

PART VII.—LAW, CRIME, ETC.

245. 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.*

246. 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.*

247. 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, 1890, was £78,345,† of which £34,823 had been invested in Government stock. Eighteen claims upon the fund, of which four—for £26, £100, £200, and £1,524 respectively—were satisfied in 1889-90, have been substantiated since its first formation, and sums amounting in the aggregate to £5,383 (including costs) have been paid to claimants.

*Assurance
fund.*

248. In 1890, as compared with 1889, an increase took place in the number of applications to bring land under the *Transfer of Land Act* (54 Vict. No. 1,149); but a decrease of 7 per cent. in the extent, and a decrease of as much as 47 per cent. in the value, of land actually brought thereunder. A considerable decrease also 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:—

*Transac-
tions under
the Land
Statute
1889 and
1890.*

* 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.

† Since 1884-5 the Assurance Fund has been reduced by £75,073; 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, 1889 AND 1890.

		1889.	1890.
Applications to bring land under the Act	... number	1,176 ...	1,194
Extent of land included	... acres	82,592 ...	111,116
Land brought under the Act—			
By application	... acres	86,384 ...	69,162
"	... value	£5,286,463 ...	£2,648,750
By grant and purchase from the Crown	... acres	258,233 ...	249,568
"	... purchase money	£330,054 ...	£322,946
Certificates of title issued*	... number	19,395 ...	15,909
Transfers, mortgages, leases, releases, surrenders, etc.	"	51,833 ...	47,239
Registering proprietors	"	6 ...	10
Other transactions	"	56,301 ...	52,042
Forms and extras	"	758 ...	459
Fees received	... value	£66,807 ...	£54,173

Proportion of land under the Statute.

249. The total quantity of land under the *Transfer of Land Statute* at the end of 1890 was 12,741,032 acres, the declared value of which, at the time it was placed under the Act, was £48,247,560. The land granted and sold up to the end of 1890 was 16,091,880 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.

250. Of the whole extent of land under the Statute, 1,419,445 acres, valued at about $33\frac{3}{4}$ millions sterling, were brought thereunder by application, and the remainder, amounting to 11,321,587 acres, valued at about $14\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

251. 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 1890.

Number of—	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
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	1
Orders issued	132	106	71	51	22	24	27	21
Reports issued	20	20	10	9	7	6	6	2
Recognizances entered into	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rolls filed	40	29	2	1	...	...	...	...

* Including 2,292 Friendly Societies in 1889, and 1,889 in 1890.

252. In 1890, as compared with 1889, there was an increase of 7 per cent. in the number of probates and letters of administration issued, although there was a decrease of 23 per cent. in the value of property bequeathed. The average value of each estate in 1889 was £3,869, and in 1890 £2,790. The following are the figures for those years :—

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1889 AND 1890.

Year.	Probates.		Letters of Administration.*		Both.	
	Number.	Property sworn under— £	Number.	Property sworn under— £	Number.	Property sworn under— £
1889 ...	1,752	10,077,568	1,156	1,174,528	2,908	11,252,096
1890 ...	1,801	7,747,899	1,306	919,228	3,107	8,667,127
Increase	49	...	150	...	199	...
Decrease	...	2,329,669	...	255,300	...	2,584,969

253. During the twenty-six years ended with 1890, the value of the property respecting which probates and letters of administration were issued amounted to nearly eighty-five millions sterling (£84,719,735). During the same period the total number of deaths in the colony was 339,626, so that the average value of property left by each person who died was £250. The average value in 1886 was £303; in 1887, £325; in 1888, £431; in 1889, £580; and in 1890 £481; or an average of £424 in the last five years.†

254. 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 :—

* Including those granted to the Curator of Estates of Deceased Persons.

† See paragraphs 837 to 844, Vol. I.

‡ The law relating to estates of deceased persons has been consolidated by Act 54 Vict., No. 1,060.

§ Exempted since the 1st January, 1890.

SCALE OF DUTIES ON ESTATES ON 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 „

Amount of probate, etc., duties.

255. The amount realized by the State in 1890 from duties on estates of deceased persons was nearly £170,000 less than in 1889, slightly larger than in 1888, and considerably larger than in any other previous year. The amounts fluctuate considerably from year to year, as will be observed by the following figures for the last twenty years:—

DUTIES ON ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS, 1871 TO 1890.

£			£		
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	1890	...	221,721

Intestate estates.

256. The new intestate estates dealt with by the Curator in 1889 numbered 359; those in 1890 numbered 347.† The sums received by the Curator on these estates and on others remaining from former years were £54,924 in 1889, and £51,970 in 1890. In the twenty years ended with 1890, the number of intestate estates dealt with was 4,895. The amount received by the Curator in respect to these estates during the twenty years was £893,634.

Divorce and matrimonial.

257. Under the head of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes there were 40 decrees for dissolution of marriage in 1890 as against 22 in 1889. No decrees for judicial separation were pronounced in 1890, but three such decrees were pronounced in 1889. The following was the business done in the two years:—

* The first £1,000 of the value of these estates is exempted from duty.

† These numbers are included in those given in the table following paragraph 252 ante.

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL, 1889 AND 1890.

	1889.	1890.
Petitions for dissolution of marriage number	38	14
„ „ judicial separation „	7	4
Decrees for dissolution of marriage „	22	40
„ „ judicial separation „	3	..

258. 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, 348 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 71 decrees for judicial separation have been made. Divorces in twenty-nine years.

259. As the marriages in 1890 numbered 9,187, the petitions for dissolution of marriage were in the proportion of 1 to every 656 marriages, and the decrees for dissolution of marriage were in the proportion of 1 to every 229 marriages. In the 19 years ended with 1889, the marriages numbered, 117,018, the petitions for dissolution of marriage numbered 455, and the decrees for dissolution of marriage numbered 232. Thus, during the 19 years referred to, there was 1 petition to dissolve marriage to every 257 marriages celebrated, and 1 marriage was dissolved to every 504 marriages celebrated. Proportion of divorces to marriages.

260. 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, in addition to the causes of divorce under the old law, 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.

* *Divorce Act* 1889 (53 Vict. No. 1,056), since embodied in the *Consolidated Act* (54 Vict. No. 1166).

Further provisions of new Divorce Act.

261. The *Divorce Act* referred to 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 the public morals for it to be published; and for the abolition of applications or decrees for the restitution of conjugal rights.

Divorces in Victoria and England.

262. 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.

263. The divorce law of France dates from the latter part of 1884. In the five years ended with 1889 there were 20,357 divorces, the marriages in the same five years being 1,393,220. There was thus 1 divorce to about 68 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.

264. The fees in Equity amounted in the aggregate to £281 in 1889, and to £241 in 1890; those on Probates amounted to £2,353 in 1889, and to £1,882 in 1890; those in Divorce amounted to £94 in 1889, and to £270 in 1890. The total amount of these fees was thus £2,728 in 1889, and £2,393 in 1890.

Collections in Lunacy.

265. The moneys collected and appropriated in the department of the Master-in-Lunacy on behalf of patients (including "percentage" and fees) decreased from £28,094 in 1889 to £26,698 in 1890. It may be mentioned that the total expenditure in 1889-90 on Hospitals for the Insane was £115,109, so that after allowing for the moneys collected from private sources, the net cost to the State on account of lunatic patients in that year was about £88,411.

266. In the twenty-three years ended with 1890, 16,150 insolvencies took place in Victoria, with liabilities amounting to over 17 millions sterling, as against which assets were declared amounting to over 12 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 1890.

Year.	Number of Insolvencies.	As shown by the Insolvents' 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
1890	795	2,301,271	2,041,200	260,071
Total...	16,150	17,406,771	12,141,656	5,265,115†

267. According to the table, insolvencies in 1890 were more numerous by 98 than in 1889, and were also more numerous than in any other year since 1879. The assets and liabilities in 1890, as shown by the insolvents' schedules, although somewhat less than in 1889, were largely in excess of those in any other year.

268. 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

* The plus sign (+) indicates a surplus.

† Net figures.

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.

Occupations
of insol-
vents.

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

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1887 TO 1890.

Occupations.			1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION,	PROFESSIONS, LITERATURE—	ARTS,				
Architect	...	...	...	...	3	2
Artist	...	...	...	1	...	1
Chemist	...	...	2	1	...	2
Circus proprietor	...	...	...	...	...	1
Civil engineer	...	...	...	...	1	...
Civil servant	...	...	2	1	4	5
Clerk of works...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Comedian, tragedian	...	...	1	2	1	...
Dentist	...	...	1	...	...	...
Draughtsman	...	...	...	...	2	2
Equestrian	...	...	...	...	1	...
Herbalist	...	...	...	...	2	...
Journalist	...	...	2	1	2	...
Medical man	...	...	...	...	1	2
Musician, music teacher	...	...	...	2	1	1
News agent	...	...	1	...	...	...
Photographer	...	...	1	1	2	3
Phrenologist	...	...	...	...	1	...
Police constable	...	...	...	...	1	...
Printer	...	...	1	1	4	3
Reporter	...	...	...	...	1	...
Schoolmaster, teacher	...	...	1	3	1	5
Shire secretary	...	...	...	...	...	1
Solicitor	...	...	1	...	...	2
Theatrical manager, agent	...	...	1	2	1	2
BOARD AND LODGING, DOMESTIC DUTIES, ATTENDANCE—						
Billiard-room keeper	...	...	1	...	...	...
Boarding-house keeper	...	...	11	12	14	12
Caterer	...	...	1	...	...	...
Charwoman	...	...	...	...	1	1
Coffee-stall keeper	...	...	1	...	...	...

