

# VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK, 1889-90.

## PART VI.—LAW, CRIME, ETC.

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

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

3. The assurance and indemnity fund established under the *Transfer of Land Statute*, to secure the Government against possible losses, is formed chiefly by the payment of an amount equal to one half-penny in the pound of the value of all lands which become subject to its operation. The balance to the credit of this fund on the 30th June, 1889, was £66,425,† of which £34,823 had been invested in Government stock. Fifteen claims upon the fund, of which two—for £50 and £30 respectively—were satisfied in 1888-9, have been substantiated since its first formation, and sums amounting in the aggregate to £3,630 have been paid to claimants. *Assurance fund.*

4. In 1889, as compared with 1888, a large falling off took place in the number of applications to bring the land under the *Transfer of Land Statute* (29 Vict. No. 301); also a large decrease in the extent, but a considerable increase in the value of land actually brought thereunder. A decrease took place in the number of certificates of title issued, of transfers, mortgages, leases, etc., and of miscellaneous transactions, as well as in the fees received. The following were the transactions in the two years:— *Transactions under the Land Statute, 1888 and 1889.*

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

† During the last four years the Assurance Fund has been reduced by £79,423; that amount having been advanced towards the purchase of land adjoining the Titles Office (under Act 49 Vict. No. 835). On this advance the fund receives 4 per cent. per annum from the general revenue.

## TRANSFER OF LAND STATUTE, 1888 AND 1889.

		1888.	1889.
Applications to bring land under the Act	... number	1,863 ...	1,176
Extent of land included	... acres	72,647 ...	82,592
Land brought under the Statute—			
By application	... acres	47,248 ...	86,384
"	... value	£3,336,978 ...	£5,286,463
By grant and purchase from the Crown	... acres	439,490 ...	258,233
"	... purchase money	£644,112 ...	£330,054
Certificates of title issued*	... number	21,539 ...	19,395
Transfers, mortgages, leases, releases, surrenders, etc.	"	57,850 ...	51,833
Registering proprietors	"	11 ...	6
Other transactions†	"	63,278 ...	56,301
Forms and extras	"	655 ...	758
Fees received	... value	£70,213 ...	£66,807

Proportion of land under the Statute.

5. The total quantity of land under the *Transfer of Land Statute* at the end of 1889 was 12,422,302 acres, the declared value of which, at the time it was placed under the Act, was £45,275,864. The land granted and sold up to the end of 1889 was 15,842,312 acres. It, therefore, follows that at that period nearly four-fifths of the alienated land in the colony was subject to the provisions of this Statute.

Land under Act by application and otherwise.

6. Of the whole extent of land under the Statute, 1,350,283 acres, valued at about 31 millions sterling, were brought thereunder by application, and the remainder, amounting to 11,072,019 acres, valued at about 14 $\frac{1}{4}$  millions sterling, came under its provisions by virtue of its having been purchased from or granted by the Crown since the Act was passed.‡

Transactions in Equity.

7. Since the passing of the *Judicature Act* 1883 (47 Vict. No. 791), which, with certain exceptions, came into operation on the 1st July, 1884, the business in Equity has fallen off materially, as will be seen by the following figures:—

## TRANSACTIONS IN EQUITY, 1883 TO 1889.

Number of—	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
Suits by bill	81	38	1	2	...	...	...
Petitions filed	15	8	5	1	...	...	...
Commissions issued	4	4	...	...	...	...	...
Decrees issued	38	37	14	3	4	...	3
Orders issued	132	106	71	51	22	24	27
Reports issued	20	20	10	9	7	6	6
Recognizances entered into	5	2	...	...	...	...	...
Rolls filed	40	29	2	1	...	...	...

Probates and letters of administration.

8. In 1889, as compared with 1888, there was an increase of 28 per cent. in the number of probates and letters of administration

\* Including 3,456 to Friendly Societies in 1888, and 2,292 in 1889.

† Not including copies of documents supplied.

‡ See paragraph 2. *ante.*

issued, and of 60 per cent. in the value of property bequeathed. The average value of each estate in 1888 was £3,087, and in 1889, £3,869. The following are the figures for those years:—

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1888 AND 1889.

Year.	Probates.		Letters of Administration.*		Both.	
	Number.	Property sworn under— £	Number.	Property sworn under— £	Number.	Property sworn under— £
1888 ...	1,400	6,006,984	876	1,020,000	2,276	7,026,984
1889 ...	1,752	10,077,568	1,156	1,174,528	2,908	11,252,096
Increase	352	4,070,584	280	154,528	632	4,225,112

9. During the twenty-five years ended with 1889, the value of the property respecting which probates and letters of administration were issued amounted to fully seventy-six millions sterling (£76,052,608). During the same period the total number of deaths in the colony was 321,614, so that the average value of property left by each person who died was £236. The average value in 1886 was £303; in 1887, £325; in 1888, £431; and in 1889, £580; or an average of £410 in the last four years.†

Value of property left at death.

10. According to the present law,‡ duties are levied in Victoria on the net value of real and personal estates of deceased persons within the colony upon the following scale. It is now provided that all estates of the net value of under £1,000 shall be exempt from duty, and that estates of the net value of under £5,000 shall be exempt from the payment of duty upon £1,000 of such net value; § also that half duty only shall be paid by widows, children, or grandchildren:—

Scale of probate, etc., duties.

SCALE OF DUTIES ON ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS.

Estates of less than	£1,000 in value	...	Exempt.
„	£1,000 to £5,000	„	2 per cent.
„	£5,000 to £10,000	„	3 „
„	£10,000 to £20,000	„	4 „
„	£20,000 to £30,000	„	5 „
„	£30,000 to £40,000	„	6 „
„	£40,000 to £60,000	„	7 „
„	£60,000 to £80,000	„	8 „
„	£80,000 to £100,000	„	9 „
„	£100,000 and upwards	„	10 „

\* Including those granted to the Curator of Intestate Estates.  
 † See paragraphs 911 to 916, Vol. I.  
 ‡ The Acts relating to estates of deceased persons are 34 Vict. No. 388, 35 Vict. No. 403, 36 Vict. No. 427, 39 Vict. No. 523, 53 Vict. Nos. 1,035 and 1,053.  
 § Exempted by the *Duties on Estates Amendment Act 1889* (53 Vict. No. 1,053), which came into force on the 1st January, 1890.  
 || The first £1,000 of the value of these estates exempted from duty.

Amount of probate, etc., duties.

11. The amount realized by the State in 1889 from duties on estates of deceased persons was exceptionally high, being more than in 1888 by £172,164, more than in 1887 by £240,396, and more than three times as much as in any other previous year. The amounts fluctuate considerably from year to year, as will be observed by the following figures for the last nineteen years:—

DUTIES ON ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS, 1871 TO 1889.

			£				£
1871	...	...	17,069	1881	...	...	78,914
1872	...	...	37,643	1882	...	...	78,547
1873	...	...	39,026	1883	...	...	96,427
1874	...	...	67,998	1884	...	...	125,697
1875	...	...	50,057	1885	...	...	85,979
1876	...	...	33,638	1886	...	...	129,479
1877	...	...	82,201	1887	...	...	151,268
1878	...	...	45,470	1888	...	...	219,500
1879	...	...	47,607	1889	...	...	391,664
1880	...	...	48,697				

Intestate estates.

12. The new intestate estates dealt with by the Curator in 1888 numbered 301; those in 1889 numbered 359.\* The sums received by the Curator on these estates and on others remaining from former years were £53,031 in 1888 and £54,924 in 1889. In the nineteen years ended with 1889, the number of intestate estates dealt with was 4,548. The amount received by the Curator in respect to these estates during the nineteen years was £841,664.

Divorce and matrimonial.

13. Under the head of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes there were 22 decrees for dissolution of marriage in 1889 as against 28 in 1888. Three decrees for judicial separation were pronounced in 1889, and one such decree in 1888. The following was the business done in the two years:—

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL, 1888 AND 1889.

			1888.	1889.
Petitions for dissolution of marriage	...	number	38	38
„ judicial separation	...	„	4	7
Decrees for dissolution of marriage	...	„	28	22
„ judicial separation	...	„	1	3
„ alimony	...	„	1	...

Divorces in twenty-eight years.

14. Since the Act 25 Vict. No. 125—which first conferred upon the Supreme Court of Victoria jurisdiction in matters matrimonial—came into operation in 1861, 308 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 71 decrees for judicial separation have been made.

\* These numbers are included in those given in the table following paragraph 8 *ante*.

15. As the marriages in 1889 numbered 9,194, the petitions for dissolution of marriage were in the proportion of 1 to every 242 marriages, and the decrees for dissolution of marriage were in the proportion of 1 to every 418 marriages. In the 18 years ended with 1888, the marriages numbered 107,824, the petitions for dissolution of marriage numbered 417, and the decrees for dissolution of marriage numbered 210. Thus, during the 18 years referred to, there was 1 petition to dissolve marriage to every 257 marriages celebrated, and 1 marriage was dissolved to every 513 marriages celebrated.

Proportion  
of divorces  
to mar-  
riages.

16. An Act to amend the law of divorce\* was passed in Victoria in November, 1889, and received the Royal assent on the 13th May, 1890. Under this Statute it was provided that divorce might be granted to persons who had been domiciled in Victoria for two years or upwards on one or more of the following grounds:—

*Divorce Act*  
1889,  
principal  
provisions.

(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.

17. The new *Divorce Act* further provides for simplifying and cheapening the modes of procedure in divorce cases; for the hearing and trying of divorce suits in chambers at the discretion of the Court; for forbidding the publication of evidence in divorce cases if, in the opinion of the Court, it would be prejudicial to public morals for it to be published; and for the abolition of applications or decrees for the restitution of conjugal rights.

Further  
provisions  
of new  
*Divorce*  
*Act*.

\* *Divorce Act* 1889 (53 Vict. No. 1,056).

Divorces in  
Victoria  
and Eng-  
land.

18. In proportion to the number of marriages, the petitions for dissolution of marriage are about twice as numerous in Victoria as in England and Wales, the annual average per thousand marriages over a series of years being 3·79 in the former and 1·88 in the latter. The decrees for the dissolution of marriage are also, in proportion to the number of marriages, much more numerous in Victoria, the number per 10,000 being 18·21 as against 9·5 in England and Wales. The proportion of decrees to petitions is, however, somewhat higher in England and Wales than in Victoria, being 50 per cent. in the former, but not quite 48 per cent. in the latter.

Divorces in  
France and  
the United  
States.

19. The divorce law of France dates from the latter part of 1884. In the three years ended with 1887 there were 10,863 divorces, the marriages in the same three years being 844,434. There was thus 1 divorce to about 77 marriages. In some of the American States the proportions are much higher. It is stated that in Rhode Island 1 divorce takes place to every 12 marriages; in Massachusetts 1 to every 21 marriages; and in Ohio 1 to every 26 marriages; whilst in the city of San Francisco, during the 21 years ended with 1887 there was 1 divorce to every 10 marriages, and in the last eight years of that period there was 1 to every 6 marriages.

Fees in  
Equity, etc.

20. The fees in Equity amounted in the aggregate to £136 in 1888, and to £281 in 1889; those on Probates amounted to £1,901 in 1888, and to £2,353 in 1889; those in Divorce amounted to £84 in 1888, and to £94 in 1889. The total amount of these fees was thus £2,121 in 1888, and £2,728 in 1889.

Collections  
in Lunacy.

21. The moneys collected and appropriated in the department of the Master-in-Lunacy, on behalf of patients (including "percentage" and fees) decreased from £31,363 in 1888, to £28,094 in 1889. It may be mentioned that the total expenditure in 1888-9 on Hospitals for the Insane was £106,276, so that, after allowing for moneys collected from private sources, the net cost to the State on account of lunatic patients in that year was about £78,182.

Insolven-  
cies.

22. In the twenty-two years ended with 1889, 15,355 insolvencies took place in Victoria, with liabilities amounting to over 15 millions sterling, as against which assets were declared amounting to over 10 millions sterling. The following is a statement of the number of insolvencies in each year, also of the declared liabilities and assets of the estates, and of the amounts by which the latter were exceeded by the former:—

## INSOLVENCIES, 1868 TO 1889.

Year.	Number of Insolvencies.	As shown by the Insolvent's Schedules.		
		Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.*
		£	£	£
1868 ... ..	863	617,764	167,226	450,538
1869 ... ..	818	653,614	194,251	459,363
1870 ... ..	996	479,491	150,170	329,321
1871 ... ..	631	444,117	217,841	226,276
1872 ... ..	804	696,868	222,770	474,098
1873 ... ..	672	330,337	188,351	141,986
1874 ... ..	776	543,157	269,130	274,027
1875 ... ..	773	641,390	389,330	252,060
1876 ... ..	712	551,814	280,962	270,852
1877 ... ..	715	462,651	272,720	189,931
1878 ... ..	781	677,364	408,677	268,687
1879 ... ..	1,007	1,655,485	1,204,051	451,434
1880 ... ..	768	526,130	298,384	227,746
1881 ... ..	620	303,892	161,386	142,506
1882 ... ..	500	536,194	311,186	225,008
1883 ... ..	603	782,116	423,528	358,588
1884 ... ..	495	479,700	264,686	215,014
1885 ... ..	467	591,957	282,502	309,455
1886 ... ..	559	830,176	570,867	259,309
1887 ... ..	619	563,894	1,009,385	+ 445,491
1888 ... ..	479	347,658	185,871	161,787
1889 ... ..	697	2,389,731	2,627,182	+ 237,451
Total... ..	15,355	15,105,500	10,100,456	5,005,044

23. According to the table, insolvencies in 1889 were more numerous by 218 than in 1888, and were also more numerous than in any other year since 1880. The assets and liabilities in 1889, as shown by the insolvents' schedules, were largely in excess of those in any other year. Insolvencies 1889 and previous years.

24. In 1889 and 1887 it will be noticed that the assets apparently exceeded the liabilities. This resulted in the year under review from the high, and doubtless in many instances fictitious, value placed upon land, which formed the principal portion of the assets of a number of the insolvents, but which at the time of their insolvency was almost unsaleable. The surplus shown by the returns of 1887 resulted from the fact that the declared assets of that year were largely made up of a debt of £570,597 set down as due by the Crown to the estate of Mr. W. R. Merry. Had this not been included, the declared assets, as compared with the declared liabilities, would have shown an apparent deficiency of £125,106. Apparent surplus on two occasions.

\* The plus sign (+) indicates a surplus.

Occupations  
of insol-  
vents.

25. The following table shows the occupations or callings of the persons who became insolvent in Victoria during the last three years :—

## OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1887, 1888 AND 1889.

Occupations.	1887.	1888.	1889.
<b>GOVERNMENT, PROFESSIONS, ARTS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE—</b>			
Artist	...	1	...
Chemist	2	1	...
Civil engineer	...	...	1
Civil servant	2	1	4
Clerk of works	...	...	1
Comedian, tragedian	1	2	1
Dentist	1	...	...
Draughtsman	...	...	2
Equestrian	...	...	1
Herbalist	...	...	2
Journalist	2	1	2
Medical man	...	...	1
Musician, music teacher	...	2	1
News agent	1	...	...
Photographer	1	1	2
Phrenologist	...	...	1
Police constable	...	...	1
Printer	1	1	4
Reporter	...	...	1
Schoolmaster, teacher	1	3	1
Solicitor	1	...	...
Theatrical manager	1	2	1
<b>BOARD AND LODGING, DOMESTIC DUTIES, ATTEND- ANCE—</b>			
Billiard-room keeper	1	...	...
Boarding-house keeper	11	12	14
Caterer	1	...	...
Charwoman	...	...	1
Coffee-stall keeper	1	...	...
Hotel-broker	2	...	...
Hotel-keeper	21	17	40
Married woman	5	1	8
Odd Job Help Company	1	...	...
Public entertainer	1	...	...
Restaurant-keeper	2	2	3
Servants' registry office keeper	1	...	...
Spinster	1	...	...
Widow	6	1	3
<b>COMMERCIAL PURSUITS—</b>			
Accountant	1	4	6
Agent, commission agent	16	10	27
Auctioneer	1	...	9
Bellman	...	1	...
Bookkeeper, clerk	11	3	13

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1887, 1888 AND 1889—*continued.*

