

PART 9.—LAW, CRIME, ETC.

1469. The system whereby persons acquiring possession of land, either by transfer, inheritance, or other means, may receive a title thereto direct from the Crown, was introduced into Victoria in the year 1862, and continues in force to the present period.*

Transfer
Land
Statute.

1470. All lands alienated from the Crown since the introduction of the system have come at once under its provisions; and lands alienated prior to its inauguration can be brought under them by application, provided a clear title be produced, or a title containing only a slight imperfection. In the latter case the title is given subject to such imperfection, which is noted on the deed.

Lands under
the Statute.

1471. The assurance and indemnity fund, established under the Transfer of Land Statute to secure the Government against possible losses, is formed chiefly by the payment of an amount equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £1 of the value of all lands which become subject to its operation. The balance to the credit of this fund on the 30th June, 1893, was £109,734,† of which £59,823 was invested in Government stock. Twenty-four claims upon the fund, towards which there was no claim during 1892–3, have been substantiated since its first formation, and sums amounting in the aggregate to £6,187 (including costs) have been paid to claimants.

Assurance
fund.

1472. In 1893, as compared with 1892, a decrease of nearly one-third took place in the number of applications to bring land under the Transfer of Land Act (54 Vict. No. 1149), and in the value of the land included therein; also a decrease of nearly one-third in the extent, and of nearly one-half in the value of land actually brought thereunder by application; but an increase of one-third in the extent and of one-sixth in the value of land purchased direct from the Crown. A considerable decrease took place in the number of certificates of title issued, and a proportionally smaller decrease in the number of transfers, mortgages,

Transactions
under the
Land
Statute 1892
and 1893.

* This system was originated by the late Sir R. R. Torrens, whence it is commonly known as "Torrens' System." He first introduced it into South Australia, but it has since been adopted by all the Australasian colonies.

† Since 1884-5 the Assurance Fund has been reduced by £75,073; that amount having been advanced towards the purchase of land adjoining the Titles Office (under Act 49 Vict. No. 835). On this advance the fund receives 4 per cent. per annum from the general revenue.

leases, &c., and other transactions, and in the amount of fees received. The following were the transactions of all kinds during the two years:—

TRANSFER OF LAND STATUTE, 1892 AND 1893.

		1892.	1893.
Applications to bring land under the Act	... number	635	434
„ „ Extent of land included in ...	... acres	32,093	24,328
Land brought under the Act—			
By application	... acres	50,847	35,158
„ „	... value	£1,326,170	£711,310
By grant and purchase from the Crown	... acres	245,230	321,089
„ „ „	... purchase money	£303,077	£354,840
Certificate of titles issued*	... number	9,209	6,521
Transfers, mortgages, leases, releases, surrenders	... „	39,095	32,153
Registering proprietors	... „	8	2
Other transactions	... „	57,927	55,992
Fees received, and assurance, &c.	... value	£40,680	£32,309

1473. The total quantity of land under the Transfer of Land Statute at the end of 1893 was 13,706,012 acres, the declared value of which, at the time it was placed under the Act, was £54,093,702. The land granted and sold up to the end of 1893 was 16,877,146 acres. It therefore follows that at that period about four-fifths of the alienated land in the colony was subject to the provisions of the Statute.

1474. Of the whole extent of land under the Statute, 1,583,504 acres, valued at about 38 $\frac{3}{5}$ millions sterling, were brought thereunder by application; and the remainder, amounting to 12,122,508 acres, valued at nearly 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions sterling, came under its provisions by virtue of its having been purchased from or granted by the Crown since the Act was passed.

1475. Since the passing of *The Judicature Act* 1883 (47 Vict. No. 761),† which, with certain exceptions, came into operation on the 1st July, 1884, the business in equity has almost entirely fallen off. In 1893 the only transactions were fourteen orders issued and four reports.

1476. In 1893 as compared with 1892, there was a decrease of nearly 13 per cent. in the number of probates and letters of administration issued, and 36 per cent. in the value of property bequeathed. The

* Including 595 friendly societies in 1892 and 278 in 1893.
 † Since replaced by 54 Vict. No. 1142.

Proportion of land under the Statute.

Land under Act by application and otherwise.

Transactions in equity.

Probates and letters of administration.

average value of each estate in 1892 was £3,014, but in 1893 only £2,225. The following are the figures for those years :—

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1892 AND 1893.

Year.	Probates.		Letters of Administration.*		Both.	
	Number.	Property sworn under—	Number.	Property sworn under—	Number.	Property sworn under—
1892 ...	1,988	£ 8,420,004	1,220	£ 1,249,780	3,208	£ 9,669,784
1893 ...	1,834	5,477,753	967	754,178	2,801	6,231,931
Decrease ...	154	2,942,251	253	495,602	407	3,437,853

1477. During the 29 years ended with 1893 the value of the property respecting which probates and letters of administration were issued amounted to over one hundred and eight millions sterling (£108,204,128). During the same period the total number of deaths in the colony was 390,616, so that the average value of property left by each person who died was £277. The average value in 1887 was £325; in 1888, £431; in 1889, £580; in 1890, £481; in 1891, £406; in 1892, £610; and in 1893, £378: or an average of £459 in the last seven years.

Value of property left at death.

1478. The rates of duty chargeable on the real and personal estates of deceased persons were amended on the 3rd October, 1892, by Act 56 Vict. No. 1261; they are now levied in Victoria on the net value—*i.e.*, after deducting all debts—of such estates within the colony upon the following scale.† It is provided that all estates of the net value of under £1,000 shall be exempt from duty, and that estates of the net value of under £5,000 shall be exempt from the payment of duty upon £1,000 of such net value; also that half duty only shall be paid by widows, children, or grand-children when the net value of the estate does not exceed £50,000 :—

Scale of probate, &c. duties.

SCALE OF DUTIES ON ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS.

Estates up to	£1,000 in value	...	Exempt.
„ exceeding £1,000 up to	£5,000	„	‡ 2 per cent.
„	£5,000	„	3
„	£10,000	„	4
„	£20,000	„	5
„	£30,000	„	6
„	£40,000	„	7
„	£60,000	„	8
„	£80,000	„	9
„	£100,000 and upwards	„	10

NOTE.—On estates valued between the maximum on one line and the minimum on the next specified, the rate of duty is increased by one-fifth per cent. for every fourth part of the difference. Thus, estates of from £6,000 to £7,000, £7,000 to £8,000, £8,000 to £9,000, and £9,000 to £10,000 would pay respectively 3 1-5, 3 2-5, 3 3-5, and 3 4-5 per cent. respectively; an estate valued at £8,500 would pay 3 3-5 per cent.; one valued at £46,000 would pay 7 1-5 per cent., &c.

* Including those granted to the Curator of Estates of Deceased Persons.

† The law relating to estates of deceased persons is contained in Act 54 Vict. No. 1060, as amended by Act 56 Vict No. 1261.

‡ The first £1,000 of the value of these estates is exempted from duty.

Revenue
from pro-
bate, &c.,
duties.

1479. The amount realized by the State in 1893 from duties on estates of deceased persons was lower than in any year since 1886, but higher than in any other previous years. The amounts fluctuate considerably from year to year, as will be observed by the following figures for the last twenty-three years :—

DUTY FROM ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS, 1871 TO 1893.

			£				£
1871	...	...	17,069	1883	...	...	96,427
1872	...	...	37,643	1884	...	...	125,697
1873	...	...	39,026	1885	...	...	85,979
1874	...	...	67,998	1886	...	...	129,479
1875	...	...	50,057	1887	...	...	151,268
1876	...	...	33,638	1888	...	...	219,500
1877	...	...	82,201	1889	...	...	391,664
1878	...	...	45,470	1890	...	...	221,721
1879	...	...	47,607	1891	...	...	150,351
1880	...	...	48,697	1892	...	...	284,438
1881	...	...	78,914	1893	...	...	133,719
1882	...	...	78,547				

Intestate
estates.

1480. The estates dealt with by the Curator in 1892 numbered 708; those in 1893 numbered 625, of which all except 41 were intestate.* The sums received by the Curator on these estates and on others remaining from former years were £45,540 in 1892, and £46,550 in 1893. In the twenty-three years ended with 1893 the number of intestate estates dealt with was 6,531. The amount received by the Curator in respect to these estates during the twenty-three years was £1,046,533.

Divorce and
matri-
monial.

1481. Under the head of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes there were 85 decrees for dissolution of marriage in 1893, as against 91 in 1892. Seven decrees for judicial separation were pronounced in 1893. The following was the business done in the last thirteen years :—

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN VICTORIA, 1881 TO 1893.

Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—	
	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.
1881	18	10	9	...
1882	29	9	9	3
1883	37	7	25	2
1884	25	11	10	2
1885	34	9	21	1
1886	34	10	16	...
1887	27	7	18	5
1888	38	4	28	1
1889	38	7	22	3
1890	14	4	40	...
1891	153	1	99	...
1892	168	4	91	1
1893	124	7	85	7

* These numbers are included in those given in the table following paragraph 1476 ante.

1482. Since the Act 25 Vict. No. 125—which first conferred upon the Supreme Court of Victoria jurisdiction in matters matrimonial—came into operation in 1861, 623 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 79 decrees for judicial separation have been made.

Divorces in
32 years.

1483. It will be observed by the last table that a large increase took place in the number of decrees for dissolution of marriage in the last three years as compared with previous ones. This was in consequence of the increased facilities offered by an Act to amend the law of divorce* which was passed in November, 1889, and received the Royal assent on the 13th May, 1890. Under the old law a wife might obtain a divorce on the ground that since marriage her husband had been guilty of incestuous adultery, bigamy, rape, unnatural offence, adultery coupled with cruelty or with desertion for the space of two years or upwards. Under the new Act the following grounds of divorce have been added to those previously existing:—

Divorce Act
1889,
principal
provisions.

(a) That the respondent has, without just cause or excuse, wilfully deserted the petitioner, and, without any such cause or excuse, left him or her continuously so deserted during three years and upwards.

(b) That the respondent has, during three years and upwards, been an habitual drunkard, and either habitually left his wife without the means of support, or habitually been guilty of cruelty towards her, or, being the petitioner's wife, has for a like period been an habitual drunkard and habitually neglected her domestic duties or rendered herself unfit to discharge them.

(c) That at the time of the presentation of the petition the respondent has been imprisoned for a period of not less than three years and is still in prison under a commuted sentence for a capital crime, or under sentence to penal servitude for seven years or upwards, or being a husband has within five years undergone frequent convictions, and been sentenced in the aggregate to imprisonment for three years or upwards and left his wife habitually without means of support.

(d) That within one year previously the respondent has been convicted of having attempted to murder the petitioner, or of having assaulted him or her with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm, or on the ground that the respondent has repeatedly during that period assaulted and cruelly beaten the petitioner.

(e) That the respondent being a husband has since the celebration of his marriage and the date of this Act been guilty of adultery in the conjugal residence, or coupled with circumstances or conduct of aggravation or of a repeated act of adultery.

1484. The Divorce Act referred to further provides for simplifying and cheapening the mode of procedure in divorce cases; for the hearing and trying of divorce suits in chambers at the discretion of the court; for forbidding the publication of evidence in divorce cases if, in the opinion of the court, it would be prejudicial to the public morals for it to be published; and for the abolition of applications or decrees for the restitution of conjugal rights. It can only be taken advantage of by persons who have been domiciled in the colony for two years or upwards.

Further
provisions
of new
Divorce
Act.

* *Divorce Act 1889* (53 Vict. No. 1056) since embodied in the *Consolidated Act* (54 Vict. No. 1166).

Divorce
rate.

1485. To every 100,000 married couples living, the decrees for dissolution of marriage or judicial separation were in the proportion of 52·01 in 1893, of 53·35 in 1892, of 57·4 in 1891, of 23·8 in 1890, and an average of 15·0 during the four years ended with 1889, which were those immediately prior to the year of passing of the Act just referred to.

Divorces
in Austral-
asian
Colonies,
1888-92.

1486. The following is a statement of the number of petitions and decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation in the various Australasian Colonies, during each of the five years ended with 1892; also the proportion of decrees per 100,000 married couples living:—

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES,
1888 TO 1892.

