

PART V.

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 although the procedure was entirely remoulded by the *Judicature Act* 1883 (now incorporated in the *Supreme Court Act* 1928), its constitution and powers remain practically unaltered. There were, in 1950, ten Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and nine Puisne Judges. Three appointments were made during 1950.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the five years 1946 to 1950 :—

VICTORIA—SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1946 TO 1950.

Heading.	Year Ended 31st December,—				
	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
Number of places at which sittings were held	6	6	6	7	10
Causes entered—					
For assessment of damages	6	10	1	8	2
For trial	345	390	411	449	604
Number of causes tried—					
By juries of six	40	48	69	86	70
By a Judge	66	68	54	36	51
Verdicts returned for—					
Plaintiff	82	91	98	92	95
Defendant	24	25	25	30	26
Amounts awarded £	50,315	79,496	91,734	120,598	124,104
Writs of summons issued	957	1,027	1,157	1,271	1,512
Other original proceedings	147	54	36	46	107
Appellate proceedings (other than Criminal Appeals heard and determined)—					
By Full Court	39	43	36	45	44
By a Judge	58	53	61	68	49
Fees collected £	4,755	6,706	7,635	8,360	11,344

County Courts.

County Courts have jurisdiction, both in equity and common law cases, limited to £500; but actions of tort or contract commenced in the Supreme Court may, under certain conditions, be remitted to the County Court, even although the amount claimed may exceed £500. At the present time County Courts are held at Melbourne and at nineteen other places in Victoria. Every Court has jurisdiction throughout the whole of Victoria.

VICTORIA—COUNTY COURT CASES, 1947 TO 1951.

Year Ended 31st December.					Number of Causes Tried.	Amount Sued for.	Amount Awarded.
						£	£
1947	..	..	..	..	2,105	527,045	165,055
1948	..	..	..	..	1,460	555,884	63,252
1949	..	..	..	..	1,355	811,742	41,502
1950	..	..	..	..	1,576	954,466	46,332
1951	..	..	..	..	1,591	1,092,465	47,600

Writs by the Sheriff.

The table hereunder records the number of writs received by the Sheriff in the five years, 1947 to 1951.

VICTORIA—WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF,
1947 TO 1951.

Year Ended 31st December.	King's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person.	Property.	
1947	2	5	75	82
1948	4	4	87	95
1949 .. ..	..	3	90	93
1950	7	2	106	115
1951	18	..	126	144

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 Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth Act.

The number of sequestrations, &c., in Victoria during each of the five years ended 31st July, 1951, under the *Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act 1924-1948*, and the amount of liabilities and assets relating thereto were as follows:—

VICTORIA—BANKRUPTCIES, 1947 TO 1951.

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.				
1947	45	2	10	57
1948	50	2	18	70
1949	57	3	10	70
1950	78	4	14	96
1951	58	..	14	72
LIABILITIES.				
	£	£	£	£
1947	22,292	8,248	17,198	47,738
1948	54,014	55,612	88,687	198,313
1949	51,375	7,390	126,013	184,778
1950	139,743	85,965	43,959	269,667
1951	91,613	..	82,507	174,120
ASSETS.				
	£	£	£	£
1947	2,700	262	15,837	18,799
1948	16,788	23,201	52,433	92,422
1949	48,464	9,561	120,400	178,425
1950	39,152	28,716	38,745	106,613
1951	30,965	..	53,193	84,158

The yearly average number of sequestrations, declared liabilities and assets are shown in the subjoined table for each of the quinquennial periods ended in 1938, 1943 and 1948.

Period.	Yearly Average Number.	Yearly Average Declared Liabilities.	Yearly Average Declared Assets.
		£	£
1933-34 to 1937-38 ..	381	595,056	274,545
1938-39 to 1942-43 ..	296	297,886	128,033
1943-44 to 1947-48 ..	51	100,175	66,667

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 by husbands and wives respectively, and the number of decrees granted for dissolution of marriage, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage during the year 1950. Every decree of dissolution of marriage is in the first instance a decree *nisi* and is not made absolute till the expiration of not less than three months thereafter.

VICTORIA—DIVORCES, 1950.

	Petitions Filed by—			Decrees Granted to—		
	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.
Dissolution of marriage ..	854	1,000	1,854	739	852	1,591
Judicial separation ..	..	5	5	..	2	2
Nullity of marriage ..	7	12	19	6	5	11
Total	861	1,017	1,878	745	859	1,604

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1950 were as set out in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DIVORCES, GROUNDS OF, 1950.

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	199	158	..	..	..	..
Bigamy .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bigamy and adultery ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Cruelty .. ..	..	4	..	1	..	..
Desertion	520	660	..	1	..	..
Desertion and adultery ..	9	10	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness (habitual) ..	..	3	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness and cruelty .. ..	..	11	..	..	..	..
Impotence .. ..	..	..	..	..	6	4
Insanity	11	2	..	..	..	..
Sentences for crime ..	..	3	..	..	..	..
Total	739	852	..	2	6	5

The following table shows the number of petitioners to whom decrees were granted in 1950, the ages of such petitioners and the number of their issue as at date of decree :—

VICTORIA—DIVORCE PETITIONS GRANTED, AGES OF PETITIONERS AND ISSUE TO EXISTING MARRIAGE, 1950.

Ages (Years).	Dissolution of Marriage.		Judicial Separation.		Nullity of Marriage.		Number of Children.*	
	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.
19 .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
20	2	3	..	..	..	..	1	2
21	2	5	..	..	..	..	2	5
22-25 ..	47	97	..	..	1	..	21	66
26-29 ..	120	153	..	..	1	2	89	131
30-34 ..	153	211	..	..	..	1	119	224
35-39 ..	155	153	..	1	1	..	161	210
40-44 ..	107	99	..	..	..	2	136	147
45-49 ..	68	76	..	..	1	..	103	134
50-54 ..	48	25	..	1	..	..	74	32
55-59 ..	23	20	..	..	1	..	44	42
60 .. ..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1
61	2	2	..	..	..	..	4	2
62	2	2	..	..	..	..	2	1
63	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
64	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
65	3	..	..	..	..	..	5	..
66	1	..	..	..	..	..	7	..
67	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
68	2	..	..	..	1	..	3	..
69	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
82 .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	739	852	..	2	6	5	775	1,002

* Of the total of 1,777, 1,772 relate to decrees for dissolution of marriage and 5 to the decrees for judicial separation.

Dissolutions of Marriage—Duration and Issue. In the following table particulars are given of the duration of marriage and the issue in respect of the petitions granted for dissolution of marriage during 1950 :—

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, PETITIONS GRANTED; DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1950.

