

SECTION XXIII.

PUBLIC JUSTICE.

§ 1. Police.

1. **Introductory.**—It was originally intended to give some account in this chapter of the origin and development of the police forces of Australasia, and most of the officers administering the police departments in the various States and New Zealand very kindly supplied the necessary materials. Limitations of space, however, preclude the possibility of publishing "*in extenso*" the valuable store of information thus acquired, but it is hoped to be able to embody it in a later Year Book, or in a still more comprehensive publication.

The following brief notes refer to the evolution of the force in Australia up to the passing of the Police Act of 1862 (25 Vic. No. 16) in New South Wales:—

The first Act of Parliament specially mentioning the establishment of a police force in Australia was passed in 1833 (4 Wm. IV. No. 7), the settlement from 1788 to that year having been under military rule. The Act provided for the appointment of two or more magistrates for the town and port of Sydney, empowered to select a certain number of suitable men for a police force. This force was at first restricted to the capital and its environs, but in 1838 a further Act was passed (2 Vic. No. 2) providing for the establishment and control of police in the chief country districts. About nine years later the prevalence of cases of horse and cattle stealing led to the formation of mounted patrols along the Great Western, Southern, and Northern roads, a central detachment being located in Sydney. The mounted police consisted principally of old soldiers. With the discovery of the goldfields in the early fifties, another branch of the force known as "gold police," also chiefly old soldiers, was established, and the various divisions were commanded by military officers styled "gold commissioners." While a large number of the members of the early force were actuated with the desire to carry out their duties honestly and efficiently, there were others who were totally unfitted for the service, and the general lack of cohesion and co-operation was reflected in the high criminal returns. A complete reorganisation was, however, effected by the Police Act of 1862 (25 Vic. No. 16), which placed the entire control in the hands of an inspector-general, who, through the Chief Secretary, was made responsible to Parliament for the general efficiency of the system.

At the present time the police forces of Australasia may be said to be satisfactory both in regard to physique and general intelligence.

2. **Strength of Police Force.**—The strength of the police force in each State and New Zealand during the six years ended 1906 was as follows:—

POLICE FORCES, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	Area of State in Sq. Miles.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	310,372	2,172	2,222	2,270	2,310	2,343	2,413
Victoria	87,884	1,466	1,515	1,495	1,495	1,491	1,518
Queensland	670,500	1,010	962	949	888	911	952
South Australia	903,690	406	412	411	414	420	422
Western Australia	975,920	519	512	500	491	491	507
Tasmania	26,215	255	245	235	234	234	229
Commonwealth	2,974,581	5,828	5,868	5,860	5,832	5,894	6,041
New Zealand...	104,751	597	605	630	650	651	699

(i.) *Average Number of Inhabitants to each Police Officer.* The average number of inhabitants to each officer in each State during the same period is shown below. In considering these figures allowance must, of course, be made for the unequal area and unequal distribution of the population of the various States:—

INHABITANTS TO EACH POLICE OFFICER, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	No. of Persons per Sq. Mile, 1901 Census.	Inhabitants to each Police Officer.					
		1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	4.37	633	632	629	631	637	633
Victoria	13.67	826	800	809	810	815	812
Queensland	0.74	501	531	543	587	580	562
South Australia	0.40	901	890	897	900	900	910
Western Australia	0.19	374	417	454	493	518	516
Tasmania	6.58	684	724	764	770	774	787
Commonwealth	1.27	657	662	671	683	688	692
New Zealand...	7.38	1,319	1,335	1,321	1,319	1,345	1,300

The above figures naturally show a great disparity in the relative numbers of the population protected by each police officer in the various States, and also in the relative area of territory to each officer. Western Australia and South Australia exhibit the largest figures in the latter respect, this, of course, being due to the fact that extensive areas in each State are as yet unpeopled by white settlers.

3. Duties of the Police.—In addition to the ordinary employment attaching to their office, the police are called upon to perform many duties which in other countries are carried out by other functionaries. As far as the Statistician is concerned, it is found that the expert local knowledge possessed by the police renders their services in the collection of such returns as those relating to the agricultural, pastoral, and manufacturing industries, private schools, etc., more than ordinarily valuable. Then, again, the fact that their services are enlisted by such widely different departments as those dealing with mines, stock, agriculture, elections, registrations of births, deaths, and marriages, forestry, fisheries, explosives, old-age pensions, lunacy, public works, labour, etc., greatly enhances their general alertness by widening the range of their experience. Occasionally the objection is heard in some quarters that these special tasks involve some degree of sacrifice of ordinary routine duties, but that the general intelligence of the Australian police is adequate to the obligation to perform these tasks, besides being most creditable, results in a great saving of the public money.

4. **Cost of Police Forces.**—The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue on the police forces in each State and New Zealand during the six years 1901 to 1906 is shown in the following table. Cost of buildings has been excluded from the return:—

COST OF POLICE FORCES, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	383,332	401,269	416,542	428,374	435,577	434,934
Victoria ...	287,630	293,998	311,693	311,927	313,649	312,941
Queensland ...	183,143	184,873	172,913	161,510	159,464	176,086
South Australia...	83,697	84,874	84,109	85,090	82,419	85,016
Western Australia	119,310	123,924	130,312	128,628	126,661	126,276
Tasmania ...	38,412	39,222	37,833	36,720	36,537	35,086
Commonwealth ...	1,095,524	1,128,160	1,153,402	1,152,249	1,154,307	1,170,339
New Zealand ...	117,744	120,629	123,804	126,149	130,426	135,253

The figures for Victoria include the sums paid each year to make up the deficiency in the Police Superannuation Fund. The cost per head of the population in each State and New Zealand for the same period was as follows:—

COST OF POLICE PER INHABITANT, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
New South Wales ...	5 7	5 9	5 11	5 11	5 11	5 9
Victoria ...	4 9	4 10	5 2	5 2	5 2	5 1
Queensland ...	7 4	7 3	6 9	6 3	6 1	6 7
South Australia ...	4 7	4 8	4 7	4 7	4 5	4 6
Western Australia ...	12 8	12 0	11 9	10 11	10 1	9 9
Tasmania ...	4 6	4 6	4 3	4 1	4 1	3 11
Commonwealth ...	5 9	5 10	5 11	5 10	5 9	5 9
New Zealand ...	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0

The relatively high cost per head in Queensland and Western Australia is due to the fact that there are in those States extensive areas of sparsely settled country, in which mounted patrols have to be maintained.