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1887 TO 1890—*continued.*

Occupations.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
BOARD AND LODGING, DOMESTIC DUTIES, ATTENDANCE—<i>continued</i>—				
Cook ... ..	...	...	...	1
Hotel-broker	2	...	...	...
Hotel-keeper	21	17	40	36
Married woman	5	1	8	6
Odd Job Help Company... ..	1	...	...	...
Public entertainer	1	...	...	...
Restaurant-keeper	2	2	3	4
Servants' registry office keeper	1	...	...	...
Spinster	1	...	...	...
Widow	6	1	3	5
COMMERCIAL PURSUITS—				
Accountant	1	4	6	8
Agent, commission agent	16	10	27	23
Auctioneer, estate agent	1	...	9	11
Bellman ... ..	...	1	...	...
Bookkeeper, clerk	11	3	13	9
Commercial traveller, canvasser	5	2	4	6
Dealer (undefined)	10	3	10	7
Debt collector	1	...	...	1
Financier	1	...	...	...
Hawker	4	1	...	...
Ironmonger	2	...	2	1
Machinery merchant	1	...	...	...
Mercantile, stock and share broker ... ..	...	...	5	7
Merchant, importer	3	4	...	12
Salesman	2	...	4	3
Sewing machine importer	1	...	...	...
Stationer, assistant to ditto	2	...	...	1
Storekeeper (undefined)	12	13	15	18
Warehouseman	1	...	1	3
CARRIERS—				
Bullock driver	1	1	...	...
Cabman, driver	3	4	2	4
Carrier, carter	10	12	14	17
Coach proprietor ... ..	...	...	...	1
Gripman ... ..	...	...	...	1
Mail contractor ... ..	...	...	1	...
Mariner	1	...	1	2
Omnibus driver	1	1	...	...
Railway employé	1	...	1	2
Stationmaster	1	...	...	...
Stoker ... ..	...	2	...	1
AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS AND LAND—				
Farmer, selector	53	62	58	86
Freeholder	1	...	1	...
Gardener	5	2	3	4
Labourer on farm ... ..	...	...	...	2
Nurseryman ... ..	...	1	...	...

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1887 TO 1890—*continued.*

Occupations.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS AND LAND—				
<i>continued—</i>				
Seedsman ... ..	...	...	1	1
Surveyor	1	1	...	2
Vinegrower ... ..	...	1	...	...
PASTORAL PURSUITS AND ANIMALS—				
Boundary rider	1	...	...	...
Cattle dealer	1	2	5	4
Drover ... ..	...	...	1	2
Fisherman ... ..	...	1	...	1
Grazier	14	6	12	6
Groom	1	...	1	4
Horse proprietor, dealer, trainer, breaker	2	2	4	3
Livery-stable keeper	1	1	3	3
Overseer sheep station ... ..	...	...	1	...
Rabbit trapper	1	...	1	...
Stock and station agent	1	1	2	...
ARTIZANS, MECHANICS, LABOURERS—				
Bellows-maker ... ..	...	1	...	...
Bicycle-maker ... ..	...	...	...	1
Bricklayer	4	3	2	2
Brushmaker ... ..	...	...	...	1
Builder, contractor	55	45	70	70
Carpenter	14	12	10	22
Chairmaker ... ..	...	...	1	1
Coachbuilder	8	1	7	9
Cooper	1	1	...	...
Dyer	1	...	...	...
Engraver	1	1	1	...
Factory employé ... ..	...	...	...	1
Fancy-goods maker	1	...	...	...
Fire-kindler maker	1	...	...	...
Furniture maker, dealer, warehouse- man	3	1	3	7
House decorator ... ..	...	...	1	1
Labourer (undefined)	75	57	52	56
Manufacturer (undefined) ... ..	...	1	3	2
Mason	1	1	4	3
Monumental mason	1	...	...	...
Organ-builder ... ..	...	...	1	...
Painter	6	3	11	5
Pile-driver ... ..	...	...	1	...
Plasterer	4	2	4	6
Plumber	7	3	4	3
Saddler	4	4	9	6
Shipwright	1	...	...	...
Sign writer ... ..	...	...	1	...
Slater ... ..	...	1	1	...
Turner	1	...	...	...
Upholsterer, mattress maker	1	...	4	1
Venetian blind maker	1	...	...	...
Watchmaker, jeweller	6	6	9	5

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1887 TO 1890—*continued.*

Occupations.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
ARTIZANS, MECHANICS, LABOUREES—				
<i>continued—</i>				
Wheelwright	1	1	...	3
Whipmaker ... ..	...	...	...	1
Works overseer ... ..	...	...	1	...
DRESS—				
Boot, Shoe-maker, dealer ...	21	14	14	19
Draper—Assistant to ditto ...	5	3	5	7
Dressmaker	2	...	...	3
Hairdresser	3	7	5	11
Hatter ... ..	...	1	...	...
Laundress	1	...	1	...
Laundry proprietor ... ..	...	...	1	1
Seamstress ... ..	...	1	...	...
Shirtmaker ... ..	...	1	...	...
Tailor	6	3	3	13
Underclothing manufacturer ...	...	...	1	...
FIBROUS MATERIALS—				
Flock manufacturer	1	...	...	...
Rope-maker ... ..	...	...	...	1
Tent-maker ... ..	...	1	...	...
ANIMAL FOOD—				
Butcher	18	13	19	25
Dairyman ... ..	...	...	1	5
Fishmonger	2	...	...	...
Ham and beef shop keeper ...	1	...	...	...
Milk-seller	1	...	...	...
Poulterer ... ..	...	1	...	...
VEGETABLE FOOD—				
Baker	5	4	10	3
Confectioner	1	1	3	4
Fruiterer	6	8	5	9
Greengrocer ... ..	...	...	4	4
Miller	1	1	...	2
DRINKS AND STIMULANTS—				
Aërated water, cordial manufacturer	4	...	1	1
Brewer	2	...	...	...
Cellarman ... ..	...	...	1	...
Grocer—Assistant to ditto ...	12	7	10	13
Tea merchant ... ..	...	...	3	...
Tea packer ... ..	...	1	...	...
Tobacconist	3	1	...	1
Wine-hall keeper ... ..	...	...	1	1
Wine-seller, merchant ... ..	...	...	1	1
ANIMAL MATTERS—				
Currier	1	...	...	...
Hide merchant ... ..	...	...	1	1
Leather merchant	1	...	...	...
Skin cleaner ... ..	...	...	...	1
Tanner	1	...	2	...
Wool and skin merchant ... ..	...	...	1	1
Wool presser ... ..	...	1	...	...

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1887 TO 1890—*continued.*

Occupations.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
VEGETABLE MATTERS—				
Chaff cutter	1	...	1	1
French-polisher ... ..	...	1	...	...
Hay, corn and produce dealer ...	6	3	6	7
Saw-mill owner, sawyer	7	3	6	3
Timber merchant	2	...	1	7
Wood, coal merchant	3	3	2	3
Wood splitter ... ..	...	5	3	3
MINING, ENGAGED IN—				
Miner	22	20	23	23
Mining explorer ... ..	...	...	1	...
Mining manager	1	1	1	...
Mining speculator	2	1	1	1
Quartz-crusher ... ..	...	1	...	...
Stamper-feeder	1	...	...	...
COAL, STONE, CLAY, ETC.—				
Brickmaker	2	5	2	5
Charcoal burner ... ..	...	...	1	...
Chimney-sweeper ... ..	...	1	...	...
Nightman	1	...	...	...
Quarryman	1	...	...	...
Tile-maker	1	...	...	...
MINERALS AND METALS—				
Blacksmith	5	10	10	9
Boilermaker	1	...	...	...
Brassfounder ... ..	...	...	...	2
Engine-driver (undefined)	3	3	1	2
Engineer	1	4	4	6
Farrier ... ..	...	...	...	1
Gold-broker ... ..	...	...	1	...
Ironfounder, dresser	1	1	4	2
Machinist ... ..	...	...	...	1
Pyrites worker	2	...	...	1
Tinsmith ... ..	...	...	3	1
INDEFINITE AND NON-PRODUCTIVE—				
Bookmaker ... ..	...	...	...	1
Gentleman	3	3	12	10
Gentlewoman	1	...	...	1
Manager (undefined) ... ..	...	...	1	...
No occupation ... ..	...	...	...	18
Out of business	14	12	9	...
Overseer (undefined) ... ..	...	...	1	...
Speculator (undefined) ... ..	...	...	3	...
Watchman ... ..	...	...	...	2
Total	619	479	697	795

270. It will be noticed that the occupations which contributed most largely to the list of insolvents in the four years were those of farmers or selectors, numbering 259; labourers, 240; builders, contractors, 240; hotelkeepers, 114; miners, 88; commission agents, etc., 76; butchers, 75; boot and shoe makers, 68; storekeepers, 58; carpenters, 58; carriers, etc., 53; and boarding-house keepers, 49.

Occupations with most insolvencies.

271. In the last eight years insolvencies have been much more numerous in New South Wales than in Victoria; and in four of the last five years they were even more numerous than in the worst year (1879) named in the table following paragraph 266 *ante*. In 1889 and 1890—which, however, were exceptional years—the liabilities, as shown by the insolvents' schedules, were respectively three times and twice 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:—

Insolvencies in New South Wales.

INSOLVENCIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES, 1883 TO 1890.

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
1890	1,193	1,203,685	540,726	662,959

272. In 1889, as is shown in the following table, the insolvencies in all the Australasian colonies numbered 3,092, and the total deficiency, according to the insolvents' schedules, amounted to £483,237. It will be observed that in that year the insolvencies in New South Wales exceeded those in Victoria by 404, and whilst there was a deficiency of £398,000 in the former, there was an apparent surplus of £237,000 in the latter:—

Insolvencies in Australasian colonies.

INSOLVENCIES IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1889.

Colony.	Number of Insolvencies	As shown by the Insolvents' Schedules.		
		Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
		£	£	£
Victoria	697	2,389,731	2,627,182	+ 237,451*
New South Wales	1,101	794,603	396,723	397,880
Queensland	364	328,175	213,475	114,700
South Australia	95	57,708	31,423	26,285
Western Australia	32	...	...	...
Total Australia	2,289	3,570,217	3,268,803	301,414†
Tasmania	79	57,878	36,214	21,664
New Zealand	724	602,033	441,874	160,159
Total Australasia	3,092	4,230,128	3,746,891	483,237

Failures in the United Kingdom.

273. The figures in the following table, which represent the number of failures‡ in England and Wales in the eleven years ended with 1889, together with the liabilities and assets of the insolvents, and the proportion of the latter to the former, have been taken from official sources :—

FAILURES‡ IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1879 TO 1889.