Occupations.	1887.	1888.	1889.
<b>COMMERCIAL PURSUITS—<i>continued</i>—</b>			
Commercial traveller, canvasser ... ..	5	2	4
Dealer (undefined) ... ..	10	3	10
Debt collector ... ..	1	...	...
Financier ... ..	1	...	...
Hawker ... ..	4	1	...
Mercantile, stock and share broker ... ..	...	...	5
Merchant ... ..	3	4	...
Salesman ... ..	2	...	4
Sewing machine importer ... ..	1	...	...
Storekeeper (undefined) ... ..	12	13	15
Warehouseman ... ..	1	...	1
<b>CARRIERS—</b>			
Bullock driver ... ..	1	1	...
Cabman ... ..	3	4	2
Carrier, carter ... ..	10	12	14
Mail contractor ... ..	...	...	1
Mariner ... ..	1	...	1
Omnibus driver ... ..	1	1	...
Railway employé ... ..	1	...	1
Stationmaster ... ..	1	...	...
Stoker ... ..	...	2	...
<b>AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS AND LAND—</b>			
Farmer ... ..	53	62	58
Freeholder ... ..	1	...	1
Gardener ... ..	5	2	3
Nurseryman ... ..	...	1	...
Seedsman ... ..	...	...	1
Surveyor ... ..	1	1	...
Vinegrower ... ..	...	1	...
<b>PASTORAL PURSUITS AND ANIMALS—</b>			
Boundary rider ... ..	1	...	...
Cattle dealer ... ..	1	2	5
Drover... ..	...	...	1
Fisherman ... ..	...	1	...
Grazier ... ..	14	6	12
Groom... ..	1	...	1
Horse proprietor, dealer, trainer, breaker ... ..	2	2	4
Livery-stable keeper ... ..	1	1	3
Overseer sheep station ... ..	...	...	1
Rabbit trapper ... ..	1	...	1
Stock and station agent ... ..	1	1	2
<b>ARTIZANS, MECHANICS, LABOURERS—</b>			
Bellows-maker ... ..	...	1	...
Bricklayer ... ..	4	3	2
Builder, contractor, architect ... ..	55	45	73
Carpenter ... ..	14	12	10
Chairmaker ... ..	...	...	1
Coachbuilder ... ..	8	1	7

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1887, 1888 AND 1889—*continued.*

Occupations.	1887.	1888.	1889.
<i>ARTIZANS, MECHANICS, LABOURERS—continued—</i>			
Cooper...	1	1	...
Dyer ...	1	...	...
Engraver ...	1	1	1
Fancy-goods maker ...	1	...	...
Fire-kindler maker ...	1	...	...
Furniture maker, dealer, warehouseman ...	3	1	3
House decorator...	...	...	1
Labourer (undefined) ...	75	57	52
Manufacturer (undefined) ...	...	1	3
Mason ...	1	1	4
Monumental mason ...	1	...	...
Organ-builder ...	...	...	1
Painter ...	6	3	11
Pile-driver ...	...	...	1
Plasterer ...	4	2	4
Plumber ...	7	3	4
Saddler ...	4	4	9
Shipwright ...	1	...	...
Sign writer ...	...	...	1
Slater ...	...	1	1
Turner...	1	...	...
Upholsterer ...	1	...	4
Venetian blind maker ...	1	...	...
Watchmaker, jeweller ...	6	6	9
Wheelwright ...	1	1	...
Works overseer ...	...	...	1
<i>DRESS—</i>			
Boot—Shoe-maker, dealer ...	21	14	14
Draper—Assistant to ditto ...	5	3	5
Dressmaker ...	2	...	...
Hairdresser ...	3	7	5
Hatter ...	...	1	...
Laundress ...	1	...	1
Laundry proprietor ...	...	...	1
Seamstress ...	...	1	...
Shirtmaker ...	...	1	...
Tailor ...	6	3	3
Underclothing manufacturer ...	...	...	1
<i>FIBBOUS MATERIALS—</i>			
Flock manufacturer ...	1	...	...
Tent-maker ...	...	1	...
<i>ANIMAL FOOD—</i>			
Butcher ...	18	13	19
Dairyman ...	...	...	1
Fishmonger ...	2	...	...
Ham and beef-shop keeper ...	1	...	...
Milk-seller ...	1	...	...
Poulterer ...	...	1	...

## OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1887, 1888 AND 1889—continued.

Occupations.	1887.	1888.	1889.
<b>VEGETABLE FOOD—</b>			
Baker ... ..	5	4	10
Confectioner ... ..	1	1	3
Fruiterer ... ..	6	8	5
Greengrocer ... ..	...	...	4
Miller ... ..	1	1	...
<b>DRINKS AND STIMULANTS—</b>			
Aërated water, cordial manufacturer ...	4	...	1
Brewer ... ..	2	...	...
Cellarman ... ..	...	...	1
Grocer—Assistant to ditto ... ..	12	7	10
Tea merchant ... ..	...	...	3
Tea packer ... ..	...	1	...
Tobacconist ... ..	3	1	...
Wine-hall keeper ... ..	...	...	1
Wine-seller ... ..	...	...	1
<b>ANIMAL MATTERS—</b>			
Currier ... ..	1	...	...
Hide merchant ... ..	...	...	1
Leather merchant ... ..	1	...	...
Tanner ... ..	1	...	2
Wool and skin merchant ... ..	...	...	1
Wool presser ... ..	...	1	...
<b>VEGETABLE MATTERS—</b>			
Chaff cutter ... ..	1	...	1
French-polisher ... ..	...	1	...
Hay, corn and produce dealer ... ..	6	3	6
Saw-mill owner, sawyer ... ..	7	3	6
Stationer—Assistant to ditto ... ..	2	...	...
Timber merchant ... ..	2	...	1
Wood, coal merchant ... ..	3	3	2
Wood splitter ... ..	...	5	3
<b>MINING, ENGAGED IN—</b>			
Miner ... ..	22	20	23
Mining explorer ... ..	...	...	1
Mining manager ... ..	1	1	1
Mining speculator ... ..	2	1	1
Quartz-crusher ... ..	...	1	...
Stamper-feeder ... ..	1	...	...
<b>COAL, STONE, CLAY, ETC.—</b>			
Brickmaker ... ..	2	5	2
Charcoal burner ... ..	...	...	1
Chimney-sweeper ... ..	...	1	...
Nightman ... ..	1	...	...
Quarryman ... ..	1	...	...
Tile-maker ... ..	1	...	...

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1887, 1888 AND 1889—*continued.*

Occupations.	1887.	1888.	1889.
<b>MINERALS AND METALS—</b>			
Blacksmith ... ..	5	10	10
Boilermaker ... ..	1	...	...
Engine-driver (undefined)...	3	3	1
Engineer ... ..	1	4	4
Gold-broker ... ..	...	...	1
Ironfounder, dresser ... ..	1	1	4
Ironmonger ... ..	2	...	2
Machinery merchant ... ..	1	...	...
Pyrites works, owner of ... ..	2	...	...
Tinsmith ... ..	...	...	3
<b>INDEFINITE AND NON-PRODUCTIVE—</b>			
Gentleman ... ..	3	3	12
Gentlewoman ... ..	1	...	...
Manager (undefined) ... ..	...	...	1
Out of business ... ..	14	12	9
Overseer (undefined) ... ..	...	...	1
Speculator (undefined) ... ..	...	...	3
Total ... ..	619	479	697

26. It will be noticed that the occupations which contributed most largely to the list of insolvents in the three years were those of labourers, numbering 184; farmers or selectors, 173; builders, contractors, and architects, 173; hotelkeepers, 78; miners, 65; commission agents, etc., 53; butchers, 50; boot and shoe makers, 49; storekeepers, 40; boarding-house keepers, 37; and carpenters and carriers, etc., 36 each.

27. In the last seven years insolvencies have been much more numerous in New South Wales than in Victoria; and in 1886 and 1887 they were even more numerous than in the worst year (1879) named in the table following paragraph 22 *ante*. In 1882—which, however, was an exceptional one—the liabilities, as shown by the insolvents' schedules, were three times as high in Victoria as in New South Wales, but in all but one of the previous six years the liabilities similarly shown were much higher in New South Wales than in Victoria. The following are the figures for New South Wales:—

occupations  
with most  
insol-  
vencies.

insolvencies  
New  
South  
Wales.

## INSOLVENCIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES, 1883 TO 1889.

Year.	Number of Insolvencies.	As shown by the Insolvents' Schedules.		
		Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
		£	£	£
1883 ... ..	785	444,594	245,836	198,758
1884 ... ..	918	836,165	580,195	255,970
1885 ... ..	929	773,212	589,359	183,853
1886 ... ..	1,221	989,262	733,127	256,135
1887 ... ..	1,351	1,081,726	788,941	292,785
1888 ... ..	851	659,307	459,677	199,630
1889 ... ..	1,101	794,603	396,723	397,880

28. In 1888, as is shown in the following table, the insolvencies in all the Australasian colonies numbered 2,638, and the total deficiency, according to the insolvents' schedules, amounted to £744,000. It will be observed that in that year the insolvencies in New South Wales exceeded those in Victoria by 372, and the deficiency in the former exceeded that in the latter by £38,000:—

Insolvencies in Australasian colonies.

## INSOLVENCIES IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1888.

Colony.	Number of Insolvencies	As shown by the Insolvents Schedules.		
		Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
		£	£	£
Victoria ... ..	479	347,658	185,871	161,787
New South Wales ... ..	851	659,307	459,677	199,630
Queensland ... ..	249	258,884	122,464	136,420
South Australia ... ..	98	80,092	58,011	22,081
Western Australia ... ..	27	...	...	...
Total Australia ... ..	1,704	1,345,941	826,023	519,918
Tasmania ... ..	90	44,887	13,641	31,246
New Zealand ... ..	844	445,061	252,322	192,739
Total Australasia ... ..	2,638	1,835,889	1,091,986	743,903

29. The figures in the following table, which represent the number of failures\* in the United Kingdom in the ten years ended with 1888, together with the liabilities and assets of the insolvents, and the proportion of the latter to the former have been taken from the *Bankers' Magazine* for the month of September, 1889†:—

Failures in the United Kingdom

\* Including besides bankruptcies (proper), liquidations, and compositions.

† Page 1,137, Waterlow & Sons, London.

## FAILURES\* IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1879 TO 1888.

Year.	Number of Cases.	Total Amounts of—		Percentage— Assets to Liabilities.
		Liabilities.	Assets.	
		£	£	
1879 ... ..	13,132	29,678,193	10,193,617	34·3
1880 ... ..	10,298	16,188,636	4,701,504	29·0
1881 ... ..	9,727	17,679,345	4,890,898	27·6
1882 ... ..	9,041	19,108,060	5,492,919	28·7
1883 ... ..	8,555	21,268,151	5,987,544	28·1
1884† ... ..	4,170	13,989,995	4,015,998	28·7
1885 ... ..	4,333	9,037,789	3,093,151	34·2
1886 ... ..	4,816	7,913,871	2,855,160	36·1
1887 ... ..	4,839	8,935,825	2,667,162	29·8
1888 ... ..	4,826	7,110,948	2,242,747	31·5

Change of  
bankruptcy  
law in  
United  
Kingdom.

30. It will be noticed that by far the largest number of failures occurred in 1879, but since then a considerable falling-off has taken place in each year, but most especially in the last five years, when the numbers were fewer by about 50 per cent. than that in any of the five preceding years. It will be noticed that the falling-off mainly dates from the year in which the bankruptcy law was changed (1884), and it is possible there may be some connexion between the two events.

Registrar  
General.

31. Important duties in connexion with the registration of deeds and other documents, public companies, bills and contracts for sale; births, deaths, and marriages; and patents, copyrights, and trade-marks, are performed by the Registrar-General. In 1889, as compared with 1888, there was a considerable decrease in the number of transactions and in the fees received under most of these heads, the chief decrease being under the *Companies Statute*. The following are the returns for the two years:—

## REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TRANSACTIONS AND FEES, 1888 AND 1889.

Nature of Transaction.	Transactions.		Fees.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
			£	£
Registry ... ..	21,044	19,828	6,836	5,595
<i>Companies Statute</i> ... ..	36,149	10,318	10,096	2,856
Bills and contracts of sale ... ..	6,392	7,318	319	366
Births, deaths, and marriages certificates ... ..	4,297	5,326	1,065	1,296
Patents ... ..	883	1,972	1,891	2,203
Copyrights ... ..	617	683	88	90
Trade-marks ... ..	506	880	413	523
Searches in connexion with the above ... ..	26,252	24,361	1,818	1,617
Miscellaneous fees ... ..	...	3	56	40
Total ... ..	96,140	70,689	22,582	14,586

\* See footnote (\*) on page 13 ante.

† In 1884 the *Bankruptcy Act* of 1869 was repealed, and the Act of 1883 has since been in force.

32. The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during 1888 and 1889 is given in the following table; those offences being distinguished:—1. In respect to which persons were brought before magistrates on summons, but were never in custody. 2. In respect to which arrests were made by the police. 3. In respect to which no person had been arrested or brought before magistrates up to the end of the month of March of the year following that in which the offence was reported.\* An increase will be observed under all the heads, resulting in a total increase during the year of 4,531 offences, or about 7 per cent.:—

## OFFENCES REPORTED, 1888 AND 1889.

Offences in respect to which—	1888.	1889.	Increase.
1. Persons were brought before magistrates on summons	22,967	26,678	3,711
2. „ „ apprehended by the police	37,309	37,321	12
3. The offenders were still at large † ...	6,474	7,282	808
Total ...	66,750	71,281	4,531

33. Forty-one per cent. of the offences dealt with consist of those in respect to which persons are brought before magistrates on summons but are not taken into custody. These must obviously be of a lighter character than those for which arrests are made, and therefore do not demand lengthened consideration. The offences in this category classed as against the person are principally assault cases resulting from petty quarrels; those against property are chiefly cases of wilful damage to or illegal detention of property; and the remainder consist for the most part of breaches of the *Education Act*, the clause in the *Public Works Statute* relating to railways and water supply, the *Local Government Act* or municipal by-laws, the *Masters and Servants* or *Wines and Spirits Statutes*, etc. Comparing 1889 with 1888, an increase is shown under all the heads except offences against property, under which there was a slight decrease. The following are the figures for the two years:—

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

† It should be pointed out that the offences for which arrests have and have not been made are not strictly comparable. They are reckoned in the former case according to the individual arrests effected, in the latter according to the offences reported, although in the perpetration of many of these more than one person may have been concerned.

## OFFENCES DEALT WITH BY SUMMONS, 1888 AND 1889.\*

	1888.	1889.	Increase.
Offences against the person ... ..	1,216	1,485	269
"    "    property ... ..	463	431	- 32†
Minor offences ... ..	21,288	24,762	3,474
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>22,967</b>	<b>26,678</b>	<b>3,711‡</b>
Cases dismissed by magistrates ... ..	5,220	6,815	1,595
Offender summarily convicted or held to bail...	17,747	19,863	2,116

Charges counted as persons. 34. Very full details are given of the offences which gave occasion for the apprehensions made by the police; but, in making up the returns, a person arrested more than once during the year, or arrested at one time on several charges, is counted as a separate individual in respect to each arrest or charge, and this, except where the contrary is stated, must be borne in mind by those consulting the following paragraphs and tables. §

Arrests, 1888 and 1889 35. The persons|| who were taken in charge by the Victorian police in 1889 numbered 37,321, as against 37,309 in 1888; the figures for the two years being thus almost identical.

Arrests, 1879, 1884, and 1889. 36. The arrests in 1889, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennia, were as follow:—

## PERSONS¶ ARRESTED, 1879, 1884 AND 1889.\*\*

Number of Persons.	1879.	1884.	1889.
Taken into custody ... ..	24,625	27,503	37,321
Discharged by magistrates ... ..	7,227	8,900	13,000
Summarily convicted or held to bail	16,770	17,908	23,298
Committed for trial ... ..	628	695	1,023

\* This table does not embrace cases in which the offender was sentenced to imprisonment or was committed for trial. Although he might in the first instance have appeared before the magistrates on summons, such disposal would place him in custody of the police, and he would therefore be included in subsequent tables.

† The minus (-) sign indicates decrease.

‡ Net figures.

§ For 1884, a table was compiled showing the number of charges on which each individual was arrested. See paragraph 62, *et seq. post.*

|| See preceding paragraph.

¶ See paragraph 34 *ante.*

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

37. At the last period, it will be observed, arrests were much more numerous than at either of the two previous periods. This is also the case, if the numbers of the population be taken into account. The estimated average population in 1879 was 834,030; in 1884, 933,894; and in 1889, 1,104,300. The arrests were, therefore, in the proportion of 1 to every 34 persons living at the first and second periods, and 1 to every 30 persons living at the third period.

Arrests :  
proportion  
to popula-  
tion.

38. The persons summarily convicted, held to bail, or committed for trial, were, to the whole number arrested, in the proportion of 71 per cent. at the first period, and of 68 per cent. at the second period, but of only 65 per cent. at the third period.

Proportion  
of times  
charge was  
sustained.

39. There was a slight increase in the prevalence of serious offences at the last as compared with the two previous periods; this may be ascertained by comparing the commitments for trial with the total arrests at the three periods. These were in the proportion of 1 to every 39 arrests at the first period, of 1 to every 40 arrests at the middle period, and of 1 to every 37 arrests at the third period.

Serious  
offences.

40. The sexes of the persons arrested, and of such of them as were discharged by magistrates, summarily dealt with, or sent for trial, were as follow at the same three periods:—

Males and  
females  
arrested.

MALES AND FEMALES\* ARRESTED, 1879, 1884 AND 1889.