§ 2. Lower (Magistrates') Courts.

1. **Introductory.**—In considering the criminal returns of the various States due allowance must be made on account of several factors, for example, the relative powers of the courts, both lower and higher, etc. In the case of lower courts, the actual number of laws in each State, the breach of which renders a person liable to fine or imprisonment, must be taken into account. Again, the attitude of the magistracy and police towards certain classes of offences is a factor, for in the case of liquor laws, or laws connected with vagrancy or gaming, the views of magistrates, and instructions issued to the police, may be responsible for considerable variations in the returns. The strength and distribution of the police forces and the age constitution and distribution of the State's population also influence the results.

2. **Powers of the Magistrates.**—In New South Wales there is no general limit to the powers of the magistrates in regard to offences punished summarily, their authority

depending in each case on the statute which creates the offence and gives them jurisdiction. Except in the case of a very few statutes, and excluding cumulative sentences, the power of sentence is limited to six months. Imprisonment in default of payment of fine is regulated by a scale limiting the maximum period according to the sum ordered to be paid, but in no case exceeding twelve months. Actions for debt and damage within certain limits also come within magisterial jurisdiction. In cases of debts, liquidated or unliquidated, the amount recoverable is not exceeding £50 before a court constituted of a stipendiary or police magistrate at certain authorised places, and not exceeding £30 at any other place before a court constituted of a stipendiary or police magistrate or two or more justices of the peace. The amount in actions of damage is limited to £10, but may extend to £30 by consent of parties.

In Victoria the civil jurisdiction of magistrates is restricted to what may be designated ordinary debts, damages for assault, restitution of goods, etc., where the amount in dispute does not exceed £50. No definite limit is fixed to the powers of the magistrates on the criminal side, and for some offences sentences up to two years may be imposed. The proportion of long sentences is, however, comparatively small, the total punishments of one year and upwards in 1906 comprising only eighty-six out of 16,463 sentenced.

In Queensland, generally speaking, the maximum term of imprisonment which justices can inflict is six months, but in certain exceptional cases, such as offences against sections 233 and 445 of the criminal code (betting-houses and illegally using animals), sentences of twelve months may be imposed. No limit exists as to the extent to which cumulative sentences may be applied, but in practice the term is never very lengthy.

In South Australia, under the Minor Offences Act, magistrates can impose sentences up to six months, and under the Summary Convictions Act up to three months. The Police Act of 1869 gives power to sentence up to one year, with hard labour, in the case of incorrigible rogues, while under the Quarantine Act of 1877, and the Lottery and Gaming Act of 1875, sentences of two years may be imposed.

Under the Petty Sessions Act of 1867, in Tasmania, any person charged with having committed, or with having aided or abetted in the commission of an offence in regard to property of a value not exceeding £10, may, on conviction, for a first offence, before two or more justices in Petty Sessions, be imprisoned for any term not exceeding one year, and for a term not exceeding two years for a second or subsequent offence.

3. Persons Charged at Magistrates' Courts.—The total number of persons who were charged before magistrates in each State and New Zealand is given below for the six years 1901 to 1906:—

PERSONS CHARGED BEFORE MAGISTRATES, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	58,661	60,373	61,394	59,851	61,127	63,035
Victoria	50,169	45,198	46,682	47,736	46,069	49,061
Queensland	23,920	21,115	19,012	18,132	17,943	18,849
South Australia	6,134	6,488	6,430	6,015	5,974	6,324
Western Australia	14,812	15,929	16,362	14,940	14,646	14,478
Tasmania	5,499	6,171	5,975	5,579	7,090	6,391
Commonwealth	159,215	155,274	155,855	152,253	152,849	158,138
New Zealand	25,825	28,076	30,753	30,934	30,741	32,866

The above figures include, of course, a number of people who were wrongly charged, and statistically are not of great importance. The actual number of convictions in connection with the persons who appeared before the lower courts in each year of the period

1901 to 1906 is, therefore, also given. A separate line is added shewing the committals to higher courts, the statistical purpose of which is obvious:—

CONVICTIONS AND COMMITTALS AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS, 1901 TO 1906.

State.		1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	Convictions	48,962	50,776	51,379	50,102	51,638	53,115
	Committals	1,262	1,271	1,419	1,551	1,454	1,285
Victoria	Convictions	36,905	33,461	36,031	35,854	34,134	37,740
	Committals	700	641	631	564	652	581
Queensland	Convictions	19,844	17,625	15,795	15,345	14,730	15,987
	Committals	503	489	508	460	495	440
South Australia	Convictions	4,915	5,448	5,126	4,897	4,936	5,249
	Committals	212	209	193	127	152	163
Western Australia	Convictions	10,829	11,536	13,601	12,376	12,246	12,181
	Committals	241	335	316	266	253	182
Tasmania	Convictions	4,469	4,949	4,877	4,515	5,932	5,449
	Committals	76	65	79	51	59	54
Commonwealth	Convictions	125,924	123,795	126,809	123,089	123,616	129,721
	Committals	2,994	3,010	3,146	3,019	3,065	2,717
New Zealand	Convictions	20,326	22,125	24,765	25,237	24,994	27,128
	Committals	709	765	871	874	832	885

4. **Convictions for Serious Crime.**—While the figures given in the preceding table refer to the entire body of convictions, the fact must not be lost sight of that they include a large proportion of offences of a technical nature, many of them unwittingly committed, against various Acts of Parliaments. Cases of drunkenness and minor breaches of good order which, if they can be said to come within the category of crime at all, at least do so in a very different sense to some other offences, also help to swell the list. The following table has, therefore, been prepared for the purpose of showing the convictions at magistrates' courts for what may be regarded as the more serious offences, *i.e.*, against the person and property, either separately or conjointly, and forgery and offences against the currency:—

CONVICTIONS FOR SERIOUS CRIME AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS.
1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	4,649	5,187	5,277	4,744	4,640	4,137
Victoria	2,066	3,105	3,052	2,551	2,944	2,879
Queensland	2,314	2,446	2,045	2,065	2,175	2,035
South Australia	576	611	623	470	441	437
Western Australia	818	964	958	1,075	1,256	1,215
Tasmania	604	536	508	563	660	522
Commonwealth	11,027	12,849	12,463	11,468	12,116	11,225
New Zealand	2,514	2,298	2,411	2,467	2,547	2,684

* Arrests only. Summons cases not available.