Duration of Marriage in Years.	Number of Children.									Total Dissolutions of Marriage.	Total Children.
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
Under 1 year ..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..
1 year ..	16	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	4
2 ..	28	14	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	43	16
3 ..	59	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86	27
4 ..	57	38	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	103	55
5 ..	73	50	10	2	..	..	..	..	..	135	76
6 ..	61	48	13	2	1	..	..	..	..	125	84
7 ..	64	46	16	3	..	..	..	..	..	129	87
8 ..	50	41	14	5	..	..	..	..	..	110	84
9 ..	32	37	21	6	..	..	..	..	..	96	97
10 ..	25	30	13	6	2	..	..	..	..	76	82
11 ..	19	30	19	5	5	1	..	..	..	79	108
12 ..	16	23	13	2	7	1	..	..	..	62	88
13 ..	14	13	12	11	2	1	1	..	..	54	89
14 ..	18	20	17	3	1	..	..	..	..	59	67
15 ..	5	12	15	7	1	..	..	..	..	40	67
16 ..	6	12	12	5	2	1	..	..	1	39	72
17 ..	7	8	9	4	1	..	1	..	1	31	56
18 ..	7	10	8	6	3	2	1	1	..	38	79
19 ..	6	8	7	3	1	..	..	..	..	25	35
20 ..	3	16	10	3	2	1	..	..	..	35	58
21 ..	6	7	6	4	..	1	..	..	..	24	36
22 ..	4	3	4	2	1	1	1	..	..	16	32
23 ..	5	5	7	6	1	1	..	..	..	25	46
24 ..	1	4	9	5	1	4	1	1	..	26	74
25 ..	2	6	7	1	2	1	..	..	..	19	36
26 ..	..	2	2	6	1	1	..	..	..	12	33
27 ..	3	2	2	3	1	4	..	..	..	15	39
28 ..	2	1	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	10	16
29 ..	2	3	3	1	1	..	..	1	..	11	23
30 ..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	6
31 ..	2	..	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	7	15
32 ..	1	..	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	4	11
33 ..	..	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	1	7	21
34 ..	..	1	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	5	13
35 ..	1	2	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	8	15
36 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	8
38 ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
40 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
42 ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
43 ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
47 ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
48 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	7
Total Dissolution of marriage ..	603	526	276	110	41	22	5	4	4	1,591	..
Total Children ..	..	526	552	330	164	110	30	28	32	..	1,772

The following table shows the ages of the parties concerned in the decrees for dissolution of marriage, petitions for which had been granted during 1950 :—

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, PETITIONS,
GRANTED—AGES OF PARTIES, 1950.**

Ages of Husbands in Years.	Ages of Wives in Years.											Total Husbands.
	Under 21.	21-25.	26-29.	30-34.	35-39.	40-44.	45-49.	50-54.	55-59.	60 and Over.	Not Stated.	
Under 21 ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
21-25 ..	9	65	12	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	92
26-29 ..	1	102	122	23	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	255
30-34 ..	1	22	132	154	27	3	..	..	..	..	..	339
35-39 ..	..	5	34	139	127	12	2	1	..	..	1	321
40-44 ..	..	1	4	41	91	89	10	3	1	..	1	241
45-49 ..	..	1	1	9	30	53	50	7	3	..	2	156
50-54 ..	..	1	..	4	5	15	41	28	9	1	..	104
55-59 ..	..	1	1	..	4	3	15	7	13	7	..	51
60 and over ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	4	3	6	13	..	27
Not stated ..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Total Wives..	12	199	307	376	290	178	122	49	32	21	5	1,591

In 1861 jurisdiction was conferred on the Supreme Court of Victoria in matrimonial matters. The *Divorce Act* 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 1931-40, and for each of the years 1941 to 1950.

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS, 1861 TO 1950.

Years Ended 31st December.	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
1931-1940	6,495	16
1941	833	5
1942	953	2
1943	1,375	1
1944	1,670	2
1945	1,727	..
1946	1,619	3
1947	2,266	3
1948	1,660	2
1949	1,766	2
1950	1,591	2
Total—1891 to 1950	31,061	88
Total—1861 to 1950	31,409	159

RACECOURSE LICENCES AND PERMITS.

Racecourse
licences,
permits and
percentage
fees.

The Police Offences Acts provide that no professional race meetings shall be held except on a racecourse which is licensed under such Acts for horse races or for trotting races. A licence shall, unless cancelled, be in force for twelve months. For each licence there shall be paid a fee of £1 and also a sum equal to 3 per cent. of the gross revenue derived from the racecourse during the year immediately preceding the year for which the licence is required. It is provided, however, that where the gross revenue is less than £1,500 but more than £600, the sum payable shall be 2 per cent. of the gross revenue, and where the gross revenue is £600 or less no amount shall be payable in addition to the annual fee of £1.

A fee of £1 per day is payable for a permit for a picnic race meeting or for a mixed sports gathering, i.e., sports at which there is horse racing or trotting racing.

The amounts paid into Consolidated Revenue in each of the last ten years were as follows :—

**VICTORIA—REVENUE FROM RACECOURSE LICENCES,
PERMITS, AND PERCENTAGE FEES, 1941-42 TO 1950-51.**

Year Ended 30th June.			Amount.	Year Ended 30th June.			Amount.
			£				£
1942	..	..	15,095	1947	..	..	21,727
1943	..	..	13,525	1948	..	..	26,316
1944	..	..	11,688	1949	..	..	27,862
1945	..	..	14,049	1950	..	..	32,163
1946	..	..	18,429	1951	..	..	34,101

Under the *Police Offences (Race Meetings) Act* No. 5284 of 1948, the amount received in percentage fees payable on the gross revenue derived from racecourses not within 30 miles of the General Post Office, Melbourne, during the twelve months ended 31st July, 1948, and annually thereafter, is paid into a Treasury Fund known as the Country Racecourses Improvement Fund and used for subsidizing local expenditure on improvements to racecourses not being within 30 miles from Melbourne. The amounts paid to the Fund were £5,522 in 1949-50 and £6,573 in 1950-51.

CRIME.

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

Abolition of death penalty in certain cases. The *Crimes Act*, No. 5379 of 1949, provided for amendments to certain penalties contained in the *Crimes Act* 1928. The most important of these are the abolition of the death penalty in all cases other than Treason and Murder, and that the sentence of death shall not be pronounced on persons under the age of eighteen years.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS.

Jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of Children's Courts is limited to children under the age of seventeen years. In 1939, the Children's Court Office was re-organized and the appointment was made of a Stipendiary Special Magistrate with jurisdiction throughout the State. He has the assistance of two Stipendiary Probation Officers who investigate problem cases which come before the Court. A clinic has been established for the purpose of dealing with cases referred to it by the court.

The table which follows shows the number of cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts during the year 1950.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF, 1950.

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Disposed of—				Committed for Trial.	
		Convicted.		Dismissed Withdrawn, Struck Out.			
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against the person—							
Assaults	33	18	2	13	..	..	..
Others	33	20	..	13	..	..	..
Total	66	38	2	26	..	..	..
Against property—							
Larceny, &c.	1,917	1,416	62	424	15	..	..
Wilful damage	76	45	..	31	..	..	..
Others	64	60	1	2	1	..	..
Total	2,057	1,521	63	457	16	..	..
Against Good Order—							
Drunkenness	7	4	3	..	..	..	..
Others	75	48	2	21	4	..	..
Total	82	52	5	21	4	..	..
Other Offences, &c.—							
Traffic offences	297	227	15	51	4	..	..
Other offences	156	108	12	34	2	..	..
Neglected children ..	371	142	120	71	38	..	..
Total	824	477	147	156	44	..	..
Grand Total	3,029	2,088	217	660	64	..	..

The number of cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts in each of the five years 1946 to 1950 is given in the following statement:—

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF
1946 TO 1950.

Nature of Offence.	Year Ended 31st December,—				
	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
Against the person—					
Assaults	56	27	24	14	33
Others	15	59	51	70	33
Against Property—					
Larceny, &c. .. .	2,143	1,829	1,739	1,842	1,917
Wilful damage .. .	116	78	57	79	76
Others	78	77	20	30	64
Against Good Order— ..					
Drunkenness .. .	9	10	13	12	7
Others	149	78	81	68	75
Traffic offences .. .	544	448	356	286	297
Other offences .. .	154	163	138	122	156
Neglected children .. .	337	258	294	370	371
Total	3,601	3,027	2,773	2,893	3,029
Summarily convicted .. .	3,007	2,598	2,337	2,382	2,305
Summarily dismissed, &c. ..	589	427	425	503	724
Committed for trial .. .	5	2	11	8	..

Children's
Courts—cases,
how dealt with.

The following statement gives particulars of the manner in which the cases in the Children's Courts were disposed of by magistrates in 1950:—

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES, HOW DEALT WITH, 1950.

How Dealt With.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Adjourned for period without probation ..	531	48	579
Released on probation	775	46	821
Committed to care of Children's Welfare Department	241	99	340
Committed to care of private person or Institution	1	..	1
Committed to reformatory	35	..	35
Fined	261	17	278
Released under Section 356 of <i>Crimes Act</i> 1928	5	..	5
Dismissed on payment of costs or damages or both	22	..	22
Discharged upon surety	7	..	7
Sentenced to term of imprisonment ..	1	..	1
Sentenced to imprisonment, the execution of which has been suspended	34	..	34
Convicted and discharged	83	6	89
Discharged with a caution	63	1	64
Otherwise dealt with	29	..	29
Summarily convicted	2,088	217	2,305
Summarily dismissed, &c.	660	64	724
Committed for trial .. ..	..	..	..
Grand Total	2,748	281	3,029

**Children's
Courts—
probation
cases.**

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 five years 1946 to 1950.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: PROBATION CASES, 1946 TO 1950.

Year Ended 31st December.	Cases Released on Probation.	Results of Probation.		
		Satisfactory.	Fair.	Unsatisfactory.
	No.	%	%	%
1946	663	73	8	19
1947	643	78	6	16
1948	737	79	6	15
1949	764	81	5	14
1950	821	75	7	18

VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Petty Sessions civil business. In 1950, Courts of Petty Sessions by stipendiary magistrates and honorary justices were held at 227 places in Victoria. Clerks of courts of ten years' standing, who have passed the prescribed examination, and barristers of five years' standing are eligible for appointment as stipendiary 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 five years 1946 to 1950 as shown below, were compiled from quarterly statements prepared by Clerks of Petty Sessions for the Law Department.

VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, ETC., 1946 TO 1950.

Heading.	Year Ended 31st December—				
	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
Civil cases—					
Number heard	31,686	34,624	34,914	39,490	45,174
Debts or damages—					
Claimed £	342,484	375,640	355,318	462,614	505,908
Awarded £	244,146	261,860	261,229	338,606	365,257
Other cases—					
Appeals against rates ..	534	217	331	424	350
Ejectment cases	3,681	3,526	3,322	3,008	3,875
Fraud summonses	1,980	2,278	2,409	2,357	2,178
Garnishee cases	876	883	873	1,093	991
Maintenance cases	1,560	1,364	1,267	1,281	1,274
Show cause summonses ..	1,367	1,487	1,672	2,009	2,350
Applications under Landlord and Tenant Acts	3,836	494	451	1,165	1,455
Other	3,512	5,024	3,353	3,088	4,090
Licences and certificates issued..	17,582	15,191	14,251	16,592	17,744

VICTORIA—ARREST CASES SUMMARILY DISPOSED OF IN COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS, 1950.

How Disposed of.	Year Ended 31st December, 1950.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fined	12,871	952	13,823
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	4,686	539	5,225
1 month and under 6 months	1,755	126	1,881
6 months and under 12 months	187	23	210
1 year and under 2 years	21	..	21
Admonished (convicted and discharged)	7,306	610	7,916
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	416	82	498
Sent to reformatory schools	17	..	17
Committed to Children's Welfare Department	150	6	156
Otherwise dealt with	141	16	157
Total convicted	27,550	2,354	29,904
Dismissed, withdrawn, struck out	1,467	149	1,616
Total summarily disposed of	29,017	2,503	31,520

VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS AND CHILDREN'S COURTS.

In the following statistical tables details are given of the total number of cases dealt with in Courts of Petty Sessions and Children's Courts. If it be desired to compare the figures in these tables with those relating to other States or countries it is necessary that consideration be given to several points. The first 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 points 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.

VICTORIA—ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1950.