Colony.	Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.*
		Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
Victoria ...	1888	38	4	28	1	18·4
	1889	38	7	22	3	15·3
	1890	14	4	40	...	23·8
	1891	153†	1	99	...	57·4
	1892	168	4	91	1	52·3
Mean of 5 years ...	...	82·2	4	56	1	33·4
New South Wales ...	1888	50	6	28	5	21·8
	1889	60	8	44	8	33·3
	1890	72	9	42	9	31·6
	1891	99	17	50	17	40·3
	1892	175	11	71	6	44·4
Mean of 5 years ...	...	91·2	10·2	47	9	34·3
Queensland ...	1888	13	2	6	...	11·5
	1889	9	1	11	...	20·2
	1890	8	1	8	2	17·7
	1891	12	4	5	1	10·4
	1892	9	1	6	...	9·8
Mean of 5 years ...	...	10·2	1·8	7·2	·6	13·9
South Australia ...	1888	7	3	2	...	4·2
	1889	4	1	6	...	12·5
	1890	5	3	2	...	4·1
	1891	13	1	5	...	10·3
	1892	13	8	8	1	17·9
Mean of 5 years ...	...	8·4	3·2	4·6	·2	9·8

* Based on estimates, founded on the Census returns, of the numbers of married couples in each year.

† In addition to these, two petitions for nullity of marriage were filed during the year.

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1888 TO 1892—continued.

Colony.	Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.*
		Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
Western Australia	1888	1	...	...	...	...
	1889	1	...	...	...	...
	1890	3	1	2	...	15.7
	1891	1	3	2	1	44.0
	1892	4	...	1	1	25.8
Mean of 5 years ...	...	2	.8	1	.4	17.1
Tasmania	1888	6	...	4	...	19.5
	1889	2	1	3	1	19.1
	1890	4	1	2	...	9.3
	1891	4	...	3	...	13.7
	1892	12	1	3	1	17.6
Mean of 5 years ...	...	5.6	.6	3	.4	15.8
New Zealand	1888	35	3	32	...	36.2
	1889	26	7	17	1	20.2
	1890	24	8	21	3	26.6
	1891	31	5	20	3	25.4
	1892	30	8	18	1	20.4
Mean of 5 years ...	...	29.2	6.2	21.6	1.6	25.8

1487. It will be observed that, according to the average of the quinquennial period, the proportion of divorces to married persons living has been lower in Victoria than in New South Wales, but higher than in the other colonies. It seems probable, however, that under the operation of the new Act the rate in Victoria will soon much exceed the rates prevailing in all the other colonies.

Divorce rates in various colonies compared.

1488. The fees in equity amounted in the aggregate to £173 in 1892 and to £143 in 1893; those on probates amounted to £2,571 in 1892, and to £4,903 in 1893; those in divorce amounted to £358 in 1892, and to £348 in 1893. The total amount of these fees was thus—£3,102 in 1892, and £5,394 in 1893.

Fees in equity, &c.

1489. The moneys collected and appropriated in the department of the Master-in-Lunacy on behalf of patients (including "percentage" and fees) increased from £23,936 in 1892 to £29,517 in 1893. It may be mentioned that the total expenditure in 1892-3 on Hospitals for the Insane was £112,771, so that after allowing for the moneys collected from private sources, the net cost to the State on account of lunatic patients in that year was about £83,254.

Collections in lunacy.

* Based on estimates, founded on the Census returns, of the number of married couples in each year.

Insolvencies.

1490. In the twenty-six years ended with 1893, 19,090 insolvencies took place in Victoria, with liabilities amounting to over $24\frac{1}{3}$ millions sterling. The following is a statement of the number of insolvencies in each year, also of the declared liabilities of the estates :—

INSOLVENCIES, 1868 TO 1893.

Year.	Number of Insolvencies.	Declared Liabilities.	Year.	Number of Insolvencies.	Declared Liabilities.
		£			£
1868 ...	863	617,764	1882 ...	500	536,194
1869 ...	818	653,614	1883 ...	603	782,116
1870 ...	996	479,491	1884 ...	495	479,700
1871 ...	631	444,117	1885 ...	467	591,957
1872 ...	804	696,868	1886 ...	559	830,176
1873 ...	672	330,337	1887 ...	619	563,894
1874 ...	776	543,157	1888 ...	479	347,658
1875 ...	773	641,390	1889 ...	697	2,389,731
1876 ...	712	551,814	1890 ...	795	2,301,271
1877 ...	715	462,651	1891 ...	807	1,824,595
1878 ...	781	677,364	1892 ...	1,024	2,463,936
1879 ...	1,007	1,655,485	1893 ...	1,109	2,678,334
1880 ...	768	526,130			
1881 ...	620	303,892			
				19,090	24,373,636

NOTE.—It should be pointed out that the insolvencies represent only a portion of the failures, as there are also large numbers of "liquidations by arrangement," and "compositions with creditors," of which no returns were obtained until 1892, for particulars of which see table following paragraph 1493 *post*.

Insolvencies 1893 and previous years.

1491. According to the table, insolvencies in 1893 were more numerous by 85 than in 1892, and also more numerous than in any previous year. In 1893 liabilities, as shown by the insolvents' schedules, amounted to more than $2\frac{2}{3}$ millions, which was much larger than in any previous year, whilst in the last five years they averaged nearly $2\frac{1}{3}$ millions annually. In no previous year, except 1879, were these figures even approached; indeed, they rarely exceeded £800,000, whilst in the four years ended with 1888 they averaged less than £584,000.

Assets not taken into account.

1492. The declared assets are not shown in the table as the information is considered to be of little or no value as a guide to the amount subsequently realized for the benefit of creditors. In two years—1889 and 1887—the declared assets were, apparently, even in excess of the liabilities.

Insolvencies, liquidations, and compositions, 1893.

1493. The last table is defective, inasmuch as it takes no account of liquidations by arrangement and compositions, which are of almost equal importance with insolvencies as bearing on the number and liabilities of persons who become unable to meet their obligations. Thus in 1893 there was, to every seventeen insolvencies, one liquidation or composition; whilst the amount at stake under compositions

was equal to about half that under insolvencies ; and the inclusion of liquidations and compositions with insolvencies has the effect of raising the total amount of liabilities from 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ to over 4 millions, or about 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ millions less than in 1892. The following are the particulars for 1893 :—

INSOLVENCIES, LIQUIDATIONS, AND COMPOSITIONS, 1893.

Nature of Relief Sought.	Number of Failures.	Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
		£	£	£
Insolvencies, voluntary ...	1,000	2,678,334*	1,517,194*	1,161,140*
" compulsory ...	109			
Liquidations by arrangement	12	245,336	109,680	135,656
Compositions ...	54	1,091,063	54,216	1,036,847
Total ...	1,175	4,014,733	1,681,090†	2,333,643

1494. The following table shows the occupations or callings of the persons who became insolvent in Victoria during the last four years :—

Occupations of insolvents.

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1890 TO 1893.

Occupations.	1890.	1891.	1892.†	1893.‡
GOVERNMENT, PROFESSIONS, ARTS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE—				
Architect ...	2	5	7	2
Artist ...	1	...	2	1
Athlete ...	...	...	1	...
Chemist ...	2	7	1	7
Circus proprietor ...	1	...	...	...
Civil engineer ...	...	1	1	3
Civil servant, Government employé	5	6	2	9
Clergyman ...	...	...	1	2
Dentist ...	...	1	4	2
Draughtsman ...	2	...	...	...
Herbalist ...	...	...	2	...
Masseuse ...	...	1	...	...
Medical man ...	2	1	4	11
Musician, music teacher, singer ...	1	2	1	4
Newspaper proprietor, journalist	...	4	3	2
Photographer ...	3	...	3	1
Printer, compositor, reader ...	3	5	7	8
Schoolmaster, teacher ...	5	2	1	6
Shire secretary ...	1	...	...	...
Solicitor, barrister, law clerk ...	2	3	18	12
Surveyor ...	2	2	1	2
Theatrical manager, agent ...	2	2	...	1
Weighbridge keeper ...	...	...	...	2

* As shown by the schedules.

† Exclusive of the assets in the insolvent estate of Miss E. J. Spence, who filed a schedule showing liabilities £2,512 10s. 0½d., and assets £3,772,408 11s. 2d.

‡ Prior to 1892 liquidations and compositions were not included ; they numbered 101 in 1892 and 66 in 1893.

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1890 TO 1893—*continued.*

Occupations.	1890.	1891.	1892.*	1893.*
BOARD AND LODGING, DOMESTIC DUTIES, ATTENDANCE—				
Baths proprietor ... ..	...	...	...	1
Billiard-room keeper ... ..	...	1	...	...
Boarding-house keeper... ..	12	13	11	6
Caretaker, watchman	2	...	1	...
Caterer, waiter ... ..	...	2	...	...
Hotel-keeper	36	34	63	60
Nurse ... ..	...	2	1	2
Restaurant, coffee palace—keeper	4	2	4	8
Servant, cook, charwoman ...	2	1	2	1
Widow, married woman, spinster...	12	18	30	31
COMMERCIAL PURSUITS—				
Accountant, bookkeeper, clerk, financier	17	11	49	40
Agent, commission agent	23	30	35	30
Auctioneer, estate agent	11	6	17	12
Bank manager, inspector ... ..	...	...	2	1
Bookmaker	1	...	2	...
Bookseller, stationer, and assistants	1	1	2	4
Commercial traveller, salesman, canvasser	9	8	17	10
Dealer (undefined), storekeeper ...	25	30	23	24
Debt collector	1	1	1	2
Grocer and assistants	13	...	7	8
Hawker ... ..	...	...	2	5
Ironmonger, machinery merchant	1	2	2	5
Mercantile, stock and share broker	7	4	14	7
Merchant, importer	12	11	6	12
Secretary ... ..	...	...	4	1
Speculator ... ..	...	...	...	2
Warehouseman, storeman	3	1	5	4
CARRIERS—				
Bullock driver ... ..	...	1	...	...
Cab man, driver	4	3	6	2
Carrier, carter	17	15	35	20
Coach proprietor	1	3	1	3
Forwarding agent ... ..	...	1	...	...
Gripman, tramway official	1	...	...	1
Mail contractor ... ..	...	...	1	...
Mariner, seaman	2	1	...	3
Omnibus, coach, driver... ..	...	...	1	1
Railways, employed on	2	5	9	33
Engine-driver, stoker (undefined)...	3	4	6	7
Telegraph inspector ... ..	...	...	1	...
AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS AND LAND—				
Farmer, selector	86	93	99	116
Gardener	4	2	8	5
Hop-grower ... ..	...	1	1	1
Labourer on farm	2	...	3	1
Nurseryman, florist, seedsman ...	1	2	2	1
Vine-grower ... ..	...	1	...	1

* Prior to 1892 liquidations and compositions were not included; they numbered 101 in 1892 and 66 in 1893.

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1890 TO 1893—*continued.*

Occupations.	1890.	1891.	1892.*	1893.*
PASTORAL PURSUITS AND ANIMALS—				
Boundary rider, drover, shepherd, &c.	2	2	3	5
Cattle dealer	4	6	3	1
Dairyman	5	4	4	4
Fisherman	1	2	2	...
Grazier	6	27	29	24
Groom	4	11	1	3
Horse proprietor, dealer, trainer, breaker	3	6	6	10
Liverystable-keeper	3	2	5	6
Pig dealer ... ..	...	1	...	1
Rabbit trapper ... ..	...	...	1	...
Stock and station agent ... ..	...	...	...	3
Veterinary surgeon ... ..	...	1	1	...
ARTISANS, MECHANICS, LABOURERS—				
Bicycle-maker	1	...	...	...
Bookbinder ... ..	...	...	...	1
Brass-plate cleaner ... ..	...	...	1	...
Bricklayer, mason, plasterer, slater	11	6	13	8
Brushmaker	1	...	...	...
Builder, contractor	70	53	50	51
Carpenter	22	25	21	23
Coach-builder, painter	9	8	2	14
Cooper ... ..	...	...	1	...
Electrician ... ..	...	...	1	...
Engineer, engine-fitter	6	6	6	13
Engraver ... ..	...	2	5	...
Factory worker	1	...	...	...
Fancy-goods maker, dealer ... ..	...	4	2	4
Furniture maker, dealer; ware-houseman	8	1	5	5
Incubator-maker ... ..	...	...	...	1
Labourer (undefined)	56	68	84	100
Line repairer ... ..	...	...	1	2
Manufacturer (undefined)	2	13	5	5
Modeller ... ..	...	...	2	...
Ovenmaker ... ..	...	1	...	...
Painter, sign writer, house decorator	6	13	16	12
Perambulator maker ... ..	...	...	1	...
Picture-frame maker ... ..	...	1	1	1
Plumber	3	7	8	3
Saddler, whipmaker	7	3	3	3
Shipwright ... ..	...	1	1	2
Shot manufacturer ... ..	...	...	...	1
Undertaker ... ..	...	2	...	...
Umbrella-maker ... ..	...	1	...	...
Upholsterer, mattress-maker	1	2	1	...
Venetian-blind maker ... ..	...	...	...	1
Watchmaker, jeweller	5	4	3	2
Works overseer ... ..	...	...	1	...

