

LAW, CRIME, ETC.

Legal System
in Victoria.

A statement, giving the basic principles and main provisions of the law of Victoria, appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 189.

LITIGATION AND LEGAL BUSINESS.

Supreme
Court civil
business.

The Supreme Court of Victoria was established in 1852, and its constitution and powers remain substantially unaltered by recent legislation, although the procedure was entirely remoulded by *The Judicature Act 1883* (now incorporated in the *Supreme Court Act 1928*). There were in 1936, five Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and four Puisne Judges.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the last five years:—

SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1932 TO 1936.

Heading.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
Number of Places at which Sittings were held	5	6	4	4	5
Causes Entered—					
For Assessment of Damages	2	3	9	3	6
For Trial	179	161	137	163	156
Number of Causes Tried—					
By Juries of Six	23	19	24	32	16
By a Judge	74	76	62	60	64
Verdicts returned for—					
Plaintiff	69	70	50	54	55
Defendant	28	25	36	38	20
Amount Awarded	£ 39,172	44,037	19,877	13,902	29,369
Writs of Summons issued	877	672	694	674	626
Other Original Proceedings	*	*	*	249	288
Appellate Proceedings (other than Criminal Appeals heard and determined)—					
By Full Court	36	34	45	45	30
By a Judge	73	61	69	76	62
Fees Collected	£ 4,078	3,499	3,310	3,413	3,274

* Not available.

County Court business. County Courts have a jurisdiction both in equity and common law cases, limited to £500; also in cases remitted by the Supreme Court. The cause of action must have arisen within 100 miles of the court in which proceedings are taken, which court must not be more than ten miles further away from defendant's residence than some other County Court in which the plaintiff might have sued. In 1936 there were 97 sessions, which were held in 29 places. Particulars of litigation in each of the last five years are as follows:—

COUNTY COURT CASES, 1932 TO 1936.

Year.	Number of Causes Tried.	Amount Sued For.	Amount Awarded.
		£	£
1932	508	638,323	302,726
1933	576	500,779	240,343
1934	859	707,881	210,977
1935	825	515,402	209,292
1936	1,350	522,100	211,643

Workers' Compensation—Arbitration cases. The number of requests for arbitration under the Workers' Compensation Act during the year 1936 was 352. The aggregate amount of compensation claimed was £70,906, and the amount awarded, £63,663. These figures are not included in the above table.

Petty Sessions civil business. Courts of Petty Sessions were held at 229 places in Victoria in 1936 by stipendiary magistrates and honorary justices. Clerks of courts of ten years' standing, who have passed the prescribed examination, and barristers of five years' standing are eligible for appointment as police magistrates, but there is no legal training or knowledge of the law required as a condition precedent to the appointment of a person as an honorary justice of the peace. The jurisdiction in civil cases is limited to what may be called ordinary debts, damages for assault, and restitution of goods, where the amount in dispute does not exceed £50. Particulars of civil cases, &c., heard during the last five years are given hereunder:—

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, ETC.,
1932 TO 1936.

Heading.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
Civil Cases—					
Number heard	98,200	79,424	82,783	88,828	101,024
Debts or Damages—					
Claimed	£ 945,077	780,096	726,678	765,160	877,991
Awarded	£ 696,285	582,241	525,030	560,039	610,411
Other Cases—					
Appeals against Rates ..	2,350	940	765	374	493
Children's Maintenance ..	53	12	146	17	9
Ejectment Cases	4,676	5,463	4,896	3,917	3,351
Examination of Lunatics ..	235	241	246	214	255
Fraud Summons	1,911	2,025	3,093	2,949	5,556
Garnishee Cases	2,307	2,202	2,330	2,832	3,526
Licences and Certificates ..	15,829	16,866	16,283	18,437	17,931
Maintenance Cases	1,726	1,649	1,660	1,590	1,553
Neglected Children	70	77	75	59	81
Prohibition Cases	149	83	140	99	86
Other	4,389	5,261	4,629	6,401	7,501

Writs by the Sheriff. A statement is given below of the number of writs received by the Sheriff in the last five years:—

WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1932 TO 1936.

Year.	King's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person.	Property.	
1932	20	3	256	279
1933	7	13	190	210
1934	2	9	148	159
1935	13	17	171	201
1936	25	5	152	182

High Court of Australia. A statement showing the nature of this court and the powers vested in it appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 433.

BANKRUPTCIES.

A Bankruptcy Act passed by the Federal Parliament in October, 1924, and amended in 1927, was brought into operation on 1st August, 1928. It supersedes the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Acts of the States, with the exception of any provisions relating to matters not dealt with in the Federal Act.