—	1879.		1884.		1889.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Taken into custody ... ..	19,162	5,463	21,908	5,595	30,725	6,596
Discharged by magistrates ...	5,521	1,706	7,024	1,876	10,680	2,320
Summarily convicted or held to bail	13,061	3,709	14,284	3,624	19,108	4,190
Committed for trial ... ..	580	48	600	95	937	86

41. The males and females summarily convicted, held to bail, or committed for trial, were, to the whole numbers of the same sexes arrested, in the proportions respectively of 71 per cent. and 70 per cent. in 1879; of 68 per cent. and 66 per cent. in 1884; and of 69 per cent. and 65 per cent. in 1889.

Cases in  
which  
charge was  
sustained.

42. The next table shows the relative proportions of males and females arrested, and of those of them who were discharged, summarily dealt with, or committed for trial at the same three periods:—

Relative  
proportions  
of male and  
female  
criminals.

\* See paragraph 34 ante.

MALES AND FEMALES.—RELATIVE PROPORTIONS ARRESTED,  
1879, 1884 AND 1889.

	Number of Females to 100 Males.		
	1879.	1884.	1889.
Taken into custody ... ..	28·51	25·54	21·47
Discharged by magistrates ... ..	30·90	26·70	21·72
Summarily convicted or held to bail... ..	28·40	25·37	21·93
Committed for trial ... ..	8·28	15·83	9·18

43. It will be observed that, relatively to the males taken into custody or summarily convicted, the proportion of females similarly dealt with was at the last period much lower than at either of the former periods; but the proportion of females committed for trial at the last period was somewhat larger than at the first period, but was not nearly so large as at the middle period. At all the periods, the proportion of female to male criminals was much lower than the proportion that females bore to males in the total population; at the first and second periods the females in the colony were in the proportion of about 90, and at the third period of about 88, to every 100 males.

44. A condensed statement of the offences for which arrests were made in the same three years, together with the numbers arrested for each offence, will be found in the following table:—

CAUSES OF ARREST, 1879, 1884 AND 1889.

Offence.	1879.	1884.	1889.
Murder and attempt at murder ... ..	15	23	34
Manslaughter ... ..	14	16	8
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	46	71	70
Assault... ..	1,682	1,809	2,141
Rape and indecent assault on females ... ..	60	70	74
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit	8	17	10
Minor offences against the person ... ..	140	93	134
Robbery with violence, burglary, etc. ... ..	203	205	409
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, etc. ... ..	154	130	163
Other offences against property ... ..	3,508	3,090	4,097
Forgery and offences against the currency ... ..	100	74	141
Drunkenness ... ..	10,861	12,938	18,068
Other offences against good order ... ..	6,041	7,330	10,139
Offences relating to carrying out laws ... ..	420	228	216
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	129	80	167
Offences against public welfare ... ..	1,244	1,329	1,450
Total ... ..	24,625	27,503	37,321

Relative proportions of male and female criminals at three periods.

Causes of arrest.

45. The causes in respect to which more arrests were made at the last period than at either of the former ones were murder and attempts to murder, assaults, rape and indecent assaults on females, robbery with violence or burglary, horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, etc., miscellaneous offences against property, forgery, drunkenness, and other offences against good order; smuggling and other offences against the revenue, and offences against public welfare. But, for manslaughter, and offences relating to carrying out laws, there were fewer arrests at the last than at either of the former periods; and for minor offences against the person than at the first period. The most marked increases in 1889, as compared with previous periods, have occurred in the arrests for robbery and burglary, murder, miscellaneous offences against property, and drunkenness and other offences against good order—most especially the first and last-named offences. Offences at last period.

46. The number of arrests for drunkenness affords ample evidence that the efforts of those who are seeking to suppress or mitigate the evil are not uncalled for. In many cases, no doubt, the same individual was arrested over and over again; but, supposing each arrest had represented a distinct individual, there would have been taken into custody for drunkenness :— Drunkenness.

	In 1874, one person in every 71 living in Victoria.				
„	1875,	„	„	68	„
„	1876,	„	„	69	„
„	1877,	„	„	65	„
„	1878,	„	„	69	„
„	1879,	„	„	77	„
„	1880,	„	„	85	„
„	1881,	„	„	79	„
„	1882,	„	„	76	„
„	1883,	„	„	74	„
„	1884,	„	„	73	„
„	1885,	„	„	72	„
„	1886,	„	„	68	„
„	1887,	„	„	65	„
„	1888,	„	„	57	„
„	1889,	„	„	61	„

47. It will be observed that in 1879, 1880, and 1881, embracing the year in which the colony was in a depressed condition, as already stated, and the two following years, drunkenness was less rife than at any preceding or subsequent period. Since 1880, however, as the colony became more prosperous, arrests for drunkenness, in proportion to the population, have been steadily increasing, and on this basis were a third more numerous in 1888 than in 1880; but in the following year, 1889, which was one in which there was a certain amount of depression, they again decreased, but were still higher than in any of the years prior to 1888. Increase of drunkenness.

Minor offences. 48. Drunkenness, "other offences against property," "other offences against good order," and "offences against public welfare," although they may, and probably do—especially the first named—lead to more serious offences, may be considered as being, in themselves, comparatively speaking, minor offences, hardly amounting to crimes. Arrests for these numbered 21,654 in 1879, 24,687 in 1884, and 33,754 in 1889; and to the whole number of arrests were in the proportion of 88 per cent. at the first period, and 90 per cent. at the two later periods. Thus only 12 per cent. of the arrests at the first period, and 10 per cent. at the middle and last periods, were for crimes in the strict sense of the word.

Smuggling and other offences against revenue. 49. It is worthy of remark that, notwithstanding the inducement which high import duties might be supposed to offer to smugglers, offences against the revenue have never led to many arrests in Victoria. Only 167 persons were taken into custody for such offences in 1889, which, however, is larger than the number in 1884 or in 1879.

Age and education of arrested persons. 50. The ages of those taken into custody in 1889, and the degree of instruction possessed by them, are shown in the following table:—

DEGREE OF INSTRUCTION AND AGE OF PERSONS\* ARRESTED, 1889.

Ages.	Superior Instruction.	Read and Write well.	Read only or Read and Write imperfectly.	Unable to Read.	Total.
Under 10 years ...	...	3	118	391	512
10 „ 15 „ ...	...	35	577	98	710
15 „ 20 „ ...	1	198	1,898	112	2,209
20 „ 25 „ ...	6	604	4,996	253	5,859
25 „ 30 „ ...	20	693	5,151	292	6,156
30 „ 40 „ ...	54	926	6,717	516	8,213
40 „ 50 „ ...	33	590	5,037	598	6,258
50 „ 60 „ ...	20	309	3,533	520	4,382
60 years and upwards	11	187	2,369	446	3,013
Unspecified ...	...	...	7	2	9
Total ...	145	3,545	30,403	3,228	37,321

Education of children arrested. 51. The returns of those under 15 years of age taken in charge by the police embrace neglected and deserted children as well as criminals. The whole number in 1889, according to the table, was 1,222, and of these not one was possessed of superior instruction; only 38, or one in 32, could read and write well; and 489, or more than a third, were unable to read. The number of children under 15 committed for trial was 3; all were boys, only one of whom could read and write well, whilst the others could read and write more or less imperfectly.

\* See paragraph 34 ante.

52. Those over 15 years arrested numbered 36,099, and of these, 3,652, or more than a tenth (including those possessed of superior instruction), could read and write well, whilst 2,739, or a thirteenth, could not read. Those over 15 years of age committed for trial numbered 1,020, of whom 250, or a little under a fourth, could read and write well, or were possessed of superior instruction, and 57, or one in 18, were unable to read. According to these figures the persons charged with offences serious enough to call for their commitment for trial were somewhat better educated than the other arrested persons. Those arrested, whether committed for trial or otherwise dealt with, were on the average not nearly so well educated as the general population, for at the last census all over 15 years of age, except about a tenth, were returned as being able to read and write, and only an eighteenth were returned as entirely illiterate.

Education of adults.

53. The following table shows the birthplaces and religions of the persons taken into custody and of those committed for trial in 1889, also the ratio of those of each country and sect to the estimated numbers of the same country and sect in the population:—

Birthplaces and religions of criminals

**BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PERSONS\* ARRESTED AND COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1889.**

Birthplace and Religion.	Persons Arrested.		Persons Committed for Trial.	
	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 living. †	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 living. †
<b>BIRTHPLACE.</b>				
Victoria ... ..	11,401	17·53	433	·67
Other Australasian colonies ‡	2,613	50·25	115	2·21
Australian Aborigines ...	36	...	...	...
England and Wales ...	8,447	46·04	225	1·23
Scotland ... ..	3,190	53·49	36	·60
Ireland ... ..	9,047	84·94	104	·98
China ... ..	170	14·56	12	1·03
Other countries ... ..	2,417	59·55	98	2·41
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>37,321</b>	<b>33·80</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>·93</b>
<b>RELIGION.</b>				
Protestants ... ..	20,679	26·12	581	·74
Roman Catholics ... ..	15,578	59·82	391	1·50
Jews ... ..	138	24·90	21	3·79
Buddhists, Confucians, etc. ...	154	14·38	10	·93
Others ... ..	772	21·55	20	·56

\* See paragraph 34 ante.

† The estimated population of each birthplace and religion with which these calculations have been made will be found in the tables following paragraphs 120 and 131 of Volume I.

‡ Exclusive of aborigines.

Relative  
numbers of  
each birth-  
place.

54. Until the last two years it had always been found that fewer Victorians have been arrested, and fewer committed for trial, in proportion to their numbers in the population, than persons of any other nationality. This, without doubt, has been mainly due to the fact of a very large proportion of children being embraced within their numbers; with the increasing ages of the Victorian-born population, however, the number of criminals is becoming larger, and in 1888, for the first time, one of the other nationalities, viz., the Chinese, showed a smaller proportion both of arrests, and commitments; whilst in 1889, the Chinese also showed a smaller proportion of arrests, but a larger proportion of commitments, and the Scotch a slightly smaller proportion of commitments. In 1879 only 5,450, and in 1884 no more than 7,386, persons of Victorian birth were taken into custody, whereas in the year under review the number had risen to 11,401; moreover, the rate per 1,000 of the Victorian-born population rose from 11 in 1879 to  $13\frac{1}{2}$  in 1884, and to  $17\frac{1}{2}$  in 1889. Of places outside Victoria, the country which supplies the largest number of arrested persons is Ireland. In 1889, those arrested of this nationality exceeded the English and Welsh arrested by 600, and this although natives of England and Wales in the population out-numbered the Irish by about 77,000, or over 70 per cent. The offences with which the Irish were charged, however, could not have been of so serious a nature as those in respect to which the English and Welsh were arrested, as the number of the latter committed for trial was considerably larger, in proportion to their numbers in the population, than that of the former; the proportion of Scotch arrested was also above that of the English, but that of the Scotch committed for trial was much lower in 1889 than that of any other nationality. The proportion of Chinese arrested was below that of persons of any other nationality, but the proportion committed for trial was higher than in the case of the Victorians, Scotch, or Irish. In proportion to their numbers, arrests of natives of other Australasian colonies were much more numerous than those of Victoria, and their commitments for trial were much more numerous than those of any other specified nationality.

Relative  
numbers of  
each  
religion.

55. In proportion to their numbers in the community, the Roman Catholics supplied much more than twice as many arrested persons as the Protestants or the Jews, and over four times as many as the Buddhists, Confucians, etc. In view of a similar proportion, the Roman Catholics committed for trial were twice as numerous as the Protestants, but two and a-half times less numerous than the Jews.

A statement of the offences which formed the grounds for arrest will be found in the next table but one.

56. It is generally assumed that nearly every person sent to trial is guilty of the offence for which he was committed, and, although he may subsequently be acquitted, the probability is that a conviction would have been obtained if sufficient evidence had been available. On the other hand, it may be maintained that many of those discharged had been unjustly accused, and should not be classed as criminals. If the latter assumption be correct, it would appear by the following table—which shows the number of the various religions tried and the number convicted, together with the percentage of convictions obtained for different periods—that whilst in the year under notice a larger proportion of Roman Catholics were unjustly committed than of Protestants, in the previous year the proportions were about equal; also that, over a series of years, a smaller proportion of Jews, but a larger proportion of Pagans, Buddhists, Confucians, etc., are unjustly accused than in the case of either Protestants or Roman Catholics. It should, however, be pointed out that the number of Jews and Pagans committed for trial was so small that any proportions based thereon are but of little value:—

Religions of persons convicted and sentenced.

RELIGIONS OF PERSONS\* TRIED† AND CONVICTED, 1889.

Religions.	Number tried in 1889.†	Convictions in 1889.		Percentage in Year 1888.	Seven Years, 1881-1887.
		Total Number.	Percentage of Number Tried.		
Protestants ...	537	391	72·81	70·3	63·7
Roman Catholics	358	250	69·83	70·8	62·7
Jews ...	21	17	80·95	71·4	73·1
Buddhists, Confucians, etc.	10	9	90·00	71·4	57·9
Others ...	19	13	68·42	82·3	73·1
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>71·96</b>	<b>70·8</b>	<b>63·6</b>

57. The religions of the persons\* taken into custody in 1889 are given in the following table in connexion with their offences:—

Causes of arrest, and religions.

\* See paragraph 34 ante.

† Exclusive of those not prosecuted, who numbered 95 in 1889. The number "tried," moreover, differs from the number "committed for trial," since the former is inclusive of those awaiting trial at the beginning, but exclusive of those awaiting trial at the end, of the year.

## CAUSES OF ARREST, AND RELIGIONS, 1889.

Offence.	Religions.					Total.
	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Jews.	Buddhists, Confucians, etc.	Others.	
Murder and attempt at murder	19	11	...	1	3	34
Manslaughter ... ..	5	2	...	1	...	8
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	36	29	1	1	3	70
Assault ... ..	1,081	978	5	17	60	2,141
Rape and indecent assault on females	40	32	1	...	1	74
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit	6	4	...	...	...	10
Other offences against the person	85	45	2	...	2	134
Robbery with violence, burglary, etc.	217	178	8	5	1	409
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, etc.	107	54	...	...	2	163
Other offences against property	2,457	1,478	49	36	77	4,097
Forgery and offences against the currency	82	54	4	...	1	141
Drunkenness ... ..	9,881	7,850	12	16	309	18,068
Other offences against good order	5,491	4,305	46	91	206	10,139
Offences relating to the carrying out of laws	116	92	1	1	6	216
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	70	59	5	23	10	167
Offences against public welfare	986	407	4	8	45	1,450
Total ... ..	20,679	15,578	138	200	726	37,321

Causes of arrest of each sect compared.

58. It will be observed that 19 Protestants, 11 Roman Catholics, 1 Buddhist, etc., and 3 of other beliefs were arrested for murder and attempt at murder; 41 Protestants, 31 Roman Catholics, 1 Jew, 1 Buddhist, etc., and 3 of other beliefs were arrested for manslaughter, shooting at, or seriously wounding; 46 Protestants and 36 Roman Catholics, 1 Jew, and 1 of other beliefs, were arrested for sexual offences. Nearly 10,000 Protestants, nearly 8,000 Roman Catholics, 12 Jews, 16 Buddhists, etc., and 309 of unspecified religions were arrested for drunkenness. No Jew was arrested during the year for homicide, and only one for a sexual offence.

Religions of drunkards.

59. Arrests for drunkenness and other offences against good order were in the proportion of 74 per cent. of the total arrests of Protestants, of 78 per cent. of those of Roman Catholics, of 42 per cent. of those of Jews, of 53 per cent. of those of Buddhists, Confucians, etc., and of 71 per cent. of those of persons of other beliefs. These proportions vary but little from year to year.

60. The next table shows the occupations of the males and females taken into custody in 1889:—

Occupations of persons arrested.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES\* ARRESTED, 1889.