* Prior to 1892 liquidations and compositions were not included; they numbered 101 in 1892 and 66 in 1893.

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1890 TO 1893—*continued.*

Occupations.	1890.	1891.	1892.*	1893.*
TEXTILE FABRICS AND DRESS—				
Boot, shoe—maker, dealer ...	19	14	18	13
Draper, assistant to ditto ...	7	4	11	8
Dressmaker, milliner ...	3	2	1	6
Hairdresser ...	11	3	5	5
Hatter ...	...	...	1	1
Hosier ...	...	...	1	...
Laundry proprietor, laundryman	1	2	...	1
Tailor ...	13	7	11	11
FIBROUS MATERIALS—				
Bagmaker ...	...	...	1	...
Ropemaker ...	1	...	...	...
Tentmaker ...	...	...	...	1
ANIMAL FOOD—				
Butcher ...	25	14	29	26
Creamery proprietor ...	...	...	1	...
Dairy produce dealer, milk seller	...	...	2	...
Fishmonger ...	...	2	...	4
Small-goods man ...	...	...	...	1
VEGETABLE FOOD—				
Baker, pastrycook, confectioner	7	8	20	17
Fruiterer ...	9	6	16	10
Greengrocer ...	4	2	2	...
Miller ...	2	1	1	...
DRINKS AND STIMULANTS—				
Aerated water, cordial—manufac- turer	1	1	1	3
Brewer ...	...	...	1	2
Ice manufacturer ...	...	...	1	...
Tea merchant ...	...	...	5	2
Tobacconist ...	1	5	2	11
Wine seller, merchant ...	2	5	2	4
ANIMAL MATTERS—				
Fellmonger ...	1	...	2	2
Hide, leather—merchant, dresser	1	2	2	2
Soapmaker ...	...	...	...	2
Tanner ...	...	...	1	2
Wool and skin merchant ...	1	...	2	4
Wool-scourer ...	...	...	...	2
VEGETABLE MATTERS—				
Boxmaker ...	...	...	...	1
Chaffcutter ...	1	...	...	1
French polisher ...	...	...	...	1
Hay, corn, and produce dealer ...	7	6	11	7
Paper-bag, paper maker ...	...	1	...	1
Saw-mill owner, sawyer ...	3	7	3	5
Timber merchant ...	7	2	5	3
Varnishmaker ...	...	1	...	...
Wood, coal—merchant ...	3	1	4	3
Wood splitter ...	3	2	3	2

* Prior to 1892 liquidations and compositions were not included ; they numbered 101 in 1892 and 66 in 1893.

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1890 TO 1893—*continued.*

Occupations.	1890.	1891.	1892.*	1893.*
MINING, ENGAGED IN—				
Miner	23	23	33	65
Mining engineer ... ..	...	...	2	1
Mining explorer ... ..	...	1	...	...
Mining manager, legal manager, agent ... ..	...	3	2	4
Mining speculator	1	...	2	...
COAL, STONE, CLAY, EARTHENWARE, AND GLASS—				
Brickmaker	5	4	3	4
Charcoal burner ... ..	...	...	1	...
Gasworks manager, employé ... ..	...	2	...	...
Glassblower ... ..	...	1	...	...
Limeburner ... ..	...	...	1	...
Nightman ... ..	...	...	...	1
Quarryman ... ..	...	...	2	4
MINERALS AND METALS—				
Blacksmith, farrier, wheelwright	13	15	17	25
Boilermaker ... ..	...	1	2	...
Brassfounder	2	...	3	...
Furnaceman ... ..	...	1	...	...
Iron founder, dresser	2	...	1	2
Machinist	1	1	1	...
Pyrites worker	1	...	...	...
Tinsmith ... ..	...	1	...	1
INDEFINITE AND NON-PRODUCTIVE—				
Fireman ... ..	...	...	1	...
Gentleman	10	10	14	21
Manager (undefined) ... ..	...	1	6	4
No occupation... ..	18	2	15	24
Out of business ... ..	...	8	32	...
Prisoner in H.M. gaol ... ..	...	...	1	...
Total	795	807	1,125*	1,175*

1495. It will be noticed that the occupations which contributed most largely to the list of insolvents in the four years were those of farmers or selectors, numbering 394; labourers, 308; builders, contractors, 224; hotel-keepers, 193; miners, 144; commission agents, &c., 118; accountants, bookkeepers, 117; dealers, storekeepers, 102; butchers, 94; carpenters, 91; carriers, &c., 87; graziers, 86; blacksmiths, 70; and boot and shoemakers, 64. Occupations with most insolvencies.

1496. In the last ten years regular insolvencies have been much more numerous in New South Wales than in Victoria; and in six of the last eight years they were even more numerous than in the worst Insolvencies in New South Wales.

* Prior to 1892 liquidations and compositions were not included; they numbered 101 in 1892 and 66 in 1893.

year (viz., 1893) in the latter colony.* The liabilities, as shown by the insolvents' schedules, were in 1889 three times, in 1890, 1891, and 1893 about twice as high in Victoria as in New South Wales; but in every other year since 1883, except 1892, the liabilities similarly shown were much higher in New South Wales than in Victoria. The following are the figures for New South Wales :—

INSOLVENCIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES, 1884 TO 1893.

Year.	Number of Insolvencies. †	As shown by the Insolvents' Schedules.	
		Liabilities.	Assets.
		£	£
1884	918	836,165	580,195
1885	929	773,212	589,359
1886	1,221	989,262	733,127
1887	1,351	1,081,726	788,941
1888	851	659,307	459,677
1889	1,101	794,603	396,723
1890	1,243	1,203,685	540,726
1891	1,238	989,778	454,211
1892	1,506	2,035,316	793,045
1893	1,744	1,527,985	905,763

Insolvencies,
liquida-
tions, &c.,
in Austral-
asian
Colonies.

1497. The returns of failures are imperfect in most of the Australasian Colonies, inasmuch as liquidations by arrangement and compositions, in which the liabilities are usually very large, are seldom returned. The following are the particulars available for 1892 for the various colonies :—

INSOLVENCIES IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1892.

Colony.	Number of Insolvencies.	Declared Liabilities.
		£
Victoria	1,125	8,254,281
New South Wales	1,506	2,035,316
Queensland	326	235,441
South Australia	80	36,004
Western Australia	3	5,545
Total Australia	3,040	10,566,587
Tasmania	27	31,373
New Zealand	484	286,429
Total Australasia	3,551	10,884,389

NOTE.—In South Australia, there were also 226 private arrangements under the Act of 1875; in Western Australia, 5 liquidations by arrangement, with liabilities amounting to £23,252; and in Tasmania, 142. There were numerous liquidations by arrangement and compositions in some of the other colonies for large amounts, but no particulars thereof are available.

* See table following paragraph 1490 *ante*.

† During the last six years they have been called Bankruptcies.

1498. The figures in the following table, which represent the number of failures* in England and Wales in the five years ended with 1892, together with the liabilities and assets of the insolvents, and the proportion of the latter to the former, have been taken from official sources. It will be noticed that the number of failures was larger than in any of the previous four years except 1888, and that the liabilities were larger than in any of these years :—

Failures in the United Kingdom.

FAILURES IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1888 TO 1892.

Year.	Number of Cases.	Total Amounts of—		Percentage— Assets to Liabilities.
		Liabilities.	Assets.	
		£	£	
1888	4,859	7,148,950	2,256,379	31·6
1889	4,542	6,380,362	1,998,957	31·3
1890	4,044	6,184,146	2,238,584	36·2
1891	4,242	8,600,726	3,164,966	36·8
1892	4,657	8,892,162	3,089,791	34·7

NOTE.—Administration orders made by County Courts in cases where the total indebtedness does not exceed £50 are not included. They numbered 2,535 in 1888, 2,214 in 1889, and 1,803 in 1890.

1499. Important duties in connexion with the registration of deeds and other documents, public companies, bills and contracts for sale; births, deaths, and marriages; † and patents, copyrights, and trade-marks are performed by the Registrar-General. In 1893, as compared with 1892, there was a decrease in the number of transactions and the fees received under all of the heads except bills and contracts of sale, births, deaths, and marriages, and copyrights. The transactions in connexion with the registration of firms appeared in 1893 for the first time. The following are the returns for the two years :—

Registrar-General.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TRANSACTIONS AND FEES, 1892 AND 1893.

Nature of Transaction.	Transactions.		Fees. ‡	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
			£	£
Registry	17,342	17,232	4,617	3,990
Companies Statute	6,451	3,937	1,766	1,443
Bills and contracts of sale	8,148	8,174	407	409
Firms ... ..	...	4,438	...	1,102
Births, deaths, and marriages certificates, &c.*	7,456	11,181	1,826	2,176
Patents	3,554	2,907	3,278	2,916
Copyrights	907	1,131	126	155
Trade-marks	1,181	966	603	456
Searches in connexion with the above	27,443	19,475	2,014	1,173
Total	72,482	69,441	14,637	13,820

* Including, besides adjudicated bankruptcies, liquidations by arrangements, and compositions with creditors.

† The duties performed by the Registrar-General in connexion with the registration of births, deaths, and marriages were, under the *Births, Deaths, and Marriages Transfer Act 1893*, transferred to the Government Statist on the 1st August, 1892.

‡ The greater proportion of these fees are received by the Collector of Imposts appointed under the *Stamps Act 1890*.

Offences
reported.

1500. The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during 1892 and 1893 is given in the following table ; those offences being distinguished :—1. In respect to which persons were brought before magistrates on summons, but were never in custody. 2. In respect to which arrests were made by the police. 3. In respect to which no person had been arrested or brought before magistrates up to the end of the month of March of the year following that in which the offence was reported.* A decrease will be observed in the number of offences reported under the first and second heads :—

OFFENCES REPORTED, 1892 AND 1893.

Offences in respect to which persons were—	1892.	1893.	Decrease. †
1. Brought before magistrates on summons ...	23,361	17,004	6,357
2. Apprehended by the police	33,283	29,711‡	3,572
3. Still at large §... ..	6,070	6,331	+261
Total	62,714	53,046	9,668

Summons
cases.

1501. Thirty-two per cent. of the offences dealt with consist of those in respect to which persons are brought before magistrates on summons, but are not taken into custody. They must obviously be of a lighter character than those for which arrests are made, and therefore do not demand lengthened consideration. The offences in this category classed as against the person are principally assault cases resulting from petty quarrels ; those against property are chiefly cases of wilful damage to or illegal detention of property ; and the remainder consist for the most part of breaches of the Education Act, the clause in the Public Works Statute relating to railways and water supply, the Local Government Act or municipal by-laws, the Masters and Servants or Wines and Spirits Statutes, &c. Comparing 1893 with 1892, a

* It does not follow that in these instances the offender escaped altogether. He may have been arrested after the date at which the returns were made up, or, on other charges, even prior to that period.

† The plus sign (+) indicates increase.

‡ Corresponding to 28,623 distinct arrests.

§ It should be pointed out that the offences for which arrests have and have not been made are not strictly comparable. They are reckoned in the former case according to the individual arrests effected, in the latter according to the offences reported, although in the perpetration of many of these more than one person may have been concerned.

decrease is shown under all heads, except offences against property, The following are the figures for the two years :—

OFFENCES DEALT WITH BY SUMMONS, 1892 AND 1893.*

—				1892.	1893.	Decrease. †
Offences against the person	...	...		1,018	665	353
" " property	...	...		26	252	+226
Minor offences ‡	...	...		22,317	16,087	6,230
Total	...	...		23,361	17,004	6,357
Cases dismissed by magistrates	...	...		6,309	4,282	2,027
Offender summarily dealt with	...	...		17,052	12,722	4,330

1502. In dealing with criminal statistics, one of three units may be adopted, viz., (1) charges, on account of which arrests are made; (2) arrests, some of which are of persons on two or more charges; or (3) distinct individuals arrested during a year, irrespective of the number of times arrested, or the number of offences with which charged. Prior to 1893 the first method was followed in Victoria; but in 1893 the second one was substituted. The statistics are tabulated by means of cards received monthly from the Police Department, and, although a card is received for each charge, in 1893 all the cards with particulars of minor charges against the same individual were eliminated. It is possible, however, that in a few cases the same individual may have been arrested twice or oftener in a month, and to that extent the cards dealt with would be fewer than—although closely corresponding to—the number of distinct arrests. The result for 1893 shows that the total arrests are fewer than the total charges by about $3\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.—those of males by 4 per cent., and those of females by $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; amongst those summarily dealt with, they are fewer by about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—those of males by $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and those of females by $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; and amongst those committed for trial, they are fewer by as much as 11 per cent. §—those of males by $11\frac{1}{3}$ per cent., and those of females by 7 per cent. This must be borne in mind in the following paragraphs in comparing the figures for 1893 with those for previous years. The number of charges, however, which have also been tabulated, are also shown in

Methods adopted.

