

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, and the extent to which such jurisdiction 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, 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; and 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 1910, five judges, viz., a Chief Justice and four Puisne Judges.

Supreme Court civil business.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during 1890, 1895, 1900, and the last five years:—

SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1890 TO 1910.

Year.	Writs of Summons.		Causes Entered for Trial.	Causes Tried.	Verdicts for—		Amount Awarded.
	Number Issued.	Amount Claimed.			Plaintiff.	Defendant.	
		£					£
1890 ..	6,619	687,503	535	297	229	65	68,592
1895 ..	2,115	140,292	254	187	101	33	41,487
1900 ..	825	137,083	161	106	62	31	101,896
1906 ..	533	56,867	128	64	22	19	7,358
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

Decline in
litigation.

There has been a considerable decline in litigation in the Supreme Court since 1890. In 1910, the writs issued were about one-ninth; the amount sued for was about one-tenth; 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 three quinquennial periods ended 1900, and in each of the last five years was as follows:—

CRIMINAL CASES — SUPREME COURT AND GENERAL SESSIONS,
1890 TO 1910.

Year.	Total Number of Cases Tried.	Total Number of Convictions.	Proportions of Convictions per 10,000 of Population.
1890 ...	964	662	5·92
1895 ...	735	462	3·90
1900 ...	652	451	3·78
1906 ..	623	397	3·21
1907 ...	636	392	3·13
1908 ...	647	466	3·68
1909 ...	680	430	3·36
1910 ...	669	435	3·35

This statement shows that there was a fall in 1910 as compared with 1890 of 31 per cent. in the total number of criminal cases tried in the higher courts, and of 34 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 1910, there were 105 sessions lasting 329 days and held in 46

places. Particulars of litigation in 1890, 1895, 1900, and the last five years are as follows:—

COUNTY COURT CASES, 1890 TO 1910.

Year.	Number of Cases tried.	Amount sued for.	Amount awarded.	Costs awarded to—	
				Plaintiff.	Defendant.
		£	£	£	£
1890	12,635	349,028	127,433	15,363	6,072
1895	1,361	219,285	73,091	7,256	5,514
1900	789	160,676	49,595	5,188	2,782
1906	556	135,580	42,836	5,473	2,856
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

The number of cases tried continues below the average of ten years ago. The number in 1910 was lower than in any of the preceding three years, and only one-twentieth of that in 1890; the amount sued for and awarded, and the costs awarded, have 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 235 places in Victoria in 1910 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:—

Petty Sessions civil business.

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, 1890 TO 1910.

Year.	Cases heard.	Amount claimed.	Amount awarded.
		£	£
1890	30,466	196,917	132,663
1895	30,609	168,143	138,722
1900	17,577	95,890	80,960
1906	25,320	145,847	123,625
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

In addition to the ordinary civil cases above mentioned, and to the criminal jurisdiction hereinafter mentioned, Courts of Petty Sessions deal with other business of a civil and quasi-criminal nature. During the year 1910, 417 appeals against municipal ratings, 788 maintenance cases, 666 fraud summonses against debtors, 45,535 electoral revision cases, 5,746 cases relating to licences and certificates, and 1,607 miscellaneous cases were heard, and 416 persons alleged to be lunatics were examined.

INSOLVENCIES.

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

INSOLVENCIES AND PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS, 1906 TO 1910.

Year.	Insolvencies.			Private Arrangements.		
	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.
		£	£		£	£
1906 ..	517	231,828	81,144	175	126,499	102,323
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

The number of insolvencies in 1910 was the lowest recorded since 1901. The average number during the last five years was 442, and the average declared liabilities £174,045, 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.
1906 ...	... 485	32	517
1907 ...	... 431	17	448
1908 ...	... 484	30	514
1909 ...	... 345	25	370
1910 ...	... 323	31	359

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 127 whose occupations were not returned:—

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1906 TO 1910.

Occupation Groups.	Number of Breadwinners, Census, 1901.	Number of Insolvents, 1906 to 1910.	Proportion of Insolvents to every 1,000 Breadwinners.
Professional	35,224	110	3·12
Domestic	66,815	114	1·71
Commercial	79,048	746	9·44
Transport and Communication	31,516	192	6·09
Industrial	146,233	1,113	7·61
Primary Producers ..	165,147	600	3·63
Total	523,983*	2,875	5·49

* 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 1906 to 1910:—

Occupations of insolvents in detail.

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS.

Occupations.	Number of Insolvents during—				
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
<i>Professional Class.</i>					
Barrister, solicitor	4	1	..	..	..
Chemist .. .. .	..	1	1	..	..
Civil servant	15	8	4	9	2
Dentist	3	..	1	..	..
Police	10	4	1	5	2
Others	8	5	11	10	5
<i>Domestic Class.</i>					
Boardinghouse keeper	3	2	4	8	2
Hotelkeeper	8	24	11	12	10
Others	10	6	4	5	5

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS—*continued.*

Occupations.	Number of Insolvents during—				
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
<i>Commercial Class.</i>					
Agent	13	10	10	7	15
Butcher	9	9	20	2	5
Clerk, accountant	13	10	7	8	7
Commercial traveller, salesman, canvasser	10	10	8	9	4
Draper and assistants	10	13	15	9	6
Grocer and assistants	30	21	19	27	26
Hawker	1	3	3	2	2
Merchant, importer	7	2	20	11	7
Storekeeper	35	15	38	26	26
Others	60	43	37	22	24
<i>Transport and Communication Class.</i>					
Carrier, carter, driver	12	6	16	11	10
Railway service	63	29	6	4	4
Tramway employé	1	..	..	1	1
Others	5	10	4	5	4
<i>Industrial Class.</i>					
Blacksmith, farrier	7	9	15	4	6
Bootmaker	4	3	7	2	7
Builder, contractor	19	23	25	18	23
Carpenter	9	15	15	7	5
Coachbuilder, painter	5	5	..	6	8
Engineer, engine-driver	10	8	7	4	9
Labourer	95	84	92	88	88
Miller, baker	11	5	11	14	4
Saddler	4	1	3	2	1
Tailor, dressmaker	6	8	7	6	10
Watchmaker	1	..	..	1	2
Others	59	60	66	58	41
<i>Primary Producers.</i>					
Farmer	22	17	24	31	26
Grazier	1	2	5	6	6
Miner	73	69	114	69	53
Others	9	15	26	18	14
<i>Indefinite Class</i>					
Indefinite Class	27	25	27	28	20
Total	692	581	684	555	490

DIVORCE.

Divorce, &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, 2,541 decrees for dissolution of marriage, and 92 decrees for judicial separation have been granted. Of these, 2,193 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 110 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 four years were:—

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Adultery	37	41	32	42
Assaults (violent)	—	1	—	—
Bigamy	—	—	—	1
Cruelty, repeated acts of	—	—	—	1
Desertion	84	100	90	76
Desertion and adultery	7	4	6	9
Drunkenness (habitual) and cruelty	5	5	8	11
Sentences for crime	1	—	2	—
Total	134	151	133	140

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 years 1890, 1895, 1900, 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, 1890, 1895, 1900, AND 1906 TO 1910.

