

PART VI.

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 1949, nine Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and eight Puisne Judges. One appointment was made during 1949.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the five years 1945 to 1949 :—

VICTORIA—SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1945 TO 1949.

Heading.	Year Ended 31st December,—				
	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
Number of places at which sittings were held	4	6	6	6	7
Causes entered—					
For assessment of damages	3	6	10	1	8
For trial	209	345	390	411	449
Number of causes tried—					
By juries of six	29	40	48	69	86
By a Judge	47	66	68	54	36
Verdicts returned for—					
Plaintiff	56	82	91	98	92
Defendant	20	24	25	25	30
Amounts awarded £	26,776	50,315	79,496	91,734	120,598
Writs of summons issued	611	957	1,027	1,157	1,271
Other original proceedings	102	147	54	36	46
Appellate proceedings (other than Criminal Appeals heard and determined)—					
By Full Court	34	39	43	36	45
By a Judge	37	58	58	61	68
Fees collected £	3,308	4,755	6,706	7,635	8,360

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, 1945 TO 1949.

Year Ended 31st December.					Number of Causes Tried.	Amount Sued for.	Amount Awarded.
						£	£
1945	..	..	..	..	1,103	238,718	68,103
1946	..	..	..	..	1,447	325,073	81,790
1947	..	..	..	..	2,105	527,045	165,055
1948	..	..	..	..	1,460	555,884	63,252
1949	..	..	..	..	1,355	811,742	41,502

Writs by the Sheriff.

The table hereunder records the number of writs received by the Sheriff in the five years, 1945 to 1949.

VICTORIA—WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1945 TO 1949.

Year Ended 31st December.	King's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person.	Property.	
1945 .. ..	..	1	52	53
1946	3	6	97	106
1947	2	5	75	82
1948	4	4	87	95
1949 .. ..	..	3	90	93

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, 1949, under the *Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act* 1924-1948, and the amount of liabilities and assets relating thereto were as follows:—

VICTORIA—BANKRUPTCIES, 1945 TO 1949.

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.
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NUMBER.

1945	32	..	3	35
1946	25	..	7	32
1947	45	2	10	57
1948	50	2	18	70
1949	57	3	10	70

LIABILITIES.

	£	£	£	£
1945	11,747	..	35,901	47,648
1946	77,308	..	38,820	116,128
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

ASSETS.

	£	£	£	£
1945	3,915	..	25,472	29,387
1946	20,498	..	10,290	30,788
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

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 1949. 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, 1949.

	Petitions Filed by—			Decrees Granted to—		
	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.
Dissolution of marriage ..	955	1,080	2,035	800	966	1,766
Judicial separation ..	..	6	6	..	2	2
Nullity of marriage ..	12	6	18	4	8	12
Total ..	967	1,092	2,059	804	976	1,780

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1949 were as set out in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DIVORCES, GROUNDS OF, 1949.

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 ..	221	203	..	1	..	..
Bigamy ..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Bigamy and adultery ..	..	3	..	..	..	..
Consanguinity ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cruelty ..	..	7	..	..	..	..
Desertion ..	556	698	..	..	..	..
Desertion and adultery	13	25	..	1	..	..
Drunkenness (habitual)	3	7	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness and cruelty ..	..	12	..	..	..	..
Impotence ..	..	..	..	..	3	5
Insanity ..	7	6	..	..	..	..
Sentences for crime ..	..	5	..	..	..	..
Total ..	800	966	..	2	4	8

Divorce. The following table shows the number of petitioners to whom decrees were granted in 1949, 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, 1949.