Year.	Number of Cases.	Total Amounts of—		Percentage— Assets to Liabilities.
		Liabilities.	Assets.	
		£	£	
1879	13,132	29,678,194	10,193,617	34·3
1880	10,298	16,188,637	4,701,506	29·0
1881	9,727	17,679,347	4,890,899	27·6
1882	9,041	19,108,060	5,492,919	28·7
1883	8,555	21,268,153	5,987,545	28·1
1884§	4,192	14,048,712	4,038,975	28·7
1885	4,354	9,064,456	3,101,323	34·2
1886	4,857	7,995,037	2,877,644	36·0
1887	4,866	8,995,752	2,682,522	29·8
1888	4,859	7,148,950	2,256,379	31·6
1889	4,542	6,380,362	1,998,957	31·3

NOTE.—In 1888 there were also 3,495 deeds of arrangement under the *Deeds of Arrangement Act* 1887, in which the liabilities were set down at £4,803,481, and the assets at £2,416,755, leaving a deficiency of £3,192,311; and in 1889 there were 3,337, the liabilities being £4,773,947, the assets £2,718,721, and the deficiency £2,961,466. See *The Manufacturer and Inventor* (London paper), for 20th October, 1890, page 389.

* Surplus.

† Net figures.

‡ Including besides bankruptcies (proper), liquidations by arrangements, and compositions with creditors.

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

274. 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 six 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.

Change of
bankruptcy
law in
United
Kingdom.

275. 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 1890, as compared with 1889, there was an increase in the number of transactions and in the fees received under most of these heads, but especially under the head of Patents, the only decreases being under the heads of Registry and the *Companies Statute*. The following are the returns for the two years:—

Registrar-
General.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TRANSACTIONS AND FEES, 1889 AND 1890.

Nature of Transaction.	Transactions.		Fees.*	
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
Registry	19,828	17,018	£ 5,595	£ 5,086
<i>Companies Statute</i>	10,318	9,409	2,856	2,056
Bills and contracts of sale	7,318	7,630	366	381
Births, deaths, and marriages certificates	5,326	6,338	1,296	1,366
Patents	1,972	3,236	2,203	2,763
Copyrights	683	688	90	103
Trade-marks	880	1,247	523	761
Searches in connexion with the above	24,361	26,640	1,617	1,732
Miscellaneous fees	3	1	40	52
Total	70,689	72,207	14,586	14,300

276. The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during 1889 and 1890 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.† A small increase will be observed in the

Offences
reported.

* These fees are now received by the Collector of Imposts appointed under the *Stamps Act* 1890.

† 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.

number apprehended, but a decrease under the other heads, resulting in a slight increase during the year in the total number of offences:—

OFFENCES REPORTED, 1889 AND 1890.

Offences in respect to which persons were—	1889.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
1. Brought before magistrates on summons	26,678	26,190	...	488
2. Apprehended by the police ...	37,321	38,594	1,273	...
3. Still at large* ...	7,282	6,877	...	405
Total ...	71,281	71,661	380†	...

Summons cases.

277. Forty 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 1890 with 1889, a decrease in the number of persons summoned is shown under all the heads, but a small increase in the number of such persons summarily convicted. The following are the figures for the two years:—

OFFENCES DEALT WITH BY SUMMONS, 1889 AND 1890.‡

	1889.	1890.	Decrease.
Offences against the person ...	1,485	1,424	61
" " property ...	431	203	228
Minor offences ...	24,762	24,563	199
Total ...	26,678	26,190	488
Cases dismissed by magistrates ...	6,815	6,269	546
Offender summarily convicted or held to bail...	19,863	19,921	+ 58§

* 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.

† Net figures.

‡ 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 plus sign (+) indicates increase.

278. Very full details are given of the offences which gave occasion for the apprehensions made by the police; but, in making up the return, 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.*

Charges counted as persons.

279. The persons† who were taken in charge by the Victorian police in 1890 numbered 38,594, as against 37,321 in 1889, showing an increase of 1,273 in the number of arrests.

Arrests, 1889 and 1890.

280. The arrests in 1890, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennia, were as follow:—

Arrests, 1880, 1885, and 1890.

PERSONS‡ ARRESTED, 1880, 1885, AND 1890.§

Number of Persons.	1880.	1885.	1890.
Taken into custody	23,983	28,855	38,594
Discharged by magistrates	7,432	9,674	12,971
Summarily convicted or held to bail	15,871	18,413	24,494
Committed for trial	680	768	1,129

281. 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 1880 was 850,343; in 1885, 956,880; and in 1890, 1,118,500; the arrests were, therefore, in the proportion of 1 to every 35 persons living at the first, 1 to every 33 persons living at the second period, and 1 to every 30 persons living at the third period.

Arrests: proportion to population.

282. The persons summarily convicted, held to bail, or committed for trial, were, to the whole number arrested, in the proportion of 69 per cent. at the first period, and of 66 per cent. at the second and third periods.

Proportion of times charge was sustained.

283. There was a considerable increase in the prevalence of serious offences at the last as compared with the two previous periods; this

Serious offences

* For 1884, a table was compiled showing the number of charges on which each individual was arrested. See paragraphs 62 to 67, Vol. II., of the edition of this work for 1889-90.

† See preceding paragraph.

‡ See paragraph 278 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.

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 35 arrests at the first period, of 1 to every 38 arrests at the middle period, and of 1 to every 34 arrests at the third period.

Males and females arrested.

284. 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, 1880, 1885, AND 1890.

	1880.		1885.		1890.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Taken into custody	18,857	5,126	23,155	5,700	31,736	6,858
Discharged by magistrates ...	5,763	1,669	7,717	1,957	10,547	2,424
Summarily convicted or held to bail	12,469	3,402	14,773	3,640	20,189	4,305
Committed for trial	625	55	665	103	1,000	129

Cases in which charge was sustained.

285. 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 69 per cent. and 67 per cent. in 1880, of 67 per cent. and 66 per cent. in 1885, and of 67 per cent. and 65 per cent. in 1890.

Relative proportions of male and female criminals.

286. The next table shows the relative proportion 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 :—

MALES AND FEMALES.—RELATIVE PROPORTIONS ARRESTED, 1880, 1885, AND 1890.

	Number of Females to 100 Males.		
	1880.	1885.	1890.
Taken into custody	27·19	24·62	21·61
Discharged by magistrates	28·96	25·36	22·98
Summarily convicted or held to bail...	27·28	24·64	21·32
Committed for trial	8·80	15·49	12·90

Relative proportions of male and female criminals at three periods.

287. 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

* See paragraph 278 *ante*.

former periods; but the proportion of females committed for trial at the last period was larger than at the first period, but was not 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; for at all the periods the females in the colony were in the proportion of about 90 to every 100 males.

288. 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.

CAUSES OF ARREST, 1880, 1885, AND 1890.

Offence.	1880.	1885.	1890.
Murder and attempt at murder	26	20	33
Manslaughter	10	11	23
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	65	63	95
Assault	1,767	1,867	2,281
Rape and indecent assault on females	81	57	69
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit	16	9	17
Minor offences against the person	119	139	149
Robbery with violence, burglary, etc.	245	287	465
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, etc.	171	149	129
Other offences against property	3,534	3,026	4,239
Forgery and offences against the currency	56	80	87
Drunkenness	10,056	13,580	18,501
Other offences against good order	6,111	8,016	10,810
Offences relating to carrying out laws	329	210	245
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	79	93	158
Offences against public welfare	1,318	1,248	1,293
Total	23,983	28,855	38,594

289. 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, manslaughter, shooting with intent, assaults, unnatural offence and minor offences against the person, robbery with violence or burglary, miscellaneous offences against property, forgery, drunkenness and other offences against good order, and smuggling and other offences against the revenue. But for horse, sheep and cattle stealing, there were fewer arrests at the last than at either of the former periods; and for rape and indecent assault, for offences relating to carrying out the laws, and for those against public welfare, there were fewer than at the first period. The most marked

Offences at last period.

increases in 1890, as compared with previous periods, have occurred in the arrests for assaults, robbery and burglary, murder, manslaughter, miscellaneous offences against property, smuggling, etc., and drunkenness, and other offences against good order—most especially the first and last-named offences. It is probable that the increase in the number of assaults and of cases of drunkenness was partly attributable to circumstances arising out of the labour strikes of the year.

Drunken-
ness.

290. 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:—

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	„
„	1890,	„	„	60	„

Increase of
drunken-
ness.

291. It will be observed that in the three years 1879 to 1881, during the first eighteen months of which period the colony was in a depressed condition, 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 years 1889 and 1890, 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.

Minor
offences.

292. 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 21,019 in 1880, 25,870 in 1885, and 34,843 in 1890; 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.

293. 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 158 persons were taken into custody for such offences in 1890, which, however, is larger than the number in 1885, or in 1880.

Smuggling and other offences against revenue.

294. The ages of those taken into custody in 1890, and the degree of instruction possessed by them, are shown in the following table:—

Age and education of arrested persons.

DEGREE OF INSTRUCTION AND AGE OF PERSONS* ARRESTED, 1890.

Ages.	Superior Instruction.	Read and Write well.	Read only or Read and Write imperfectly.	Unable to Read.	Total.
Under 10 years ...	...	2	87	346	435
10 „ 15 „ ...	...	14	543	89	646
15 „ 20 „ ...	3	195	1,932	107	2,237
20 „ 25 „ ...	13	574	5,327	244	6,158
25 „ 30 „ ...	17	666	5,581	294	6,558
30 „ 40 „ ...	53	978	7,155	566	8,752
40 „ 50 „ ...	34	577	4,909	612	6,132
50 „ 60 „ ...	22	359	3,584	562	4,527
60 years and upwards	13	185	2,437	502	3,137
Unspecified ...	...	...	11	1	12
Total ...	155	3,550	31,566	3,323	38,594

295. 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 1890, according to the table, was 1,081, and of these not one was possessed of superior instruction; only 16, or one in 68, could read and write well; and 435, or more than a third, were unable to read. The number of children under 15 committed for trial was 6, viz., 5 boys and 1 girl; only one of whom (a boy) could read and write well, while the others could read and write more or less imperfectly.

Education of children arrested.

* See paragraph 278 ante.

Education of
adults.