Compared with the population the above figures give the following results per 10,000 inhabitants:—

CONVICTIONS PER 10,000 INHABITANTS, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	34.1	37.3	37.3	32.9	31.5	27.3
Victoria	17.2	25.7	25.8	21.1	24.3	23.5
Queensland	46.2	48.0	39.9	39.8	41.4	38.2
South Australia	15.9	16.8	17.0	12.7	11.8	11.5
Western Australia	43.4	46.8	43.3	45.4	50.2	46.7
Tasmania	35.0	30.8	26.6	31.5	36.5	29.2
Commonwealth	29.1	33.3	31.9	29.0	30.1	27.5
New Zealand	32.3	28.8	29.4	29.2	29.3	30.0

5. **Decrease in Crime.**—The figures quoted in the preceding table show that there has been a considerable decrease in crime during the last six years, while if the comparison be carried back to 1881 the position is seen to be still more satisfactory. The rate of convictions at magistrates' courts per 10,000 of the population is given below for each of the years 1881, 1891, 1901, and 1906. Only the more serious offences, particularised in the preceding section, have been taken into consideration:—

RATE OF CONVICTIONS FOR SERIOUS CRIME IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

Year.	Convictions per 10,000 Persons.
1881	69.3
1891	44.8
1901	29.1
1906	27.5

6. **Need of Statistic of Distinct Persons.**—The figures already quoted refer to total convictions, and in respect of individuals necessarily involve a considerable amount of duplication, especially in minor offences, such as drunkenness, petty larcenies, etc., in which the same offender appears before the court many times in the course of the year. In a few of the States it is possible to obtain the number of distinct persons arrested, but there are no means of arriving at the total distinct persons convicted before the magistrates in any State. The forms submitted to and adopted by the Conference of Statisticians in 1906 provide for information as to separate persons convicted, irrespective of whether they were arrested or summoned, and thus the statistical tabulations will, it is hoped, possess in future greater value for the purpose of comparisons.

7. **Causes of Decrease in Crime.**—The statistics given shew that there has been a considerable decrease in crime throughout Australasia. The results so far quoted are restricted entirely to the lower or magistrates' courts. There has also been a gratifying decrease in regard to offences tried at the higher courts, as will be seen later.

Attempts have been made to account for this decline: e.g., advance in education, enlightened penological methods, etc. Much depends upon what is meant by education: Many classed in census statistics as "educated" can barely read and write. In this connection, moreover, it ought not to be forgotten that collaterally with the introduction of ordinary intellectual education certain people have departed from their pristine virtues.

The deterrent effect of punishment, in respect of many offences, notably drunkenness, vagrancy, petty larcenies, etc., appears to be almost negligible. In general, punishment has declined in brutality and severity, and has improved in respect of being based to a greater extent upon a scientific penological system, though in this latter respect there is yet much to be desired. Recent advances in penological methods will be referred to in a subsequent section. Here it will be sufficient to remark that under the old régime, a prisoner on completion of a sentence in gaol was simply turned adrift on society, and

in many cases sought his criminal friends, and speedily qualified for readmission to the penitentiary. Frequently he was goaded to this by mistaken zeal on the part of the police, who took pains to inform employers of the fact of a man having served a sentence in gaol. For a long time any assistance to discharged prisoners was in the hands of private organisations such as the Salvation Army Prison Gate Brigade, but in some of the States, and notably in New South Wales, the authorities themselves look after the welfare of discharged prisoners in the way of finding work, providing tools, etc.

Improvements in the means of communication and identification have been responsible for some of the falling-off noticeable in the criminal returns, the introduction of the Bertillon system having contributed to certainty of identification. Part of the improvement may no doubt be referred also to the general amelioration in social condition that has taken place during the last fifty years.

8. **Drunkennes.**—The number of cases of drunkenness and the convictions recorded in connection therewith during the period 1901 to 1906 will be found in the following table:—

CASES AND CONVICTIONS.—DRUNKENNESS.

State.	1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.
New South Wales	23,921	23,803	24,437	24,382	24,703	24,598	23,069	22,943	24,185	24,003	22,568	22,422
Victoria ...	*17,380	10,846	14,540	9,894	12,630	8,494	13,681	9,281	14,458	9,360	14,020	9,529
Queensland ...	9,791	9,773	8,123	8,102	7,190	7,181	6,854	6,827	6,633	6,592	7,499	7,473
South Australia ...	2,040	2,011	2,431	2,394	2,340	2,296	2,387	2,352	2,382	2,332	2,483	2,460
Western Australia	3,348	3,237	3,347	3,253	3,572	3,513	3,597	3,581	3,509	3,423	3,588	3,505
Tasmania	743	705	636	514	526	511	580	556	539	529	459	454
Commonwealth ...	57,212	50,375	53,514	48,019	50,961	46,543	50,368	45,490	51,641	46,240	50,620	45,543
New Zealand	9,622	9,306	9,922	9,582	10,721	10,408	11,587	11,275	11,013	10,699	11,976	11,829

* Arrests only. Summons cases not available.

The number of convictions is, as might naturally be expected, almost identical with the number of cases. Victoria, however, is an exception, but in this State it is explained that offenders are generally discharged on a first appearance, and no conviction is recorded, a similar procedure being also adopted in the case of those arrested on Saturday and detained in custody till Monday. The logic of excluding these cases from the list of convictions is certainly open to doubt.

The convictions of drunkenness per 100,000 of the population during each of the years from 1901 to 1906 are given hereunder:—

CONVICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS PER 100,000 INHABITANTS.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	174.6	174.9	173.8	159.1	162.8	148.5
Victoria ...	90.1	77.6	70.3	76.9	77.2	77.9
Queensland ...	195.0	159.0	139.1	131.5	125.4	140.3
South Australia ...	55.4	65.7	62.8	63.6	62.2	64.7
Western Australia	171.8	159.5	158.7	149.3	136.8	134.8
Tasmania ...	41.0	29.6	28.8	31.1	29.5	25.4
Commonwealth ...	133.4	124.5	119.3	115.1	115.1	112.2
New Zealand ...	119.6	120.1	126.9	133.4	123.0	129.8

The convictions for drunkenness taken by themselves are not an altogether satisfactory test of the relative sobriety of the inhabitants of each State, forasmuch as several important factors must be taken into consideration. The age constitution, for example, of the people is by no means identical in each State, Western Australia having by far the largest proportion of adult males. The avocations of the people affect the result, since persons engaged in strenuous callings are, on the whole, more likely to indulge in alcoholic stimulants than those employed in less arduous ones. The distribution of the population is also a factor, it being obvious that the likelihood of arrest or summons for drunkenness is greater in the more densely populated regions, and lastly, so also is the attitude of the police and public generally in regard to the offence.