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	2	..	..	..	..	..	1
20	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
21	2	9	..	..	..	..	1	2
22-25 ..	43	115	..	..	..	..	19	63
26-29 ..	108	184	..	..	..	2	59	154
30-34 ..	180	220	..	..	1	..	139	229
35-39 ..	180	195	..	..	1	3	153	240
40-44 ..	104	102	..	..	1	1	115	152
45-49 ..	95	73	..	1	1	2	123	115
50-54 ..	41	33	..	..	..	..	76	67
55-59 ..	26	22	..	1	..	..	36	56
60	4	2	..	..	..	..	2	5
61	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
62	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	4
63	3	..	..	..	..	..	9	..
64 .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
65	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
66	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
67	3	1	..	..	..	..	4	..
68 .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
70	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
71	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
72	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
81	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Not stated ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	800	966	..	2	4	8	749	1,093

* Of the total of 1,842, 1,837 relate to decrees for dissolution of marriage, 4 to the decrees for judicial separation, and 1 to the decree of nullity of marriage.

**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 1949:—

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, PETITIONS
GRANTED; DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1949.**

Duration of Marriage in Years.	Number of Children.												Total Disso- lutions of Mar- riage.	Total Child- ren.
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12		
Under 1 year ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
1 year ..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	1
2 ..	14	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	2
3 ..	44	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56	12
4 ..	79	24	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104	26
5 ..	86	48	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	138	56
6 ..	83	55	13	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	152	84
7 ..	72	48	14	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	137	85
8 ..	73	48	24	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	149	108
9 ..	50	37	23	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	117	105
10 ..	30	31	13	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	79	74
11 ..	39	29	18	7	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	96	99
12 ..	20	31	25	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84	105
13 ..	18	29	15	3	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	70	92
14 ..	28	17	15	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	66	68
15 ..	10	22	9	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	47	60
16 ..	4	7	8	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	44
17 ..	8	16	10	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42	63
18 ..	5	10	13	5	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	37	69
19 ..	2	15	9	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	49
20 ..	10	13	4	13	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	43	75
21 ..	7	11	11	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	53
22 ..	2	5	10	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	42
23 ..	5	11	11	6	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	70
24 ..	8	3	6	9	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	28	57
25 ..	2	4	4	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	33
26 ..	4	5	7	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	25
27 ..	2	2	2	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	9	23
28 ..	5	2	6	3	..	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	21	51
29 ..	5	4	7	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	31
30 ..	2	3	4	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	25
31 ..	..	2	1	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	7	20
32 ..	..	2	2	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	8	25
33 ..	1	3	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	13
34 ..	1	..	4	..	2	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	11	41
35 ..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	8
36 ..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	7
37 ..	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	17
38 ..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	6
39 ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4
40 ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
41 ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
42 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
43 ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Total Dissolution of marriage	724	555	299	124	33	18	6	4	1	2	..	..	1,766	..
Total Children ..	..	555	598	372	132	90	36	28	8	18	..	..	..	1,837

Dissolution of Marriage—Ages of Parties. The following table shows the ages of the parties concerned in the decrees for dissolution of marriage, petitions for which had been granted during 1949:—

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, PETITIONS, GRANTED—AGES OF PARTIES, 1949.

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 ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
21-25 ..	6	75	13	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	100
26-29 ..	2	84	130	32	5	..	..	..	..	1	1	255
30-34 ..	..	45	142	174	32	4	..	1	..	..	..	398
35-39 ..	..	12	56	141	154	22	1	1	..	..	..	387
40-44 ..	..	4	6	35	101	77	17	3	..	..	..	243
45-49 ..	..	1	4	12	32	53	67	11	1	..	..	181
50-54 ..	..	1	..	3	8	19	33	20	8	..	1	93
55-59 ..	..	..	1	1	..	7	6	24	15	5	1	60
60 and over ..	..	..	..	2	1	1	5	6	15	13	..	43
Not stated ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	4
Total Wives..	10	222	352	405	335	184	130	66	39	19	4	1,766

Divorces, 1861 to 1949. 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 1949.

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS, 1861 TO 1949.

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
Total—1891 to 1949	29,470	86
Total—1861 to 1949	29,818	157

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, 1940-41 TO 1949-50.