* This table does not embrace cases in which the offender was sentenced to imprisonment or was committed for trial. Although he might in the first instance have appeared before the magistrates on summons, such disposal would place him in custody of the police, and he would therefore be included in subsequent tables.

† The plus sign (+) indicates increase.

‡ Persons apprehended for lunacy, or as neglected and deserted children, &c., are included in this line as well as actual offenders.

§ It is not uncommon for multiple charges to be laid against persons arrested and committed for trial. In 1893 one case occurred where the same individual was charged with thirteen different offences as follows:—Forgery, four charges; uttering a forgery, forging a promissory note, two charges; uttering a forged promissory note, three charges; conspiring to defraud, uttering a promissory note with intent to defraud, two charges.

some cases, when deemed necessary, with a view of indicating the extent to which the results are affected by the change.

1503. The reduction, as compared with the number of charges, is not nearly so great by the second method (now adopted) as by the third, which, on account of the time and labour involved in tabulation, is not at present a practicable one. By the results obtained by the third method in 1884,* the distinct individuals arrested were fewer than the charges by 26 per cent. in the case of males, and 35 per cent. in the case of females.

1504. The charges against persons who were arrested by the Victorian police in 1893 numbered 29,711, as against 33,283 in 1892, showing a decrease of 3,572 in the number of arrests. In 1893 the number of distinct arrests was 28,623.

1505. The charges and arrests in 1893, and the charges in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennia, were as follow:—

PERSONS† ARRESTED, 1883, 1888, AND 1893.‡

Number of Persons.	1883. Charges.	1888. Charges.	1893.	
			Charges.	Arrests.
Taken into custody	27,074	37,309	29,711	28,623
Discharged by magistrates ...	8,713	13,129	9,453	9,365
Summarily convicted or held to bail	17,755	23,307	19,303	18,408
Committed for trial	606	873	955	850

1506. At the middle period, it will be observed, charges against persons arrested were more numerous than at either of the other periods. If the numbers of the population be taken into account, the proportion will be found to have been much lower at the last than at the other periods. The estimated average population in 1883 was 910,982; in 1888, 1,062,050; and in 1893, 1,170,330; the charges were, therefore, in the proportion of 1 to every 34 persons living at the first period, 1 to every 28 persons living at the second period, and 1 to every 39 persons living at the third period.

1507. The charges against persons summarily convicted, held to bail, or committed for trial, were, to the whole number arrested, in the proportion of 68 per cent. at the first period, of 65 per cent. at the second, and of 68 per cent. at the third period.

* See issue of this work for 1889-90, Vol. II., paragraphs 62 to 67.

† See paragraph 1502 *ante*.

‡ A statement showing, during a series of years, the numbers taken into custody, the numbers committed for trial, and the numbers convicted after commitment, will be found in the Statistical Summary of Victoria (first folding sheet) at the end of this volume.

Proportion of distinct individuals arrested to charges made.

Arrests, 1892 and 1893.

Arrests, 1883, 1888, and 1893.

Arrests in proportion to total population.

Proportion to time charge was sustained.

1508. The proportion of commitments for trial were 1 to every 45 charges at the first period, of 1 to every 43 at the middle period, and of 1 to every 31 in the third period. In proportion to the total number of arrests, however, the number committed for trial was 1 in 34 in 1893. Proportion of commitments.

1509. The sexes of the persons arrested, and of such of them as were discharged by magistrates, summarily dealt with, or sent for trial in 1893, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennia, were as follow :— Males and females arrested.

MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1883, 1888, AND 1893.

	1883. Charges.		1888. Charges.		1893.* Arrests.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Taken into custody ...	21,276	5,798	31,219	6,090	23,431	5,192
Discharged by magistrates	6,762	1,951	11,063	2,066	7,476	1,889
Summarily convicted or held to bail	13,961	3,794	19,360	3,947	15,171	3,237
Committed for trial ...	553	53	796	77	784	66

1510. The males and females summarily convicted, held to bail, or committed for trial, were, to the whole numbers of the same sexes arrested, in the proportions respectively of 68 per cent. and 66 per cent. in 1883, of 65 per cent. and 66 per cent. in 1888, and of 68 (69†) per cent. and 64 (64†) per cent. in 1893. Cases in which charge was sustained.

1511. The next table shows the relative proportion of males and females arrested, and of those of them who were discharged, summarily dealt with, or committed for trial at the same three periods :— Relative proportions of male and female criminals.

MALES AND FEMALES.—RELATIVE PROPORTIONS ARRESTED, 1883, 1888, AND 1893.

	Number of Females to 100 Males.			
	1883. Charges.	1888. Charges.	1893.	
			Charges.	Arrests.
Taken into custody ...	27·25	19·51	21·82	22·16
Discharged by magistrates	28·85	18·67	25·29	25·27
Summarily convicted or held to bail	27·18	20·39	20·95	21·34
Committed for trial ...	9·58	9·67	8·03	8·42

* See paragraphs 1502 and 1503 ante.
† Charges.

Relative proportions of male and female criminals at three periods.

1512. It will be observed that, relatively to the number of males arrested or summarily convicted, the proportion of females arrested was lower at the last than at the first but not so low as at the middle period, but relatively to the numbers committed for trial, the proportion of females similarly dealt with at the last period was much lower than at either of the former periods. At all the periods, the proportion of female to male criminals was much lower than the proportion that females bore to males in the total population; for at the respective periods the females in the colony were in the proportion of 90, 88, and 93 to every 100 males.

Arrests at various ages.

1513. It should be pointed out that, under the present conditions of the Victorian population, the proportion of persons at an age to commit crimes becomes larger as time advances, and therefore a comparison of the arrests with the total population does not afford a correct indication as to whether crime is increasing or the contrary. To ascertain this it is necessary to compare the proportion of arrests of each sex at various ages with the population of each sex at the same ages. This is done in the following table for the last two census years and approximately for the year under review:—

MALES AND FEMALES.—ARRESTS AT VARIOUS AGES, 1881, 1891, AND 1893.

Ages.	Males.			Females.		
	1881. Charges.	1891. Charges.	1893. Arrests.	1881. Charges.	1891. Charges.	1893. Arrests.
NUMBER OF CHARGES OR ARRESTS.						
Under 10 years ...	256	263	268	170	186	198
10 to 15 " ...	601	564	568	140	92	66
15 to 20 " ...	1,605	1,747	1,483	463	292	250
20 to 25 " ...	2,922	4,380	3,424	771	867	932
25 to 30 " ...	2,262	4,903	3,911	590	947	952
30 to 40 " ...	3,985	6,922	5,665	1,264	1,258	1,179
40 to 50 " ...	3,915	4,865	3,662	1,309	983	705
50 to 60 " ...	2,642	3,406	2,529	543	762	523
60 and over ...	1,638	2,569	1,921	254	412	387
Unspecified ...	15	8	...	1	3	...
Total ...	19,841	29,627	23,431	5,505	5,802	5,192

PROPORTIONS PER 10,000 OF EITHER SEX LIVING.

Under 10 years ...	23	19	18	15	14	14
10 to 15 " ...	111	96	95	26	16	11
15 to 20 " ...	325	305	269	90	50	45
20 to 25 " ...	720	688	609	178	139	156
25 to 30 " ...	823	777	620	219	171	162
30 to 40 " ...	865	869	627	290	189	155
40 to 50 " ...	721	1,053	782	322	238	168
50 to 60 " ...	623	755	590	222	215	145
60 and over ...	661	586	412	165	144	122
Total ...	439	495	386*	134	107	92*

* The proportion of charges would be—males 402, females 94.

1514. Comparing 1891 with 1881, it will be observed that, in the case of males, although the proportion of arrests at all ages per 10,000 of the population was higher at the later than at the earlier period by 56—or by 12 per cent., the increase was confined to the age-periods between 30 and 60—more especially between 40 and 60—there being a decrease at all other age-periods; whilst, in the case of females, the proportion at all ages fell off by 27—or by 20 per cent., distributed over all the age-groups. Moreover, in 1893, as compared with each of the former periods, there was a marked decrease in the total proportions for both sexes, which was participated in by males at all the age-groups except 40–50, and by females at all except under 10 (which remained almost stationary) and 20–25. In these excepted age-groups, moreover, there was an increase as compared with only one—not both—of the previous years referred to.

Decrease of arrest rates at various ages.

1515. If the totals at the two census periods, and for 1892 and 1893 be adjusted by reducing the arrests to what they would have been had the Victorian population been in a normal condition in regard to age,* the proportions would be as follow, the males showing a falling-off in 1892, and a still greater one in 1893, as compared with either of the previous periods, and the females showing a decided decrease from period to period, but most marked between the first and second :—

Adjusted arrest rates.

ADJUSTED ARREST RATES, 1881, 1891, 1892, AND 1893.

Arrests per 10,000 persons living.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1881	461	148	316
1891	487	111	314
1892	441	101	288
1893	380	93	244

1516. A condensed statement of the offences for which arrests were made, together with the number of charges under each offence in 1893,

Causes of arrest.

* This is done according to the method which has been adopted for years past in adjusting the death rates, for a description of which see *Victorian Year-Book* 1892, Vol. I., paragraph 656, also previous issues. The model population used on the present occasion is that of England and Wales 1891, the proportions in the different age-groups being as follow:—0 to 10, 2,396; 10 to 15, 1,111; 15 to 20, 1,017; 20 to 25, 913; 25 to 30, 811; 30 to 40, 1,313; 40 to 50, 994; 50 to 60, 705; 60 and upwards, 740; total, 10,000.

and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennia, and also the number of distinct arrests, will be found in the following table :—

CAUSES OF ARREST, 1883, 1888, AND 1893.

Offences.	1883. Charges.	1888. Charges.	1893.	
			Charges.	Arrests.
Murder and attempt at murder ...	18	34	28	27
Manslaughter	20	23	13	13
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	56	77	69	68
Assault	1,816	2,280	1,686	1,548
Rape and indecent assault on females	52	58	103	101
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit	8	21	8	8
Minor offences against the person ...	113	129	127	127
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	262	352	384	335
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c.	158	167	244	239
Other offences against property ...	3,030	3,912	3,889	3,591
Forgery and offences against the currency	59	124	75	62
Drunkenness	12,408	18,526	12,986	12,688
Other offences against good order ...	7,417	9,922	8,427	8,189
Offences relating to carrying out laws	169	276	241	238
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	63	121	210	209
Offences against public welfare ...	1,425	1,287	1,221	1,180
Total	27,074	37,309	29,711	28,623

Offences at
last period

1517. The causes of arrest in respect to which more charges were laid at the last period than at either of the former ones were rape and indecent assault on females, horse sheep and cattle stealing, robbery with violence or burglary, smuggling, and other offences against the revenue; but those in respect to which fewer charges were laid at the last than at either of the former periods were manslaughter, assaults, and offences against public welfare. In all other cases, viz., murder and attempts at murder, shooting at with intent, minor offences against the person, forgery, drunkenness, other offences against property, other offences against good order, and offences relating to carrying out laws, the numbers were smaller (much smaller in most cases) than in 1888, but with the exception of unnatural offence, larger than in 1883. The most marked increases in 1893, as compared with previous periods, have occurred in the charges of rape and indecent assaults on females—which have increased 78 per cent. since 1888; of smuggling and other offences against the revenue, which have increased $73\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; of horse sheep and cattle stealing, which have increased 46 per cent.; and of robbery with violence, &c., which have been increased 47 per cent.

since 1883. Charges for drunkenness at the last period were somewhat more numerous than at the first period, but 30 per cent. fewer than at the middle period.

1518. Comparing the last two columns of the table, it will be noticed that, owing to multiple charges, the arrests for forgery, &c., were fewer than the charges by as much as 17 per cent.; in the case of robbery with violence, &c., by 13 per cent.; and in the case of assaults and of minor offences against property, 8 per cent. In other cases the proportions were much smaller.

Multiple charges for various offences.

1519. The offences for which arrests are made have hitherto not been classified according to age, but until the age of 15 the amount of criminality is so small (many of those arrested being neglected or deserted children, and in no sense offenders), that for present purposes the population below that age may be left out of consideration altogether. Subjoined is a statement of the proportions to the population over fifteen of those arrested for the following offences in the last two census years and in 1893:—

Proportions of arrests for various offences.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1881, 1891, AND 1893.