Nature of Offence.	Total Cases.	Summarily Disposed of—				Committed for Trial.	
		Convicted.		Dismissed, Withdrawn, Struck Out.			
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against the person—							
Murder* ..	16	..	..	11	5	..	..
Intent to murder ..	18	..	..	8	..	10	..
Manslaughter* ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shooting at, wounding, &c. ..	98	5	1	17	..	74	1
Assaults ..	1,660	820	53	679	98	10	..
Others ..	300	43	2	52	5	189	9
Total ..	2,092	868	56	767	108	283	10
Against property—							
Robbery, Shop-breaking, house-breaking, &c. ..	955	124	2	40	1	777	11
Larceny and similar offences ..	4,033	2,747	259	637	60	310	20
Wilful damage ..	326	222	12	73	9	9	1
Others ..	1,184	902	12	166	7	92	5
Total ..	6,498	3,995	285	916	77	1,188	37
Forgery and offences against the currency	80	..	..	..	..	54	26
Against good order—							
Drunkenness† ..	21,248	19,366	1,637	226	19	..	..
Others ..	9,216	6,987	1,231	867	124	7	..
Total ..	30,464	26,353	2,868	1,093	143	7	..
Other offences—							
Breaches of—							
Education Act ..	2,288	1,529	499	192	68	..	..
Licensing Act ..	3,399	2,637	264	408	90	..	..
Motor Car Act ..	17,250	15,773	331	1,126	20	..	..
Traffic Regulations	10,884	10,028	346	489	21	..	..
Vermín and Noxious Weeds Act ..	323	246	42	28	7	..	..
Miscellaneous ..	23,923	20,186	1,567	1,936	201	25	8
Total ..	58,067	50,399	3,049	4,179	407	25	8
Grand Total ..	97,201	81,615	6,258	6,955	735	1,557	81

* See Inquests, page 242, on proceedings relating to persons charged with these offences.

† See footnote on page 238.

**Arrest and
summons
cases.**

Particulars of the arrest and summons cases for the five years 1946 to 1950 are given in the subjoined table.

VICTORIA—ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES, 1946 TO 1950.

Year Ended 31st December.			Arrest Cases.		Summons Cases.		Total.
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
1946	..	..	20,117	1,904	38,407	4,055	64,483
1947	..	..	22,784	2,300	45,123	3,783	73,990
1948	..	..	24,394	2,233	46,779	3,110	76,516
1949	..	..	25,740	2,283	48,932	3,556	80,511
1950	..	..	30,431	2,572	59,696	4,502	97,201

The following table shows, for each of the five years specified, the number of offences for which persons were arrested or summoned, summarily convicted, dismissed, or committed for trial.

**VICTORIA—DISPOSAL OF ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES,
1946 TO 1950.**

Year Ended 31st December.			Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Dismissed, Struck Out, or Withdrawn.	Committed for Trial.
1946	..	..	64,483	56,623	6,327	1,533
1947	..	..	73,990	66,086	6,121	1,783
1948	..	..	76,516	68,243	6,277	1,996
1949	..	..	80,511	72,416	6,344	1,751
1950	..	..	97,201	87,873	7,690	1,638
Number per 10,000 of Population.						
1946	..	..	317·5	278·8	31·2	7·5
1947	..	..	362·7	323·9	30·1	8·7
1948	..	..	366·1	326·5	30·1	9·5
1949	..	..	376·4	338·6	29·6	8·2
1950	..	..	441·0	398·7	34·9	7·4

NOTE.—The convictions in respect of drunkenness include those cases in which offenders were discharged by magistrates on a first appearance. Prior to 1936 such cases were not treated as convictions.

CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS.

**Alteration in
method of
tabulation.**

The statistics of crime and drunkenness for the years subsequent to 1932 were compiled on a basis which differed from that for the years 1893 to 1932. The particulars for the years 1933 to 1950 represent, in respect of multiple charges, the total number of all offences with which arrested persons were charged whereas, for the period 1893 to 1932, only the most serious offence in each case was tabulated. Summons cases in 1933 to 1950 relate, as in previous years, to all offences with which a person was charged. The statistics for the past eighteen years are comparable, therefore, with those for the years prior to 1893, appearing in earlier issues of the *Year Book*.

**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, house and shop-breaking, 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. These were very few in number, there having been in Victoria in 1950 only 89 of such charges out of a total of 67,363 in the category to which they belong. The cases under the heading "Other Offences" were mainly 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 was also among them a large number of offences against good order, including offensive behaviour, indecent language, vagrancy, &c.

**Offences and
drunkenness.**

The following table shows, for a series of years, the numbers of arrest and summons cases, and also the numbers per 1,000 of the population, tabulated according to the only classes of offences for which complete comparisons can be made. The particulars include cases (other than those of neglected children) disposed of in Children's Courts.

VICTORIA—OFFENCES AND DRUNKENNESS, 1890 TO 1950.

Year Ended 31st December.			Number of Arrest and Summons Cases—				
			Offences Against the Person.	Offences Against Property.	Drunkenness.	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
1940	..	..	1,346	7,698	11,619	65,624	86,287
1941	..	..	1,380	7,329	12,064	56,230	77,003
1942	..	..	1,632	8,210	12,887	51,769	74,498
1943	..	..	1,618	8,268	12,561	48,646	71,093
1944	..	..	1,660	7,874	12,518	42,837	64,889
1945	..	..	1,711	6,535	10,534	41,964	60,744
1946	..	..	1,920	6,591	11,720	44,252	64,483
1947	..	..	1,956	6,144	14,952	50,938	73,990
1948	..	..	1,972	6,378	16,600	51,566	76,516
1949	..	..	1,945	5,909	17,972	54,685	80,511
1950	..	..	2,092	6,498	21,248	67,363	97,201
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*	..	..	0·94	2·84	4·55	23·44	31·77
1940	..	..	0·71	4·04	6·10	34·47	45·32
1941	..	..	0·71	3·79	6·23	29·04	39·77
1942	..	..	0·83	4·18	6·57	26·37	37·95
1943	..	..	0·82	4·18	6·35	24·60	35·95
1944	..	..	0·83	3·95	6·28	21·48	32·54
1945	..	..	0·85	3·25	5·23	20·86	30·19
1946	..	..	0·95	3·25	5·77	21·79	31·76
1947	..	..	0·96	3·01	7·33	24·97	36·27
1948	..	..	0·94	3·05	7·94	24·68	36·61
1949	..	..	0·91	2·76	8·40	25·57	37·64
1950	..	..	0·95	2·95	9·64	30·57	44·11

* See paragraph "Alteration in method of tabulation" on page 239.

Drunkenness. The number of persons and the number per 1,000 of the population arrested or summoned for drunkenness during the five years 1946 to 1950 are given hereunder :—

VICTORIA—PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS, 1946 TO 1950.

Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Persons—			Number per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1946	11,704	16	11,720	5.77
1947	14,921	31	14,952	7.33
1948	16,554	46	16,600	7.94
1949	17,943	29	17,972	8.40
1950	21,203	45	21,248	9.64

Drunkenness —Comparison with previous years. If the amount of drunkenness in proportion to population, as measured by the number of charges therefor, be represented by 100 as the yearly average for the period 1874–78, the corresponding numbers for subsequent periods will show the comparative increase or decrease. These numbers are given in the following table :—

VICTORIA—DRUNKENNESS, 1874 TO 1950.

Years Ended 31st December.	Index Number.	Years Ended 31st December.	Index Number.
1874–78	100	1923–27	41
1879–85	88	1928–32	30
1886–92	106	1933–37	36
1893–97	65	1938–42	42
1898–1902 ..	84	1943–47	42
1903–07	77	1948	54
1908–12	68	1949	57
1913–17	59	1950	66
1918–22	32		

A considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown for the five years 1893–97, which was a period of general depression, followed by an increase in the subsequent five-yearly period. A similar trend is shown for the depression years 1923–32 and subsequent years. 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.

Young persons charged with drunkenness. The accompanying table shows for the five years 1946 to 1950 the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness.

VICTORIA—ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1946 TO 1950.

Year Ended 31st December.	Numbers.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
1946	210	17	227
1947	267	19	286
1948	249	9	258
1949	311	14	325
1950	323	16	339

INQUESTS.

Coroner's jurisdiction. A Coroner has jurisdiction to hold an inquest concerning the manner of death of any person who is slain or drowned or who dies suddenly or in prison or while detained in any hospital for the insane and whose body is lying dead within the district in which such coroner has jurisdiction.

His duties in relation thereto are regulated by the *Coroners Act* 1928 and there are special provisions relating to inquests in other Acts, such as the *Mines Act*, *Children's Welfare Act*, and *Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act*. Coroners and deputy-coroners are appointed by the Governor in Council, every Stipendiary Magistrate being appointed a coroner for the State of Victoria. Deputy-coroners have jurisdiction in the districts for which they have been appointed. In addition, a justice of the peace has jurisdiction, within his bailiwick, to hold an inquest, but only if requested to do so by a police officer in charge of a station, or by a coroner.

In the majority of cases the coroner acts alone in holding an inquest, but in certain cases a jury is empanelled. This is done (a) when the coroner considers it desirable; (b) when in any specified case a law officer so directs; and (c) when it is expressly provided in any Act, (as is the case under the *Mines Act*) that an inquest shall be taken with jurors. It is an essential preliminary in all cases that the coroner and the jury, if any, shall view the body, otherwise the inquest is void.

When a person is arrested and charged before a Justice or Court with murder or manslaughter, those proceedings are adjourned from time to time pending the holding of the inquest. If the inquest results in a finding against that person of murder or manslaughter, the coroner issues his warrant committing him for trial, the other proceedings being then withdrawn.

The following shows the number of inquest cases in Victoria during the years 1946 to 1950, and the number of persons subsequently committed for trial. The information was furnished by the Department of Law.

Year Ended 31st December.	Inquests into Deaths of—			Persons Committed for Trial.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1946	1,184	558	1,742	20	2	22
1947	1,226	586	1,812	17	..	17
1948	1,207	577	1,784	21	6	27
1949	1,243	521	1,764	15	2	17
1950	1,314	602	1,916	36	6	42

The charges on which persons were committed for trial by Coroners were :—

Year.	Murder.			Manslaughter.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1946.. ..	7	1	8	13	1	14
1947.. ..	8	..	8	9	..	9
1948.. ..	11	4	15	10	2	12
1949.. ..	7	1	8	8	1	9
1950.. ..	26	6	32	10	..	10

HIGHER COURTS.

The number of distinct persons convicted in the Supreme Court and in Courts of General Sessions in Victoria during each of the years 1946 to 1950 is shown below. The offences of distinct persons convicted during 1950 are detailed in tabulations immediately following.

HIGHER COURTS—DISTINCT PERSONS CONVICTED— 1946 to 1950.

Year Ended 31st December—	Males.			Total.
	Against the Person.	Against Property.	Other.	
1946	136	476	56	668
1947	164	538	43	745
1948	171	556	39	766
1949	128	480	37	645
1950	176	476	22	674

Year Ended 31st December—	Females.			Total.
	Against the Person.	Against Property.	Other.	
1946	14	19	9	42
1947	8	28	4	40
1948	14	16	10	40
1949	4	14	6	24
1950	13	19	15	47

**Committals
for trial—
convictions.**

The following table shows the offences of distinct persons
Sessions in Victoria during 1950 after committal from
Where a person was charged with more than one offence

HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

Offence.	Males (Ages in Years).															
	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 59.	60 to 69.	70 and Over.	
MALES.																
Against the Person—																
Murder	2	1	..	..	2	..	..	..
Murder, attempted	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Manslaughter	1	1	5	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..
Wounding, &c., or inflict grievous bodily harm	1	2	3	5	6	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shoot at with intent to do grievous bodily harm	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Unlawfully wounding	1	1	1	..	3	..	2	1	..	..	..	1	..
Assault	1	1	..	3	6	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Against Females—																
Rape	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rape, assault with intent to	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Carnal knowledge	2	1	1	..	5	5	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Carnal knowledge, at- tempted	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Incest and attempted	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Indecent assault	3	3	1	1	3	8	..	3	3	6	2	4	1	1
Unnatural offence	1	1	4	2	2	1	3	4	1	..	..
Unnatural offence, at- tempted	1	..	..	..	1	..
Indecent assault on male	1	..	..	1	4	2	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Bigamy	2	4	4	2	..	..	1	..	..	..
Aiding and abetting the offence of Bigamy	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Attempted suicide	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Total against the Person	6	6	8	9	30	46	15	15	9	10	14	8	1	1
Against Property—																
Robbery and attempted robbery	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Robbery under Arms	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Robbery with violence	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Robbery in company	1	..	..	8	2	2	1	..	2	..	..	..	..
Robbery, assault with intent	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Burglary	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Housebreaking	12	9	14	12	..	33	14	8	10	6	2	3	2	..	..

(a) Two executed on 19th February, 1951. One commuted to 5 years' imprisonment; one commuted to life imprisonment with benefit of regulations relating to remission of sentences; and one to imprisonment for life without any remission and without the benefit of regulations relating to remission of sentences.

who were convicted in the Supreme Court and in Courts of General Children's Courts, Courts of Petty Sessions and Coroner's Inquests. the principal offence only has been counted :—

CONVICTED 1950 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED).