Year Ended 30th June.	Amount.	Year Ended 30th June.	Amount.
	£		£
1941	15,420	1946	18,429
1942	15,095	1947	21,727
1943	13,525	1948	26,316
1944	11,688	1949	27,862
1945	14,049	1950	32,163

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 £5,123 in 1948-49 and £5,522 in 1949-50.

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. Further details are published on page 25 of this *Year Book*.

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 1949.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF, 1949.

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	14	7	1	5	1	..	..
Others	70	53	1	12	..	4	..	
Total	84	60	2	17	1	4	..	
Against property—								
Larceny, &c.	1,842	1,436	124	255	23	4	..	
Wilful damage	79	60	..	19	..	..	..
Others	30	16	..	13	1	..	..
Total	1,951	1,512	124	287	24	4	..	
Against Good Order—								
Drunkenness	12	10	..	2	..	..	..
Others	68	45	5	16	2	..	..
Total	80	55	5	18	2	..	..
Other Offences, &c.—								
Traffic offences	286	255	12	18	1	..	..
Other offences	122	77	5	38	2	..	..
Neglected children ..	370	135	140	59	36	..	..
Total	778	467	157	115	39	..	..
Grand Total	2,893	2,094	288	437	66	8	..	

The number of cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts in each of the five years 1945 to 1949 is given in the following statement:—

**VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF
1945 TO 1949.**

Nature of Offence.	Year Ended 31st December,—				
	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
Against the person—					
Assaults	66	56	27	24	14
Others	10	15	59	51	70
Against Property—					
Larceny, &c. .. .	2,462	2,143	1,829	1,739	1,842
Wilful damage .. .	212	116	78	57	79
Others	129	78	77	20	30
Against Good Order— ..					
Drunkenness .. .	13	9	10	13	12
Others	267	149	78	81	68
Traffic offences .. .	780	544	448	356	286
Other offences .. .	195	154	163	138	122
Neglected children .. .	428	337	258	294	370
 Total	 4,562	 3,601	 3,027	 2,773	 2,893
Summarily convicted .. .	3,831	3,007	2,598	2,337	2,382
Summarily dismissed, &c. ..	726	589	427	425	503
Committed for trial .. .	5	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 1949:—

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES, HOW DEALT WITH, 1949.

How Dealt With.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Adjourned for period without probation ..	585	88	673
Released on probation	709	55	764
Committed to care of Children's Welfare Department	216	105	321
Committed to care of private person or Institution	3	1	4
Committed to reformatory	24	..	24
Fined	312	19	331
Dismissed on payment of costs or damages or both	14	..	14
Discharged upon surety	10	2	12
Sentenced to term of imprisonment ..	1	..	1
Sentenced to imprisonment, the execution of which has been suspended	20	..	20
Convicted and discharged	124	16	140
Discharged with a caution	52	2	54
Otherwise dealt with	24	..	24
Summarily convicted	2,094	288	2,382
Summarily dismissed, &c.	437	66	503
Committed for trial	8	..	8
Grand Total	2,539	354	2,893

**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 1945 to 1949.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: PROBATION CASES, 1945 TO 1949.

Year Ended 31st December.	Cases Released on Probation.	Results of Probation.		
		Satisfactory.	Fair.	Unsatisfactory.
	No.	%	%	%
1945	731	76	8	16
1946	663	73	8	19
1947	643	78	6	16
1948	737	79	6	15
1949	764	81	5	14

VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Petty
Sessions civil
business.

In 1949, Courts of Petty Sessions by stipendiary magistrates and honorary justices were held at 228 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 1945 to 1949 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., 1945 TO 1949.

