14·76
	1907	1·83	2·83	16·75	12·99
	1908	1·39	2·95	16·58	14·54
	1909	1·50	3·06	15·95	14·20
	1910	1·47	2·87	18·36	14·63
South Australia	1890	1·64	1·60	7·53	11·35
	1895	1·18	1·94	5·06	6·11
	1900	·85	1·60	6·26	7·93
	1906	·67	1·25	6·58	8·50
	1907	·78	1·47	7·45	6·97
	1908	·85	1·34	7·94	6·95
	1909	·84	1·26	8·81	7·64
	1910	·83	1·12	10·93	7·88
Western Australia	1890	8·28	11·97	26·37	58·09
	1895	7·06	11·66	23·25	48·45
	1900	5·86	9·86	17·34	51·45
	1906	2·28	5·44	14·10	34·73
	1907	2·07	6·10	14·05	32·44
	1908	2·27	5·12	13·60	28·21
	1909	2·14	4·41	15·22	27·46
	1910	2·01	4·00	16·79	26·13

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALIAN STATE AND THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1890, 1895, 1900, AND 1906 TO 1910—*continued.*

State.	Year.	Charges against Persons Arrested or Summoned per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.
Tasmania	1890	3·36	4·31	8·01	28·93
	1895	2·22	4·46	2·91	20·36
	1900	2·13	3·91	4·82	20·29
	1906	1·06	3·42	2·50	27·85
	1907	1·03	2·64	2·88	27·15
	1908	1·32	3·03	2·89	30·26
	1909	1·09	2·86	3·73	28·25
	1910	1·39	3·12	3·95	28·33
Australian States	1890	5·43	5·39	15·48	27·64
	1895	2·98	4·22	11·11	21·99
	1900	2·75	4·21	13·96	20·18
	1906	2·02	3·46	13·15	22·07
	1907	1·88	3·44	14·30	24·41
	1908	1·75	3·50	13·66	23·89
	1909	1·68	3·50	13·37	21·99
	1910	1·68	3·17	13·92	22·01
Dominion of New Zealand	1890	2·44	3·70	9·39	13·86
	1895	1·85	3·71	7·37	12·48
	1900	2·00	3·51	9·58	17·24
	1906	1·68	3·52	10·59	20·65
	1907	1·80	3·49	11·19	23·35
	1908	1·60	3·81	11·31	21·67
	1909	1·45	3·64	11·07	21·62
	1910	1·19	3·58	11·78	21·72

Almost all serious crimes are either offences against the person or offences against property. The only serious crimes included under "Other Offences" are forgery, counterfeiting, and perjury, and these are very few in number, there having been in Victoria in 1910 only 60 of such crimes, out of a total of 35,559 in the category to which they belong. A large proportion of the cases under the heading "Other Offences" are merely breaches of various Acts of Parliament, by-laws, &c., which indicate no degree of criminal instinct

or intent on the part of the person charged. There is also among them a large number of offences against good order, including insulting behaviour, vagrancy, &c. A comparison of the relative proportions in the various States of charges under the heading "Other Offences" is not of much value, on account of the differences in the laws of the States in these matters, and of the large proportion of the offences which are not crimes, but mere breaches of various Acts and by-laws.

Offences against the person set out in the first column of the preceding table, consist mainly of assault, but include murder, manslaughter, shooting, wounding, and all crimes of lust. A glance at the figures shows that since 1890 there has been a very large decline in these crimes in every State in proportion to population. South Australia easily holds the pride of place, then comes New Zealand, closely followed by Victoria, Tasmania, and Queensland, then Western Australia and New South Wales in that order.

A decrease, as compared with 1890, has also occurred in the proportion of offences against property in all the Australian States, and New Zealand. The decrease in respect of these offences in Australia is, however, not nearly so marked as that in respect of offences against the person. Offences against property are far less rife in South Australia than in any other State or New Zealand, Victoria coming next, followed by Queensland, Tasmania, New Zealand, Western Australia, and New South Wales, in that order. Offences against property consist principally of larceny and similar offences; but include burglary, robbery, &c., cattle stealing, and wilful damage to property.

In three Australian States, viz., Victoria, Western Australia, and Tasmania, there was a decrease in drunkenness cases before magistrates in 1910, as compared with 1890; but there was an increase in New Zealand. This offence is much less frequent in Tasmania than in any other State, Victoria coming next, and South Australia, New Zealand, Western Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland following in that order. In Victoria, summons cases for drunkenness were not included previous to 1902, but the number of such cases was so small that the comparison is not appreciably affected by their omission.

Appended is a summary showing the number of charges against persons arrested under each class of offence in the five census years ended with 1911:—

Charges against persons arrested, 1871 to 1911.

CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED AT FIVE DECENNIAL PERIODS.

Offences.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.
<i>Against the Person—</i>					
Murder and attempts at ...	28	16	44	12	17
Manslaughter ...	14	16	9	11	6
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm, &c.	63	82	84	83	44
Assaults ...	1,023	1,155	1,317	832	487
Rape, and other offences against females ...	88	71	66	116	93
Unnatural offence and attempts at ...	18	5	14	13	8
Others ...	90	109	117	75	64
<i>Against Property—</i>					
Robbery, burglary, house-breaking, &c. ...	421	367	609	460	324
Horse, cattle, and sheep stealing ...	121	89	96	56	37
Larceny ...	2,052	2,024	2,384	1,807	1,175
Embezzlement ...	43	32	70	28	16
False pretences and imposing or endeavouring to impose ...	195	206	243	137	142
Wilful damage ...	581	547	503	314	146
Others ...	413	468	253	157	163
Forgery and offences against the currency ...	82	58	109	47	44
<i>Against Good Order—</i>					
Drunkenness ...	9,968	11,065	18,057	17,360	13,538
Indecent, riotous, or offensive conduct, and obscene, threatening, or abusive language ...	1,099	3,997	5,010	4,269	2,698
Having no visible lawful means of support, begging, and vagrancy (unspecified)	886	1,419	2,020	1,035	421
Others ...	2,910	1,461	2,117	2,312	720
<i>Other Offences—</i>					
Perjury ...	32	21	56	33	21
Marriage and Matrimonial Causes Act (desertion of family, &c.) ...	174	150	211	188	191
Others ...	1,190	837	772	426	387
Total ...	21,491	24,195	34,161	29,771	20,742

Proportion  
of arrests  
for various  
offences,  
1871 to  
1911.

Subjoined is a statement of the proportions to the population aged 15 years and upwards of those arrested for different offences at the five census periods ended with 1911:—

CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED PER 10,000 OF POPULATION,  
AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, AT FIVE DECENNIAL PERIODS.

Offences.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.
<i>Against the Person—</i>					
Murder and attempts at ...	·66	·30	·59	·15	·19
Manslaughter ...	·33	·30	·12	·14	·07
Shooting at, or wounding with intent to do bodily harm, &c.	1·49	1·54	1·12	1·05	·48
Assaults ...	24·20	21·70	17·62	10·49	5·31
Rape and other offences against females ...	2·08	1·34	·88	1·46	1·01
Unnatural offence and attempts at ...	·43	·09	·19	·16	·09
Others ...	2·13	2·05	1·56	·95	·70
<i>Against Property—</i>					
Robbery, burglary, house- breaking, &c. ...	9·95	6·90	8·15	5·80	3·54
Horse, cattle, and sheep stealing ...	2·86	1·67	1·29	·71	·40
Larceny ...	48·54	38·04	31·90	22·79	12·82
Embezzlement ...	1·02	·60	·94	·35	·18
False pretences and imposing or endeavouring to impose ...	4·61	3·87	3·25	1·73	1·55
Wilful damage ...	13·74	10·28	6·73	3·96	1·59
Others ...	9·77	8·80	3·39	1·98	1·78
Forgery and offences against the currency ...	1·94	1·09	1·46	·59	·48
<i>Against Good Order—</i>					
Drunkenness ...	235·79	207·95	241·61	218·98	147·72
Indecent, riotous, or offensive conduct, and obscene, threatening, or abusive language ...	26·00	75·12	67·04	53·85	29·44
Having no visible lawful means of support, begging, and vagrancy (unspecified) ...	20·96	26·67	27·03	13·06	4·59
Others ...	68·83	27·45	28·32	29·16	7·86
<i>Other Offences—</i>					
Perjury ...	·76	·39	·75	·42	·23
Marriage and Matrimonial Causes Act (desertion of family, &c.) ...	4·11	2·82	2·82	2·37	2·08
Others ...	28·15	15·73	10·33	5·38	4·22
Total ...	508·35	454·70	457·09	375·53	226·33

The sexes of persons brought up on summons are not recorded; but it usually happens that about 20 per cent. of the persons arrested are females. The males and females arrested, and the disposal of the cases, in 1911, were as follows:—

Males and females arrested.