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	1890	14	4	40	..	24
	1895	136	2	85	..	48
	1900	159	2	93	..	52
	1906	172	4	123	2	67
	1907	182	4	134	..	71
	1908	187	4	151	1	79
	1909	188	3	138	1	71
	1910	191	1	140	..	71
New South Wales	1890	72	9	42	9	32
	1895	348	22	299	11	169
	1900	301	34	216	14	112
	1906	264	25	174	10	80
	1907	359	36	221	14	99
	1908	365	22	196	15	87
	1909	415	28	306	12	128
	1910	413	21	251	6	103
Queensland	1890	8	1	8	2	18
	1895	6	2	4	..	6
	1900	24	1	12	1	18
	1906	20	3	12	3	20
	1907	11	3	12	1	17
	1908	14	6	11	2	16
	1909	24	2	16	..	19
	1910	33	6	20	..	23

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1890, 1895, 1900, AND 1906 TO 1910—*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	1890	5	3	2	..	4
	1895	12	1	5	..	9
	1900	11	1	7	1	15
	1906	14	1	3	1	7
	1907	16	..	11	..	18
	1908	20	..	8	..	13
	1909	16	..	12	..	19
	1910	27	1	3	1	6
Western Australia	1890	3	1	2	..	30
	1895	3	..	2	..	17
	1900	15	1	16	..	54
	1906	28	1	18	..	43
	1907	19	2	11	..	26
	1908	21	2	10	..	23
	1909	21	1	15	1	36
	1910	39	8	27	1	62
Tasmania	1890	4	1	2	..	9
	1895	4	..	3	1	17
	1900	11	1	4	..	16
	1906	11	..	5	..	19
	1907	5	..	8	..	30
	1908	13	..	7	..	25
	1909	12	1	12	1	47
	1910	5	..	6	..	21
Total, Australian States	1890	106	19	96	11	23
	1895	509	27	398	12	79
	1900	521	40	348	16	64
	1906	509	34	335	16	57
	1907	592	45	397	15	65
	1908	620	34	383	18	62
	1909	676	35	499	15	78
	1910	708	37	447	8	68
Dominion of New Zealand	1890	24	8	21	3	27
	1895	30	6	18	5	23
	1900	110	5	85	3	74
	1906	171	7	125	1	88
	1907	192	6	147	1	101
	1908	207	..	171	3	115
	1909	242	2	163	..	105
	1910	207	7	160	2	104

The grounds of divorce are now substantially the same in Victoria and New South Wales, and these were extended in New Zealand in 1898. 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. The United States and Switzerland are the countries where the marriage knot is untied most frequently, and in the former country 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 Population.
Australia	1906-10	4,210,900	427*	10
Austria	1898-1902	26,150,708	179	1
Belgium	"	6,693,548	705	11
Bulgaria	1896-1900	3,744,283	396	11
Denmark	1899-1903	2,449,540	411	17
England and Wales	"	32,527,843	568	2
France	"	38,961,945	8,864	23
German Empire	1898-1902	56,367,178	8,680	15
Prussia	"	34,472,509	5,291	15
Saxony	"	4,202,216	1,200	29
Bavaria	"	6,176,057	491	8
Hungary	1898-1902	19,254,559	2,130	11
Ireland	1899-1903	4,458,775	†	†
Italy	"	32,475,253	819	3
Netherlands	1897-1901	5,104,137	512	10
New Zealand	1906-10	944,500	155	16
Norway	1898-1902	2,221,477	129	6
Scotland	1899-1903	4,472,103	175	4
Servia	1896-1900	2,492,882	312	13
Sweden	1898-1902	5,136,441	390	8
Switzerland	"	3,315,443	1,053	32
United States	"	75,994,575	55,502	73

* 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—

Indeter-
minate
sentences.

1. The adoption of the indeterminate sentence for (a) habitual criminals, and (b) certain classes of other offenders.
2. The appointment of an Indeterminate Sentences Board.

3. The establishment of reformatory prisons.
4. A system of probation applicable to adults as well as minors.

A Board, 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.

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, 1911, 29 males and 7 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 13 youths under indeterminate detention in the Castlemaine reformatory prison. The reformatory prisons mentioned are but temporary expedients. Up to the 30th June, 1911, seven inmates had been released on probation from the Castlemaine prison on the recommendation of the Board, and they were reported to be doing well. 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 forty-one such officers have been appointed to date.

OFFENCES HEARD BY MAGISTRATES.

Arrests and
summonses
for various
offences.

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

1910, distinguishing between arrests and summons cases, multiple charges against the same individual being each counted as an offence:—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1910.

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.
Against the Person—						
Murder and attempts, manslaughter, shooting at, &c. ...	54	...	54	5	15	34
Assaults ...	542	807	1,349	793	556	...
Others ...	149	178	327	87	134	106
Against Property—						
Robbery, burglary, &c.	349	...	349	57	109	183
Larceny and similar offences ...	1,388	729	2,117	1,346	567	204
Wilful damage ...	193	371	564	382	182	...
Others ...	240	230	470	269	138	63
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	28	...	28	...	4	24
Against Good Order—						
Drunkenness ...	12,653	66	12,719	7,272	5,447	...
Others ...	4,251	5,943	10,194	8,145	2,046	3
Perjury ..	32	...	32	...	3	29
Breaches of Licensing Act	49	1,319	1,368	1,039	329	...
" Pure Food "	...	409	409	300	109	...
" Education "	138	12,317	12,455	10,945	1,510	...
Other offences...	452	10,621	11,073	8,958	2,095	20
Total... ..	20,518	32,990	53,508	39,598	13,244	666

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

Of the 20,518 offences for which arrests were made, 1,448 were multiple charges, leaving the number of separate arrests 19,070. In 11,655 of these the subjects were summarily convicted, in 6,912 they were discharged, and in 503 they were committed for trial. Of the persons dealt with in the 32,990 summons cases, 26,900 were summarily convicted, 6,042 were discharged, and 48 were committed for trial. Of the total persons dealt with (52,060), the number summarily convicted was 38,555, 12,954 were discharged, and 551 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 1910:—

CHILDREN'S COURTS : ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1910.

Nature of Offence.	Number of Offences for which—			Total Offences.
	Arrests were made.	Summonses were issued.	Others (Application to board out, &c).	
Against the Person—				
Assaults	16	35	..	51
Others	18	16	..	34
Against Property—				
Larceny, &c... ..	301	525	..	826
Wilful damage ..	7	221	..	228
Others	18	85	..	103
Against Good Order—				
Drunkenness ..	4	2	..	6
Others	80	769	..	849
Breaches of Licensing Act ..	..	1	..	1
Other Offences.. ..	557	296	656	1,509
Total.. ..	1,001	1,950	656	3,607

The arrests of neglected children, which in 1910 numbered 1,030, viz., 545 males and 485 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 undetected crimes.

Of the offenders who were reported as having committed offences in the year 1906, 47 per cent. were summoned, 45 per cent. were arrested, and 8 per cent. had not been arrested at the end of the year in which the offence was reported; but during the past four years, owing to the great increase in the number of summons cases, the rates were 57, 35, and 8 per cent. respectively. This increase in summons cases has arisen 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—the compulsory clauses of the Amending

Education Act requiring children to attend a greater number of times than formerly. The particulars for the last five years are shown in the subjoined table:—

SUMMONSES, ARRESTS, AND UNDETECTED CRIMES, 1906 TO 1910.