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
<b>GOVERNMENT, PROFESSIONS, ARTS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE.</b>		
Government officer ... ..	12	...
Police, penal officer ... ..	4	...
Officer of local body ... ..	1	...
Army, navy—officer, man ... ..	15	...
Clergyman, etc. ... ..	6	1
Lawyer ... ..	21	...
Law clerk, law student ... ..	3	...
Others connected with law ... ..	8	...
Medical man, student ... ..	21	...
Dentist ... ..	20	...
Chemist, druggist ... ..	61	...
Others connected with medicine ... ..	1	...
Author, editor, reporter ... ..	26	...
Bookseller, newsvendor ... ..	20	1
Printer ... ..	207	...
Science, connected with ... ..	17	...
Education, engaged in ... ..	42	2
Fine arts, engaged in ... ..	16	1
Photographer ... ..	14	...
Music, teacher of, musician ... ..	37	2
Theatres and exhibitions, connected with ... ..	50	2
<b>BOARD AND LODGING, DOMESTIC DUTIES, ATTENDANCE.</b>		
Hotelkeeper ... ..	56	2
Board and lodging, connected with ... ..	9	3
Domestic servant, cook ... ..	359	783
Hotel, boarding-house, etc., servant ... ..	100	3
Charitable institution, servant ... ..	4	...
Nurse (not servant) ... ..	...	15
Shoeblick ... ..	7	...
Opium shopkeeper ... ..	6	...
Attendance, engaged in ... ..	7	28
<b>COMMERCIAL PURSUITS.</b>		
Merchant ... ..	17	...
Auctioneer, etc. ... ..	9	...
Broker, agent, etc. ... ..	182	...
Commercial clerk, etc. ... ..	597	...
Commercial traveller, salesman ... ..	138	...
Other mercantile persons ... ..	32	...
Shopkeeper ... ..	59	3
Pawnbroker ... ..	1	...
Hawker, pedlar ... ..	545	9
Marine storekeeper ... ..	6	...
Rag, bottle gatherer, dealer ... ..	44	...
General dealer ... ..	321	7

\* See paragraph 34 ante.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES\* ARRESTED, 1889—*continued.*

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
<b>CARRYING AND MESSAGES.</b>		
Railway service ... ..	12	1
Omnibus, cab—driver, owner ... ..	291	...
Drayman, carter, carrier ... ..	490	...
Others connected with conveyance ... ..	8	...
Ship—owner, master, officer, seaman (not navy) ... ..	1,047	...
Steamship—engineer, stoker, coal trimmer ... ..	43	...
Ship—servant, steward, etc. ... ..	37	1
Boatman, waterman, etc. ... ..	12	...
Stevedore, or otherwise connected with ships ... ..	7	...
Messenger, porter, errand boy ... ..	14	...
Telegraph service ... ..	7	...
<b>AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS AND LAND.</b>		
Farmer, market gardener, farm servant, labourer, etc. ... ..	797	...
Land, estate—agent, proprietor, etc. ... ..	1	...
Land surveyor and assistants ... ..	28	...
Others connected with land ... ..	4	...
<b>PASTORAL PURSUITS AND ANIMALS.</b>		
Squatter, grazier, station servant, labourer, etc. ... ..	73	...
Horse dealer, proprietor, etc. ... ..	6	...
Veterinary surgeon, farrier ... ..	16	1
Horse-breaker, groom, jockey ... ..	381	...
Live stock salesman ... ..	3	...
Game, rabbit catcher ... ..	1	...
Fisherman ... ..	20	...
Drover and others engaged about animals ... ..	61	...
<b>ARTIZANS, MECHANICS, LABOURERS.</b>		
Bookbinder ... ..	5	...
Musical instrument maker, dealer ... ..	9	...
Prints and pictures, connected with ... ..	2	1
Carving and figures, connected with ... ..	20	...
Watch and clock maker, dealer ... ..	41	...
Philosophical instrument maker, dealer ... ..	2	...
Gunsmith, etc. ... ..	4	...
Mechanical or undefined engineer ... ..	273	...
Toolmaker, cutler, etc. ... ..	32	...
Carriagemaker, wheelwright ... ..	84	...
Saddle, harness, and whip maker, dealer ... ..	108	...
Shipwright, rigger, boatbuilder ... ..	21	...
Sailmaker, shipchandler, etc. ... ..	25	...
Builder, architect ... ..	100	...
Carpenter, joiner ... ..	890	...
Cooper, turner ... ..	54	...
Bricklayer, mason, plasterer, shingler, slater ... ..	838	...
Painter, paperhanger, plumber, etc. ... ..	472	...
Others connected with buildings ... ..	6	...
Cabinet, etc., maker, dealer ... ..	128	2
Chemicals, working or dealing in ... ..	14	...
Labourer (undefined) ... ..	14,869	1

\* See paragraph 34 ante.

## OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES\* ARRESTED, 1889—continued.

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
<b>TEXTILE FABRICS AND DRESS.</b>		
Textile fabrics, manufacturer of, weaver ... ..	38	2
Draper and assistants ... ..	88	...
Hairdresser, wigmaker, etc. ... ..	79	...
Hat and cap maker ... ..	22	...
Tailor, tailoress, dealer in clothing ... ..	232	37
Milliner, dressmaker ... ..	...	39
Clothing, manufacture, engaged in, machinist ... ..	7	20
Boot and shoe maker ... ..	695	1
Umbrella—maker, mender ... ..	6	...
Washerwoman, laundry man ... ..	...	60
<b>FIBROUS MATERIALS.</b>		
Rope, mat, sack, maker ... ..	10	...
Tent, tarpaulin, maker, canvas dealer ... ..	8	...
<b>ANIMAL FOOD.</b>		
Cowkeeper, dairyman, woman ... ..	19	...
Butcher, etc. ... ..	290	...
Poulterer, fishmonger ... ..	31	1
Other dealers in animal food ... ..	2	...
<b>VEGETABLE FOOD.</b>		
Miller, grain and flour dealer, and assistants ... ..	10	...
Baker, confectioner ... ..	301	1
Greengrocer, fruiterer ... ..	16	...
Others dealing in vegetable food ... ..	4	...
<b>DRINKS AND STIMULANTS.</b>		
Brewing, connected with ... ..	14	...
Distiller, rectifier ... ..	1	...
Gingerbeer and sodawater maker ... ..	1	1
Grocer and assistants ... ..	67	2
Tobacco manufacture, engaged in ... ..	36	3
Tobacconist ... ..	5	...
<b>ANIMAL MATTERS.</b>		
Soapboiler, candlemaker, tallowmelter ... ..	3	...
Tanner, fellmonger, currier ... ..	50	...
Leather articles, maker of ... ..	10	...
Brush, broom maker ... ..	9	...
Wool classer ... ..	17	...
<b>VEGETABLE MATTERS.</b>		
Japanner, French polisher ... ..	46	...
Timber merchant and assistant ... ..	2	...
Firewood—dealer, chopper, splitter, fencer ... ..	62	1
Sawyer, sawmill owner, worker ... ..	47	...
Basketmaker ... ..	4	...
Papermaker ... ..	7	...
Stationer ... ..	11	...

\* See paragraph 34 ante.



62. 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 or charge,\* but it is possible to ascertain approximately the actual numbers passing through the hands of the police by means of a close comparison of the names, ages, birthplaces, religions, occupations, residences, etc., of the individuals in question. This is too tedious and laborious—and consequently expensive—an investigation to be attempted every year, but it was done for 1884, so far as the sexes and birthplaces of the persons arrested are concerned, and the result is given in the following table :—

DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1884.

Sex and Birthplace of Arrested Persons.	Number of Charges on which Arrests were made.	Number of Distinct Individuals Arrested	Number of Charges on which Distinct Individuals were Arrested.																			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	28	
<b>SEX.</b>																						
Males ..	21,908	16,229	12,822	2,231	698	238	110	52	33	15	11	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	..	2	1	
Females ..	5,595	3,628	2,682	518	191	118	38	34	13	13	9	2	2	..	2	2	1	2	1	..	..	
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>27,503</b>	<b>19,857</b>	<b>15,504</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>BIRTHPLACE.</b>																						
Victoria ..	7,441	5,413	4,206	764	260	92	49	18	11	7	1	1	1	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	
Other Australasian Colonies ..	1,386	1,020	801	144	48	16	4	2	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	
England and Wales ..	6,726	4,951	3,951	640	197	72	37	23	14	6	3	1	..	1	1	1	1	..	2	..	..	
Scotland ..	2,607	1,883	1,460	274	82	40	10	6	1	2	4	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Ireland ..	7,538	5,180	3,931	752	250	119	46	32	20	10	10	3	1	1	1	..	..	2	1	..	1	
Other British possessions ..	153	113	84	24	3	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
France ..	112	83	67	7	6	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Germany ..	326	277	240	30	4	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
United States ..	363	266	209	36	13	5	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
China ..	195	169	152	10	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Other Countries and Unknown ..	656	502	403	68	21	5	1	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	

63. The total number of charges shown in the table (27,503) corresponds with the number of persons set down as arrested in the returns for 1884, but it is seen that only 19,857 were distinct individuals, or nearly a fourth less than that number. Of these 15,504, or 78 per cent., were only arrested once; 2,749, or 14 per cent., were arrested or charged twice; 889, or 4 per cent., three times; 356, or 2 per cent., four times; and 359, or 2 per cent., more than four times; 2 having been arrested or charged as many as twenty, and 1 as many as twenty-eight times.

\* See paragraph 34 ante.

64. It appears that the tendency of emales to be arrested over and over again, or on several charges, is greater than that of males, for whereas, in 1884, only 21 per cent. of the males who fell into the hands of the police were apprehended more than once, or were charged with more than one offence, as many as 26 per cent. of the females who fell into the hands of the police were so apprehended or charged.

65. Twenty-six per cent. of the natives of British possessions outside of the United Kingdom and the Australasian colonies were taken into custody or charged with an offence more than once during the year, as also were 24 per cent. of the Irish, 22 per cent. of the Victorians, the other Australians, and the Scotch, 21 per cent. of the Americans, 20 per cent. of the English, 19 per cent. of the French, 13 per cent. of the Germans, and 10 per cent. of the Chinese.

66. The distinct persons taken into custody for drunkenness during 1884 numbered 10,287, and of these, 1,520, or 15 per cent., were apprehended more than once, viz.:—994 twice, 288 thrice, 112 four times, 51 five times, 25 six times, 19 seven times, 11 eight times, 7 nine times, 1 ten times, 4 eleven times, 1 twelve times, 2 thirteen times, 1 fourteen times, 2 fifteen times, 1 twenty times, and 1 twenty-six times.

67. Whilst the number of individuals arrested for drunkenness was 10,287, the charges of drunkenness brought against them numbered 12,938; but these persons were charged with 2,622 other offences, so that the total number of charges of all kinds against drunkards was 15,560, as against 27,503 charges of all descriptions. Thus 57 per cent. of the offences for which persons were arrested, during 1884, were committed by persons who were arrested during the same year for drunkenness.

68. The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates in the year 1889 were as follow:—

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF ARRESTED PERSONS,\*  
1889.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Imprisonment for 2 years	18	1
„ 1 year and under 2 years	207	96
„ 6 months and under 1 year	346	157
„ 4 months	27	5
„ 3 months	967	378

\*. See paragraph 34 ante.

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF ARRESTED PERSONS,\*  
1889—continued.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Imprisonment for 2 months and under 3 months ...	269	76
„ 1 month and under 2 months ..	1,232	392
„ 15 days and under 1 month ...	93	5
„ 8 days and under 15 days ...	816	198
„ 7 days and under ...	5,123	1,485
Fined ...	8,962	1,057
Ordered to find bail ...	201	24
Sent to lunatic asylum ...	261	122
Sent to industrial school or reformatory ...	370	187
Otherwise dealt with ...	216	7
Total sentenced ...	19,108	4,190
Discharged ...	10,680	2,320
Total summarily disposed of ...	29,788	6,510

69. Of the persons sentenced by magistrates during 1889, 47 per cent. of the males, and 25 per cent. of the females, were fined; 31½ per cent. of the former, and 40½ per cent. of the latter, were sentenced to imprisonment for various terms under a month, and 15 and 24 per cent., respectively, for periods varying from 1 to 12 months; about 1 per cent. of the males, and 2½ per cent. of the females, were sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment or upwards; the balance, or 5½ per cent. of the males, and 8 per cent. of the females, were sent to Lunatic Asylums, Industrial and Reformatory Schools, ordered to find bail, or were otherwise disposed of.

Sentences by magistrates.

70. Corporal punishment to males may be ordered by magistrates for certain offences. In such cases the offender, if an adult, may be sentenced to be whipped with a cat-o'-nine-tails once, twice, or thrice, at the discretion of the bench. Five offenders were so sentenced in 1889, who were ordered to receive from 20 to 30 lashes each.

Whipping ordered by magistrates.

71. Four offenders were sentenced to solitary confinement by magistrates in 1889, viz., a lad to 3 days for deserting his apprenticeship, and three offenders, in addition to imprisonment, to 2 and 7 days, and three periods of one week respectively, for offences against good order.

Solitary confinement ordered by magistrates.

72. Under the *Juvenile Offenders Act* 1887,† magistrates are empowered to order youths under 16 years of age convicted of any offence punishable on summary conviction with imprisonment, to be

Punishment of juvenile offenders.

\* See paragraph 34 ante.

† 51 Vict. No. 951, section 57.



76. Of males convicted in superior courts in 1889, as many as fourteen were sentenced to death—8 being cases in which death was merely “recorded”; all the rest except 12 were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, with or without hard labour; of those imprisoned, nearly two-thirds were sentenced for periods of less than two years, and one-tenth to more than four years. Of the females, 13 were sentenced to over one, and 29 to under one, year’s imprisonment. Seven males were sentenced to be imprisoned for a longer period than ten years. Only two females were sentenced to a longer period than four years.

Lengths of sentences in superior courts.

77. In addition to terms of imprisonment named in the foregoing table, 102\* persons—of whom 2 were females—were ordered to be kept in solitary confinement for periods varying from a few days to 1 month per annum during the sentence. Of these, 2 had been convicted of murder, or attempts at murder, 2 of shooting at or wounding; 2 of assaults; 2 of rape or indecent assaults on females; 34 of robbery under arms or burglary; 3 of sheep stealing, etc.; 35 of other offences against property; 18 of forgery, etc.; 2 of offences against the carrying out of the laws; 1 of smuggling, etc.; and 1 of an offence against the public welfare.

Solitary confinement ordered by superior courts.

78. The total number of offenders sentenced by superior courts to be whipped was, in addition to terms of imprisonment in all cases, 12. Rape or indecent assaults on females were the crimes of six of these, for one of whom three whippings, for another two whippings of 20 lashes each, for three others one whipping each of 12, 15, and 15 lashes respectively, and for one—a youth of 18—one whipping of 20 strokes with a birch rod, were ordered. Unnatural offence was the crime of three males, two of whom were sentenced to receive one whipping of 10 lashes, and the third—the youth just referred to—was sentenced to receive 20 strokes with a rod. The remaining three offenders were convicted of robbery with violence, one of whom was ordered three whippings of 20 lashes, the second two whippings of 15 lashes, and the third one whipping of 20 lashes. Judges of the Supreme Court and Courts of General Sessions can sentence males to receive corporal punishment, under Act 27 Vict. No. 233, for unnatural offences,

Whippings ordered by superior courts.

\* Besides these, one offender was ordered to be kept in separate confinement for six months.

for attempts to choke in order to commit an offence, for robbery under arms, and, in the case of youths under sixteen, for several other offences; also, under Act 35 Vict. No. 399, for attempts to commit rape, or for rape itself where sentence of death is commuted. The greatest number of whippings an individual can be sentenced to receive for one offence is three, and the greatest number of lashes at each whipping is 50.

Whippings  
ordered,  
1874-1889<sup>1</sup>

79. The number of individuals sentenced to corporal punishment was 11 in 1874, viz., 6 by magistrates and 5 by superior courts; 5 in 1875, viz., 2 by magistrates and 3 by superior courts; 11 in 1876, viz., 1 by magistrates and 10 by superior courts; 11 in 1877, viz., 5 by magistrates and 6 by superior courts; 17 in 1878, viz., 2 by magistrates and 15 by superior courts; 9 in 1879, viz., 4 by magistrates and 5 by superior courts; 5 in 1880, 17 in 1881, and 8 in 1882—all by superior courts; 14 in 1883, viz., 2 by magistrates and 12 by superior courts; 17 in 1884, 6 in 1885, and 11 in 1886—all by superior courts; 10 in 1887, viz., 4 by magistrates and 6 by superior courts; 29 in 1888, viz., 19 by magistrates and 10 by superior courts; and 70 in 1889, viz., 58 by magistrates and 12 by superior courts. The total number of whippings directed to be administered in the sixteen years was thus 324, of which 112 (including 67 to juvenile offenders) were ordered by magistrates and 212 by superior courts. The number of persons sentenced to be whipped was thus much greater in 1889 than in any other year named.

Executions

80. Three criminals, being natives of Victoria, England, and the Philippine Islands, respectively, two of whom claimed to be members of the Church of England, and one of the Roman Catholic Church, were executed in 1889, for murder. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip, 145 criminals have been executed within the colony, of whom only one was a female. No execution took place in 1887 or in 1882, 1878, 1874, 1850, 1849, 1846, 1845, 1844, 1843, or any year prior to 1842, but one or more executions took place in all the other years. The following table shows the birthplaces of the persons executed, the religions they professed, and the crimes they expiated on the scaffold:—

CRIMINALS EXECUTED, 1842 TO 1889.

Birthplace, Religion, and Offence.	Number.
<b>Total number executed</b> ... ..	<b>145</b>
<b>Birthplace—</b> Victoria ... ..	5
„ Other Australian colonies ... ..	6
„ England... ..	60
„ Wales ... ..	2
„ Ireland ... ..	41
„ Scotland... ..	8
„ Belgium... ..	1
„ France ... ..	1
„ Switzerland ... ..	1
„ Germany ... ..	1
„ Sweden ... ..	1
„ Sicily ... ..	1
„ United States of America ... ..	5
„ West Indies ... ..	2
„ Philippine Islands ... ..	1
„ China ... ..	8
„ At sea ... ..	1
<b>Religion—</b> Church of England ... ..	34
„ Presbyterian ... ..	6
„ Wesleyan ... ..	8
„ Baptist ... ..	1
„ Lutheran ... ..	2
„ Protestant undefined ... ..	30
„ Roman Catholic ... ..	53
„ Buddhist, Confucian, etc. ... ..	6
„ No Religion ... ..	5*
<b>Offence—</b> Murder ... ..	109
„ Attempt to murder... ..	17
„ Rape... ..	9
„ Unnatural offence on a child ... ..	1
„ Robbery with violence ... ..	9

81. It is stated† that from the accession of Queen Victoria to the period of her Majesty's jubilee, 840 criminals were executed in the United Kingdom, or an average of 17 per annum. In 1837 there were no less than 13 crimes subject to capital punishment, and no fewer than 671 persons had been condemned to death in twelve months; but since the Queen's accession, a more humane code has prevailed, and few have been executed, except for murder. Executions in United Kingdom.

