

PART IV.—LAW, CRIME, ETC.

Transfer of
real pro-
perty.

271. The system of transferring land, whereby a fresh title from the Crown is given to every purchaser, was inaugurated in Victoria in 1862 by the coming into force of the Real Property Act, and has since been perfected under other Statutes.

Lands under
Transfer of
Land Sta-
tute.

272. All lands alienated from the Crown after the commencement of the Act named have come at once under the provisions of this law, and land alienated prior to its passing can be brought under it, provided a clear title can be produced, or a title containing only a slight imperfection. In the latter case, the title is given subject to such imperfection, which is noted on the deed.

Assurance
fund.

273. As the Government takes the responsibility of the title, and may occasionally, notwithstanding every care, pass properties in respect to which claims may arise at some future time, an assurance and indemnity fund, to secure the Government against possible losses, is formed chiefly by the payment by each person bringing property under the Statute of an amount equal to one halfpenny in the pound of the value of such property. One claim only, amounting to £250, has been paid out of this fund since the first introduction of the system. The balance to the credit of the fund at the end of 1874 was £29,119 1s. 4d., of which amount £23,000 had been invested in Government stock.

Transactions
under Trans-
fer of Land
Statute.

274. The following is a statement of the transactions which took place in connection with the Transfer of Land Statute during the years 1873 and 1874. These transactions are in addition to the supplying of certified copies of documents and maps and the sale of forms:—

TRANSFER OF LAND STATUTE—NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS.

Transactions.	1873.	1874.
Applications to bring land under the Act	1,149	1,052
Certificates of title issued	5,646	9,870
Transfers, mortgages, leases, releases, surrenders, &c. ...	11,314	12,364
Other transactions	12,320	13,246
Total	30,429	36,532

Fees under
Transfer
of Land
Statute.

275. The fee for a certificate of title under the Transfer of Land Statute is £1, and the fee for a transfer, mortgage, or lease is 10s.* The fees received in the Office of Titles amounted to £17,262 in 1873, and to £21,504 in 1874.

* To Friendly Societies, the fees for certificates of title and transfers are reduced one-half.

276. The total quantity of land under the Transfer of Land Statute at the end of 1874 was 5,482,230 acres, valued at £11,833,674. The land granted and sold up to the same period amounted to 9,932,633 acres. It therefore follows that 55 per cent. of the alienated land in the colony was subject to the provisions of this Act. Land under Transfer of Land Statute.

277. The number of transactions in Equity amounted to 799 in 1873, and 495 in 1874. The probates issued amounted to 548 in the former and 568 in the latter year, and the letters of administration to 547 and 587. Transactions in Equity.

278. The property bequeathed by will and administered to in the two years was as follows :— Probates and letters of administration.

					Property sworn under—
					£
1873	...	...	...	...	1,567,090
1874	...	...	...	...	3,426,470

279. The following business was done under the head of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes in the same two years :— Divorce and matrimonial.

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL.

	1873.	1874.
	Number.	Number.
Petitions for dissolution of marriage	17	14
„ judicial separation	4	12
„ alimony	5	9
Decrees dismissing petitions	2	...
„ for dissolution of marriage	7	5
„ for judicial separation	3	1
„ for alimony	1	1

280. In the ten years prior to the year under review, 66 decrees were made for the dissolution of marriage, and 22 for judicial separation. Decrees for divorce, &c.

281. The duty on estates of deceased persons in Victoria is as follows, except in the case of the widow, children, or grandchildren of the deceased being the persons interested, in which case the duty is reduced one-half :— Rates of duties on estates of deceased persons.

Estates not exceeding £1,000	...	...	...	1 per cent.
„ £1,000 to £5,000	...	...	...	2 „
„ £5,000 to £10,000	...	...	...	3 „
„ £10,000 to £20,000	...	...	...	4 „
„ over £20,000	...	...	...	5 „

282. The Act* for imposing these duties came into operation in December 1870. The amounts realised therefrom in the four clear years which have intervened since that period have been as follow :— Amount realised from duties on estates of deceased persons.