MALES AND FEMALES ARRESTED, 1911.

Disposal.	Arrests.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Summarily Convicted .. .. .	9,544	1,999	11,543
Discharged by Magistrates .. .. .	5,989	1,344	7,333
Committed for Trial .. .. .	485	37	522
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>16,018</b>	<b>3,380</b>	<b>19,398</b>

SENTENCES PASSED.

The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates during 1911 were as follows:—

Sentences by Magistrates.

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF PERSONS ARRESTED, 1911.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid ... .. .	4,189	460	4,649
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month ... .. .	3,481	1,176	4,657
1 and under 6 months ... .. .	693	164	857
6 and under 12 months .. .. .	113	50	163
1 to 2 years ... .. .	45	11	56
2 years ... .. .	5	...	5
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety ... .. .	250	38	318
Admonished ... .. .	631	63	694
Sent to Industrial or Reformatory Schools	48	12	60
Otherwise dealt with ... .. .	59	25	84
<b>Total sentenced ... .. .</b>	<b>9,544</b>	<b>1,999</b>	<b>11,543</b>
<b>Discharged ... .. .</b>	<b>5,989</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>7,333</b>
<b>Total summarily disposed of ...</b>	<b>15,533</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>18,876</b>
Sentenced per 10,000 of population ...	144·8	30·2	87·4

In addition to the sentences of imprisonment, two prisoners were sentenced to four days' solitary confinement, and one prisoner was ordered one whipping of 15 strokes.

Sentences in  
superior  
courts.

The following were the sentences of the arrested prisoners tried and convicted in superior courts during 1911:—

SENTENCES OF ARRESTED PRISONERS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1911.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid ... ..	2	...	2
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month ... ..	9	...	9
1 and under 6 months ... ..	47	...	47
6    "    12    " ... ..	79	9	88
1    "    4 years ... ..	97	...	97
4    "    7    " ... ..	10	...	10
7    "    10   " ... ..	3	...	3
10   "   15   " ... ..	2	...	2
Life ... ..	2	...	2
Death recorded ... ..	6	1	7
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety ...	56	7	63
Sent to Reformatory Schools ...	2	...	2
Sent to Reformatory Prison ...	2	...	2
Total convicted ... ..	317	17	334
Acquitted ... ..	133	19	152
Not prosecuted ... ..	13	3	16
Convictions per 10,000 of population...	4·8	·3	2·5

In addition to being sent to gaol, four persons were ordered to be kept in solitary confinement during various portions of their terms of imprisonment, and two prisoners were ordered one whipping each with a cat-o'-nine tails. Prisoners remaining for trial from the previous year are included in the above statement, but those awaiting trial at the end of the year are excluded.

## DECREASE IN CRIME.

To enable a comparison to be made of the relative criminality of the population at different ages, it is necessary to separate the sexes of arrested persons, to divide each sex into age groups, and to show the number of charges laid against the males and females in the different groups between 10 and 60 per 10,000 persons living in each group. The following are the particulars on this basis for the last five census years:—

Decrease of  
crime in  
Victoria.

CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED AT DIFFERENT AGES PER  
10,000 OF POPULATION, 1871 TO 1911.

Ages.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.
	MALES.				
10 to 15 years ... ..	104	111	96	49	26
15 to 20 " ... ..	338	335	305	228	145
20 to 25 " ... ..	773	720	691	593	284
25 to 30 " ... ..	834	823	777	713	393
30 to 40 " ... ..	771	865	869	702	462
40 to 50 " ... ..	726	721	1,054	872	498
50 to 60 " ... ..	830	623	756	804	519
60 years and over ... ..	756	661	586	430	309
FEMALES.					
10 to 15 years ... ..	37	26	16	15	15
15 to 20 " ... ..	80	90	50	28	13
20 to 25 " ... ..	141	178	141	117	32
25 to 30 " ... ..	232	219	171	173	95
30 to 40 " ... ..	303	290	189	168	114
40 to 50 " ... ..	272	322	239	171	117
50 to 60 " ... ..	245	223	215	119	86
60 years and over ... ..	186	166	144	109	45

These figures prove that there has been a great decrease in crime in recent, as compared with former, years. In every age group there has been a considerable falling-off. The spread of education has

doubtless had much to do with this result. Religious teaching was struck out of the curriculum of the State schools in 1873, and many attempts have been made to ascertain the effect on the community as revealed by statistics of crime. No definite conclusion can, however, be arrived at by merely examining these statistics for a series of years.

In comparing the criminal records of different periods many factors must be taken into account, some of which have a tendency to increase and others to decrease the numbers of arrests and summonses issued. For example, new laws are constantly being passed the contravention of which will lead to proceedings being taken against the person concerned. During a period of prosperity the earnings of the people are increased, a larger sum than usual is spent on alcoholic liquors, and there may be an increase in the number of arrests for drunkenness. On the other hand, when work is plentiful, the temptation to commit offences against property is less than during periods of depression. The work carried out by reformatory agencies also will tend to reduce the number of arrests of persons who have previously been convicted.

It is not possible from the records of a single community to ascertain the effect of a change in one element of the social economy unless the effect of all other changes is known. An approximate idea of the consequences of a change in one particular may, however, be obtained if a comparison be made between the criminal statistics of two communities during a term of years when the conditions were very similar except in regard to the special element under consideration.

Arrests of  
distinct  
individuals

It has been already stated that in making up the returns, a person arrested more than once is counted as a separate individual in respect to each arrest, but it is possible to ascertain approximately the number of distinct persons passing through the hands of the police by making a close comparison of names, ages, birth-places, religions,



DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1911—continued.

Age and Religion.	Number of Arrests.	Number of Distinct Individuals Arrested.	Number of Times on which Distinct Individuals were Arrested.																				
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	24		
<b>AGE.</b>																							
Under 10 years .. .. .	9	9	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
10 to 15 .. .. .	92	87	82	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
15 to 20 .. .. .	906	809	733	60	11	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
20 to 25 .. .. .	1,746	1,517	1,346	132	24	12	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
25 to 30 .. .. .	2,378	1,840	1,524	221	51	21	5	5	4	3	1	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
30 to 40 .. .. .	4,734	3,379	2,682	482	137	50	21	15	16	8	5	6	..	2	1	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	
40 to 50 .. .. .	4,909	3,275	2,436	511	162	68	31	30	9	10	3	6	2	3	..	2	1	..	1	..	1	..	
50 to 60 .. .. .	2,974	1,940	1,404	327	108	38	25	19	1	6	2	2	2	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	
60 to 70 .. .. .	1,187	767	561	116	44	22	9	7	1	2	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
70 to 80 .. .. .	398	272	217	29	11	9	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
80 years and over .. .. .	65	44	36	4	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
<b>RELIGION.</b>																							
Church of England .. .. .	6,456	4,703	3,777	579	175	70	35	30	13	6	3	4	1	4	1	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	2
Presbyterian .. .. .	2,484	1,843	1,478	255	57	24	8	5	2	6	3	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Methodist .. .. .	808	630	531	65	17	10	1	1	2	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Independent .. .. .	35	29	27	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Baptist .. .. .	139	113	101	5	2	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lutheran .. .. .	352	285	243	26	10	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Protestants .. .. .	40	33	29	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total Protestants .. .. .</b>	<b>10,314</b>	<b>7,636</b>	<b>6,186</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Roman Catholics .. .. .	8,568	5,902	4,499	869	274	111	47	38	16	17	7	9	3	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	..	..	..
Jews .. .. .	31	27	23	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Buddhists, Confucians, Mohammedans, &c. .. .. .	127	122	117	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
No religion .. .. .	358	252	205	26	12	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..

DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1911—continued.