It is not unusual to supplement statistics of drunkenness by furnishing also the relative consumption of alcoholic beverages. Deductions drawn therefrom will be very misleading if they fail to take into account also the consumption of non-intoxicating beverages such as tea and coffee and the general habit of the people. Throughout the greater part of Europe tea and coffee are consumed but sparingly, while Australia, as is well known, is one of the greatest tea-drinking countries of the world.

The following table shewing the consumption of spirits, wine, and beer per head of the population has been compiled from returns prepared by the British Board of Trade. The figures in most cases represent the average for the five years 1901 to 1905:—

CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES,
1901 TO 1905.

Country.	Consumption per Head of Population.			Country.	Consumption per Head of Population.		
	Spirits.	Wine.	Beer.		Spirits.	Wine.	Beer.
	Imp. Galls.	Imp. Galls.	Imp. Galls.		Imp. Galls.	Imp. Galls.	Imp. Galls.
United Kingdom...	0.996	0.321	29.454	Cape of Good Hope	0.799	2.537	1.725
New South Wales	0.831	0.684	9.770	Canada	0.857	0.074	5.012
Victoria ...	0.699	1.290	13.353	Russia...	0.944	..	0.977
Queensland ...	1.098	0.284	10.357	Norway ...	0.622	..	3.445
South Australia ...	0.457	5.484	8.390	Sweden ...	1.464	..	12.601
Western Australia	1.468	1.002	24.517	Denmark ...	2.548	..	20.577
Tasmania ...	0.535	0.169	9.218	German Empire	1.545	1.415	26.249
Commonwealth	0.888	1.285	11.876	Holland ...	1.500	0.372	..
New Zealand ...	0.751	0.147	9.357	Belgium ...	1.068	1.0.8	47.748
				France ...	1.354	30.670	7.919
				Switzerland ...	0.971	18.670	13.884
				Italy ...	0.254	25.074	0.141

9. Treatment of Drunkenness as Crime.—Though the problem of the correct method of dealing with dipsomania is by no means an easy one, it seems fairly clear that the present plan of bringing offenders before magistrates, and subjecting them to the penalty of imprisonment or fine, has little deterrent effect, as the same offenders are constantly reappearing before the courts. Further, the casting of an inebriate into prison, and placing him in his weakened mental state in the company of professional malefactors, doubtless tends to swell the ranks of criminals and certainly tends to lower his self-respect, and examination of the prison records in New South Wales some years ago disclosed the fact that over 40 per cent. of the gaol population had commenced their criminal career with a charge of drunkenness. During the last few years the dangers of moral contamination in this way have been more accurately appreciated, and a system of classification of prisoners has been adopted whereby the petty offender is kept from association with the more evil-disposed. With regard to drunkards, however, Captain Neitenstein, the Comptroller of Prisons in New South Wales, advocates the entire abandonment of the system of repeated fine or imprisonment in favour of a course of hospital treatment.

10. **Treatment of Habitual Offenders.**—In New South Wales the Habitual Criminals Act of 1905 gives judges the power of declaring a prisoner, after a certain number of sentences, to be an habitual criminal, and as such to be detained until, in the opinion of the authorities, he is fit to be at large. Similar enactments were passed in Victoria and New Zealand during the last two years. Naturally it will be some time before the effect of the measures on the prevalence of crime can be estimated.

11. **Treatment of First Offenders.**—In all the States and New Zealand statutes dealing with first offenders have been in force for some years, the dates of passing the Acts being as follows:—New South Wales, 1894; Victoria, 1890; Queensland and South Australia, 1887; Western Australia, 1892; Tasmania and New Zealand, 1886. The method of procedure is practically the same in all cases, i.e., with regard to most first offenders the magistrate or judge is empowered to allow the offender to go free or recognisances being entered into for his good behaviour for a certain period. In practice this humane law has been found to work excellently, very few of those to whom its provisions have been extended having been found to relapse into crime.

12. **Children's Courts.**—Special courts for the trial of juvenile offenders have been established in New South Wales, Victoria, and New Zealand within the last few years, while children's courts, although not under that name, are practically provided for by the State Children's Acts of 1895 and 1900 in South Australia. The object of these courts is to avoid, as far as possible, the unpleasant surroundings of the ordinary police court.

13. **Committals to Superior Courts.**—In a previous section it has been pointed out that comparisons of criminality based on a consideration of the total returns from magistrates' courts are somewhat inadequate, seeing that the figures include numbers of cases which are merely technical breaches of laws having in some instances a purely local significance. The committals to higher courts give a better basis of comparison, although even in this connection allowance must be made for the want of uniformity in jurisdiction. The table below gives the number of committals in each year from 1901 to 1906, with the proportion of such committals per 10,000 of the population. The rates are shown on a separate line:—

COMMITTALS TO SUPERIOR COURTS, 1901 TO 1906.

State.		1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	{ No.	1,287	1,296	1,437	1,587	1,486	1,334
	{ Rate	9.4	9.3	10.2	11.0	10.1	8.8
Victoria	{ No.	700	641	691	564	652	584
	{ Rate	5.8	5.3	5.2	4.7	5.4	4.8
Queensland	{ No.	503	489	508	460	495	440
	{ Rate	10.0	9.6	9.9	8.9	9.4	8.3
South Australia	{ No.	212	209	193	127	152	168
	{ Rate	5.8	5.7	5.3	3.4	4.1	4.4
Western Australia	{ No.	241	335	317	266	235	182
	{ Rate	12.8	16.3	14.3	11.2	9.4	7.0
Tasmania	{ No.	76	65	79	51	59	55
	{ Rate	4.4	3.7	4.5	2.9	3.3	3.1
Commonwealth	{ No.	3,019	3,035	3,165	3,055	3,079	2,763
	{ Rate	8.0	7.9	8.1	7.7	7.7	6.8
New Zealand	{ No.	700	765	871	874	860	883
	{ Rate	9.1	9.6	10.6	10.3	9.9	9.9

The above figures show that there has been a decrease in serious crime, and, if the comparison is carried farther back, it will be found that the improvement has been considerable. This will be evident from an examination of the following figures, which show the rate of committals per 10,000 persons in Australia at various periods since 1861:—

RATE OF COMMITTALS IN AUSTRALIA, 1861 TO 1906.