* Act No. 388, afterwards amended by Act No. 403.

Amount Realised from Duties
on Estates of Deceased Persons.
£

1871	...	...	...	...	17,069
1872	...	...	...	...	37,643
1873	...	...	...	...	39,026
1874	...	...	...	...	67,998

283. Exclusive of the above duties the following fees have been collected by the Master in Equity in the past two years :—

FEES IN EQUITY.

						1873.	1874.
						£	£
Equity	...	...	...	...	...	1,217	1,133
Ecclesiastical	...	...	...	...	...	893	954
Divorce	...	...	...	...	...	124	89
Total						£2,234	£2,176

284. The following fees have been collected by the Master in Lunacy in the same two years :—

FEES IN LUNACY.

						1873.	1874.
						£	£
Collected on behalf of lunatic patients	...	...	...	...	...	1,120	2,862
Percentage paid into the Treasury	...	...	...	...	...	718	353
Paid into the Treasury on account of maintenance	...	...	...	...	...	2,822	2,830
Fees collected	...	...	...	...	...	69	47
Total						£4,729	£6,092

285. The following have been the insolvencies during the last two years, together with the liabilities and assets of the estates, as shown by the insolvents' schedules:—

INSOLVENCIES, 1873 AND 1874.

Year.	Number of Insolvencies.	As shown by the Insolvent's Schedule.		
		Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
		£	£	£
1873	672	330,337	188,351	141,986
1874	776	543,157	269,130	274,027

286. The intestate estates to which administration was granted to the Curator in 1873 numbered 236, those in 1874 numbered 214. The estimated value of such estates amounted to £31,408 in the former, and £24,242 in the latter year. These values are included in the amounts

given in par. 278 *ante*. The sums received by the Curator on these estates, and others remaining from former years, were £31,542 in 1873 and £30,236 in 1874.

287. The number of persons* taken into custody by the Victorian police in 1874 was 23,856, as against 24,959 in 1873. The following table gives a statement of the numbers taken into custody, and the manner in which they were dealt with by magistrates in 1874, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennial periods :—

PERSONS ARRESTED BY THE POLICE, 1864, 1869, AND 1874.

	1864.	1869.	1874.
Taken into custody	23,493	24,770	23,856
Discharged by magistrates	7,572	7,730	6,929
Summarily convicted or held to bail	14,890	16,198	16,233
Committed for trial	1,031	842	694

Persons taken into custody.

288. The numbers, it will be observed, are not increasing. In partial explanation of this fact it will be remembered that, notwithstanding the total population has largely increased, persons at the ages at which crimes are generally committed are probably not more numerous now than they were ten years since. †

Criminals not increasing.

289. The numbers and proportions of either sex taken into custody in the three years named were as follow. It will be observed that the proportion which females bore to the total arrests was higher at the second period than the first, but that at the third period it was identical with that at the second :—

Sexes of persons arrested.

MALES AND FEMALES ARRESTED BY THE POLICE, 1864, 1869, AND 1874.

Year.	Numbers.		Proportions per Cent.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1864	19,177	4,316	82	18
1869	19,827	4,943	80	20
1874	19,049	4,807	80	20

* In some instances no doubt the same person was arrested more than once during the year, but as no distinction of such cases has been made in the returns, each arrest has necessarily been treated throughout this part as of a separate individual.

† Males between 20 and 35 years, enumerated at the census of 1871, were fewer by 48,766 than those enumerated in 1861; and females, between 25 and 30 years of age, were fewer by 1,394 in 1871 than at the former period.—See Report by the Government Statist on the Census of Victoria, 1871, pp. 12 and 13; Ferres, Melbourne.

290. The following is a condensed statement of the offences for which arrests were made in the same three years :—

CAUSES OF ARREST, 1864, 1869, AND 1874.

