

PART VII.—LAW, CRIME, ETC.

1382. 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.

1383. 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.

1384. 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 halfpenny 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, 1886, was £37,578,† of which £35,743 had been invested in Government stock. Ten claims upon the fund, of which two for £332 and £172 respectively were made in 1885-6, have been substantiated since its first formation, and sums amounting in the aggregate to £3,380 have been paid to claimants. Assurance fund.

1385. In 1886, as compared with 1885, a large increase took place in the extent of land brought under the Transfer of Land Statute (29 Vict. No. 301) by application, but a decrease in that brought under it by purchase from the Crown; moreover, an increase took place in the number of transfers, mortgages, leases, &c., and of miscellaneous transactions, but a decrease in the number of certificates of title issued and in the fees received. The following were the transactions in the two years:— Transactions under the Land Statute, 1885 and 1886.

TRANSFER OF LAND STATUTE, 1885 AND 1886.

	1885.	1886.
Applications to bring land under the Act ... number	1,532 ...	1,302
Extent of land included ... acres	55,463 ...	42,622
Land brought under the Statute—		
By application ... acres	90,232 ...	147,226
" " ... value	£2,065,624 ...	£2,228,026
By grant and purchase from the Crown ... acres	427,093 ...	354,587
" " " " purchase money	£519,422 ...	£445,441
Certificates of title issued ... number	23,051 ...	16,068
Transfers, mortgages, leases, releases, surrenders, &c. "	33,343 ..	38,732
Registering proprietors ... "	16 ...	14
Other transactions † ... "	35,142 ...	39,460
Forms and extras ... "	597 ...	292
Fees received ...	£49,685 ...	£46,565

\* 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.

† The balance to the credit of this Fund on the 30th June, 1885, was £93,900, which was reduced in 1885-6 by £66,478, advanced towards the purchase of land adjoining the Titles Office (under Act 49 Vict. No. 835), on which amount the Assurance Fund receives 4 per cent. per annum from the general revenue.

‡ Not including copies of documents supplied.

Proportion of land under the Statute. 1386. The total quantity of land under the Transfer of Land Statute at the end of 1886 was 11,153,749 acres, the declared value of which, at the time it was placed under the Act, was £33,503,302. The land granted and sold up to the end of 1886 was 14,780,197 acres. It, therefore, follows that at that period about three-fourths of the alienated land in the colony was subject to the provisions of this Statute.

Land under Act by application and otherwise. 1387. Of the whole extent of land under the Statute, 1,143,845 acres, valued at about 20 $\frac{3}{4}$  millions sterling, were brought thereunder by application, and the remainder, amounting to 10,009,904 acres, valued at 12 $\frac{3}{4}$  millions sterling, came under its provisions by virtue of its having been purchased from or granted by the Crown since the Act was passed.\*

Royal Commission on Land, Titles, and Surveys. 1388. In 1884 a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the "amendment required in the Transfer of Land Statute, the working of the Titles Office, and the state of the Surveys," and their Report, dated the 10th June, 1885,† contains a number of recommendations for the amendment of the Act. One of the most important of these is to abolish the practice of issuing a fresh certificate of title on the transfer of an entire block or parcel of land, and, instead, for the Registrar to endorse the Crown grant or certificate to the new proprietor. Such transfers, it is stated, "might easily be registered within 24 hours, and the fee of £1 for every certificate, now payable, be saved to the public." Another important recommendation is, that power be given to the Registrar to adjust boundaries, overlaps, &c.; any person injured to have his remedy against the assurance fund. For the improved working of the Titles Office, and obviating the delays complained of as occurring therein, several practical suggestions are made. With regard to the state of the territorial surveys, the Commissioners found that "the surveys made in the early days of the colony were, for the most part, extremely faulty and unreliable; and that, as a rule, the dimensions of allotments as marked out by the surveyors on the ground differ from the dimensions of the same as given in the grants," the effect of which has been "the creation or development of endless complications and difficulties from the apparent overlapping of boundaries," &c. With the view of remedying these defects, it is, amongst other things, suggested, "that an Act should be passed declaring that the boundaries as originally set out on the ground, and that are represented by the original marks, buildings, fences, or other improvements, are the true boundaries of allotments, notwithstanding any discrepancies in the measurements that may be found to exist between the boundaries so marked and the description of same in the titles"; also, that a skeleton

\* See paragraph 1383 *ante*.

† Parliamentary Paper No. 18, Session 1885.

survey, establishing permanent marks near the corners of all public streets and roads in Melbourne and suburbs, should be undertaken forthwith, so as to supply data for the accurate definition of properties, and for the preparation of proper record plans for the use of the Titles Office, as well as for the alignment of streets"; the cost to be defrayed out of the interest on the accumulated assurance fund.\*

1389. In order to give effect to these recommendations, two Acts were passed in 1885, viz.:—The Survey Boundaries Act, 1885,† and the Transfer of Land Statute Amendment Act.‡ The first of these provided for adjusting discrepancies between surveys and titles, and proving boundaries after the original survey marks had been removed or obliterated; and the second, amongst other matters, provided for the recovery of damages against the assurance fund by persons suffering loss by the inaccuracy of Crown surveys, and for transferring land by means of a simple endorsement made by the Registrar-General upon the certificate of title. Moreover, a model form of "General Conditions of Sale," and an amended table of fees to be charged by the Titles Office, are given in schedules to the Act. New Acts connected with titles to land.

1390. The business in Equity was very much lighter in 1886 than in the previous year, as will be seen by the following figures:— Transactions in Equity.

TRANSACTIONS IN EQUITY, 1885 AND 1886.

	1885.	1886.
Suits by bill ... .. number	1	2
Petitions filed ... .. "	5	1
Decrees issued ... .. "	14	3
Orders issued ... .. "	71	51
Reports issued ... .. "	10	9
Rolls filed ... .. "	2	1

1391. In 1886, as compared with 1885, there was an increase of nearly 10 per cent. in the number of probates and letters of administration issued, and an increase of 5 per cent. in the value of property bequeathed. The average value of each estate in 1885 was £2,218, and in 1886, £2,131. The following are the figures for those years:— Probates and letters of administration.

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1885 AND 1886.

Year.	Probates.		Letters of Administration. §		Both.	
	Number.	Property sworn under—	Number.	Property sworn under—	Number.	Property sworn under—
		£		£		£
1885 ...	1,239	3,753,103	699	544,816	1,938	4,297,919
1886 ...	1,260	3,775,564	866	756,707	2,126	4,532,271
Increase	21	22,461	167	211,891	188	234,352

\* See paragraph 1384 ante.

† Act 49 Vict. No. 855. Published as a supplement to the *Government Gazette* of the 24th December, 1895.

‡ Act 49 Vict. No. 872 came into operation on the 1st January, 1886.

§ Including those granted to the Curator of Intestate Estates.

Value of  
property  
bequeathed.

1392. During the twenty-two years ended with 1886, the value of the property respecting which probates and letters of administration were issued amounted to over fifty-two and a half millions sterling (£52,572,398). During the same period the total number of deaths in the colony was 269,930, so that the average value of property bequeathed by each person who died was £195. In 1885, the average value was £300, and in 1886, £303.\*

Scale of  
probate, &c.,  
duties.

1393. 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 (half duty only being paid by widows, children, or grandchildren) :—

#### SCALE OF DUTIES ON ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS.

Estates of less than	£1,000 in value	...	1 per cent.
”	£1,000 to £5,000	”	2 ”
”	£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, &c.,  
duties.

1394. The amount realized by the State in 1886 from duties on estates of deceased persons was more than in 1885 by £43,500, more than in 1884 by £3,782, and also much more 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 sixteen years :—

#### DUTIES ON ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS, 1871 TO 1886.

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

Intestate  
estates.

1395. The number of new intestate estates dealt with by the Curator in 1885 numbered 224; those in 1886 numbered 254. The estimated value of such estates amounted to £34,698 in the former and to £46,057 in the latter year.‡ The sums received by the Curator on these estates

\* See paragraphs 1130 and 1131 *ante*.

† The Acts relating to estates of deceased persons are 34 Vict. No. 388, 35 Vict. No. 403, 36 Vict. No. 427, and 39 Vict. No. 523

‡ These numbers and values are included in those given in the table following paragraph *ante*.

and on others remaining from former years were £44,668 in 1885 and £42,776 in 1886. In the sixteen years ended with 1886, the number of intestate estates dealt with was 3,578, and their estimated value £652,936. The amount received by the Curator in respect to these estates during the sixteen years was £665,233.

1396. Under the head of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes there were 16 decrees for dissolution of marriage in 1886 as against 21 in 1885. No decree for judicial separation was pronounced in 1886, but there was 1 in 1885. The following was the business done in the two years :—

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL, 1885 AND 1886.

	1885.	1886.
Petitions for dissolution of marriage ... number	34	34
„ judicial separation ... „	9	10
„ alimony ... „	4	3
Decrees for dissolution of marriage ... „	21	16
„ judicial separation ... „	1	—
„ alimony ... „	2	2

Divorce and matrimonial.

1397. 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, 224 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 43 decrees for judicial separation have been made.

Divorces in twenty-five years.

1398. As the marriages in 1886 numbered 7,737, the petitions for dissolution of marriage were in the proportion of 1 to every 228 marriages, and the decrees for dissolution of marriage were in the proportion of 1 to every 484 marriages. In the 15 years ended with 1885, the marriages numbered 83,373, the petitions for dissolution of marriage numbered 318, and the decrees for dissolution of marriage numbered 148. Thus, during the fifteen years referred to, there was 1 petition to dissolve marriage to every 262 marriages celebrated, and 1 marriage was dissolved to every 563 marriages celebrated.

Proportion of divorces to marriages.

1399. 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 1,000 marriages over a series of years being 3.81 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 17.8 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 47 per cent. in the latter.

Divorces in Victoria and England.

1400. The fees in Equity amounted in the aggregate to £646 in 1885, and to £660 in 1886; those on Probates amounted to £1,644 in 1885,

Fees in Equity, &c.

and to £1,671 in 1886; those in Divorce amounted to £161 in 1885, and to nil in 1886. The total amount of fees was thus £2,451 in 1885, and £2,331 in 1886.

1401. The moneys collected and appropriated in the department of the Master-in-Lunacy, on behalf of patients (including "percentage" and fees) increased from £15,273 in 1885 to £17,265 in 1886. It may be mentioned that the total expenditure in 1886 on Hospitals for the Insane was £97,276, so that, after allowing for moneys collected from private sources, the net cost to the State on account of lunatic patients in that year was about £80,000.

1402. In the nineteen years ended with 1886, thirteen thousand five hundred and sixty insolvencies took place in Victoria, with liabilities amounting to nearly 12 millions sterling, as against which assets were declared amounting to nearly 6¼ 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 1886.

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	264,286	215,014
1885 ... ..	467	591,957	282,502	309,455
1886 ... ..	559	830,176	570,867	259,309
Total ... ..	13,560	11,804,217	6,277,618	5,526,199

1403. The proportion of the assets to the liabilities, as shown by the insolvents' schedules, fluctuates considerably from year to year. In the year under review, the former amounted to 69 per cent. of the latter;

Collections  
in Lunacy.

Insolvencies.

Proportion  
of liabilities  
to assets.

in 1885 and 1884 to 48 per cent., in 1883 to 54 per cent., in 1882 to 58 per cent., in 1881 to 53 per cent., in 1880 to 57 per cent., and in 1879 to 70 per cent. In the whole period of nineteen years, the declared assets were in the proportion of about 53 per cent. to the declared liabilities.

1404. It will be observed that in 1886 insolvencies were more numerous by 92 than in 1885, but were fewer than in any previous year named, except 1882 and 1884; but, although the declared liabilities were greater by £240,000, the apparent deficiency was less by £50,000, in 1886 than in 1885, the former being greater than in any previous year except 1879, but the latter less than in nine of the other seventeen years named. Comparing the year under review with 1879, when insolvencies were at their maximum, the number has fallen off by 44 per cent., the declared liabilities by 50 per cent., and the apparent deficiency by 42 per cent.

Insolvencies, 1886 and previous years.

1405. According to statistics issued by Mr. Richard Seyd, F.G.S.,\* the following are the number of failures in the United Kingdom during the seven years ended with 1886:—

Failures in United Kingdom.

FAILURES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1879-1886.

Year.	Number of Failures.		
	In Wholesale Trades.†	In Retail Trades.‡	Total.
1879 ... ..	2,546	14,091	16,637
1880 ... ..	1,478	11,669	13,147
1881 ... ..	1,325	10,680	12,005
1882 ... ..	1,314	9,705	11,019
1883 ... ..	1,361	9,238	10,599
1884 ... ..	607	3,787	4,394
1885 ... ..	586	4,503	5,089
1886 ... ..	533	5,181	5,714
Total ... ..	9,750	68,854	78,604

1406. 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 three years, when the numbers were fewer by about 50 per cent. than that in any of the five preceding years. This experience was very similar to that recorded in Victoria, for during the last nineteen years the maximum number of

Insolvencies in England and Victoria compared.

\* See Annual Supplement to *The Statist*, 30th January, 1887, page 14.

† Embraces the "financial, wholesale, and manufacturing branches of trade."

‡ Consisting of "retail traders, professional men, builders, publicans, the working classes, &c."

insolvencies occurred in 1879; and in 1884 and 1885, notwithstanding the increase of population, the numbers were absolutely the lowest in the last nineteen years.

Registrar-General.

1407. 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 1886, as compared with 1885, there was a large falling-off in the business connected with the Companies Statute, but an increase in that relating to bills and contracts for sale; on the whole there was a slight decrease in the number of transactions, as will be seen by the following table, which shows the number of transactions and the amount of fees received in the last two years:—

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TRANSACTIONS AND FEES, 1885 AND 1886.

Nature of Transaction.	Transactions.		Fees.	
	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.
			£	£
Registry ... ..	18,235	18,731	5,586	5,411
Companies Statute ... ..	7,629	5,923	1,623	1,506
Bills and contracts of sale ... ..	6,963	7,294	348	365
Births, deaths, and marriages certificates ...	3,005	3,533	739	872
Patents ... ..	*	*	1,012	1,096
Copyrights ... ..	567	*	73	152
Trade-marks ... ..	*	*	390	232
Searches in connexion with the above ...	17,533	16,386	1,433	1,372
Miscellaneous fees ... ..	...	...	73	45
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>53,932</b>	<b>51,867</b>	<b>11,277</b>	<b>11,051</b>

Offences reported.

1408. The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during 1885 and 1886 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 marked increase will be observed in the number of apprehensions, also an increase in cases where the offenders were still

\* Information not furnished.

† It does not follow that in the remaining 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.

at large, but a decrease in the offences dealt with by summons, resulting in a net increase during the year in the total number of offences of 2,035, or about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.:—

## OFFENCES REPORTED, 1885 AND 1886.

Offences in respect to which—	1885.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
1. Persons were brought before magistrates on summons ... ..	23,711	22,350	...	1,361
2. „ „ apprehended by the police	28,855	32,011	3,156	...
3. The offenders were still at large* ...	3,879	4,119	240	...
Total ... ..	56,445	58,480	2,035†	...