Offences in respect to which persons were—	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Brought before magistrates on summons ...	25,430	38,008	38,596	33,349	32,990
Arrested by the police ...	24,583	24,332	22,008	20,964	20,518
Not arrested ...	4,540	4,416	5,050	4,835	6,129
Total ...	54,553	66,756	65,654	59,148	59,637

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, 95 per cent. were against property, 2 per cent. were against the person, and the balance, 3 per cent., were of a miscellaneous character.

The arrests of neglected children, which are excluded from this and the following tables, numbered 817 in 1906, 1,121 in 1907, 744 in 1908, 1,049 in 1909, and 1,030 in 1910. Neglected children arrested.

The following are particulars of cases brought before magistrates, from which it will be seen that about 75 per cent. of the persons are generally summarily convicted, and 24 per cent. are discharged, whilst 1 per cent. are sent for trial to superior courts:— Offences dealt with by magistrates.

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES DEALT WITH BY MAGISTRATES, 1906 TO 1910.

Number of Persons.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Arrested or summoned ...	48,244	60,687	58,778	52,658	52,060
Discharged by magistrates ...	10,594	13,395	14,747	13,277	12,954
Summarily convicted or dealt with ...	37,066	46,731	43,454	38,801	38,555
Committed for trial ...	584	561	577	580	551
Persons summarily convicted or committed per 1,000 of population ...	30·4	37·7	34·8	30·7	30·1

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 1905 TO 1909.

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
	1905	1,932	4,032	14,458	27,338	47,760
	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
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
	1905	3,684	6,553	24,135	32,994	67,366
	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

CRIME IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND,
1890, 1895, 1900, AND 1905 TO 1909—*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
	1905	1,737	2,101	6,638	7,467	17,943
	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
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
	1905	248	463	2,362	2,683	5,756
	1906	254	472	2,483	2,882	6,091
	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
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
	1905	644	1,460	3,509	8,949	14,562
	1906	579	1,384	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
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
	1905	229	754	539	5,552	7,074
	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
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
	1905	8,474	15,363	51,641	84,983	160,461
	1906	8,205	14,089	53,451	89,754	165,499
	1907	7,746	14,199	59,068	100,825	181,838
	1908	7,355	14,704	57,393	100,325	179,777
	1909	7,200	14,999	57,237	94,143	173,579
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
	1905	1,509	2,943	8,790	17,310	30,552
	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

The following table shows 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 1905 TO 1909.

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
	1905	1·58	3·29	11·80	22·31
	1906	1·46	3·07	11·33	24·53
	1907	1·40	2·91	11·79	33·63
	1908	1·42	3·07	10·35	33·02
	1909	1·38	2·88	9·71	28·43
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
	1905	2·53	4·49	16·54	22·61
	1906	2·48	4·03	17·07	23·31
	1907	2·62	4·22	18·61	23·48
	1908	2·34	4·36	18·01	22·40
	1909	2·19	4·64	17·33	21·42
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
	1905	3·30	4·00	12·63	14·20
	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
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
	1905	·66	1·24	6·32	7·17
	1906	·67	1·25	6·58	7·64
	1907	·78	1·47	7·45	6·97
	1908	·85	1·34	7·94	6·95
	1909	·84	1·26	8·81	7·64
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
	1905	2·63	5·96	14·33	36·55
	1906	2·31	5·53	14·33	35·28
	1907	2·08	6·13	14·13	32·62
	1908	2·27	5·12	13·59	28·20
	1909	2·14	4·41	15·22	27·45

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH
 AUSTRALIAN STATE AND THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND,
 1890, 1895, 1900, AND 1905 TO 1909—*continued.*

State.	Year.	Charges against Persons Arrested or Summoned per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunken- ness.	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
	1905	1.28	4.20	3.01	30.97
	1906	1.07	3.47	2.54	28.29
	1907	1.08	2.75	3.00	28.27
	1908	1.35	3.08	2.93	30.75
	1909	1.12	2.95	3.85	29.17
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
	1905	2.11	3.83	12.87	21.17
	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
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
	1905	1.73	3.38	10.10	19.90
	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

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 1909 only 71 of such crimes, out of a total of 36,425 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.

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 Tasmania, closely followed by Victoria, New Zealand, and Queensland, then Western Australia and New South Wales in that order.

Offences
against
property.

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 Tasmania, Queensland, 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.

Drunken-
ness.

In four Australian States, viz., Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, and Tasmania, there was a decrease in drunkenness cases before magistrates in 1909, 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, South Australia coming next, and Victoria, New Zealand, Western Australia, Queensland, and New South Wales, 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 four census years ended with 1901, and in 1910:—

Charges
against
persons
arrested.

CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED AT FOUR DECENNIAL PERIODS,
AND IN 1910.

Offences.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1910.
<i>Against the Person—</i>					
Murder and attempts at ...	28	16	44	12	20
Manslaughter ...	14	16	9	11	10
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm, &c.	63	82	84	83	24
Assaults ...	1,023	1,155	1,317	832	542
Rape, and other offences against females ...	88	71	66	116	78
Unnatural offence and at- tempts at ...	18	5	14	13	10
Others ...	90	109	117	75	61
<i>Against Property—</i>					
Robbery, burglary, house- breaking, &c. ...	421	367	609	460	349
Horse, cattle, and sheep stealing ...	121	89	96	56	43
Larceny ...	2,052	2,024	2,384	1,807	1,174
Embezzlement ...	43	32	70	28	19
False pretences and imposing or endeavouring to impose ...	195	206	243	137	191
Wilful damage ...	581	547	503	314	193
Others ...	413	468	253	157	201
Forgery and offences against the currency ...	82	58	109	47	28
<i>Against Good Order—</i>					
Drunkenness ...	9,968	11,065	18,057	17,360	12,653
Indecent, riotous, or offensive conduct, and obscene, threatening, or abusive language ...	1,099	3,997	5,010	4,269	2,867
Having no visible lawful means of support, begging, and vagrancy (unspecified)	886	1,419	2,020	1,035	652
Others ...	2,910	1,461	2,117	2,312	732
<i>Other Offences—</i>					
Perjury ...	32	21	56	33	32
Marriage and Matrimonial Causes Act (desertion of family, &c.) ...	174	150	211	188	178
Others ...	1,190	837	772	426	461
Total ...	21,491	24,195	34,161	29,771	20,518

Proportion
of arrests for
various
offences.

Subjoined is a statement of the proportions to the population aged 15 years and upwards of those arrested for different offences at four census periods, and in 1910:—

CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED PER 10,000 OF POPULATION,
AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, AT FOUR DECENNIAL PERIODS, AND
IN 1910.