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Occupation.	Number of Arrests.	Number of Distinct Individuals Arrested.	Number of Times on which Distinct Individuals were Arrested.																		
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	24
<b>PROFESSIONAL CLASS.</b>																					
Actor, actress, showman .. .. .	16	16	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Barrister, solicitor .. .. .	39	10	6	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chemist .. .. .	31	20	15	3	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Civil engineer, surveyor .. .. .	9	6	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dentist .. .. .	11	10	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jockey .. .. .	47	38	31	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Journalist, reporter, authoress .. .. .	20	13	10	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Medical practitioner .. .. .	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Musician, teacher of music .. .. .	33	29	25	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nurse .. .. .	10	6	5	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Teacher, tutor, governess .. .. .	20	9	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others .. .. .	87	75	64	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>DOMESTIC CLASS.</b>																					
Barman, barmaid, waiter, waitress .. .. .	125	103	89	9	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Charwoman, laundryman, laundress .. .. .	122	76	52	13	5	2	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cook, domestic servant .. .. .	994	614	460	80	29	15	6	9	6	1	1	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Hairdresser.. .. .	73	50	38	5	5	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others .. .. .	197	158	133	18	2	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>COMMERCIAL CLASS.</b>																					
Accountant, cashier, clerk .. .. .	298	235	203	20	5	2	1	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Agent .. .. .	54	46	39	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Butcher .. .. .	135	108	90	13	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canvasser, commercial traveller, sales- man .. .. .	191	162	141	16	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dealer .. .. .	117	92	73	9	3	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Draper .. .. .	37	29	26	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grocer .. .. .	27	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawker .. .. .	201	138	102	24	6	2	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marine dealer, collector .. .. .	38	29	24	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others .. .. .	207	175	157	18	2	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Law, Crime, &c.



Of the total number of arrests, 19,398, only 13,939, or 73 per cent., were of distinct individuals. Of these 11,030, or 79 per cent. were arrested only once; 1,837, or 13 per cent., twice; 548, or 4 per cent., three times; 227, or 2 per cent., four times; and 297, or 2 per cent., five times and over—three of these persons having been arrested eighteen times, and one as many as twenty-four times. The following table gives a comparison of 1911 with 1884, from which it will be seen that there has been a slight decrease in the proportionate number of persons arrested more than once:—

DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED, 1884 AND 1911.

Year.	Distinct Persons Arrested.						Percentage Arrested.				
	Number.			Per 100,000 of the Population.			Once.	Twice.	Thrice.	Four Times.	More than Four Times.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.					
1884 ...	16,229	3,628	19,857	3,309	820	2,129	78	14	4	2	2
1911 ...	12,098	1,841	13,939	1,836	278	1,055	79	13	4	2	2

Individuals arrested more than once.

The tendency of females to be arrested over and over again is much greater than that of males, for, while only 19 per cent. of the males who fell into the hands of the police were arrested more than once, as many as 31 per cent. of the females were so arrested.

Sexes of those arrested more than once.

The distinct persons arrested for drunkenness during 1911 numbered 9,454, and, of these, 2,131, or 23 per cent., were arrested more than once, viz., 1,305 twice, 433 thrice, 158 four times, 85 five times, and 150 more than five times, of whom 1 was arrested twenty-one times.

Distinct persons arrested more than once for drunkenness.

Whilst the number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness was 9,454, the charges of drunkenness brought against them numbered 13,538; these persons were also charged with 1,488 other offences, so that the total number of charges of all kinds against drunkards was 15,026, as compared with 20,742 charges of all descriptions. Thus 72 per cent. of the offences for which persons were arrested during 1911 were committed by persons who were arrested for drunkenness.

Drunkards charged with other offences.

Birthplaces  
of distinct  
persons  
arrested  
and  
committed  
for trial.

The table below contains a classification of distinct persons arrested during 1911 according to birth-place, and shows the proportion per 10,000 which the persons in each class bear to those of the same nationality living in the State at the census of 1911:—

BIRTHPLACES OF DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED AND COMMITTED  
FOR TRIAL, 1911.

Birthplace.	Distinct Persons Arrested.				
	Total Number.	Summarily Convicted, Held to Bail, &c.	Discharged.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.
Victoria .. .. .	7,919	4,977	2,591	351	215
Other Australian States ..	1,297	748	497	52	34
New Zealand .. .. .	246	141	95	10	7
England and Wales .. .. .	1,673	900	730	43	31
Scotland .. .. .	680	364	307	9	7
Ireland .. .. .	1,261	728	527	6	6
China .. .. .	46	29	11	6	3
Other Countries.. .. .	817	428	357	32	24
Total .. .. .	13,939	8,315	5,115	509	327
Proportion per 10,000 of Census Population of same nationality.					
Victoria .. .. .	78·39	49·27	25·65	3·47	2·13
Other Australian States ..	131·37	75·76	50·34	5·27	3·44
New Zealand .. .. .	244·35	140·06	94·36	9·93	6·95
England and Wales .. .. .	187·17	100·69	81·67	4·81	3·47
Scotland .. .. .	255·85	136·96	115·51	3·38	2·63
Ireland .. .. .	304·02	175·52	127·06	1·44	1·44
China .. .. .	82·13	51·78	19·64	10·71	5·36
Other Countries.. .. .	243·86	127·75	106·56	9·55	7·16
Total .. .. .	105·96	63·21	38·88	3·87	2·49

The proportion of arrests of distinct persons of Victorian birth does not afford a proper comparison with the proportions indicated for natives of other Australian States, Great Britain, and foreign countries. The Victorian born population includes a large number of children of whom, as has been shown, few are arrested, whereas the number of children

in the State born in places outside Victoria is very small. Partly for this reason the ratio obtained by comparing the arrests of natives with the corresponding population is less than the ratios relating to the arrests of persons born in other States and countries.

The religions professed by the distinct persons arrested during 1911, and the proportions of persons from each denomination so arrested or dealt with per 10,000 of their numbers in the population at the census of 1911 are shown hereunder:—

Religions of distinct persons arrested and convicted.

RELIGIONS OF DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED AND COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1911.

Religion.	Total number.	Summarily convicted, held to bail, &c.	Discharged.	Committed for trial.	Convicted after commitment.
Church of England ...	4,703	2,742	1,737	224	151
Presbyterian ...	1,843	1,092	680	71	45
Methodist ...	630	400	190	40	20
Other Protestants ...	460	245	198	17	15
<b>Total Protestants</b>	<b>7,636</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>2,805</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>231</b>
Roman Catholics ...	5,902	3,621	2,152	129	80
Jews ...	27	18	5	4	2
Other Denominations ...	122	59	53	10	6
No Religion... ..	252	138	100	14	8
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>13,939</b>	<b>8,315</b>	<b>5,115</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>327</b>
Proportion per 10,000 persons connected with each denomination.					
Church of England ...	104·26	60·79	38·51	4·96	3·35
Presbyterian ...	78·57	46·55	28·99	3·03	1·92
Methodist ...	35·66	22·64	10·76	2·26	1·13
Other Protestants ...	41·90	22·32	18·03	1·55	1·37
<b>Total Protestants</b>	<b>78·55</b>	<b>46·08</b>	<b>28·85</b>	<b>3·62</b>	<b>2·37</b>
Roman Catholics ...	206·05	126·42	75·13	4·50	2·79
Jews ...	43·06	28·71	7·97	6·38	3·19
Other Denominations ...	74·74	36·14	32·47	6·13	3·68
No religion... ..	73·19	40·08	29·04	4·07	2·32
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>105·96</b>	<b>63·21</b>	<b>38·88</b>	<b>3·87</b>	<b>2·49</b>

Age and  
degree of  
instruc-  
tion.

The ages of those arrested in 1911, and the degree of instruction possessed by them, are shown in the subjoined table:—

AGE AND DEGREE OF INSTRUCTION OF DISTINCT PERSONS  
ARRESTED, 1911.

Ages.	Education Superior.	Education Good.	Read Only, or Read and Write.	Illiterate.	Total.
Under 10 years ..	..	..	7	2	9
10 to 15 ,, ..	..	..	85	2	87
15 to 20 ,, ..	..	..	789	20	809
20 to 25 ,, ..	2	2	1,477	36	1,517
25 to 30 ,, ..	2	7	1,796	35	1,840
30 to 40 ,, ..	2	12	3,302	63	3,379
40 to 50 ,, ..	4	11	3,185	75	3,275
50 to 60 ,, ..	8	7	1,867	58	1,940
60 to 70 ,, ..	1	3	713	50	767
70 to 80 ,, ..	1	3	230	38	272
80 years and over ..	..	..	38	6	44
Total ..	20	45	13,489	385	13,939

Education  
of persons  
arrested.

About 3 per cent. of the distinct individuals arrested in 1911 were entirely illiterate, over 96 per cent. could read only, or read and write, and under 1 per cent. were possessed of superior or good education.