1409. More than two-fifths 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, &c. The following are the particulars given respecting those which were dealt with in 1885 and 1886:—

## OFFENCES DEALT WITH BY SUMMONS, 1885 AND 1886. ‡

—	1885.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
Offences against the person ... ..	1,993	1,745	...	248
„ „ property ... ..	771	763	...	8
Other offences ... ..	20,947	19,842	...	1,105
Total ... ..	23,711	22,350	...	1,361†
Cases dismissed by magistrates ... ..	7,944	5,953	...	1,991
Offender summarily convicted or held to bail	15,767	16,397	630	...

\* 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.

Charges  
counted as  
persons.

1410. Very full details are given of the offences which gave occasion for the apprehensions made by the police; but, in making up the returns, a person arrested more than once during the year, or arrested at one time on several charges, is counted as a separate individual in respect to each arrest or charge, and this, except where the contrary is stated, must be borne in mind by those consulting the following paragraphs and tables.\*

Arrests, 1885  
and 1886.

1411. The persons † who were taken in charge by the Victorian police in 1886 numbered 32,011, as against 28,855 in 1885. The increase in one year was thus 3,156, or at the rate of 11 per cent.

Arrests, 1876,  
1881, and  
1886.

1412. The arrests in 1886, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennia, were as follow:—

PERSONS † ARRESTED, 1876, 1881, AND 1886. ‡

Number of Persons—	1876.	1881.	1886.
Taken into custody ... ..	25,281	25,346	32,011
Discharged by magistrates... ..	7,750	8,307	11,053
Summarily convicted or held to bail	16,851	16,448	20,202
Committed for trial ... ..	680	591	756

Arrests:  
proportion  
to popula-  
tion.

1413. At the last period, it will be observed, arrests were much more numerous than at either of the two previous periods; and, if the numbers of the population be taken into account, the arrests at the last period will be found to have been much higher than at the middle period, and slightly higher than at the first period. The estimated average population in 1876 was 796,558; in 1881, 868,942; and in 1886, 987,094. The arrests were, therefore, in the proportion of 1 to every 32 persons living at the first period, of 1 to every 34 persons living at the second period, and of 1 to every 31 persons living at the third period.

Proportion  
of times  
charge was  
sustained.

1414. 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, 67 per cent. at the second period, and of 65 per cent. at the third period.

Serious  
offences.

1415. The diminution in the prevalence of serious offences is illustrated by the fact that, as compared with the arrests, the commitments for trial were fewer at the last two periods than at the first period.

\* For 1884, a table was compiled showing the number of charges on which each individual was arrested. See paragraph 1440 *et seq. post.*

† See preceding paragraph.

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

These were in the proportion of 1 to every 37 arrests at the first period, of 1 to every 43 arrests at the middle period, and of 1 to every 42 arrests at the third period.

1416. The sexes of the persons arrested, and of such of them as were discharged by magistrates, summarily dealt with, or sent for trial, were as follow at the same three periods :—

Males and females arrested.

MALES AND FEMALES\* ARRESTED, 1876, 1881, AND 1886.

	1876.		1881.		1886.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Taken into custody ...	19,528	5,753	19,840	5,506	25,841	6,170
Discharged by magistrates ...	5,887	1,863	6,432	1,875	8,989	2,064
Summarily convicted or held to bail ...	13,064	3,787	12,872	3,576	16,180	4,022
Committed for trial ...	577	103	536	55	672	84

1417. 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 70 per cent. and 68 per cent. in 1876; of 68 per cent. and 66 per cent. in 1881; and of 65 per cent. and 67 per cent. in 1886.

Cases in which charge was sustained.

1418. The next table shows the relative proportions of males and females arrested, and of those of them who were discharged, summarily dealt with, or committed for trial at the same three periods :—

Relative proportions of male and female criminals.

MALES AND FEMALES.—RELATIVE PROPORTIONS ARRESTED, 1876, 1881, AND 1886.

	Number of Females to 100 Males.		
	1876.	1881.	1886.
Taken into custody ...	29·46	27·75	23·88
Discharged by magistrates ...	31·64	29·15	22·96
Summarily convicted or held to bail ...	28·99	27·78	24·86
Committed for trial ...	17·85	10·26	12·50

1419. It will be observed that, relatively to the males taken into custody or summarily convicted, the proportion of females similarly dealt with was at the last period much lower than at either of the former

Relative proportions of male and female criminals at three periods.

\* See paragraph 1410 ante.

periods. The proportion of females committed for trial, however, was somewhat higher than at the middle period, although not nearly so high as at the first period. At all the periods, the proportion of female to male criminals was much lower than the proportion that females bore to males in the total population; at the first period the females in the colony were in the proportion of 88, and at the second of 91, and at the third period of about 87, to every 100 males.

1420. 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, 1876, 1881, AND 1886.

Offence.	1876.	1881.	1886.
Murder and attempt at murder ... ..	17	16	23
Manslaughter ... ..	17	16	11
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm ... ..	59	82	87
Assault ... ..	1,425	1,862	2,171
Rape and indecent assault on females ...	86	71	51
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit ... ..	15	5	8
Other offences against the person ... ..	125	109	94
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c. ...	136	195	282
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c. ...	170	153	154
Other offences against property ... ..	3,458	3,385	3,577
Forgery and offences against the currency ...	98	58	87
Drunkenness ... ..	11,624	11,065	14,528
Other offences against good order ... ..	6,085	6,696	9,292
Offences relating to carrying out laws ...	374	361	193
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue ... ..	66	33	78
Offences against public welfare ... ..	1,526	1,239	1,375
Total ... ..	25,281	25,346	32,011

1421. 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, shooting at or wounding with intent, assaults, robbery with violence or burglary, miscellaneous offences against property, drunkenness, and other offences against good order; smuggling and other offences against the revenue. But, for manslaughter, rape, and indecent assaults on females, minor offences against the person, and offences relating to carrying out laws, there were fewer arrests at the last than at either of the former periods. It is a noteworthy fact that in 1881 as well as in 1880, which years were preceded by the great commercial depression of 1879, although the total arrests and the

Causes of  
arrest.

Offences at  
last period

arrests for drunkenness were as few as at the first or last period, yet the arrests for some of the more serious offences, involving personal violence, such as shooting at or wounding, and robbery with violence, burglary, &c., were considerably higher than at the preceding period. At the first period arrests for manslaughter, rape and indecent assaults on females, horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, forgery, offences relating to carrying out laws, and offences against public welfare were more numerous than at either of the subsequent periods.

1422. 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	„

1423. It will be observed that 1879, 1880, and 1881, embracing the year in which the colony was in a depressed condition, as already stated, and the two following years, drunkenness was less rife than at any preceding or subsequent period. Since 1880, however, as the colony has become more and more prosperous, arrests for drunkenness, in proportion to the population, have been steadily increasing, and in 1886 were 20 per cent. more numerous than in 1880.

1424. Mr. W. G. Brett, the Inspector-General of Penal Establishments and Gaols, in his Report for 1885,\* page 8, mentions that “intemperance being a fertile source of crime, the favourable attention of the governors of gaols and the chaplains has been directed to encourage, in every gaol, prisoners taking the pledge before leaving the prison, and they can hardly render more effectual benefit in this direction than by persuading offenders to avoid, by total abstinence, the chief cause of downfall.” The result of this recommendation was that 374 prisoners out of 7,108 who were discharged to freedom in 1886

\* Parliamentary Paper No. 50, Session 1886.

took the pledge upon their discharge. Moreover, the Church of England chaplain at Pentridge prison reports that, out of a total of 226 prisoners of his denomination discharged during the year, "90 took the total abstinence for longer or shorter periods, varying from life to three months, the latter to strengthen against the first temptation to indulgence, believing, if that period was passed over safely, the danger of lapse would be slight; several assured me of the non-necessity to them of a pledge, as the resolve of abstinence in the future from alcoholic drink had been already formed." The chaplain also states that, of the 226 persons referred to, "there were not 40 who did not attribute drunkenness, or the being 'worse for liquor,' as the direct or indirect cause of breakage of the law."

1425. As bearing upon the subject of drunkenness it should be mentioned that an Act for the better regulating and restricting the numbers of public-houses was passed in 1885,\* and came into operation on the 1st February, 1886. The principal provisions of this Act are as follow :—

Licensing Districts are created of convenient area, each of which has a Licensing Court which is presided over, in the Metropolitan, Ballarat, and Sandhurst Districts, by a County Court Judge and two Police Magistrates, and in the other districts by three Police Magistrates. The number of public-houses which may be licensed in each district is limited to 1 to each full 250 of the first 1,000 inhabitants, and a further 1 to each subsequent 500 inhabitants. This is denominated the "statutory number." Licences which existed at the time of passing the Act are not affected, but no new licences are to be issued in any district unless the number existing is below the statutory number. In cases where the number of licences does not reach the standard, they may be increased. For the purposes of determining the statutory number for each licensing district, five times the number of ratepayers on the roll of the electoral division forming such district in the month of June preceding is considered to be the population, and one-fifth of these may petition for determination, by a poll, either for a reduction of licences to the statutory number or an increase to its limit. Grocers' licences follow the same rule, with the exception that no increase may exceed one for every 500 inhabitants, which, in the case of grocers' licences, is the statutory limit. The determination arrived at either with regard to the increase or decrease of licences is to be in force for three years, and thereafter until a fresh petition is presented. In every case of an application for a new licence the District Inspector has to furnish his report, containing full description of the premises, &c., the position and distance from other licensed premises, the fitness of the applicant, and the requirements of public convenience, &c. On Sunday, liquors are not permitted to be consumed on licensed premises by, or sold to, any except lodgers and *bonâ fide* travellers, under a penalty ranging from £2 to £10 for the first offence, from £10 to £20 for a second offence, and forfeiture of licence and disqualification to hold one for twelve months for a third offence. Travellers must reside not less than ten miles in a direct line from the licensed premises, and must have travelled the distance on the same day. The burden of proof as to the person served being either lodger or *bonâ fide* traveller is cast upon the licensee, but proof is allowed that reasonable precautions are taken by him to ascertain the *bona fides*. The licensed victualler is not compelled to serve any person on Sunday; and the bar

\* *The Licensing Act 1885* (49 Vict. No. 857). A Bill for the amendment of this Act is now (November, 1887), under the consideration of Parliament.

of every licensed house is to be kept locked during prohibited hours. Only one bar is allowed on any licensed premises except under the sanction of the Licensing Court. No permit for the removal of spirit manufactured in Victoria for human consumption may be granted by any inspector of distilleries or other officer until a period of six months has elapsed from the date of manufacture, and no spirit imported into Victoria is allowed to go into consumption within six months from the date of first shipment. All spirits are subject to examination by an analytical chemist, and all beer by an inspector of liquor. All licence and other fees, fines, penalties, and forfeitures are to be paid to the Treasurer, and by him placed to the credit of a Trust Fund, called the "Licensing Act 1885 Fund," to be applied to the purposes of the Act, and, if insufficient, a special appropriation is to be made. The equivalent of licence fees payable to each municipal body under the previous Licensing Act\* is to be paid to such municipalities out of this fund, during the month of March in each year, such sums being made a first charge thereupon.

FEEs PAYABLE FOR LICENCES UNDER THE "LICENSING ACT 1885."

Victualler's Licence—	Per Annum.
In respect of premises assessed at the annual value of £50 ...	£15
Of more than £50 and up to £200 ... ..	25
Of more than £200 ... ..	50
Roadside licence ... ..	5
Packet licence ... ..	20
Grocer's licence ... ..	10
Colonial wine licence ... ..	5
Railway refreshment-room licence ... ..	25
Brewer's licence ... ..	25
Spirit merchant's licence ... ..	25
Billiard-table licence, for any number of tables not greater than four, per table ... ..	5
"    "    for any number of tables greater than four, for the whole number ... ..	20
Temporary licence ... ..	2

1426. Drunkenness, "other offences against property," "other offences against good order," and "offences against public welfare," although they may, and probably do, lead to more serious offences, may be considered as being, in themselves, comparatively speaking, minor offences, hardly amounting to crimes. Arrests for these numbered 22,693 in 1876, 22,385 in 1881, and 28,772 in 1886; and to the whole number of arrests were in the proportion of 90 per cent. at the first and last periods, and 88 per cent. at the middle period. Thus only 12 per cent. of the arrests at the middle period, and 10 per cent. at the first and last periods, were for crimes in the strict sense of the word.

1427. 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 78 persons were taken into custody for such offences in 1886, which, however, is somewhat more than the number in 1881 or in 1876.

1428. The ages of those taken into custody in 1886, and the degree of instruction possessed by them, are shown in the following table :—

\* The Licensing Act 1876 (40 Vict. No. 566).

## DEGREE OF INSTRUCTION AND AGE OF PERSONS\* ARRESTED, 1886.

Ages.		Superior Instruction.	Read and Write well.	Read only, or Read and Write imperfectly.	Unable to Read.	Total.
Under 10 years	...	...	4	85	340	429
10 " 15 "	...	...	48	464	110	622
15 " 20 "	...	3	411	1,827	142	2,383
20 " 25 "	...	18	805	4,239	236	5,298
25 " 30 "	...	26	747	3,503	262	4,538
30 " 40 "	...	64	1,077	4,752	499	6,392
40 " 50 "	...	32	748	4,232	742	5,754
50 " 60 "	...	16	459	2,999	550	4,024
60 years and upwards		12	246	1,842	471	2,571
Total	...	171	4,545	23,943	3,352	32,011

Education of children arrested.

1429. 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 1886, according to the table, was 1,051, and of these not one was possessed of superior instruction; only 52, or 1 in 20, could read and write well; and 450, or about three-sevenths, were unable to read. The number of children under 15 committed for trial was 3—2 males and 1 female—all of whom could read, and could also write more or less imperfectly.

Education of adults.

1430. Those over 15 years arrested numbered 30,960, and of these, 4,664, or more than a seventh (including those possessed of superior instruction), could read and write well, and 2,902, or nearly a tenth, could not read. Those over 15 years of age committed for trial numbered 753, of whom 259, or less than a third, could read and write well, or were possessed of superior instruction, and 54, or a fourteenth, were unable to read. According to these figures, the persons charged with offences serious enough to call for their commitment for trial were somewhat better educated than the other arrested persons. Those arrested, whether committed for trial or otherwise dealt with, were on the average not nearly so well educated as the general population, for at the last census all over 15 years of age, except about a tenth, were returned as being able to read and write, and only an eighteenth were returned as entirely illiterate.

Birthplaces and religions of criminals.

1431. The following table shows the birthplaces and religions of the persons taken into custody and of those committed for trial in 1886, also the ratio of those of each country and sect to the estimated numbers of the same country and sect in the population:—

\* See paragraph 1410 *ante*.

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PERSONS \* ARRESTED AND  
COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1886.