Year	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1906.
Committals per 10,000 inhabitants ...	22	14	12	11	8	7

The decline in proportion to population since 1861 has been 68 per cent.

§ 3. Superior Courts.

1. **Convictions at Superior Courts.**—The total number of convictions at superior courts, together with the rate per 10,000 of the population, is shown below for each of the years 1901 to 1906:—

CONVICTIONS AT SUPERIOR COURTS, 1901 TO 1906.

State.		1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales ...	{ No.	730	775	896	890	819	707
	{ Rate	5.4	5.6	6.3	6.2	5.6	4.7
Victoria ...	{ No.	393	381	371	338	382	339
	{ Rate	3.3	3.1	3.1	2.8	3.2	2.8
Queensland ...	{ No.	281	249	269	242	288	249
	{ Rate	5.6	4.9	5.2	4.7	5.5	4.7
South Australia ...	{ No.	134	100	130	127	98	112
	{ Rate	3.7	2.7	3.6	3.4	2.6	2.9
Western Australia ...	{ No.	151	132	191	182	161	150
	{ Rate	8.0	6.4	8.6	7.7	6.4	5.8
Tasmania ...	{ No.	39	28	51	26	24	32
	{ Rate	2.3	1.6	2.9	1.5	1.3	1.8
Commonwealth ...	{ No.	1,728	1,665	1,908	1,805	1,775	1,589
	{ Rate	4.6	4.3	4.9	4.6	4.4	3.9
New Zealand ...	{ No.	328	312	308	264	275	240
	{ Rate	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.1	3.1	2.7

In considering the above figures allowance must be made for the various factors enumerated in a preceding section. Only when this is done will the comparatively unenviable pre-eminence of Western Australia in regard to serious crime be explained. Tasmania, it will be noted, shows by far the smallest proportion of serious crime, while a reference to a preceding table discloses the fact that the island State is relatively the smallest consumer of alcoholic beverages. That a definite causal relation exists between the figures shown by the respective tables is not, however, obvious.

2. **Offences for which Convictions were Recorded at Superior Courts.**—In the following table will be found a classification of the principal offences for which persons were convicted at the higher courts during each year of the period 1901 to 1906. Owing to lack of uniformity in the presentation of the returns for the several States the infor-

mation is confined to the chief offences against the person only. The figures quoted refer to convictions in the Commonwealth during the period dealt with:—

CONVICTIONS FOR SERIOUS CRIME, SUPERIOR COURTS,

1901 TO 1906.

Offences	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Murder and attempts at ...	24	31	32	34	32	25
Manslaughter ...	21	16	19	24	14	21
Rape and crimes of lust ...	113	92	90	97	96	70
Other offences against the person	274	243	244	225	256	239

While there has been no diminution in the convictions for murder and manslaughter there has been a considerable falling off in the case of crimes of lust. The general total of convictions for all offences against the person shows a decline since 1901 of about 16 per cent.

3. **Capital Punishment.**—The table below gives the number of executions in each State and New Zealand during the period 1901 to 1906:—

EXECUTIONS, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales ...	3	...	3	1	...	1
Victoria ...	...	2	...	1	...	...
Queensland ...	5	...	2	...	2	3
South Australia ...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Western Australia ...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Tasmania ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Commonwealth ...	8	2	5	3	6	6
New Zealand ...	1	...	...	...	1	...

In the early days of the history of Australia the penalty of death was attached to a large number of offences, many of which at the present time would be dealt with in the lower or magistrates' courts. With the growth of settlement, and the general amelioration in social and moral conditions, the list was, however, considerably curtailed, and the existing tendency is practically to restrict death sentences to cases of murder. It may be remarked that in cases of rape, which is a capital offence in the Australian States, the penalty has been but sparingly inflicted during the last few years. Juries are reputed to be loth to convict on this charge, owing to the uncertainty whether sentence of death will be pronounced.

During the period 1861 to 1880 the average number of executions in the Commonwealth was nine, from 1881 to 1900 the average was six, while for the period 1901 to 1906 the figure stood at five.

§ 4. Prisons.

1. Prison Accommodation and Prisoners in Gaol.—The table below shows the number of prisons in each State and the accommodation therein at the end of 1906:—

PRISONS AND PRISON ACCOMMODATION, 1906.

State.	Number of Prisons.	Accommodation in—		Greatest No. in Confinement during Year.	Prisoners at End of Year.
		Separate Cells.	Wards.		
New South Wales	53	2,246	118	1,730	1,519
Victoria	16	1,515	983	1,251	927
Queensland	12	559	416	*	507
South Australia	7	716	358	358	237
Western Australia	25	500	224	*	402
Tasmania	2	252	276	123	89
Commonwealth	115	5,788	2,370	...	3,681
New Zealand	41	788	446	*	891

* No information.

The number of prisoners in gaol, exclusive of debtors, at the 31st December in each of the years 1901 to 1906, is given below for the Commonwealth States and New Zealand. A separate line is added in each instance shewing the proportion per 10,000 of the population:—

PRISONERS IN GAOLS, 1901 TO 1906.

State.		1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	{ Number	1,812	1,835	1,816	1,877	1,678	1,519
	{ Proportion	13.3	13.2	12.8	13.0	11.4	10.1
Victoria	{ Number	1,150	1,071	978	1,062	990	927
	{ Proportion	9.6	8.8	8.1	8.8	8.2	7.6
Queensland	{ Number	574	547	508	561	535	507
	{ Proportion	11.5	10.7	9.9	10.8	10.2	9.5
South Australia...	{ Number	238	274	261	267	259	237
	{ Proportion	6.6	7.5	7.1	7.2	6.9	6.2
Western Australia	{ Number	360	397	512	475	465	402
	{ Proportion	19.1	19.3	23.1	20.1	18.6	15.5
Tasmania	{ Number	117	80	110	103	92	89
	{ Proportion	6.8	4.6	6.2	5.8	5.1	5.0
Commonwealth...	{ Number	4,251	4,204	4,185	4,345	4,019	3,681
	{ Proportion	11.2	10.9	10.7	11.0	10.0	9.0
New Zealand	{ Number	712	653	739	750	809	891
	{ Proportion	9.2	8.2	9.0	8.9	9.3	9.9

From the preceding table it will be seen that the proportion to population of prisoners in gaol has fallen considerably during the last six years, while, if the comparison be carried further back, the position is seen to be still more favourable, the

prisoners in gaol in the Commonwealth numbering as much as sixteen per 10,000 of the population in 1891.