Offence.	1864.	1869.	1874.
Murder and attempts at murder	40	31	10
Manslaughter	20	36	28
Wounding or poisoning with intent to do bodily harm	58	47	73
Assaults	1,090	1,547	1,643
Rape and indecent assaults on females ...	88	57	49
Unnatural offences and assaults with intent to commit the same	14	22	11
Other offences against the person	102	112	118
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c. ...	287	215	179
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c. ...	220	167	185
Other offences against property	4,133	3,943	3,374
Forgery and offences against the currency ...	86	105	91
Drunkenness	9,344	10,647	10,981
Other offences against good order	5,868	5,676	5,058
Offences relating to carrying out laws ...	837	625	473
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	148	90	73
Offences against public welfare	1,158	1,450	1,510
Total	23,493	24,770	23,856

291. It is satisfactory to find that a diminution has taken place in the number of serious offences, especially murder, rape and indecent assaults on females, and robbery with violence.

292. An increase appears in the arrests for drunkenness. This may perhaps be due not so much to the greater prevalence of the crime as to the greater vigilance exercised by the police in apprehending drunken persons. The numbers arrested for this offence in 1874 (10,981) were fewer than those in 1873 (11,195).

293. It will no doubt surprise some that, notwithstanding the inducement which the high import duties placed on certain articles might be supposed to offer to smuggling, arrests for that offence and other offences against the revenue were not half so numerous at the last as they were at the first period, and were less by a fifth than they were at the middle period.

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

Causes of arrest.

Diminution of serious offences.

Increase of drunkenness.

Decrease of smuggling, &c.

Age and education of persons arrested.

DEGREE OF INSTRUCTION OF PERSONS ARRESTED, 1874.

Ages.	Superior Instruction.	Read and Write well.	Read only, or Read and Write imperfectly.	Unable to Read.	Total.
Under 10 years ...	...	9	69	421	499
10 to 15 „ ...	...	83	428	195	706
15 to 20 „ ...	1	368	877	195	1,441
20 to 25 „ ...	9	674	1,313	290	2,286
25 to 30 „ ...	15	717	1,561	388	2,681
30 to 40 „ ...	61	1,750	3,744	1,012	6,567
40 to 50 „ ...	29	1,355	3,267	938	5,589
50 to 60 „ ...	18	609	1,497	566	2,690
60 years and upwards	10	245	732	402	1,389
Unknown ...	...	3	3	2	8
Total ...	143	5,813	13,491	4,409	23,856

295. Of those over 15 years of age who fell into the hands of the police, about a fourth could read and write well ; but of these only 1 in 41 was possessed of superior instruction. When the last census was taken all the population over 15 years of age, except about a seventh, were returned as able to read and write. Nearly a fifth of those at the same age arrested, were unable to read. At the census less than a tenth of the population at that age were similarly uneducated. These facts speak for themselves in respect to the connection which has often been alleged to exist between crime and the absence of education.

Education of those arrested, and of whole population.

296. The following table shows the birthplaces and religions of the persons taken into custody and the persons committed for trial, during the year under review ; and the ratio of those of each country and sect to the numbers of the same country and sect in the mean population brought on to that year, according to the proportions which prevailed at the last census :—

Birthplaces and religions of those arrested.

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PERSONS ARRESTED AND COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1874.

Native Country.	Persons Arrested.		Persons Committed for Trial.	
	Number.	Proportions per 1,000 of the Population.	Number.	Proportions per 10,000 of the Population.
Victoria ...	2,987*	8·25	104†	2·87
Other Australasian Colonies	1,004	31·88	55	17·46
England ...	7,494	41·52	206	11·41
Wales ...	234	32·20	8	11·01
Scotland ...	2,376	38·47	56	9·07

* Including 84 Aborigines.

† Including 1 Aboriginal.