Offences.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1910.
<i>Against the Person—</i>					
Murder and attempts at ...	·66	·30	·59	·15	·23
Manslaughter ...	·33	·30	·12	·14	·11
Shooting at, or wounding with intent to do bodily harm, &c.	1·49	1·54	1·12	1·05	·27
Assaults ...	24·20	21·70	17·62	10·49	6·14
Rape and other offences against females ...	2·08	1·34	·88	1·46	·88
Unnatural offence and attempts at ...	·43	·09	·19	·16	·11
Others ...	2·13	2·05	1·56	·95	·69
<i>Against Property—</i>					
Robbery, burglary, house- breaking, &c. ...	9·95	6·90	8·15	5·80	3·96
Horse, cattle, and sheep stealing ...	2·86	1·67	1·29	·71	·49
Larceny ...	48·54	38·04	31·90	22·79	13·30
Embezzlement ...	1·02	·60	·94	·35	·22
False pretences and imposing or endeavouring to impose ...	4·61	3·87	3·25	1·73	2·16
Wilful damage ...	13·74	10·28	6·73	3·96	2·19
Others ...	9·77	8·80	3·39	1·98	2·28
Forgery and offence against the currency ...	1·94	1·09	1·46	·59	·32
<i>Against Good Order—</i>					
Drunkenness ...	235·79	207·95	241·61	218·98	143·38
Indecent, riotous, or offensive conduct, and obscene, threatening, or abusive language ...	26·00	75·12	67·04	53·85	32·49
Having no visible lawful means of support, begging, and vagrancy (unspecified) ...	20·96	26·67	27·03	13·06	7·39
Others ...	68·83	27·45	28·32	29·16	8·29
<i>Other Offences—</i>					
Perjury ...	·76	·39	·75	·42	·36
Marriage and Matrimonial Causes Act (desertion of family, &c.) ...	4·11	2·82	2·82	2·37	2·02
Others ...	28·15	15·73	16·33	5·38	5·22
Total ...	508·35	454·70	457·09	375·53	232·50

The spread of education has doubtless had much to do with the decrease of crime in recent years. 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 two 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.

The sexes of persons brought up on summonses 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 1910, were as follows:—

MALES AND FEMALES ARRESTED, 1910.

Disposal.	Arrests.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Summarily Convicted	9,548	2,107	11,655
Discharged by Magistrates	5,561	1,351	6,912
Committed for Trial	448	55	503
Total	15,557	3,513	19,070

Decrease in crime.

Males and females arrested.

SENTENCES PASSED.

Sentences
by Magis-
trates.

The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates during 1910 were as follows:—

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF PERSONS ARRESTED, 1910.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	4,253	425	4,678
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	3,248	1,297	4,545
1 and under 6 months	726	188	914
6 and under 12 months	215	53	268
1 to 2 years	77	17	94
2 years	8	...	8
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	190	20	210
Admonished	728	87	815
Sent to Industrial Schools or Reformatory	41	5	46
Otherwise dealt with	62	15	77
Total sentenced	9,548	2,107	11,655
Discharged	5,561	1,351	6,912
Total summarily disposed of ...	15,109	3,458	18,567
Sentenced per 10,000 of population ...	147·5	32·3	89·7

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

The following were the sentences of the arrested prisoners tried and convicted in superior courts during 1910:—

Sentences in superior courts.

SENTENCES OF ARRESTED PRISONERS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1910.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	7	4	11
1 and under 6 months	47	4	51
6 „ 12 „	89	9	98
1 „ 4 years	117	3	120
4 „ 7 „	15	1	16
7 „ 10 „	1	...	1
10 years and over	4	...	4
Death recorded	1	3	4
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	31	4	35
Sent to Reformatory	11	...	11
Sent to Lunatic Asylum	2	1	3
Total convicted	325	29	354
Acquitted	129	23	152
Not prosecuted	9	2	11
Convictions per 10,000 of population...	5·02	·4	2·7

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 four prisoners were ordered one whipping each with a cat-o'-nine tails. Prisoners remaining for trial from the previous year are included, but those awaiting trial at the end of the year are excluded.

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, occupations, &c., of the individuals dealt with. This was done for 1884, so far as sex and birth-place were concerned, and has been

Arrests of distinct individuals.

DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1910—*continued.*

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	19	20	24
Church of England	6,334	4,707	3,847	538	164	70	28	20	9	11	10	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	1	..
Presbyterian	2,429	1,729	1,365	233	65	25	13	7	6	5	4	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Methodist	864	661	546	80	22	5	2	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Independent	31	29	27	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Baptist	133	111	94	14	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lutheran	333	276	244	24	3	..	2	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Protestants	45	43	41	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Protestants	10,169	7,556	6,164	893	255	102	45	29	17	16	15	4	4	3	3	1	1	1	1	..	1	1
Roman Catholics	8,336	5,897	4,594	800	246	102	62	32	20	11	3	6	2	4	3	..	..	1	1	1	..	..
Jews	52	33	30	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Buddhists, Confucians, Mohammedans, &c.	146	127	116	8	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
No religion	367	294	251	29	6	4	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Law, Crime, &c.

DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1910—continued.

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	19	20	24
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION CLASS.																						
Cabman, driver	57	50	45	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Carrier, carter, driver	284	249	223	20	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Groom	155	122	103	12	3	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shipmaster, officer, seaman ..	513	437	386	38	8	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Steward, stewardess, ship servant	39	34	29	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wharf labourer, stevedore ..	46	31	22	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others	108	97	90	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
INDUSTRIAL CLASS.																						
Baker	88	76	69	5	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blacksmith, farrier	137	109	92	14	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Boot, shoe maker	249	199	160	30	7	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bricklayer	123	90	68	15	5	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Carpenter	324	232	183	30	12	1	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Compositor, printer	107	80	66	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dressmaker, milliner	21	17	14	2	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Engineer, engine-driver, stoker	200	162	136	17	6	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fireman	232	190	167	13	7	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Labourer, road	59	42	31	7	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" (undefined)	7,174	5,370	4,259	754	201	76	33	21	11	8	3	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Painter	211	136	101	23	3	2	3	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plasterer	43	33	32	4	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plumber	56	47	41	4	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stonemason	44	35	27	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tailor, tailorress	79	7	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tinsmith	62	44	56	4	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others	1,000	772	631	88	33	13	4	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
PRIMARY PRODUCERS.																						
Drover, shearer, station employé, wool classer	149	119	98	14	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Farmer	178	161	149	9	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gardener	162	123	108	11	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Labourer, farm	507	403	326	58	11	8	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miner	417	331	268	49	9	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others	138	107	86	15	4	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
INDEFINITE CLASS.																						
Prostitute	1,068	413	206	83	40	18	20	12	8	7	4	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
No occupation, over 15 years ..	1,609	1,048	814	123	50	15	13	11	9	6	..	..	2	3	4	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
" under 15 years	78	76	74	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Others	22	20	18	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Individuals
arrested
more than
once.

Of the total number of arrests, 19,070, only 13,907, or 73 per cent., were of distinct individuals. Of these 11,155, or 80 per cent., were arrested only once; 1,740, or 13 per cent., twice; 508, or 4 per cent., three times; 209, or 1 per cent., four times; and 295, or 2 per cent., five times and over—one of these persons having been arrested twenty times, and one as many as twenty-four times. The following table gives a comparison of 1910 with 1884, from which it will be seen that there has been a decrease in the proportionate number of persons arrested more than once:—

DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED, 1884 AND 1910.

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
1910 ...	11,955	1,952	13,907	1,847	299	1,070	80	13	4	1	2

Sexes of
those
arrested
more than
once.