2. Improvement in Pœnological Methods.—During recent years Australia and New Zealand, in common with most other civilised countries, have introduced considerable modifications and improvements in methods of prison management. Under the old régime punishment partook more or less of the character of reprisals for wrongdoing, and the idea of constituting the prison as a reformatory agency was in the background. But of recent years there has been an earnest attempt at effecting a moral reformation in the unfortunates who lapse into crime. This aspect of prison management has been specially prominent in New South Wales. As pointed out by the Comptroller-General of Prisons of that State, there are, however, certain directions in which improvements can be made. The danger and absurdity of sending drunkards to gaol has already been alluded to in a previous section, while present methods of dealing with vagrancy, and particularly with prostitution, have proved quite inadequate.

The general reorganisation of the New South Wales prison system may be said to date from the year 1896. Briefly stated, the chief reforms which have been introduced are as follow:—(a) Prevention of contamination consequent on evil association by the adoption of the "restricted association" scheme, under which prisoners are allowed to have as little intercourse with each other as possible, each prisoner having a separate cell, and mingling with other prisoners only at exercise or at work, and then under close supervision. (b) Careful classification of prisoners to avoid contact of minor or first offenders with the more hardened. (c) Better prison fare. (d) Abolition of solitary confinement in dark cells. (e) Lighting cells up to a reasonable hour at night, and allowing well-conducted prisoners the privilege of reading interesting books. (f) Abolition of the practice of sending young children to gaol. (g) Attempt at scientific treatment of the habitual offender. (h) Provision for helping prisoners on leaving gaol to find work through the agency of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society.

In 1902 the system of finger-print identification of criminals was introduced, and by the year 1903 bureaux had been established in the various States for the exchange of records.

Space will not permit of more than a passing reference to the improvements brought about in prison management in the other States. In Victoria there is an excellent system of classification and allocation of prisoners to different gaols, while at the important penal establishment at Pentridge a careful segregation into no less than five distinct classes is carried out. In common with the other States the latest humane methods of accommodation and prison treatment have for some time been employed.

Queensland prisons have been considerably modernised during the last few years. The prison for females at Brisbane has been built on the radiating plan, and embodies the latest ideas in pœnological methods.

Unusual circumstances have combined to keep crime at a low point in South Australia. In the first place there was never any transportation of criminals to the State, while in the earlier years of its history South Australian lawbreakers were transported elsewhere. The present system was drafted mainly on English and European lines by the late W. R. Boothby, C.M.G., and under his directions and that of his successor has been found to work admirably.

There is no special information available with regard to the prison systems of Western Australia and Tasmania. A novel feature in connection with the prison system of New Zealand was introduced about five years ago. This consisted in the establishment of what are known as prisoners' tree-planting camps. The idea was to utilise prisoners' services in planting trees on Crown lands unfit for cultivation, and the venture has been attended with very successful results. Another innovation, the result of which will be awaited with some curiosity, concerns the treatment of drunkards. The

"Habitual Drunkards Act," passed in 1906; provides that persons who have been convicted for drunkenness three times in one year may on their fourth appearance be committed to some authorised institution and detained there for a period not less than twelve months. A similar enactment has recently been passed by the New South Wales Parliament.

§ 5. Civil Courts.

1. **Lower Courts.**—The transactions of the lower courts on the civil side during each of the last six years are given in the table hereunder. As pointed out previously the jurisdiction of the courts is by no means uniform in the various States. The figures, however, possess a certain value as indicating that resort to litigation is on the decline in Australasia:—

LOWER COURTS.—CIVIL CASES, 1901 TO 1906.

State.		1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
N.S. Wales	Cases tried No.	19,989	24,629	25,592	29,102	22,497	20,578
	Amt. of judgment £						
Victoria	Cases No.	17,646	20,421	22,012	22,046	26,393	25,320
	Amount £	86,199	96,166	107,502	116,757	121,523	123,635
Queensland	Cases No.	10,682	10,593	11,058	10,881	10,061	10,311
	Amount £	44,004	41,522	43,242	39,022	36,553	36,408
South Australia...	Cases No.	11,582	12,397	12,190	12,282	11,513	11,844
	Amount £	36,640	37,345	30,173	36,857	30,335	29,129
Western Australia	Cases No.	7,026	7,021	7,198	8,009	8,224	10,109
	Amount £	61,977	47,432	50,112	50,264	53,681	62,558
Tasmania	Cases No.	4,023	3,395	2,841	3,535	452	422
	Amount £	21,990	19,087	17,230	19,247	25,106	18,203
Commonwealth	Cases No.	70,948	78,456	80,891	79,855	79,145	78,579
	Amount £	250,810	241,552	248,259	262,147	267,200	269,914
New Zealand...	Cases No.	19,136	17,027	16,571	19,569	20,161	23,383
	Amount £	175,604	159,133	157,766	179,829	202,913	236,643

* Not available. † Exclusive of New South Wales.

The figures just given represent the returns from Petty Sessions courts in New South Wales and Victoria, the Petty Debts Cases in Queensland, the Local Courts of South Australia and Western Australia, and the Court of Requests in Tasmania.

2. **Superior Courts.**—In the next table will be found the transactions on the civil side in the Superior Courts during each of the years 1901 to 1906:—

The New South Wales returns are to some extent defective, as the figures quoted for amount of judgments include in the case of the Common Law jurisdiction of the Supreme Court the total judgment signed, while in the case of the other States the figures refer to sums actually adjudged after trial. For New South Wales, also, the transactions of district courts refer to the total amounts sued for, and not the sums actually awarded after trial. Statistically the chief importance of the table consists in the fact that it shews a marked decline in litigiousness in Australia.

SUPERIOR COURTS.—CIVIL CASES, 1901 TO 1906.