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PERSONS ARRESTED AND COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1874—*continued.*

Native Country.	Persons Arrested.		Persons Committed for Trial.	
	Number.	Proportions per 1,000 of the Population.	Number.	Proportions per 1,000 of the Population.
Ireland	7,983	72·32	163	14·77
Other British possessions ...	201	47·27	8	18·81
France	91	70·76	5	38·88
Germany	303	30·66	16	16·19
United States	284	106·69	13	48·84
China	438	22·33	38	19·37
Other countries	448	60·05	22	29·49
Unknown	13	...	...	...
Total	23,856	29·87	694	8·69

Religion.	Number.	Proportions per 1,000 of the Population.	Number.	Proportions per 1,000 of the Population.
Protestants	13,832	23·96	442	7·66
Roman Catholics	9,286	48·79	204	10·72
Jews	66	16·57	9	22·60
Mahometans	37	266·19	...	...
Pagans	442	22·45	37	18·79
No religion	163	29·71	2	3·67
Unknown	30	...	...	...

297. It is a remarkable fact that, both in 1873 and 1874, more persons born in the United States, in proportion to their numbers in the population, were arrested, than those of any other nationality. The chief causes of arrest were, as in the case of citizens of most other countries, drunkenness and disorderly conduct; still, there were a not inconsiderable number of arrests for more serious offences, and the proportion committed for trial was much greater than that of persons born in any other country. The number of Americans settled in Victoria is but small, and it is not impossible that it is to a certain extent made up of those who, in consequence of their misdeeds, have found it desirable to absent themselves from the country of their birth, and that they conduct themselves no better here than they did at home. In the year under review, next to Americans, the Irish, in proportion to their numbers, contributed the largest number to the arrested; and next to them, the French. In 1873 more of the last mentioned fell into the hands of the police than those of any other country, except the United States. In 1874, Frenchmen were next to Americans in the numbers committed for trial. The remark applied to the latter with reference to the probable reason for their leaving their own country, will perhaps also be applicable to them. Although the proportion of Irish committed for trial was greater than that of either English, Welsh, Scotch, or Vic-

Relative numbers of different birthplaces.

torians, it was less than that of persons of any of the other nationalities. Fewer Victorians, in proportion to their numbers, were taken into custody in 1874, and fewer were committed for trial, than those of any other nationality. This is no doubt mainly due to the circumstance that they embraced a proportionately smaller number of persons old enough to commit crime than any other section of the community. Next to Victorians, fewer Chinese, relatively to their numbers, were arrested, than people of any other country. The Chinese do not contribute many to the ranks of the drunkards, and hence their comparative immunity from arrest. The numbers sent for trial, however, show that they commit their full share of the more serious offences.

298. In regard to religions relatively to their respective numbers, the Roman Catholics contributed more than twice as many to the persons arrested as the Protestants, and nearly three times as many as the Jews. They, also, in proportion to their strength in the population, contribute a third more to the numbers committed for trial than the Protestants. The nine persons of the Hebrew faith, however, committed for trial, compared with their total numbers, furnish a proportion more than twice as great as that of the Roman Catholics. The proportion of Pagans committed for trial is next to that of the Jews. Proportionately to their small numerical strength in the population, the largest numbers arrested both in the past and the previous year were Mahometans. In both cases those arrested were all Lascar seamen, who seem to have a special faculty for falling into the hands of the police. The causes of arrest were the comparatively light offences of drunkenness and insubordinate conduct on board ship, and in 1874 not one of this sect was committed for trial.

299. Subjoined are the occupations of persons of either sex taken into custody during the year. It will be seen that laborers contributed the largest number of arrested males, and next to them contractors, artisans, and mechanics. Only 26 males were set down as belonging to the criminal and pauper classes. These classes, which include public prostitutes, supplied the largest number of arrested females, and next to them domestic servants:—

OCCUPATIONS OF PERSONS ARRESTED, 1874.

Occupation.	Males.	Females.
Government officer	1	...
Others ministering to government, defence, or protection	12	...
Missionary	1	...
Medical men, druggists, nurses, &c.	61	7
Lawyers, law court officers	46	...
Teachers, tutors, governesses... ..	38	4

Relative numbers of different religions.

Occupations of those arrested.