		How Dealt with.																	
Not Stated.	Total.	Fined.	Imprisoned for—												Life.	Death Sentence.	Sentence Suspended on Entering a Bond.	Sent to Reformatory Prison.	Committed to Children's Welfare Department.
			Months.					Years.											
			Under 3.	3 and Under 6.	6 and Under 12.	12.	Over 12 to 18.	2 to 2½.	3.	4.	5.	7.	8.	10.						12.
5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(a)5	..	..	..
1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	2	..	1	1	1	1	..	1	..	..
10	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	20	..	3	4	4	4	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..
9	9	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..
12	12	..	2	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..
2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
18	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	..	..
3	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
3	3	..	..	..	7	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..
38	38	..	2	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	1	..
19	19	..	..	5	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..
2	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
11	11	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..
13	13	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..
1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
3	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
177	177	..	7	6	28	7	4	8	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	(a)5	99	1	..
1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16	16	..	..	..	2	3	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..
1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
125	125	..	4	(b)21	(c)22	15	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	11	..

(b) Including four who at expiration of sentence were committed to Reformatory Prison during the Governor's pleasure.

(c) Including two who at expiration of sentence were committed to Reformatory Prison during the Governor's pleasure.

HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

	Males (Ages in Years).															
Offence.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 59.	60 to 69.	70 and Over.	
Against Property— <i>continued</i> —																
Shop, office, store, factory, &c., breaking ..			13	14	15	14	47	30	15	10	4	3	1	1	..	
Larceny in a dwelling	1	2	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	1	..	..
Larceny as a clerk or servant	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	2	..	..
Larceny as a bailee ..			1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larceny of postal articles	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	
Larceny, all other ..			3	4	4	6	11	11	6	7	1	1	1	1	..	
Cattle stealing	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Horse stealing	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sheep stealing	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Breaking and entering	2	2	..	4	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Fraudulently omitting to account for money	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accessory after the fact to a felony	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Unlawful possession of ex- plosives	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Embezzlement	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
False pretences	2	5	..	2	2	..	1	1	..	
Unlawfully receiving ..			1	3	2	3	5	7	10	7	2	2	1	..	..
Arson and attempted	1	1	..	..
Wilful damage	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total against Property	30	37	41	39	117	79	44	40	18	14	11	6	..	
Forgery and uttering	4	3	3	1	1	1	1	..	..
Other Offences—																
False statement on oath	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Perjury	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Offence against <i>Bankruptcy Act 1924-28</i>	1	..	
Fabricating evidence with intent to mislead and so pervert the course of law and justice	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Breach of <i>Post and Telegraph Act 1901-1949</i>	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Law (public mis- chief)	1	..	..	..	..
Total Other Offences..	1	3	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	
Grand Total—Males	36	43	49	48	152	131	63	57	29	25	26	15	1	

CONVICTED 1950 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED)—*continued.*

		How Dealt with.																										
Not Stated.	Total.	Fined.	Imprisoned for—												Life.	Death Sentence.	Sentence Suspended on Entering a Bond.	Sent to Reformatory Prison.	Committed to Children's Welfare Department.									
			Months.					Years.																				
			Under 3.	3 and Under 6.	6 and Under 12.	12.	Over 12 to 18.	2 to 2½.	3.	4.	5.	7.	8.	10.						12.								
..	167	..	..	13	20	28	(d)8	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	79	9	..
..	10	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..							
..	7	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..							
..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..							
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..							
..	56	..	..	5	12	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	2	..
..	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..							
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..							
..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	12	..	..	..	6	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..							
..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..							
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..							
..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..							
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..							
..	13	..	..	2	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..							
..	41	..	..	..	12	3	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..							
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	..	..							
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..							
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..							
..	476	..	..	24	83	66	34	32	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	210	23	..	
..	14	..	..	..	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..							
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..							
..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..							
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..							
..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..							
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..							
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..							
..	8	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..							
..	675	..	7	30	114	76	39	40	5	2	2	2	2	2	1	..	(a)5	324	24									

(d) Including one who at expiration of sentence was committed to Reformatory Prison during the Governor's pleasure.

HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

Offence.	Females (Ages in Years).														
	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 59.	60 to 69.	70 and Over.
FEMALES.															
Against the Person—															
Murder									1						
Manslaughter											1		1		
Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm ..									1						
Bigamy							2	3	3						
Administering poison with intent to aggrieve or annoy									1						
Total against the Person							2	3	6		1		1		
Against Property—															
Housebreaking and stealing							4		1	1					
Shopbreaking and stealing				1			2			2	1				
Larceny, all other								2	1				1		
Unlawfully receiving								1			1				
False pretences									1						
Total against Property				1			6	3	3	3	2		1		
Forgery and uttering					1		2	2	2	1		1			
Other Offences—															
Perjury							1	2							
Make false declaration on oath				1					1						
Fabricating evidence with intent to mislead and so pervert the course of law and justice										1					
Total Other Offences ..				1			1	2	1	1					
Grand Total—Females				2	1		11	10	12	5	3	1	2		
Total — Males and Females		36	45	50	48	163	141	75	62	32	26	28	15		1

CONVICTED 1950 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED)—continued.

		How Dealt with.																										
Not Stated.	Total.	Fined.	Imprisoned for—														Life.	Death Sentence.	Sentence Suspended on Entering a Bond.	Sent to Reformatory Prison.	Committed to Children's Welfare Department.							
			Months.					Years.																				
			Under 3.	3 and Under 6.	6 and Under 12.	12.	Over 12 to 18.	2 to 2½.	3.	4.	5.	7.	8.	10.	12.													
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(a)1	1	..	..						
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..						
..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..						
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..						
..	13	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(a)1	11	..	..						
..	6	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..						
..	6	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..						
..	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..						
..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..						
..	19	..	..	3	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..						
..	9	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..						
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..						
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..						
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..						
..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..						
..	47	..	..	3	5	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(a)1	36	..	..						
..	722	..	7	33	119	76	40	41	5	2	2	2	2	2	1	..	(a)6	360	24	..								

(a) Executed on 19th February, 1951.

REGULATION OF LIQUOR TRADE.

**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.

To 31st December, 1950, 1,863 hotels had been closed by the Board or had surrendered their licences. Of these hotels 530 were located in metropolitan districts, and the compensation paid amounted to £581,662, or an average of £1,097 each. There were 1,333 hotels closed in country districts, and compensation amounting to £725,679 was paid, or an average of £544 each. The total sum paid in compensation in all districts of the State was £1,307,341, or an average of £702 for each hotel.