The number of sequestrations, &c., in Victoria during **Bankruptcies.** each of the five years ended 31st July, 1937, under the *Commonwealth Bankruptcy Acts* 1924-1933, and the amount of liabilities and assets relating thereto, were as follows:—

Year ended 31st July—	Sequestration Orders and Orders for Administration of Deceased Debtors' Estates.	Compositions, Assignments, &c., under Part XI. of the Act.	Deeds of Arrangement under Part XII. of the Act.	Total.
NUMBER.				
1933 ..	251	16	259	526
1934 ..	218	11	212	441
1935 ..	201	10	181	392
1936 ..	195	5	143	343
1937 ..	227	12	103	342
LIABILITIES.				
	£	£	£	£
1933 ..	586,022	79,067	581,361	1,246,450
1934 ..	509,745	37,996	402,150	949,891
1935 ..	307,790	89,467	294,697	691,954
1936 ..	139,113	5,057	288,194	432,364
1937 ..	227,043	66,050	146,899	439,992
ASSETS.				
	£	£	£	£
1933 ..	163,856	68,759	514,681	747,296
1934 ..	116,156	39,414	322,803	478,373
1935 ..	59,391	58,100	209,945	327,436
1936 ..	31,206	5,329	201,299	237,834
1937 ..	29,924	13,601	91,465	134,990

The average yearly number of sequestrations, &c., and the average declared liabilities and assets are shown in the subjoined table for the quinquennial period ended in 1933:—

Period.	Average Yearly Number.	Average declared liabilities.	Average declared Assets.
1928-29 to 1932-33 ..	690	£ 1,419,060	£ 1,009,294

DIVORCE.

The present law in regard to divorce is contained in the *Marriage Act 1928*, as amended by the *Marriage (Divorce) Act 1933*.

The following table gives the number of petitions filed **Divorces, 1936.** by husband and wife respectively, and the number of decrees granted for divorce, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage during the year 1936 :—

DIVORCES, 1936.

	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husband.	Wife.	Total.	Husband.	Wife.	Total.
Dissolution of Marriage ..	342	421	763	311	374	685
Judicial Separation ..	..	2	2	..	1	1
Nullity of Marriage ..	1	2	3	3	1	4
Total ..	343	425	768	314	376	690

Grounds of divorce, 1936. The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1936 were as follows :—

DIVORCES, GROUNDS OF, 1936.

Grounds on which Granted.	Dissolution of Marriage.		Judicial Separation.		Nullity of Marriage.	
	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.
Adultery ..	78	77	..	..	..	..
Bigamy ..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Cruelty, repeated acts of ..	..	4	..	..	..	..
Desertion ..	222	286	..	..	..	..
Desertion and adultery ..	3	..	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness (habitual) ..	..	2	..	1	..	..
Drunkenness and cruelty ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Impotence ..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Insanity ..	8	1	..	..	..	..
Sentences for crime ..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Sodomy ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Total ..	311	374	..	1	3	1

Divorces, 1861 to 1936. In 1861 jurisdiction was conferred on the Supreme Court of Victoria in matrimonial matters. The Divorce Act of 1889, which received the Royal Assent on 13th May, 1890, considerably extended the grounds upon which divorce might be granted.

The following is a statement of the number of decrees granted in Victoria for dissolution of marriage and for judicial separation during the period 1861 to 1890, for the decennial periods 1891-1900 to 1921-30, and for each of the years 1931 to 1936 :—

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS, 1861 TO 1936.

Period.	Decrees Granted for—	
	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.
1861-1890	348	71
1891-1900	949	14
1901-1910	1,255	6
1911-1920	2,499	14
1921-1930	4,403	16
1931	417	2
1932	454	..
1933	495	..
1934	618	..
1935	599	3
1936	685	1
Total—1891 to 1936	12,374	56
Total—1861 to 1936	12,722	127

RACECOURSE LICENCES.

Racecourse licences and percentage fees. The *Police Offences Act 1928* provides that no race-meeting shall be held except on a race-course which is licensed under this Act for horse races or for pony races or for trotting races. Any licence shall, unless cancelled, be in force for twelve months from the date of its issue. For each such licence there shall be paid into the Consolidated Revenue a fee of £1, and also an annual sum equal to 3 per cent. of the gross revenue from all sources received from such race-course by the owner or

trustees of the race-course during the year immediately preceding the year for which the licence is required. Provided, however, that where the gross revenue is less than £1,500, but more than £600, the annual sum payable shall be 2 per cent. of the gross revenue, and, where the gross revenue is £600 or less, no such annual sum shall be charged. The amounts paid into the Consolidated Revenue in licence fees and percentages on gross revenue during each of the last ten years were as follows :—

**REVENUE FROM RACECOURSE LICENCES AND
PERCENTAGE FEES, 1927-28 TO 1936-37.**

Year ended 30th June.		Amount.	Year ended 30th June.		Amount.
		£			£
1928	.. ..	25,036	1933	.. ..	15,575
1929	.. ..	24,952	1934	.. ..	15,050
1930	.. ..	27,789	1935	.. ..	14,885
1931	.. ..	23,246	1936	.. ..	15,554
1932	.. ..	16,457	1937	.. ..	15,728

CRIME.

Information relating to the administration of the criminal law in Victoria appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 196.

Administration of the criminal law.

CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS.