Birthplace and Religion.	Persons Arrested.		Persons Committed for Trial.	
	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 of the Population. †	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 in the Population. †
<b>BIRTHPLACE.</b>				
Victoria ... ..	9,598	16·25	259	·44
Other Australasian colonies ‡	1,877	39·76	70	1·48
Australian Aborigines ...	38	...	...	...
England and Wales ...	7,410	46·49	239	1·50
Scotland ... ..	2,855	55·00	47	·91
Ireland ... ..	8,005	86·16	65	·70
China ... ..	224	16·98	9	·68
Other countries ... ..	2,004	...	67	...
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>32,011</b>	<b>32·43</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>·77</b>
<b>RELIGION.</b>				
Protestants ... ..	17,599	24·86	489	·69
Roman Catholics ...	13,646	58·60	234	1·00
Jews ... ..	139	28·06	17	3·43
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	162	12·57	8	·62
Others ... ..	465	...	8	...

1432. It is always found that fewer Victorians are arrested, and fewer are committed for trial, in proportion to their numbers in the population, than persons of any other nationality. This, without doubt, is mainly due to the fact of a very large proportion of children being embraced within their numbers; with the increasing ages of the Victorian-born population, however, the number arrested is becoming larger. In 1876, only 3,021, and in 1881, 6,231 persons of Victorian birth were taken into custody, whereas in the year under review the number had risen to 9,598. Of places outside Victoria, the country which supplies the largest number of arrested persons is Ireland. In 1886, those arrested of this nationality exceeded the English and Welsh arrested by 595, and this although natives of England and Wales in the population outnumbered the Irish by about 67,500, or over 70 per cent. The offences with which the Irish were charged, however, could not have been of so serious a nature as those in respect to which the English and Welsh were arrested, as the number of the latter committed for trial were more than twice as numerous in proportion to the numbers in the population; the proportion of Scotch arrested was also much above that of the English, but that of those committed for trial was below that of any others except Victorians, the Irish, and the Chinese. The proportion of Chinese arrested, and the proportion committed for trial, was below

Relative numbers of each birth-place.

\* See paragraph 1410 *ante*.

† The estimated population of each birthplace and religion with which these calculations have been made will be found in the tables following paragraphs 61 and 74 *ante*.

‡ Exclusive of Aborigines.

that of persons of any other nationality except Victorians. Arrests of natives of other Australasian colonies were, in proportion to their numbers, the least numerous after those of Chinese and Victorians, but their commitments for trial were much more numerous than those of persons of any other nationality, except the English.

Relative numbers of each religion. 1433. In proportion to their numbers in the community, the Roman Catholics supplied nearly two and a half times as many arrested persons as the Protestants, more than twice as many as the Jews, and nearly five times as many as the Buddhists, Confucians, &c. In view of a similar proportion, the Roman Catholics committed for trial were nearly half as numerous again as the Protestants, but not nearly so numerous as the Jews. A statement of the offences which formed the grounds for arrest will be found in the next table but one.

Religions of persons convicted and sentenced. 1434. 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—that in 1885 and 1886 a somewhat larger proportion of Roman Catholics were unjustly committed than of Protestants; which, however, is just the reverse of the experience of previous years; also that, as a rule, a smaller proportion of Jews, but a larger proportion of Pagans, Buddhists, Confucians, &c., are unjustly accused than in the case of either Protestants or Roman Catholics. It should, however, be pointed out that the number of Jews and Pagans committed for trial was so small that any proportions based thereon are but of little value:—

#### RELIGIONS OF PERSONS\* TRIED† AND CONVICTED, 1886.

Religions.	Number Tried in 1886.†	Convictions in 1886.		Percentage in Year 1885.	Six Years, 1879-1884.
		Total Number.	Percentage of Number Tried.		
Protestants ...	477	329	69·0	67·1	65·3
Roman Catholics	231	140	60·6	64·3	68·4
Jews ... ..	17	11	64·7	100·0	73·9
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	8	6	75·0	50·0	51·9
Others ... ..	8	6	...	...	...
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>66·4</b>	<b>66·8</b>	<b>66·6</b>

\* See paragraph 1410 *ante*.

† Exclusive of those not prosecuted, who numbered 51 in 1886. 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.

1435. The religions of the persons\* taken into custody in 1886 are given in the following table in connexion with their offences:—

Causes of arrest, and religions.

CAUSES OF ARREST AND RELIGIONS, 1886.

Offence.	Religions.					Total.
	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Jews.	Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	Others.	
Murder and attempt at murder	16	5	...	...	2	23
Manslaughter ... ..	6	4	...	...	1	11
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	52	32	1	1	1	87
Assault ... ..	1,094	1,026	8	12	31	2,171
Rape and indecent assault on females	34	17	...	...	...	51
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit	5	3	...	...	...	8
Other offences against the person	64	25	1	1	3	94
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	133	143	2	2	2	282
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c.	81	72	...	...	1	154
Other offences against property	2,047	1,410	38	29	53	3,577
Forgery and offences against the currency	73	11	3	...	...	87
Drunkenness ... ..	8,063	6,224	37	4	200	14,528
Other offences against good order	4,943	4,092	40	83	134	9,292
Offences relating to the carrying out of laws	115	71	2	2	3	193
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	52	22	1	2	1	78
Offences against public welfare	821	489	6	26	33	1,375
Total ... ..	17,599	13,646	139	162	465	32,011

1436. It will be observed that 16 Protestants, 5 Roman Catholics, and 2 of other beliefs were arrested for murder and attempt at murder; 58 Protestants, 36 Roman Catholics, and 3 of other beliefs were arrested for manslaughter, shooting at, or seriously wounding; 39 Protestants and 20 Roman Catholics were arrested for sexual offences. Over 8,000 Protestants, over 6,200 Roman Catholics, 37 Jews, 4 Buddhists, &c., and 200 of unspecified religions were arrested for drunkenness. No Jew was arrested during the year for murder, manslaughter, or a sexual offence.

Causes of arrest of each sect compared.

1437. Arrests for drunkenness and other offences against good order were in the proportion of 74 per cent. of the total arrests of Protestants, of 76 per cent. of those of Roman Catholics, of 55 per cent. of those of Jews, of 54 per cent. of those of Buddhists, Confucians, &c., and of 72 per cent. of those of persons of other beliefs. These proportions vary but little from year to year.

Religions of drunkards.

\* See paragraph 1410 ante.

Occupations  
of persons  
arrested.

1438. The next table shows the occupations of the males and females taken into custody in 1886:—

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES\* ARRESTED, 1886.

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
<b>CLASS I.—GOVERNMENTAL AND PROFESSIONAL.</b>		
Government officer ... ..	14	...
Police, penal officer ... ..	8	...
Officer of local body ... ..	8	...
Army, navy—officer, man ... ..	13	...
Clergyman ... ..	3	...
Lawyer ... ..	31	...
Others connected with law ... ..	2	...
Medical man, student ... ..	18	...
Dentist ... ..	2	...
Chemist and druggist ... ..	56	...
Others connected with medicine ... ..	6	...
Author, editor, reporter ... ..	12	...
Science, connected with ... ..	14	...
Education, engaged in ... ..	29	6
Fine arts, engaged in ... ..	17	...
Photographer ... ..	8	...
Music, teacher of, musician ... ..	35	3
Theatres and exhibitions, connected with ... ..	38	3
<b>CLASS II.—ENGAGED IN ENTERTAINING AND SERVING.</b>		
Hotelkeeper ... ..	61	4
Board and lodging, connected with ... ..	9	3
Domestic servant, cook ... ..	278	680
Hotel, boarding-house, &c., servant ... ..	90	5
Charitable institution servant ... ..	1	...
Nurse (not servant) ... ..	...	15
Attendance, engaged in ... ..	1	25
<b>CLASS III.—COMMERCIAL PURSUITS.</b>		
Auctioneer, &c. ... ..	2	...
Broker, agent, &c. ... ..	151	...
Commercial clerk, &c. ... ..	506	...
Commercial traveller, salesman ... ..	145	...
Other mercantile persons ... ..	26	...
Shopkeeper ... ..	57	4
Pawnbroker ... ..	3	...
Hawker, pedlar ... ..	358	22
General dealer ... ..	232	5
Railway service ... ..	11	...
Omnibus, cab—driver, owner ... ..	292	...
Drayman, carter, carrier ... ..	389	...
Others connected with conveyance ... ..	2	...
Ship—owner, master, officer, seaman (not navy) ... ..	1,122	...
Ship—servant, steward, &c. ... ..	36	...
Boatman, waterman, &c. ... ..	10	...
Stevedore, or otherwise connected with ships ... ..	5	...
Storage, engaged in ... ..	1	...
Messenger, porter, errand boy ... ..	11	...
Telegraph service ... ..	3	...

\* See paragraph 1410 *ante*.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES ARRESTED, 1886—*continued.*

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
CLASS IV.—AGRICULTURAL, PASTORAL, ETC.		
Farmer, market gardener, farm servant, labourer, &c. ...	706	8
Squatter, grazier, station servant, labourer, &c. ...	52	...
Land surveyor and assistants ... ..	22	...
Others connected with selection ... ..	2	...
Horse dealer, proprietor, &c. ... ..	13	...
Veterinary surgeon, farrier ... ..	5	...
Horse-breaker, groom, jockey ... ..	321	...
Animal dealer, keeper ... ..	2	...
Game, rabbit catcher ... ..	2	...
Fisherman ... ..	44	...
Drover and others engaged about animals ... ..	51	...
CLASS V.—INDUSTRIAL.		
Bookseller, newsvendor, &c. ... ..	57	...
Bookbinder ... ..	9	1
Printer ... ..	143	...
Musical instrument tuner ... ..	7	...
Prints and pictures, connected with ... ..	4	...
Carving and figures, connected with ... ..	15	...
Designs and medals, connected with ... ..	1	...
Watch and clock maker, dealer ... ..	38	...
Philosophical instrument maker, dealer ... ..	2	...
Gunsmith, &c. ... ..	2	...
Mechanical or undefined engineer ... ..	190	...
Toolmaker, cutler, &c. ... ..	18	...
Carriagemaker, wheelwright ... ..	65	...
Saddle, harness, and whip maker, dealer ... ..	78	...
Shipwright, rigger, boatbuilder ... ..	20	...
Sailmaker, shipchandler, &c.... ..	23	...
Builder, contractor, architect... ..	76	...
Carpenter, joiner ... ..	751	...
Bricklayer, mason, plasterer, shingler, slater ... ..	694	...
Painter, paperhanger, plumber, &c. ... ..	399	...
Others connected with buildings ... ..	3	...
Cabinet, &c., maker, dealer ... ..	88	2
Undertaker ... ..	3	...
Chemicals, working or dealing in ... ..	4	...
Draper and assistants ... ..	99	...
Wool-classer ... ..	36	...
Textile fabrics, manufacturer of, weaver ... ..	14	...
Hairdresser, wigmaker, &c. ... ..	69	...
Hat and cap maker ... ..	24	4
Tailor, tailoress, dealer in clothing ... ..	228	35
Milliner, dressmaker ... ..	...	26
Clothing manufacture, engaged in, machinest ... ..	...	14
Boot and shoe maker ... ..	751	...
Shoeblick ... ..	1	...
Umbrella—maker, mender ... ..	14	...
Laundrywoman .. ..	...	1
Rope, mat, sack, maker ... ..	17	...
Tent, tarpaulin, maker, canvas dealer ... ..	4	...
Cowkeeper, dairyman, woman ... ..	10	...
Butcher, &c. ... ..	271	...
Poulterer, fishmonger ... ..	23	...



1439. It will be observed that, of the males arrested, nearly half were Chief occupations of persons arrested. labourers; and that, of other occupations, those most frequently arrested were sailors, shoemakers, carpenters, farmers and farm labourers, miners, and bricklayers, in the order named. No occupation was returned in 1,579 cases, but of these 746 were youths, and of the others it is probable that most of them belonged to the criminal classes. Of the females arrested, more than a fourth were set down as prostitutes or brothel-keepers. Nearly three-fifths, including 237 young girls, were of no specified occupation; and of the few returned as following regular occupations about three-fourths were domestic servants, and the bulk of the remainder were dressmakers and tailoresses.

1440. It has been already stated that, in making up the returns, a person arrested more than once is counted as a separate individual in respect to each arrest or charge,\* but it is possible to ascertain approximately the actual numbers passing through the hands of the police by means of a close comparison of the names, ages, birthplaces, religions, occupations, residences, &c., of the individuals in question. This is too tedious and laborious—and consequently expensive—an investigation to be attempted every year, but it has been done for 1884, so far as the sexes and birthplaces of the persons arrested are concerned, and the result is given in the following table:— Arrests of distinct individuals.

DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1884.

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

\* See paragraph 1410 ante.

1441. The total number of charges shown in the table (27,503) corresponds with the number of persons set down as arrested in the returns for 1884, but it is seen that only 19,857 were distinct individuals, or nearly a fourth less than that number. Of these, 15,504, or 78 per cent., were only arrested once; 2,749, or 14 per cent., were arrested or charged twice; 889, or 4 per cent., three times; 356, or 2 per cent., four times; and 359, or 2 per cent., more than four times; 2 having being arrested or charged as many as twenty, and 1 as many as twenty-eight times.

1442. It appears that the tendency of females to be arrested over and over again, or on several charges, is greater than that of males, for whereas, in 1884, only 21 per cent. of the males who fell into the hands of the police were apprehended more than once, or were charged with more than one offence, as many as 26 per cent. of the females who fell into the hands of the police were so apprehended or charged.

1443. Twenty-six per cent. of the natives of British possessions outside of the United Kingdom and the Australasian Colonies were taken into custody or charged with an offence more than once during the year, as also were 24 per cent. of the Irish, 22 per cent. of the Victorians, the other Australians, and the Scotch, 21 per cent. of the Americans, 20 per cent. of the English, 19 per cent. of the French, 13 per cent. of the Germans, and 10 per cent. of the Chinese.

1444. The distinct persons taken into custody for drunkenness during 1884 numbered 10,287 and, of these 1,520, or 15 per cent., were apprehended more than once, viz. :—994 twice, 288 thrice, 112 four times, 51 five times, 25 six times, 19 seven times, 11 eight times, 7 nine times, 1 ten times, 4 eleven times, 1 twelve times, 2 thirteen times, 1 fourteen times, 2 fifteen times, 1 twenty times, and 1 twenty-six times.

1445. Whilst the number of individuals arrested for drunkenness was 10,287, the charges of drunkenness brought against them numbered 12,938; but these persons were charged with 2,622 other offences, so that the total number of charges of all kinds against drunkards was 15,560, as against 27,503 charges of all descriptions. Thus 57 per cent. of the offences for which persons were arrested, during 1884 were committed by persons who were arrested during the same year for drunkenness.

1446. The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates in the year 1886 were as follow :—

Individuals  
arrested  
more than  
once.

Sexes of  
those  
arrested  
more than  
once.

Countries  
of those  
arrested  
more than  
once.

Individuals  
arrested  
more than  
once for  
drunken-  
ness.

Drunkards  
charged  
with other  
offences.

Results of  
summary  
disposal.

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF ARRESTED PERSONS,\* 1886.