296. Those over 15 years arrested numbered 37,513, and of these 3,689, or nearly a tenth (including those possessed of superior instruction), could read and write well, whilst 2,888, or a thirteenth, could not read. Those over 15 years of age committed for trial numbered 1,123, of whom 244, or more than a fifth, could read and write well, or were possessed of superior instruction, and 54, or one in 20, 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 census of 1881 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; and it is probable that even better results will be shown by the census of 1891, when the results have been duly tabulated.

Birthplaces
and reli-
gions of
criminals.

297. The following table shows the birthplaces and religions of the persons taken into custody and of those committed for trial in 1890. The proportions to the population are not given, as pending the compilation of the census returns any estimates which might have been made of the total numbers of each nationality and sect would probably have been wide of the mark:—

**BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PERSONS* ARRESTED AND
COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1890.**

Birthplace and Religion.	Persons Arrested.	Persons Committed for Trial.
BIRTHPLACE.		
Victoria†	12,429	455
Other Australasian colonies †	2,785	140
Australian Aborigines ...	39	...
England and Wales	8,323	251
Scotland	3,256	58
Ireland	8,930	107
China	236	6
Other countries	2,596	112
Total	38,594	1,129
RELIGION.		
Protestants	21,356	716
Roman Catholics	16,017	369
Jews	167	20
Buddhists, Confucians, etc. ...	266	5
Others	788	19

* See paragraph 278 *ante*.

† Exclusive of aborigines.

298. 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 in the last two years a larger proportion of Roman Catholics were unjustly committed than of Protestants, and a larger proportion of members of both these denominations than of Jews or Pagans. 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 AND 1890.

Religions.	Number tried in 1890.†	Convictions in 1890.		Percentage in Year 1889.
		Total Number.	Percentage of Number Tried.	
Protestants ...	598	413	69·06	72·8
Roman Catholics	343	222	64·72	69·8
Jews ...	16	13	81·25	80·9
Buddhists, Confucians, etc.	5	4	80·00	90·0
Others ...	15	10	66·67	68·4
Total ...	977	662	67·76	72·0

299. The religions of persons taken into custody in 1890 are given in the following table in connexion with their offences:—

Causes of arrest, and religions.

* See paragraph 278 ante.

† Exclusive of those not prosecuted, who numbered 121 in 1890. 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, 1890.

Offence.	Religions.					Total.
	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Jews.	Buddhists, Confucians, etc.	Others.	
Murder and attempt at murder	18	11	...	1	3	33
Manslaughter	17	6	...	...	...	23
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	50	44	...	1	...	95
Assault	1,228	962	13	30	48	2,281
Rape and indecent assault on females	44	25	...	...	...	69
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit	10	6	...	...	1	17
Other offences against the person	100	42	3	1	3	149
Robbery with violence, burglary, etc.	259	201	...	2	3	465
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, etc.	69	57	...	1	2	129
Other offences against property	2,510	1,549	51	45	84	4,239
Forgery and offences against the currency	66	19	1	...	1	87
Drunkenness	10,080	8,017	16	11	377	18,501
Other offences against good order	5,829	4,578	72	122	209	10,810
Offences relating to the carrying out of laws	148	86	1	1	9	245
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	73	57	2	23	3	158
Offences against public welfare	855	357	8	28	45	1,293
Total	21,356	16,017	167	266	788	38,594

Causes of arrest of each sect compared.

300. It will be observed that 18 Protestants, 11 Roman Catholics, 1 Buddhist, etc., and 3 of other beliefs, were arrested for murder and attempt at murder; 67 Protestants, 50 Roman Catholics, and 1 Buddhist, etc., were arrested for manslaughter, shooting at, or seriously wounding; 54 Protestants and 31 Roman Catholics, and 1 of other beliefs, were arrested for sexual offences. Over 10,000 Protestants, over 8,000 Roman Catholics, 16 Jews, 11 Buddhists, etc., and 377 of unspecified religions, were arrested for drunkenness. No Jew was arrested during the year for homicide or for a sexual offence.

Religions of drunkards.

301. Arrests for drunkenness and other offences against good order were in the proportion of 74 per cent. of the total arrests of Protestants, of 79 per cent. of those of Roman Catholics, of 53 per cent. of those of Jews, of 50 per cent. of those of Buddhists, Confucians, etc., and of 74 per cent. of those of persons of other beliefs. These proportions vary but little from year to year.

302. The next table shows the occupations of the males and females Occupations
taken into custody in 1890 :— of persons
arrested.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1890.

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
GOVERNMENT, PROFESSIONS, ARTS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE.		
Government officer	17	...
Police, penal officer	4	...
Officer of local body	4	...
Army, navy—officer, man	6	...
Clergyman, etc.	3	...
Lawyer	14	...
Law clerk, law student	4	...
Others connected with law	5	...
Medical man, student	17	...
Dentist	11	...
Chemist, druggist	44	...
Midwife ... ..	...	1
Others connected with medicine	4	...
Author, editor, reporter	29	...
Bookseller, news vendor	17	...
Printer	204	...
Science, connected with	18	...
Education, engaged in	42	4
Fine arts, engaged in	25	...
Photographer	11	...
Music, teacher of, musician	50	10
Theatres and exhibitions, connected with	90	2
BOARD AND LODGING, DOMESTIC DUTIES, ATTENDANCE.		
Hotelkeeper	53	6
Board and lodging, connected with	18	1
Domestic servant, cook	357	841
Hotel, boarding-house, etc., servant	142	9
Charitable institution, servant	2	...
Nurse (not servant) ... ..	...	12
Shoemaker	13	...
Opium shopkeeper	4	...
Attendance, engaged in	8	29
COMMERCIAL PURSUITS.		
Merchant	21	...
Auctioneer, etc.	16	...
Broker, agent, etc.	205	...
Commercial clerk, etc.	579	...
Commercial traveller, salesman	136	...
Other mercantile persons	32	...
Ironmonger	11	...
Shopkeeper	73	3
Hawker, pedlar	584	14
Marine storekeeper	3	...
Rag, bottle gatherer, dealer	31	...
General dealer	409	4

* See paragraph 278 ante.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1890—*continued.*

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
CARRYING AND MESSAGES.		
Railway service	53	1
Omnibus, cab—driver, owner	333	...
Drayman, carter, carrier	398	...
Others connected with conveyance	7	...
Ship—owner, master, officer, seaman (not navy)	1,251	...
Steamship—engineer, stoker, coal trimmer	81	...
Ship—servant, steward, etc.	44	...
Boatman, waterman, etc.	9	...
Stevedore, or otherwise connected with ships	6	...
Harbour pier, pilot lighthouse—service... ..	1	...
Messenger, porter, errand boy... ..	16	...
Telegraph service	7	...
AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS AND LAND.		
Farmer, market gardener, farm servant, labourer, etc.	837	4
Land, estate—agent, proprietor, etc.	3	...
Land surveyor and assistants	39	...
Others connected with land	7	...
PASTORAL PURSUITS AND ANIMALS.		
Squatter, grazier, station servant, labourer, etc.	68	...
Horse dealer, proprietor, etc.	8	...
Veterinary surgeon, farrier	15	...
Horse-breaker, groom, jockey	445	...
Live stock salesman	5	...
Animal dealer, keeper	1	...
Game, rabbit catcher	5	...
Fisherman	30	...
Drover and others engaged about animals	59	...
ARTIZANS, MECHANICS, LABOURERS.		
Bookbinder	6	...
Musical instrument maker, dealer	8	...
Prints and pictures, connected with	5	...
Carving and figures, connected with	29	...
Watch and clock maker, dealer	47	...
Philosophical instrument maker, dealer... ..	5	...
Gunsmith, etc.	2	...
Mechanical or undefined engineer	266	...
Toolmaker, cutler, etc.	33	...
Carriagemaker, wheelwright	81	...
Saddle, harness, and whip maker, dealer	95	...
Shipwright, rigger, boatbuilder	26	...
Sailmaker, shipchandler, etc.	11	...
Builder, architect	155	...
Carpenter, joiner	857	...
Cooper, turner	59	...
Bricklayer, mason, plasterer, shingler, slater	730	...
Painter, paperhanger, plumber, etc.	489	...
Others connected with buildings	2	...
Cabinet, etc., maker, dealer	104	2

* See paragraph 278 *ante.*

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1890—*continued.*

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
ARTIZANS, MECHANICS, LABOURERS—<i>continued.</i>		
Undertaker	2	...
Chemicals, working or dealing in	14	..
Labourer (undefined)	15,429	1
TEXTILE FABRICS AND DRESS.		
Textile fabrics, manufacturer of, weaver	16	4
Draper and assistants	124	...
Hairdresser, wigmaker, etc.	64	...
Hat and cap maker	21	...
Tailor, tailoress, dealer in clothing	244	59
Milliner, dressmaker ... ..	...	41
Clothing, manufacture, engaged in, machinist	13	23
Boot and shoe maker	700	9
Umbrella—maker, mender	5	...
Washerwoman, laundry man	1	77
FIBROUS MATERIALS.		
Rope, mat, sack, maker	14	...
Tent, tarpaulin, maker, canvas dealer	5	...
ANIMAL FOOD.		
Cowkeeper, dairyman, woman	32	2
Cheesemonger	1	...
Butcher, etc.	307	...
Poulterer, fishmonger	25	...
Other dealers in animal food	1	...
VEGETABLE FOOD.		
Miller, grain and flour dealer, and assistants	22	...
Baker, confectioner	287	...
Greengrocer, fruiterer	27	...
Others dealing in vegetable food	6	...
DRINKS AND STIMULANTS.		
Brewing, connected with	15	...
Wine and spirit merchant	3	...
Distiller, rectifier	1	...
Gingerbeer and sodawater maker	9	...
Grocer and assistants	86	...
Tobacco manufacture, engaged in	45	1
Tobacconist	14	...
ANIMAL MATTERS.		
Soapboiler, candlemaker, tallowmelter	12	...
Tanner, fellmonger, currier	51	...
Leather articles, maker of	7	...
Brush, broom maker	2	...
Wool classer	29	...
Animal matters, working or dealing in	1	...

* See paragraph 278 *ante.*

returned in 1,645 cases, but of those 761 were youths or children, and of the others it is probable that most of them belonged to the criminal classes. Of the females arrested, two-sevenths were set down as prostitutes or brothel-keepers. More than one-half, including 234 young girls, were of no specified occupation; and of the few returned as following regular occupations, three-fourths were domestic servants, and the bulk of the remainder were dressmakers, tailoresses, and washerwomen.