Heading.	Year Ended 31st December—				
	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
Civil cases—					
Number heard	31,191	31,686	34,624	34,914	39,490
Debts or damages—					
Claimed £	304,896	342,484	375,640	355,318	462,614
Awarded £	210,210	244,146	261,860	261,229	338,606
Other cases—					
Appeals against rates ..	1,128	534	217	331	424
Ejectment cases	1,819	3,681	3,526	3,322	3,008
Fraud summonses	2,147	1,980	2,278	2,409	2,357
Garnishee cases	1,129	876	883	873	1,093
Maintenance cases	1,033	1,560	1,364	1,267	1,281
Show cause summonses ..	1,181	1,367	1,487	1,672	2,009
Applications under Landlord and Tenant Acts	6,088	3,836	494	451	1,165
Other					
Licences and certificates issued ..	13,035	17,582	15,191	14,251	16,592

VICTORIA—ARREST CASES SUMMARILY DISPOSED OF IN COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS, 1949.

How Disposed of.	Year Ended 31st December, 1949.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fined	11,354	827	12,181
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	3,647	488	4,135
1 month and under 6 months	1,391	131	1,522
6 months and under 12 months	181	17	198
1 year and under 2 years	22	..	22
Admonished	5,989	536	6,525
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	283	77	360
Sent to reformatory schools	12	..	12
Committed to Children's Welfare Department	100	4	104
Otherwise dealt with	162	13	175
Total convicted	23,141	2,093	25,234
Dismissed, withdrawn, struck out ..	1,107	130	1,237
Total summarily disposed of ..	24,248	2,223	26,471

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, 1949.

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* ..	5	..	..	4	1	..	..
Intent to murder ..	11	..	..	..	..	10	1
Manslaughter* ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Shooting at, wounding, &c. ..	89	5	..	6	1	75	2
Assaults ..	1,488	715	68	607	94	4	..
Others ..	351	70	2	50	5	219	5
Total ..	1,945	790	70	663	101	308	8
Against property—							
Robbery, Shop-breaking, house-breaking, &c. ..	820	107	4	23	2	675	9
Larceny and similar offences ..	3,857	2,597	308	501	50	380	21
Wilful damage ..	252	168	13	62	1	7	1
Others ..	980	599	14	173	22	160	12
Total ..	5,909	3,471	339	759	75	1,222	43
Forgery and offences against the currency	106	5	..	..	1	85	15
Against good order—							
Drunkenness† ..	17,972	16,376	1,423	171	2	..	..
Others ..	7,466	6,079	625	642	117	3	..
Total ..	25,438	22,455	2,048	813	119	3	..
Other offences—							
Breaches of—							
Education Act ..	1,678	1,098	370	166	44	..	..
Licensing Act ..	3,101	2,430	212	391	68	..	..
Motor Car Act ..	12,327	11,411	243	665	8	..	..
Traffic Regulations	9,923	9,329	253	336	5	..	..
Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act ..	249	185	16	42	6	..	..
Miscellaneous ..	19,835	16,191	1,500	1,790	287	59	8
Total ..	47,113	40,644	2,594	3,390	418	59	8
Grand Total	80,511	67,365	5,051	5,630	714	1,677	74

* See Inquests, page 280, on proceedings relating to persons charged with these offences.
† See footnote on page 276.

**Arrest and
summons
cases.**

Particulars of the arrest and summons cases for the five years 1945 to 1949 are given in the subjoined table.

VICTORIA—ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES, 1945 TO 1949.

Year Ended 31st December.	Arrest Cases.		Summons Cases.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
1945	8,545	1,897	35,884	4,418	60,744
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

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, 1945 TO 1949.

Year Ended 31st December.	Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Dismissed, Struck Out, or Withdrawn.	Committed for Trial.
1945	60,744	53,101	6,048	1,595
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
Number per 10,000 of Population.				
1945	301·9	263·9	30·1	7·9
1946	317·5	278·8	31·1	7·5
1947	362·7	323·9	30·0	8·7
1948	366·1	326·5	30·0	9·5
1949	376·4	338·6	29·7	8·2

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 1949 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 1949 relate, as in previous years, to all offences with which a person was charged. The statistics for the past seventeen 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 1949 only 124 of such charges out of a total of 54,685 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 1949.