OCCUPATIONS OF PERSONS ARRESTED, 1874—*continued.*

Occupation.	Males.	Females.
Architects, civil engineers, surveyors	33	...
Actors, vocalists	52	1
Authors, editors, reporters	10	...
Others ministering to art, science, or literature...	12	...
Merchants, shopkeepers, dealers, &c.	641	29
Bank official	1	...
Accountants, agents, brokers, collectors	105	...
Commercial clerks	289	...
Others assisting in the exchange of money or commodities	36	...
Hotel, boarding, eating-house keepers, servants...	152	12
Tailors, shoemakers, dressmakers, barbers, &c....	928	99
Domestic servants	269	676
Contractors, artisans, and mechanics	2,627	1
Miners and others connected with mining	1,482	...
Squatters, drovers, station laborers, &c.	137	...
Farmers, gardeners, farm servants, &c.	699	...
Engaged in land carriage, &c.	616	...
Engaged in water carriage and navigation	1,498	...
Butchers, bakers, and others dealing in food	600	2
Laborers	6,998	...
Miscellaneous pursuits	326	1
Of independent means	7	...
Criminal and pauper classes	26	1,566*
No occupation, unspecified†	1,346	2,409
Total	19,049	4,807

Results of
summary
disposal.

300. The results of the summary disposal of cases by magistrates in the year under notice were as follow:—

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES, 1874.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Imprisonment for 2 years	15	...
” 1 year and under 2 years	155	55
” 6 months and under 1 year	285	164
” 4 months	23	1
” 3 months	627	304
” 2 months and under 3 months	217	58
” 1 month and under 2 months	699	243
” 15 days and under 1 month	81	12
” 8 days and under 15 days	519	177
” 7 days and under	3,612	1,119
Fined	5,651	649
Ordered to find bail	281	65
Sent to industrial school or reformatory	425	242
Otherwise dealt with	388	166
Total sentenced	12,978	3,255
Discharged	5,452	1,477
Total summarily disposed of	18,430	4,732

* Including 1,565 prostitutes.

† Including 803 male and 297 female children.

301. In addition to terms of imprisonment as above stated, whipping formed part of the sentence of six of the males, in five of which cases the offender was sentenced to be whipped once and in the remaining instance twice. In one case the number of lashes ordered was not stated, but the aggregate number in the other five instances was 190. The offender sentenced to be whipped twice was ordered 25 lashes on each occasion; the average to the other four offenders was therefore 35 lashes. Corporal punishment is not often ordered by magistrates, and can only be so, under Statute 35 Vict. No. 399, sec. 33, in cases of "indecent exposure of person" by males over sixteen years of age. In such cases, the offender may be sentenced to be whipped once, twice, or thrice, at the discretion of the bench, and to receive any number of lashes not exceeding fifty on each occasion.

Whipping ordered by magistrates.

302. The result of the commitments for trial in the three years already referred to was as follows:—

Result of commitments for trial.

RESULT OF COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL, 1864, 1869, AND 1874.

	1864.	1869.	1874.
Committed for trial	1,031	842	694
Convicted and sentenced	620	507	436
Acquitted	323	256	194
Not prosecuted	88	79	64

303. It thus appears that convictions were obtained in the case of about 60 per cent. of those committed for trial at each of the first two periods, and nearly 63 per cent. at the last period.

Proportion of convictions obtained.

304. The following are the sentences passed on those who were convicted after commitment for trial in the year under review:—

Sentences in superior courts.