304. The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates in the year 1890 were as follow:—

Results of summary disposal.

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF ARRESTED PERSONS,*
1890.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Imprisonment for 2 years	14	1
„ 1 year and under 2 years	232	92
„ 6 months and under 1 year	351	190
„ 4 months	30	6
„ 3 months	906	332
„ 2 months and under 3 months	314	67
„ 1 month and under 2 months	1,253	395
„ 15 days and under 1 month	78	7
„ 8 days and under 15 days	777	265
„ 7 days and under	5,509	1,390
Fined	9,697	1,214
Ordered to find bail	210	14
Sent to lunatic asylum	308	144
Sent to industrial school or reformatory	331	184
Otherwise dealt with	179	4
Total sentenced	20,189	4,305
Discharged	10,547	2,424
Total summarily disposed of	30,736	6,729

305. Of the persons sentenced by magistrates during 1890, 48 per cent. of the males, and 28 per cent. of the females, were fined; 32 per cent. of the former, and 39 per cent. of the latter, were sentenced to imprisonment for various terms under a month, and 14 and 23 per cent. respectively for periods varying from 1 to 12 months; about 1 per cent. of the males, and 2 per cent. of the females, were sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment or upwards; the balance, or 5 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.

* See paragraph 278 ante.

Whipping
ordered
by magis-
trates.

306. 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. Only two offenders were so sentenced in 1890—for wilful exposure—one of whom was to receive two whippings of 10 lashes each, and the other one whipping of 20 lashes.

Solitary
confine-
ment or-
dered by
magis-
trates.

307. Fourteen offenders were sentenced to solitary confinement by magistrates in 1890, viz., one for unlawfully wounding, seven for assaults, one for insulting behaviour, and five for larceny. The sentence in 11 cases was three or four days, in 1 case five days, in 1 case seven days, and in 1 case two periods of seven days.

Punishment
of juvenile
offenders.

308. Under the *Crimes Act 1890*,* magistrates are empowered to order youths under 16 years of age, convicted of any offence punishable on summary conviction with imprisonment, to be privately whipped with a cane or birch rod by a constable, either in addition to, or in lieu of, any other punishment they may be lawfully sentenced to receive. Under this Statute a boy of 14 was sentenced in 1890, for vagrancy, to receive 12 strokes with a cane.†

Results of
committals
for trial.

309. The results of the commitments for trial at the three periods already referred to were as follow:—

RESULTS OF COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL,‡ 1880, 1885, AND 1890.

—	1880.	1885.	1890.
Number for trial	664	767	1,098
Convicted and sentenced	398	444	662
Acquitted... ..	208	221	315
Not prosecuted	58	102	121

Proportion
of convic-
tions ob-
tained.

310. Of those committed for trial, 606 were eventually tried in 1880, 665 in 1885, and 977 in 1890. At the first period 66 per cent. at the second period 67 per cent., and at the third period 68 per cent. of the trials resulted in convictions.

Sentences in
superior
courts.

311. The following are the sentences of the prisoners tried and convicted in superior courts during the year under review:—

* 54 Vict. No. 1,079, section 366.

† See also footnote (†) on next page.

‡ Including those who were remaining for trial from the previous year, but excluding those awaiting trial at the end of the year.

SENTENCES OF PERSONS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1890.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Death	6*	1
Hard labour on roads or public works for 10 years and under 15 years	5	...
" " " " 7 years and under 10 years	9	...
" " " " 4 years and under 7 years	45	...
Imprisonment for 2 years and under 4 years	118	7
" 1 year and under 2 years	159	12
" 6 months and under 1 year	140	15
" 1 month and under 6 months	101	10
" under 1 month	8	4
Fined	5	...
Recognizances estreated	2	...
To find bail to appear when called upon	9	5
Sent to lunatic asylum	1	...
Total tried and convicted...	608	54

312. Of males convicted in superior courts in 1890, as many as six were sentenced to death—2 being cases in which death was merely “recorded”; all the rest except 17 were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, with or without hard labour; of those imprisoned, over two-thirds were sentenced for periods of less than two years, and one-tenth to more than four years. Of the females, 19 were sentenced to over one, and 29 to under one, year’s imprisonment. Five males were sentenced to be imprisoned for a longer period than ten years. One female was sentenced to death, but not one was sentenced to a longer period than four years.

Lengths of sentences in superior courts.

313. In addition to terms of imprisonment named in the foregoing table, 77† persons—of whom 5 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 1 had been convicted of manslaughter; 4 of shooting at or wounding; 1 of assault; 1 of rape or indecent assault on females; 2 of unnatural offence or assault with intent to commit; 24 of robbery under arms or burglary; 2 of sheep stealing, etc.; 29 of other offences against property; 13 of forgery, etc.

Solitary confinement ordered by superior courts.

314. The total number of offenders sentenced by superior courts to be whipped, in addition to terms of imprisonment in all cases, was 3. Rape or indecent assaults on females were the crimes of two of these,

Whippings ordered by superior courts.

* In the case of two of these, sentence of death was only recorded.

† One offender, a boy 13 years of age sentenced to three periods of two days, was respited on probation.

for one of whom two whippings and for the other one whipping of 15 lashes each were ordered. Unnatural offence was the crime of the third offender, who was sentenced to receive two whippings of 12 lashes each. Judges of the Supreme Court and Courts of General Sessions can sentence males to receive corporal punishment, under Act 54 Vict. No. 1,079, for attempts to commit rape, or for rape itself where sentence of death is commuted, for unnatural offences, 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. The greatest number of whippings an individual can be sentenced to receive for one offence is 3, and the greatest number of lashes at each whipping is 50.

Whippings
ordered,
1874-1890.

315. 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; 46 in 1889, viz., 34* by magistrates and 12 by superior courts; and 6 in 1890, viz., 3 by magistrates and 3 by superior courts. The total number of whippings directed to be administered in the seventeen years was thus 233, of which 82 (including 44 to juvenile offenders) were ordered by magistrates and 151 by superior courts. The number of persons sentenced to be whipped in 1890 was thus the same as in 1885, but much smaller than in any other previous year named except 1875 and 1880.

Executions.

316. No execution took place in 1890. 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 1890, 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:—

* Corrected number.

CRIMINALS EXECUTED, 1842 TO 1890.

Birthplace, Religion, and Offence.							Number.
Total number executed							145
Birthplace—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
Religion—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*
Offence—Murder							109
" Attempt to murder...							17
" Rape...							9
" Unnatural offence on a child							1
" Robbery with violence							9

317. 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

318. The offences in respect to which no persons were apprehended numbered 6,877 in 1890 or 405 less than in 1889, but much more numerous than in any of the ten years ended with 1888. Offences against the person show an exceptionally large increase in 1890 as compared with previous years, in consequence probably of the labour strikes, whilst other offences also show some increase, but those against property, which during the previous three years were unusually

Undetected crime.

* Aborigines.

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

numerous, fell off considerably. The following are the undetected offences in the last twelve years:—

UNDETECTED CRIME, 1879 TO 1890.

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
1890	805	5,177	895	6,877

Offender perhaps arrested on other grounds.

319. 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 Australasian colonies.

320. 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 1879 to 1889, 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, 1879 TO 1889.

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...	1879	43,936	28,266	628	397
	1880	41,778	26,950	680	398
	1881	44,730	29,131	591	332

* Not including civil cases.

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1879 TO 1889—*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> ...	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
	1889	63,999	43,161	1,023	680
New South Wales † ...	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
	1889	65,568	48,703	1,492	910
Queensland † ...	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
1889	19,539	14,787	567	354	
South Australia ...	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
1889	6,609	5,638	189	78	

* 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, 558 lunatics in 1889, and 5,854 in the previous eleven years; and in Queensland, 307 in 1889, and 4,098 during the previous eleven years; and in Tasmania, 63 lunatics in 1889, and 297 in the previous five years, were admitted to asylums. Probably four-fifths of these were apprehended by the police.

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1879 TO 1889—*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 †	...	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
	1889	4,378	2,979	102	62	
Tasmania ‡	...	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
	1889	7,128	5,122	105	42	
New Zealand §	...	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
	1889	18,845	14,082	491	219	
Australasia	...	1879	155,854	110,408	4,061	2,311
		1880	157,424	112,684	3,825	2,383
		1881	168,225	123,784	3,496	2,076

* Not including civil cases.

† Of those summarily convicted in Western Australia between 8 and 10 per cent. were 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 1889 the number of cases in which they were concerned was 369—in 221 of which summary convictions were obtained, in 117 cases the prisoner was discharged, and in 31 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, 1879 TO 1889—*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> ...	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
	1889	186,066	134,472	3,969	2,345

321. 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, up to 1886, more than twice as numerous as, and, since 1886, on the average nearly three-fifths more numerous than, in Victoria. In 1889 the apprehensions and summonses in New South Wales exceeded those in Victoria by 2 per cent., and the summary convictions by 13 per cent.

Large amount of crime in New South Wales.

322. 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.

† It is believed that in all the years the actual population of New South Wales was smaller than that of Victoria.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, COMMITMENTS, AND CONVICTIONS IN
AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES TO POPULATION,* ETC., 1879 TO 1889.

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 Con- victions to Ap- prehensions and Summons Cases.†	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.	
Victoria‡ ...	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	53·09	35·45	6·92	4·52	66·78	65·26
	1883	53·81	36·78	6·66	3·85	68·36	57·76
	1884	55·11	36·94	7·45	4·36	67·04	58·56
	1885	54·94	35·72	8·03	4·64	65·02	57·81
	1886	55·20	37·16	7·68	5·00	67·34	65·08
	1887	58·06	38·10	8·06	4·98	65·63	61·71
	1888	57·14	38·91	8·28	5·28	68·11	63·80
1889	58·70	39·58	9·38	6·24	67·44	66·46	
New South Wales ...	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
1889	59·40	44·12	13·52	8·24	74·27	60·98	
Queensland ...	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
1889	49·20	37·25	14·28	8·92	75·70	62·43	
South Australia ...	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

* See paragraph 323 *post*.

† Not including civil cases.