State:		1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
N.S. Wales	{ Causes tried No.	1,956	1,609	1,471	1,208	1,118	897
	{ Amt. of judgm't £	422,738	601,949	407,790	323,812	277,292	266,896
Victoria	{ Causes No.	669	723	706	651	678	620
	{ Amount £	47,862	58,919	53,139	57,572	51,467	50,194
Queensland	{ Causes No.	145	129	136	129	101	118
	{ Amount £	14,904	20,025	17,329	17,168	15,245	11,551
South Australia...	{ Causes No.	17	20	19	26	22	32
	{ Amount £	3,515	39,998	12,784	9,561	1,229	2,207
Western Australia	{ Causes No.	501	509	516	621	621	595
	{ Amount £	77,174	75,376	77,982	92,378	74,431	62,770
Tasmania	{ Causes No.	154	321	159	296	249	136
	{ Amount £	4,931	9,065	7,082	11,201	9,283	4,383
Commonwealth	{ Causes No.	3,442	3,905	3,007	2,926	2,789	2,338
	{ Amount £	571,124	805,332	576,106	511,192	428,947	397,701
New Zealand	{ Causes No.	142	199	236	248	283	313
	{ Amount £	46,900	24,846	32,146	48,771	50,031	44,355

3. Divorces and Judicial Separations.—The number of divorces and judicial separations in each State and New Zealand during the period 1901 to 1906 is shown below:—

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Divorces.	Judicial Separati'ns.										
New South Wales	252	20	245	21	206	14	216	8	175	15	174	11
Victoria	83	...	109	...	101	...	140	1	128	...	119	...
Queensland	14	...	6	...	8	1	13	1	5	1	14	...
South Australia	6	...	2	...	10	...	4	...	6	...	3	...
Western Australia	12	1	8	...	10	1	16	...	11	1	18	...
Tasmania	11	...	3	...	3	...	2	...	2	...	5	...
Commonwealth	378	21	373	21	338	16	391	10	327	18	333	16
New Zealand	103	1	91	...	136	3	111	2	126	...	151	...

The average annual number of divorces and judicial separations in the Commonwealth and New Zealand at decennial periods from 1871 to 1900 and for the six years 1901 to 1906 is given hereunder:—

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS, 1871 TO 1906.

	1871-1880.	1881-90.	1891-1900.	1901-6.
Commonwealth	29	70	358	374
New Zealand	...	23	37	138

The bulk of the divorces and judicial separations refer, as the table shows, to New South Wales and Victoria, the Acts of 1892 and 1889 in the respective States making the separation of the marriage tie comparatively easy. In some statistical works it is customary to compare the divorces in any year with the marriages in the same year.

The comparison is, however, quite valueless, as there is no necessary connection between the figures. Some value would attach to a comparison of the number of divorces with the number of married people living, but the latter information cannot be obtained with accuracy except at census periods.

4. **Probates.**—The number of probates and letters of administration granted, together with the value of the estates concerned, is shown below for each State and New Zealand for the period 1901 to 1906:—

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1901 TO 1906.

State.		1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	Number	2,657	2,782	2,767	2,850	2,804	2,652
	Value £	7,033,459	5,807,620	7,179,882	6,155,963	7,714,410	7,592,487
Victoria	Number	3,846	2,976	3,884	3,827	3,853	3,982
	Value £	6,527,235	7,571,482	6,074,077	5,762,064	6,003,478	6,424,738
Queensland	Number	594	627	710	583	584	602
	Value £	1,594,425	1,078,831	2,617,348	1,517,237	1,016,495	1,794,742
South Australia	Number	927	913	919	964	902	1,020
	Value £	1,457,376	1,790,102	2,464,011	2,056,612	1,294,963	2,041,286
Western Australia	Number	313	347	399	367	406	476
	Value £	615,729	458,057	703,071	422,515	676,920	644,245
Tasmania	Number	228	230	256	295	270	343
	Value £	402,157	290,408	253,167	905,201	504,196	862,222
Commonwealth	Number	8,566	8,875	8,935	8,891	8,811	9,275
	Value £	17,630,291	17,035,500	19,311,556	16,815,015	17,210,473	19,259,664
New Zealand	Number	1,457	1,439	1,385	1,457	1,527	1,546
	Value £	2,352,698	2,714,257	3,091,340	3,645,589	5,067,621	3,953,236

The figures naturally show considerable variations owing to the large differences in the value of property left each year.

5. **Bankruptcies.**—The returns in bankruptcy during each of the last six years are given hereunder:—

BANKRUPTCIES, 1901 TO 1906.

State.		1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	Number	439	458	463	461	421	406
	Liabilities £	207,092	231,204	230,429	440,063	289,250	179,740
	Assets £	103,478	124,427	123,037	252,293	160,113	93,201
Victoria	Number	327	406	505	462	510	517
	Liabilities £	216,193	364,630	210,066	387,852	235,713	231,828
	Assets £	86,391	270,061	84,611	136,301	74,613	81,144
Queensland	Number	362	434	374	323	219	307
	Liabilities £	99,207	48,311	70,918	93,245	61,817	45,583
	Assets £	24,264	30,321	14,817	19,885	14,614	7,045
South Australia	Number	29	35	24	47	30	93
	Liabilities £	36,900	40,798	15,221	34,370	11,810	59,412
	Assets £	20,824	25,138	14,633	12,509	6,102	44,781
Western Australia	Number	65	76	79	101	117	126
	Liabilities £	34,532	51,548	34,952	62,487	51,416	59,364
	Assets £	21,845	17,297	10,631	13,852	23,418	22,012
Tasmania	Number	7	5	5	11	4	5
	Liabilities £	2,439	6,018	1,242	6,792	1,019	2,340
	Assets £	608	3,792	33	3,486	137	1,440
Commonwealth	Number	1,225	1,414	1,450	1,405	1,400	1,454
	Liabilities £	596,368	822,509	562,846	1,024,829	650,537	578,212
	Assets £	257,310	471,036	247,762	440,356	279,527	249,625
New Zealand	Number	222	205	204	257	104	305
	Liabilities £	105,193	120,401	96,886	130,911	161,556	218,692
	Assets £	59,658	61,694	46,707	88,094	100,113	106,376

For several reasons comparisons drawn from the figures in the above table are of little value. In the first place, the statements of assets and liabilities are notably unsatisfactory, particularly in regard to the former. Then, again, there is wide dissimilarity in regard to the laws in force in the various States and the method of procedure thereunder in connection with bankruptcy. Further, there are no means of knowing how many persons in each State who were in a bankrupt condition made private arrangements with their creditors either personally or by intervention of a solicitor. The figures quoted in the table exclude the private arrangements in Victoria and South Australia, and the liquidations in Queensland and Tasmania. The Tasmanian statements for the years 1901 and 1903 are defective, inasmuch as they do not include the whole of the assets and liabilities.