The tendency of females to be arrested over and over again is much greater than that of males, for, while only 19 per cent. of the males who fell into the hands of the police were arrested more than once, as many as 29 per cent. of the females were so arrested.

Distinct
persons
arrested
more than
once for
drunken-
ness.

The distinct persons arrested for drunkenness during 1910 numbered 9,052 and, of these, 1,921, or 21 per cent., were arrested more than once, viz.:—1,208 twice, 359 thrice, 151 four times, 70 five times, and 133 more than five times, of whom 1 was arrested twenty-four times.

Drunkards
charged
with other
offences.

Whilst the number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness was 9,052, the charges of drunkenness brought against them numbered 12,653; these persons were also charged with 1,604 other offences, so that the total number of charges of all kinds against drunkards was 14,257, as compared with 20,518 charges of all descriptions. Thus 69 per cent. of the offences for which persons were arrested during 1910 were committed by persons who were arrested for drunkenness.

The table below contains a classification of distinct persons arrested during 1910 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 1901:—

Birthplaces of distinct persons arrested and committed for trial.

BIRTHPLACES OF DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED AND COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1910.

Birthplace.	Distinct Persons Arrested.				
	Total Number.	Summarily Convicted, Held to Bail, &c.	Discharged.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.
Victoria	7,899	5,026	2,540	333	229
Other Australian States ..	1,226	727	446	53	34
New Zealand	216	118	85	13	10
England and Wales	1,644	918	683	43	37
Scotland	610	344	257	9	6
Ireland	1,400	835	548	17	14
China	72	54	15	3	1
Other Countries.. ..	840	460	354	26	18
Total	13,907	8,482	4,928	497	349
Proportion per 10,000 of mean Population of same nationality.					
Victoria	90·17	57·37	29·00	3·80	2·61
Other Australian States ..	188·34	111·68	68·52	8·14	5·22
New Zealand	239·47	170·82	94·24	14·41	11·09
England and Wales	140·38	78·39	58·32	3·67	3·16
Scotland	170·62	96·22	71·88	2·52	1·68
Ireland	227·60	135·75	89·09	2·76	2·28
China	115·57	86·68	24·08	4·81	1·61
Other Countries.. ..	274·30	150·21	115·60	8·49	5·88
Total	115·76	70·60	41·02	4·14	2·91

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. It is

obvious, therefore, that the ratio obtained by comparing the arrests of natives with the corresponding population will be much less than the ratios relating to the arrests of persons born in other States and countries. If the proportion arrested of Victorian adult males were taken it would, in all probability, approximate to the corresponding proportions for natives of other Australian States.

Religions of
distinct
persons
arrested
and
convicted.

The religions professed by the distinct persons arrested in Victoria during 1910, and the proportions of persons from each denomination so arrested or dealt with per 10,000 of their numbers in the population are shown hereunder:—

RELIGIONS OF DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED AND COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1910.

Religion.	Total number.	Summarily convicted, held to bail, &c.	Discharged.	Committed for trial.	Convicted after commitment.
Church of England ...	4,707	2,833	1,650	224	159
Presbyterian ...	1,729	1,057	626	46	36
Methodist ...	661	394	228	39	35
Other Protestants ...	4:9	247	196	16	12
Total Protestants	7,556	4,531	2,700	325	243
Roman Catholics ...	5,897	3,675	2,075	147	88
Jews ...	33	21	8	4	3
Other Denominations	112	90	18	4	1
No Religion...	399	165	127	17	14
Total ...	13,907	8,482	4,928	497	319
Proportion per 10,000 of persons connected with each denomination.					
Church of England ...	100·58	60·54	35·26	4·78	3·40
Presbyterian ...	83·48	51·04	30·22	2·22	1·74
Methodist ...	33·90	20·21	11·69	2·00	1·85
Other Protestants ...	42·25	22·74	18·04	1·47	1·10
Total Protestants	77·20	46·29	27·59	3·32	2·48
Roman Catholics ...	206·75	128·85	72·75	5·15	3·09
Jews ...	51·73	32·92	12·54	6·27	4·70
Other Denominations	99·56	80·00	16·00	3·56	·89
No religion...	174·38	93·12	71·67	9·59	7·90
Total ...	107·04	65·28	37·93	3·83	2·69

The ages of those arrested in 1910, and the degree of instruction possessed by them, are shown in the subjoined table:—

Age and degree of instruction.

AGE AND DEGREE OF INSTRUCTION OF DISTINCT PERSONS
ARRESTED, 1910.

Ages.	Education Superior.	Education Good.	Read Only, or Read and Write.	Illiterate.	Total.
Under 10 years ..	..	..	11	2	13
10 to 15 ,, ..	..	..	99	2	101
15 to 20 ,, ..	..	1	790	20	811
20 to 25 ,, ..	..	6	1,504	44	1,554
25 to 30 ,, ..	1	6	1,789	36	1,832
30 to 40 ,, ..	6	16	3,229	91	3,342
40 to 50 ,, ..	3	9	3,198	88	3,298
50 to 60 ,, ..	5	15	1,747	82	1,849
60 to 70 ,, ..	3	3	693	69	768
70 to 80 ,, ..	2	2	250	38	292
80 years and over ..	..	..	38	9	47
Total ..	20	53	13,348	481	13,907

About 3 per cent. of the distinct individuals arrested in 1910 were entirely illiterate, 96 per cent. could read only, or read and write, and 1 per cent. were possessed of superior or good education.

Education of persons arrested.

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

Crime in United Kingdom.

three decennial periods ended 1900, and during each of the five years ended 1909 :—

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1880, 1890, 1900, AND
1905 TO 1909.

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
	1905	12,690	10,483	3·72	3·07
	1906	13,190	10,823	3·82	3·13
	1907	13,054	10,834	3·74	3·10
	1908	14,554	12,060	4·12	3·41
	1909	14,285	11,862	3·77	3·13
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
	1905	2,832	2,314	6·06	4·95
	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	4·05	3·32
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
	1905	2,060	1,367	4·69	3·11
	1906	2,072	1,303	4·72	2·97
	1907	2,193	1,333	5·01	3·06
	1908	2,242	1,375	5·13	3·15
	1909	2,219	1,507	5·07	3·45
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
	1905	17,582	14,164	4·07	3·28
	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	18,481	14,987	4·09	3·32

Proportion
of commit-
ments for
trial and
convictions
in Austra-
lian States,
New Zea-
land, and
Britain.

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

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, 1905 TO 1909.

Commitments for Trial to every 10,000 of Population.			Convictions after Commitment to every 10,000 of Population.		
New Zealand	...	10·26	Western Australia	...	5·27
Queensland	...	8·29	New Zealand	...	5·00
New South Wales	...	7·78	Queensland	...	4·5
Western Australia	...	7·58	New South Wales	...	4·38
Victoria	...	5·66	Scotland	...	4·29
Scotland	...	5·22	Victoria	...	3·41
Ireland	...	4·92	England and Wales	...	3·17
England and Wales	...	3·83	Ireland	...	3·15
South Australia	...	3·19	South Australia	...	2·06
Tasmania	...	2·92	Tasmania	...	1·54

From the following figures, it appears that in the five years 1905 to 1909, 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 49 convictions to every 100 commitments:—

PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS TO COMMITMENTS IN THE AUSTRALIAN STATES, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1905 TO 1909.