‡ Rates per head corrected since last publication in accordance with amended estimates of population. Those for the other colonies are liable to future correction.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, ETC., 1879 TO 1889—*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 Con- victions to Ap- prehensions and Summons Cases.*	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.	
South Australia— <i>continued.</i>	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
	1889	20·56	17·54	5·88	2·43	85·31	41·27
Western Australia ...	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
	1889	101·70	69·20	23·69	14·40	68·05	60·78
Tasmania † ...	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
1889	47·89	34·42	7·06	2·82	71·86	40·00	
New Zealand ...	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
1889	30·70	22·93	8·00	3·57	74·69	44·60	

* Not including civil cases.

† See footnote (†) on page 208 *ante.*

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

§ See footnote (§) on page 208 *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., 1879 TO 1889—*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 ...	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
	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
	1889	49·86	36·03	10·64	6·28	72·26	59·07

Crime results too low in all colonies except Victoria.

323. It should be remarked that whilst the population of Victoria for each year since 1881 has been corrected in accordance with the results of the recent census, that of the other colonies has not been so corrected, and as the census showed that all the populations had been over-estimated, which would obviously cause the calculations based thereon to be too low, the proportions shown in the table must understate the truth in the case of all the colonies except Victoria.

Order of colonies in respect to apprehensions, etc.

324. 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 1889, the colony with the highest proportion of persons apprehended or summoned on criminal charges being placed first, and that with the lowest last:—

* 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 NUMBERS APPREHENDED
OR SUMMONED IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1889.

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

325. 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 the three years ended with 1889 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:—

Order of colonies in respect to summary convictions.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO SUMMARY CONVICTIONS
IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1889.

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

326. 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, and in 1889 also higher than in New Zealand. 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 1889:—

Order of colonies in respect to commitments for trial.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS COMMITTED
FOR TRIAL IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1889.

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

Order of colonies in respect to convictions in superior courts.

327. 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 and 1889, 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 REFERENCE TO CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1889.

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

Order of colonies in respect to summary convictions obtained.

328. 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. The following is the order of the colonies in respect to convictions of this kind in 1889, the colony 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, 1889.

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

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

329. In regard to the proportion of convictions to commitments for trial, Victoria was first on the list in 1889, Queensland, New South Wales, and Western Australia being next below her. In the subjoined statement the colonies are placed in order, the one in which the convictions, in 1889, bore the highest proportion to the commitments being placed first :—

* The colonies are arranged in their usual order. In 1889, however, Queensland stood before New South Wales.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS
IN SUPERIOR COURTS TO COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL, 1889.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Victoria. 2. Queensland. 3. New South Wales. 4. Western Australia. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. New Zealand. 6. South Australia. 7. Tasmania. |
|--|--|--|

330. 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.

Incomplete returns in some colonies.

331. 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 1889, arrests for rape and other sexual offences numbered 107 in New South Wales against 74 in Victoria; for other offences against the person, 8,213 against 3,840; for horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, etc., 307 against 163; for miscellaneous offences against property, 7,209 against 4,528; for drunkenness, 18,355† against 18,068. An exception occurred in the years 1885 to 1887, and 1889, in regard to arrests for robbery, burglary, etc., when they were more numerous in Victoria; also in the last three years in regard to arrests for homicide, which 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, 1879 to 1889, so far as the information can be gathered from their respective *Statistical Registers* :—

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

* 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.

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE
AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1879 TO 1889.

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	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
1889	42	74	3,840	409	163	4,528	18,068	36,875	
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	21,393	27,853
	1883	76	109	10,484	203	348	6,343	23,178	31,490
	1884	98	119	9,842	263	482	6,415	24,438	34,023
	1885	50	115	9,353	230	403	6,576	26,291	34,074
	1886	73	163	9,899	261	307	6,787	26,310	37,703
	1887	36	138	8,729	300	307	7,410	22,706	32,493
	1888	58	125	8,872	374	403	8,357	21,129	29,734
1889	43	107	8,213	336	307	7,209	18,355	30,998	
Queensland	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	
	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	
1889	2,651		2,468			6,160	8,260		
South Australia	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	

* See footnote (†) on preceding page.

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1879 TO 1889—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.
South Australia —continued	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
	1889	10	14	499	31	17	482	2,003	3,553
Western Australia †	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	
1889		379			524		3,475		
Tasmania †	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
1889	1	15	459	10	7	638	1,155	4,843	
New Zealand	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
1889	14	41	1,496	149	60	2,354	5,456	9,275	

* See footnote (†) on page 215.

† The number of convictions (not arrests) for the principal offences in the last four years were as follow:—Murder and manslaughter, 4 in 1886, *nil* in 1887, 2 in 1888, and 3 in 1889; rape, etc., 2 in 1889; burglary, etc., 2, 4, *nil*, *nil*, respectively; cattle and sheep stealing, 106, 87, 62, and 124, almost all being by aborigines; other offences against property, 163, 225, 228, and 246; drunkenness, 1,165, 502, 557, and 749.

‡ See footnote (†) on page 208 *ante*.

Ratio of
each group
of offences
to popula-
tion of each
colony.

332. 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:—

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1879 TO 1889.

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
Victoria ...	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	5·88	13·20	29·02
	1883	4·26	5·02	13·63	30·90
	1884	3·91	4·69	13·87	32·64
	1885	4·35	4·42	14·19	31·97
	1886	4·25	4·85	14·75	31·34
	1887	3·95	4·94	15·32	33·85
	1888	3·64	4·64	17·56	31·30
	1889	3·63	4·68	16·99	33·82
New South Wales ...	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	26·91	35·05
	1883	12·79	8·26	27·78	37·74
	1884	11·42	8·13	27·74	38·63
	1885	10·22	7·74	28·24	36·65
	1886	10·34	7·51	26·85	38·47
	1887	8·71	7·84	22·21	31·18
	1888	8·51	8·58	19·85	27·94
	1889	7·58	7·11	16·63	33·40
Queensland ...	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
	1889	6·68	6·23	15·52	20·81
South Australia ...	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

* See footnote (†) on page 215 ante.

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1879 TO 1889—*continued*.

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
South Australia— <i>continued</i>	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
	1889	1·63	1·65	6·23	11·06
Western Australia	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	
1889	8·80	12·17	80·71		
Tasmania†	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
1889	3·19	4·40	7·76	32·54	
New Zealand	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
1889	2·53	4·09	8·89	15·11	

333. 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 Order of colonies as to offences against the person.

* See footnote (†) on page 215 *ante*.

† See footnote (†) on page 208 *ante*.

any other colony; in the former of which they were—in the year 1889—nearly two and a half times, and in the latter more than twice, as numerous as in Victoria. The following is the order of the colonies in this respect during 1889—which is the same as in the four previous years—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 OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON, 1889.

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

Order of colonies as to offences against property.

334. In 1889, arrests for offences against property in Western Australia were more than three times, and in New South Wales more than one and a half times, as numerous, in proportion to population, as they were in Victoria, where they were fewer than in any colonies except Tasmania, New Zealand, and South Australia. It should be stated that the proportion in Western Australia would probably be reduced nearly one half, were arrests of aborigines for sheep or cattle stealing excluded,* in which case it would stand lower than New South Wales and on a par with Queensland. 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, 1889.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| 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.

335. In the matter of drunkenness, New South Wales, which for years stood at the head of the colonies of the group in which the offence was distinguished,† has improved considerably since 1886. Victoria, on the other hand, has apparently become more inebriate, as in 1889, according to the figures, arrests for drunkenness within her boundaries were, in proportion to the population, slightly higher than those in New

* Of 370 convictions in Western Australia in 1889, 179 were of aborigines—chiefly for sheep and cattle stealing.

† 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 217 *ante*.

South Wales.* It should be pointed out, however, that when the population estimates, which have been proved to be too high, have been reduced for the latter colony (as they have already been for the former) in accordance with the results of the recent census, it will be found that even in 1889 drunkenness was really more rife in New South Wales than in Victoria. In the following list, wherein the colony in which the largest proportion of inebriates was brought before magistrates in 1889 is placed first, and that in which the number was smallest last, Victoria for the first time stands above the other colonies :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO APPREHENSIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1889.

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

336. "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 the three years ended with 1889 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 as to "other offences."

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR "OTHER OFFENCES," 1889.

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

337. 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 1889 :—

Crime in United Kingdom.

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

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1879 TO 1889.

Country.	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	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
	1889	29,015,613	12,099	9,348	4·17	3·22	77·26
Scotland	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
	1889	4,077,070	2,234	1,723	5·48	4·23	77·09
Ireland	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
	1889	4,730,532	2,181	1,225	4·99	2·80	56·17
Total	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
	1889	37,823,215	16,514	12,296	4·37	3·25	74·46

338. 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 a fourth less than in Victoria and Tasmania, and considerably less than in any of the other Australasian colonies; also that those in England were fewer by about one-third; those in Scotland, by one-sixth; and those in Ireland, by one-ninth, than those in Victoria and Tasmania. Convictions after commitment are, relatively to population, on the average about a sixth more numerous in Victoria than in the United Kingdom or England and Wales, and considerably more numerous than in Ireland, but somewhat less numerous than in Scotland.

Crime in United Kingdom and Australasia compared.

339. 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 1889 was smaller than that in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, or Western Australia during the same year.

Convictions in United Kingdom and Australasia compared.

340. 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:—

Prostitution in Australian capitals.

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

341. 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.

Prostitutes
in Mel-
bourne,
1891.

342. From an estimate made in 1891, upon which Mr. Chomley states exceptional care was expended, the number of public prostitutes in Melbourne and suburbs was 536. At the same time the population amounted to 491,400, so that the proportion of prostitutes per 10,000 of the population appears to have fallen from 21 in 1883 to only 11 in the present year.

Police in
Austral-
asian
colonies.

343. 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 either of those colonies. The following figures show the number of police and their proportion to the population in each colony :—

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	„	„	„

Police in
Austral-
asian
capitals.

344. 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 CAPITAL CITIES, 1891.

1. Melbourne	has	740	police,	or	1	to	664	persons.
2. Sydney	„	600	„	„	644	„	„	„
3. Adelaide	„	216	„	„	617	„	„	„
4. Brisbane	„	250‡	„	„	406	„	„	„

Supreme
Court
criminal
sittings.