Crime in  
United  
Kingdom.

The statistics to hand relating to the United Kingdom give the commitments for trial and convictions in the superior courts. The following table shows the number of commitments for trial and convictions, and their respective proportions to the population of each division of the United Kingdom during the last year of each of the

three decennial periods ended 1900, and during each of the five years ended 1910:—

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1880, 1890, 1900, AND 1906 TO 1910.

Country.	Year.	Commitments for trial.	Convictions.	Proportion per 10,000 of Population of—	
				Commitments.	Convictions.
England and Wales...	1880	14,770	11,214	5·74	4·36
	1890	11,974	9,242	4·16	3·21
	1900	10,331	8,157	3·20	2·53
	1906	13,190	10,823	3·82	3·13
	1907	13,054	10,834	3·74	3·10
	1908	14,554	12,060	4·15	3·44
	1909	14,287	11,865	4·03	3·35
	1910	14,331	11,987	4·00	3·35
Scotland ...	1880	2,583	2,046	6·97	5·52
	1890	2,312	1,825	5·77	4·56
	1900	2,167	1,835	4·88	4·14
	1906	2,631	2,157	5·57	4·56
	1907	2,456	2,012	5·13	4·22
	1908	2,559	2,115	5·30	4·38
	1909	1,977	1,618	4·19	3·44
	1910	1,488	1,225	3·14	2·59
Ireland ...	1880	4,716	2,383	9·06	4·58
	1890	2,061	1,193	4·39	2·54
	1900	1,682	1,087	3·76	2·43
	1906	2,072	1,303	4·72	2·97
	1907	2,193	1,338	5·01	3·06
	1908	2,242	1,375	5·13	3·15
	1909	2,219	1,507	5·08	3·45
	1910	2,036	1,373	4·66	3·14
Total United Kingdom	1880	22,069	15,643	6·37	4·52
	1890	16,347	12,260	4·36	3·27
	1900	14,180	11,079	3·45	2·69
	1906	17,893	14,283	4·10	3·27
	1907	17,698	14,179	4·01	3·22
	1908	19,355	15,550	4·34	3·49
	1909	18,483	14,990	4·15	3·37
	1910	17,855	14,585	3·98	3·25

From the next table it will be observed that, in proportion to the population, the commitments in the United Kingdom were above those in South Australia and Tasmania, also that the convictions in Scotland were higher than in Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, and the convictions in England and Ireland exceeded those in the two latter States; in all other cases the commitments

Proportion of commitments for trial and convictions in Australian States, New Zealand, and Britain.

and convictions in the three portions of the United Kingdom were below those in the Australian States and New Zealand:—

PROPORTION OF COMMITMENTS AND CONVICTIONS TO EVERY 10,000 PERSONS LIVING IN THE AUSTRALIAN STATES, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1906 TO 1910.

Commitments for Trial to every 10,000 of Population.				Convictions after Commitment to every 10,000 of Population.			
New Zealand	...	...	10.58	New Zealand	...	...	4.98
Queensland	...	...	7.61	Western Australia	...	...	4.86
New South Wales	...	...	7.36	Queensland	...	...	4.28
Western Australia	...	...	6.92	New South Wales	...	...	3.99
Victoria	...	...	5.39	Scotland	...	...	3.84
Ireland	...	...	4.92	Victoria	...	...	3.35
Scotland	...	...	4.67	England and Wales	...	...	3.27
England and Wales	...	...	3.94	Ireland	...	...	3.15
South Australia	...	...	3.06	South Australia	...	...	2.19
Tasmania	...	...	2.76	Tasmania	...	...	1.53

Proportion of convictions to commitments in Australian States, New Zealand, and Britain.

The following figures show that in the five years 1906 to 1910, convictions followed commitment with more certainty in England and Scotland than in any of the Australian States and New Zealand, but Western Australia and South Australia, in this respect, stood above Ireland. All the other Australian States and New Zealand occupy positions below these, New Zealand being at the bottom of the list with about 47 convictions to every 100 commitments:—

PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS TO COMMITMENTS IN THE AUSTRALIAN STATES, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1906 TO 1910.

				Per Cent.			
England and Wales	...	...	82.93	Victoria	...	...	62.14
Scotland	...	...	82.14	New South Wales	...	...	54.25
Western Australia	...	...	70.26	Queensland	...	...	56.28
South Australia	...	...	71.36	Tasmania	...	...	55.34
Ireland	..	...	64.08	New Zealand	...	...	47.05

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

Drunkenness, 1907 to 1911.

PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS, 1907 TO 1911.

Year.	Number of Persons—			Proportion per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1907 ...	14,703	80	14,783	11·80
1908 ...	13,029	73	13,102	10·35
1909 ...	12,386	50	12,436	9·71
1910 ...	12,653	66	12,719	9·79
1911 ...	13,538	65	13,603	10·30

The amount of drunkenness, as evidenced by arrests, being taken as 100 in 1874-8, the numbers for subsequent periods will show the increase or decrease by comparison:—

Drunkenness—Comparison with previous years.

Period.	Average 5 years	...	...	...	...	Index Number.
1874-8	...	...	...	...	...	100
1879-85	7	...	...	...	...	88
1886-92	7	...	...	...	...	106
1893-97	5	...	...	...	...	65
1898-1902	5	...	...	...	...	83
1903-7	5	...	...	...	...	77
1908	...	...	...	...	...	71
1909	...	...	...	...	...	66
1910	...	...	...	...	...	67
1911	...	...	...	...	...	70

A very considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown during the five years 1893-7, which was a period of general depression. In the five years following an increase occurred, but since that time the arrests for this offence have declined, and during the last three years they have been only slightly above the lowest point of previous years.

The accompanying table shows the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness, also the proportion per 100,000 of the population under that age, from which it will be seen that very few young persons are arrested for this offence:—

Young persons charged with drunkenness.

ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1895 TO 1911.

Year.	Number.	Proportion per 100,000 of the Population under 20 years of age.
1895 ...	185	35·60
1900 ...	222	42·38
1907 ...	153	30·00
1908 ...	133	25·81
1909 ...	104	19·94
1910 ...	128	24·19
1911 ...	137	25·46

Religions of persons arrested for drunkenness.

The religions professed by the distinct persons arrested for drunkenness during the past five years are given in the following table:—

RELIGIONS OF DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED FOR DRUNKENNESS,  
1907 TO 1911.

Religion.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Church of England	3,482	3,209	2,949	2,872	3,031
Presbyterian ...	1,374	1,268	1,227	1,237	1,284
Methodist ...	402	342	323	344	332
Other Protestants	410	309	264	290	306
<b>Total Protestants</b>	<b>5,668</b>	<b>5,128</b>	<b>4,763</b>	<b>4,743</b>	<b>4,953</b>
Roman Catholics	4,735	4,231	3,871	4,090	4,296
Jews ...	5	9	12	6	7
Other Denominations	29	27	20	21	24
No Religion ...	223	189	184	192	174
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>10,660</b>	<b>9,584</b>	<b>8,850</b>	<b>9,052</b>	<b>9,454</b>
Proportion per 1,000 persons connected with each denomination.					
Church of England	7·71	7·04	6·39	6·14	6·72
Presbyterian ...	6·88	6·28	6·01	5·97	5·47
Methodist ...	2·14	1·80	1·68	1·76	1·88
Other Protestants	3·91	2·92	2·46	2·67	2·79
<b>Total Protestants</b>	<b>6·00</b>	<b>5·38</b>	<b>4·94</b>	<b>4·85</b>	<b>5·10</b>
Roman Catholics	17·21	15·22	13·76	14·34	15·00
Jews ...	·81	1·44	1·91	·94	1·12
Other Denominations	2·67	2·46	1·80	1·87	1·47
No Religion ...	13·05	10·95	10·53	10·84	5·05
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>8·50</b>	<b>7·57</b>	<b>6·91</b>	<b>6·97</b>	<b>7·19</b>

Drunkenness was the cause of arrest of persons connected with the various religious bodies in the following proportions:—Church of England, 64 per cent. of total arrests; Presbyterian, 70 per cent.; Methodist, 53 per cent.; other Protestants, 67 per cent.; Roman Catholic, 73 per cent.; Jews, 26 per cent.; and other denominations, 20 per cent. In the case of those persons who were classified as “no religion,” the arrests for drunkenness comprised 69 per cent. of the total arrests of distinct persons.