82. The offences in respect to which no persons were apprehended numbered 7,282 in 1889, or 808 more than in 1888, and were much more numerous than in any of the ten years ended with 1888. Whilst there has been in the last three years a marked decrease in the offences against the person, those against property show a striking increase. The following are the undetected offences in the last eleven years:— Undetected crime.

\* Aborigines.

† See *Fifty Years of National Progress*, page 107.

## UNDETECTED CRIME, 1879 TO 1889.

Year.	Number of Offences.			
	Against the Person.	Against Property.	Other Offences.	Total.
1879 ... ..	503	3,763	364	4,630
1880 ... ..	613	3,935	350	4,898
1881 ... ..	461	3,770	400	4,631
1882 ... ..	572	3,980	433	4,985
1883 ... ..	596	4,209	584	5,389
1884 ... ..	450	3,249	350	4,049
1885 ... ..	491	3,000	388	3,879
1886 ... ..	523	3,160	436	4,119
1887 ... ..	211	5,593	416	6,220
1888 ... ..	270	5,627	577	6,474
1889 ... ..	271	6,152	859	7,282

Offender  
perhaps  
arrested on  
other  
grounds.

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

Crime in-  
Austral-  
asian  
colonies.

84. The next four tables, giving details of crime in the various Australasian colonies, have been compiled in the office of the Government Statist, Melbourne, from their respective *Statistical Registers*. The first of these gives for each colony, and for the whole of Australasia, during each of the eleven years 1878 to 1888, a statement of the number of offences for which persons were apprehended or summoned, were summarily convicted or held to bail, were committed for trial, and were convicted after commitment. In the returns of the number of cases in respect to which persons were summoned, those so dealt with on account of matters coming under the head of civil jurisdiction are omitted in all the colonies :—

## CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1878 TO 1888.

Name of Colony.		Number of Offences for which Persons were—			
		Apprehended or Summoned.*	Summarily Convicted or held to Bail.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.
Victoria...	... {	44,742	29,452	658	458
	1878	43,936	28,266	628	397
	1879	41,778	26,950	680	398
	1880				

\* Not including civil cases.

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1878 TO 1888—*continued.*

Name of Colony.	Number of Offences for which Persons were—				
	Apprehended or Summoned.*	Summarily Convicted or held to Bail.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.	
Victoria— <i>continued</i> ...	1881	44,730	29,131	591	332
	1882	47,234	31,542	616	402
	1883	48,974	33,480	606	350
	1884	51,397	34,456	695	407
	1885	52,566	34,180	768	444
	1886	54,361	36,599	756	492
	1887	59,036	38,742	820	506
	1888	60,276	41,054	873	557
New South Wales † ...	1878	53,325	37,924	1,803	959
	1879	53,870	38,828	1,743	1,090
	1880	57,784	42,205	1,717	1,148
	1881	66,600	51,130	1,626	1,058
	1882	65,936	50,126	1,724	1,065
	1883	72,231	55,463	1,606	1,008
	1884	75,680	57,897	1,550	928
	1885	77,092	59,345	1,540	785
	1886	81,503	62,268	1,594	957
	1887	72,119	53,614	1,402	854
1888	69,052	50,876	1,423	915	
Queensland † ...	1878	9,563	6,153	344	197
	1879	9,058	5,762	377	185
	1880	9,133	6,051	316	170
	1881	10,063	7,253	264	126
	1882	11,649	8,025	308	144
	1883	13,804	9,788	427	193
	1884	15,518	11,620	555	274
	1885	15,763	11,451	538	267
	1886	17,640	12,841	611	289
	1887	16,769	12,449	480	247
1888	18,431	13,730	538	275	
South Australia ...	1878	13,682	11,685	369	229
	1879	12,843	10,970	384	223
	1880	15,063	12,814	353	199
	1881	15,347	13,258	342	213
	1882	14,672	12,634	339	211
	1883	13,104	11,378	305	166
	1884	11,988	10,425	293	127
	1885	10,406	8,901	240	133
	1886	8,202	6,850	228	121
	1887	7,122	6,032	208	102
1888	7,309	6,282	190	91	

\* Not including civil cases.

† Cases brought up for lunacy are not included in the returns of New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania. In New South Wales, 857 lunatics in 1888, and 4,997 in the previous ten years; and in Queensland, 357 in 1888, and 3,741 during the previous ten years; and in Tasmania, 50 lunatics in 1888, and 247 in the previous four years, were admitted to asylums. Probably four-fifths of these were apprehended by the police.

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1878 TO 1888—*continued.*

Name of Colony.		Number of Offences for which Persons were—				
		Apprehended or Summoned.*	Summarily Convicted or held to Bail.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.	
Western Australia †	...	1878	6,126	4,552	102	45
		1879	6,471	4,853	85	53
		1880	5,577	4,221	50	25
		1881	5,460	4,134	109	61
		1882	5,089	3,683	90	46
		1883	4,739	3,450	72	46
		1884	4,831	3,477	64	40
		1885	4,900	3,436	86	51
		1886	5,703	3,980	95	54
		1887	5,363	3,562	121	75
		1888	4,651	3,144	104	64
Tasmania ‡	...	1878	6,644	5,131	113	54
		1879	7,184	5,641	110	67
		1880	6,908	5,418	117	73
		1881	6,229	4,799	90	51
		1882	7,615	5,942	93	36
		1883	8,039	5,394	88	33
		1884	6,273	4,843	70	39
		1885	5,983	4,876	71	31
		1886	6,586	5,253	76	46
		1887	5,932	4,806	89	56
		1888	6,164	4,595	99	66
New Zealand §	...	1878	22,237	16,370	415	292
		1879	22,492	16,088	734	296
		1880	21,181	15,025	592	370
		1881	19,796	14,079	474	235
		1882	22,659	16,573	467	219
		1883	23,090	16,944	459	231
		1884	23,572	17,968	509	241
		1885	23,103	17,804	428	236
		1886	21,662	16,705	536	286
		1887	20,336	15,557	646	334
		1888	19,167	14,472	516	255
Australasia	...	1878	156,319	111,267	3,804	2,234
		1879	155,854	110,408	4,061	2,311
		1880	157,424	112,684	3,825	2,383

\* Not including civil cases.

† It is stated that of those summarily convicted in Western Australia about 8 per cent. are aborigines.

‡ See footnote (†) preceding page. It is pointed out by Mr. R. M. Johnston, the Government Statistician of Tasmania, in his Report for 1886, page li., that, prior to 1884, a considerable proportion of purely civil cases, such as petty debts, non-payment of rates, etc., were improperly included in the returns of offences for which persons were apprehended or summoned in that colony.

§ Maoris are included. In 1888 the number of cases in which they were concerned was 338—in 213 of which summary convictions were obtained, in 108 cases the prisoner was discharged, and in 17 cases committed for trial.

|| This large increase appears to have been owing to Maori disturbances, as 202 of that race were committed for trial in 1879, as against only 18 in the previous year.

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1878 TO 1888—*continued*.

Name of Colony.	Number of Offences for which Persons were—				
	Apprehended or Summoned.*	Summarily Convicted or held to Bail.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.	
Australasia— <i>continued</i>	1881	168,225	123,784	3,496	2,076
	1882	174,854	128,525	3,637	2,123
	1883	183,981	135,897	3,563	2,027
	1884	189,259	140,686	3,736	2,056
	1885	189,813	139,993	3,671	1,947
	1886	195,657	144,496	3,896	2,245
	1887	186,677	134,762	3,766	2,174
	1888	185,050	134,153	3,743	2,223

85. By this table it would appear that crime is so much more prevalent in New South Wales than in Victoria that, notwithstanding the smaller population,† there has been, in every year, under all the heads, larger numbers in the former colony than in the latter. This is particularly observable in regard to serious offences, the commitments for trial and convictions thereafter in New South Wales having been, prior to 1887, more than twice as numerous, and since 1887, nearly twice as numerous as in Victoria. In 1888 the apprehensions and summonses in New South Wales exceeded those in Victoria by 15 per cent., and the summary convictions by 24 per cent.

Large amount of crime in New South Wales.

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

Proportion of crime in each colony.

\* Not including civil cases.

† In all the years except 1887, the estimated population of New South Wales was smaller than that of Victoria.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, COMMITMENTS, AND CONVICTIONS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES TO POPULATION, ETC., 1878 TO 1888.

Name of Colony.		Proportion per 1,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per 10,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per Cent. of—	
		Apprehensions and Summons Cases.*	Summary Convictions	Commitments for Trial	Convictions after Commitment.	Summary Convictions to Apprehensions and Summons Cases.*	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.
Victoria	1878	54.47	35.85	8.01	5.58	65.82	69.60
	1879	52.68	33.89	7.53	4.76	64.33	63.22
	1880	49.13	31.69	8.00	4.68	64.51	58.53
	1881	51.48	33.52	6.80	3.82	65.13	56.18
	1882	53.05	35.43	6.92	4.52	66.78	65.26
	1883	53.76	36.75	6.65	3.84	68.36	57.76
	1884	55.03	36.89	7.44	4.36	67.04	58.56
	1885	54.84	35.66	8.01	4.63	65.02	57.81
	1886	55.08	37.08	7.66	4.98	67.34	65.08
	1887	57.90	37.99	8.04	4.96	65.63	61.71
1888	56.75	38.66	8.22	5.24	68.11	63.80	
New South Wales	1878	81.07	57.66	27.41	14.58	71.12	53.19
	1879	78.00	56.23	25.24	15.78	72.08	62.54
	1880	79.63	58.16	23.66	15.83	73.04	66.86
	1881	87.60	67.25	21.39	13.92	76.77	65.07
	1882	82.96	63.07	21.69	13.40	76.02	61.77
	1883	86.59	66.48	19.25	12.08	76.79	62.76
	1884	85.92	65.73	17.60	10.53	76.50	59.87
	1885	82.81	63.75	16.54	8.43	76.98	53.51
	1886	83.17	63.91	16.27	9.77	76.84	60.04
	1887	70.54	52.44	13.71	8.35	74.34	60.91
1888	64.88	47.90	13.37	8.59	73.68	64.30	
Queensland	1878	46.24	29.75	16.63	9.53	64.34	57.27
	1879	42.29	26.90	17.60	8.64	63.61	49.07
	1880	41.15	27.26	14.24	7.66	66.25	53.80
	1881	45.53	32.82	11.95	5.70	72.08	47.73
	1882	49.03	33.77	12.96	6.06	68.89	46.75
	1883	51.53	36.54	15.94	7.20	70.90	45.20
	1884	52.64	39.42	18.93	9.29	74.88	49.38
	1885	51.05	37.08	17.42	8.65	72.64	49.63
	1886	53.05	38.62	18.38	8.69	72.79	47.30
	1887	47.27	35.09	13.53	6.96	74.24	51.46
1888	48.86	36.40	14.26	7.29	74.49	51.12	
South Australia	1878	56.34	48.12	15.20	9.43	85.40	62.06
	1879	50.50	43.17	15.11	8.77	85.48	58.07
	1880	57.16	48.63	13.40	7.55	85.07	56.43
	1881	53.18	45.94	11.81	7.38	86.39	62.28
	1882	50.61	43.58	11.69	7.28	86.11	62.24
	1883	43.82	38.05	10.20	5.55	86.82	54.43
	1884	38.83	33.78	9.49	4.11	86.96	43.34
	1885	33.23	25.84	7.67	4.25	77.76	55.42
	1886	26.20	21.88	7.28	3.86	83.52	43.07
	1887	22.73	19.25	6.64	3.26	84.70	49.04
1888	22.99	19.76	5.98	2.86	85.94	47.89	

\* Not including civil cases.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, ETC., 1878 TO 1888—continued.

Name of Colony.	Proportion per 1,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per 10,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per Cent. of—		
	Apprehensions and Summons Cases.*	Summary Convictions.	Commitments for Trial.	Convictions after Commitment.	Summary Convictions to Apprehensions and Summons Cases.*	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.	
Western Australia ...	1878	218.77	162.56	36.43	16.07	74.31	44.11
	1879	227.72	170.78	29.91	18.65	75.00	62.35
	1880	193.35	146.34	17.33	8.67	75.69	50.00
	1881	182.93	138.50	36.52	20.44	75.71	55.96
	1882	167.46	121.19	29.62	15.14	72.37	51.11
	1883	151.73	110.46	23.05	14.72	72.80	63.89
	1884	149.43	107.55	19.80	12.37	71.97	62.50
	1885	143.81	100.85	25.27	14.97	70.12	59.30
	1886	153.37	107.04	25.55	14.52	69.80	56.84
	1887	128.61	85.42	29.02	17.99	66.42	62.00
	1888	109.92	74.30	24.58	15.13	67.60	61.54
Tasmania † ...	1878	61.22	47.28	10.41	4.98	79.00	47.78
	1879	64.60	50.73	9.89	6.02	81.08	60.91
	1880	60.80	47.69	10.30	6.43	80.19	62.40
	1881	53.11	40.91	7.67	4.35	78.64	56.67
	1882	63.09	49.23	7.70	2.98	78.73	38.71
	1883	64.65	43.37	7.08	2.65‡	80.80	37.50
	1884	48.86	37.72	5.45	3.04	77.20	55.71
	1885	45.27	36.89	5.37	2.35	81.50	43.66
	1886	48.60	38.77	5.61	3.39	79.91	60.53
	1887	42.42	34.37	6.36	4.00	81.02	62.92
	1888	42.71	31.84	6.86	4.57	74.55	66.67
New Zealand ...	1878	52.74	38.82	9.84	6.92	73.62	70.36
	1879	50.19	35.90	16.38§	6.61	71.53	40.33
	1880	44.66	31.68	12.48	7.80	70.94	62.50
	1881	40.11	28.52	9.60	4.76	71.12	49.58
	1882	44.49	32.54	9.17	4.30	73.14	46.90
	1883	43.62	32.01	8.67	4.36	73.38	50.33
	1884	42.94	32.73	9.27	4.39	76.23	47.35
	1885	40.80	31.45	7.56	4.17	77.06	55.14
	1886	37.21	28.53	9.21	4.91	76.67	53.63
	1887	34.10	26.08	10.83	5.60	76.50	51.70
	1888	31.66	23.91	8.52	4.21	75.50	49.42
Total Australasia ...	1878	62.73	44.73	15.29	8.98	71.32	58.73
	1879	60.39	42.77	15.73	8.94	71.06	56.91
	1880	58.77	42.07	14.28	8.89	71.73	62.30
	1881	60.52	44.53	12.57	7.46	73.68	59.38

\* Not including civil cases.

† See footnote (†) on page 38 ante.

‡ This small proportion is in consequence of the large number of cases not prosecuted.

§ See footnote (§) on page 38 ante.

|| This small proportion of convictions is owing to the fact that the Maoris committed for disturbances of a political nature were leniently dealt with.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, ETC., 1878 TO 1888—*continued.*

Name of Colony.	Proportion per 1,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per 10,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per Cent. of—		
	Apprehensions and Summons Cases.*	Summary Convictions.	Commitments for Trial.	Convictions after Commitment.	Summary Convictions to Apprehensions and Summons Cases.*	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.	
Total Australasia— <i>continued.</i>	1882	60·86	44·73	12·65	7·38	73·57	58·37
	1883	61·38	45·34	11·88	6·76	74·50	56·80
	1884	60·47	44·97	11·94	6·57	74·33	55·06
	1885	58·51	42·91	11·09	6·00	73·32	54·12
	1886	58·10	42·96	11·57	6·67	74·04	57·62
	1887	53·52	38·64	10·80	6·24	72·20	57·73
	1888	51·21	37·13	10·33	6·15	72·50	59·62

Order of colonies in respect to apprehensions, etc.

87. In regard to the proportion of offences for which apprehensions were made or summonses issued, Western Australia and New South Wales have stood at the head of the list throughout the eleven years named, and Tasmania stood next until 1884,† when Victoria and Queensland rose above that colony. New Zealand stood lowest on the list until 1884, since which year that place has been occupied by South Australia, the depression in which colony has been accompanied by a reduction in the amount of crime. The following is the order of the various colonies in this respect in 1888, the colony with the highest proportion of persons apprehended or summoned on criminal charges being placed first, and that with the lowest last:—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS APPREHENDED OR SUMMONED IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1888.

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

Order of colonies in respect to summary convictions.

88. As regards the persons summarily convicted, in proportion to population, Western Australia and New South Wales have always been at the top of the list. In 1887 and 1888 Victoria occupied the third place, having risen thereto from the fifth position, which it had occupied during several previous years. The following is the order in which the colonies stood in this particular, the colony with the highest proportion of summary convictions being placed first and the rest in succession:—

\* Not including civil cases.