Offences for which arrests were made.	Per 10,000 of the Population, aged 15 and upwards.			
	1881. Charges.	1891. Charges.	1893.	
			Charges.	Arrests.
Murder, manslaughter, shooting at or wounding	2·15	1·78	1·45	1·42
Assaults	35·10	29·72	22·15	20·34
Sexual offences	1·43	1·01	1·46	1·43
Total offences against the person	40·73	34·20	26·72	24·86
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	3·68	5·77	5·04	4·40
Horse, sheep, or cattle stealing ...	2·88	2·35	3·21	3·14
Total offences against property ...	70·36	59·17	59·34	54·72
Drunkenness	208·54	242·29	170·61	166·69
Other offences	158·07	139·72	133·66	129·77

1520. Comparing the year under review with 1891, a marked increase will be observed in the proportion of charges preferred against arrested persons for sexual offences, and for horse cattle and sheep stealing, and also a slight increase in that for offences against property taken as a whole, but a falling-off under all the other heads. Comparing the same year with 1881, a much larger proportion of charges were made for robbery with violence and horse sheep and cattle stealing, and a slightly larger proportion for sexual offences, but a

Comparison of offences in 1881, 1891, and 1893.

smaller one for all the other offences named—especially those against the person (as a whole) and drunkenness. Even if the arrests in 1893 be compared with the charges at the two previous periods, the relative positions would remain unchanged, except that the proportion at the last period for offences against property would be lower than at the middle period, and that for sexual offences lower than at the first period.

1521. The number of arrests for (or rather charges of) drunkenness affords ample evidence that the efforts of those who are seeking to suppress or mitigate the evil are not uncalled for. In many cases, no doubt, the same individual was arrested over and over again; but supposing each arrest had represented a distinct individual, the following would represent the number of persons living to each person taken into custody for drunkenness:—

NUMBER OF PERSONS LIVING IN VICTORIA TO EACH CHARGE OF
DRUNKENNESS.

Year.	Persons to each charge.	Year.	Persons to each charge.
1874	71	1884	73
1875	68	1885	72
1876	69	1886	68
1877	65	1887	65
1878	69	1888	57
1879	77	1889	61
1880	85	1890	60
1881	79	1891	63
1882	76	1892	73
1883	74	1893	90 (92)*

1522. It will be observed that in the three years, 1879 to 1881, during the first eighteen months of which period the colony was in a depressed condition, and the two following years, drunkenness was less rife than in any preceding or subsequent period. Since 1880, however, as the colony became more prosperous, arrests for drunkenness, in proportion to the population, steadily increased, and on this basis were a third more numerous in 1888 than in 1880; but in 1889 to 1891, when prosperity was declining, and in 1892 and 1893, when the depression was very great, they again decreased, and in the latter year were much fewer than in any other shown in the statement. It will, however, be remembered that as time advanced the proportion of the population old enough to drink to excess had been increasing up to 1890, and that possibly some of the falling-off which occurred in the last two years may have been in consequence of adults leaving the colony, whilst the only increase which took place in the population was due to births.

* The number in brackets represents the proportion to each arrest, thus in 1893 there was 1 charge of drunkenness to every 90 persons living in the colony, or 1 arrest to every 92 such persons.

Drunken-
ness.

Increase of
drunken-
ness.

1523. Drunkenness, "other offences against property," "other offences against good order," and "offences against public welfare," although they may, and probably do—especially the first named—lead to more serious offences, may be considered as being, in themselves, comparatively speaking, minor offences, hardly amounting to crimes. These numbered 24,280 (charges) in 1883, 33,647 (charges) in 1888, and 25,648 (arrests) in 1893; and at each period formed 90 per cent. of the whole number of offences. Thus only 10 per cent. of the offences at each period were for crimes in the strict sense of the word.

1524. The degree of instruction possessed by those taken into custody in 1893 is shown in the following table according to their respective ages:—

DEGREE OF INSTRUCTION AND AGE OF PERSONS* ARRESTED, 1893.

Ages.	Superior Education.	Read and Write well.	Read only, or Read and Write imperfectly.	Unable to Read.	Total.
Under 10 years ...	...	2	83	381	466
10 to 15 " ...	...	13	527	94	634
15 to 20 " ...	1	109	1,545	78	1,733
20 to 25 " ...	6	368	3,844	138	4,356
25 to 30 " ...	14	448	4,213	188	4,863
30 to 40 " ...	38	661	5,840	305	6,844
40 to 50 " ...	38	411	3,562	356	4,367
50 to 60 " ...	21	199	2,496	336	3,052
60 years and upwards	5	111	1,849	343	2,308
Total ...	123	2,322	23,959	2,219	28,623

1525. The returns of those under 15 years of age taken in charge by the police embrace neglected and deserted children as well as other offenders. The whole number in 1893, according to the table, was 1,100, and of these not one was possessed of superior instruction; only 15, or 1 in 73, could read and write well; and 475, or more than two-fifths, were unable to read. The children under 15 committed for trial consisted of 11 boys, all but one of whom could read and write more or less imperfectly.

1526. Those over 15 years arrested numbered 27,523, and of these 2,430, or about an eleventh (including those possessed of superior instruction), could read and write well, whilst 1,744, or about a sixteenth, could not read. Those over 15 years of age committed for trial numbered 839, of whom 158, or about a fifth, could read and write well, or were possessed of superior instruction, and 37, or one

* See paragraph 1502 ante.

in 23, were unable to read. According to these figures, the persons charged with offences serious enough to call for their commitment for trial were better educated than the other arrested persons. Those arrested, whether committed for trial or otherwise dealt with, were on the average not nearly so well educated as the general population (exclusive of Chinese and Aborigines), for at the census of 1891 all over 15 years of age, except about one in every 24, were returned as unable to read and write, and only one in every 43 was returned as entirely illiterate.

Birthplaces
and reli-
gions of
criminals.

1527. The following table shows the birthplaces and religions of the persons taken into custody and of those committed for trial in 1893, also the ratio of each country and religion to the estimated numbers of the same country and religion in the population:—

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PERSONS* ARRESTED AND COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1893.

Birthplace and Religion.	Persons Arrested.		Persons Committed for Trial.	
	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 Living. †	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 Living. †
BIRTHPLACE.				
Victoria	11,499	14·94	451	·59
Other Australasian Colonies ...	2,253	27·71	99	1·22
England and Wales	5,343	35·68	138	·92
Scotland	1,962	42·05	28	·60
Ireland	5,477	69·41	54	·68
China	178	23·58	14	1·85
Other countries	1,911	52·45	66	1·81
Total	28,623	24·46	850	·73
RELIGION.				
Protestants	15,842	18·29	531	·61
Roman Catholics	11,907	46·28	274	1·06
Jews	119	17·82	14	2·10
Buddhists, Confucians, Mohammedans, &c.	229	33·12	12	1·74
Others	526	15·71	19	·57

Arrests of
Victorians.

1528. It has always been found that fewer Victorians have been arrested, in proportion to their numbers in the population, than persons of any other nationality. This, without doubt, has been mainly due to the fact of a very large proportion of children being embraced within their numbers; for, with the increasing ages of the Victorian-born

* See paragraph 1502 *ante*.

† The estimated population of each birthplace and religion with which these calculations have been made will be found in the tables following paragraph 75 and 80 *ante*.

population, the number of criminals is becoming larger. In 1871, only 2,123, charges were made against persons of Victorian birth taken into custody, but in 1881 the number rose to 6,231, and in 1891 to 11,755; moreover, the rate per 1,000 of the Victorian-born population rose from $6\frac{1}{2}$ in 1871, to $12\frac{1}{2}$ in 1881, to $16\frac{1}{2}$ in 1891, and the rate of arrests (not charges) to 15 in 1893. According, however, to the proportion of persons of an age to commit crimes, or say of 21 years or upwards, there has been a considerable falling-off between the last two census years, as is shown by the following figures:—

CHARGES AGAINST VICTORIANS ARRESTED IN PROPORTION TO ADULT POPULATION.

1881	...	Per 10,000 Victorians aged 21 and upwards	...	Charges.	550
1891	...	"	"	...	396

1529. Of places outside Victoria, the country which supplies the largest number of arrested persons is Ireland. In 1893, those arrested of this nationality exceeded the English and Welsh arrested by 134, and this although natives of England and Wales in the population outnumbered the Irish by 70,487, or by 90 per cent. A large proportion of the offences with which the Irish were charged, however, must have been of a less serious nature than those in respect to which the English and Welsh were arrested, as the number of the former committed for trial was much lower in proportion to their numbers in the population than that of the latter; the proportion of Scotch arrested was also above that of the English, but that of the Scotch committed for trial was below that of either the English or the Irish. The proportion of Chinese arrested was below that of persons of any other nationality except the Victorians, but the proportion committed for trial was much higher than that of any other specified nationality. In proportion to their numbers in the population arrests and commitments for trial of natives of other Australasian colonies were about twice as numerous as those of Victoria.

Arrests of persons born outside Victoria.

1530. In proportion to their numbers in the community, the Roman Catholics supplied considerably more than twice as many arrested persons as the Protestants or the Jews, and over a third more than the Buddhists, Confucians, &c. In view of a similar proportion, the Roman Catholics committed for trial were nearly twice as numerous as the Protestants, but were fewer by one-half than the Jews, and by over one-third than the Buddhists, Confucians, &c.

Relative numbers of each religion.

Causes of
arrest, and
religions.

1531. The religions of persons taken into custody in 1893 are given in the following table in connexion with their offences :—

CAUSES OF ARREST AND RELIGIONS, 1893.

Offence.	Religions.					Total.
	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Jews.	Buddhists, Confucians, Mohammedans, &c.	Others.	
Murder and attempt at murder	14	11	...	1	1	27
Manslaughter	5	8	...	...	...	13
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	38	25	...	1	4	68
Assault	821	676	10	21	20	1,548
Rape and indecent assault on females	72	25	...	2	2	101
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit	6	2	...	...	...	8
Other offences against the person	86	37	1	2	1	127
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	204	112	6	4	9	335
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c.	157	78	1	1	2	239
Other offences against property ...	2,175	1,279	34	47	56	3,591
Forgery and offences against the currency	41	17	...	1	3	62
Drunkenness	6,641	5,787	5	22	233	12,688
Other offences against good order	4,574	3,353	49	83	130	8,189
Offences relating to the carrying out of laws	156	76	3	2	1	238
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	80	71	7	39	12	209
Offences against public welfare	772	350	3	3	52	1,180
Total	15,842	11,907	119	229	526	28,623

Causes of
arrest of
each sect
compared.

1532. It will be observed that 14 Protestants, 11 Roman Catholics, 1 Buddhist, &c., and 1 other person were arrested for murder and attempt at murder; 43 Protestants, 33 Roman Catholics, 1 Buddhist, &c., and 4 others were arrested for manslaughter, shooting at or seriously wounding; 78 Protestants, 27 Roman Catholics, 2 Buddhists, &c., and 2 others were arrested for sexual offences; 204 Protestants, 112 Roman Catholics, 6 Jews, 4 Buddhists, &c., and 9 others were arrested for robbery with violence or burglary; 6,641 Protestants, 5,787 Roman Catholics, 5 Jews, 22 Buddhists, &c., and 233 of unspecified religions were arrested for drunkenness.

1533. Arrests for drunkenness and other offences against good order were in the proportion of 71 per cent. of the total arrests of Protestants, of 77 per cent. of those of Roman Catholics, of 45 per cent. of those of Jews, of 46 per cent. of those of Buddhists, Confucians, &c., and of 69 per cent. of those of persons of other beliefs.

Religions of drunkards.

1534. The next table shows the occupations of the males and females taken into custody in 1893 :—

Occupations of persons arrested.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1893.

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
GOVERNMENT, PROFESSIONS, ARTS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE.		
Government officer	15	...
Police; penal officer	2	...
Officer of local body	1	...
Army, navy—officer, man	14	...
Clergyman, &c.	4	...
Lawyer	30	...
Law clerk, law student	10	...
Others connected with law	3	...
Medical man, student	23	...
Dentist	10	...
Chemist, druggist	40	...
Midwife ... ..	...	16
Nurse (not servant) ... ..	...	1
Others connected with medicine	6	...
Author, editor, reporter	13	...
Bookseller, news vendor	75	1
Printer	188	...
Science, connected with	5	...
Education, engaged in	34	7
Fine arts, engaged in	27	...
Photographer	18	...
Music, teacher of; musician	52	3
Theatres and exhibitions, connected with	101	...
BOARD AND LODGING, DOMESTIC DUTIES, ATTENDANCE.		
Hotel-keeper	52	2
Board and lodging, connected with	7	4
Domestic servant, cook	471	703
Hotel, boarding-house, &c.—servant	63	13
Shoeblick	1	...
Attendance, engaged in	214	47
COMMERCIAL PURSUITS.		
Merchant, capitalist	12	...
Auctioneer, &c.	10	...
Broker, agent, &c.	154	2
Commercial clerk, &c.	617	...
Commercial traveller, salesman	105	...