345. The number of criminal cases tried in the Supreme Court at the various places throughout the colony where sittings were held in 1890 was 416, of which 285 were for felony, and 131 for misdemeanors. The convictions for felony numbered 194, and for misdemeanors 82. The number of places where sittings were held was 19, the number of sittings was 65, and the total duration of sittings was 191 days.

Supreme
Court civil
sittings.

346. Sittings may be held at the same number of places to try civil cases, but no causes were entered at 2 out of the 19 places in

* See paragraph 326 *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.

‡ Figures for 1890.

1890. The number of causes entered for trial during the year was 535, but the number of causes tried was only 297, of which 46 were tried by juries of six, 9 by juries of twelve, and 242 by a judge alone. All of these were defended. The damages laid in the declarations amounted in the aggregate to £687,503. Verdicts were returned in 294 instances, and there were 2 nonsuits. Of the verdicts 229, or about 78 per cent., were for the plaintiff. The aggregate amount awarded by the juries was £68,592, or 10 per cent. of the damages laid. In the ten years ended with 1889, the damages sued for in these courts amounted to £2,846,125, and the sums awarded by juries to £363,547, or to about 13 per cent. of the damages sued for.

347. 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 1890 numbered 27, and the number of courts held 73, extending over periods amounting in the aggregate to 170 days. The number of cases tried was 548, in 340 of which, or 62 per cent., convictions were obtained. The number of appeals heard was 79. In the ten years prior to 1890, 2,715 cases were tried in Courts of General Sessions, and 1,839 convictions were obtained; thus the latter were to the former in the proportion of 68 per cent.

348. County Courts have jurisdiction in civil cases up to £250. The number of places at which they were held in 1890 was 63, and the number of courts held was 182, extending over 386 days. The total number of cases tried was 12,365; the amount sued for was £340,028; and the amount recovered £127,433, or only 37 per cent. of the amount sued for. The costs awarded to the plaintiff amounted to £15,363, and the costs awarded to the defendant to £6,072. During the ten years prior to the year under review the aggregate amount sued for in County Courts was £3,044,309, and the aggregate amount awarded was £931,650, or 31 per cent. of the amount sued for.

349. 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 1890 numbered 12, and the courts held numbered 33, occupying 14 days. The total number of suits was 9, and the aggregate amount or value of demand, £144. The gross amount of costs awarded to the plaintiffs was £52, and to the defendants £15. These figures do not include all 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

1890 the value sued for in Courts of Mines amounted in the aggregate to £18,254. The business has fallen off very considerably for several years past.

Courts of
Petty Ses-
sions :
criminal
cases.

350. The cases of indictable offences heard at Petty Sessions during 1890 numbered 2,648, which resulted in 1,096 commitments for trial. Commitments were thus obtained in 41 per cent. of the cases. The offences summarily dealt with numbered 62,136, in 44,515 of which, or 72 per cent., the offender was convicted.

Courts of
Petty Ses-
sions : civil
cases.

351. 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 30,466, in which the total amount of debts or damages claimed was £196,917, and the total amount awarded was £132,663, or 67 per cent. of the amount claimed. In the ten years ended with 1889 the debts or damages claimed in these courts amounted in all to £988,395, and the sums awarded to £618,020, or to 63 per cent. of the amounts claimed.

Debts sued
for and
awarded.

352. The net results of the civil cases tried in 1890 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 1890 and the previous decennium. It will be noticed that the whole amount at stake was £1,224,000, and that rather over one-fourth was recovered; also that whilst the proportion recovered in the Supreme Court appears to have been much less than the average, that in the County Courts and Courts of Petty Sessions was considerably above, the average :—

DEBTS AND DAMAGES CLAIMED AND AWARDED.*

Name of Court.	Amount of Debts and Damages, 1890.		Proportion of Debts and Damages Recovered.	
	Claimed.	Awarded.	1890.	Average of Previous 10 Years.
	£	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Supreme Court	687,503	68,592	10	13
County Courts	340,028	127,433	37	31
Courts of Petty Sessions ...	196,917	132,663	67	63
Total	1,224,448	328,688	27	28

* 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 1890 only a little more than half were tried during the year.

353. The number of writs issued in 1890, in the six bailiwicks Writs. into which the colony is divided, was 2,316, or only 13 less than in the previous year. Of the whole number 13 were Queen's writs against both person and property, 21 were subjects' writs against the person alone, and 2,282 were subjects' writs against property alone.

354. Places for the reception of prisoners in Victoria are of three Gaols and penal establishments. 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.

355. In accordance with recommendations made by the Inspector- Probation system for first offenders. General of Penal Establishments, the probation system for first offenders was introduced into Victoria by the passing of the *Juvenile Offenders Act* 1887, which came into operation on 1st January, 1888. This Act—the provisions of which have since been embodied in the *Crimes Act* 1890 (50 Vict. No. 1079)—gave 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 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 the Act, 18 prisoners (including 1 female) were released on probation in 1889, and 96 (including 14 females) in 1890.

356. The gross, distinct, and average number of prisoners detained Gaols and prisoners. in each description of prison during 1890 will be found in the following table, males and females being distinguished:—

GAOLS AND PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS, 1890.

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	8,279	2,655	10,934	} 8,543	1,733	10,276	{ 762	339	1,101
Penal establishments	1	1,266	...	1,266							{ 742	...	742
Police gaols ..	8	723	35	758	614	30	644‡	19	1	20
Total ...	18	10,268	2,690	12,958	9,157	1,763	10,920	1,523	340	1,863

Increase of distinct prisoners.

357. According to this table, the number of individual prisoners detained during the whole or some portion of 1890 in the gaols and penal establishments of the colony was 10,920, viz., 9,157 males and 1,763 females. In the previous year, the number of distinct prisoners was 10,900, viz., 9,150 males and 1,750 females; thus showing an increase of 20 during the year under review, viz., 7 in the case of the male and of 13 in that of the female prisoners.

Proportion of distinct prisoners to population.

358. Comparing the figures for 1890 with those showing the mean population of that year, it appears that 1 person in every 102 persons in the colony; or 1 male in every 64 males, and 1 female in every 300 females, passed some portion of the year in prison. These proportions differ very slightly from those of the previous year. In the estimates made no account is taken of persons lodged temporarily in 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.

359. If a comparison be made between the gross number of prisoners (exclusive of transfers) and the distinct prisoners, it will be found that 84·27 per cent. of the prisoners dealt with in 1890—viz.,

* 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 361 *post*.

‡ Estimated.

89·18 per cent. in the case of males, and 65·54 per cent. in the case of females—were distinct individuals. In the previous year the proportions were :—Total, 84·98 per cent. ; males, 89·94 per cent. ; females, 65·96 per cent.

360. 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 600 persons living was constantly in prison during 1890; or, distinguishing the sexes, that, during that year, 1 male in every 387 males living, and 1 female in every 1,556 females living, were constantly in detention. By the following table, which gives the figures for the last twelve years, it will be seen that the proportion of prisoners to the population fell from 1 in every 534 in 1879, to 1 in every 670 in 1885, since which year it has gradually again risen to 1 in every 600 in 1890.

PROPORTION OF PRISONERS TO POPULATION,
1879 TO 1890.

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
1890	387	1,556	600

361. 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 1890,* also the proportions per cent. :—

* See Inspector General's Report for 1890, Parliamentary Paper No. 44, Session 1891.

DISTINCT PRISONERS, 1890.
(Exclusive of those in Police Gaols.)

Number of Times Imprisoned during Year.	Distinct Prisoners, 1890.					
	Number.			Percentage.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Once	6,032	1,054	7,086	70·61	60·82	68·96
Twice	962	257	1,219	11·26	14·83	11·86
Three times	216	124	340	2·53	7·16	3·31
Four times	75	46	121	·88	2·65	1·18
Five times	34	24	58	·40	1·39	·56
Six times and upwards*	20	29	49	·23	1·67	·48
Total received	7,339	1,534	8,873	85·91	88·52	86·35
In detention at commencement of year †	1,204	199	1,403	14·09	11·48	13·65
Grand Total	8,543	1,733	10,276	100·00	100·00	100·00

Persons imprisoned more than once.

362. Adding the numbers at the commencement of the year to those in the first line of the table, it is found that $82\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the distinct prisoners in 1890 were imprisoned only once during the year, and consequently $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. were imprisoned more than once. In the case of males, the proportions were $84\frac{3}{4}$ and $15\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.; and in the case of females, $72\frac{1}{4}$ and $27\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. respectively. The tendency of females to be imprisoned over and over again is greater than that of males; thus, during the year, nearly 13 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 4 per cent. of the males were imprisoned more than twice, and only $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more than three times.

Prisoners previously convicted.

363. Out of a total of 1,862 prisoners in detention on the 31st December, 1890, 1,072, or about 58 per cent., had been previously imprisoned under sentence in the colony—viz., 213, or 11 per cent., once; 164, or 9 per cent., twice; 86, or 5 per cent., three times; and as many as 609, or 33 per cent., four times or oftener. Of the total number, 22 had also been convicted in other countries.

Grounds of imprisonment.

364. The following is a classification of the prisoners in confinement at the end of 1890, according to the grounds in respect to which they were detained. It will be noticed that 118, or $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., were

* Four males and six females admitted seven times; one male and five females admitted eight, three females admitted nine, and three females ten times.

† Exclusive of those discharged and re-admitted during the year, who numbered 398, viz., 256 males and 142 females, they being included with the figures in the previous line.

untried; also that more than three-fifths of the males, but less than a fifth of the females, had been convicted of felony:—

GROUNDS FOR DETENTION OF PRISONERS, 1890.

Grounds for Detention.	Gaols.		Police Gaols.		Penal Establishments.	Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Felony, tried... ..	288	55	2	1	617	907	56	963
„ untried ...	62	4	5	...	...	67	4	71
Misdemeanors, tried ...	240	144	7	...	81	328	144	472
„ untried	20	9	5	...	...	25	9	34
Other offences, tried ...	181	103	3	...	47	231	103	334
„ untried	10	1	1	1.	...	11	2	13
Total	801	316	23	2	745	1,569	318	1,887

365. The total number of prisoners (exclusive of transfers) admitted, in 1890, to ordinary gaols and penal establishments, was 10,442, and of these, 618, viz., 483 males and 135 females, were imprisoned on charges of vagrancy, but really for medical attention, and 580, viz., 192 males and 388 females, were received for shelter. There were thus 1,198 persons, as against 1,416 in 1889, 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., 9,244 as compared with 8,972 in 1889, will more correctly represent the criminal admissions during the year.*

Destitution a cause of imprisonment.