Sentence.					Males.	Females.
Imprisonment for 2 years	...	...	...	...	12	...
” 1 year and under 2 years	...	...	...	...	144	84
” 6 months and under 1 year	...	...	...	...	240	110
” 4 months	...	...	...	...	29	16
” 3 months	...	...	...	...	994	447
” 2 months and under 3 months	...	...	...	...	238	53
” 1 month and under 2 months	...	...	...	...	1,256	534
” 15 days and under 1 month	...	...	...	...	60	4
” 8 days and under 15 days	...	...	...	...	609	233
” 7 days and under	...	...	...	...	4,227	1,343
Fined	...	...	...	...	7,392	853
Ordered to find bail	...	...	...	...	359	46
Sent to lunatic asylum	...	...	...	...	252	148
Sent to industrial school or reformatory	...	...	...	...	280	149
Otherwise dealt with	...	...	...	...	88	2
Total sentenced	...	...	...	...	16,180	4,022
Discharged	...	...	...	...	8,989	2,064
Total summarily disposed of	...	...	...	...	25,169	6,086

1447. Of the persons sentenced by magistrates during 1886, 46 per cent. of the males, and 21 per cent. of the females, were fined; 30 per cent. of the former, and 39 per cent. of the latter, were sentenced to imprisonment for various terms under a month, and 17 and 29 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 6 per cent. of the males and 9 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

1448. Corporal punishment to males may be ordered by magistrates for certain offences. In such cases the offender may be sentenced to be whipped once, twice, or thrice, at the discretion of the bench. No offenders were so sentenced in any of the last three years; but in 1883 two offenders were so sentenced, one of whom was to receive one whipping of fourteen lashes, and the other two whippings of twenty-five lashes each. These were the only occasions during the last seven years that whipping was ordered by magistrates. Whipping ordered by magistrates.

1449. Mr. Inspector-General Brett in his report for 1885, † page 7, recommends the substitution of whipping for imprisonment in the case of juvenile offenders. The following are Mr. Brett's words:— Whipping recommended for youths.

“As to the most suitable punishment for juvenile offenders, the difficulty is greatly enhanced by the palpable and serious evils arising from the imprisonment of youths either together or with adults, even for short periods of time. The inevitable tendency is to sink the younger offenders to the level of the worst of those amongst whom they are confined. Punishment of a summary kind, in the shape of personal chastisement, would be the most efficacious, and should be

\* See paragraph 1410 *ante*.

† Parliamentary Paper No. 50, Session 1886.

administered, not once only, but again and again for repeated offences, rather than to send youths to gaol. It should only be inflicted with a birch rod, never with the lash; and in no case should any sentence be for more than twenty-five stripes, all to be inflicted at one time, and in the prisoners' room of the court-house, or in the police lock-up, and the youthful offender discharged whilst smarting from the effects; or this punishment might be held over, and the youth allowed to go on probation, and be liable to undergo the chastisement on a future occasion, if brought up for a subsequent offence during the period of probation.

"It is a matter of vital importance to this colony how young offenders are managed, and when we have learned satisfactorily to dispose of such youths, there will be in the future a scarcity of adult criminals by natural consequence. An important step towards the solution of the problem may be found in making their offences appear contemptible and unpopular by the use of the birch rod, thus depriving crime of the halo which surrounds its exploits in the youth's mind."

1450. The results of the commitments for trial at the three periods already referred to were as follow :—

RESULTS OF COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL, 1876, 1881, AND 1886.\*

	1876.	1881.	1886.
Number for trial ... ..	687*	567*	792*
Convicted and sentenced...	384	332	492
Acquitted ... ..	216	177	249
Not prosecuted ... ..	87	58	51

1451. Of those committed for trial, 600 were eventually tried in 1875, 509 in 1881, and 741 in 1886. At the first period 64 per cent., at the second period 65 per cent., and at the third period 66 per cent. of the trials resulted in convictions.

1452. The following are the sentences of the prisoners tried and convicted in superior courts during the year under review :—

SENTENCES OF PERSONS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1886.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
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 ...	31	1
Imprisonment for 2 years and under 4 years ... ..	84	6
"    1 year and under 2 years ... ..	133	3
"    6 months and under 1 year ... ..	84	11
"    1 month and under 6 months ... ..	75	9
"    under 1 month ... ..	19	3
Fined ... ..	2	...
Recognizances estreated ... ..	2	...
To find bail to appear when called upon ... ..	5	1
Awaiting the pleasure of the Crown ... ..	1	5
Sent to lunatic asylum ... ..	3	...
Total tried and convicted ... ..	453	39

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

Results of  
commitments  
for trial.

Proportion  
of convictions  
obtained.

Sentences in  
superior  
courts.

1453. Of males convicted in superior courts, not one was sentenced to death in 1886, but 6 were so sentenced in the preceding year; all except 13 were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, with or without hard labour; of those imprisoned, nearly three-fourths were sentenced for periods of less than two years, and only one-tenth to more than four years. Of the females, 10 were sentenced to over one, and 23 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 a longer period than four years.

Length of sentences in superior courts.

1454. In addition to terms of imprisonment named in the foregoing table, 130 persons were ordered to be kept in solitary confinement for periods varying from a few days to 12 weeks per annum during the whole sentence. Nine of these had been convicted of murder, attempt to murder, or manslaughter; 2 of assault; 6 of rape; 3 of unnatural offences; 27 of robbery under arms or burglary; 4 of horse stealing, &c.; 59 of other offences against property; 19 of forgery; and 1 of offences relating to carrying out laws. In some instances the sentences of this kind were very severe; thus, one offender convicted of rape, sentenced to between 4 and 7 years' imprisonment, was ordered to be placed in solitary confinement for the first fortnight of every alternate month, and to receive during the first six months two whippings of 15 lashes each; another, convicted of a similar offence sentenced to between 4 and 7 years' imprisonment, was ordered to be kept in solitary confinement for one week in every alternate month, and to receive one whipping of 15 lashes; another, convicted of robbery with violence, was sentenced to between 7 and 10 years' imprisonment, with solitary confinement for 12 periods of 14 days, and to pass the first year in irons.

Solitary confinement ordered by superior courts.

1455. Separate confinement, which is a modification of solitary confinement, is a punishment which is not awarded by the judges, but is administered under the gaol regulations to all prisoners for the initial period of a long sentence, and for the full term of a short one. The value of this system as a substitute for solitary confinement is well established both in this colony and in England, and is thus described by Mr. Inspector-General Brett in his report for 1885\*:

Separate and solitary confinement

“By regulations of the Governor in Council, the separate system is applicable to all first convicted prisoners sentenced to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months, and although limited in its operation (by want of a sufficient number

\* Parliamentary Paper No. 50, Session 1886.

of separate cells to men of short sentences in the Melbourne Gaol, and not applied to the women there at all, for the same reason, but more extensively to both male and female prisoners in the country gaols), it is nevertheless a step towards the education of the officers in working this system, and the devices resorted to by first offenders to escape the punishment speaks well for its efficacy. The great drawback of separation in this colony is the want of profitable or suitable work for prisoners in separate cells, and the costly character of the system; but, as compared with association, and the many evils inseparable from it, the advantages are all in favour of the former, bearing in mind the primary objects of penal discipline, as tending to the diminution of crime. Solitary confinement differs so much from separate confinement, that the features of the two systems are distinctly and prominently brought forward. 'Solitary confinement' is a condition of as positive seclusion from human society as is practicable. The prisoner's diet is restricted to mere bread and water, and no employment of any kind interferes with the unbroken seclusion of his cell. The privations are both bodily and mental, the object being to punish by the operation of pain and fear, and not to effect a lasting moral benefit for himself, but to employ harsh measures to attain a temporary purpose. In 'separate confinement' the prisoner is provided with sufficient food and given employment in his cell and not consigned to torpor and other bad consequences of idleness, the permanent moral benefit of the prisoner is the object which he can plainly see the system has in view, because an appeal is made to his moral sense and understanding. Contrasting these two systems, it is worthy of consideration whether the separate system does not contain in itself the elements of penal and reformatory discipline judiciously combined, and in due proportions, being more humane and salutary on the whole, and in accord with the tendencies of the age, which demand that criminals are to be regarded as rational and responsible beings, and that those placed in authority over them are not merely their legal custodians, but responsible for using the most effectual means to punish and restore them to society as better and more useful members of the community."

1456. The council of judges of the Supreme Court in their report, dated 6th June, 1887,\* express their opinion that power should be given to the court to award separate confinement in the following words :—

"We desire to give our opinion that it is expedient that the Criminal Law and Practice Statute 1864 should be amended, and power given to the court in its discretion to direct, by its sentence, that an offender shall be kept in separate confinement, and that the existing gaol regulations relating to separate confinement should be rescinded. The court at present possesses the power of awarding solitary confinement only. Separate confinement has a double purpose and effect. In the majority of cases it is a real aggravation of the punishment of imprisonment. It is both punitive and reformatory in its intention and effect; and it would, therefore, be properly applied as part of the judicial sentence in each individual case."

1457. The total number of offenders sentenced by superior courts to be whipped was 11. Rape or indecent assaults on females were the crimes of four of these, for one of whom 2 whippings of 15 lashes each, for two others 1 whipping of 15 lashes, and for another 1 whipping of 10 lashes, were ordered. Unnatural offence was the crime of two others, one of whom was to receive 2 whippings and the other 1 whipping of 15 lashes each. Robbery with violence was the crime of the five remaining offenders, each of whom was sentenced to receive 1 whipping of 20 lashes. Judges of the Supreme Court and Courts of General Sessions can sentence males to receive corporal punishment,

Judges on separate confinement.

Whippings ordered by superior courts.

\* Parliamentary Paper No. 58, Session 1887.

under Act 27 Vict. No. 233, for unnatural offences, attempts to choke in order to commit an offence, for robbery under arms, and, in the case of youths under sixteen, for several other offences; also, under Act 35 Vict. No. 399, for attempts to commit rape, or for rape itself where sentence of death is commuted. It is, moreover, recommended by the judges of the Supreme Court that power should be given to award this punishment for "all offences committed by adult males that are attended with violence to the person, except common assaults."\* The greatest number of whippings an individual can be sentenced to receive for one offence is three, and the greatest number of lashes at each whipping is 50.

1458. The number of individuals sentenced to corporal punishment in 1874 was 11, viz., 6 by magistrates and 5 by superior courts; the number in 1875 was 5, viz., 2 by magistrates and 3 by superior courts; the number in 1876 was 11, viz., 1 by magistrates and 10 by superior courts; the number in 1877 was 11, viz., 5 by magistrates and 6 by superior courts; the number in 1878 was 17, viz., 2 by magistrates and 15 by superior courts; the number in 1879 was 9, viz., 4 by magistrates and 5 by superior courts; the number in 1880 was 5, 17 in 1881, 8 in 1882—all by superior courts; the number in 1883 was 14, viz., 2 by magistrates and 12 by superior courts; the number in 1884 was 17, the number in 1885 was 6—all by superior courts; and the number in 1886 was 11. The total number of whippings directed to be administered in the thirteen years was 200, of which 27 were ordered by magistrates and 173 by superior courts. The number of persons sentenced to be whipped in 1886 was thus exceeded in 4, and was equalled in 3, years since 1873. The average number of whippings per individual in the thirteen years was 1.5.

Whippings  
ordered,  
1874-1886.

1459. One criminal, a native of the United States of America, and claiming to be a member of the Wesleyan Church, was executed in 1886, for murder. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip, 141 criminals have been executed within the colony, of whom only one was a female. No execution took place in 1882, or in 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 birth-places of the persons executed, the religions they professed, and the crimes they expiated on the scaffold:—

Executions.

\* Report of the Council of Judges, dated 6th June, 1887. Parliamentary Paper No. 58, Session 1887.

## CRIMINALS EXECUTED, 1842 TO 1886.

Birthplace, Religion, and Offence.								Number.
Total number executed								141
Birthplace—Victoria								4
" Other Australian colonies								6
" England								59
" Wales								2
" Ireland								41
" Scotland								7
" Belgium								1
" France								1
" Switzerland								1
" Germany								1
" Sweden								1
" Sicily								1
" United States of America								5
" West Indies								2
" China								8
" At sea								1
Religion—Church of England								32
" Presbyterian								5
" Wesleyan								8
" Baptist								1
" Lutheran								2
" Protestant undefined								30
" Roman Catholic								52
" Pagan								6
" No Religion								5*
Offence—Murder								105
" Attempt to murder								17
" Rape								9
" Unnatural offence on a child								1
" Robbery with violence								9

Executions  
in United  
Kingdom.

1460. 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.

Undetected  
crime.

1461. The offences in respect to which no persons were apprehended numbered 4,119 in 1886, or 240 more than in 1885, and 70 more than in 1884, but less than in any of the nine years ended with 1883. As

\* Aborigines.

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

compared with 1885, those against property increased by 160, those against the person by 32, and other offences by 48. The following are the undetected offences in the last twelve years :—

## UNDETECTED CRIME, 1875 TO 1886.

Year.	Number of Offences.			
	Against the Person.	Against Property.	Other Offences.	Total.
1875 ... ..	321	3,830	493	4,644
1876 ... ..	381	3,968	378	4,727
1877 ... ..	457	4,431	463	5,351
1878 ... ..	496	4,011	385	4,892
1879 ... ..	503	3,763	364	4,630
1880 ... ..	613	3,935	350	4,898
1881 ... ..	462	3,770	400	4,631
1882 ... ..	571	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	364	4,119

1462. 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 be arrested, and perhaps punished, for other misdeeds. Offender perhaps arrested on other grounds.

1463. 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*. Crime in Australasian colonies. The first of these gives for each colony, and for the whole of Australasia, during each of the ten years 1876 to 1885, 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, 1876 TO 1885.

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 ...	1876	42,297	27,505	680	384
	1877	45,844	29,528	594	340
	1878	44,742	29,452	658	458
	1879	43,936	28,266	628	397
	1880	41,778	26,950	680	398
	1881	44,730	29,131	591	332
	1882	47,234	31,542	616	402
	1883	48,974	33,480	606	350
	1884	51,397	34,456	695	407
	1885	52,566	34,180	768	444
New South Wales †	1876	45,105	30,404	1,391	822
	1877	47,739	33,003	1,517	829
	1878	53,325	37,924	1,803	959
	1879	53,870	38,828	1,743	1,090
	1880	57,784	42,205	1,717	1,148
	1881	66,600	51,130	1,626	1,058
	1882	65,936	50,126	1,724	1,065
	1883	72,231	55,463	1,606	1,008
	1884	75,680	57,897	1,550	928
	1885	77,092	59,345	1,540	785
Queensland †	1876	10,180	6,126	285	132
	1877	9,929	6,444	312	177
	1878	9,563	6,153	344	197
	1879	9,058	5,762	377	185
	1880	9,133	6,051	316	170
	1881	10,063	7,253	264	126
	1882	11,649	8,025	308	144
	1883	13,804	9,788	427	193
	1884	15,518	11,620	555	274
	1885	15,763	11,451	538	267
South Australia ...	1876	9,375	7,929	239	129
	1877	10,314	8,696	240	156
	1878	13,682	11,685	369	229
	1879	12,843	10,970	384	223
	1880	15,063	12,814	353	199
	1881	15,347	13,258	342	213
	1882	14,672	12,634	339	211
	1883	13,104	11,378	305	166
	1884	11,988	10,425	293	127
	1885	10,406	8,091	240	133
Western Australia...	1876	7,509	5,847	95	47
	1877	6,855	5,272	83	27
	1878	6,126	4,552	102	45
	1879	6,471	4,853	85	53
	1880	5,577	4,221	50	25
	1881	5,460	4,134	109	61
	1882	5,089	3,683	90	46
	1883	4,739	3,450	72	46
	1884	4,831	3,477	64	40
	1885	4,900	3,436	86	51

\* 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, 567 lunatics in 1885, and 4,093 in the previous nine years; and in Queensland, 296 in 1885, and 3,379 during the previous nine years; and in Tasmania, 74 lunatics in 1885, and 65 in the previous year, were admitted to asylums. Probably four-fifths of these were apprehended by the police.