6. High Court of Australia.—Under the provisions of section 71 of the Commonwealth Constitution Act, the judicial power of the Commonwealth is vested in a federal Supreme Court, called the High Court of Australia, and in such other courts as the Parliament creates or invests with federal jurisdiction. The Federal High Court possesses both original and appellate jurisdiction, but so far its activities have been confined principally to the latter form. The powers of the court are defined in Chapter II. of the Constitution Act and in the Judiciary Act of 1903. At present the court consists of a Chief Justice and four other judges. Sittings of the court are held in the capitals of the various States as occasion may require. The following statement shews the transactions of the High Court from October, 1903, to 31st December, 1906:—

HIGH COURT.—TRANSACTIONS, 1903 TO 1906.

Items.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
I. ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.				
Number of writs issued	3	35	16	23
Number of causes entered for trial	1	18	12	5
Verdicts for plaintiffs	1	8	11	5
Verdicts for defendants	1	5	1	1
Otherwise disposed of	1	7	3	6
Amount of judgments... ..	£45	£560	£1,380	£2,391
II. APPELLATE JURISDICTION.				
Number of appeals set down for hearing... ..	1	47	89	93
Number allowed ... ..	...	31	41	42
Number dismissed	1	9	31	34
Otherwise disposed of	1	7	17	17
III. AMOUNT OF FEES COLLECTED.				
Amount in each year	£58	£450	£523	£566

§ 6. Cost of Administration of Justice.

The table below shews the expenditure from Consolidated Revenue during each of the last six years in connection with the administration of justice in each of the States and in New Zealand. Expenditure on police and prisons has been separately shewn. With regard to the figures quoted for other expenditure, a slight allowance has to be made for the fact that some extraneous expenditure has been included which it was found impossible to disentangle from the total, but the amount is in no instance large. Cost of buildings has been excluded from the return:—

EXPENDITURE ON JUSTICE, 1901 TO 1906.

State.		1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales...	Police	383,382	401,269	416,542	428,374	435,577	434,934
	Gaols	97,655	101,869	101,008	103,780	93,448	85,835
	Other	258,072	235,112	240,397	243,992	227,069	216,141
Victoria	Police	287,830	293,968	311,893	311,927	313,649	312,941
	Gaols	52,812	52,429	52,766	49,574	46,841	49,408
	Other	139,686	139,239	139,039	126,661	126,200	124,689
Queensland	Police	183,143	184,873	172,913	181,519	169,404	176,086
	Gaols	27,694	26,474	26,389	23,305	22,573	22,724
	Other	85,704	78,370	73,285	76,319	67,621	69,108
South Australia	Police	83,697	84,871	84,101	85,090	82,419	85,016
	Gaols	15,873	15,806	16,094	16,501	16,599	17,232
	Other	31,537	31,995	29,889	29,342	29,905	30,423
Western Australia...	Police	119,310	123,924	130,312	128,628	120,661	126,276
	Gaols	26,825	22,727	25,792	29,248	31,610	32,719
	Other	59,901	64,503	70,932	63,539	64,746	64,607
Tasmania	Police	36,412	39,222	37,833	36,720	36,537	35,086
	Gaols	6,035	5,626	5,765	5,696	5,893	5,731
	Other	18,692	20,342	18,664	18,911	17,267	20,911
Commonwealth	Police	1,095,524	1,128,160	1,153,402	1,162,249	1,154,307	1,170,359
	Gaols	225,894	224,431	228,744	227,960	218,959	213,640
	Other	593,391	569,320	563,220	553,014	532,808	525,879
New Zealand	Police	117,744	120,629	123,804	126,149	130,426	135,259
	Gaols	29,526	32,318	32,070	34,076	40,943	41,867
	Other	88,799	88,544	68,979	91,514	90,128	103,849

For the purposes of comparison the above figures have been reduced to a population basis, and the results are given in the table hereunder:—

EXPENDITURE ON JUSTICE PER INHABITANT, 1901 TO 1906.

State.		1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
New South Wales	Police	5 7	5 9	5 11	5 11	5 11	5 9
	Gaols	1 5	1 6	1 5	1 5	1 3	1 2
	Other	3 9	3 5	3 5	3 5	3 1	2 10
Victoria	Police	4 9	4 10	5 2	5 2	5 2	5 1
	Gaols	0 11	0 10	0 11	0 10	0 10	0 10
	Other	2 4	2 4	2 2	2 1	2 1	2 0
Queensland	Police	7 4	7 3	6 9	6 3	6 1	6 7
	Gaols	1 1	1 0	1 0	0 11	0 10	0 10
	Other	3 5	3 1	2 10	2 8	2 7	2 7
South Australia	Police	4 7	4 8	4 7	4 7	4 5	4 6
	Gaols	0 11	0 10	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11
	Other	1 9	1 9	1 8	1 7	1 7	1 7
Western Australia	Police	12 8	12 0	11 9	10 11	10 1	9 9
	Gaols	2 9	2 2	2 4	2 6	2 6	2 6
	Other	6 4	6 3	6 5	5 5	5 2	5 0
Tasmania	Police	4 6	4 6	4 3	4 1	4 1	3 11
	Gaols	0 8	0 8	0 8	0 7	0 8	0 8
	Other	2 2	2 4	2 1	2 1	1 11	2 4
Commonwealth	Police	5 9	5 10	5 11	5 10	5 9	5 9
	Gaols	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 1	1 0
	Other	3 1	3 0	2 11	2 10	2 8	2 7
New Zealand	Police	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0
	Gaols	0 9	0 10	0 9	0 10	0 11	0 11
	Other	2 2	2 3	2 2	2 2	2 2	2 4

The total expenditure in the Commonwealth in connection with the administration of justice has, therefore, fallen from ten shillings per inhabitant in 1901 to nine shillings and fourpence in 1906. Police expenditure works out to exactly the same average for the two years in question, the average for gaols is about twopence per head less, while the expenditure on courts and the remaining machinery of justice has fallen by sixpence per head. In New Zealand the total has increased somewhat during the six years covered by the table, but the average is, nevertheless, considerably lower than that of the Commonwealth.

The expenditure shown in the two foregoing tables is expenditure by the State Governments only, and does not include expenditure in connection with the Federal High Court, which, as shown in Section XIX. of this work, was during the four financial years 1903-4, 1904-5, 1905-6, and 1906-7, £7,814, £13,601, £15,272, and £20,288 respectively.