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
			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

* See paragraph "Alteration in method of tabulation" on page 276.

Drunkenness. The number of persons and the number per 1,000 of the population arrested or summoned for drunkenness during the five years 1945 to 1949 are given hereunder :—

VICTORIA—PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS, 1945 TO 1949.

Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Persons—			Number per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1945	10,506	28	10,534	5.23
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

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 1949.

Years Ended 31st December.	Index Number.	Years Ended 31st December.	Index Number.
1874–78	100	1928–32	30
1879–85	88	1933–37	36
1886–92	106	1938–42	42
1893–97	65	1943	44
1898–1902	84	1944	43
1903–07	77	1945	36
1908–12	68	1946	39
1913–17	59	1947	50
1918–22	32	1948	54
1923–27	41	1949	57

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 1928-32 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 1945 to 1949 the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness.

VICTORIA—ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1945 TO 1949.

Year Ended 31st December.	Numbers.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
1945	155	25	180
1946	210	17	227
1947	267	19	286
1948	249	9	258
1949	311	14	325

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 1949, 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

* Revised figures.

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

* Revised figures.

HIGHER COURTS.

The following table shows the offences of distinct persons who were convicted in the Supreme Court and in Courts of General Sessions in Victoria during 1949 after committal from Children's Courts, Courts of Petty Sessions and Coroner's Inquests. Where a person was charged with more than one offence the principal offence only has been counted :—

**Committals
for trial—
convictions.**

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							1					2			
Manslaughter															
Wounding, &c., or inflict grievous bodily harm					1	1	3		3	1	1			1	
Shoot at with intent to resist arrest						1									
Unlawfully wounding		1	1				2	1							1
Assault					1		3	2		1					
Against Females—															
Rape, attempted						1									
Rape, assault with intent to															
Carnal knowledge			3	7	7	1	5	2		1			2		
Incest and attempted											1	1	1		1
Indecent assault			1	1	1	1	3	4	3	4	3	6	2		
Unnatural offence				1	2	1	2			2	1	1		1	
Unnatural offence, at- tempted											1				
Indecent assault on male			1		2		1	2	1			3	1		
Bigamy								4	1			1	3		
Administer poison with intent to annoy										1					
Unlawfully and maliciously cause explosion likely to endanger life								1							
Demand money with menaces			1			1									
Total against the Person	1	7	9	14	7	20	16	9	10	8	14	9	2	2	
Against Property—															
Robbery and attempted rob- bery					1						1				
Robbery under Arms		3	3	2				1							
Robbery with violence			1				9		1						
Robbery in company			1	1		1	2								
Robbery, assault with intent to							2								
Burglary				4		1			1						
Housebreaking		16	12	11	7	26	26	7	4				1	2	
Shop, office, store, factory, &c., breaking			24	19	9	9	34	29	14	7	7	2	3		
Larceny in a dwelling				2	2	2	4	3	1	2					
Larceny as a clerk or servant					1	2	2	1	2	4		1	1		
Larceny as a bailee							2		2		1				
Larceny of postal articles				1									1		
Larceny, all other		4	5	5	2	10	11	6	3	5	2	1			

(a) Including three to be detained thereafter in Reformatory Prison during the Governor's pleasure.

CONVICTED 1949 (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.	21.	2 to 2½.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	20.									
..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	11	..	..	2	..	5	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
..	6	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
..	7	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	29	..	..	1	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	..	..	..	..	..
..	4	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
..	29	..	3	6	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	..	..	..	..
..	11	..	1	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	12	..	1	3	1	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..
..	9	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
..	128	..	1	9	17	12	9	..	8	5	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	65	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..
..	9	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
..	6	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	..	..	..
..	112	..	..	(a)20	15	7	..	17	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	20	..	..	..	..
..	157	..	2	1	18	23	18	10	(b)5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64	16	..	..	..	..
..	16	..	..	..	5	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	..
..	14	..	..	..	2	2	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..
..	5	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
..	60	..	..	8	9	7	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	3	..	..	..	..