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1876 TO 1885—*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.	
Tasmania †	...	1876	7,523	5,659	96	51
		1877	6,606	5,140	102	49
		1878	6,644	5,131	113	54
		1879	7,184	5,641	110	67
		1880	6,908	5,418	117	73
		1881	6,229	4,799	90	51
		1882	7,615	5,942	93	36
		1883	8,039	5,394	88	33
		1884	6,273	4,843	70	39
		1885	5,983	4,876	71	31
New Zealand ‡	...	1876	22,141	16,100	414	249
		1877	21,953	16,293	405	250
		1878	22,237	16,370	415	292
		1879	22,492	16,088	734§	296
		1880	21,181	15,025	592	370
		1881	19,796	14,079	474	235
		1882	22,659	16,573	467	219
		1883	23,090	16,944	459	231
		1884	23,572	17,968	509	241
		1885	23,103	17,804	428	236
Australasia	...	1876	144,130	99,570	3,200	1,814
		1877	149,240	104,376	3,253	1,828
		1878	156,319	111,267	3,804	2,234
		1879	155,854	110,408	4,061	2,311
		1880	157,424	112,684	3,825	2,383
		1881	168,225	123,784	3,496	2,076
		1882	174,854	128,525	3,637	2,123
		1883	183,981	135,897	3,563	2,027
		1884	189,259	140,686	3,736	2,056
		1885	189,813	139,183	3,671	1,947

1464. 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 being in New South Wales, as a rule, considerably more than twice as numerous as in Victoria. Some

Large amount of crime in New South Wales.

\* Not including civil cases.

† 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, &c. were improperly included in the returns of offences for which persons were apprehended or summoned in that colony.

‡ Maoris are included. In 1884, the number of cases in which they were concerned was 467—in 296 of which summary convictions were obtained, in 113 cases the prisoner was discharged, and in 58 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.

improvement, however, in regard to offences of this character has taken place in the former colony during the last three years. In 1885, the apprehensions and summonses in New South Wales exceeded those in Victoria by 47 per cent., and the summary convictions by 73 per cent. It must, moreover, be remembered that the returns of the latter are swelled by the apprehensions of lunatics, whilst these are not included in the returns of the former.

Proportion of  
crime in  
each colony.

1465. 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 ten 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 ARRESTS, COMMITMENTS, AND CONVICTIONS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES TO POPULATION, ETC., 1876 TO 1885.

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 Summonses Cases.*	Summary Convictions.	Commitments for Trial.	Convictions after Commitment.	Summary Convictions to Apprehensions and Summonses Cases.*	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.	
Victoria	1876	53·10	34·53	8·54	4·82	65·03	56·47
	1877	56·69	36·52	7·35	4·20	64·40	57·24
	1878	54·47	35·85	8·01	5·58	65·82	69·60
	1879	52·68	33·89	7·53	4·76	64·33	63·22
	1880	49·13	31·69	8·00	4·68	64·51	58·53
	1881	51·48	33·52	6·80	3·82	65·13	56·18
	1882	53·05	35·43	6·92	4·52	66·78	65·26
	1883	53·76	36·75	6·65	3·84	68·36	57·76
	1884	55·03	36·89	7·44	4·36	67·04	58·56
	1885	54·84	35·66	8·01	4·63	65·02	57·81
New South Wales	1876	74·64	50·32	23·02	13·60	67·40	59·10
	1877	75·90	52·52	24·12	13·18	69·13	54·65
	1878	81·07	57·66	27·41	14·58	71·12	53·19
	1879	78·00	56·23	25·24	15·78	72·08	62·54
	1880	79·63	58·16	23·66	15·83	73·04	66·86
	1881	87·60	67·25	21·39	13·92	76·77	65·07
	1882	82·96	63·07	21·69	13·40	76·02	61·77
	1883	86·59	66·48	19·25	12·08	76·79	62·76
	1884	85·92	65·73	17·60	10·53	76·50	59·87
	1885	82·81	63·75	16·54	8·43	76·98	53·51

\* Not including civil cases.

† In consequence of the amendment of the population estimates, the calculations for Victoria for the years 1882 to 1884, those for New South Wales and Australasia for all the years, and those for Queensland and New Zealand for 1884, have been corrected since the last publication of this work.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, ETC., 1876 TO 1885—*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.	
Queensland ...	1876	55·27	33·26	15·47	7·17	60·18	46·32
	1877	50·89	33·03	15·99	9·07	64·90	56·73
	1878	46·24	29·75	16·63	9·53	64·34	57·27
	1879	42·29	26·90	17·60	8·64	63·61	49·07
	1880	41·15	27·26	14·24	7·66	66·25	53·80
	1881	45·53	32·82	11·95	5·70	72·08	47·73
	1882	49·03	33·77	12·96	6·06	68·89	46·75
	1883	51·53	36·54	15·94	7·20	70·90	45·20
	1884	52·64	39·42	18·93	9·29	74·88	49·38
	1885	51·05	37·08	17·42	8·65	72·64	49·63
South Australia	1876	42·99	36·36	10·96	5·92	84·58	53·97
	1877	44·60	37·60	10·38	6·75	84·31	65·00
	1878	56·34	48·12	15·20	9·43	85·40	62·06
	1879	50·50	43·17	15·11	8·77	85·48	58·07
	1880	57·16	48·63	13·40	7·55	85·07	56·43
	1881	53·18	45·94	11·81	7·38	86·39	62·28
	1882	50·61	43·58	11·69	7·28	86·11	62·24
	1883	43·82	38·05	10·20	5·55	86·82	54·43
	1884	38·83	33·78	9·49	4·11	86·96	43·34
	1885	33·23	25·84	7·67	4·25	77·76	55·42
Western Australia	1876	277·95	216·43	35·17	17·40	77·87	49·47
	1877	248·55	191·16	30·09	9·79	76·90	32·53
	1878	218·77	162·56	36·43	16·07	74·31	44·11
	1879	227·72	170·78	29·91	18·65	75·00	62·35
	1880	193·35	146·34	17·33	8·67	75·69	50·00
	1881	182·93	138·50	36·52	20·44	75·71	55·96
	1882	167·46	121·19	29·62	15·14	72·37	51·11
	1883	151·73	110·46	23·05	14·72	72·80	63·89
	1884	149·43	107·55	19·80	12·37	71·97	62·50
	1885	143·81	100·85	25·27	14·97	70·12	59·30
Tasmania † ...	1876	71·94	54·11	9·18	4·88	78·29	53·12
	1877	62·15	48·37	9·60	4·61	79·97	48·04
	1878	61·22	47·28	10·41	4·98	79·00	47·78
	1879	64·60	50·73	9·89	6·02	81·08	60·91
	1880	60·80	47·69	10·30	6·43	80·19	62·40
	1881	53·11	40·91	7·67	4·35	78·64	56·67
	1882	63·09	49·23	7·70	2·98	78·73	38·71
	1883	64·65	43·37	7·08	2·65‡	80·80	37·50
	1884	48·86	37·72	5·45	3·04	77·20	55·71
	1885	45·27	36·89	5·37	2·35	81·50	43·66

\* See footnote (†) on previous page.

† See footnote (†) on page 717 *ante.*

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

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, ETC., 1876 TO 1885—*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 on Summons Cases.	Summary Convictions.	Commitments for Trial.	Convictions after Commitment.	Summary Con- victions to Ap- prehensions and Summons Cases.	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.	
New Zealand ...	1876	57·14	41·55	10·68	6·43	72·72	60·14
	1877	53·76	39·90	9·92	6·12	74·22	61·73
	1878	52·74	38·82	9·84	6·92	73·62	70·36
	1879	50·19	35·90	16·38†	6·61	71·53	40·33‡
	1880	44·66	31·68	12·48	7·80	70·94	62·50
	1881	40·11	28·52	9·60	4·76	71·12	49·58
	1882	44·49	32·54	9·17	4·30	73·14	46·90
	1883	43·62	32·01	8·67	4·36	73·38	50·33
	1884	42·94	32·73	9·27	4·39	76·23	47·35
	1885	40·80	31·45	7·56	4·17	77·06	55·14
Total Australasia*	1876	62·06	42·87	13·78	7·81	69·35	56·70
	1877	62·02	43·37	13·51	7·49	70·10	56·19
	1878	62·73	44·73	15·29	8·98	71·32	58·73
	1879	60·39	42·77	15·73	8·94	71·06	56·91
	1880	58·77	42·07	14·28	8·89	71·73	62·30
	1881	60·52	44·53	12·57	7·46	73·68	59·38
	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

1466. 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 ten 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 following is the order of the various colonies in this respect in 1885, the colony with the highest proportion of persons apprehended or summoned on criminal charges being placed first, and that with the lowest last:—

## ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS APPREHENDED OR SUMMONED IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1885.

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

\* See footnote (†) on page 718 *ante*.

† See footnote (§) on page 717 *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.

§ 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.

1467. As regards the persons summarily convicted, in proportion to population, Western Australia, New South Wales, and Tasmania have hitherto been at the top of the list; but, in 1884 and 1885, the proportion in Queensland, where it had increased, was somewhat higher than in Tasmania, where it had considerably fallen off.\* Victoria generally occupies the fifth position, showing a smaller proportion of summary convictions than the four colonies referred to. 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, 1885.

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

1468. 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 in 1884 the proportion was higher than in Tasmania, and in 1885 it was higher than in either Tasmania, New Zealand, or South Australia. Western Australia has been at the head of the list throughout the period, and New South Wales stood second until 1884, when, for the first time, Queensland rose above it. In respect to the proportion of commitments for trial to population, the colonies stood in the following order in 1885:—

Order of colonies in respect to commitments for trial.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS COMMITTED FOR TRIAL IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1885.

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

1469. In respect to convictions in superior courts, Victoria has usually had the smallest number in proportion to population, with the exception of Tasmania; but, in 1885, New Zealand and South Australia also stood below Victoria. Western Australia, Queensland, and New South Wales were at the top of the list, a position they have occupied during most of the ten years:—

Order of colonies in respect to convictions in superior courts.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1885.

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

\* See footnote (†) on page 717 ante.

Order of colonies in respect to summary conviction obtained.

1470. 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 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 1885, 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, 1885.

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

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

1471. In regard to the proportion of convictions to commitments for trial, Western Australia was at the head of the list in 1885, and Victoria stood second, whilst New South Wales, which in 1884 occupied the second place, fell, in 1885, to the fifth; and South Australia and New Zealand, which in 1884 were at the bottom of the list, rose, in 1885, to the third and fourth places. In the subjoined statement the colonies are placed in order, the one in which the convictions, in 1885, bore the highest proportion to commitments being placed first:—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS TO COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL, 1885.

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

Incomplete returns in some colonies.

1472. 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.

1473. Notwithstanding New South Wales has hitherto possessed a smaller population than Victoria, arrests for offences of all descriptions have always been much more numerous in the former colony than in the latter. Thus, in 1885, arrests for homicide in New South Wales numbered 50 against only 31 in Victoria; arrests for rape and other sexual offences numbered 115 against 57; arrests for other offences against the person numbered 9,353 against 4,071; arrests for horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c., numbered 403 against 149; arrests for other offences against property numbered 6,576 against 3,797; arrests for drunkenness numbered 27,493\* against 13,580; and arrests for other offences numbered 32,872 against 30,594. A single exception occurred in 1885 in regard to arrests for robbery, burglary, &c., which numbered 230 in New South Wales as against 287 in Victoria; but, as a rule, these crimes also are much more prevalent in the former than in the latter. The following table shows the offences for which apprehensions were made or summonses issued in the various Australasian colonies during the ten years 1876 to 1885, so far as the information can be gathered from their respective *Statistical Registers* :—

Arrests, &c., for various offences in Australasian colonies.

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1876 TO 1885.

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, &c.	Horse, Sheep, and Cattle Stealing, &c.	Other Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
Victoria	1876	34	86	4,083	136	178	3,956	11,624	22,200
	1877	50	48	4,316	155	195	4,167	12,447	24,466
	1878	36	54	4,456	187	173	4,274	11,825	23,737
	1879	29	60	4,174	203	154	4,160	10,859	24,297
	1880	36	81	4,376	245	171	3,880	10,056	22,933
	1881	32	71	4,526	195	153	4,383	11,065	24,305
	1882	33	66	4,340	206	169	4,853	11,749	25,818
	1883	38	52	3,785	262	158	4,146	12,408	28,125
	1884	39	70	3,539	205	130	4,038	12,938	30,438
	1885	31	57	4,071	287	149	3,797	13,580	30,594

\* 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, 1876 TO 1885—*continued.*

Colony.	Year.	Number of Arrests or Summonses for—							Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
		Murder, Attempts at Murder, and Manslaughter.	Rape, and other Offences against Females.	Other Offences against the Person.	Robbery with Violence, Burglary, &c.	Horse, Sheep, and Cattle Stealing, &c.	Other Offences against Property.			
New South Wales	1876	7,578			5,898			16,171	15,458	
	1877	8,539			6,130			16,696	16,374	
	1878	9,398			6,807			17,224	19,896	
	1879	63	85	9,102	266	472	6,126	17,713	20,043	
	1880	75	95	9,364	245	469	6,154	18,777	22,605	
	1881	68	104	9,031	231	465	6,237	22,560	27,904	
	1882	54	110	9,080	274	529	6,643	22,280	26,966	
	1883	76	109	10,484	203	348	6,343	23,178	31,490	
	1884	98	119	9,842	263	482	6,415	25,428	33,033	
1885	50	115	9,353	230	403	6,576	27,493	32,872		
Queensland	1876	1,226			1,238			3,679	4,037	
	1877	1,550			1,201			3,019	4,159	
	1878	1,273			1,191			3,215	3,884	
	1879	1,238			1,175			2,997	3,648	
	1880	1,320			1,186			2,867	3,760	
	1881	1,304			1,146			3,275	4,338	
	1882	1,532			1,140			3,771	5,206	
	1883	2,369			1,327			4,505	5,603	
	1884	2,543			1,687			5,117	6,171	
1885	2,230			1,748			5,508	6,277		
South Australia	1876	5	19	735	30	27	544	2,837	5,178	
	1877	11	31	810	24	31	636	2,890	5,881	
	1878	10	32	941	50	12	824	4,166	7,647	
	1879	5	29	857	46	15	890	3,840	7,161	
	1880	13	37	1,026	52	51	971	4,325	8,588	
	1881	7	33	862	45	23	1,009	5,298	8,070	
	1882	5	16	934	55	19	963	4,713	7,967	
	1883	5	17	767	61	15	652	4,533	7,054	
	1884	24	41	711	45	13	653	3,938	6,563	
1885	9	36	598	28	19	708	3,361	5,647		
Western Australia	1876	515			537			6,457		
	1877	470			493			5,892		
	1878	619			515			4,992		
	1879	462			387			5,622		
	1880	331			355			4,891		
	1881	418			354			4,688		
	1882	365			459			4,265		
	1883	455			372			3,912		
	1884	410			335			4,086		
1885	403			323			4,174			

\* See footnote to preceding page.