† It is stated that, prior to 1884, some petty debt cases were improperly included in the returns of offences for which persons were apprehended or summoned in Tasmania.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO SUMMARY CONVICTIONS  
IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1888.

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

89. In every year prior to 1884, Victoria showed, relatively to population, a much smaller number of persons committed for trial than any other colony, but since then the proportion having fallen in some of the other colonies, in the years 1886 to 1888 it was higher in Victoria than in Tasmania or South Australia. Western Australia has been at the head of the list throughout the period, and New South Wales stood second until 1884, when Queensland rose above it, and has since, with one intermission, continued to occupy the second place. Tasmania occupied the lowest position in 1887, but in 1888 South Australia fell below it. In respect to the proportion of commitments for trial to population, the colonies stood in the following order in 1888 :—

Order of colonies in respect to commitments for trial.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS COMMITTED  
FOR TRIAL IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1888.

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

90. In respect to convictions in superior courts, Victoria, which formerly had—with the exception of Tasmania—the smallest number in proportion to population, occupied the fourth position in 1888. Western Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland were still at the top of the list, a position they had occupied during most of the last eleven years :—

Order of colonies in respect to convictions in superior courts.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR  
COURTS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1888.

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

91. Either more persons are apprehended unjustly in Victoria than in the other colonies, or punishment for minor offences does not follow their commission with such certainty in the former as in the latter, since the number of summary convictions obtained in proportion to the apprehensions is usually lower in this colony than in any of the others ; an exception, however, occurred in 1888, when Western Australia occupied the lowest position. The following is the order of the colonies in respect to convictions of this kind in 1888, the colony

Order of colonies in respect to summary convictions obtained.

in which the rate of summary convictions to apprehensions is highest being placed first, and that in which it is lowest last :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF SUMMARY CONVICTIONS TO ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES, 1888.

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

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

92. In regard to the proportion of convictions to commitments for trial, Victoria was fourth on the list in 1888, New South Wales, Tasmania, and Western Australia being above her, and the other two colonies below her. In the subjoined statement the colonies are placed in order, the one in which the convictions, in 1888, bore the highest proportion to commitment being placed first :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS TO COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL, 1888.

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

Incomplete returns in some colonies.

93. It is to be regretted that the information as to the offences for which persons are arrested or summoned is very incomplete in several of the colonies. In Queensland, the only specific offence mentioned in the returns is drunkenness, the balance being grouped as offences against the person, offences against property, or as other offences. This, except that drunkenness is not separated from "other offences," is likewise the grouping adopted in Western Australia,\* as also in Victoria in respect to the summons cases where the offender is never in custody of the police, the exact offence being entered only when an arrest takes place.

Arrests, etc., for various offences in Australasian colonies.

94. Notwithstanding New South Wales has hitherto possessed a smaller population than Victoria, arrests for most descriptions of offences have for years past been much more numerous in the former colony than in the latter. Thus, in 1888, arrests for rape and other sexual offences numbered 125 in New South Wales against 58 in Victoria; for other offences against the person 8,872 against 3,723; for horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, etc., 403 against 167; for miscellaneous offences against property 8,357 against 4,375; for drunkenness 22,331† against 18,526. An exception occurred in the three years, 1885 to

\* The particulars are available in regard to the convictions, although not in regard to the arrests.

† Contrary to statements which have frequently appeared in the press of an adjacent colony, the law relating to drunkenness is the same in Victoria as in New South Wales. In both colonies a drunken person is liable to be arrested even although not guilty of disorderly conduct.

1887, in regard to arrests for robbery, burglary, etc., which then—although not in the following year—were the more numerous in Victoria; also in 1887 and 1888 in regard to arrests for homicide, which in those three years were about equal in the two colonies, and in regard to “other offences,” which were slightly the more numerous in Victoria. The following table shows the offences for which apprehensions were made or summonses issued in the various Australasian colonies during the eleven years 1878 to 1888, so far as the information can be gathered from their respective *Statistical Registers* :—

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1878 TO 1888.

Colony.	Year.	Number of Arrests or Summonses for—							
		Murder, Attempts at Murder, and Manslaughter.	Rape, and other Offences against Females.	Other Offences against the Person.	Robbery with Violence, Burglary, etc.	Horse, Sheep, and Cattle Stealing, etc.	Other Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
Victoria	1878	36	54	4,456	187	173	4,274	11,825	23,737
	1879	29	60	4,174	203	154	4,160	10,859	24,297
	1880	36	81	4,376	245	171	3,880	10,056	22,933
	1881	32	71	4,526	195	153	4,383	11,065	24,305
	1882	33	66	4,340	206	169	4,853	11,749	25,818
	1883	38	52	3,785	262	158	4,146	12,408	28,125
	1884	39	70	3,539	205	130	4,038	12,938	30,438
	1885	31	57	4,071	287	149	3,797	13,580	30,594
	1886	34	51	4,105	282	154	4,340	14,528	30,867
	1887	35	59	3,923	421	131	4,468	15,578	34,421
1888	57	58	3,723	352	167	4,375	18,526	33,018	
	1878	9,398			6,807			17,224	19,896
New South Wales	1879	63	85	9,102	266	472	6,126	17,713	20,043
	1880	75	95	9,364	245	469	6,154	18,777	22,605
	1881	68	104	9,031	231	465	6,237	22,560	27,904
	1882	54	110	9,080	274	529	6,643	22,280	26,966
	1883	76	109	10,484	203	348	6,343	23,178	31,490
	1884	98	119	9,842	263	482	6,415	25,428	33,033
	1885	50	115	9,353	230	403	6,576	27,493	32,872
	1886	73	163	9,899	261	307	6,787	27,722	36,291
	1887	36	138	8,729	300	307	7,410	24,146	31,053
	1888	58	125	8,872	374	403	8,357	22,331	28,532
Queensland	1878	1,273			1,191			3,215	3,884
	1879	1,238			1,175			2,997	3,648
	1880	1,320			1,186			2,867	3,760
	1881	1,304			1,146			3,275	4,338
	1882	1,532			1,140			3,771	5,206
	1883	2,369			1,327			4,505	5,603
	1884	2,543			1,687			5,117	6,171

\* See footnote (†) on page 44 ante.

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE  
AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1878 TO 1888—*continued.*

Colony.	Year.	Number of Arrests or Summonses for—							Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
		Murder, Attempts at Murder, and Manslaughter.	Rape, and other Offences against Females.	Other Offences against the Person.	Robbery with Violence, Burglary, etc.	Horse, Sheep, and Cattle Stealing, etc.	Other Offences against Property.			
Queensland— <i>continued</i>	1885	2,230			1,748			5,508	6,277	
	1886	2,091			1,956			5,748	7,845	
	1887	2,587			2,126			6,000	6,056	
	1888	2,460			2,273			6,206	7,492	
South Australia	1878	10	32	941	50	12	824	4,166	7,647	
	1879	5	29	857	46	15	890	3,840	7,161	
	1880	13	37	1,026	52	51	971	4,325	8,588	
	1881	7	33	862	45	23	1,009	5,298	8,070	
	1882	5	16	934	55	19	963	4,713	7,967	
	1883	5	17	767	61	15	652	4,533	7,054	
	1884	24	41	711	45	13	653	3,938	6,563	
	1885	9	36	598	28	19	708	3,361	5,647	
	1886	8	32	530	27	18	679	2,566	4,342	
	1887	8	21	408	36	16	562	2,090	3,981	
	1888	13	22	514	25	12	568	2,388	3,767	
Western Australia †	1878	619			515			4,992		
	1879	462			387			5,622		
	1880	331			355			4,891		
	1881	418			354			4,688		
	1882	365			459			4,265		
	1883	455			372			3,912		
	1884	410			335			4,086		
	1885	403			323			4,174		
	1886	474			414			4,815		
	1887	472			532			4,359		
1888	517			473			3,661			
Tasmania ‡	1878	6	30	693	60	35	862	1,374	3,584	
	1879	2	54	616	45	35	998	1,504	3,930	
	1880	2	14	651	103	37	723	1,543	3,835	
	1881	5	8	528	35	17	691	1,446	3,499	
	1882	5	20	621	36	27	842	1,827	4,237	
	1883	2	17	701	25	28	702	1,890	4,674	
	1884	3	21	533	22	25	616	1,577	3,476	
	1885	3	13	544	34	22	565	1,470	3,332	
	1886	4	18	489	16	20	647	1,507	3,885	
	1887	3	19	449	22	18	749	1,192	3,480	
	1888	2	17	422	13	20	549	1,145	3,996	

\* See footnote (†) on page 44 *ante*.

† The number of convictions (not arrests) for the principal offences in the last three years were as follow :—Manslaughter, 4 in 1886, *nil* in 1887, and 2 in 1888; burglary, etc., 2, 4, *nil* respectively; cattle and sheep stealing, 106, 87, and 62, almost all being aborigines; other offences against property, 163, 225, and 228; drunkenness, 1,165, 502, and 557.

‡ See footnote (†) on page 38 *ante*.

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1878 TO 1888—continued.

Colony.	Year.	Number of Arrests or Summonses for—							
		Murder, Attempts at Murder, and Manslaughter.	Rape, and other Offences against Females.	Other Offences against the Person.	Robbery with Violence, Burglary, etc.	Horse, Sheep, and Cattle Stealing, etc.	Other Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
New Zealand ...	1878	16	43	1,890	38	44	1,684	7,105	11,417
	1879	14	51	1,869	100	67	2,563	6,672	11,156
	1880	29	56	1,909	99	65	2,272	6,371	10,380
	1881	13	59	1,937	73	85	2,146	5,770	9,713
	1882	10	47	1,920	93	62	2,226	6,996	11,305
	1883	16	46	1,605	71	50	2,358	7,494	11,450
	1884	25	35	1,652	102	66	2,270	7,154	12,268
	1885	21	30	1,734	94	60	2,044	7,012	12,108
	1886	23	49	1,545	122	86	2,185	6,297	11,355
	1887	17	43	1,600	179	54	2,304	5,661	10,478
	1888	18	38	1,459	168	95	2,144	5,692	9,553

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

Ratio of each group of offences to population of each colony.

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1878 TO 1888.

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
Victoria ...	1878	5.53	5.64	14.40	28.90
	1879	5.11	5.42	13.02	29.13
	1880	5.28	5.05	11.83	26.97
	1881	5.33	5.44	12.73	27.97
	1882	4.99	5.87	13.20	29.00
	1883	4.25	5.01	13.62	30.87
	1884	3.91	4.68	13.85	32.59
	1885	4.34	4.42	14.17	31.92
	1886	4.24	4.84	14.72	32.28
	1887	3.94	4.92	15.28	33.75
	1888	8.61	4.61	17.44	31.09

\* See footnote (†) on page 44 ante.

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH  
AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1878 TO 1888—*continued.*

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunken- ness.*	Other Offences.
New South Wales ...	1878	14·29	10·35	26·18	30·25
	1879	13·40	9·94	25·65	29·02
	1880	13·14	9·46	25·88	31·15
	1881	12·10	9·12	29·67	36·70
	1882	11·63	9·37	28·03	33·93
	1883	12·79	8·26	27·78	37·74
	1884	11·42	8·13	28·87	37·50
	1885	10·22	7·74	29·53	35·31
	1886	10·34	7·51	28·29	37·03
	1887	8·71	7·84	23·62	30·37
1888	8·51	8·58	20·98	26·81	
Queensland ...	1878	6·16	5·76	15·55	18·78
	1879	5·78	5·49	13·99	17·03
	1880	5·95	5·34	12·92	16·94
	1881	5·90	5·19	14·82	19·63
	1882	6·45	4·80	15·87	21·91
	1883	8·84	4·95	16·81	20·92
	1884	8·63	5·72	17·36	20·94
	1885	7·22	5·66	17·84	20·33
	1886	6·29	5·88	17·29	23·59
	1887	7·29	5·99	16·91	17·07
1888	6·52	6·03	16·45	19·86	
South Australia ...	1878	4·05	3·65	17·16	31·49
	1879	3·54	3·74	15·11	28·14
	1880	4·08	4·08	16·41	32·59
	1881	3·12	3·66	18·36	27·97
	1882	3·29	3·58	16·26	27·48
	1883	2·64	2·44	15·16	23·59
	1884	2·51	2·30	12·76	21·26
	1885	2·10	2·41	10·73	18·03
	1886	1·82	2·31	8·20	13·87
	1887	1·39	1·96	6·67	12·70
1888	1·73	1·90	7·51	11·85	
Western Australia ...	1878	22·13	18·39	178·27	
	1879	16·26	13·62	197·84	
	1880	11·48	12·31	169·57	
	1881	14·00	11·86	157·06	
	1882	12·01	15·10	140·34	
	1883	14·57	11·91	125·25	
	1884	12·68	10·36	126·39	
	1885	11·83	9·48	122·53	
	1886	12·75	11·13	129·49	
	1887	11·32	12·76	104·53	
1888	12·22	11·18	86·50		

\* See footnote (†) on page 44 ante.

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1878 TO 1888—*continued.*

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
Tasmania† ...	1878	6.72	9.00	12.66	33.02
	1879	6.04	9.69	13.52	35.35
	1880	5.87	7.60	13.58	33.75
	1881	4.61	6.33	12.32	29.83
	1882	5.35	7.50	15.14	35.10
	1883	5.79	6.07	15.20	37.59
	1884	4.34	5.16	12.28	27.08
	1885	4.24	4.70	11.12	25.21
	1886	3.77	5.04	11.12	28.67
	1887	3.37	5.64	8.53	24.88
1888	3.06	4.03	7.93	27.69	
New Zealand ...	1878	4.62	4.19	16.85	27.08
	1879	4.32	6.09	14.88	24.89
	1880	4.20	5.13	13.41	21.86
	1881	4.07	4.67	11.68	19.68
	1882	3.88	4.67	13.74	22.19
	1883	3.15	4.68	14.16	21.63
	1884	3.12	4.44	13.03	22.35
	1885	3.15	3.88	12.39	21.39
	1886	2.78	4.11	10.82	19.51
	1887	2.78	4.25	9.49	17.57
1888	2.50	3.98	9.40	15.78	

96. It will be observed that, according to population, arrests or summonses for offences against the person were, in all the years, much more numerous in Western Australia and New South Wales than in any other colony; in the former of which they were—in the year 1888—over three times, and in the latter two and a third times, as numerous as in Victoria. The following is the order of the colonies in this respect during 1888—which is the same as in the two previous years—the colony in which the proportion was highest being placed first and that in which it was lowest last:—

Order of colonies as to offences against the person.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON, 1888.

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

97. In 1888, arrests for offences against property in Western Australia were two and a half times, and in New South Wales nearly twice as numerous, in proportion to population, as they were in Victoria, where they were fewer than in any colonies except Tasmania,

Order of colonies as to offences against property.

\* See footnote (†) on page 44 ante.

† See footnote (†) on page 38 ante.

New Zealand and South Australia. In this respect, the order of the colonies was as follows, the colony with the largest proportion of such arrests being placed first, and the rest in succession :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY, 1888.

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

Order of colonies as to drunkenness.

98. In the matter of drunkenness, although New South Wales has improved considerably since 1886, she still outstrips all the other colonies of the group in which the offence is distinguished.\* Victoria, on the other hand, has apparently become more inebriate, as in 1888 arrests for drunkenness within her boundaries were, in proportion to population, only a sixth less than those in New South Wales.† In the following list, wherein the colony in which the largest proportion of inebriates was brought before magistrates in 1888 is placed first, and that in which the number was smallest last, it will be observed that Victoria stands next below New South Wales, but above the other colonies :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO APPREHENSIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1888.

1. New South Wales.	4. New Zealand.
2. Victoria.	5. Tasmania.
3. Queensland.	6. South Australia.

Order of colonies as to "other offences."

99. "Other offences," which embrace breaches of corporation by-laws, *Wines and Spirit Statute*, etc., are rather violations of good order than actual crimes, and are consequently generally dealt with by summons. Relatively to population, they were formerly most numerous in New South Wales, but in 1887 and 1888 they were more numerous in Victoria than in any of the other colonies. In Western Australia drunkenness is included with these offences, and, consequently, the figures are not comparable with those of the other colonies. Omitting Western Australia, therefore, the following is the order of the colonies in respect to irregularities of this description, the colony in which the proportion was highest being placed first, and that in which it was lowest last :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR "OTHER OFFENCES," 1888.

1. Victoria.	4. Queensland.
2. Tasmania.	5. New Zealand.
3. New South Wales.	6. South Australia.

\* The only colony in which drunkenness is not distinguished, so far as the total arrests are concerned, is Western Australia. The convictions for that offence, however, are given in footnote (†) on page 46 *ante*.

† Both in Victoria and New South Wales, a drunken person is liable to be arrested, even although not disorderly.