The following tabulation shows the number of charges of drunkenness made against persons in each State and in New Zealand during 1910, also the number of convictions and the percentage of the latter to the former:—

Apparent leniency of magistrates in drunkenness cases in Victoria.

PERCENTAGE OF CONVICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1910.

State.	Charges of Drunkenness.	Convictions.	
		Total.	Percentage of Charges.
Victoria .. .. .	12,719	7,272	57·17
New South Wales .. .. .	27,542	27,380	99·41
Queensland .. .. .	10,870	10,849	99·81
South Australia .. .. .	4,383	4,323	98·63
Western Australia .. .. .	4,550	4,506	99·03
Tasmania .. .. .	761	741	97·37
Australia .. .. .	60,825	55,071	90·54
Dominion of New Zealand .. .. .	11,695	11,613	99·30
Australasia .. .. .	72,520	66,684	91·95

It will be seen from the last column in the above table that the percentage of convictions in Victoria was much less than in the other States and the Dominion of New Zealand, nearly every case resulting in a conviction in the latter places, and about one out of every two cases in the former. These figures seem to denote a comparative leniency on the part of magistrates in drunkenness cases in Victoria, but investigations show that in that State an offender on his first appearance is generally discharged, and that those who have been arrested on a Saturday and detained in custody until Monday, are similarly dealt with. In some cases also, when an offender has been admitted to bail after arrest, he is discharged on putting a donation in the poor-box. In all these cases no conviction is recorded in Victoria, but in the other States a conviction is entered on the records in nearly every case, whether any punishment is inflicted or not.

Consumption of intoxicating liquor.

The next table shows for a period of five years the average yearly consumption of intoxicating liquors in the principal countries of the world, the information for foreign countries having been compiled from a return prepared to the order of the British House of Commons, dated 21st November, 1910:—

AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS, BEER, AND WINE IN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE PRINCIPAL BRITISH POSSESSIONS AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Countries.	Yearly Average Quantity Consumed, 1907 to 1911.			Proportion per Head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
<b>British—</b>						
Commonwealth of Australia ..	3,301,200	49,625,000	2,028,600	·77	11·52	·47
Dominion of New Zealand ..	755,000	9,571,200	146,100	·78	9·88	·15
	1906 to 1910.					
Canada .. ..	6,073,200	38,917,200	684,400	·94	5·98	·11
Cape of Good Hope*	1,391,400	3,812,200	4,589,000	·56	1·56	1·84
Natal* .. ..	336,000	955,800	51,000	·28	·81	·04
Newfoundland ..	89,600	79,400	9,500	·38	·34	·04
United Kingdom	35,581,000	1,195,518,800	11,984,800	·81	27·12	·27
	1905 to 1909.					
<b>Foreign—</b>						
Austria .. ..	39,050,000	422,721,000	127,362,000	1·41	15·18	4·52
Belgium .. ..	7,907,000	355,436,000	7,660,000	1·08	43·58	1·04
Bulgaria .. ..	449,000	2,622,000	26,721,600	·11	·63	6·42
Denmark .. ..	6,026,000	53,878,000	..	2·29	20·50	..
France .. ..	51,902,000	313,236,000	1,353,823,000	1·33	7·96	34·52
German Empire ..	92,664,000	1,485,004,000	73,986,000	1·48	23·74	1·19
Holland .. ..	7,955,000	..	1,989,000	1·39	..	·35
Hungary .. ..	37,030,000	44,559,000	98,534,000	1·85	2·20	4·74
Italy .. ..	14,493,000	10,850,000	875,464,000	·43	·32	25·84
Norway .. ..	1,338,000	9,376,000	..	·57	4·06	..
Portugal .. ..	..	..	103,574,000	..	..	20·60
Roumania .. ..	5,130,000	3,507,000	35,468,000	·76	·53	5·36
Russian Empire ..	173,600,000	173,731,000	..	1·15	1·15	..
Servia .. ..	..	2,020,000	12,241,000	..	·73	4·40
Spain .. ..	..	..	325,015,000	..	..	17·32
Sweden .. ..	7,137,000	68,231,000	..	1·33	12·80	..
Switzerland .. ..	2,698,000	53,025,000	53,174,000	·77	15·22	15·26
United States ..	105,844,000	1,439,525,000	42,181,000	1·23	16·78	·49

NOTE.—Where blanks occur the information is not available.

\* Figures refer to period 1905 to 1909.

Consumption of drink in various countries compared.

By comparing the figures for Australia in the foregoing table with those of several other countries it will be seen that the consumption of intoxicants was proportionately less in Australia. As regards spirits, whilst the consumption in Australia was three-fourths of a gallon per head per year, in Denmark it amounted to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  gallons; in Hungary to nearly 2 gallons; in Germany and Austria to about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  gallons; in Holland, Sweden, France, Belgium, the Russian Empire, and the United States to more than a gallon; and in

the United Kingdom to nearly a gallon. The greatest beer-producing countries of the world are the German Empire, the United States, and the United Kingdom, in that order; but in consumption per head of the population Belgium, with 48½ gallons; the United Kingdom, with 27 gallons; Germany, with 23¾ gallons; and Denmark, with 20½ gallons, are the foremost. The particulars in this table would indicate that Belgium consumes more beer than any other country in the world, but the statistics of the States composing the German Empire show that Bavaria is entitled to that distinction, with a consumption of 50½ gallons per head. The consumption in Würtemberg and in Baden was also high, reaching 32 gallons per head. The Australian consumption of 11½ gallons does not appear to be large by comparison with those figures. The chief wine-producing countries of the world—France and Italy—are also the greatest consumers, the former averaging 34½ gallons, and the latter 26 gallons per head. Portugal, with 20½ gallons; Spain, with 17½ gallons; and Switzerland, with 15¼ gallons, are also large consumers. The inhabitants of the British Empire are small wine-drinkers. At the Cape of Good Hope the consumption is highest, with nearly 2 gallons per head; Australia consumes less than half-a-gallon per head; the United Kingdom about one-quarter of a gallon; and Canada one-ninth of a gallon.

With the assistance of the figures in the preceding table, it is possible to estimate for Australia, with some degree of accuracy, the approximate expenditure of the people on intoxicating liquors in a year, and this is done in the following table, taking as a basis the yearly average consumption over a period of five years:—

Expenditure by the people on intoxicating liquor.

AUSTRALIAN DRINK BILL.—YEARLY AVERAGE, 1907 TO 1911.

	Expenditure by the People on—					
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Total.		
				Amount.	Per Head.	Per Adult Individual
	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Commonwealth of Australia .. .. .	5,777,100	7,448,700	1,014,300	14,235,100	3 6 1	5 18 6
Dominion of New Zealand .. .. .	1,321,200	1,435,700	73,100	2,830,000	2 18 5	5 0 8

These figures show that the average yearly expenditure on drink in Australia during the quinquennium 1907 to 1911, amounted to £14,235,100, and that in New Zealand to £2,830,000. The proportion per head for the Commonwealth was £3 6s. 1d., and for New Zealand £2 18s. 5d. The corresponding proportions for the quinquennium, 1906-10, were £3 4s. 7d. and £2 18s. 4d. per head.

Average consumption of alcoholic liquors, 1881 to 1885 and 1905 to 1909.

The subjoined table shows the average quantity and the proportion per head of population of alcoholic liquors consumed in Victoria during the five-year periods ended 1885 and 1909. The period immediately preceding 1886 has been selected for comparison because in the year 1885 was passed an important measure—the Licensing Act 1885—relating to the obtaining and holding of licenses:—

AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS, BEER, AND WINE IN VICTORIA,  
1881 TO 1885 AND 1905 TO 1909.

Average of five years ended—	Quantity Consumed.			Proportion per head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
1885	gallons 1,130,000*	gallons 14,110,800	gallons 713,500	gallons 1·21*	gallons 15·45	gallons ·78
1909	832,100	14,933,900	600,100	·66	11·92	·48

\* Average of three years ended 1885.

After allowing for the increase of population, the fall between the five-year periods ended 1885 and 1909 in the quantities consumed per head represents a reduced consumption in the period ended 1909 of 683,300 gallons of spirits, 4,416,300 gallons of beer, and 376,800 gallons of wine. As the Commonwealth Government has discontinued keeping records of Inter-State trade, it is not possible to obtain the Victorian consumption for a later year than 1909. The consumption per head for the whole of Australia has not varied much during the last three years.

Licences Reduction Board.