**Improvement
and Extension
of Licensed
accommoda-
tion.**

A section of the Board's work which has grown rapidly in extent and importance since 1922 is the consideration given to enforcing 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 thereof being £6,430,430 exclusive of the cost of sewerage and new equipment. National Security Regulations and the Victorian Building Operations and Building Materials Control Acts have restricted since 1940 all building operations in regard to hotels. During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1950, plans to the value of £133,708 were approved subject to permits being obtained from the Building Directorate.

**Licensing
Fund.**

The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1950, amounted to £701,930. The amounts received from the various sources were:—Licences, certificates, and permits, £680,233; interest on investments, £10,982; fees and fines, £10,436; and miscellaneous, £279. The expenditure, which totalled £701,930 consisted of the following items:—Annual payments to municipalities, £58,964; compensation, £5,000; 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. 5089, £580,993; and salaries, expenses, &c., £33,973. The amount at credit of the fund at 30th June, 1950, was £410,976, of which £341,000 was invested.

**Number of
Hotels.**

The following return shows the number of hotels, including roadside licences, in Victoria in 1885, 1906, and certain subsequent years, and the average 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.

VICTORIA—NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885 TO 1950.

Year.	Number of Hotels.*	Average Number of Persons to Each Hotel.	Year.	Number of Hotels.*	Average Number of Persons to Each Hotel.
1885.. ..	4,339	223	1944.. ..	1,666	1,199
1906.. ..	3,520	347	1945.. ..	1,665	1,210
1930.. ..	1,803	994	1946.. ..	1,665	1,225
1935.. ..	1,744	1,056	1947.. ..	1,666	1,237
1940.. ..	1,691	1,132	1948.. ..	1,666	1,264
1941.. ..	1,683	1,157	1949.. ..	1,666	1,299
1942.. ..	1,671	1,174	1950.. ..	1,666	1,333
1943.. ..	1,670	1,187			

* Including Roadside Licences.

In addition to hotels, liquor licences under the following headings were held during the five years 1946 to 1950 :—

	Year Ended 31st December—				
	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
Australian Wine Licences ..	129	127	126	124	122
Registered Clubs	122	121	122	122	122
Railway Refreshment Rooms ..	26	26	26	26	26
Grocers' licences	249	250	251	252	253

During the period 1885 to 31st December, 1950, 227 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 1,861 were deprived of or surrendered their licences, and 60 hotel licences lapsed. During the period 1907 to 31st December, 1950, 82 new licences were granted.

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.

Liquor Permits. During the year ended 31st December, 1950, 1,111 permits authorizing the sale, disposal or supply of liquor with bona-fide meals between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. were renewed or granted by the Licensing Court in licensed premises which include—Hotels, Australian Wine Licences, and Registered Clubs.

**Hotels closed
by Local
Option.**

During the period 1885 to 1938, compensation paid to the 227 hotels closed as the result of local option polls amounted to £224,870, or an average of £990 for each hotel. This sum was provided out of the Licensing Fund, and, when this was insufficient for the purpose, out of Consolidated Revenue.

**Licensing
Polls.**

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 Act provided that the resolution should be carried if three-fifths at least in number of the votes given were in favour of the resolution. 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). A similar poll was held on the 8th October, 1938. Particulars relating to the number of votes recorded at each of these polls appears in the *Year-Book* for 1939-40, page 71. Licensing polls were abolished by Section 3 of the *Licensing Act* 1946 (No. 5197).

**Consumption
of beer.**

The estimated quantity of beer consumed in Victoria in each of the five years 1946 to 1950 was as follows:—

CONSUMPTION OF BEER IN VICTORIA, 1946 TO 1950.

Year Ended 30th June.					Estimated Quantity of Beer Consumed.	Per Head of Population.
					Gallons.	Gallons.
1946	..	..	..	..	26,921,500	13·32
1947	..	..	..	..	31,506,800	15·45
1948	..	..	..	..	34,086,600	16·47
1949	..	..	..	..	39,467,800	18·68
1950	..	..	..	..	44,846,900	20·66

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

**Gaols and
prisoners.**

In Victoria there are 5 gaols, 4 reformatory prisons, and a training centre as set out hereafter. The following statement contains information (other than for police gaols) for the year ended 31st December, 1950, 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.

VICTORIA—GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1950.

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 ..	928	89	741	50	6,111	748	705	54
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	64	3	51	1	139	2	49	1
Ballarat Gaol ..	66	18	34	..	263	..	26	..
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	78	..	30	..	36	..	28	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison (closed 13.2.51) ..	80	..	31	..	43	..	13	..
Coorlemungie Prison Camp ..	32	..	28	..	51	..	26	..
Geelong ..	172	..	101	..	438	..	101	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison ..	41	..	19	..	8	..	14	..
Sale Gaol ..	26	9	11	..	222	..	7	..
Langi Kal Kal Training Centre ..	24	..	15	..	24	..	17	..
Total ..	1,511	119	1,061	51	7,335	750	986	55

* Including 58 males and 2 females awaiting trial.

Prisoners received and discharged. 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 1950 :—

VICTORIA—PRISONERS RECEIVED AT AND DISCHARGED FROM GAOLS AND REFORMATORY PRISONS, 1950.

(Exclusive of Police Gaols.)

Classification.	1950.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number in confinement at beginning of year—			
Convicted ..	954	39	993
Awaiting trial ..	67	6	73
Total ..	1,021	45	1,066
Received during year—			
Convicted of—			
Felony ..	939	47	986
Misdemeanour ..	3,655	561	4,216
Other offences ..	524	4	528
Transfers from—			
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons ..	535	1	536
Hospitals, Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c... ..	38	5	43
For Trial, not subsequently convicted ..	1,644	132	1,776
Total ..	7,335	750	8,085

VICTORIA—PRISONERS RECEIVED AT AND DISCHARGED FROM GAOLS
AND REFORMATORY PRISONS, 1950—*continued.*

(*Exclusive of Police Gaols.*)

Classification.	1950.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Discharged during year—			
By remission of sentence	529	21	550
On expiration of sentence and payment of fines	4,330	570	4,900
Bailed to appeal	75	2	77
On bond from Court, Judges' Order, Attorney-General's Order, &c.	203	17	220
By special authority	12	2	14
On parole	120	..	120
Died	2	..	2
Executed .. .. .	..	..	..
Deported	75	..	75
Absconded	12	..	12
Transfers to—			
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons	542	1	543
Hospitals, Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c... .. .	48	6	54
Unconvicted	1,424	121	1,545
Total	7,372	740	8,112
Number in confinement at 31st December—			
Convicted	928	53	981
Awaiting trial.. .. .	58	2	60
Total	986	55	1,041

Prisoners
under
sentence.