100. The statistics at hand relating to the United Kingdom give the commitments for trial and convictions in the superior courts, but do not afford any information respecting the cases dealt with in courts of petty sessions. The following table shows the number of commitments and convictions and their respective proportions to the population of each division of the United Kingdom, also the proportion of commitments to convictions during the eleven years ended with 1888 :—

Crime in  
United  
Kingdom.

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1878 TO 1888.

Colony.	Estimated Population.*	Commitments for Trial.	Convictions.	Proportion of—			
				Commitments to Population.*	Convictions to Population.*	Convictions to Commitments.	
				per 10,000.	per 10,000.	per cent.	
England and Wales	1878	25,033,259	16,372	12,473	6.54	4.98	76.18
	1879	25,371,489	16,388	12,525	6.46	4.94	76.43
	1880	25,714,288	14,770	11,214	5.74	4.36	75.92
	1881	26,061,736	14,786	11,353	5.67	4.36	76.78
	1882	26,413,861	15,260	11,699	5.78	4.43	76.66
	1883	26,770,744	14,659	11,347	5.49	4.24	77.41
	1884	27,132,449	14,407	11,134	5.31	4.10	77.28
	1885	27,499,041	13,586	10,500	4.94	3.82	77.28
	1886	27,870,586	13,974	10,686	5.01	3.83	76.47
	1887	28,247,151	13,292	10,338	4.71	3.66	77.78
	1888	28,628,804	13,750	10,561	4.80	3.69	76.81
Scotland	1878	3,628,268	2,922	2,273	8.05	6.26	77.79
	1879	3,665,443	2,700	2,091	7.37	5.70	77.44
	1880	3,705,994	2,583	2,046	6.97	5.52	79.21
	1881	3,745,485	2,444	1,832	6.53	4.89	74.96
	1882	3,785,400	2,469	1,943	6.52	5.13	78.70
	1883	3,825,744	2,567	1,916	6.71	5.01	74.64
	1884	3,866,521	2,610	2,085	6.72	5.37	79.88
	1885	3,907,736	2,535	1,956	6.49	5.01	77.16
	1886	3,949,393	2,437	1,838	6.19	4.65	75.20
	1887	3,991,499	2,357	1,843	5.91	4.62	78.19
	1888	4,034,156	2,353	1,849	5.83	4.58	78.58
Ireland	1878	5,282,246	4,183	2,293	7.92	4.34	54.81
	1879	5,265,625	4,363	2,207	8.29	4.19	50.58
	1880	5,202,648	4,716	2,383	9.06	4.58	50.53
	1881	5,144,983	5,311	2,698	10.32	5.24	50.80
	1882	5,097,853	4,301	2,255	8.44	4.42	52.43
	1883	5,015,282	3,025	1,740	6.03	3.47	57.52
	1884	4,962,693	2,925	1,546	5.89	3.12	52.85
	1885	4,924,342	2,850	1,573	5.79	3.19	55.19
	1886	4,889,498	3,028	1,619	6.19	3.31	53.47
	1887	4,837,352	2,694	1,411	5.57	2.92	52.38
	1888	4,777,545	2,188	1,220	4.58	2.55	55.76

\* Figures in several cases amended since last publication.

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1878 TO 1888—*continued.*

Colony.	Estimated Population.*	Commitments for Trial.	Con- victions.	Proportion of—			
				Commitments to Population.*	Convictions to Population.*	Convictions to Commitments.	
				per 10,000.	per 10,000.	per cent.	
Total ...	1878	33,943,773	23,477	17,039	6·92	5·02	72·57
	1879	34,302,557	23,451	16,823	6·83	4·90	71·74
	1880	34,622,930	22,069	15,643	6·37	4·52	70·88
	1881	34,952,204	22,541	15,883	6·45	4·55	70·46
	1882	35,297,114	22,030	15,897	6·24	4·50	72·16
	1883	35,611,770	20,251	15,003	5·69	4·21	74·09
	1884	35,961,663	19,942	14,765	5·54	4·10	74·04
	1885	36,331,119	18,971	14,029	5·22	3·86	73·94
	1886	36,709,477	19,439	14,143	5·30	3·85	72·73
	1887	37,076,002	18,343	13,592	4·94	3·66	74·07
	1888	37,440,505	18,291	13,630	4·89	3·64	74·52

Crime in United Kingdom and Australasia compared.

101. Taking the mean of the eleven years given in the table, it will be found that, in proportion to population, the commitments for trial in the United Kingdom, taken as a whole, are less than in Victoria, and considerably less than in any of the other Australasian colonies; also, that the same holds good for England and Scotland, except that the proportion in Victoria is about equal to that in the latter; but in Ireland the proportion has, on the whole, been slightly higher than in Victoria. Convictions after commitment are, relatively to population, generally as numerous in Victoria as in the United Kingdom or England and Wales, more numerous than in Ireland, but less numerous than in Scotland.

Convictions in United Kingdom and Australasia compared.

102. The convictions obtained in proportion to the commitments are, according to the figures, more numerous in England and Scotland than in any of the Australasian colonies, but the proportion in Ireland in 1887 was smaller than that in Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, or Tasmania during the same year.

Prostitution in Australian capitals.

103. A phase of crime, respecting which it is difficult to obtain accurate information, is female prostitution. Mr. H. M. Chomley, the Chief Commissioner of the Victorian police, however, by means of the force at his disposal and by correspondence with the police authorities of the neighbouring colonies, a few years since obtained some figures relating to the prostitution existing in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide, which will be found in the following table:—

\* Figures in several cases amended since last publication.

## PROSTITUTION IN AUSTRALIAN CAPITALS.

Capital Cities.	Population (Census of 1881).	Estimated Number of Prostitutes, 1883.	Prostitutes per 10,000 of Population.
Melbourne ... ..	282,947	597	21·10
Sydney ... ..	224,211	613	27·34
Brisbane ... ..	31,109	99	31·82
Adelaide ... ..	67,954	500	73·58

104. According to the figures in the last column, Melbourne was much freer from prostitution than any one of the other metropolitan cities named. It will be observed that even in actual numbers the prostitutes in Melbourne were fewer than in Sydney, although the latter had the smaller population. An enormous amount of prostitution appears to exist in Adelaide, but the figures being given in round numbers must be regarded with suspicion. Results compared.

105. From an estimate made in 1890, upon which Mr. Chomley states considerable care was expended, the number of prostitutes in Melbourne and suburbs was 702. At the same time the population amounted to 458,500, so that the proportion of prostitutes per 10,000 of the population appears to have fallen from 21 in 1883 to only 15 in the present year. Prostitutes in Melbourne, 1890.

106. The Victorian police force is an admirably organized body of men, and, although smaller in numbers than the police force of New South Wales by 59, smaller also in proportion to population than the police force of either that colony or Queensland, their efficiency, combined with the orderly character of the population, is such that serious offences, as has been already shown,\* are usually much less rife in Victoria than in most of the other colonies. The following figures show the number of police and their proportion to the population in each colony:— Police in Australasian colonies.

## POLICE IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1890.†

1. South Australia has 389 police, or 1 to 834 persons.
2. Victoria „ 1,454 „ „ 770 „
3. New South Wales „ 1,513 „ „ 742 „
4. Queensland „ 902 „ „ 451 „

107. Mr. Chomley supplies the following figures to show the number of persons one policeman keeps in order and protects in each of the four Australian capitals named:— Police in Australian capitals.

\* See paragraph 89 *ante*.

† In 1883, the New Zealand police numbered 741, or 1 to every 783 persons living. No later returns are at hand respecting that colony.

## POLICE IN AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL CITIES, 1890.

1. Sydney	has	556	police,	or	1	to	673	persons.
2. Melbourne	„	670	„	„	665	„	„	„
3. Adelaide	„	191	„	„	631	„	„	„
4. Brisbane	„	190	„	„	481	„	„	„

108. The number of criminal cases tried in the Supreme Court at the various places throughout the colony where sittings were held in 1889 was 509, of which 429 were for felony, and 80 for misdemeanors. The convictions for felony numbered 329, and for misdemeanors 71. The number of places where sittings were held was 16, the number of sittings was 52, and the total duration of sittings was 230 days.

109. Sittings may be held at the same number of places to try civil cases, but no causes were entered at 5 out of the 19 places in 1889. The number of causes entered for trial during the year was 544; but the number of causes tried was only 341, of which 46 were tried by juries of six, 10 by juries of twelve, and 285 by a judge alone. All but 16 of these were defended. The damages laid in the declarations amounted in the aggregate to £593,963. Verdicts were returned in 336 instances, and there were no nonsuits. Of the verdicts, 236, or about 70 per cent., were for the plaintiff. The aggregate amount awarded by the juries was £32,831, or 6 per cent. of the damages laid. In the ten years ended with 1888, the damages sued for in these courts amounted to £2,482,072, and the sums awarded by juries to £403,338, or to about 16 per cent. of the damages sued for.

110. Courts of General Sessions have jurisdiction in criminal cases within certain limitations, and have also appellate jurisdiction in civil cases from petty sessions. The places at which such courts were held in 1889 numbered 28, and the number of courts held 77, extending over periods amounting in the aggregate to 152 days. The number of cases tried was 350, in 251 of which, or 72 per cent., convictions were obtained. The number of appeals heard was 59. In the ten years prior to 1889, 2,612 cases were tried in Courts of General Sessions, and 1,743 convictions were obtained; thus the latter were to the former in the proportion of 67 per cent.

111. County Courts have jurisdiction in civil cases up to £250. The number of places at which they were held in 1889 was 63, and the number of courts held was 190, extending over 444 days. The total number of cases tried was 11,808, the amount sued for was £393,757; and the amount recovered £157,635, or only 40 per cent. of the amount sued for. The costs awarded to the plaintiff amounted to £16,199, and the costs awarded to the defendant to £7,168. During

Supreme  
Court  
criminal  
sittings.

Supreme  
Court civil  
sittings.

Courts of  
General  
Sessions.

County  
Courts.

the ten years prior to the year under review the aggregate amount sued for in County Courts was £2,867,735, and the aggregate amount awarded was £872,489, or 30 per cent. of the amount sued for.

112. Courts of Mines have jurisdiction concerning all questions or disputes which may arise out of mining on Crown lands. The places at which they were held in 1889 numbered 9, and the courts held numbered 26, occupying 7 days. The total number of suits was 4, and the aggregate amount or value of demand, £350. The gross amount of costs awarded to the plaintiffs was £12, and to the defendants £10. These figures do not include all the mining disputes which took place during the year, as those of minor importance are adjudicated on by the wardens of the gold-fields. In the ten years prior to 1889, the value sued for in Courts of Mines amounted in the aggregate to £19,592. The business has fallen off very considerably for several years past.

Courts of Mines.

113. The cases of indictable offences heard at Petty Sessions during 1889 numbered 2,625, which resulted in 1,042 commitments for trial. Commitments were thus obtained in 40 per cent. of the cases. The offences summarily dealt with numbered 61,374, in 43,142 of which, or 70 per cent., the offender was convicted.

Courts of Petty Sessions : criminal cases.

114. Courts of Petty Sessions have jurisdiction in ordinary civil cases up to £50,\* and in master and servant cases also up to £50. Such courts were held at 239 places during the year. The civil cases heard numbered 27,832, in which the total amount of debts or damages claimed was £218,900, and the total amount awarded was £130,649, or 60 per cent. of the amount claimed. The number of cases was greater by two-fifths than, and the amount of debts claimed was nearly twice as large as, in the previous year. In the ten years ended with 1888, the debts or damages claimed in these courts amounted in all to £875,719, and the sums awarded to £551,341, or to 63 per cent. of the amounts claimed.

Courts of Petty Sessions : civil cases.

115. The net results of the civil cases tried in 1889 may be gathered from the following table, which shows the total amount of debts and damages sued for in the various courts, and the aggregate value of the awards, also the percentage of the latter to the former, in 1889 and the previous decennium. It will be noticed that the whole amount at stake was £1,207,000, and that rather over one-fourth was recovered; also that whilst the proportion recovered in the Supreme Court and Courts of Petty Sessions appears to have been

Debts sued for and awarded.

\* Increased from £20 by the *Justices of the Peace Act 1887*.

considerably less than,\* that in the County Courts was somewhat above, the average :—

DEBTS AND DAMAGES CLAIMED AND AWARDED.\*

Name of Court.	Amount of Debts and Damages, 1889.		Proportion of Debts and Damages recovered.	
	Claimed.	Awarded.	1889.	Average of Previous 10 Years.
	£	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Supreme Court ... ..	593,963	32,831	6	13
County Courts ... ..	393,757	157,635	40	37
Courts of Petty Sessions ... ..	218,900	130,649	60	67
Total ... ..	1,206,620	321,115	27	33

Writs.

116. The number of writs issued in 1889, in the six bailiwicks into which the colony is divided, was 2,329, or nearly twice as many as in the previous year. Of the whole number 19 were Queen's writs against both person and property, 28 were subjects' writs against the person alone, and 2,282 were subjects' writs against property alone.

Gaols and penal establishments.

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

Probation system for first offenders.

118. In accordance with recommendations made by the Inspector-General of Penal Establishments, the probation system for first offenders was introduced into Victoria by the passing of the *Juvenile Offenders Act* 1887 (51 Vict. No. 951), which came into operation on 1st January, 1888. This Act gives power to a judge or chairman of the court before which, or any two or more justices before whom, the conviction has taken place, in the case of persons under the age of 21 years not previously convicted, to suspend the execution of sentences for any term of imprisonment not exceeding three years for any offence, whether indictable or punishable by summary conviction, and to release the offender from custody upon entering into recognizances, to be settled by the court, for his future good behaviour. Moreover, in the case of prisoners undergoing sentence, who had not been previously

\* The amounts claimed and awarded, especially in the Supreme Court, are not strictly comparable, for whereas the amount claimed is set down for every case entered whether tried or not, the amount awarded obviously only applies to cases actually tried. In the Supreme Court, only about two-thirds of the cases entered are actually tried, whereas in 1889 only a little more than half were tried during the year.

convicted and received sentence when under the age of 25 years, the Governor in Council is empowered to extend mercy to such offenders by releasing them from custody upon entering into like recognizances. In both cases, however, a prisoner so released is liable to be re-arrested for misbehaviour, and committed to prison to undergo his sentence or the residue thereof. Under the provisions of this Act, 16 male prisoners were released on probation in 1888, and 18 (including 1 female) in 1889.

119. The gross, distinct, and average number of prisoners detained in each description of prison during 1889 will be found in the following table, males and females being distinguished :—

GAOLS AND PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS, 1889.

Description of Prison.	Number of Institutions.	Prisoners detained during the Year.								
		Gross Number.*			Distinct Individuals.†			Daily Average.		
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Gaols ...	9	8,099	2,612	10,711	} 8,517	1,715	10,232	{ 753	354	1,107
Penal establishments	1	1,329	...	1,329						
Police gaols ...	8	745	41	786	633	35	668‡	15	1	16
Total ...	18	10,173	2,653	12,826	9,150	1,750	10,900	1,448	355	1,803

Gaols and prisoners.

120. According to this table, the number of individual prisoners detained during the whole or some portion of 1889 in the gaols and penal establishments of the colony was 10,900, viz., 9,150 males and 1,750 females. In the previous year, the number of distinct prisoners was 10,071, viz., 8,395 males and 1,676 females; thus showing an increase of 829 during the year under review, viz., 755 in the male, and of 74 in the female prisoners.

Increase of distinct prisoners.

121. Comparing the figures for 1889 with those showing the mean population of that year, it appears that 1 person in every 102 persons in the colony, or one male in every 65 males, and 1 female in every 300 females, passed some portion of the year in prison; whereas the proportion in 1888 was 1 person in every 105 persons in the colony, or 1 male in every 67 males, and 1 female in every 296 females. In these estimates no account is taken of persons lodged temporarily in

Proportion of distinct prisoners to population.

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

† See table following paragraph 124 *post*.

‡ Estimated.

watch-houses, etc., pending examination before magistrates, the prisoners here referred to being only those detained in regular gaols or penal establishments.

Proportion  
of distinct  
to gross  
prisoners.

122. If a comparison be made between the gross number of prisoners (exclusive of transfers) and the distinct prisoners, it will be found that 84·98 per cent. of the prisoners dealt with in 1889—viz., 89·94 per cent. in the case of males, and 65·96 per cent. in the case of females—were distinct individuals. In the previous year the proportions were:—Total, 88·44 per cent. ; males, 89·22 per cent. ; females, 66·56 per cent.

Proportion  
of prisoners  
to popu-  
lation.

123. If the figures in the table showing the average number of prisoners are compared with the mean population, it follows that 1 person in every 612 persons living was constantly in prison during 1889; or, distinguishing the sexes, that, during that year, 1 male in every 406 males living, and 1 female in every 1,456 females living were constantly in detention. By the following table, which gives the figures for the last eleven years, it will be seen that the proportion of prisoners to the population has fallen from 1 in every 534 in 1879 to 1 in every 612 in 1889, the latter proportion, however, being higher than that prevailing in any of the previous six years:—

PROPORTION OF PRISONERS TO POPULATION, 1879 TO 1889.