The Licences Reduction Board provided for by the Licensing Act of 1906 was appointed on 21st May, 1907. At the same time, a Compensation Fund was instituted, which is raised by means of a percentage fee of £3 for every £100 of purchases of liquor, the owner of the premises being chargeable with two-thirds and the tenant with one-third of the fee. The amount paid into this fund was £48,233 in 1907, £48,542 in 1908, £49,300 in 1909, £48,875 in 1910, £51,716 in 1911, and £56,455 in 1912. The duties of the Board are to close sufficient hotels to absorb the funds in hand, and to re-assess the licence-fees thus lost and distribute them among the remaining houses which the Board thinks will benefit by the closing; also to fix the amount of the compensation that can ever be paid to the owner and occupier of each hotel in the State, no matter when such hotel may be closed. The maximum compensation is to be based on the results of three years preceding the Act of 1906, the period being 1904-6 in the case of owners and 1903-5 in the case

of licensees, the object of taking a past period being to stop the unearned increment to those hotels that remain in consequence of their rivals being closed, and to prevent any inflation of returns. Up to 30th June, 1912, 606 hotels had been closed by the Board, or had surrendered their licences. Compensation has so far been awarded in 526 cases, and the total sum paid has been £247,465, or an average of £470 each. One hundred and forty-one of these hotels were located in the Greater Melbourne district, and their compensation totalled £121,441, making an average of £861 each; there were 385 in country districts, whose owners and licensees received £126,024, or an average of £327 for each hotel. In the appended table particulars are given regarding the hotels in the various licensing districts dealt with by the Board:—

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD  
TO 30TH JUNE, 1912.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
GREATER MELBOURNE.						
					£	£
Barkly (Collingwood) ...	27	12	15	7	4,570	655
Bourke ...	82	24	58	18	13,665	2,900
Broadmeadows ...	23	10	13	6	1,796	175
Cardigan ...	58	19	39	15	10,226	1,597
Collingwood East ...	22	18	4	3	1,639	262
Darling (Collingwood) ...	30	16	14	6	3,640	485
Emerald Hill ...	58	26	32	13	7,663	1,335
Fitzroy Central ...	22	13	9	4	2,820	350
Fitzroy South ...	36	15	21	6	5,211	720
Gipps ...	84	12	72	32	14,281†	3,218†
Jobmont ...	12	11	1	2	1,673	325
Latrobe ...	53	17	36	10	9,338	1,749
Lonsdale ...	51	29	22	9	8,875	1,421
North Melbourne ...	33	21	12	4	...	...
Port Melbourne ...	46	23	23	8	4,954	865
Prahran ...	27	21	6	3	1,675*	300*
Princes Hill ...	34	19	15	8	6,371	863
Richmond North ...	24	21	3	2	1,762	232
Williamstown South ...	26	14	12	6	3,215	615
Total Greater Melbourne ...	748	341	407	162	103,374	18,067

NOTE.—Where blanks occur the compensation has not yet been awarded.

\* Compensation for two hotels only.—† Compensation for sixteen hotels only.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE,  
1912—continued.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
COUNTRY.					£	£
Alexandra ... ..	17	9	8	5	1,706	145
Allansford ... ..	12	11	1	1	375	60
Ararat ... ..	17	6	11	1	170	35
Bacchus Marsh ... ..	11	6	5	4	1,568	155
Bairnsdale ... ..	13	10	3	1	400	100
Ballan ... ..	21	12	9	2	310	25
Ballarat East ... ..	41	39	2	2	750	165
Ballarat West ... ..	83	36	47	16	9,267	2,046
Barkly (Bendigo) ... ..	34	19	15	8	1,500†	290†
Beaconsfield ... ..	26	20	6	3	2,352	280
Beaufort ... ..	26	11	15	11	172*	10*
Beechworth ... ..	33	12	21	13	3,004	130
Benalla ... ..	14	11	3	3	920	195
Boort ... ..	5	5	...	1	260	Nil
Branxholme ... ..	12	10	2	1	350	Nil
Bridgewater ... ..	23	8	15	8	1,914	315
Bright ... ..	26	10	16	7	1,773	150
Bullarook ... ..	8	5	3	2	522	100
Bungaree ... ..	21	11	10	4	712	205
Buninyong ... ..	25	11	14	9	1,833	339
Carisbrook ... ..	11	3	8	3	706	92
Castlemaine ... ..	49	12	37	17	2,884	601
Charlton ... ..	20	10	10	2	245	Nil
Chiltern ... ..	15	6	9	8	2,270	270
Clunes ... ..	36	12	24	14	3,098	363
Creswick ... ..	22	10	12	4	544†	128†
Dargo ... ..	6	6	...	1	75	Nil
Darling (Bendigo) ... ..	71	13	58	24	4,891§	685§
Daylesford ... ..	20	6	14	5	1,655	465
Dowling Forest ... ..	19	9	10	4	875	156
Dunmunkle ... ..	19	8	11	4	1,325	135
Dunolly ... ..	24	10	14	10	390†	36†
Eaglehawk ... ..	42	16	26	4	1,109	175
Echuca ... ..	22	8	14	5	3,354	540
Eltham ... ..	13	10	3	3	635	Nil
Franklin ... ..	31	11	20	10	1,281§	226§
Fryers ... ..	18	6	12	9	1,618	129
Geelong East ... ..	26	21	5	3	1,860	220
Geelong West ... ..	31	22	9	3	1,932	300
Gisborne ... ..	15	8	7	3	745	72

NOTE.—Where blanks occur the compensation has not yet been awarded.

\* Compensation for one hotel only.—† Compensation for three hotels only.—‡ Compensation for four hotels only.—§ Compensation for nine hotels only.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE,  
1912—continued.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
<b>COUNTRY—continued.</b>					£	£
Glenorchy ... ..	10	8	2	1	160	48
Golden Square ... ..	57	26	31	7	3,286*	445*
Goulburn ... ..	26	12	14	10	3,547	324
Heathcote ... ..	24	9	15	5	1,077	159
Horsham ... ..	16	10	6	1	115	50
Huntly ... ..	21	7	14	7	2,236	450
Inglewood ... ..	20	8	12	4	531	63
Kangaroo Flat ... ..	31	14	17	12	2,853	328
Kilmore ... ..	13	8	5	1	175	Nil
Koroit ... ..	15	11	4	2	710	90
Kyneton ... ..	31	14	17	6	1,119	142
Lancefield ... ..	19	7	12	2	660	55
Landsborough ... ..	8	6	2	2	311	1
Lara ... ..	7	7	...	1	200	90
Leigh ... ..	6	5	1	1	445	Nil
Lexton ... ..	7	3	4	2	...	..
Maldon ... ..	23	10	13	10	2,212	455
Mansfield ... ..	13	8	5	3	753	82
Melton ... ..	26	8	18	11	3,697	490
Meredith ... ..	5	4	1	1	275	Nil
Moyston ... ..	12	8	4	1	205	Nil
Newstead ... ..	10	7	3	2	367	53
Numurkah ... ..	27	13	14	1	255	75
Penshurst ... ..	8	6	2	1	370	30
Pitfield ... ..	15	12	3	4	198†	Nil†
Port Fairy ... ..	14	11	3	2	700	90
Portland ... ..	10	7	3	1	374	Nil
Rochester ... ..	13	9	4	2	855	270
Rochester East... ..	7	7	...	1	200	Nil
Rosedale ... ..	7	6	1	1	57	3
Runnymede ... ..	8	5	3	3	660	115
Rushworth ... ..	19	9	10	4	465	56
Rutherglen ... ..	19	13	6	2	321	80
Sale ... ..	17	7	10	6	2,511	440
Sebastopol ... ..	22	11	11	4	1,285	161
Serpentine ... ..	6	4	2	1	75	30
Seymour ... ..	10	8	2	1	450	110
St. Arnaud ... ..	15	7	8	4	...	...
Stawell ... ..	28	9	19	13	3,278	649
Strathfieldsaye ... ..	17	6	11	6	1,179	149
Talbot ... ..	26	12	14	11	2,163	285
Taradale ... ..	17	7	10	9	1,433	30

NOTE.—Where blanks occur the compensation has not yet been awarded.  
\* Compensation for six hotels only.—† Compensation for one hotel only.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE,  
1912—continued.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
<i>COUNTRY—continued.</i>					£	£
Timor ... ..	25	12	13	10	1,954	181
Towong ... ..	21	14	7	3	345	58
Trentham ... ..	15	7	8	5	...	...
Walhalla ... ..	22	10	12	1	115	Nil
Wangaratta ... ..	24	11	13	6	...	...
Warrenheip ... ..	12	6	6	2	500	32
Warrnambool ... ..	19	12	7	4	2,260	390
Whittlesea ... ..	11	8	3	3	1,050	185
Wodonga ... ..	9	6	3	1	215	Nil
Woods Point ... ..	10	7	3	1	120	Nil
Yarrowonga ... ..	23	12	11	1	270	Nil
Total Country ... ..	1,874	943	931	444	109,942	16,082
Grand Total ... ..	2,622	1,284	1,338	606	213,316	34,149

NOTE.—Where blanks occur the compensation has not yet been awarded.