The statistics of crime and drunkenness for the years subsequent to 1932 have been compiled on a basis which differs from that adopted for the years 1893 to 1932. The particulars for the years 1933 to 1936 represent, in respect of multiple charges, the number of offences with which arrested persons were charged, whereas for the period 1893 to 1932 only the most serious offence in such cases had been tabulated. Summons cases in 1933 to 1936 relate, as in previous years, to all offences with which a person was charged. The statistics for the last four years are comparable with those for the years prior to 1893 appearing in earlier issues of the *Year-Book*.

Alteration in method of tabulation.

The subjoined table shows, for a series of years, the number of arrest and summons cases, also the number per 1,000 of the population, tabulated according to the only classes of offences for which complete comparisons can be made:—

CRIME IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA, 1890 TO 1936.

Year.	Number of Arrest and Summons Cases—				
	Offences Against the Person.	Offences Against Property.	Drunkness.	Other Offences.	Total.
1890*	4,091	5,036	18,501	36,456	64,084
1895	2,344	3,336	11,143	20,843	37,666
1900	2,103	3,106	15,878	28,003	49,090
1910	1,663	3,052	12,719	34,626	52,060
1920	1,909	4,877	7,154	42,758	56,698
1930	1,680	5,078	8,132	41,859	56,749
1932	1,553	5,318	8,255	41,671	56,797
1933*	1,617	6,400	9,240	41,149	58,406
1934*	1,500	6,258	8,666	40,646	57,070
1935*	1,500	6,716	10,221	47,536	65,973
1936*	1,503	6,865	10,390	63,360	82,118
Number of Arrest and Summons Cases per 1,000 of Population.					
1890*	3·66	4·50	16·54	32·59	57·29
1895	1·98	2·82	9·41	17·60	31·81
1900	1·76	2·60	13·31	23·47	41·14
1910	1·30	2·38	9·92	27·00	40·60
1920	1·26	3·23	4·73	28·27	37·49
1930	·94	2·84	4·55	23·44	31·77
1932	·86	2·94	4·56	23·04	31·40
1933*	·89	3·52	5·07	22·60	32·08
1934*	·82	3·42	4·73	22·20	31·17
1935*	·82	3·65	5·56	25·84	35·87
1936*	·81	3·72	5·62	34·29	44·44

* See paragraph "Alteration in method of tabulation" on page 101.

The increase in 1936 in the number of "Other Offences" as compared with the previous year is accounted for by increases in breaches of the Motor Car Act, Education Act, and Licensing Act, and by the inclusion of offences against the provisions of the "Traffic Code," which came into operation on 9th June, 1936.

**Offences
against the
person and
property.**

Almost all serious crimes are either offences against the person or offences against property. The first-named consist mainly of assault, but include murder, manslaughter, shooting, wounding, and all crimes of lust. Offences against property consist principally of larceny and similar offences; but include burglary, robbery, &c., cattle stealing, and wilful damage to property.

Other Offences. The only serious crimes included under "Other Offences" are forgery, counterfeiting, conspiracy, and perjury, and these are very few in number, there having been in Victoria in 1936 only 178 of such charges out of a total of 63,360 in the category to which they belong. A large proportion of the cases under the heading "Other Offences" are merely breaches of various Acts of Parliament, by-laws, &c., which indicate no degree of criminal instinct or intent on the part of the person charged. There is also among them a large number of offences against good order, including insulting behaviour, vagrancy, &c.

If it be desired to compare the above figures with those relating to other States or countries several considerations must be taken into account. The first point necessary is that the criminal law in the places compared be substantially the same; the second, that it be administered with equal strictness; and the third, that proper allowances be made for differences in the age and sex constitution of the population. These considerations must also be taken into account in comparing crime in recent years with that in previous periods when there may have been differences in the law and when the population was very differently constituted in regard to sex and age.

Arrests and
summonses
for various
offences.

The following are particulars of the different classes of offences dealt with by magistrates in 1936 :—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1936.

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Disposed of—				Committed for Trial.	
		Convicted.		Dismissed, Withdrawn, Struck Out.			
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against the Person—							
Murder and attempts at	16	..	..	4	3	7	2
Manslaughter ..	8	..	..	2	..	4	2
Shooting at, wounding, &c.	55	3	1	13	..	33	5
Assaults	1,186	620	36	446	61	18	5
Others	238	48	7	40	7	132	4
Total	1,503	671	44	505	71	194	18
Against Property—							
Robbery, burglary, &c.	731	53	4	127	5	533	9
Larceny and similar offences	4,526	2,885	381	712	53	471	24
Wilful damage ..	470	331	17	114	5	1	2
Others	1,138	807	44	214	15	58	..
Total	6,865	4,076	446	1,167	78	1,063	35
Forgery and Offences against the Currency ..	110	3	..	14	..	91	2
Against Good Order—							
Drunkenness* ..	10,390	9,072	1,175	125	18	..	..
Others	8,358	6,434	555	1,194	172	3	..
Total	18,748	15,506	1,730	1,319	190	3	..
Other Offences—							
Breaches of—							
Education Act ..	8,500	6,430	1,161	740	169	..	..
Electoral Act ..	195	122	39	19	15	..	..
Licensing Act ..	6,775	4,670	675	1,145	285	..	..
Motor Car Act ..	14,860	13,703	247	874	36	..	..
Pure Food Act ..	413	276	29	101	7	..	..
Miscellaneous ..	24,149	19,612	1,312	2,900	249	65	11
Total	54,892	44,813	3,463	5,779	761	65	11
Grand Total	82,118	65,069	5,683	8,784	1,100	1,416	66

* See footnote on page 105.