SENTENCES OF PRISONERS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1874.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Death	2	...
Hard labor for 10 years and under 15 years	8	...
" 7 years and under 10 years	8	...
" 4 years and under 7 years	68	1
Imprisonment for 2 years and under 4 years	145	9
" 1 year and under 2 years	83	13
" 6 months and under 1 year	35	11
" 1 month and under 6 months	25	5
" under 1 month	11	1
" awaiting pleasure of the Crown	2	...
Fined	4	...
Otherwise dealt with	4	1
Total sentenced	395	41
Acquitted or not prosecuted	224	34
Total committed for trial	619	75

305. Five of the males included in the above statement were sentenced to whipping as well as to imprisonment. Of these, 2 were sentenced to be whipped once, 2 twice, and 1 three times. The total number of lashes ordered was 200, or an average of a fraction over 22 at each whipping. Judges of the Supreme Court and Courts of General Sessions can sentence males over sixteen years of age to receive corporal punishment, under Act 27 Vict. No. 233, for unnatural offences, attempts to choke in order to commit an offence, or for robbery under arms; and, under Act 35 Vict. No. 399, for attempts to commit rape, or for rape itself where the sentence of death is commuted. The greatest number of whippings an individual can be sentenced to receive for one offence is three, and the greatest number of lashes at each whipping is 50.

Whipping
ordered by
superior
courts.

Executions.

306. No criminal was executed during the year under review. This is the first year since Victoria was proclaimed an independent colony that no execution has taken place. In the ten previous years 38 persons were executed, of which the following are the particulars as regards offence, birthplace, and religion. It will be observed that no native of Victoria is included amongst the number :—

CRIMINALS EXECUTED, 1864 TO 1873.

Offence, Birthplace, and Religion.							Number.
Total number executed	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Offence—Murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
„ Attempt at murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ Rape ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Unnatural offence	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Birthplace—Australian Colonies, not Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ England	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
„ Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ Scotland	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ France	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ West Indies...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ China	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ At sea	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Religion—Church of England	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ Presbyterian	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ Wesleyan	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ Roman Catholic	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
„ Pagan	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

NOTE.—All the above were males. Only one female has been executed in the colony since its first settlement.

307. The number of criminal cases tried in the Supreme Court, Melbourne, and in the Circuit Courts, in the year under review was 322, of which 240 were for felonies and 82 for misdemeanors. The convictions for felonies numbered 155 and for misdemeanors 54. The number of places where courts were held was 10, and the total duration of courts was 123 days. Supreme Court Criminal Sessions.

308. Supreme and Circuit Courts were held at the same number of places to try civil cases. The number of causes entered during the year for trial was 216, and for assessment of damages 6. The number of causes tried was 153, of which 123 were tried by juries of four and 30 by juries of twelve. All the latter, and all but 2 of the former, were defended. The amount of damages laid was £136,659. Of the verdicts, 105 were for the plaintiff and 38 for the defendant; there were 8 nonsuits, and in 2 cases the jury were discharged without giving a verdict. The aggregate amount awarded by the juries was £18,208, or less than a seventh of the amount of damages laid. Supreme Court Civil Sittings.

309. Courts of General Sessions were held during the year at 26 places. The number of such courts held was 84, extending over 148 days and 3 hours. The total number of cases tried was 350; the number of convictions was 228; and the number of appeals was 97. Courts of General Sessions have jurisdiction in criminal cases within certain limitations, and have also appellate jurisdiction in civil cases from Petty Sessions. General Sessions.

310. The number of places where County Courts were held in the year was 56; the number of courts held was 208, lasting altogether 463 days and 2 hours. The number of causes tried was 11,218; the amount sued for was £256,548; and the amount recovered was £96,672, or less than two-fifths of the amount sued for. The total amount of costs awarded to the plaintiff was £12,204, and the total amount awarded to the defendant was £4,601. These courts have jurisdiction up to £250. County Courts.

311. Courts of Mines were held during the year at 30 places. The number of courts held was 102, lasting for 56 days 5 hours. The total number of suits was 38, and the aggregate amount of value or demand was £8,972. The costs awarded to the plaintiff amounted to £234, and to the defendant £82. These courts have jurisdiction concerning all questions or disputes which may arise out of mining on Crown lands. Courts of Mines.

312. Courts of Petty Sessions were held at 186 places during the year. The cases of indictable offences brought before them numbered 1,742, in 737 of which the offender was committed for trial or held to bail. The complaint cases summarily disposed of numbered 40,186, in 26,496 of which convictions were obtained. The civil cases heard Petty Sessions.

numbered 23,328, in which the total amount claimed was £108,489; and the amount awarded was £67,684, or about 62 per cent. of the amount claimed. Courts of Petty Sessions have jurisdiction in ordinary civil cases up to £20 and in master and servant cases up to £50.