* See paragraph 1502 ante.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1893—*continued.*

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
COMMERCIAL PURSUITS—<i>continued.</i>		
Other mercantile persons	62	...
Ironmonger	7	...
Shopkeeper, dealer	367	5
Grocer and assistants	65	1
Hawker, pedler	507	8
Marine storekeeper	35	...
Pawnbroker	2	...
House agent, proprietor	1	...
Storage, engaged in	1	...
CARRYING AND MESSAGES.		
Railway service	29	...
Omnibus, cab—driver, owner	155	...
Drayman, carter, carrier	317	...
Ship owner, master ; officer, seamen (not navy)	749	...
Ship servant, steward, &c.	25	3
Boatman, waterman, &c.	8	...
Stevedore, or otherwise connected with ships	3	...
Telegraph service	12	...
Messenger, porter, errand boy	14	...
Others connected with conveyance	7	...
AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS AND LAND.		
Farmer, market gardener ; farm servant, labourer, &c.	505	9
Land, estate—agent, proprietor, &c.	1	...
Land surveyor and assistant	1	...
Others connected with land	5	...
PASTORAL PURSUITS AND ANIMALS.		
Squatter, grazier ; station servant, labourer, &c.	49	...
Horse dealer, proprietor, &c.	3	...
Veterinary surgeon, farrier	4	...
Horse-breaker, groom, jockey	165	...
Animal dealer, keeper	2	...
Game, rabbit—catcher	4	...
Fisherman	26	...
Drover and others engaged about animals	50	...
ARTISANS, MECHANICS, LABOURERS.		
Bookbinder	7	...
Musical-instrument maker, dealer	3	...
Prints and pictures, connected with	1	...
Watch and clock maker, dealer	28	...
Philosophical-instrument maker, dealer	2	...
Gunsmith	1	...
Mechanical or undefined engineer	13	...
Tackle for sports	1	...
Designer, engraver	1	...
Toolmaker, cutler, &c.	19	...
Carriage-maker, wheelwright	71	...
Saddle, harness, and whip—maker, dealer	88	...

* See paragraph 1502 *ante.*

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1893—continued.

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
ARTISANS, MECHANICS, LABOURERS—continued.		
Shipwright, rigger, boatbuilder	21	...
Sailmaker, shipchandler, &c.	9	...
Builder, architect, contractor	60	...
Carpenter, joiner	522	...
Cooper, turner	48	...
Bricklayer, mason, plasterer, shingler, slater	414	...
Road and railway contractor, surveyor	19	...
Painter, paperhanger, plumber, &c.	378	...
Others connected with buildings	1	...
Cabinet, &c., maker, dealer	66	...
Undertaker	4	...
Labourer (undefined)	10,554	...
Navy	3	...
Chemicals, working or dealing in	4	...
TEXTILE FABRICS AND DRESS.		
Textile fabrics, manufacturer of; weaver	13	1
Draper and assistants	72	...
Hairdresser, wigmaker, &c.	67	...
Hat and cap maker	11	...
Tailor, tailoress, dealer in clothing	201	39
Milliner, dressmaker ... ..	...	70
Clothing manufacture, engaged in; machinist	1	1
Boot and shoe maker	532	10
Umbrella maker, mender	5	...
FIBROUS MATERIALS.		
Rope, mat, sack—maker	3	...
Tent, tarpaulin—maker; canvas dealer	6	...
ANIMAL FOOD.		
Cowkeeper, dairyman, woman	37	1
Butcher, &c.	259	...
Poulterer, fishmonger	20	1
Others dealing in animal food	4	1
VEGETABLE FOOD.		
Miller, grain and flour dealer, and assistants	18	...
Baker, confectioner	204	...
Greengrocer, fruiterer	28	...
Others dealing in vegetable food	5	...
DRINKS AND STIMULANTS.		
Brewing, connected with	4	...
Wine and spirit merchant, vigneron	7	...
Gingerbeer and sodawater maker	3	...
Sugar refiner	1	...
Tobacco manufacture, engaged in	26	...
Tobacconist	22	...

* See paragraph 1502 ante.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1893—*continued.*

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
ANIMAL MATTERS.		
Soapboiler, candlemaker, tallowmelter	3	...
Tanner, fellmonger, currier	44	...
Leather articles, maker of	5	...
Brush, broom—maker	13	...
Wool classer	19	...
Animal matters, working or dealing in	2	...
VEGETABLE MATTERS.		
Japanner, french polisher	25	1
Firewood dealer, chopper, splitter, fencer	40	...
Sawyer; saw-mill owner, worker	17	...
Basketmaker	7	...
Papermaker	1	...
Timber merchant and assistant	1	...
Vegetable matters, others working or dealing in	15	1
MINING, ENGAGED IN.		
Miners, &c.	1,098	...
COAL, STONE, CLAY, EARTHENWARE, GLASS.		
Coal and charcoal, working or dealing in	6	...
Chimney sweep	9	...
Quarryman, limeburner, &c.	30	...
Brickmaker, potter	49	...
Nightman, scavenger	6	...
Earth, stone, glass, &c., others working or dealing in	51	...
MINERALS AND METALS.		
Goldsmith, silversmith, jeweller	24	...
Engine-driver (undefined)	377	...
Ironfounder, blacksmith, locksmith	522	...
Brass founder, finisher; gasfitter	41	...
Waterworks service	2	...
Others, working or dealing in water or ice	1	...
Other metals, working or dealing in	25	...
INDEFINITE AND NON-PRODUCTIVE.		
Independent means, persons of	17	...
Manager, apprentice, &c.	43	...
Prostitute, brothel-keeper	...	1,851
Gambler, gaminghouse-keeper	2	...
No stated occupation, over fifteen years of age	706	2,124
" " under " " "	785	266
Total	23,431	5,192

Chief occupations of persons arrested.

1535. It will be observed that of the males arrested nearly half were labourers (undefined); and that of other occupations those most frequently arrested were miners, sailors, clerks, shoemakers, carpenters,

* See paragraph 1502 *ante.*

ironfounders and blacksmiths, hawkers, farmers and farm labourers, domestic servants, and bricklayers, in the order named. No occupation was returned in 1,491 cases, but of these 785 were youths or children, and of the others it is probable that most of them belonged to the criminal classes. Of the females arrested, more than one-third were set down as prostitutes or brothel-keepers; nearly one-half, including 266 young girls, were of no specified occupation; and of the few returned as following regular occupations more than three-fourths were domestic servants, and the remainder were chiefly engaged in attendance, or were dressmakers and tailoresses.

1536. The result of summary disposal of cases by magistrates in the year 1893 were as follow :—

Results of summary disposal.

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF ARRESTED PERSONS,* 1893.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Imprisonment for 3 years	1	...
" 2 years	19	...
" 1 year and under 2 years	233	84
" 6 months and under 1 year	261	176
" 4 months	22	2
" 3 months	819	238
" 2 months and under 3 months	221	39
" 1 month and under 2 months	956	317
" 15 days and under 1 month	43	8
" 8 days and under 15 days	563	175
" 7 days and under	4,811	1,094
Fined	6,328	721
Ordered to find bail... ..	167	12
Sent to lunatic asylum	272	148
Sent to industrial school or reformatory	367	211
Otherwise dealt with	88	12
Total sentenced	15,171	3,237
Discharged	7,476	1,889
Total summarily disposed of... ..	22,647	5,126

1537. Of the persons sentenced by magistrates during 1893, 42 per cent. of the males, and 22 per cent. of the females, were fined; 35 per cent. of the former, and 39 per cent. of the latter, were sentenced to imprisonment for various terms under a month, and 15 and 24 per cent. respectively for periods varying from 1 to 12 months; about 2 per cent. of the males, and 3 per cent. of the females, were sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment or upwards; the balance, or 6 per cent., of the males, and 12 per cent. of the females, were sent to Lunatic Asylums, Industrial and Reformatory Schools, ordered to find bail, or were otherwise disposed of.

Sentences by magistrates.

* See paragraph 1502 ante.

Whippings
ordered by
magistrates.

1538. Corporal punishment to males may be ordered by magistrates for certain offences. In such cases the offender, if an adult, may be sentenced to be whipped with a cat-o'-nine-tails once, twice, or thrice, at the discretion of the bench. Two offenders were so sentenced in 1893 to receive one whipping each, the total number of strokes ordered being 25.

Results of
committals
for trial.

1539. The results of the commitments for trial at the three periods already referred to were as follow :—

RESULTS OF COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL,* 1883, 1888, AND 1893.

	1883. (Charges.)	1888. (Charges.)	1893. (Arrests.)
Number for trial	593	873	862
Convicted and sentenced	350	557	537
Acquitted	191	230	270
Not prosecuted	52	86	55

Proportion of
convictions
obtained.

1540. Of those committed for trial, 541 were eventually tried in 1883, 787 in 1888, and 807 in 1893. At the first period 65 per cent., at the second period 71 per cent., and at the third period 67 per cent., of the trials resulted in convictions.

Sentences in
superior
courts.

1541. The following are the sentences of the prisoners tried and convicted in superior courts during the year under review :—

SENTENCES OF PRISONERS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1893.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Death	2†	1
Hard labour on roads or public works for 10 years and under 15 years	3	...
" " " 7 years and under 10 years	8	1
" " " 4 years and under 7 years	41	1
Imprisonment for 2 years and under 4 years	92	3
" 1 year and under 2 years	101	3
" 6 months and under 1 year	125	4
" 1 month and under 6 months	84	8
" under 1 month	11	1
Fined	13	...
Recognisances estreated	1	...
To find bail to appear when called upon	19	8
Sent to lunatic asylum	5	...
Otherwise dealt with	2	...
Total tried and convicted	507	30

* Including those who were remaining for trial from the previous year, but excluding those awaiting trial at the end of the year.

† In the case of one of the males sentence of death was only recorded.

1542. Of males convicted in superior courts in 1893, 2 were sentenced to death—one being a case in which death was merely “recorded;” all the rest except 40 were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, with or without hard labour; of those imprisoned, nearly three-fourths were sentenced for periods of less than two years, and one-ninth to more than four years. Of the females 8 were sentenced to over one, and 13 to under one, year’s imprisonment. Three males were sentenced to be imprisoned for a longer period than ten years. One female was sentenced to death, and two were sentenced to a longer period than four years.

Lengths of sentences in superior courts.

1543. In addition to terms of imprisonment named in the foregoing table, 62 persons were ordered to be kept in solitary confinement for periods varying from a few days to 1 month per annum during the sentence.

Solitary confinement ordered by superior courts.

1544. The total number of offenders sentenced by superior courts to be whipped, in addition to terms of imprisonment in all cases, was 5, of whom 2 were sentenced to receive two whippings, and 3 one whipping. Judges of the Supreme Court and Courts of General Sessions can sentence males to receive corporal punishment, under Act 54 Vict. No. 1079, for attempts to commit rape, or for rape itself where sentence of death is commuted, for unnatural offences, for attempts to choke in order to commit an offence, for robbery under arms, and, in the case of youths under sixteen, for several other offences. The greatest number of whippings an individual can be sentenced to receive for an offence is 3, and the greatest number of lashes at each whipping is 50.

Whippings ordered by superior courts.

1545. The number of individuals sentenced to corporal punishment was 46 in 1889, viz., 34 by magistrates and 12 by superior courts; 6 in 1890, viz., 3 by magistrates and 3 by superior courts; 5 in 1891, viz., 1 by magistrates and 4 (including 1 juvenile offender) by superior courts; 15 in 1892, viz., 6 by magistrates and 9 (including 2 juvenile offenders) by superior courts; and 7 in 1893, viz., 2 by magistrates and 5 by superior courts. The total number of offenders sentenced to be whipped in the last twenty years was 260, of which 91 (including 44 juvenile offenders) were ordered by magistrates and 169 by superior courts.

Whippings ordered, 1874-1893.

Executions.