Of the 82,118 cases dealt with, 70,752 were summarily convicted, 9,884 were dismissed, withdrawn, &c., and 1,482 committed for trial. These particulars include the cases disposed of in Children's Courts, which are detailed in a subsequent table, other than arrests of neglected children.

Arrest and
summons
cases.

Particulars of the arrest and summons cases for the last five years are given in the subjoined table :—

ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES, 1932 TO 1936.

Year.	Arrest Cases.		Summons Cases.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
1932*	14,487	1,977	36,803	3,530	56,797
1933	17,815	2,059	34,638	3,894	58,406
1934	16,280	2,009	35,161	3,620	57,070
1935	17,833	2,111	42,197	3,832	65,973
1936	18,798	2,218	56,471	4,631	82,118

* See paragraph "Alteration in method of tabulation" on page 101.

The following table shows for each of the last five years the number of offences for which persons were arrested or summoned, summarily convicted, discharged by magistrates, committed for trial, also the number per 10,000 of the population :—

DISPOSAL OF ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES, 1932 TO 1936.

Year.	Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Discharged by Magistrates.	Committed for Trial.
1932*	56,797	45,664	10,109	1,024
1933	58,406	47,079	9,923	1,404
1934	57,070	45,748	9,791	1,531
1935	65,973	54,666	9,720	1,587
1936	82,118	70,752†	9,884	1,482
Number per 10,000 of Population.				
1932*	314·0	252·4	55·9	5·7
1933	320·8	258·6	54·5	7·7
1934	311·7	249·8	53·5	8·4
1935	358·7	297·2	52·9	8·6
1936	444·4	382·9†	53·5	8·0

* See paragraph "Alteration in method of tabulation" on page 101.

† The convictions in 1936 in respect of drunkenness include those cases in which offenders were discharged by magistrates on a first appearance. In previous years such cases were not treated as convictions.

The table which follows shows the number of cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts during the year 1936. The jurisdiction of this Court is limited to children under the age of seventeen years :—

CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF, 1936.

Nature of Offence.	Number of Offences for which—				Others (Application to board out, &c.).		Total Cases Disposed of.	
	Arrests were made.		Summonses were issued.		M.	F.	M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Against the Person—								
Assaults	29	1	67	1	..	..	96	2
Others	8	..	17	..	..	..	25	..
Total	37	1	84	1	..	..	121	2
Against Property—								
Larceny, &c. .. .	481	23	1,428	59	..	..	1,909	82
Wilful Damage .. .	14	..	212	..	..	..	226	..
Others	5	1	35	..	..	..	40	1
Total	500	24	1,675	59	..	..	2,175	83
Against Good Order—								
Drunkenness .. .	8	1	..	..	..	..	8	1
Others	31	8	333	10	..	..	364	18
Total	39	9	333	10	..	..	372	19
Other Offences .. .	182	133	1,747	61	35	29	1,964	223
Grand Total .. .	758	167	3,839	131	35	29	4,632	327

The number of cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts in each of the last five years was :—3,303 in 1931, 3,105 in 1932, 2,993 in 1933, 3,322 in 1934, 4,260 in 1935, and 4,959 in 1936.

The arrests of neglected children, which in 1936 numbered 81 (40 males and 41 females) have been included in this table to indicate the business done by Children's Courts, but they are eliminated from all other criminal tabulations.

The following statement gives particulars of the manner in which the cases in the Children's Courts were disposed of by magistrates in 1936 :—

CHILDREN'S COURTS : CASES, HOW DEALT WITH, 1936.

How dealt with.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Released on probation	888	36	924
Committed to care of Children's Welfare Department	260	88	348
Committed to reformatory	108	10	118
Committed to care of a private person	17	36	53
Finéd	1,575	35	1,610
Sentenced to a term of imprisonment	12	..	12
Dismissed on payment of costs or damages or both	141	6	147
Discharged upon surety	8	..	8
Sentenced to imprisonment, the execution of which has been suspended	22	..	22
Discharged with a caution	639	25	664
Otherwise dealt with	95	2	97
Summarily Convicted	3,765	238	4,003
Summarily Dismissed	866	88	954
Committed for Trial	1	1	2
Grand Total	4,632	327	4,959

In the following table particulars are given of the cases in which children were released on probation by magistrates in Children's Courts during the last five years :—

CHILDREN'S COURTS : PROBATION CASES, 1932 TO 1936.

Year.	Cases Released on Probation.	Results of Probation.		
		Satisfactory.	Fair.	Unsatisfactory.
1932	741	% 82	% 10	% 8
1933	664	85	8	7
1934	779	86	7	7
1935	1,004	82	8	10
1936	924	82	8	10

Arrest cases
summarily
disposed of by
magistrates.