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
England and Wales	82·72	Victoria	60·29
Scotland	82·02	New South Wales	56·28
Western Australia	69·46	Queensland	54·87
South Australia	64·80	Tasmania	52·81
Ireland	63·88	New Zealand	48·74

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

Drunkenness, 1906 to 1910.

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:—

PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS, 1906 TO 1910.

Year.	Number of Persons —			Proportion per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1906 ...	13,943	86	14,029	11·33
1907 ...	14,703	80	14,783	11·79
1908 ...	13,029	73	13,102	10·35
1909 ...	12,386	50	12,436	9·71
1910 ...	12,653	66	12,719	9·79

Drunkenness—Comparison with previous years.

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:—

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

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 two years they almost reached 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, from which it will be seen that very few young persons are arrested for this offence:—

ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1895 TO 1910.

Year.	Number.	Proportion per 100,000 of the Population.
1895	185	15·62
1900	222	18·60
1906	148	11·95
1907	153	12·21
1908	133	10·50
1909	104	8·12
1910	128	9·85

Young persons charged with drunkenness.

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

Religions
persons
arrested
for
drunken-
ness.

RELIGIONS OF DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED FOR DRUNKENNESS,
1907 TO 1910.

Religion,	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Church of England	3,482	3,209	2,949	2,872
Presbyterian	1,374	1,268	1,227	1,237
Methodist	402	342	323	344
Other Protestants	410	309	264	290
Total Protestants	5,668	5,128	4,763	4,743
Roman Catholics	4,735	4,231	3,871	4,680
Jews	5	9	12	6
Other Denominations	29	27	20	21
No Religion	523	189	184	192
Total	10,660	9,584	8,850	9,052
Proportion per 1,000 persons connected with each denomination.				
Church of England	7·71	7·64	6·39	6·14
Presbyterian	6·88	6·28	6·01	5·97
Methodist	2·14	1·80	1·68	1·76
Other Protestants	3·91	2·92	2·46	2·67
Total Protestants	6·00	5·38	4·94	4·85
Roman Catholics	17·21	15·22	13·76	14·31
Jews	·81	1·44	1·91	·94
Other Denominations	2·67	2·46	1·80	1·87
No Religion	13·05	10·95	10·53	10·84
Total	8·50	7·57	6·91	6·97

Drunkenness was the cause of arrest of persons connected with the various religious bodies in the following proportions:—Church of England, 61 per cent. of total arrests; Presbyterian, 72 per cent.; Methodist, 52 per cent.; other Protestants, 63 per cent.; Roman Catholic, 69 per cent.; Jews, 18 per cent.; and other denominations, 19 per cent. In the case of those persons who were classified as “no religion,” the arrests for drunkenness comprised 62 per cent. of the total arrests.

Apparent leniency of magistrates in drunkenness cases in Victoria.

The following tabulation shows the number of charges of drunkenness made against persons in each State and in New Zealand during 1909, also the number of convictions and the percentage of the latter to the former:—

PERCENTAGE OF CONVICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1909.

State.	Charges of Drunkenness.	Convictions.	
		Total.	Percentage of Charges.
Victoria	12,436	7,025	56·49
New South Wales	27,495	27,363	99·52
Queensland	9,109	9,102	99·92
South Australia	3,481	3,455	99·25
Western Australia	4,007	3,955	98·70
Tasmania	709	690	97·32
Australia	57,237	51,590	90·13
Dominion of New Zealand	10,762	10,697	99·40
Australasia	67,999	62,287	91·60

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.

The following 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, 1906 to 1910.			Proportion per Head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
British—						
Commonwealth of Australia ..	3,132,400	47,115,000	2,096,400	·74	11·19	·50
Dominion of New Zealand ..	734,900	9,325,100	143,100	·78	9·87	·15
	1905 to 1909.					
Canada ..	5,762,400	36,521,200	631,000	·87	5·48	·10
Cape of Good Hope ..	1,391,400	3,812,200	4,589,000	·56	1·56	1·85
Natal ..	336,000	955,800	51,000	·23	·81	·01
Newfoundland ..	90,800	79,400	9,300	·39	·34	·04
United Kingdom ..	37,544,200	1,198,551,400	11,828,600	·86	27·42	·27
Foreign—						
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	48·58	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 ..	92,634,000	1,485,004,000	73,986,000	1·48	23·74	1·19
Holland ..	7,955,000	..	1,939,000	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	4·00	..
Portugal ..	..	..	108,574,000	..	..	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	53,095,000	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.

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 2¼ gallons; in Hungary to nearly 2 gallons; in Germany and Austria to about 1½ gallons; in Holland, Sweden, France, Belgium, the Russian Empire, and the United States to more than a gallon; and in

Consumption of intoxicating liquor

Consumption of drink in various countries compared.

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 $48\frac{1}{2}$ gallons; the United Kingdom, with $27\frac{1}{2}$ gallons; Germany, with $23\frac{3}{4}$ gallons; and Denmark, with $20\frac{1}{2}$ 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 $50\frac{1}{2}$ gallons per head. The consumption in Würtemberg and in Baden was also high, reaching 32 gallons per head. The Australian consumption of 11 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 $34\frac{1}{2}$ gallons, and the latter 26 gallons per head. Portugal, with $20\frac{1}{2}$ gallons; Spain, with $17\frac{1}{2}$ gallons; and Switzerland, with $15\frac{1}{4}$ 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 half-a-gallon per head; the United Kingdom about one-quarter of a gallon; and Canada one-tenth of a gallon.

Expenditure
by the
people on
intoxicat-
ing liquor.

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:—

AUSTRALASIAN DRINK BILL.—YEARLY AVERAGE, 1906 TO 1910.

	Expenditure by the People on—					
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Total.		
				Amount.	Per Head.	Per Adult Individual
	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Commonwealth of Australia	5,481,700	7,067,200	1,048,200	13,597,100	3 4 7	6 4 6
Dominion of New Zealand	1,286,000	1,398,700	71,500	2,756,200	2 18 4	5 3 10

These figures show that the average yearly expenditure on drink in Australia during the quinquennium 1906 to 1910, amounted to £13,597,100, and in New Zealand to £2,756,200. The proportion per head for the Commonwealth was £3 4s. 7d., and for New Zealand £2 18s. 4d.

The following table shows the average quantity and the proportion per head 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 alcoholic liquors, 1881 to 1885 and 1905 and 1909.

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	·67	11·95	·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 679,560 gallons of spirits, 4,367,900 gallons of beer, and 374,300 gallons of wine.

The Licences Reduction Board provided for by the Licensing Act of 1906 was appointed on 21st May, 1907. A Compensation Fund was also 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 total amount paid into this fund was £48,233 in 1907, £48,542 in 1908, £49,300 in 1909, £48,875 in 1910, and £53,077 in 1911. 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

Licences Reduction Board.