1546. Only one execution, viz., that of Conder, an Englishman, claiming to be a member of the Church of England, took place in 1893, for the murder of an Indian hawker. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip, 154 criminals have been executed within the colony, of whom only one was a female. The following table shows the birthplaces of the persons executed, the religions they professed, and the crimes they expiated on the scaffold :—

CRIMINALS EXECUTED, 1842 TO 1893.

Birthplace, Religion, and Offence.							Number.
Total number executed							154
Birthplace—Victoria							8
„	Other Australian colonies						7
„	England						63
„	Wales						2
„	Ireland						42
„	Scotland						8
„	Belgium						1
„	France						1
„	Switzerland						1
„	Germany						1
„	Sweden						1
„	Sicily						1
„	United States of America						5
„	India						1
„	West Indies						2
„	Philippine Islands						1
„	China						8
„	At sea						1
Religion—Church of England							37
„	Presbyterian						7
„	Wesleyan						10
„	Baptist						1
„	Lutheran						2
„	Protestant undefined						30
„	Roman Catholic						55
„	Buddhist, Confucian, &c.						7
„	No religion						5*
Offence—Murder							117
„	Attempt to murder						17
„	Rape						10
„	Unnatural offence on a child						1
„	Robbery with violence						9

* Aborigines.

1547. The offences in respect to which no persons were apprehended numbered 6,331 in 1893, or 261 more than in 1892, but fewer than in any other of the previous five years except 1890. Undetected offences against the person were not nearly so numerous as in 1890 or 1892, but were greater than in the other three years of the period referred to; whilst those against property were more numerous than in any year since 1888 and 1889. The following are the undetected offences in the last six years :—

UNDETECTED CRIME, 1888 TO 1893.

Year.	Number of Offences.			
	Against the Person.	Against Property.	Other Offences.	Total.
1888 ...	270	5,627	577	6,474
1889 ...	271	6,152	859	7,282
1890 ...	805	5,177	895	5,877
1891 ...	401	5,218	965	6,584
1892 ...	715	4,785	570	6,070
1893 ...	440	5,222	669	6,331

1548. With reference to the offences set down as undetected, it should be remarked that in all probability the malefactors do not in all such cases escape entirely. The returns are made up in the month of April of the year following that in which the offence is reported, and he who committed it may be arrested after that date, or may even before that date have been arrested, and perhaps punished, for other misdeeds.

1549. The next four tables, giving details of crime in the various Australasian Colonies, have been compiled in the office of the Government Statist, Melbourne, from their respective *Statistical Registers*. The first of these gives for each colony, and for the whole of Australasia, during 1890, 1891, and 1892, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennial periods, a statement of the number of offences for which persons were apprehended or summoned, were summarily convicted or held to bail, were committed for trial, and were convicted after commitment. In the returns of the number of cases in respect of

which persons were summoned, those so dealt with on account of matters coming under the head of civil jurisdiction are omitted in all the colonies :—

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1880, 1885, 1890, 1891, AND 1892.

Name of Colony.	Number of Offences for which Persons were—				
	Apprehended or Summoned.*	Summarily Convicted or held to Bail.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.	
Victoria ...	1880	41,788	26,950	680	398
	1885	52,566	34,180	768	444
	1890	64,784	44,515	1,129	662
	1891	59,954	42,407	1,142	729
	1892	56,644	38,676	1,142	759
New South Wales †	1880	57,784	42,205	1,717	1,148
	1885	77,092	59,345	1,540	785
	1890	66,087	48,102	1,476	954
	1891	75,804	55,711	1,582	964
	1892	77,749	56,350	1,411	896
Queensland †	1880	9,133	6,051	316	170
	1885	15,763	11,451	538	267
	1890	18,996	14,570	494	275
	1891	18,724	14,243	575	242
	1892	17,535	13,663	450	203
South Australia ...	1880	15,063	12,814	353	199
	1885	10,406	8,901	240	133
	1890	6,999	5,953	169	82
	1891	8,105	6,935	171	90
	1892	7,881	6,680	190	90
Western Australia	1880	5,577	4,221	50	25
	1885	4,900	3,436	86	51
	1890	4,690	3,201	66	41
	1891	5,005	3,313	97	44
	1892	5,574	3,577	93	58
Tasmania †	1880	6,908‡	5,418	117	73
	1885	5,983	4,876	71	31
	1890	6,411	4,962	117	46
	1891	6,173	4,760	98	63
	1892	6,278	4,822	107	43
New Zealand §	1880	20,750	14,778	520	295
	1885	22,709	17,566	385	223
	1890	18,247	13,885	458	192
	1891	17,189	13,051	462	214
	1892	17,587	13,290	347	180
Australasia ...	1880	156,993	112,437	3,753	2,308
	1885	189,419	139,755	3,628	1,934
	1890	186,214	135,188	3,909	2,252
	1891	190,954	140,420	4,127	2,346
	1892	189,248	137,058	3,740	2,229

* Not including civil cases.

† Cases brought up for lunacy are not included in the returns of New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania. In New South Wales 666 lunatics, in Queensland 274, and in Tasmania 59 were admitted to asylums during 1892. Probably four-fifths of these were apprehended by the police.

‡ Prior to 1884, a considerable proportion of purely civil cases, such as petty debts, non-payment of rates, &c., were improperly included in the returns of offences for which persons were apprehended or summoned.

§ Exclusive of Maoris. In 1892 the number of cases in which they were concerned was 430—in 293 of which summary convictions were obtained, in 118 cases the prisoner was discharged, and in 19 cases committed for trial.

1550. By this table it would appear that crime has been so much more prevalent in New South Wales than in Victoria that, notwithstanding the smaller population,* there has been at each period, under all the heads, larger numbers in the former colony than in the latter. This is particularly observable in regard to serious offences, the commitments for trial and convictions thereafter in New South Wales having been at the first period more than two and a half times as numerous, and at the second period about twice as numerous, as in Victoria; whilst at the third period they were from 30 to 45 per cent., and in 1892 from 18 to 24 per cent., more numerous. In 1892 the apprehensions and summonses in New South Wales exceeded those in Victoria by 37 per cent., and the summary convictions by 46 per cent.

Large amount of crime in New South Wales.

1551. The position of the different colonies in respect to crime will be better ascertained by means of the next table, which shows the proportion that the number of apprehensions and summons cases,* of summary convictions, of commitments for trial, and of convictions after commitment, occurring in each colony during the same five years, bore to the average population of the same colony; also, the proportion in each colony of summary convictions to apprehensions and summons cases, and of convictions after commitment to commitments:—

Proportion of crime in each colony.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, COMMITMENTS, AND CONVICTIONS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES TO POPULATION, ETC., 1880, 1885, 1890, 1891, AND 1892.

Name of Colony.	Proportion per 1,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per 10,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per Cent. of—		
	Apprehensions and Summons Cases. †	Summary Convictions.	Commitments for Trial.	Convictions after Commitment.	Summary Convictions to Apprehensions and Summons Cases. †	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.	
Victoria	1880	49·13	31·69	8·00	4·68	64·51	58·53
	1885	54·94	35·72	8·03	4·64	65·02	57·81
	1890	57·92	39·80	10·09	5·92	68·71	58·64
	1891	52·27	36·97	9·96	6·36	70·73	63·86
	1892	48·72	33·26	9·82	6·53	68·28	66·46
New South Wales	1880	79·63	58·16	23·66	15·83	73·04	66·86
	1885	83·14	64·00	16·61	8·47	76·98	53·51
	1890	59·98	43·66	13·40	8·66	72·79	64·63
	1891	66·29	48·72	13·83	8·43	73·50	60·95
	1892	65·82	47·77	11·95	7·59	72·48	63·50

* In all the years named except 1892 the actual population of New South Wales was smaller than that of Victoria.

† Not including civil cases.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, COMMITMENTS, AND CONVICTIONS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES TO POPULATION, ETC., 1880, 1885, 1890, 1891, AND 1892—*continued.*

Name of Colony.	Proportion per 1,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per 10,000 of the Population of—		Proportion per Cent. of—		
	Apprehensions and Summons Cases.*	Summary Convictions.	Commitments for Trial.	Convictors after Commitment.	Summary Con- victions to Ap- prehensions and Summons Cases.*	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.	
Queensland ...	1880	41·15	27·26	14·24	7·66	66·25	53·80
	1885	51·05	37·08	17·42	8·65	72·64	49·63
	1890	49·24	37·77	12·80	7·13	76·70	55·67
	1891	46·26	35·19	14·21	6·00	76·07	42·22
	1892	42·17	32·74	10·82	4·88	77·92	45·11
South Australia ...	1880	57·16	48·63	13·40	7·55	85·07	56·43
	1885	33·23	25·84	7·67	4·25	77·76	55·42
	1890	22·12	18·81	5·34	2·59	85·05	48·52
	1891	25·50	21·85	5·04	2·84	85·69	56·33
	1892	23·79	20·17	5·74	2·72	84·76	47·37
Western Australia	1880	193·35	146·34	17·33	8·67	75·69	50·00
	1885	143·81	100·85	25·27	14·97	70·12	59·30
	1890	97·81	66·76	13·76	8·55	68·25	62·12
	1891	97·67	64·67	18·93	8·59	66·21	45·38
	1892	99·57	63·90	16·61	10·36	64·17	62·37
Tasmania ...	1880	60·80	47·69	10·30	6·43	80·19	62·40
	1885	46·68	38·05	5·54	2·42	81·50	43·66
	1890	44·60	34·52	8·14	3·20	77·40	39·32
	1891	41·44	31·96	6·58	2·96	77·12	44·96
	1892	41·07	31·54	7·00	2·81	76·81	40·19
New Zealand ...	1880	43·75	31·16	10·96	6·22	71·22	56·73
	1885	40·11	31·03	6·80	3·94	77·35	57·92
	1890	29·39	22·37	7·38	3·09	76·09	41·92
	1891	27·29	20·72	7·34	3·40	75·93	46·32
	1892	27·38	20·69	5·40	2·80	75·57	51·87
Total Australia ...	1880	58·55	41·94	14·00	8·61	71·62	61·50
	1885	58·56	43·21	11·22	5·98	73·78	53·31
	1890	49·86	36·20	10·47	6·03	72·60	57·61
	1891	49·63	36·49	10·74	6·10	73·52	56·80
	1892	48·01	34·77	9·49	5·65	72·42	59·60

1552. In regard to the proportion of offences for which apprehensions were made or summonses issued, Western Australia and New South Wales have stood at the head of the list at each of the years

* Not including civil cases.

named; whilst Tasmania stood next in 1880,* but Victoria and Queensland in 1885, 1890, 1891 and 1892. Queensland stood lowest on the list at the first period, but New Zealand and South Australia at the last four periods, the depression which existed in both colonies having apparently been accompanied by a reduction in the amount of crime. The following is the order of the various colonies in this respect in 1892, the colony with the highest proportion of persons apprehended or summoned on criminal charges being placed first, and that with the lowest last :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS APPREHENDED OR SUMMONED IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1892.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | \| | 5. Tasmania. |
| 2. New South Wales. | \| | 6. New Zealand. |
| 3. Victoria. | \| | 7. South Australia. |
| 4. Queensland. | \| |  |

1553. As regards the persons summarily convicted, in proportion to population, Western Australia and New South Wales have always been at the top of the list. In 1890, 1891, and 1892, Victoria occupied the third place, although at the two previous periods it stood as low as fifth on the list. New Zealand and South Australia have been last on the list at each of the last four periods, although South Australia at the first period occupied the third position. The following is the order in which the colonies stood in this particular, the colony with the highest proportion of summary convictions being placed first and the rest in succession :—

Order of colonies in respect to summary convictions.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO SUMMARY CONVICTIONS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1892.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | \| | 5. Tasmania. |
| 2. New South Wales. | \| | 6. New Zealand. |
| 3. Victoria. | \| | 7. South Australia. |
| 4. Queensland. | \| |  |

1554. In 1880 Victoria showed, relatively to population, a much smaller number of persons committed for trial than any other colony; but the proportion having since fallen in some of the other colonies, in the years 1885, 1890, 1891 and 1892, three colonies—South Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania—occupied a lower position than Victoria, Western Australia was at the head of the list at the last four periods, and New South Wales at the first period; whilst Queensland

Order of colonies in respect to commitments for trial.