The following is a statement of the arrest cases summarily disposed of by magistrates during 1936 :—

ARREST CASES SUMMARILY DISPOSED OF BY
MAGISTRATES, 1936.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	5,151	458	5,609
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	3,642	605	4,247
1 month and under 6 months ..	1,428	139	1,567
6 months and under 12 months ..	251	26	277
1 year and under 2 years ..	39	4	43
2 years	1	..	1
Admonished	4,376	561	4,937
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety ..	514	118	632
Sent to Reformatory Schools, &c. ..	177	14	191
Otherwise dealt with	232	39	271
Total Convicted	15,811	1,964	17,775
Dismissed, Withdrawn, Struck Out	1,651	200	1,851
Total summarily disposed of ..	17,462	2,164	19,626

Committals for trial of distinct persons. Particulars of the distinct persons tried before superior courts in 1936 are shown below in respect of arrest cases only. Where an individual was charged with more than one offence, the principal offence only has been taken into account.

COMMITTALS FOR TRIAL OF DISTINCT PERSONS, 1936.

(Arrest cases only.)

Offences.	Distinct Persons Charged.	Result of Trial—	
		Withdrawn, Discharged.	Convicted.
Against the Person—			
Murder	6	4	2
Attempted Murder	5	4	1
Manslaughter	7	4	3
Wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm, &c.	35	24	11
Rape and other offences against females	86	30	56
Unnatural offences	22	5	17
Other	17	2	15
Against Property—			
Robbery and Stealing from the Person ..	20	9	11
Burglary, Housebreaking, &c. ..	251	59	192
Stealing Horses, Cattle, and Sheep ..	24	13	11
Other Larceny	172	58	114
Fraud and False Pretences	52	4	48
Arson and attempts at	5	2	3
Other	24	14	10
Forgery and offences against the Currency	26	1	25
Other offences—			
Perjury and Subornation	5	4	1
Conspiracy	24	16	8
Other	5	..	5
Total	786	253	533

The following table contains for the year 1936 a classification according to offence and age of distinct persons arrested who were convicted after commitment for trial:—

Offences.	Ages (Years).								Total.
	Under 16.	16 to 17.	18 to 19.	20 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 39.	40 to 59.	60 and Over.	
MALES.									
Against the Person ..	2	2	17	13	17	26	22	1	100
Against Property	25	58	98	62	72	52	6	373
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	1	4	2	9	7	1	24
Other Offences	2	3	5	1	2	..	13
Total ..	2	27	78	118	86	108	83	8	510
FEMALES.									
Against the Person	2	..	1	1	1	..	5
Against Property	2	3	2	1	5	2	1	16
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Offences	1	..	..	1
Total	2	6	2	2	7	3	1	23

Drunkennes. The number of persons and the number per 1,000 of the population arrested or summoned for drunkenness during the last five years are given hereunder:—

**PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS
1932 TO 1936.**

Year.	Number of Persons—			Number per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total	
1932	8,164	91	8,255	4.56
1933	9,159	81	9,240	5.08
1934	8,593	73	8,666	4.73
1935	10,200	21	10,221	5.56
1936	10,339	51	10,390	5.62

The continuity of the above statistics has not been materially affected by the alteration in the method of tabulation referred to on page 101.

Drunkennes—Comparison with previous years. The amount of drunkenness in proportion to population, as evidenced by arrests, being taken as 100 in 1874-78, the corresponding numbers for subsequent periods will show the increase or decrease by comparison. These numbers are given in the following statement:—

Period.	Index Number.	Period.	Index Number.
1874-78	100	1918-22	32
1879-85	88	1923-27	41
1886-92	106	1928-32	30
1893-97	65	1933	35
1898-1902	84	1934	32
1903-07	77	1935	38
1908-12	68	1936	38
1913-17	59		

A very considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown for the five years 1893-97, which was a period of general depression. In the five years following an increase occurred, but since that time the arrests for this offence have declined. In the middle of the year 1915 an Act was passed reducing the number of hours during which alcoholic liquors could be sold in hotels, and a further reduction was made in the following year. This probably accounts for the marked decrease in the number of arrests for drunkenness since those years. It is noticeable that a further fall was recorded during the depression period subsequent to 1929.

The accompanying table shows for the last five years the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness, also the number arrested per 100,000 of the population under that age:—

ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1932 TO 1936.

Year.	Number.	Number per 100,000 of the Population under 20 years of age.
1932	100	15·89
1933	120	18·94
1934	88	13·81
1935	94	14·68
1936	96	14·93

CONSUMPTION OF BEER.

The estimated quantity of beer consumed in Victoria in each of the last five years was as follows:—

CONSUMPTION OF BEER IN VICTORIA, 1932-33 TO 1936-37.

Year.	Quantity of Beer Consumed.	Per head of Population.
	gallons.	gallons.
1932-33	14,063,700	7·75
1933-34	15,969,300	8·75
1934-35	16,958,500	9·23
1935-36	19,538,800	10·60
1936-37	20,750,800	11·20

LOCAL OPTION.