Hotels, 1885  
and 1912.

The return given hereunder shows the number of hotels in Victoria in 1885 and 1912, and the persons to each hotel in both years. The year 1885 has been selected because in that year an important alteration was made in the liquor licensing laws:—

NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885 AND 1912.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.	Persons to each Hotel.
1885 ... ..	969,200	4,265	227
1912 (30th June) ... ..	1,352,500	2,831	479
Increase ... ..	383,300	...	252
Decrease ... ..	...	1,444	...

While the population has increased by 40 per cent., the number of hotels has decreased by 34 per cent., and the number of persons to an hotel is now 111 per cent. more than in 1885. During the period 1885-1912, 217 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 606 hotels were deprived of their licences by the Licences Reduction Board, or surrendered their licences to the Board, and 621 closed voluntarily.

The Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act 1906 provides that all race-courses must be licensed, for which a fee of £1 per annum is charged. In addition to this fee it is stipulated that there shall be paid annually a sum equal to 3 per cent. of the gross revenue derived from all sources. Where the gross revenue is less than £1,500, but more than £600, the annual sum payable is 2 per cent., and where the gross revenue is £600 or less no percentage is charged. The amounts paid into the Consolidated Revenue for licence fees and percentages on receipts during the past six years were as follows:—

Race-course  
licences  
and per-  
centage  
fees.

Year.	£	Year.	£
1906-7 ... ..	4,962	1909-10 ... ..	6,029
1907-8 ... ..	5,297	1910-11 ... ..	7,885
1908-9 ... ..	5,800	1911-12 ... ..	7,942

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

There are eight gaols in Victoria, including the Pentridge Penal Establishment, and three reformatory prisons, and the figures below show that there is still accommodation in the gaols for more than twice the average number of prisoners in confinement. The following statement gives for the year 1911 the accommodation, the daily average in confinement, the number received during the year, and the number in confinement at the end of the year:—

Gaols and  
Prisoners.

GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1911.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received.		In Confinement. 31.12.11.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge ..	684	..	385	..	361	..	363	..
Pentridge Reformatory Prison	116	..	31	..	23	..	41	..
Ballarat ..	62	18	23	1	329	25	23	1
Beechworth ..	66	15	20	..	116	5	14	..
Bendigo ..	116	28	18	1	311	30	21	3
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison	97	..	11	..	15	..	15	..
Coburg Female Prison	..	324	..	66	..	159	..	70
Jika Reformatory Female Prison	..	9	..	7	..	3	..	9
Geelong ..	187	29	72	..	261	12	62	..
Melbourne ..	249	60	140	26	2,727	954	138	22
Sale ..	30	5	7	..	100	4	6	..
Total ..	1,607	488	707	101	4,243	1,192	683	105

There are also seven police gaols which are used as receiving stations, but the daily average number of prisoners detained therein during 1911 was only seven.

Prisoners in confinement, 1871 to 1911—decrease.

Hereunder is a statement of the average number of prisoners in detention in the gaols of the State at the end of decennial periods from 1871, and during the past five years, from which it will be seen that the decrease in later years is very considerable. The rate per 10,000 of population, aged fifteen years and over, was, in 1911, 39 per cent. less than in 1901, 65 per cent. less than in 1891, 70 per cent. less than in 1881, and 77 per cent. less than in 1871.

#### PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1911.

Year.	Average number of Prisoners in confinement.			Proportion per 10,000 of Population, 15 years and over.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1871 ...	1,345	274	1,619	54·77	15·46	38·30
1881 ...	1,294	304	1,598	45·25	12·35	30·03
1891 ...	1,550	350	1,900	38·78	10·07	25·43
1901 ...	951	200	1,151	23·92	5·06	14·53
1907 ...	832	88	920	19·31	2·00	10·55
1908 ...	799	98	897	18·35	2·20	10·18
1909 ...	769	115	884	17·44	2·55	9·91
1910 ...	765	111	876	17·08	2·43	9·68
1911 ..	713	100	813	15·73	2·16	8·87

Birthplaces, religions, and ages of prisoners.

The birthplaces, religions, and ages of prisoners constantly detained, as deduced from the numbers passing through the gaols, are shown below for the five decennial periods ended with 1911:—

#### BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED, 1871 TO 1911.

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.
Total .. .. .	1,619	1,598	1,900	1,151	813
Birthplace—					
Australia and New Zealand ..	259	584	845	689	595
England and Wales .. .. .	628	401	420	149	87
Scotland .. .. .	129	105	129	56	26
Ireland .. .. .	430	378	336	160	62
China .. .. .	75	27	14	18	4
Others .. .. .	98	103	156	79	39

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED, 1871 TO 1911.—*continued.*

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.
<b>Religion—</b>					
Protestants .. .. .	977	888	1,098	651	476
Roman Catholics .. .. .	556	671	729	465	317
Jews .. .. .	7	7	14	8	4
Buddhists, Confucians, &c. .. .. .	74	27	14	12	1
Others .. .. .	5	5	45	15	15
<b>Age—</b>					
Under 20 years .. .. .	Information not available.	229	129	75	54
20 to 30 years .. .. .		473	669	316	205
30 to 40 years .. .. .		312	457	337	211
40 to 50 years .. .. .		294	279	234	193
50 to 60 years .. .. .		166	193	102	96
60 years and over .. .. .		124	173	87	54

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED PER 10,000 OF POPULATION, 1871 TO 1911.\*

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.
<b>Birthplace—</b>					
Australia and New Zealand .. .. .	7·23	10·84	10·65	7·25	5·32
England and Wales .. .. .	36·75	27·20	25·78	12·72	9·73
Scotland .. .. .	22·95	21·81	25·46	15·66	9·78
Ireland .. .. .	42·80	43·58	39·39	26·01	14·95
China .. .. .	42·00	22·88	16·53	28·89	7·14
Others .. .. .	35·22	35·34	39·24	25·80	11·64
<b>Religion—</b>					
Protestants .. .. .	18·88	14·36	13·12	7·19	4·90
Roman Catholics .. .. .	32·59	32·98	29·33	17·63	11·07
Jews .. .. .	19·60	16·17	21·68	13·54	6·38
Buddhists, Confucians, &c. .. .. .	41·63	24·20	20·75	21·95	3·89
Others .. .. .	2·27	2·00	10·78	7·03	3·11
<b>Age—</b>					
Under 20 years .. .. .	Information not available.	5·30	2·53	1·42	1·01
20 to 30 years .. .. .		34·18	27·36	15·30	8·67
30 to 40 years .. .. .		34·82	31·30	18·23	11·66
40 to 50 years .. .. .		30·95	32·00	20·07	11·64
50 to 60 years .. .. .		24·84	23·95	15·35	9·60
60 years and over .. .. .		30·88	23·90	8·73	5·58

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

It will be seen from the following figures that there has been a steady increase during the last 41 years in the proportion of prisoners who are able to read and write, and that there has been a

Education  
of prisoners.

corresponding diminution in the number of those who are entirely illiterate :—

### EDUCATION OF PRISONERS, 1871 TO 1911.

Year.	Number of Prisoners in every 100—		
	Able to Read and Write.	Able to Read Only.	Illiterate.
1871	63	23	14
1881	81	7	12
1891	88	3	9
1901	91	1	8
1911	96	...	4

Prisoners in confinement in Australian States and New Zealand 1871 to 1911.