The following table shows the number of prisoners under sentence at the end of each of the ten years 1941 to 1950.

VICTORIA—PRISONERS UNDER SENTENCE, 1941 TO 1950.

At 31st December.				Males.	Females.	Total.	Number per 10,000 of Population.
1941	..	..	..	904	35	939	4·82
1942	..	..	..	1,066	43	1,109	5·64
1943	..	..	..	1,024	65	1,089	5·48
1944	..	..	..	1,055	46	1,101	5·50
1945	..	..	..	932	34	966	4·78
1946	..	..	..	927	25	952	4·65
1947	..	..	..	876	39	915	4·45
1948	..	..	..	863	49	912	4·36
1949	..	..	..	1,021	45	1,066	4·98
1950	..	..	..	986	55	1,041	4·72

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 1941 inclusive, and in each of the five years 1946 to 1950.

VICTORIA—DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1950.

Year Ended 31st December.					Daily Average Number of Prisoners in Confinement.		
					Males.	Females.	Total.
1871	..	..	..	..	1,345	274	1,619
1881	..	..	..	..	1,294	304	1,598
1891	..	..	..	..	1,550	350	1,900
1901	..	..	..	..	951	200	1,151
1911	..	..	..	..	713	100	813
1921	..	..	..	..	741	54	795
1931	..	..	..	..	1,391	50	1,441
1941	..	..	..	..	1,023	50	1,073
1946	..	..	..	..	1,013	41	1,054
1947	..	..	..	..	982	40	1,022
1948	..	..	..	..	872	40	912
1949	..	..	..	..	980	44	1,024
1950	..	..	..	..	1,061	51	1,112

Indeterminate
sentences.

The *Indeterminate Sentences Act* 1908 came into force on 1st July of that year. 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 to minors.

The Board was appointed on 18th August, 1908. A statement of its chief functions 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 five years 1947 to 1951 was as follows:—

**VICTORIA—PRISONERS UNDER INDETERMINATE
DETENTION, 1947 TO 1951.**

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year Ended 30th June—				
	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	22	27	33	78	44
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	42	46	50	12	19
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	49	57	72	41	..
McLeod Settlement, French Island ..	29	26	23	13	17
Langi Kal Kal Training Centre ..	..	..	..	..	27
Total	142	156	178	144	107

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. A number of persons connected with religious and philanthropic organizations has been appointed to the office, which is honorary.

From 1st July, 1908, to 30th June, 1951, admissions to the several reformatories totalled 6,051 (5,994 males and 57 females) as follows:—

Heading.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admitted to 30th June, 1951 (including 276 recaptured)	5,994	57	6,051
Discharged—			
By parole	5,243	57	5,300
„ effluxion of time	99	..	99
„ transfer to hospitals and asylums	41	..	41
„ special authority	43	..	43
„ deportation	23	..	23
„ escape	304	..	304
„ transfer to serve additional sentences	105	..	105
„ death	29	..	29
Total Discharged to 30th June, 1951	5,887	57	5,944
In reformatories on 30th June, 1951	107	..	107
Total to 30th June, 1951	5,994	57	6,051

POLICE PROTECTION.

**Numerical
strength of
Police Force
in Victoria.**

The numbers and classification of the various ranks of the police force in Victoria on 31st December, 1950, are shown in the following table :—

**VICTORIA—POLICE FORCE, CLASSIFICATION AND
NUMERICAL STRENGTH AT 31st DECEMBER, 1950.**

Designation.	At 31st December, 1950.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner	1	..	1
Inspecting Superintendent	1	..	1
Superintendents	5	11	16
Chief Inspector	1	..	1
Inspectors	31	21	52
Inspector (brevet rank)	1	..	1
Sergeants	108	41	149
Senior Constables	259	151	410
Senior Constables (brevet rank)	1	..	1
First Constables	450	347	797
Constables	779	213	992
Recruits	45	..	45
Total	1,682	784	2,466
<i>Detectives.</i>			
Superintendent	1	..	1
Inspectors	9	..	9
Sergeants	24	..	24
Senior Constables	43	7	50
First Constables	30	11	41
Constables	81	4	85
Total	188	22	210
<i>Mounted.</i>			
Senior Constables	2	..	2
First Constables	9	38	47
Constables	20	6	26
Total	31	44	75
Grand Total	1,901	850	2,751

* The above particulars include 21 police-women but exclude 47 members of the Victoria Police-women's Auxiliary and 1 black tracker.

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 ten years 1941 to 1950 :—

VICTORIA—POLICE FORCE, NUMERICAL STRENGTH, 1941 TO 1950.

Year Ended 31st December.	Total Strength Including Police-women.*	Number of Inhabitants to Each Police-officer.	Year Ended 31st December.	Total Strength Including Police-women.*	Number of Inhabitants to Each Police-officer.
1941 ..	2,327	838	1946 ..	2,198	931
1942 ..	2,318	855	1947 ..	2,272	904
1943 ..	2,263	882	1948 ..	2,386	876
1944 ..	2,209	908	1949 ..	2,597	824
1945 ..	2,131	948	1950 ..	2,751	801

* Including members with Defence Forces.

**Expenditure
on police,
gaols, &c.**

The next table shows the total amount and the amount per head of population expended from Consolidated Revenue in connexion with the police, and with the Penal establishments and gaols of Victoria, in each of the five years 1946 to 1950.

VICTORIA—EXPENDITURE FROM CONSOLIDATED REVENUE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1945-46 TO 1949-50.

Year Ended 30th June.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Salaries, &c.		Buildings and Rents.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establish- ments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establish- ments.		
	£	£	£	£		
1946 ..	1,083,145	161,447	38,900	9,023	1,292,515	£ s. d. 12 9
1947 ..	1,249,601	166,232	37,253	7,142	1,460,228	14 4
1948 ..	1,415,303	185,424	39,236	9,198	1,649,161	15 11
1949 ..	1,609,177	209,203	42,819	10,971	1,872,170	17 8
1950 ..	2,070,697	258,715	51,927	11,761	2,393,100	1 2 1

Executions.

During the 46 years ended with 1950 there were only fourteen 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, two in 1936, two in 1939, and one in 1941. Since the first settlement of Port-Phillip in 1835, 182 persons (178 males and 4 females) have been executed within the State on account of the following offences:—Murder, 142; attempted murder, 17; robbery with violence, 9; burglary and wounding, 1; sexual offences, 12; and arson, 1.