**Local Option
Acts of 1920
and 1922.**

A statement, giving particulars of the provisions of the Local Option Acts of 1920 and 1922, appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, pages 211 and 212.

**Local Option
Poll held 21st
October, 1920.**

Particulars relating to the Local Option Poll held on 21st October, 1920, are given in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 211.

**Licensing
Poll, 1930.**

On the 29th March, 1930, a Referendum, called a Licensing Poll, was conducted under Part XIV. of the *Licensing Act 1928* (as amended) to determine whether or not licences should be abolished throughout Victoria. The poll was State-wide, and was the first of the octennial polls provided for by the *Licensing Act of 1922* (now incorporated in the *Licensing Act 1928*). The number of votes recorded for the abolition of licences was 418,902, whilst 552,339 votes were recorded against the resolution.

**Hotels Closed
by Local
Option.**

During the period 1885 to 1936, 227 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls. The amount of compensation awarded was £224,870, or an average of £990 for each hotel. This sum was provided partly out of the Licensing Fund, and, when this was insufficient for the purpose, out of Consolidated Revenue.

**Hours for sale
of intoxicants.**

The trading hours of hotels in Victoria are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., but trading is not permitted on Sundays, Anzac Day (25th April), and Good Friday. The various legislative enactments, which from time to time have curtailed such trading hours, are given in the *Year-Book* for 1935-36, page 110.

LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD.

**Licences
Reduction
Board.**

Information relating to the nature of the duties of, and the powers vested in the Licences Reduction Board is given in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, page 476, and in that for 1928-29, page 213.

Up to 31st December, 1936, 1,797 hotels had been closed by the Board or had surrendered their licences. The total sum paid in compensation was £1,202,326, or an average of £669 each. Five hundred and twenty-six of these hotels were located in the Greater Melbourne district; the compensation paid in connexion with these totalled £577,502, making an average of £1,098 each. There were 1,271 hotels closed in country districts, whose owners and licensees received £624,824, or an average of £492 for each hotel.

In addition to the above closings, the following have been deprived of their licences as a result of the local option poll held on 21st October, 1920:—5 spirit merchants, 4 grocers, 1 club, and 4 Australian wine licensees. The amount of compensation awarded was £550. Since 1922, 28 spirit merchants', 4 grocers', and 77 Australian wine licences have been taken away, for which compensation to the amount of £14,366 has been awarded.

Improvement and Extension of Licensed accommodation. A section of the Board's work which has grown rapidly in extent and importance since 1922 is the consideration given to enforcing the improvement in the type of structure and in the class of accommodation of licensed houses.

Since 1922 plans have been passed by the Board for new and improved licensed premises, the estimated cost being £4,292,850, which is exclusive of the cost of sewerage and new equipment.

Number of Hotels. The return given hereunder shows the number of hotels, including roadside licences, in Victoria in 1885, 1906 and for certain subsequent years, and the number of persons to each hotel in those years. The years 1885 and 1906 have been selected because in those years important alterations were made in the liquor licensing laws:—

NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1936.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.*	Persons to each Hotel.
1885	969,200	4,339	223
1906	1,219,832	3,520	347
1930	1,792,605	1,803	994
1931	1,803,570	1,781	1,013
1932	1,813,387	1,770	1,025
1933	1,824,479	1,759	1,037
1934	1,837,490	1,749	1,051
1935	1,843,099	1,744	1,057
1936	1,851,862	1,725	1,073
Increase, 1885 to 31st December, 1936	882,662	..	850
Decrease, 1885 to 31st December, 1936	..	2,614	..

* Including Roadside Licences.

While the population has increased by 91 per cent. since 1885, the number of hotels has decreased by 60 per cent., and the number of persons to an hotel is now 381 per cent. more than it was in that year. During the period 1885 to 31st December, 1936, 227 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 1,788 were deprived of their licences by the Licences Reduction Board, or surrendered their licences to the Board, and 673 were closed voluntarily. During the period 1907 to 31st December, 1936, 74 new licences were granted.

The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1937, amounted to £244,860. The amounts received from the various sources were:—Licences, certificates, &c., £222,437; interest on investments, £10,982; fees and fines, £11,270; and miscellaneous, £171. The expenditure totalled £244,860, and consisted of the following items:—Annual payments to municipalities, £59,872; compensation, £37,671; transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 311 of Act No. 3717, £23,000; transferred to revenue under section 312 of Act No. 3717, as amended by Act No. 4304, £105,406; and salaries, expenses, &c., £18,911. The amount at credit of the fund at 30th June, 1937, was £437,376, of which £341,000 was invested.