Writs.

313. Writs were issued during the year at 10 places. The total number of writs issued was 1,741, of which 33 were Queen's writs and 1,708 were subjects' writs. The former were against both person and property, and of the latter 74 were against the person and 1,634 were against property.

Gaols and penal establishments.

314. The state of the Gaols and Penal Establishments during the last three years was as follows:—

GAOLS AND PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS, 1872 TO 1874.

GAOLS.

Year.	Number of Institutions.	Average Number of Prisoners.			Number of Cases of Sickness.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Punishments for Offences within the Institution.
		Males.	Females.	Total.			
1872	10	642½	234	876½	3,139	24	867
1873	10	624½	238	862½	3,294	21	739
1874	9	621	265	886	3,777	23	662

PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

1872	3	713	...	713	922	8	1,218
1873	3	706	...	706	770	7	1,123
1874	3	708½	...	708½	624	3	1,075

Proportion of prisoners to population.

315. Taking the mean population of the colony during 1874 as 798,688, consisting of 434,073 males and 364,615 females, the average number of prisoners in both classes of establishments throughout the year was 1 in every 501 of both sexes; 1 male in every 326 males; 1 female in every 1,376 females.

Numbers passing through gaols, &c.

316. The number of persons who were detained in these establishments during the year was 9,842, viz., 8,362 in gaols and 1,480 in penal establishments. It is not possible to determine accurately how many of these were separate individuals; deducting, however, 2,234, stated to have been transferred from one institution to another, and, therefore, certainly included twice in the total, and assuming that 608 of the remainder had been imprisoned twice in the year, the residue (7,000), or 1 in every 114 of the population, would represent the pro-

bable number of distinct persons who had passed some portion of the year in gaol.

317. The deaths in gaols during the year were in the proportion of 26 per 1,000 of the average number of prisoners; those in penal establishments were in the proportion of a little more than 4 per 1,000. The proportion of deaths was rather less than 4 per 1,000 of the assumed total number of distinct individuals (7,000) confined in the institutions during some portion of the year. Deaths in gaols, &c.

318. By the returns of cases of sickness as applied to the mean numbers confined it would appear as if every prisoner in gaols had been sick on the average at least 4 times during the year, and that 88 per cent. of the prisoners in penal establishments had been sick once during the same period. Applying the number of sick cases to the estimated total number of distinct individuals in both classes of institutions, and supposing the same individual to have been sick only once, it follows that about 63 per cent. of the 7,000 confined in the year were on the sick list during some portion of the period they spent in prison. Sickness in gaols, &c.

319. In the following table the ages of the population at the last census have been brought on by proportion to suit the numbers of the estimated mean population during 1874, and the numbers so obtained have been compared with the mean number of prisoners at the same ages :— Ages of prisoners.

AGES OF PRISONERS, 1874.

Ages.	Estimated Mean Population.	Average Number of Prisoners.	Prisoners per 10,000 of Population.
Under 10 years	243,760	9	·37
10 to 15 „	93,526	46	4·92
15 to 20 „	56,826	143	25·16
20 to 30 „	117,767	384	32·61
30 to 40 „	123,557	431	34·88
40 to 50 „	94,525	332	35·12
50 to 60 „	44,806	161	35·93
60 years and upwards	23,921	89	37·21
Total	798,688	1,595	19·97

320. It will be noticed that after 30 years of age prisoners, relatively to the numbers at like ages in the population, were more numerous at each progressive age period; and that after 60 years of age, one person on the average out of every 269 of that age living was a prisoner throughout the year. Ages in proportion to population.