366. The cases in which prisoners were absent from work during the year on account of sickness, which numbered 2,644, were in the proportion of one case to every 4.1 individual prisoners. The daily average number of prisoners incapacitated from labour by reason of sickness was 103, or 1 in every 14 of the average number constantly employed. The total number of cases of sickness at any one time was 128.

Sickness in prisons.

367. Eighty-nine deaths from natural causes occurred in prisons during 1889, and 86 deaths in 1890; moreover, one death in 1890 resulted from suicide. The deaths from natural causes were in the proportion of 1 to every 122 in the former year, and 1 to every 127 in the latter year, of the estimated individual prisoners; or in the proportion of one to every 20 in the former year, and one to every 22 in

Deaths in prisons.

* See Inspector-General's Report, page 6.

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

Prisoners
absconding.

368. In the last five 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; in 1889, four prisoners, of whom one was unconvicted, absconded, but were recaptured; and in 1890, one convicted prisoner absconded, but was retaken.

Ages of
prisoners.

369. The following were the number of persons of different ages constantly under detention during the year. The census returns of ages not having yet been compiled, the proportions to population at each period of age cannot be given:—

AGES OF PRISONERS, 1890.

Ages.				Average number of Prisoners constantly detained.
Under 20 years	...	...	...	139
20 to 30 "	...	...	...	696
30 " 40 "	...	...	...	414
40 " 50 "	...	...	...	259
50 " 60 "	...	...	...	179
60 years and upwards	...	...	...	176
Total	...	...	...	1,863

Birthplaces
and reli-
gions of
prisoners.

370. The birthplaces and religions of the prisoners were as follow. No comparison with the estimated numbers of each nationality and religion in the total population can be made at present, as the census returns of those subjects have not been compiled:—

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PRISONERS, 1890.

NATIVE COUNTRY.				Average number of Prisoners constantly detained.
Australasian Colonies	...	...	...	829
England and Wales	...	...	...	419
Scotland	...	...	...	350
Ireland	...	...	...	118
China	...	...	...	16
Other countries	...	...	...	131
Total	...	...	...	1,863

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PRISONERS, 1890—*continued.*

		RELIGION.			
Protestants	1,069
Roman Catholics	753
Jews	15
Buddhists, Confucians, etc.	17
Others	9

371. According to the following figures, which show the state of Education of prisoners. 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 1890.

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 to 1889	86	4	10
1890	89	3	8

372. The following cases of punishment for offences committed Gaol punish- within the prison took place in 1890. Of these, 107 were awarded ments. by visiting magistrates, and the balance by the governors of gaols. It will be observed that solitary confinement, which is said to be more dreaded by prisoners than any other punishment, was prescribed in nearly 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 :—

PUNISHMENTS FOR OFFENCES WITHIN PRISONS, 1890.

Nature of Punishment.	Gaols.			Penal Establish-ment.	Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Hard labour	12	1	13	3	15*	1	16
Solitary confinement	385	79	464	199	584	79	663
Other punishments	163	47	210	549	712	47	759
Total	560	127	687	751	1,311	127	1,438

* With irons in 5 cases.

Proportion
of prisoners
punished.

373. 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 $6\frac{1}{2}$ individual male prisoners, 1 punishment of a female to every 14 individual female prisoners. According to the daily average number of prisoners, there was not quite 1 punishment to every prisoner; or nearly 1 punishment to every male, and about 1 punishment to every 3 females.

Trades of
prisoners.

374. Of the prisoners discharged in 1890, 198 were mechanics or skilled workmen, and of these 79 were set down as having a thorough, and 119 only an imperfect, knowledge of their trade. As many as 91, or 46 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 1890.

Trades.	Knowledge of Trade on Discharge.				Total.
	Good.		Imperfect.		
	Learnt Outside.	Learnt in Prison.	Learnt Outside.	Learnt in Prison.	
Bakers	1	1	...	2	4
Blacksmiths and moulders	3	2	3	2	10
Bookbinders	1	...	1	1	3
Carpenters and turners	5	...	3	...	8
Hat and bag makers	1	11	8	15	35
Masons and bricklayers	3	...	...	...	3
Matting and mat makers	...	6	5	9	20
Painters	1	...	4	1	6
Printers	...	1	2	6	9
Shoemakers	20	...	8	4	32
Stonecutters	...	2	3	3	8
Tailors	3	5	10	6	24
Tanners	2	5	3	5	15
Tinsmiths and plumbers	4	...	4	...	8
Weavers	...	2	9	2	13
Total	44	35	63	56	198

Cost and
earnings of
prisoners.

375. In the following statement of the cost* and earnings of prisoners in detention during the year 1890, the value of prison labour

* 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 repair to gaol buildings as were effected by the Public Works Department.

—so far as it was utilized for prison requirements—is added to the cost, as well as accounted for in the earnings of the prisoners:—

COST OF PRISONERS.*

Salaries and wages	...	...	...	...	£40,247	1	10
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	30,139	2	2
Value of prison labour utilized in making up clothing, materials, implements, and other gaol requirements					37,473	15	4
Total cost	...	...	...	...	£107,859	19	4

EARNINGS OF PRISONERS.

Work for other departments, municipalities, etc.—Paid for in cash†	...	...	...	...	£7,108	19	7
Value of time not paid for	...	...	...	...	834	7	10
Value of work in connexion with prison buildings					5,791	16	9
Manufacture of clothing, implements, etc., for gaol purposes	...	...	...	...	13,788	9	4
Other gaol requirements	...	...	...	...	17,893	9	3
Total earnings	...	...	...	...	£45,417	2	9

376. The gross cost of prisoners in 1890 (£107,860) was in the proportion of £58 10s. 6d. per head of the average number of prisoners detained (1,843). The difference between the gross cost and the earnings of prisoners, *i.e.* the net cost, was £62,443, or £33 17s. 7d. per head. The earnings of the prisoners in the year (£45,417) amounted to £32 7s. 11d. per head of the average number of prisoners employed (*viz.*, 1,402), which is equivalent to 2s. 1d. per head per diem for the 308 working days the year contained.

377. By the following comparative statement of the number of prisoners detained in the gaols and penal establishments of Victoria and New South Wales at the end of each of the eight years ended with 1890, it appears that in proportion to the population the average number of prisoners in the mother colony exceeds that in Victoria by over 50 per cent. :—

Cost and earnings per head.

Prisoners in Victoria and New South Wales.

* See footnote (*) on page 234.

† This was the amount paid into the Treasury.

PRISONERS IN VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES,
1883 TO 1890.

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 ...	920,694	857,744	1,442	2,168	15·66	25·28
1884 ...	944,564	903,958	1,428	2,464	15·12	27·26
1885 ...	969,202	957,914	1,444	2,559	14·90	26·71
1886 ...	1,000,510	1,001,966	1,550	2,501	15·49	24·96
1887 ...	1,032,993	1,042,919	1,608	2,380	15·57	22·82
1888 ...	1,076,966	1,085,740	1,698	2,353	15·77	21·68
1889 ...	1,103,727	1,122,200	1,820	2,370	16·49	21·12
1890 ...	1,133,266	1,121,732	1,887	2,425	16·65	21·62
Means ...	1,022,740	1,011,772	1,610	2,403	15·74	23·99

Expenditure
on police,
gaols, etc.

378. 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 26½ years ended with 1890-91. The cost of buildings is not included:—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE, GAOLS, ETC., 1865 TO 1890-91.

Year.	Amount Expended† on—			Amount per head of Population.	
	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

* The figures for Victoria for all the years and for New South Wales for 1890 have been corrected in accordance with the results of the census of 1891; those for the latter colony for years prior to 1890 are subject to future revision.

† Exclusive of the cost of buildings, which in 1888-9 amounted to £43,190, and in 1889-90 to £51,558.

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE, GAOLS, ETC., 1865 TO 1890-91—
continued.

Year.	Amount Expended* on—			Amount per head of Population.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Total.	s.	d.
	£	£	£		
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
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	265,149	71,146	336,295	6	1
1890-91	287,415	73,232	360,647	6	4
Total	5,549,882	1,597,658	7,147,540	6	3

379. 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 six years 1881-2 to 1886-7. In 1890-91 it was 6s. 4d., or 5d. more than the average during the previous 5 years. Expenditure per head.

380. The inquests held in 1890 numbered 1,805, as against 1,795 in 1889. In 908 instances the death was found to have resulted from disease or natural causes; in 32 cases, from intemperance; in 799 cases, from violence; in 59 cases, from doubtful causes; and in 7 cases a verdict of "still-born" was returned. Of the deaths set down to violence, the verdict in 556 cases was to the effect that the death had resulted from accident; in 19, from homicide; in 126, from suicide; and in 98, that the cause of the violent death was doubtful. Although the proportion is higher in 1890 than in the previous three years, the practice of holding inquests in cases of other than violent deaths are, as a rule, not so common of late years as formerly. In 1880, the proportion which verdicts of "death from disease or natural causes" Inquests.

* Exclusive of the cost of buildings, which in 1888-9 amounted to £43,190, and in 1889-90 to £51,558.

bore to the total number of verdicts given was 52 per cent. ; in 1881, 51 per cent. ; in 1882, 53 per cent. ; in 1883, 49 per cent. ; in 1884 and 1885, 55 per cent. ; in 1886, 51 per cent. ; in 1887, 49 per cent. ; in 1888, 46 per cent. ; in 1889, 47 per cent. ; and in 1890, 50 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 instructions issued by the Governor in Council under the 4th section of the *Coroners Act* 1890 (54 Vict. No. 1,077).

Fire
inquests.

381. Two fire inquests were held in 1890, as against 6 in 1889, none in 1888, 5 in 1887, 4 in 1886, and 9 in both 1885 and 1884. The verdicts returned in 1890 were to the effect that there was not sufficient evidence to show how they took place. Under the *Coroners Act* (54 Vict. No. 1077), 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.