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

There are five gaols in Victoria, including the Pentridge Penal Establishment, and five reformatory prisons, also two police gaols which are used as receiving stations. The following statement contains information for the year 1936 in regard to the accommodation for prisoners, the daily average number in confinement, the number received during the year, and the number in confinement at the end of the year:—

GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1936.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received (including transfers).		In Confinement, at end of year.*	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge ..	895	83	721	43	4,707	775	678	41
Pentridge Reformatory Prison	68	3	69†	..	148	2	61	1
Ballarat Gaol ..	66	18	39	..	344	6	32	..
Beechworth Reformatory Prison	78	..	62	..	32	..	58	..
Bendigo Gaol ..	116	28	16	..	212	2	10	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison	91	..	85	..	101	..	83	..
Geelong Gaol ..	179	..	110	..	377	..	101	..
Geelong Reformatory Prison ..	21	..	14	..	15	..	16	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison ..	52	..	51	..	33	..	47	..
Sale Gaol ..	26	9	6	..	68	..	4	..
Police Gaols ..	25	4	6	..	202	1	2	..
Total ..	1,617	145	1,179	43	6,239	786	1,092	42

* Including 35 males and 5 females awaiting trial.

† Extra accommodation is provided in Pentridge.

The number of prisoners received at and discharged from the gaols and reformatory prisons (excluding police gaols) in Victoria is given in the following table for the year 1936:—

PRISONERS RECEIVED AT AND DISCHARGED FROM
GAOLS AND REFORMATORY PRISONS, 1936.
(Exclusive of Police Gaols.)

Heading.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number in Confinement at 31st December, 1935—			
Convicted	1,115	41	1,156
Awaiting trial	61	3	64
Total	1,176	44	1,220
Received during 1936—			
Convicted of—			
Felony	1,362	59	1,421
Misdemeanour	1,618	248	1,866
Other offences	1,166	317	1,483
Transfers from—			
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons	493	4	497
Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c.	34	7	41
For Trial, not subsequently convicted	1,364	150	1,514
Total	6,037	785	6,822
Discharged during 1936—			
By remission of sentence	493	30	523
On expiration of sentence and payment of fines	3,335	572	3,907
Bailed to appeal	86	14	100
On bond from Court, Attorney-General's Order,			
&c.	19	1	20
By special authority	41	3	44
On parole	181	..	181
Died	3	..	3
Executed	2	..	2
Deported	4	..	4
Absconded	12	..	12
Transfers to—			
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons	504	4	508
Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c.	56	15	71
Unconvicted	1,387	148	1,535
Total	6,123	787	6,910
Number in Confinement at 31st December, 1936—			
Convicted	1,055	37	1,092
Awaiting trial	35	5	40
Total	1,090	42	1,132

The following table shows the number of prisoners under sentence in the gaols of Victoria at the end of each of the last ten years.

PRISONERS UNDER SENTENCE, 1927 TO 1936.

At 31st December.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Total number per 10,000 of Population.	At 31st December.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Total number per 10,000 of Population.
1927	856	27	883	5·07	1932	1,275	64	1,339	7·38
1928	896	38	934	5·30	1933	1,297	50	1,347	7·38
1929	1,099	46	1,145	6·44	1934	1,191	34	1,225	6·67
1930	1,259	40	1,299	7·25	1935	1,118	41	1,159	6·29
1931	1,364	43	1,407	7·80	1936	1,057	37	1,094	5·91

Daily average number of Prisoners in confinement.

A statement is given below of the daily average number of prisoners in detention in the gaols of the State in the last year of each of the decennial periods 1871 to 1931 inclusive, and in each of the last five years. The rate per 10,000 of the population, aged fifteen years and over, was, in 1936, 38·7 per cent. less than in 1901, and 13 per cent. more than in the quinquennial period 1924-28.

DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1936.

Year.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners in Confinement.			Number per 10,000 of Population, aged 15 years and over.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1871 ..	1,345	274	1,619	54·77	15·46	38·30
1881 ..	1,294	304	1,598	45·25	12·35	30·03
1891 ..	1,550	350	1,900	38·78	10·07	25·43
1901 ..	951	200	1,151	23·92	5·06	14·53
1911 ..	713	100	813	15·73	2·16	8·87
1921 ..	741	54	795	14·56	·98	7·40
1931 ..	1,391	50	1,441	22·59	·78	11·43
1932 ..	1,436	62	1,498	23·26	·95	11·82
1933 ..	1,393	65	1,458	22·23	1·00	11·41
1934 ..	1,320	55	1,375	19·83	·80	10·14
1935 ..	1,220	44	1,264	18·27	·63	9·28
1936	1,179	43	1,222	17·56	·61	8·91

Indeterminate sentences.

The Indeterminate Sentences Act came into force on 1st July, 1908. It is now incorporated in the *Crimes Act* 1928. The principal provisions are—

1. The adoption of the indeterminate sentence for (a) habitual criminals, and (b) certain classes of other offenders.

2. The appointment of an Indeterminate Sentences Board.
3. The establishment of reformatory prisons.
4. A system of probation applicable to adults as well as minors.

A Board was appointed on 18th August, 1908. A statement of the chief functions of the Board appears in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, pages 106 to 108.