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, 1911, 502 hotels had been closed by the Board, or had surrendered their licences. Compensation has so far been awarded in 417 cases, and the total sum paid has been £196,034, or an average of £470 each. One hundred and twenty-one of these hotels were located in the Greater Melbourne district, and their compensation totalled £104,625, or an average of £865 each; there were 296 in country districts, whose owners and licensees received £91,409, or an average of £309 for each hotel. In the appended table particulars are given regarding these hotels and the licensing districts in which they were situated:—

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD
TO 30TH JUNE, 1911.

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	17	13,340	2,750
Broadmeadows	23	10	13	5	1,456	175
Cardigan	58	19	39	15	10,226	1,597
Collingwood East	22	18	4	2	1,189	212
Darling (Collingwood)	30	16	14	7	3,640†	48:†
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	16	14,281	3,218
Jolimont	12	11	1	2	1,673	325
Latrobe	53	17	36	9	1,240*	176*
Lonsdale	51	29	22	9	8,875	1,421
Port Melbourne	46	23	23	8	4,954	865
Prahran	27	21	6	2	1,675	300
Princes Hill	34	19	15	8	6,371	863
Richmond North	24	21	3	2	...	...
Williamstown South	26	14	12	6	...	...
Total Greater Melbourne ...	715	320	395	138	89,184	15,441

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

* Compensation for one hotel only.—† Compensation for six hotels only.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE,
1911—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	...	...
Allansford	12	11	1	1	375	60
Ararat	17	6	11	1	170	35
Bacchus Marsh ..	11	6	5	4	...	...
Bairnsdale	13	10	3	1	...	...
Ballan	21	12	9	2	310	25
Ballarat East	41	39	2	2	...	...
Ballarat West	83	36	47	16	3,420	656
Barkly (Bendigo)	34	19	15	4	1,500	290
Beaconsfield	26	20	6	3	2,352	280
Beaufort	26	11	15	1	172	10
Beechworth	33	12	21	11	2,289	105
Benalla	14	11	3	3	...	...
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	302*	100*
Bungaree	21	11	10	3	712	155
Buninyong	25	11	14	8	1,508§	339§
Carisbrook	11	3	8	3	501†	52†
Castlemaine	49	12	37	14	2,448	497
Charlton	20	10	10	1	85	Nil
Chiltern	15	6	9	8	2,270	270
Clunes	36	12	24	12	2,431	363
Creswick	22	10	12	3	544	123
Dargo	6	6	...	1	75	Nil
Darling (Bendigo)	71	13	58	8	4,354	635
Daylesford	20	6	14	5	1,655	465
Dowling Forest	19	9	10	4	680‡	156‡
Dunmunkle	19	8	11	4	300*	60*
Dunolly	24	10	14	3	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	8	1,201	211
Fryers	18	6	12	8	907	129
Geelong East	26	21	5	3	1,860	220
Geelong West	31	22	9	3	1,932	300
Gisborne	15	8	7	3	540†	72†
Glenorchy	10	8	2	1	160	48
Golden Square	57	26	31	6	3,286	445
Goulburn	26	12	14	10	120*	1*
Heathcote	24	9	15	4	392‡	109‡
Horsham	16	10	6	1	115	50
Huntly	21	7	14	7	2,236	450
Inglewood	20	8	12	4	531	63

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

* Compensation for one hotel only.—† Compensation for two hotels only.—‡ Compensation for three hotels only.—§ Compensation for seven hotels only.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE,
1911—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>						
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	1	200	55
Landsborough	8	6	2	2	311	1
Lara	7	7	...	1	200	90
Leigh	6	5	1	1	...	...
Maldon	23	10	13	10	2,212	455
Mansfield	13	8	5	3	346†	82†
Melton	26	8	18	11	200*	25*
Meredith	5	4	1	1	...	...
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	1	...	...
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	221*	40*
Sale	17	7	10	6	...	...
Sebastopol	22	11	11	4	1,285	161
Serpentine	6	4	2	1	75	30
Seymour	10	8	2	1	...	...
Stawell	28	9	19	13	3,278	640
Strathfieldsaye	17	6	11	6	1,179	149
Talbot	24	12	14	11	2,163	285
Taradale	17	7	10	6	1,138	5
Timor	25	12	13	10	1,564†	141†
Towong	21	14	7	2	250	33
Walhalla	22	10	12	1	115	Nil
Warrenheip	12	6	6	2	500	32
Warrnambool	19	12	7	3	2,060	390
Whittlesea	11	8	3	3	1,050	185
Wodonga'	9	6	3	1	...	...
Woods Point	10	7	3	1	120	Nil
Yarrawonga	23	12	11	1	270	...
Total Country	1,808	910	898	364	79,354	12,055
Grand Total	2,523	1,230	1,293	502	168,533	27,496

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

* Compensation for one hotel only.—† Compensation for two hotels only.—‡ Compensation for eight hotels.

The return given hereunder shows the number of hotels in Victoria in 1885 and 1911, 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 :—

Hotels, 1885 and 1911.

NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885 AND 1911.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.	Persons to each Hotel.
1885	969,200	4,265	227
1911 (30th June)	1,320,000	2,928	451
Increase	350,800	...	224
Decrease	...	1,337	...

While the population has increased by 36 per cent., the number of hotels has decreased by 31 per cent., and the number of persons to an hotel is now 99 per cent. more than in 1885. During the period 1885-1911, 217 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 502 hotels were deprived of their licences by the Licences Reduction Board, or surrendered their licences to the Board, and 618 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 five years were as follows :—

Race-course licences and percentage fees.

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

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

There are eight gaols, including the Pentridge Penal Establishment, and three reformatory prisons in Victoria, and the figures below show that there is still accommodation in the gaols for more than twice

Gaols and Prisoners.

the average number of prisoners in confinement. The following statement gives for the year 1910 the accommodation, the daily average in confinement, the number received during the year, and the number in confinement at the end of the year:—

GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1910.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received.		In Confinement, 31.12.10.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge ..	684	..	435	..	425	..	435	..
Pentridge Reformatory Prison	116	..	11	..	14	..	19	..
Ballarat ..	62	18	25	3	347	47	22	1
Beechworth ..	66	15	27	..	140	5	26	1
Bendigo ..	116	28	18	1	332	23	21	1
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison	99	..	7	..	13	..	7	..
Coburg Female Prison	..	9	..	4	..	6	..	7
Jika Reformatory Female Prison	..	324	..	77	..	210	..	74
Geelong ..	187	29	85	..	330	22	83	..
Melbourne ..	249	60	145	26	2,915	1,030	122	24
Sale ..	30	5	4	..	73	2	3	..
Total ..	1,609	488	757	111	4,589	1,345	738	108

There are also seven police gaols which are used as receiving stations, but the daily average number of prisoners detained therein during 1910 was only eight.

Prisoners in confinement, 1871 to 1910—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 1910, 61 per cent. less than in 1891, 63 per cent. less than in 1881, and 74 per cent. less than in 1871.

PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1910.

Year.	Average number of Prisoners in confinement.			Per 10,000 of population, 15 years and over.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1871 ...	1,345	274	1,619	38·30
1881 ...	1,294	304	1,598	26·65
1891 ...	1,550	350	1,900	25·47
1901 ...	951	200	1,151	14·53
1906 ...	902	115	1,017	11·91
1907 ...	832	88	920	10·60
1908 ...	799	98	897	10·22
1909 ...	769	115	884	10·06
1910 ...	765	111	876	9·93

The religions of prisoners constantly detained, as deduced from the numbers passing through the gaols, are shown below, also the proportions borne by the prisoners connected with the various religious bodies to the total numbers of persons in the community professing these religions :—

Religions of prisoners.