321. Subjoined are the birthplaces and religions of the prisoners confined during the year, reduced from the total numbers of each nationality Birthplaces and religions of prisoners.

and religion given as passing through the institutions, to the average number confined, in order that the result may be comparable with the totals of the same nationality and religion in the estimated mean population of the year :—

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PRISONERS, 1874.

Native Country.	Estimated Mean Population.	Average Number of Prisoners.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
Australasian Colonies	393,621	299	7·60
England and Wales	187,766	555	29·55
Scotland	61,757	127	20·56
Ireland	110,382	437	39·59
Other British possessions	4,252	30	70·55
Foreign countries, not China	21,291	82	38·51
China	19,619	65	33·13
Total	798,688	1,595	19·98

Religion.	Estimated Mean Population.	Average Number of Prisoners.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
Protestants	577,307	931	16·13
Roman Catholics	190,324	581	30·53
Jews	3,983	9	22·60
Pagans	19,688	64	32·51
Other sects	1,934	6	31·02
No religion	5,452	3	5·50
Unknown ... ..	...	1	...

Numbers of each birth-place and religion compared.

322. It will be observed that natives of all the countries shown, except the Australasian colonies, contributed more than their share to the number of inmates of prisons, the immunity of the latter being doubtless to a great extent, if not altogether, due to the large proportion of children included in their numbers. It will also be observed that all sects, except Protestants, were more largely represented amongst the prisoners than the average, and the Protestants much less so ; also, that prisoners of "No Religion," were much fewer in proportion to their numbers in the population than any of those professing some religion.

Birthplaces and religions in reformatories.

323. The children in reformatories during the year under review numbered 193. All but 10 of these were born in Australia. Of the remainder, 2 were born in England, 4 in Ireland, and of 4 the birth-place was unknown. Protestants contributed 103 to the number, Roman Catholics 89, and Jews 1.

Inquests.

324. Inquests were held on 1,602 dead bodies during the year. In 747 cases death was found to have resulted from natural causes ; in 37 cases, from intemperance ; in 747 cases, from external causes ; in 63 cases, from doubtful causes ; and in 8 cases, a verdict of still-born was

given. The verdict "natural causes," was returned in 47 per cent. of the cases. In the ten years prior to the year under review, the proportion of verdicts in which death was found to have resulted from natural causes was less than 45 per cent. of the whole. The practice of holding inquests in cases of other than violent deaths is therefore increasing. Of the deaths set down to external causes in the year under review, 576 were found to have occurred from accident, 9 from homicide, 102 from suicide, and 60 from doubtful causes.

325. Fifteen fire inquests were held during the year, as against 10 in the previous year. Inquests are not held upon all the fires which occur, but only upon such as appear to require investigation at the discretion of the coroner in whose district they occur. The practice of holding fire inquests is not so common now as formerly. In the last five years the average has been 23 per annum. In the previous quinquenniad the yearly average was 124. In 7 of the inquests held in 1874, or about half, the verdict was to the effect that the fire had been occasioned purposely.

Fire in-
quests.

PART V.—INTERCHANGE.

326. The weights and measures used in Victoria are in every respect similar to those in use in the United Kingdom.

Weights and
measures.

327. The declared values of Victorian imports and exports in 1874, their sum being the total value of external trade, and their difference being the excess in favor of imports, were as follow :—

Imports and
exports,
1874.

Value of imports, 1874	...	...	...	£16,953,985
„ exports, „	...	...	...	15,441,109
				<hr/>
Total trade	...	...	...	£32,395,094
				<hr/>
Excess of imports over exports	...			£1,512,876
				<hr/>

328. The imports exceeded those in the previous year by £420,129, and the exports exceeded those in the previous year by £138,655. The total excess of external trade over that in 1873 was thus £558,784.

Imports and
exports,
1873 and
1874,
compared.

329. A statement of the value of imports and exports during each year will be found in the folding sheet at the commencement of this work. A reference to this statement will show that the imports in 1874 have been exceeded in two years only since the first settlement of the colony, viz., in 1854 by £705,066, and in 1857 by £302,224 ; that the

Imports and
exports,
1874,
compared
with former
years.