The number of prisoners under indeterminate detention on 30th June in each of the last five years was as follows :—

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year Ended 30th June.				
	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison	75	82	69	59	64*
Beechworth Reformatory Prison	66	64	62	70	65
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison	73	95	77	89	77
Geelong Reformatory Prison	14	9	9	14	18
McLeod Settlement, French Island	54	50	53	53	55
Total	282	300	270	285	279

* Including 63 males and 1 female.

Probation officers to supervise first offenders released by the courts on recognizance under the provisions of the *Crimes Act* 1928 are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Board. The position is honorary, and a number of persons connected with religious and philanthropic organizations have been appointed to the office.

From 1st July, 1908, to 30th June, 1936, admissions to the several reformatories totalled 3,511 (3,466 males and 45 females). Particulars of those released on parole or probation (inclusive of cases released more than once) and of those otherwise disposed of during the same period are given hereunder :—

Heading.	Number.	Per Cent.
Reconvicted or returned to prison	1,296	36·91
Probation satisfactorily completed	1,265	36·03
Still on parole or probation	411	11·71
Deaths—		
In institutions	11	0·31
On parole or probation	21	0·60
Escapes	117	3·33
Released by Special Authority, &c.	105	2·99
In institutions at 30th June, 1936	285	8·12
Total admissions to 30th June, 1936	3,511	100·00

POLICE PROTECTION.

The following table shows the numbers in the various grades of the police force in Victoria on the 31st December, 1936 :—

POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31ST DECEMBER, 1936.

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner (Acting)	1	..	1
Superintendents	3	8	11
Inspectors	10	3	13
Sub-Inspectors	17	8	25
Sergeants, First class	37	9	46
" Second class	38	17	55
Senior Constables	173	72	245
Senior Constables (brevet rank)	1	..	1
First Constables	539	283	822
Constables	712	93	805
Total	1,531	493	2,024
<i>Detectives.</i>			
Superintendents	1	..	1
Inspectors	3	..	3
Sub-Inspectors	5	..	5
Sergeants, First class	5	..	5
" Second class	1	..	1
Senior Detectives	20	..	20
First Detectives	29	..	29
Detectives	23	..	23
Total	87	..	87
<i>Mounted.</i>			
First Constables	8	83	91
Constables	25	55	80
Total	33	138	171
Grand Total	1,651	631	2,282

In addition to the above there were 7 police-women, 3 matrons, and 2 black trackers employed by the Police Department on the 31st December, 1936.

The following statement gives the numerical strength of the police force in Victoria and the number of inhabitants to each police officer at the end of each of the last ten years:—

STRENGTH OF POLICE FORCE IN VICTORIA, 1927 TO 1936.

Year.	Total Strength including Police-women.	Number of Inhabitants to each Police-officer.	Year.	Total Strength including Police-women.	Number of Inhabitants to each Police-officer.
1927	1,977	881	1932	2,121	855
1928	2,112	834	1933	2,148	849
1929	2,148	828	1934	2,170	847
1930	2,115	848	1935	2,247	820
1931	2,107	856	1936	2,289	809

Strength of police force in Australian States.

The appended table shows for each Australian State the strength of the police force at the end of 1936:—

STRENGTH OF POLICE FORCE IN AUSTRALIAN STATES, 1936.

State.	Total Strength including Police-women.	Number of Inhabitants to each Police Officer.
Victoria	2,289	809
New South Wales	3,726	720
Queensland	1,328	740
South Australia*	700	739
Western Australia	581	777
Tasmania*	284	808

* At 30th June, 1936.

The next table contains a statement of the amount and the amount per head of population expended from Consolidated Revenue in connexion with the police, and the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria, in each of the five years ended 30th June, 1937 :—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1932-33 TO 1936-37.

Year ended 30th June.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Maintenance, &c.		Buildings.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablishments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablishments.		
£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	
1933 ..	601,919	94,784	2,424	1,172	700,299	7 9
1934 ..	616,153	105,125	4,417	1,207	726,902	8 0
1935 ..	654,846	106,385	10,904	2,450	774,585	8 5
1936 ..	693,892	110,189	20,205	3,926	828,212	9 0
1937 ..	755,505	116,904	38,328	3,992	914,729	9 11

Executions. During the thirty-two years ended with 1936 there were only eleven executions in Victoria, one of which took place in 1908, one in 1912, two in 1916, two in 1918, one in 1922, one in 1924, one in 1932, and two in 1936. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 179 criminals (175 males and 4 females) have been executed within the State on account of the following offences :— Murder, 139 ; attempted murder, 17 ; robbery with violence, 9 ; burglary and wounding, 1 ; sexual offences, 12 ; and arson, 1.

Inquests. During 1936 there were 1,725 inquests or magisterial inquiries held in Victoria into the causes of deaths of 1,750 persons (1,239 males and 511 females), or 9·4 per 10,000 of the population. In 610 cases death was found to be due to disease or natural causes, in 755 cases to accident, in 28 to homicide, in 196 to suicide, in 47 to illegally induced abortion, in 7 to external causes which could not be ascertained, in 4 to intemperance, in 2 to judicial hanging, and in 101 to unspecified or doubtful causes.