RELIGIONS OF PRISONERS, 1910.

Religion.	Estimated Mean Population, 1910.	Average Number of Prisoners Constantly Detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of Mean Population.
Church of England ...	467,980	351	7·50
Presbyterian ...	207,110	90	4·35
Methodist ...	194,970	58	2·97
Other Protestants ...	108,640	12	1·10
Total Protestants ...	978,700	511	5·22
Roman Catholic ...	285,220	338	11·85
Jews ...	6,380	4	6·27
Other Denominations ...	11,250	10	8·89
No religion ...	17,720	13	7·34
Total ...	1,299,270	876	6·74

It will be observed that the Roman Catholic and Church of England bodies contributed more largely to the prison population than might have been expected from their relative strength in the

community. On the other hand, the Presbyterian, Methodist, and other Protestant bodies contributed much less than their quota according to that standard.

Education
of prisoners.

It will be seen from the following figures that there has been a steady increase during the last 40 years in the proportion of prisoners who are able to read and write, and that there has been a corresponding diminution in the number of those who are entirely illiterate:—

EDUCATION OF PRISONERS, 1871 TO 1910.

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
1910	95	1	4

Prisoners
in confinement
in
Australian
States
and New
Zealand.

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 the 31st December in each of the years, 1906 to 1910:—

PRISONERS IN GAOLS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1906 TO 1910.

State	Number of Prisoners in confinement on the 31st December.					Prisoners per 10,000 of Population.				
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Victoria	927	916	869	844	859	7.44	7.26	6.83	6.54	6.57
New South Wales	1,519	1,490	1,499	1,377	1,320	10.11	9.71	9.54	8.60	8.06
Queensland	507	501	493	516	527	9.47	9.17	8.83	8.92	8.88
South Australia	257	256	245	276	269	6.78	6.69	6.30	6.88	6.59
Western Australia	433	440	382	400	312	17.09	17.26	14.64	15.05	11.31
Tasmania	89	96	94	79	64	4.94	5.22	5.06	4.23	3.42
Australia	3,732	3,699	3,582	3,492	3,351	9.11	8.89	8.45	8.08	7.60
Dominion of New Zealand	891	847	879	950	882	9.80	9.11	9.15	9.67	8.80

Convicted
prisoners,
31st
December,
1910

The total number of prisoners in gaol in Victoria under sentence at the end of the year 1910 was 825, of whom 629, or 76 per cent., were natives of Australia and New Zealand—the Victorian born amounting to 523, or 63 per cent. The entirely illiterate persons convicted and under detention at that date numbered only 10.

AGES, BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND EDUCATION OF PRISONERS IN GAOL IN VICTORIA UNDER SENTENCE ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1910.

	Ages.							Males.	Fe- males.	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 ..	61	220	222	207	77	37	1	724	101	825
<i>Birthplaces.</i>										
Victoria ..	56	153	154	124	33	3	..	458	65	523
Other Australian States ..	1	34	30	11	7	7	..	76	14	90
New Zealand ..	3	3	4	6	..	..	..	13	3	16
England and Wales ..	1	13	16	26	18	13	..	80	7	87
Scotland ..	..	3	4	..	3	3	..	11	2	13
Ireland ..	..	2	3	18	12	6	..	34	7	41
China ..	..	..	..	2	1	2	1	6	..	6
Other Countries ..	..	12	11	20	3	3	..	46	3	49
<i>Religions.</i>										
Church of England ..	27	110	102	80	32	19	..	329	41	370
Presbyterian ..	10	24	19	15	6	4	..	69	9	78
Methodist ..	2	17	32	25	12	4	..	86	6	92
Other Protestants ..	1	2	1	3	1	..	..	7	1	8
Roman Catholic ..	20	62	60	72	23	8	..	202	43	245
<i>Other Christian Religions.</i>										
Hebrew ..	1	1	2	2	1	..	..	7	..	7
Other Non-Christian Religions ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	2
No Religion ..	..	1	5	6	2	..	..	14	..	14
Unspecified ..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	2
<i>Education.</i>										
<i>English Language—</i>										
Read and Write ..	59	212	213	192	75	33	..	636	93	734
Read only ..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2	2
<i>Foreign Language</i>										
only—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Read and Write ..	..	7	7	12	1	1	1	29	..	29
Cannot Read ..	2	1	1	3	1	2	..	9	1	10

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, 1910:—

Strength of police force in Australia and New Zealand.

POLICE IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1910.

State.	Number.			Proportion per 10,000 of Population.
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.	
Victoria ..	910	695	1,605	12·28
New South Wales ..	1,105	1,405	2,510	15·33
Queensland ..	276	671	947	15·96
South Australia ..	257	247	504	12·35
Western Australia ..	153	375	528	19·14
Tasmania ..	79	155	234	12·50
Total Australia ..	2,780	3,548	6,328	14·35
Dominion of New Zealand ..	95	699	794	7·92

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.

In the 45½ years ended 30th June, 1910, the total amount expended in connexion with the police, and the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria was £13,198,633, viz., £10,618,501 on the former, and £2,580,132 on the latter. 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 during each of the five years ended with 1909-10:—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1905-6 TO 1909-10.

Year.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions and the Cost of Buildings) on—			Amount per Head of Population.
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Total.	
	£	£	£	s. d.
1905-6	270,661	49,175	319,836	5 2
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 2
1909-10	293,846	49,869	343,715	5 4

Expenditure on police and gaols in Australasia.

The following were the amounts expended on police and gaols in the Australian States and New Zealand during the year 1909-10:—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1909-10.

State.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions and the Cost of Buildings) on—			Amount per Head of Population.
	Police.	Gaols.	Total.	
	£	£	£	s. d.
Victoria	293,846	49,869	343,715	5 4
New South Wales	449,718	63,039	512,757	6 5
Queensland	184,795	24,174	208,969	7 3
South Australia	97,439	18,225	115,664	5 9
Western Australia	13,760	28,230	141,990	10 8
Tasmania	39,046	4,029	43,075	4 7
Australia	1,178,604	187,566	1,366,170	6 4
Dominion of New Zealand	170,140	45,850	215,990	4 5

Inquests.

In 1910 the number of inquiries into the causes of deaths of individuals was 1,191, which was below the average number of the preceding five years. In 604 cases death was found to be due to disease or natural causes, in 398 cases to accident, in 119 to suicide, in 55 to external causes which could not be ascertained, in 2 to intemperance, in 6 to homicide, and in 4 to unspecified or doubtful causes; in 3 a verdict of "still born" was returned. Of those due to violence, 69 per cent. were due to accidental causes, 1 per cent. to homicide, and 21 per cent. to suicide, while in 9 per cent. of the cases the cause or motive of the violence which caused death was doubtful. The number of inquests during the last five years was 6,445, in 3,497 of which death was found to be due to disease or natural causes, in 2,902 to violence, and in 46 to other causes.