The accompanying table shows the number of prisoners in confinement in the Australian States and New Zealand, also the proportion per 10,000 of the population, on 31st December, in the last year of each of the four decennia ended 1901, and in each of the past five years :—

### PRISONERS IN GAOLS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1871 TO 1911.

State.	Number of Prisoners in Confinement on the 31st December.								
	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Victoria .. .. .	1,623	1,509	1,810	1,150	916	875	844	859	797
New South Wales .. .. .	1,430	2,075	2,616	1,812	1,490	1,500	1,430	1,323	1,240
Queensland .. .. .	231	304	613	574	501	493	516	527	470
South Australia .. .. .	185	489	278	238	256	245	276	269	224
Western Australia .. .. .	*	*	*	360	440	382	400	372	350
Tasmania .. .. .	*	*	165	117	96	94	79	72	65
Australia .. .. .	..	..	..	4,251	3,699	3,589	3,545	3,422	3,135
Dominion of New Zealand (including Maoris) .. .. .	*	698	534	713	847	879	950	882	873
	Prisoners per 10,000 of Population.								
Victoria .. .. .	21·71	17·15	15·63	9·48	7·27	6·88	6·54	6·57	5·96
New South Wales .. .. .	27·62	26·53	22·51	13·13	9·61	9·51	8·91	8·08	7·38
Queensland .. .. .	18·46	13·70	15·31	11·35	9·18	8·85	8·93	8·80	7·55
South Australia .. .. .	9·80	17·10	8·56	6·51	6·78	6·29	6·96	6·56	5·36
Western Australia .. .. .	*	*	*	18·55	17·29	14·71	15·06	13·44	11·22
Tasmania .. .. .	*	*	10·92	6·71	5·06	4·90	4·09	3·72	3·36
Australia .. .. .	..	..	..	11·11	8·85	8·45	8·01	7·50	6·87
Dominion of New Zealand .. .. .	..	12·81	7·90	8·58	8·67	8·72	9·22	8·38	8·12

\* Information not available.

Convicted prisoners, 31st December, 1911

The total number of prisoners in gaol in Victoria under sentence at the end of the year 1911 was 754, of whom 558, or 74 per cent., were natives of Australia and New Zealand—the number born in Victoria being 471, or 62 per cent. The entirely illiterate persons

convicted and under detention at that date numbered only 18. Particulars are given in the following table:—

AGES, BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND EDUCATION OF PRISONERS IN GAOL IN VICTORIA UNDER SENTENCE ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1911.

	Ages.							Males.	Females.	Total.
	Under 20 years.	20 to 30 years.	30 to 40 years.	40 to 50 years.	50 to 60 years.	60 years and over.	Not stated.			
Total Number ..	41	212	192	184	82	42	1	650	104	754
<i>Birthplaces.</i>										
Victoria ..	37	148	127	116	86	7	..	401	70	471
Other Australian States ..	2	27	27	9	4	5	..	63	11	74
New Zealand ..	..	4	1	7	1	..	..	10	3	13
England and Wales ..	..	12	19	15	18	10	..	69	5	74
Scotland ..	..	3	2	3	3	4	..	11	4	15
Ireland ..	..	6	6	15	10	9	..	38	8	46
China ..	1	1	..	1	2	2	1	8	..	8
Other Countries ..	1	11	10	18	8	5	..	50	3	53
<i>Religions.</i>										
Church of England ..	17	106	78	78	41	16	..	295	41	336
Presbyterian ..	4	18	21	17	9	5	..	63	11	74
Methodist ..	6	23	25	11	7	3	..	72	3	75
Roman Catholic ..	12	57	63	65	16	13	..	178	48	226
Other Christian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Religions ..	2	2	1	2	3	1	..	11	..	11
Hebrew ..	..	2	2	2	1	1	..	7	1	8
Mahommedan ..	..	2	1	1	..	..	..	4	..	4
Buddhist ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1
No Religion ..	..	2	1	8	5	2	1	19	..	19
<i>Education.</i>										
English Language—										
Read and Write ..	39	209	186	180	76	36	..	622	104	726
Read only ..	..	..	..	2	1	4	..	7	..	7
Foreign Language										
only—										
Read and Write ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	3	..	3
Cannot Read ..	2	3	6	1	5	1	..	18	..	18

POLICE PROTECTION.

The figures given hereunder show the numerical strength of the police force in Australia and New Zealand, and the proportion of same to population on 31st December, 1911:—

Strength of police force in Australia and New Zealand.

POLICE IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1911.

State.	Number.			Proportion per 10,000 of Population.
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.	
Victoria ..	916	724	1,640	12·26
New South Wales ..	1,132	1,424	2,556	15·10
Queensland ..	291	709	1,000	16·07
South Australia ..	294	219	513	12·27
Western Australia ..	150	325	475	16·15
Tasmania ..	46	184	230	11·89
Total Australia ..	2,829	3,585	6,414	14·06
Dominion of New Zealand	98	725	823	8·03

It will be seen that Western Australia has the greatest police protection in proportion to population, Queensland and New South Wales having the next greatest, and New Zealand by far the lowest. Of course, where the population is scattered, it is natural that more police in proportion to population will be required than in a densely populated centre where the area requiring protection is comparatively small.

Expenditure  
on police,  
gaols, &c.

The following table shows the amounts and the amount per head of population expended in connexion with the police, and the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria, for the year 1871-2, and for subsequent years in decennial intervals until 1901-2 inclusive, also for each of the five years ended with 1910-11:—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1871-2 TO 1910-11.

Year.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions and the Cost of Buildings) on—			Amount per Head of Population.
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Total.	
	£	£	£	
1871-2 .. .. .	190,711	57,855	248,566	6 8
1881-2 .. .. .	201,063	53,032	254,095	5 9
1891-2 .. .. .	283,409	65,679	349,088	6 0
1901-2 .. .. .	271,561	51,948	323,509	5 4
1906-7 .. .. .	276,957	49,741	326,698	5 3
1907-8 .. .. .	281,751	49,645	331,396	5 3
1908-9 .. .. .	282,044	49,025	331,069	5 3
1909-10 .. .. .	293,846	49,869	343,715	5 4
1910-11 .. .. .	308,676	48,706	357,382	5 6

Expenditure  
on police  
and gaols  
in Austral-  
asia.

The following were the amounts expended on police and gaols in the Australian States and New Zealand during the year 1910-11:—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1910-11.

	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions and the Cost of Buildings) on—			Amount per Head of Population.
	Police.	Gaols.	Total.	
	£	£	£	
Victoria .. .. .	308,676	48,706	357,382	5 6
New South Wales .. .. .	492,707	87,620	580,327	7 1
Queensland .. .. .	212,003	25,036	237,039	7 11
South Australia .. .. .	91,613	16,395	108,008	5 4
Western Australia .. .. .	115,234	23,986	139,220	10 1
Tasmania .. .. .	40,831	5,243	46,074	4 9
Australia .. .. .	1,261,064	206,986	1,468,050	6 8
Domnion of New Zealand .. .. .	184,393	45,850*	230,243	4 7

\* Figures for 1909-10.

During the seven years, 1905-11, there was only one execution in Victoria, viz., in 1908. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 169 criminals have been executed within the State, of whom only four were females. The following table shows the crimes for which they were executed, also their birthplaces and religions:—

OFFENCES FOR WHICH CRIMINALS WERE EXECUTED, ALSO THEIR BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGION, 1842 TO 1911.

Offence—

Murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Attempt to murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Rape	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Carnally knowing and abusing a girl under 12 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unnatural offence on a child	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Robbery with violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Burglary and wounding	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Arson	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							169

Birthplace—

Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Other Australian States and New Zealand	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Scotland	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
China	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Other Countries	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

Religion—

Protestants	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Roman Catholics	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Mahomedans, Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
No religion (Aborigines)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Inquests.

The number of inquiries into the causes of deaths of individuals during the last five years is given below:—

## INQUESTS, 1907 TO 1911.

Causes of Death found to be due to—	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
<b>External Causes—</b>					
Accident .. .. .	398	406	373	398	381
Homicide .. .. .	8	7	6	6	9
Suicide .. .. .	90	121	92	119	145
Execution .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..
Doubtful .. .. .	78	78	69	55	56
Disease or Natural Causes .. .. .	765	709	612	604	666
Intemperance .. .. .	4	3	..	2	1
Unspecified or Doubtful Causes .. .. .	..	3	5	4	7
Being "Still Born" .. .. .	3	4	5	3	1
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>1,332</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>1,266</b>
Proportion per 10,000 of Population ..	10·75	10·52	9·07	9·17	9·58

Of the violent deaths during the last five years, 67 per cent. were due to accidental causes, 1 per cent. to homicide, and 20 per cent. to suicide, while in 12 per cent. of the cases the cause or motive of the violence which caused death was doubtful.