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1876 TO 1885—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, &c.	Horse, Sheep, and Cattle Stealing, &c.	Other Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
Tasmania †	1876	13	11	876	61	18	903	1,807	3,834
	1877	25	16	636	58	26	854	1,345	3,646
	1878	6	30	693	60	35	862	1,374	3,584
	1879	2	54	616	45	35	998	1,504	3,930
	1880	2	14	651	103	37	723	1,543	3,835
	1881	5	8	528	35	17	691	1,446	3,499
	1882	5	20	621	36	27	842	1,827	4,237
	1883	2	17	701	25	28	702	1,890	4,674
	1884	3	21	533	22	25	616	1,577	3,476
	1885	3	13	544	34	22	565	1,470	3,332
New Zealand	1876	31	51	1,743	54	43	1,776	7,153	11,290
	1877	18	41	1,899	66	61	1,855	7,429	10,564
	1878	16	43	1,890	38	44	1,684	7,105	11,417
	1879	14	51	1,869	100	67	2,563	6,672	11,156
	1880	29	56	1,909	99	65	2,272	6,371	10,380
	1881	13	59	1,937	73	85	2,146	5,770	9,713
	1882	10	47	1,920	93	62	2,226	6,996	11,305
	1883	16	46	1,605	71	50	2,358	7,494	11,450
	1884	25	35	1,652	102	66	2,270	7,154	12,268
	1885	21	30	1,734	94	60	2,044	7,012	12,108

1474. Subjoined is a statement of the proportion of the various offences, grouped under four heads, to the population of each colony during the same ten years:—

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

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1876 TO 1885.

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
Victoria ...	1876	5.28	5.36	14.60	27.87
	1877	5.46	5.59	15.39	30.26
	1878	5.53	5.64	14.40	28.90
	1879	5.11	5.42	13.02	29.13
	1880	5.28	5.05	11.83	26.97
	1881	5.33	5.44	12.73	27.97
	1882	4.99	5.87	13.20	29.00
	1883	4.25	5.01	13.62	30.87
	1884	3.91	4.68	13.85	32.59
	1885	4.34	4.42	14.17	31.92

\* See footnote on page 723 ante.

† The figures for Tasmania in the last column differ from those given last year. See footnote (†) on page 717 ante.

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1876 TO 1885—*continued*.

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
New South Wales ...	1876	12·54	9·76	26·76	25·58
	1877	13·58	9·75	26·55	26·03
	1878	14·29	10·35	26·18	30·25
	1879	13·40	9·94	25·65	29·02
	1880	13·14	9·46	25·88	31·15
	1881	12·10	9·12	29·67	36·70
	1882	11·63	9·37	28·03	33·93
	1883	12·79	8·26	27·78	37·74
	1884	11·42	8·13	28·87	37·50
	1885	10·22	7·74	29·53	35·31
Queensland ...	1876	6·66	6·72	19·97	21·92
	1877	7·94	6·16	15·47	21·32
	1878	6·16	5·76	15·55	18·78
	1879	5·78	5·49	13·99	17·03
	1880	5·95	5·34	12·92	16·94
	1881	5·90	5·19	14·82	19·63
	1882	6·45	4·80	15·87	21·91
	1883	8·84	4·95	16·81	20·92
	1884	8·63	5·72	17·36	20·94
	1885	7·22	5·66	17·84	20·33
South Australia ...	1876	3·48	2·76	13·01	23·75
	1877	3·68	2·99	12·50	25·43
	1878	4·05	3·65	17·16	31·49
	1879	3·54	3·74	15·11	28·14
	1880	4·08	4·08	16·41	32·59
	1881	3·12	3·66	18·36	27·97
	1882	3·29	3·58	16·26	27·48
	1883	2·64	2·44	15·16	23·59
	1884	2·51	2·30	12·76	21·26
	1885	2·10	2·41	10·73	18·03
Western Australia ...	1876	19·06	19·88	239·01	
	1877	17·04	17·87	213·63	
	1878	22·13	18·39	178·27	
	1879	16·26	13·62	197·84	
	1880	11·48	12·31	169·57	
	1881	14·00	11·86	157·06	
	1882	12·01	15·10	140·34	
	1883	14·57	11·91	125·25	
	1884	12·68	10·36	126·39	
	1885	11·83	9·48	122·53	
Tasmania † ...	1876	8·60	9·39	17·28	36·67
	1877	6·37	8·82	12·65	34·31
	1878	6·72	9·00	12·66	33·02
	1879	6·04	9·69	13·52	35·35
	1880	5·87	7·60	13·58	33·75
	1881	4·61	6·33	12·32	29·83
	1882	5·35	7·50	15·14	35·10
	1883	5·79	6·07	15·20	37·59
	1884	4·34	5·16	12·28	27·08
	1885	4·24	4·70	11·12	25·21

\* See footnote on page 723 *ante*.

† The figures for Tasmania in the last column differ from those given last year. See footnote (†) on page 717 *ante*.

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1876 TO 1885—*continued.*

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
New Zealand	1876	4·70	4·84	18·46	29·14
	1877	4·79	4·85	18·19	25·87
	1878	4·62	4·19	16·85	27·08
	1879	4·32	6·09	14·88	24·89
	1880	4·20	5·13	13·41	21·86
	1881	4·07	4·67	11·68	19·68
	1882	3·88	4·67	13·74	22·19
	1883	3·15	4·68	14·16	21·63
	1884	3·12	4·44	13·03	22·35
	1885	3·15	3·88	12·39	21·39

1475. It will be observed that, according to population, arrests or summonses for offences against the person were, in all the years, much more numerous in Western Australia and New South Wales than in any other colony; in the former of which they were—in the year 1885—three times, and in the latter two and a-half times, as numerous as in Victoria. The following is the order of the colonies in this respect during 1885, the colony in which the proportion was highest being placed first and that in which it was lowest last:—

Order of colonies as to offences against the person.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON, 1885.

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

1476. In 1885, arrests for offences against property in Western Australia were more than two and a-half times, and in New South Wales not quite twice as numerous, in proportion to population as they were in Victoria. 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 as to offences against property.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY, 1885.

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

\* See footnote on page 723 ante.

Order of colonies as to drunkenness.

1477. In the matter of drunkenness, New South Wales far outstrips all the other colonies of the group in which the offence is distinguished\*—the arrests for drunkenness there in the last six years having been proportionately more than twice as numerous as in Victoria,† in which colony, prior to 1884, the proportion of arrests for drunkenness was lower than in any of the other colonies; but, in 1884 and 1885, the proportion in three of the other colonies was lower than in Victoria. In the following list, the colony in which the largest number of inebriates was brought before magistrates in 1885 is placed first, and that in which the number was smallest last :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO APPREHENSIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1885.

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

Order of colonies as to "other offences."

1478. "Other offences," which embrace breaches of corporation by-laws, Wines and Spirits Statute, &c., are rather violations of good order than actual crimes, and are consequently generally dealt with by summons. Relatively to population, they are usually most numerous in Tasmania, and in recent years have been also much more numerous in New South Wales than in Victoria; in 1884 and 1885, however, the proportion in Tasmania was lower than that in either Victoria or New South Wales. In Western Australia, drunkenness is included with these offences, and, consequently, the figures are not comparable with those of the other colonies. Omitting Western Australia, therefore, the following is the order of the colonies in respect to irregularities of this description, the colony in which the proportion was highest being placed first and that in which it was lowest last :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR "OTHER OFFENCES," 1885.

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

Crime in United Kingdom.

1479. 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 ten years ended with 1885 :—

\* The only colony in which drunkenness is not distinguished is Western Australia.

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

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1876 TO 1885.

Country.	Estimated Population.	Commitments for Trial.	Con- victions.	Proportion of—			
				Commitments to Population.	Con- victions to Population.	Con- victions to Commitments.	
				per 10,000.	per 10,000.	per cent.	
England and Wales	1876	24,244,010	16,078	12,195	6·63	5·03	75·85
	1877	24,547,309	15,890	11,942	6·47	4·86	75·15
	1878	24,854,397	16,372	12,473	6·59	5·02	76·18
	1879	25,165,336	16,388	12,525	6·51	4·98	76·43
	1880	25,480,161	14,770	11,214	5·80	4·40	75·92
	1881	26,055,406	14,786	11,353	5·67	4·36	76·78
	1882	26,406,820	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
Scotland ...	1876	3,527,811	2,716	2,051	7·70	5·81	75·51
	1877	3,560,715	2,684	2,009	7·54	5·64	74·85
	1878	3,593,929	2,922	2,273	8·13	6·32	77·79
	1879	3,627,453	2,780	2,091	7·44	5·76	77·44
	1880	3,661,292	2,583	2,046	7·05	5·59	79·21
	1881	3,744,323	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	6·70	5·00	74·68
	1884	3,866,521	2,610	2,085	6·72	5·37	79·88
	1885	3,907,736	2,537	1,956	6·49	5·01	77·10
Ireland ...	1876	5,321,618	4,146	2,343	7·79	4·40	56·54
	1877	5,338,906	3,870	2,300	7·25	4·31	59·49
	1878	5,351,060	4,183	2,293	7·82	4·28	54·81
	1879	5,362,337	4,363	2,207	8·14	4·12	50·58
	1880	5,327,099	4,716	2,383	8·85	4·47	50·53
	1881	5,129,950	5,311	2,698	10·35	5·26	50·80
	1882	5,097,730	4,301	2,255	8·44	4·42	52·43
	1883	5,015,328	3,025	1,740	6·03	3·46	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
Total ...	1876	33,093,439	22,940	16,589	6·93	5·01	72·31
	1877	33,446,930	22,444	16,251	6·71	4·86	72·44
	1878	33,799,386	23,477	17,039	6·95	5·04	72·57
	1879	34,155,126	23,451	16,823	6·87	4·93	71·74
	1880	34,468,552	22,069	15,643	6·40	4·54	70·88
	1881	34,929,679	22,541	15,883	6·45	4·55	70·46
	1882	35,289,950	22,030	15,897	6·24	4·50	72·16
	1883	35,611,816	20,247	15,001	5·69	4·21	74·09
	1884	35,961,663	19,942	14,765	5·54	4·10	74·04
	1885	36,331,119	18,973	14,029	5·22	3·86	73·94

1480. Taking the mean of the ten years given in the table, it will be found that, in proportion to population, the commitments for trial in the United Kingdom, taken as a whole, are less than in Victoria, and considerably less than in any of the other Australasian colonies; also, that the same holds good for England and Scotland, except that the proportion in Victoria is about equal to that in the latter; but in

Crime in  
United  
Kingdom  
and  
Australasia  
compared.

Ireland the proportion has, on the whole, been slightly higher than in Victoria. Convictions after commitment are, relatively to population, generally as numerous in Victoria as in the United Kingdom or England and Wales, more numerous than in Ireland, but less than in Scotland.

Convictions  
in United  
Kingdom  
and  
Australasia  
compared.

1481. 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 1885 differed but little from that in Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, and New Zealand during the same year.

Drunkenness  
in England  
and  
Victoria.

1482. No return is available of the arrests for drunkenness in the United Kingdom or any of its divisions, but Mr. Mulhall\* states that, per 1,000 inhabitants of England and Wales, 7·1 were fined for drunkenness in the four years 1881 to 1884, and 6·7 in the year 1885. The proportion of persons summarily convicted for drunkenness in Victoria—who were probably also fined—during the ten years ended with 1886 was 8·6 per 1,000 living, or a higher proportion than that said to have obtained in England and Wales during the years named.

Arrests for  
drunkenness  
show extent  
of that vice.

1483. In well-policed countries, such as are most, if not all, the Australasian colonies, where a drunken man showing himself in public is sure to be speedily apprehended, the arrests for drunkenness doubtless afford the most reliable indication of the extent to which that vice prevails.

Drink  
consumed  
not a true  
index of  
drunken-  
ness.

1484. Less valuable in this direction is the quantity of liquor consumed, as in some countries, where there is but little drunkenness, the consumption of intoxicants is high from the fact of wine or beer being the common drink at meal times, whilst in other countries, where there is a vast amount of drunkenness, the consumption of intoxicants is comparatively low from the fact that the common beverage at meals is tea, coffee, or water. It is possible to conceive that in the former case the major portion of the community may be moderate drinkers, with but few total abstainers and few drunkards; whilst, in the latter case, with a fair proportion of moderate drinkers and some total abstainers, there may also be a considerable number of drunkards. It will, however, be interesting to compare countries in respect to the amount of strong drink they severally consume, and, in order to do this, after having found the quantity of malt liquor, wine, and spirits drunk in each country, it obviously becomes desirable to reduce these liquids to a common standard of strength; but here a difficulty presents itself, inasmuch as the potency of the different beverages varies greatly in different countries, the *vins ordinaires* of France and the pure natural wines of the Australian colonies not being nearly so strong as the

\* See *Fifty Years of National Progress*, page 94.

highly fortified ports and sherries drunk in the United Kingdom, colonial beer also being much weaker than London or Dublin stout or than Scotch ale; whilst on the other hand, it may be assumed that the gin commonly retailed in England contains less alcohol than the whisky and brandy drunk in Australia.

1485. It has been laid down by authority\* that a glass of gin (two and a-half ounces) is equal in alcoholic strength to a pint and a-half of English beer (thirty ounces), or to four glasses of sherry (ten ounces); whence it follows that one gallon of beer, one-third of a gallon of sherry, and one-twelfth of a gallon of gin are equivalent quantities. Cassell's standard.

1486. The superior strength of the wines and beers consumed in some countries being set off against the superior strength of the spirits consumed in others, the reduction to a common standard of the quantity consumed per head, upon the principle just referred to may, perhaps, in the absence of accurate information, afford the basis for a tolerably fair comparison between the quantities of intoxicants consumed in the following countries. At any rate the comparison will not be greatly wrong so far as the Australasian colonies are concerned, as the beers, wines, and spirits consumed in the different colonies vary but little in character and strength. The equivalent in beer of the different drinks consumed is given in the last column, and the countries are arranged in order according to the numbers in this column:— Consumption of drink in various countries.

### CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC DRINKS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Countries.	Average Annual Consumption per Head.			
	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Equivalent in Beer.†
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
France ... ..	4·53	16·52	·85	64·29
Holland ... ..	19·05	·49	2·08	45·48
United Kingdom ... ..	28·74	·43	·59	37·11
New South Wales ... ..	16·70	·74	1·39	35·60
Germany ... ..	19·38	1·32	·95	34·74
Queensland ... ..	9·55	·69	1·85	33·82
Victoria ... ..	16·41	1·01	1·12	32·88
Austria-Hungary ... ..	6·83	4·84	·63	28·91
United States ... ..	10·74	·37	1·34	27·93
Switzerland ... ..	8·15	2·11	1·04	26·96
New Zealand ... ..	9·31	·27	·92	21·16
Tasmania ... ..	10·00	·24	·69	19·00
Sweden ... ..	2·52	·20	1·27	18·36

\* See *Cassell's Family Physician*, volume IV., page 936. It is there stated that beer contains from 5 to 6 per cent. of alcohol; sherry from 14 to 16 per cent.; wines generally from 8 to 19 per cent., although some contain as little as 6 per cent.; and others as much as 25 per cent.; brandy and whiskey contain from 50 to 60 per cent., and rum from 60 to 77 per cent.

† The figures in this column are based on the assumption that one gallon of beer, one-third of a gallon of wine, and a-twelfth of a gallon of spirits are equivalent quantities. Those disagreeing with this assumption have it in their power, by means of the proportions given in the three preceding columns, to calculate the equivalents upon any principle they may deem more correct.

Consumption  
of drink in  
various  
countries  
compared.

1487. The fallacy involved in considering the average consumption of alcoholic drink to be a measure of the drunkenness prevailing in a community is strikingly shown by the figures in the last column, as, by these, France would appear to be the most drunken country in the world, the consumption of intoxicants being nearly twice as great there as in Victoria, and more than three times as great as in New Zealand or Tasmania, and yet it is questionable whether France is not less inebriate than any of these colonies. France is almost certainly less inebriate than Holland, where, according to the figures, the consumption is less than in France by nearly a third. Taking the figures for what they may be worth, however, Victoria stands below New South Wales or Queensland, the annual consumption per head, reduced to its equivalent in beer, being  $2\frac{3}{4}$  gallons less than that of the former, and about a gallon less than that of the latter. On the other hand, Victoria appears to consume per head nearly 12 gallons more than New Zealand, and nearly 14 gallons more than Tasmania, but it should be mentioned that the figures relating to these two colonies are not absolutely reliable, as their published statistics contain no account of any distilleries, or of spirits made. If it should turn out that spirits are made in Tasmania or New Zealand, the figures relating thereto would obviously understate the truth.

Countries  
consuming  
most beer,  
wine, and  
spirits.

1488. Turning to the earlier columns, it will be noticed that, according to population, most beer is consumed in the United Kingdom, most wine in France, and most spirits in Holland; also that, in point of consumption of spirits, Queensland comes next to Holland, next to which comes New South Wales, then the United States, and then Victoria. The small quantities set down for New Zealand and Tasmania raise doubts as to the accuracy of the figures, as has been already stated.

Mode of  
obtaining  
Australasian  
drink  
returns.

1489. It should be mentioned that the quantities of each kind of drink consumed in the Australasian colonies have been obtained by taking the excess, during the three years ended with 1886, of imports over exports of wine, beer, and spirits, and adding thereto the quantities returned as having been made in the colony during the same three years.

Prostitution  
in Australasian  
capitals.

1490. 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, about four 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.

Capital Cities.	Population (Census of 1881).	Number of Prostitutes.	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

1491. According to the figures in the last column, Melbourne was much freer from prostitution than any one of the metropolitan cities named. It will be observed that even in actual numbers the prostitutes in Melbourne were fewer than in Sydney, although the latter has 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.

1492. From an estimate made in 1886, upon which Mr. Chomley states considerable care was expended, the number of prostitutes in Melbourne and suburbs had become reduced to 403. At the same time the population had increased to 372,000, so that the proportion of prostitutes per 10,000 of the population had fallen from 21 to less than 11. Prostitutes in Melbourne, 1886.

1493. 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 146, or a tenth, and smaller in proportion to population than the police force of either New South Wales, South Australia, 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 any of the other colonies. The following figures show the number of police and their proportion to the population in each colony:— Police in Australasian colonies.

POLICE IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1886.†

1. Victoria has 1,316 police, or 1 to 774 persons.
2. South Australia " 424 " " 738 "
3. New South Wales " 1,462 " " 722 "
4. Queensland " 911 " " 384 "

1494. Mr. Chomley supplies the following figures to show that one policeman keeps in order and protects considerably more persons in Police in Australian capitals.

\* See paragraph 1468 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.

Melbourne than one is found able to do in Sydney, Adelaide, or Brisbane:—

POLICE IN AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL CITIES, 1886.

1. Melbourne	has	574	police,	or	1	to	648	persons.
2. Sydney	„	501	„	„	614	„	„	„
3. Adelaide	„	225	„	„	571	„	„	„
4. Brisbane	„	172	„	„	300	„	„	„

1495. The number of criminal cases tried in the Supreme Court at the various places throughout the colony where sittings were held in 1886 was 466, of which 324 were for felony, and 142 for misdemeanors. The convictions for felony numbered 205, and for misdemeanors 81. The number of places where sittings were held was 18, the number of sittings was 62, and the total duration of sittings was 208 days.

1496. Sittings may be held at the same number of places to try civil cases, but no causes were entered at 9 out of the 18 places in 1886. The number of causes entered for trial during the year was 329; but the number of causes tried was only 191, of which 56 were tried by juries of six, 14 by juries of twelve, and 121 by a judge alone. All but 3 of these were defended. The damages laid in the declarations amounted in the aggregate to £200,461. Verdicts were returned in 192 instances, and there were no nonsuits. Of the verdicts, 133, or about 69 per cent., were for the plaintiff. The aggregate amount awarded by the juries was £17,520, or 9 per cent. of the damages laid. In the ten years ended with 1885, the damages sued for in these or similar courts amounted to £2,215,727, and the sums awarded by juries to £434,991, or to about 17 per cent. of the damages sued for.

1497. 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 1886 numbered 26, and the number of courts held 62, extending over periods amounting in the aggregate to 114 days. The number of cases tried was 242, in 185 of which, or 76 per cent., convictions were obtained. The number of appeals heard was 52. In the ten years prior to 1886, 2,533 cases were tried in Courts of General Sessions, and 1,653 convictions were obtained; thus the latter were to the former in the proportion of 65 per cent.

1498. County Courts have jurisdiction in civil cases up to £250. The number of places at which they were held in 1886 was 64, and the number of courts held was 193, extending over 440 days. The total number of causes tried was 7,299, the amount sued for was £178,589, and the amount recovered £69,884, or only 39 per cent. of the amount

Supreme  
Court  
Criminal  
Sittings.

Supreme  
Court civil  
sittings.

Courts of  
General  
Sessions.

County  
Courts.

sued for. The costs awarded to the plaintiff amounted to £9,756, and the costs awarded to the defendant to £2,970. During the ten years prior to the year under review the aggregate amount sued for in County Courts was £2,919,929, and the aggregate amount awarded was £901,102, or 31 per cent. of the amount sued for.

1499. 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 1886 numbered 17, and the courts held numbered 48, occupying 12 days. The total number of suits was 5, and the aggregate amount or value of demand, £250. The amount of costs awarded to the plaintiffs was £15, and to the defendants *nil*. These figures do not include all the mining disputes which took place during the year, as those of minor importance are adjudicated on by the wardens of the gold-fields. In the ten years prior to 1886, the value sued for in Courts of Mines amounted in the aggregate to £23,144. The business has fallen off very considerably for several years past.

Courts of  
Mines.

1500. The cases of indictable offences heard at Petty Sessions during 1886 numbered 1,885, which resulted in 756 commitments for trial. Commitments were thus obtained in 40 per cent. of the cases. The offences summarily dealt with numbered 52,476, in 36,597 of which, or 70 per cent., the offender was convicted.

Courts of  
Petty Ses-  
sions:  
criminal  
cases.

1501. Courts of Petty Sessions have jurisdiction in ordinary civil cases up to £20,\* and in master and servant cases up to £50. Such courts were held at 227 places during the year. The civil cases heard numbered 20,019, in which the total amount of debts or damages claimed was £113,160, and the total amount awarded was £75,488, or 67 per cent. of the amount claimed. In the ten years ended with 1885, the debts or damages claimed in these courts amounted in all to £777,610, and the sums awarded to £496,156, or to 64 per cent. of the amounts claimed.

Courts of  
Petty Ses-  
sions: civil  
cases.

1502. The net results of the civil cases tried in 1886 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 1886 and the previous decennium. It will be noticed that the whole amount at stake was nearly half a million sterling, and that less than a third was recovered; also, that whilst the proportion recovered in the Supreme Court appears to have been equal to less than half † the

Debts sued  
for and  
awarded.

\* In a Bill now before Parliament, it is proposed to increase this to £50.

† 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 1886 only about three-fifths were tried during the year.

average, that in the Courts of Petty Sessions and County Courts was somewhat above the average:—

DEBTS AND DAMAGES CLAIMED AND AWARDED.\*

Name of Court.	Amount of Debts and Damages, 1886.		Proportion of Debts and Damages recovered.	
	Claimed.	Awarded.	1886.	Average of Previous 10 Years.
	£	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Supreme Court ... ..	200,461	17,520	9	20
County Courts ... ..	178,589	69,884	39	31
Courts of Petty Sessions ..	113,160	75,488	67	64
Total ... ..	492,210	162,892	33	31

Writs.

1503. The number of writs issued in 1886, in the six bailiwicks into which the colony is divided, was 1,534, of which 31 were Queen's writs against both person and property, 21 were subjects' writs against the person alone, and 1,482 were subjects' writs against property alone. In 1886, writs numbered 403 more than in 1885, and were far more numerous than in any year since 1880, in which and the preceding years the writs issued were unusually numerous.

Gaols and penal establishments.

1504. Places for the reception of prisoners in Victoria are of three kinds: ordinary gaols, police gaols, and penal establishments. The ordinary gaols are both houses of correction and debtors' prisons; † the penal establishments are houses of correction only. The police gaols are used for the detention of prisoners sentenced to short periods of imprisonment, or awaiting trial or transfer to some other gaol or penal establishment, or to a lunatic asylum.

Probation system.

1505. Mr. Brett, in his report for 1885, page 6, has the following remarks respecting the probation system for first offenders, which has already been introduced into New Zealand, ‡ but has not yet been adopted in Victoria:—

“With regard to the probation system for first offenders, which had its origin in the State of Massachusetts, and which has been so fully discussed in the press, it had become necessary to submit for consideration some means of cutting off the supply of such prisoners to the gaols, by affording an opportunity of reforming whilst in the possession of freedom, the only restraint being the certainty of punishment on a second conviction, both for the original offence and the subsequent one; and, as a tentative measure, too much should not be expected at the outset from the introduction of an entirely new departure in the treatment of first offenders, should Parliament sanction the experiment. To whatever degree of perfection the discipline of prisons may ultimately be brought, it is obviously far more for the interests of the community, and the first offender, that the latter

\* See footnote (†) on previous page.

† Imprisonment for debt in Victoria, except in cases of fraud, was abolished by Act 29 Vict. No. 284.

‡ It is stated that out of 59 persons dealt with during the first nine months the system was in operation in New Zealand, only two failed to comply with the conditions of their probation.

should be at large upon proper conditions, than become the inmate of a gaol. The moral atmosphere of a prison is replete with so much injury to character that, independently of the corruption arising from the companionship of the hardened and depraved, acquaintance with the interior of a prison produces impressions most unfavorable to reformation, while there attaches to the person who has once been confined in an ordinary gaol a disgrace which adheres through life. It is therefore of great importance that first offenders be allowed to work out their deliverance from such a fate by their own exertions, whilst exposed to the temptations and vicissitudes of every-day life. Alteration for the better, under such circumstances, would be the growth of natural conditions of life, and the genuineness and stability of the change put to the proof. For these reasons, among others, it is desirable a first offender, under certain circumstances, should be a legitimate subject for probationary treatment; the leniency extended must be consistent with moral welfare and happiness, the effect of example, the demands of justice, and the protection of the interests of society at large. If judiciously applied with discrimination, within the limits prescribed by law, and the probation officers be well chosen, the system will be another valuable agency towards the reclamation of many who have taken the first downward step in crime. Those first offenders who may not be considered eligible for such leniency in the first instance should be subjected to separate confinement, and when the progressive stage for employment in association is arrived at, all intercourse or communication with old criminals should be strictly prohibited. The attainment of this most desirable object depends, however, upon the buildings available, the character of the accommodation provided therein, and the nature of the work that can be found for the isolation of this class of prisoners. All that is possible at present to lessen the evils of association must be done by judicious classification and vigilant supervision.”

1506. Approval of this system is expressed in the following words by the Council of Judges of the Supreme Court in their report, dated June, 1887, already alluded to :— Judges on the probation system.

“ We desire to state that we fully approve of a suggestion that has been made by the Inspector-General of Penal Establishments, recommending the adoption on trial in Victoria of what is known as the Massachusetts probation system, under which certain prisoners are allowed, after conviction and sentence, to go free on certain terms and subject to the inspection of a probationary officer.”

1507. The gross, distinct, and average number of prisoners detained in each description of prison during 1886 will be found in the following table, males and females being distinguished :— Gaols and prisoners.

GAOLS AND PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS, 1886.

Description of Prison.	Number of Institutions.	Prisoners detained during the Year.								
		Gross Number.*			Distinct Individuals.†			Average at One Time.		
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Gaols ...	9	6,732	2,770	9,502	7,452	1,810	9,262	602	336	938
Penal establishments	1‡	1,235	...	1,235				551	...	551
Police gaols ...	10	549	75	624	440	45	485	22	1	23
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8,516</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>11,361</b>	<b>7,892</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>9,747</b>	<b>1,175</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>1,512</b>

\* 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 1513 post.

‡ Formerly there were two, but one of them—a hulk lying off Williamstown—was abandoned on the 7th March, 1886.

Increase of  
distinct  
prisoners.

1508. According to this table, the number of individual prisoners detained during the whole or some portion of 1886 in the gaols and penal establishments of the colony was 9,747, viz., 7,892 males and 1,855 females. In the previous year, the number of distinct prisoners was 8,989—viz., 6,877 males and 2,112 females; thus showing an increase of 758 during the year under review, resulting from an increase of 1,015 in the male, less a decrease of 257 in the female prisoners.

Proportion of  
distinct pri-  
soners to  
population.

1509. Comparing the figures for 1886 with those showing the mean population of that year, it appears that 1 person in every 101 persons in the colony, or 1 male in every 66 males, and 1 female in every 251 females, passed some portion of the year in prison; whereas the proportion in 1885 was 1 person in every 108 persons in the colony, or 1 male in every 75 males, and 1 female in every 216 females. In these estimates no account is taken of persons lodged temporarily in watch-houses, &c., 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.

1510. If a comparison be made between the gross number of prisoners and the distinct prisoners, it will be found that only 85·80 per cent. of the prisoners dealt with in 1886—viz., 92·68 per cent. in the case of males, and 65·20 per cent. in the case of females—were distinct individuals. In the previous year the proportions were:—Total, 86·81 per cent.; males, 89·78 per cent.; females, 78·74 per cent.