(b) Including one declared an habitual criminal and to be detained thereafter in Reformatory Prison during the Governor's pleasure.

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.
Against Property— <i>continued.</i>															
Cattle stealing	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Breaking and entering	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Illegally using a horse and cart	1	..	..	..	..
Fraudulently omitting to account for money	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Unlawfully killing animals	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Unlawful possession of ex- plosives	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Embezzlement	2	..	3	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
False pretences	1	2	..	3	5	3	3	..	..	1	2	..
Unlawfully receiving	1	3	1	..	..	5	8	3	1	2	2	..	..
Illegally pawning	1	..	..
Arson	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Malicious injury to property	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Total against Property	51	54	36	24	105	90	51	28	17	7	12	5	..
Forgery and uttering	1	7	4	1	..	..	..	2	..	..
Against Good Order—															
Obscene exposure	1	..	..
Total against Good Order	1	..	..
Other Offences—															
Conspiracy	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Perjury	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..
Escape from legal custody	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Breach of Registration of Birth, Death, Marriage Act	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Breach of <i>Post and Telegraph Act 1901-1946</i>	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Law (public mis- chief)	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Total Other Offences	2	2	9	3	2	..	3	..	..	..	..
Grand Total—Males	1	58	63	52	34	141	113	63	38	28	21	24	7	2

CONVICTED 1949 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED)—*continued.*

		How Dealt with.																							
Not Stated.	Total.	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.	21.	2 to 2½.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	20.											
..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7	..	..	
..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..
..	20	..	1	2	7	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	
..	30	..	..	1	4	6	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	..	..
..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
..	480	1	4	13	70	66	33	..	33	10	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	191	53	..	..	
..	15	..	1	1	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	..	..	
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
..	3	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	6	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
..	21	1	..	..	11	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
..	645	2	6	23	102	80	46	..	41	15	1	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	267	55	..	..	

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.
FEMALES.															
Against the Person—															
Bigamy	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cause poison to be taken with intent to injure, aggrive or annoy	1	..	..
Concealment of birth	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Total against the Person	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Against Property—															
Housebreaking and stealing	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shopbreaking and stealing	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larceny as a clerk or servant	1	..	..	..
Larceny as a bailee	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larceny, all other	1	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Unlawfully receiving	1	..	..	..
False pretences	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Arson	1	..	..	..	..	..
Malicious damage to property	1	..	..	..	..
Total against Property	1	..	1	1	2	3	..	2	1	2	1	..	..
Forgery and uttering	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Offences—															
Perjury	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Make false declaration on oath	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Breach of Registration of Birth, Death, and Marriage Act	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Other Offences	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total—Females	1	2	1	2	5	3	1	3	1	3	2	..	..
Total — Males and Females	1	59	65	53	36	146	116	64	41	29	24	26	7	2

CONVICTED 1949 (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.	21.	2 to 2½.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	20.							
..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
..
..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	5	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
..	14	..	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..
..
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
..
..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
..	24	..	2	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	..	..
..	669	2	8	25	105	80	46	..	41	15	1	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	284	55	..	..

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, 1949, 1,862 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 1,332 hotels closed in country districts, and compensation amounting to £720,679 was paid, or an average of £541 each. The total sum paid in compensation in all districts of the State was £1,302,341, or an average of £691 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 £6,296,730 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, 1949, plans to the value of £46,650 were approved subject to permits being obtained from the Building Directorate.

Licensing Fund.