Year.	Of the Total Population one Person was constantly in Prison to every—		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1879 ... ..	351	1,267	534
1880 ... ..	348	1,274	532
1881 ... ..	353	1,349	543
1882 ... ..	391	1,416	596
1883 ... ..	429	1,346	633
1884 ... ..	446	1,347	650
1885 ... ..	466	1,357	670
1886 ... ..	444	1,380	653
1887 ... ..	429	1,360	632
1888 ... ..	434	1,493	650
1889 ... ..	406	1,456	612

Number of  
times  
individuals  
were in  
prison.

124. In the Inspector General's annual reports a return appears showing the number of times each individual was imprisoned during the year. The following are the particulars for 1889,\* also the proportions per cent. :—

\* See Inspector General's Report for 1889, Parliamentary Paper No. 156, Session 1890.

DISTINCT PRISONERS, 1889.  
(Exclusive of those in Police Gaols.)

Number of Times Imprisoned during Year.	Distinct Prisoners, 1889.					
	Number.			Percentage.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Once ... ..	6,101	1,051	7,152	71·64	61·28	69·90
Twice ... ..	916	283	1,199	10·75	16·50	11·72
Three times ... ..	244	104	348	2·86	6·07	3·40
Four times ... ..	79	50	129	·93	2·91	1·26
Five times ... ..	33	32	65	·39	1·87	·64
Six times and upwards ... ..	23	20	43*	·27	1·17	·42
Total received ... ..	7,396	1,540	8,936	86·84	89·80	87·34
In detention at commencement of year † ... ..	1,121	175	1,296	13·16	10·20	12·66
Grand Total ... ..	8,517	1,715	10,232	100·00	100·00	100·00

125. Adding the numbers at the commencement of the year to those in the first line of the table, it is found that 82½ per cent. of the distinct prisoners in 1889 were imprisoned only once during the year, and consequently 17½ per cent. were imprisoned more than once. In the case of males, the proportions were 85 and 15 per cent.; and in the case of females, 71 and 29 per cent. respectively. The tendency of females to be imprisoned over and over again is greater than that of males; thus, during the year, 12 per cent. of the whole number of females were imprisoned three times or upwards, and nearly 6 per cent. four times or upwards; whereas only 4½ per cent. of the males were imprisoned more than twice, and only 1½ per cent. more than three times.

Persons imprisoned more than once.

126. Out of a total of 1,801 prisoners in detention on the 31st December, 1889, 1,107, or about 62 per cent., had been previously imprisoned under sentence in the colony—viz., 227, or 13 per cent., once; 155, or 9 per cent., twice; 110, or 6 per cent., three times; and as many as 615, or 34 per cent., four times or oftener. Of the total number, 22 had also been convicted in other countries.

Prisoners previously convicted.

127. The following is a classification of the prisoners in confinement at the end of 1889, according to the grounds in respect to which they were detained. It will be noticed that 95, or 5¼ per cent., were

Grounds of imprisonment.

\* Three males and five females admitted seven times; one male and four females admitted eight, and one female admitted nine times.

† Exclusive of those discharged and re-admitted during the year, who numbered 388, viz., 235 males and 153 females, they being included with the figures in the previous line.

untried; also that more than half the males, but less than a sixth of the females, had been convicted of felony:—

GROUND'S FOR DETENTION OF PRISONERS, 1889.

Grounds for Detention.	Gaols.		Police Gaols.		Penal Establishments.	Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Felony, tried... ..	214	53	1	..	548	763	53	816
„ untried ...	38	6	5	...		43	6	49
Misdemeanors, tried ...	307	180	3	...	148	458	180	638
„ untried	25	4	8	...	...	33	4	37
Other offences, tried ...	127	98	2	...	44	173	98	271
„ untried	9	...	...	...	...	9	...	9
Total ... ..	720	341	19	...	740	1,479	341	1,820

Destitution  
a cause of  
imprison-  
ment.

128. The total number of prisoners (exclusive of transfers) admitted in 1889, to ordinary gaols and penal establishments, was 10,388, and of these, 635, viz., 489 males and 146 females, were imprisoned on charges of vagrancy, but really for medical attention, and 781, viz., 316 males and 465 females, were received for shelter. There were thus 1,416 persons, as against 1,230 in 1888, who were admitted on account of their destitute condition, and went to swell the ranks of the prison population, instead of being otherwise provided for as objects of charity. If these destitute prisoners be deducted from the total number of admissions, the balance, viz., 8,972, as compared with 8,426 in 1888, will more correctly represent the criminal admissions during the year.\*

Sickness in  
prisons.

129. The cases in which prisoners were absent from work during the year on account of sickness, which numbered 2,030, were in the proportion of one case to every 5.5 individual prisoners. The daily average number of prisoners incapacitated from labour by reason of sickness was 132, or 1 in every 10 of the average number constantly employed. The total number of cases of sickness at any one time was 171.

Deaths in  
prisons.

130. Sixty-seven deaths from natural causes occurred in prisons during 1888, and 89 deaths in 1889. These deaths were in the proportion of 1 to every 150 in the former year, and one to every 122 in the latter year, of the estimated individual prisoners; or in the proportion of one to every 24 in the former year, and one to every 20 in

\* See Inspector-General's Report, page 3.

the latter year, of the daily average number of prisoners detained. The death-rate was thus considerably higher in the year under review than in the previous one.

131. In the last four years no permanently successful attempt to escape from prison has taken place. In the first of those years one prisoner escaped from the custody of the police whilst being transferred, but was retaken, and two others made unsuccessful attempts to escape from prison; in 1887, one prisoner absconded, and was recaptured during the year; in 1888 no instance is reported of any prisoner having attempted to escape from custody; and in 1889 four prisoners, of whom one was unconvicted, absconded, but were recaptured.

Prisoners absconding.

132. Of prisoners who had been sentenced to imprisonment for life, there have been 36 altogether in the colony, and of these, 18 have been discharged under the operation of regulations in force since February, 1878, as to prisoners under commuted sentences to terms of life, 1 by special commutation, 1 to a lunatic asylum, and 2 by death; whilst 14—viz., 10 males and 4 females—still remain in custody.

Prisoners under life sentences.

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

Ages of prisoners.

AGES OF PRISONERS, 1889.

Ages.	Estimated Population.	Average number of Prisoners constantly detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
Under 20 years	491,902	123	2.50
20 to 30 „	244,378	676	27.66
30 „ 40 „	129,925	392	30.17
40 „ 50 „	88,341	261	29.54
50 „ 60 „	86,359	180	20.83
60 years and upwards	63,395	171	26.96
Total ... ..	1,104,300	1,803	16.32

134. It appears from this table that, in 1889, the proportion of prisoners constantly detained to the population was greatest between the ages of 20 and 50. Of persons over 20 living in Victoria, 1 in every 365; of those between 20 and 40, 1 in every 350; of those over 40, 1 in every 389; and of those over 60, 1 in every 371, were constantly in prison throughout the year.

Proportion of prisoners at various ages.

Birthplaces  
and reli-  
gions of  
prisoners.

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

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PRISONERS, 1889.

Native Country and Religion.	Estimated Population.	Average number of Prisoners constantly detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
NATIVE COUNTRY.			
Australasian Colonies ...	702,365	758	10·79
England and Wales ...	183,464	417	22·73
Scotland ...	59,673	120	20·11
Ireland ...	106,532	354	33·23
China... ..	11,679	20	17·13
Other countries ...	40,587	134	33·02
Total ... ..	1,104,300	1,803	16·32
RELIGION.			
Protestants ...	791,815	1,031	13·02
Roman Catholics ...	260,404	728	27·96
Jews ... ..	5,542	16	28·87
Buddhists, Confucians, etc.	10,710	17	15·87
Others ... ..	35,829	11	3·07

Relative  
numbers  
of each  
country  
and sect.

136. It will be observed that, in view of their respective numbers in the population, natives of the Australasian colonies contributed much less than their share to the number of inmates of prisons; but the natives of Scotland contributed 24 per cent. more, natives of England and Wales 39 per cent. more, and natives of Ireland 104 per cent. more, than their share to that number; whilst the proportion of Chinese was smaller than that of any other nationality except the Australians. Also that of the religious denominations shown, Protestants contributed much less, and Buddhists, etc., slightly less, than their share; but Roman Catholics contributed 71 per cent., and Jews 78 per cent., more than their share to the number of such inmates. In the previous year, however, the proportion of Jews was below the average of all the sects.

Education of  
prisoners.

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

EDUCATION OF PRISONERS, 1873 TO 1889.

Period.	Numbers in every 100—		
	Able to Read and Write.	Able to Read only.	Unable to Read.
1873 to 1876 ... ..	64	18	18
1877 to 1880 ... ..	74	8	18
1881 to 1883 ... ..	83	6	11
1884 to 1886 ... ..	84	6	10
1887 ... ..	84	4	12
1888 ... ..	87	4	9
1889 ... ..	87	4	9

138. The following cases of punishment for offences committed within the prison took place in 1889. It will be observed that solitary confinement, which is said to be more dreaded by prisoners than any other punishment, was prescribed in more than half the cases. The "other punishments" include "separate confinement," which is gradually taking the place of solitary confinement; but do not include whipping, as corporal punishment is not administered in Victoria for any breach of prison regulations:—

Gaol punishments.

PUNISHMENTS FOR OFFENCES WITHIN PRISONS, 1889.

Nature of Punishment.	Gaols:			Penal Establish-ment.	Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Hard labour ... ..	9	2	11	25	34	2	36
Solitary confinement ..	315	117	432	352	667	117	784
Other punishments ... ..	99	62	161	458	557	62	619
Total ... ..	423	181	604	835	1,258	181	1,439

139. The punishments for offences within the prison, as detailed in the last table, were in the proportion of 1 to every 7 individual prisoners, 1 punishment of a male to every 7 individual male prisoners, 1 punishment of a female to every 9 individual female prisoners. According to the daily average number of prisoners, there was not quite 1 punishment to every prisoner; or very

Proportion of prisoners punished.

nearly 1 punishment to every male, and about 1 punishment to every 2 females.

Trades of  
prisoners.

140. Of the prisoners discharged in 1889, 223 were mechanics or skilled workmen, and of these 88 were set down as having a thorough, and 135 only an imperfect knowledge of their trade. As many as 157, or 70 per cent., had acquired such knowledge as they possessed during the term of their imprisonment. The following is a statement of the handicrafts followed, and of the number of prisoners who pursued each handicraft whilst under detention:—

MECHANICS AND SKILLED WORKMEN DISCHARGED FROM PRISON  
IN 1889.

Trades.	Knowledge of Trade on Discharge.				Total.
	Good.		Imperfect.		
	Learnt Outside.	Learnt in Prison.	Learnt Outside.	Learnt in Prison.	
Bakers ... ..	1	...	...	3	4
Blacksmiths and moulders ... ..	9	...	4	3	16
Bookbinders ... ..	...	...	...	5	5
Carpenters and turners ... ..	2	4	2	3	11
Hat and bag makers ... ..	...	12	...	14	26
Matting and mat makers ... ..	...	...	1	40	41
Masons and bricklayers ... ..	2	...	1	...	3
Painters ... ..	4	...	1	4	9
Printers ... ..	...	1	2	6	9
Shoemakers ... ..	6	8	10	15	39
Stonecutters ... ..	2	...	...	4	6
Tailors ... ..	10	4	...	7	21
Tanners ... ..	...	1	...	...	1
Tinsmiths and plumbers ... ..	2	...	...	...	2
Weavers ... ..	5	15	2	8	30
Total ... ..	43	45	23	112	223

Cost and  
earnings of  
prisoners.

141. In the following statement of the cost\* and earnings of prisoners in detention during the year 1889, the value of prison labour—so far as it was utilized for prison requirements—is added to the cost, as well as accounted for in the earnings of prisoners:—

\* Including the cost of the head office, but exclusive of any allowance for cost of prisoners in Police Gaols, for interest on the cost of gaol buildings, or for such repairs to gaol buildings as were effected by the Public Works Department.



PRISONERS IN VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES,  
1883 TO 1889.

Year.	On the 31st December.					
	Estimated Population.		Number of Prisoners.		Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.	
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	New South Wales.
1883 ...	921,743	857,744	1,442	2,168	15·64	25·28
1884 ...	946,045	903,958	1,428	2,464	15·09	27·26
1885 ...	971,145	957,914	1,444	2,559	14·87	26·71
1886 ...	1,003,043	1,001,966	1,550	2,501	15·45	24·96
1887 ...	1,036,119	1,042,919	1,608	2,380	15·52	22·82
1888 ...	1,090,869	1,085,740	1,698	2,353	15·57	21·68
1889 ...	1,118,028	1,122,200	1,820	2,370	16·28	21·12
Means ...	1,012,427	996,063	1,570	2,399	15·51	24·08

Expenditure  
on police,  
gaols, etc.

144. The following table shows the total amounts and the amounts per head expended in connexion with the police and the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria during the 25½ years ended with 1889-90. The cost of buildings is not included:—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE, GAOLS, ETC., 1865 TO 1889-90.

Year.	Amount Expended* on—			Amount per head of Proportion.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Total.	s.	d.
1865 ...	£ 187,962	£ 62,629	£ 250,591	8	2
1866 ...	194,189	72,522	266,711	8	6
1867 ...	138,226	52,972	191,198	5	11
1868 ...	201,000	71,285	272,285	8	2
1869 ...	157,563	50,913	208,476	6	1
1870 ...	198,027	56,503	254,530	7	2
1871 (six months) ...	95,363	27,101	122,464	3	4
1871-2 ...	190,711	57,855	248,566	6	8
1872-3 ...	187,101	56,017	243,118	6	5
1873-4 ...	194,329	61,787	256,116	6	8
1874-5 ...	198,312	60,469	258,781	6	7
1875-6 ...	199,738	61,051	260,789	6	7
1876-7 ...	197,371	60,008	257,379	6	5
1877-8 ...	207,119	58,132	265,251	6	6
1878-9 ...	209,041	58,442	267,483	6	5

\* Exclusive of the cost of buildings, which in 1888-9 amounted to £43,190.

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE, GAOLS, ETC., 1865 TO 1889-90—  
*continued.*

Year.	Amount Expended* on—			Amount per head of Population.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Total.	s.	d.
	£	£	£		
1879-80 ... ..	233,732	56,636	290,368	6	11
1880-81 ... ..	207,674	53,565	261,239	6	1
1881-2 ... ..	201,063	53,032	254,095	5	9
1882-3 ... ..	204,561	57,128	261,689	5	9
1883-4 ... ..	216,973	55,836	272,809	5	10
1884-5 ... ..	217,684	57,311	274,995	5	9
1885-6 ... ..	224,237	60,644	284,881	5	9
1886-7 ... ..	233,173	59,894	293,067	5	10
1887-8 ... ..	240,840	65,385	306,225	5	11
1888-9 ... ..	261,329	66,163	327,492	6	1
1889-90 ... ..	270,308	71,422	341,730	6	1
Total ... ..	5,267,626	1,524,702	6,792,328	6	3

145. By the figures in the last column it will be observed that the police and gaols expenditure ranged from 8s. 6d. per head in 1866 to about 5s. 9d. in the five years 1881-2 to 1885-6. In 1888-9 and 1889-90 it was 6s. 1d., or 3d. more than the average during the previous 8 years. Expenditure per head.

146. The inquests held in 1889 numbered 1,795, as against 1,669 in 1888. In 841 instances the death was found to have resulted from disease or natural causes; in 22 cases, from intemperance; in 888 cases, from violence; in 38 cases, from doubtful causes; and in 6 cases a verdict of "still-born" was returned. Of the deaths set down to violence, the verdict in 591 cases was to the effect that the death had resulted from accident; in 18 from homicide; in 150, from suicide; 3 from execution; and in 126 that the cause of the violent death was doubtful. The practice of holding inquests in cases of other than violent deaths was not so common in 1888 and 1889 as in the previous nine years. In 1879, the proportion which verdicts of "death from disease or natural causes" bore to the total number of verdicts given was 50 per cent.; in 1880, 52 per cent.; in 1881, 51 per cent.; in 1882, 53 per cent.; in 1883, 49 per cent.; and in 1884 and 1885, 55 per cent.; in 1886, 51 per cent.; in 1887, 49 per cent.; in 1888, 46 per cent.; and in 1889, 47 per cent. Inquests in cases of death occurring under suspicious circumstances are held at the discretion of the coroner of the district within which the death takes place, subject to Inquests.

\* Exclusive of the cost of buildings, which in 1888-9 amounted to £43,190.

instructions issued by the Governor in Council under the 3rd section of the *Coroners Statute 1865* (28 Vict. No. 253).

Fire  
inquests.

147. Six fire inquests were held in 1889, as against none in 1888, 5 in 1887, 4 in 1886, and 9 in both 1885 and 1884. The verdicts returned in 1889 were to the effect that one fire was caused purposely, and 2 accidentally; whilst there was not sufficient evidence to show how the other three took place. Under the *Amending Coroners Statute* (33 Vict. No. 338), which came into operation on the 19th August, 1869, fire inquests may be held at the request of any individual who lodges with his application a fee of £5 5s., or in pursuance of Ministerial authority, which is only given when circumstances appear sufficiently suspicious to warrant action being taken.

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