Proportion of  
prisoners to  
population.

1511. 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 653 persons living was constantly in prison during 1886; or, distinguishing the sexes, that, during that year, 1 male in every 444 males living, and 1 female in every 1,380 females living, were constantly in detention. By the following table, which gives the figures for the last eleven years, it will be seen that the proportion of prisoners to the population decreases from year to year, and in 1886 it was lower—with two exceptions in the case of males, and one exception in the case of females—than in any previous year named, the reason being the smaller amount of serious crime which exists in the community, in view of which the terms of imprisonment to which prisoners have been sentenced by the judges have been of diminished duration:—

PROPORTION OF PRISONERS TO POPULATION, 1876 TO 1886.

Year.	Of the Total Population One Person was constantly in Prison to every—		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1876 ... ..	323	1,142	487
1877 ... ..	345	1,183	518
1878 ... ..	356	1,397	549
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

1512. Quoting from the report of the Comptroller-General of Prisons in New South Wales for the year 1886, Mr. Brett states that there were 2,500 prisoners in confinement in that colony at the end of the year. Mr. Brett adds—"In Victoria, the numbers were 1,532. Estimating that the two colonies have a population of one million each, the proportion of prisoners to each thousand of the population would be—in Victoria, 1·53; in New South Wales, 2·50."\*

Prisoners in Victoria and New South Wales.

1513. In Mr. Brett's annual reports a return appears showing the number of times each individual was imprisoned during the year. The following are the particulars for 1886,† also the proportions per cent.:—

Number of times individuals were in prison.

DISTINCT PRISONERS, 1886.

(Exclusive of those in Police Gaols.)

Number of Times Imprisoned during Year.	Distinct Prisoners, 1886.					
	Number.			Percentage.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Once ... ..	5,756	1,180	6,936	77·24	65·20	74·89
Twice ... ..	664	288	952	8·91	15·91	10·28
Three times ... ..	196	109	305	2·63	6·02	3·29
Four times ... ..	45	47	92	·60	2·60	·99
Five times ... ..	20	23	43	·27	1·27	·47
Six times and upwards ... ..	11	32	43‡	·15	1·77	·46
Total received ... ..	6,692	1,679	8,371	89·80	92·77	90·38
In detention at commencement of year § ... ..	760	131	891	10·20	7·23	9·62
Grand Total ... ..	7,452	1,810	9,262	100·00	100·00	100·00

\* See Inspector-General's Report, page 8.

† *Ibid.*, page 13.

‡ Six males admitted seven times and 1 twelve times. Six females admitted seven, 4 eight, and 1 thirteen times.

§ Exclusive of those discharged and re-admitted during the year, who numbered 525, they being included with the figures in the previous line.

Persons  
imprisoned  
more than  
once.

1514. Adding the numbers at the commencement of the year to those in the first line of the table, it is found that 85 per cent. of the distinct prisoners in 1886 were imprisoned only once during the year, and consequently 15 per cent. were imprisoned more than once. In the case of males, the proportions were  $87\frac{1}{2}$  and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.; and in the case of females,  $72\frac{1}{2}$  and  $27\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. respectively. The tendency of females to be imprisoned over and over again is greater than that of males; thus, during the year, over  $11\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the whole number of females were imprisoned three times or upwards, and over  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. four times or upwards; whereas little more than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the males were imprisoned more than twice, and about 1 per cent. more than three times.

Prisoners  
previously  
convicted.

1515. Out of a total of 1,532 prisoners in detention on the 31st December, 1886, 800, or about 52 per cent., had been previously imprisoned under sentence in the colony—viz., 251, or 16 per cent., once; 154, or 10 per cent., twice; 83, or 6 per cent., three times; and as many as 312, or 20 per cent., four times or oftener. Of the total number, 32 had also been convicted in other countries, including 13 “Imperialists” and 2 colonials.

Grounds of  
imprison-  
ment.

1516. The following is a classification of the prisoners in confinement at the end of 1886, according to the grounds in respect to which they were detained. It will be noticed that 83 were untried; also that more than half the males, but only a sixth of the females, had been convicted of felony:—

#### GROUND FOR DETENTION OF PRISONERS, 1886.

Grounds for Detention.	Gaols.		Police Gaols.		Penal Establishments.	Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	M.	F.	Total.
Felony, tried ...	208	50	3	1	431	642	51	693
„ untried ...	30	6	2	...	...	32	6	38
Misdemeanors, tried ...	165	109	3	...	85	253	109	362
„ untried ...	21	10	2	...	...	23	10	33
Other offences, tried ...	221	144	7	...	40	268	144	412
„ untried ...	8	4	...	...	...	8	4	12
Total ...	653	323	17	1	556	1,226	324	1,550

Destitution  
a cause of  
imprison-  
ment.

1517. The total number of prisoners admitted in 1886 was 9,299, and of these, 262, viz., 187 males and 75 females, were imprisoned on charges of vagrancy, but really for medical purposes; and 482, viz., 337 males and 145 females, were received for shelter. There were thus 744 persons who were admitted on account of their destitute condition, and went to swell the ranks of the prison population, instead of being otherwise provided for as objects of charity. If these destitute prisoners

be deducted from the total number of admissions, the balance, viz., 8,555, will more correctly represent the criminal admissions during the year.\*

1518. The cases in which prisoners were absent from work during the year on account of sickness, which numbered 1,801,† were in the proportion of 1 case to every 5 individual prisoners. The daily average number of prisoners incapacitated from labour by reason of sickness was 105, or 1 in every 14 of the average number constantly employed. Sickness in prisons.

1519. Sixty-nine deaths (excluding 3 deaths of criminals executed) occurred in prison during 1885, and 60 deaths in 1886. These deaths were in the proportion of 1 to every 130 in the former year, and 1 to every 162 in the latter year, of the estimated individual prisoners; or in the proportion of 1 to every 21 in the former year, and 1 to every 25 in the latter year, of the daily average number of prisoners detained. The death rate was thus much lower in the year under review than in the previous one. Deaths in prisons.

1520. In 1885, only one prisoner absconded, but he was recaptured during the year, viz., from the Ararat gaol. In 1886, 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. Prisoners absconding.

1521. Of prisoners who had been sentenced to imprisonment for life, there have been 34 altogether in the colony, and of these, 18 have been discharged under the operation of regulations in force since February, 1878, as to prisoners under commuted sentences to terms of life, 1 by special commutation, 1 to a lunatic asylum, and 2 by death; whilst 12—viz., 9 males and 3 females—still remain in custody. Prisoners under life sentences.

1522. An abstract of the estimated population, at various ages, of the average number of prisoners at the same ages, and the proportion of the latter to the former, will be found in the following table:— Ages of prisoners.

AGES OF PRISONERS, 1886.

Ages.	Estimated Population.	Average Number of Prisoners constantly detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
Under 20 years ...	457,828	163	3·56
20 to 30 „ ...	203,477	534	26·24
30 „ 40 „ ...	100,333	290	28·90
40 „ 50 „ ...	89,422	230	25·72
50 „ 60 „ ...	84,105	164	19·50
60 years and upwards...	51,929	131	25·23
Total ...	987,094	1,512	15·32

\* See Inspector-General's Report, page 8.

† The cases of sickness in gaols were set down as 801 in Part Vital Statistics, paragraph 755 ante. In that return the sickness which occurred in police gaols was not included.

Proportion  
of prisoners  
at various  
ages.

1523. It appears from this table that, in 1886, the proportion of prisoners constantly detained to the population was greatest between the ages of 20 and 50. Of persons over 20 living in Victoria, 1 in every 400; of those between 20 and 40, 1 in every 369; of those over 40, 1 in every 429; and of those over 60, 1 in every 400, were constantly in prison throughout the year.

Birthplaces  
and reli-  
gions of  
prisoners.

1524. The birthplaces and religions of the prisoners constantly detained during the year, deduced from the total numbers of each nationality and religion returned as passing through the institutions, also the estimated totals of the same nationality and religion, are compared in the following table:—

#### BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PRISONERS, 1886.

Native Country and Religion.	Estimated Population.	Average Number of Prisoners constantly detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
NATIVE COUNTRY.			
Australasian Colonies...	637,837	633	9·92
England and Wales ...	159,386	343	21·52
Scotland ... ..	51,909	106	20·42
Ireland ... ..	92,913	308	33·15
China ... ..	13,194	21	15·93
Other countries ...	31,855	101	31·71
Total ... ..	987,094	1,512	15·32
RELIGION.			
Protestants ... ..	707,809	835	11·80
Roman Catholics ...	232,849	642	27·57
Jews ... ..	4,953	7	14·13
Pagans ... ..	12,892	21	16·29
Others ... ..	28,591	7	2·45

Relative  
numbers  
of each  
country and  
sect.

1525. It will be observed that, in view of their respective numbers in the population, natives of the Australasian colonies contributed much less, and natives of China slightly more, than their share to the number of inmates of prisons, but the natives of Scotland contributed 33 per cent. more, natives of England and Wales 40 per cent. more, and natives of Ireland 116 per cent. more, than their share to that number. Also, that of the religious denominations shown, Protestants contributed much less, and Jews slightly less, than their share; but Roman Catholics 80 per cent. more than their share to the number of such inmates.

1526. Mr. Brett gives the following figures to show the state of Education of prisoners. education of prisoners at various periods since 1873, and the increased proportion of those able to read and write, and the diminished proportion of the grossly illiterate section. It, however, appears that in 1886 the proportion of educated prisoners was not so high as at the previous three periods :—

EDUCATION OF PRISONERS, 1873 TO 1886.

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 ... ..	84	6	10
1885 ... ..	86	7	7
1886 ... ..	81	5	14

1527. The following cases of punishment for offences committed within Gaol punish- the prison took place in 1886. It will be observed that solitary ments. confinement, which is said to be more dreaded by prisoners than any other punishment, was prescribed in more than half the cases. The “other punishments” includes “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, 1886.

Nature of Punishment.	Gaols.			Penal Establishments.	Total.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	M.	F.	Total.
Hard labour ... ..	9	...	9	4	13	...	13
Solitary confinement ...	208	74	282	374	582	74	656
Other punishments ...	109	56	165	370	479	56	535
Total ... ..	326	130	456	748	1,074	130	1,204

Proportion of  
prisoners  
punished.

1528. The punishments for offences within the prison, as detailed in the last table, were in the proportion of 1 to every 8 individual prisoners, 1 punishment of a male to every 7 individual male prisoners, 1 punishment of a female to every 14 individual female prisoners. According to the daily average number of prisoners, there was about two punishments to every 3 prisoners; or not quite one punishment to every male, and not quite two punishments to every 5 females.

Cost and  
earnings of  
prisoners.

1529. The following is a statement of the cost\* and earnings of prisoners in detention during the year 1886 :—

#### COST OF PRISONERS.\*

	£	s.	d.
Salaries and wages ... ..	34,950	4	5
Contingencies ... ..	22,877	6	6
Extra guard for municipal and other bodies ...	743	19	3
Clothing, materials, implements, and other gaol requirements ... ..	25,701	12	11
Total cost ... ..	£84,273	3	1

#### EARNINGS OF PRISONERS.

	£	s.	d.
Work for other departments, municipalities, &c.—			
Paid for in cash † ... ..	7,995	3	1
Value of time not paid for .. ..	5,887	18	5
Manufacture of clothing, implements, &c., for gaol purposes ... ..	10,142	13	5
Other gaol requirements ... ..	15,558	19	6
Total earnings ... ..	£39,584	14	5

Cost and  
earnings  
per head.

1530. The gross cost of prisoners in 1886 (£84,273) was in the proportion of £56 11s. 11d. per head of the average number of prisoners detained (1,107). The difference between the gross cost and the earnings of prisoners is £44,688, or £30 0s. 3d. per head. The earnings of prisoners in the year (£39,585) amounted to £35 15s. 2d. per head, which is equivalent to 2s. 3d. per head per diem for the 307 working days the year contained.

Expenditure  
on police,  
gaols, &c.

1531. The following table shows the total amounts and the amounts per head expended in connexion with the police and the penal

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

† This amount was paid into the Treasury.

establishments and gaols during the 21½ years ended with 1885-6. The cost of buildings is not included, the figures relating to maintenance only:—

## EXPENDITURE ON POLICE, GAOLS, ETC., 1865 TO 1885-6.

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
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
1880-1 ... ..	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
Total ... ..	4,261,976	1,261,838	5,523,814	6	4

1532. 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 last five years, during which period the rate remained almost uniform. Expenditure per head.

1533. The inquests held in 1886 numbered 1,639, as against 1,608 in 1885. In 841 instances the death was found to have resulted from disease or natural causes; in 32 cases, from intemperance; in 705 cases, from violence; in 49 cases, from doubtful causes; and in 12 cases a verdict of "still-born" was returned. Of the deaths set down to violence, the verdict in 505 cases was to the effect that the death had resulted from accident; in 20, from homicide; in 104, from suicide; 1 from execution; and in 75 that the cause of the violent death was doubtful. The practice of holding inquests in cases of other than violent deaths was

\* Exclusive of the cost of buildings.

not so common in 1886 as in the majority of the previous ten years. In 1876, the proportion which verdicts of "death from disease or natural causes" bore to the total number of verdicts given was 53 per cent.; in 1877, 54 per cent.; in 1878, 52 per cent.; in 1879, 50 per cent.; in 1880, 52 per cent.; in 1881, 51 per cent.; in 1882, 53 per cent.; in 1883, 49 per cent.; and in 1884 and 1885, 55 per cent.; and in 1886, 51 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 3rd section of the Coroners Statute 1865 (28 Vict. No. 253).

Fire  
inquests.

1534. Four fire inquests were held in 1886, 9 in both 1885 and 1884, 4 in 1883, 5 in 1882, 4 in 1881, 5 in 1880, and 10 in 1879. Under the Amending Coroners Statute (33 Vict. No. 338), which came into operation on the 19th August, 1869, fire inquests may be held at the request of any individual who lodges with his application a fee of £5 5s., or in pursuance of Ministerial authority, which is only given when circumstances appear sufficiently suspicious to warrant action being taken.

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## PART VIII.—SOCIAL CONDITION.

1535. It was provided by the Constitution Act that, for the advancement of the Christian religion in Victoria, the sum of £50,000 should be set apart each year from the general revenue to promote the erection of buildings for public worship and the maintenance of ministers of religion, which sum should be apportioned to each denomination according to the number of its members at the preceding census. This provision was, however, repealed by an Act (34 Vict. No. 391) which came into operation on the 31st December, 1875. Since that date no further State assistance to religion has been given.

Abolition of  
State aid to  
religion.

1536. Great difficulty exists in obtaining accurate statistics from several of the religious bodies. In the instances referred to, the returns are not furnished until after repeated applications, and even then they are often forwarded in so manifestly incorrect a condition that it is necessary to send them back for correction, frequently more than once. It is surprising that a matter which must be of interest to every member of these denominations should not receive more attention at the hands of their clergy or other recognised heads.

Difficulty in  
obtaining  
statistics of  
religious  
bodies.