The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1949, amounted to £628,149. The amounts received from the various sources were:—Licences, certificates, and permits, £606,710; interest on investments, £10,982; fees and fines, £9,202; and miscellaneous, £1,255. The expenditure, which totalled £628,149 consisted of the following items:—Annual payments to municipalities, £58,984; compensation, £95; 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, £516,930; and salaries, expenses, &c., £29,140. The amount at credit of the fund at 30th June, 1949, 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 1949.

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	1943.. ..	1,670	1,187
1906.. ..	3,520	347	1944.. ..	1,666	1,199
1930.. ..	1,803	994	1945.. ..	1,665	1,210
1935.. ..	1,744	1,056	1946.. ..	1,665	1,225
1940.. ..	1,691	1,132	1947.. ..	1,666	1,237
1941.. ..	1,683	1,157	1948.. ..	1,666	1,264
1942.. ..	1,671	1,174	1949.. ..	1,666	1,299

* Including Roadside Licences.

In addition to hotels, liquor licences under the following headings were held during the five years 1945 to 1949:—

	Year Ended 31st December—				
	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
Australian Wine Licences ..	129	129	127	126	124
Registered Clubs	122	122	121	122	122
Railway Refreshment Rooms ..	26	26	26	26	26
Grocers' licences	249	249	250	251	252

During the period 1885 to 31st December, 1949, 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, 1949, 81 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.

During the year ended 31st December, 1949, 1,095 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 1945 to 1949 was as follows:—

CONSUMPTION OF BEER IN VICTORIA, 1945 TO 1949.

Year Ended 30th June.					Estimated Quantity of Beer Consumed.	Per Head of Population.
					Gallons.	Gallons.
1945	..	..	..	..	24,866,100	12·41
1946	..	..	..	..	26,921,500	13·32
1947	..	..	..	..	31,506,800	15·45
1948	..	..	..	..	34,086,600	16·47
1949	..	..	..	..	39,467,800	18·68

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

**Gaols and
prisoners.**

In Victoria there are 5 gaols and 4 reformatory prisons as set out hereafter. The following statement contains information (other than for police gaols) for the year ended 31st December, 1949, 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, 1949.

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	696	44	5,250	651	688	45
Pentridge Reformatory Prison	64	3	30	..	153	..	21	..
Ballarat Gaol	66	18	32	..	220	..	30	..
Beechworth Reformatory Prison	78	..	46	..	34	..	46	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison	80	..	60	..	85	..	65	..
Coorimunglee Prison Camp	32	..	28	..	59	..	31	..
Geelong	172	..	55	..	300	..	98	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison	36	..	25	..	40	..	31	..
Salé Gaol	26	9	8	..	77	..	11	..
Total	1,482	119	980	44	6,218	651	1,021	45

* Including 67 males and 6 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 1949 :—

VICTORIA—PRISONERS RECEIVED AT AND DISCHARGED FROM GAOLS AND REFORMATORY PRISONS, 1949.

(Exclusive of Police Gaols.)

Classification.	1949.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number in confinement at beginning of year—			
Convicted	863	49	912
Awaiting trial	41	..	41
Total	904	49	953
Received during year—			
Convicted of—			
Felony	857	24	881
Misdemeanour	2,909	492	3,401
Other offences	376	3	379
Transfers from—			
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons	532	1	533
Hospitals, Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c... ..	42	5	47
For Trial, not subsequently convicted	1,502	126	1,628
Total	6,218	651	6,869

VICTORIA—PRISONERS RECEIVED AT AND DISCHARGED FROM GAOLS
AND REFORMATORY PRISONS, 1949—*continued.*
(*Exclusive of Police Gaols.*)

Classification.	1949.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Discharged during year—			
By remission of sentence	425	19	444
On expiration of sentence and payment of fines ..	3,375	492	3,867
Bailed to appeal	57	4	61
On bond from Court, Judges' Order Attorney- General's Order, &c.	162	16	178
By special authority	20	5	25
On parole	97	1	98
Died	4	..	4
Executed .. .. .	..	..	..
Deported	56	..	56
Absconded	21	..	21
Transfers to—			
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons	502	1	503
Hospitals, Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c. ..	44	6	50
Unconvicted	1,338	111	1,449
Total	6,101	655	6,756
Number in confinement at 31st December—			
Convicted	954	39	993
Awaiting trial	67	6	73
Total	1,021	45	1,066

Prisoners
under
sentence.

The following table shows the number of prisoners under sentence at the end of each of the ten years 1940 to 1949.

VICTORIA—PRISONERS UNDER SENTENCE, 1940 TO 1949.

At 31st December.				Males.	Females.	Total.	Number per 10,000 of Population.
1940	..	..	..	998	48	1,046	5.45
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

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 1945 to 1949.

VICTORIA—DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS
IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1949.

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
1945	..	..	..	..	1,067	44	1,111
1946	..	..	..	..	1,013	41	1,054
1947	..	..	..	..	982	40	1,022
1948	..	..	..	..	872	40	912
1949	..	..	..	..	980	44	1,024

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 1946 to 1950 was as follows:—

**VICTORIA—PRISONERS UNDER INDETERMINATE
DETENTION, 1946 TO 1950.**

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year Ended 30th June—				
	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	35	22	27	33	78
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	44	42	46	50	12
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	61	49	57	72	41
McLeod Settlement, French Island ..	44	29	26	23	13
Total	184	142	156	178	144

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, 1950, admissions to the several reformatories totalled 5,964 (5,907 males and 57 females) as follows:—

Heading.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admitted to 30th June, 1950 (including 264 recaptured)	5,907	57	5,964
Discharged—			
By parole	5,139	56	5,195
„ effluxion of time	95	..	95
„ transfer to hospitals and asylums	41	..	41
„ special authority	43	..	43
„ deportation	23	..	23
„ escape	291	..	291
„ transfer to serve additional sentences	103	..	103
„ death	29	..	29
„ release on appeal .. .. .	..	..	..
Total Discharged to 30th June, 1950	5,764	56	5,820
In reformatories on 30th June, 1950	143	1	144
Total	5,907	57	5,964

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, 1949, are shown in the following table :—

**VICTORIA—POLICE FORCE, CLASSIFICATION AND
NUMERICAL STRENGTH AT 31st DECEMBER, 1949.**

Designation.	At 31st December, 1949.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>	No.	No.	No.
Chief Commissioner	1	..	1
Inspecting Superintendent	1	..	1
Superintendents	5	12	17
Chief Inspector	1	..	1
Inspectors	33	20	53
Inspector (brevet rank)	1	..	1
Sergeants	110	37	147
Senior Constables	249	148	397
Senior Constables (brevet rank)	2	..	2
First Constables	490	341	831
Constables	643	187	830
Recruits	42	..	42
Total	1,578	745	2,323
<i>Detectives.</i>			
Superintendent	1	..	1
Inspectors	8	..	8
Sergeants	23	..	23
Senior Constables	36	8	44
First Constables	33	13	46
Constables	75	3	78
Total	176	24	200
<i>Mounted.</i>			
Senior Constables	2	..	2
First Constables	8	40	48
Constables	16	8	24
Total	26	48	74
Grand Total	1,780	817	2,597

* The above particulars include 18 police-women but exclude 39 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 1940 to 1949 :—

VICTORIA—POLICE FORCE, NUMERICAL STRENGTH, 1940 TO 1949.

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.
1940 ..	2,352	824	1945 ..	2,131	948
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

* 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 1945 to 1949.

VICTORIA—EXPENDITURE FROM CONSOLIDATED REVENUE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1944-45 TO 1948-49.

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.		
	£	£	£	£		
1945 ..	1,055,791	152,267	39,142	9,133	1,256,333	12 6
1946 ..	1,083,145	161,447	38,900	9,023	1,292,515	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

Executions. During the 45 years ended with 1949 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.