* It is stated that, prior to 1884, some petty debt cases were improperly included in the return of offences for which persons were apprehended or summoned in Tasmania.

and the latter colony have alternately occupied the second and third places at the four later periods. In respect to the proportion of commitments for trial to population, the colonies stood in the following order in 1892 :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS COMMITTED FOR TRIAL IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1892.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | 5. Tasmania. |
| 2. New South Wales. | 6. South Australia. |
| 3. Queensland. | 7. New Zealand. |
| 4. Victoria. | |

1555. In respect to convictions in superior courts, Western Australia and New South Wales at each period were at the head of the list, except in 1885, when Queensland was second and New South Wales third. The following is the order at the last period :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1892.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | 5. Tasmania. |
| 2. New South Wales. | 6. New Zealand. |
| 3. Victoria. | 7. South Australia. |
| 4. Queensland. | |

1556. Either more persons are apprehended unjustly in Victoria than in the other colonies, or punishment for minor offences does not follow their commission with such certainty in the former as in the latter, since the number of summary convictions obtained in proportion to the apprehensions is usually lower in this colony than in any of the others. An exception, however, took place in the last three years, when the proportion was lower in Western Australia than in Victoria. The following is the order of the colonies in respect to convictions of this kind in 1892, the colony in which the rate of summary convictions to apprehensions is highest being placed first, and that in which it is lowest last :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF SUMMARY CONVICTIONS TO ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES, 1892.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. South Australia. | 5. New South Wales. |
| 2. Queensland. | 6. Victoria. |
| 3. Tasmania. | 7. Western Australia. |
| 4. New Zealand. | |

1557. In regard to the proportion of convictions to commitments for trial, Victoria was first on the list in 1892, New South Wales and Western Australia being the next in order to her. This order varies from year to year. The proportions in Victoria and Western Australia

Order of colonies in respect to convictions in superior courts.

Order of colonies in respect to summary convictions obtained.

Order of colonies in respect to convictions obtained in superior courts.

have increased, but have fallen off in the other colonies since the first period. In the subjoined table the colonies are placed in order, the one in which the convictions, in 1892, bore the highest proportion to the commitments being placed first :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS TO COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL, 1892.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. Victoria. | | 5. South Australia. |
| 2. New South Wales. | | 6. Queensland. |
| 3. Western Australia. | | 7. Tasmania. |
| 4. New Zealand. | | |

1558. It is to be regretted that the information as to the offences for which persons are arrested or summoned is very incomplete in several of the colonies. In Queensland the only specific offence mentioned in the returns is drunkenness, the balance being grouped as offences against the person, offences against property, or as other offences. This, except that drunkenness is not separated from "other offences," is likewise the grouping adopted in Western Australia,* as also in Victoria in respect to the summons cases where the offender is never in custody of the police, the exact offence being entered only when an arrest takes place.

Incomplete returns in some colonies.

1559. Notwithstanding New South Wales has possessed a smaller population than Victoria (except at the last period), arrests for most descriptions of offences have at each of the five periods under consideration been much more numerous in the former colony than in the latter. Thus, in 1892, arrests for homicide numbered 73 in New South Wales against 32 in Victoria; for other offences against the person, 7,102 against 3,118; for miscellaneous offences against property, 7,829 against 3,951; for drunkenness, 20,665 against 15,891. Exceptions occurred in regard to arrests for robbery, burglary, &c., which were more numerous in Victoria than in New South Wales at the last four of the years referred to; also in 1890 and 1892, in regard to arrests for rape and other sexual offences; in 1892, in regard to horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, and at the first and third periods in regard to "other offences." The following table shows the offences for which apprehensions were made or summonses issued in the various Australasian Colonies during every fifth year, commencing with 1880, and for the years 1891 and

Arrests, &c., for various offences in Australasian Colonies.

* The particulars are available in regard to the convictions, although not in regard to the arrests.

1892, as far as the information can be gathered from their respective *Statistical Registers* :—

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1880, 1885, 1890, 1891, AND 1892.

Colony.	Year.	Number of Arrests or Summonses for—							
		Murder, Attempts at Murder, and Manslaughter.	Rape and other Offences against Females.	Other Offences against the Person.	Robbery with Violence, Burglary, &c.	Horse, Sheep, and Cattle Stealing, &c.	Other Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.
Victoria ...	1880	36	81	4,376	245	171	3,880	10,056	22,933
	1885	31	57	4,071	287	149	3,797	13,580	30,594
	1890	56	69	3,966	465	129	4,442	18,501	37,156
	1891	53	61	3,587	430	175	4,219	18,057	33,372
	1892	32	106	3,118	432	193	3,951	15,891	32,921
New South Wales	1880	75	95	9,364	245	469	6,154	18,777	22,605
	1885	50	115	9,353	230	403	6,576	26,291	34,074
	1890	61	64	8,604	362	259	6,995	18,654	31,088
	1891	69	85	6,316	312	184	6,591	22,075	40,172
	1892	73	81	7,102	307	171	7,829	20,665	41,521
Queensland	1880	1,320			1,186			2,867	3,760
	1885	2,230			1,748			5,508	6,277
	1890	2,713			2,487			6,332	7,464
	1891	2,641			2,471			5,536	8,076
	1892	2,307			2,134			4,916	8,178
South Aus- tralia	1880	13	37	1,026	52	51	971	4,325	8,588
	1885	9	36	598	38	19	708	3,361	5,647
	1890	8	24	488	16	14	471	2,382	3,596
	1891	8	22	577	32	14	572	2,987	3,893
	1892	7	15	473	27	11	549	2,698	4,101
Western Aus- tralia*	1880	331			355			4,891	
	1885	403			323			4,174	
	1890	371			536			3,783	
	1891	376			567			4,062	
	1892	478			794			4,302	
Tasmania† ...	1880	2	14	651	103	37	723	1,543	3,835
	1885	3	13	544	34	22	565	1,470	3,332
	1890	4	6	473	14	17	588	1,151	4,158
	1891	6	9	509	24	8	704	1,147	3,763
	1892	2	10	463	29	11	792	921	4,050
New Zealand	1880	27	56	1,852	85	55	2,185	6,281	10,209
	1885	20	28	1,686	92	49	1,961	6,912	11,961
	1890	10	32	1,474	120	55	2,122	5,830	8,604
	1891	13	33	1,361	109	36	2,087	5,251	8,299
	1892	25	36	1,422	137	52	2,025	5,240	8,650

* The number of convictions (not arrests) for the principal offences in the last two years were as follows: -Murder and manslaughter, 5 in 1891; and 9 in 1892; rape, &c., *nil* in 1891 and 1 in 1892; serious offences against property, 9 in 1891, and 10 in 1892; other offences against property, 322 in 1891, and 402 in 1892; drunkenness, 749 in 1889.

† See footnote (†) on page 848 *ante*.

1560. Subjoined is a statement of the proportion of the various offences, grouped under four heads, to the population of each colony during the same five years :—

Proportion of each group of offences in each colony.

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1880, 1885, 1890, 1891, AND 1892.

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.
Victoria ...	1880	5·28	5·05	11·83	26·97
	1885	4·35	4·42	14·19	31·97
	1890	3·66	4·50	16·54	33·22
	1891	3·23	4·21	15·74	29·10
	1892	2·80	3·94	13·67	28·31
New South Wales ...	1880	13·14	9·46	25·88	31·15
	1885	10·26	7·77	28·35	36·75
	1890	7·92	6·91	16·93	28·21
	1891	5·66	6·20	19·30	35·13
	1892	6·14	7·03	17·50	35·15
Queensland ...	1880	5·95	5·34	12·92	16·94
	1885	7·22	5·66	17·84	20·33
	1890	7·03	6·45	16·41	19·35
	1891	6·52	6·10	13·68	19·95
	1892	5·55	5·13	11·82	19·67
South Australia ...	1880	4·08	4·08	16·41	32·59
	1885	2·10	2·41	10·73	18·03
	1890	1·64	1·60	7·53	11·35
	1891	1·91	1·95	9·41	12·26
	1892	1·49	1·77	8·15	12·38
Western Australia ...	1880	11·48	12·31	169·57	
	1885	11·83	9·48	122·53	
	1890	7·74	11·18	78·89	
	1891	7·34	11·06	79·27	
	1892	8·54	14·18	76·85	
Tasmania* ...	1880	5·87	7·60	13·58	33·75
	1885	4·37	4·85	11·47	26·00
	1890	3·36	4·31	8·01	28·93
	1891	3·52	4·96	7·70	25·26
	1892	3·11	5·44	6·02	26·49
New Zealand ...	1880	4·16	4·93	13·22	21·50
	1885	3·06	3·71	12·21	21·13
	1890	2·44	3·70	9·39	13·86
	1891	2·23	3·54	8·34	13·18
	1892	2·31	3·45	8·16	13·47

* See footnote (‡) on page 848 ante.

Order of colonies as to offences against the person.

1561. It will be observed that, according to population, arrests or summonses for offences against the person were, at all periods shown, except 1891, much more numerous in New South Wales and Western Australia than in any other colony. In the latter the proportion in 1892 was three times, and in the former more than twice, as high as in Victoria, which occupied the fifth place. The following is the order of the colonies in this respect during 1892, the colony in which the proportion was highest being placed first, and that in which it was lowest last:—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON, 1892.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | 5. Victoria. |
| 2. New South Wales. | 6. New Zealand. |
| 3. Queensland. | 7. South Australia. |
| 4. Tasmania. | |

Order of colonies as to offences against property.

1562. In 1892, arrests for offences against property in Western Australia were upwards of three and a half times, and in New South Wales nearly twice, as numerous, in proportion to population, than they were in Victoria, where they were fewer than in any colonies except New Zealand and South Australia. It should be stated that the proportion in Western Australia would probably be reduced nearly one-half were arrests of aborigines for sheep or cattle stealing excluded*, but even then the proportion would be as high as in New South Wales. In this respect the order of the colonies was as follows, the colonies with the largest proportion of such arrests being placed first, and the rest in succession:—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY, 1892.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | 5. Victoria. |
| 2. New South Wales. | 6. New Zealand. |
| 3. Tasmania. | 7. South Australia. |
| 4. Queensland. | |

Order of colonies as to drunkenness.

1563. In the matter of drunkenness, New South Wales, which for years stood at the head of the colonies of the group in which the offence was distinguished,† has—provided there has been no change in the method of compilation, which seems doubtful—improved considerably as compared with 1880 and 1885. Victoria, on the other hand, has apparently become more inebriate, as, according to the

* Of 370 convictions in Western Australia in 1889, 179 were of aborigines—chiefly for sheep and cattle stealing.

† The only colony in which drunkenness is not distinguished, so far as the total arrests are concerned, is Western Australia. The convictions for that offence, however, are given in footnote (*) on page 854 *ante*.

figures, arrests for drunkenness within her boundaries, in proportion to the population, increased from 12 per 1,000 in 1880 to not quite 14 in 1892, although this was considerably lower than in the two preceding years; but even the latter proportion was considerably lower than in New South Wales at its best period. In the following list the colony in which the largest proportion of inebriates was brought before magistrates in 1892 is placed first, and that in which the number was smallest last :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO APPREHENSIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1892.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. New South Wales. | \| | 4. New Zealand. |
| 2. Victoria. | \| | 5. South Australia. |
| 3. Queensland. | \| | 6. Tasmania. |

1564. "Other offences," which embrace breaches of corporation by-laws, Wines and Spirit Statute, &c., are rather violations of good order than actual crimes, and are consequently generally dealt with by summons. Relatively to population, they were, in 1880, most numerous in Tasmania, South Australia, and New South Wales, and in 1892 they were more numerous in New South Wales than in any of the other colonies. In Western Australia drunkenness is included with these offences, and consequently the figures are not comparable with those of the other colonies. Omitting Western Australia, therefore, the following is the order of the colonies in the last two years in respect to irregularities of this description, the colony in which the proportion was highest being placed first, and that in which it was lowest last :—

Order of colonies as to "other offences."

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR "OTHER OFFENCES," 1891-2.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. New South Wales. | \| | 4. Queensland. |
| 2. Victoria. | \| | 5. New Zealand. |
| 3. Tasmania. | \| | 6. South Australia. |

1565. The statistics at hand relating to the United Kingdom give the commitments for trial and convictions in the superior courts, but do not afford any information respecting the cases dealt with in courts of petty sessions. The following table shows the number of commitments and convictions and their respective proportions to the population of each division of the United Kingdom, also the proportion of

Crime in United Kingdom.

commitments to convictions during 1890, 1891, and 1892, and the first year of each of the two previous quinquennial periods :—

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1880, 1885, 1890, 1891,
AND 1892.

Country.	Commitments for Trial.	Con- victions.	Proportion of—			
			Commitments to Population.	Convictions to Population.	Convictions to Commitments.	
			per 10,000.	per 10,000.	per cent.	
England and Wales	1880	14,770	11,214	5·74	4·36	75·92
	1885	13,586	10,500	4·99	3·86	77·28
	1890	11,974	9,242	4·16	3·21	77·18
	1891	11,695	9,055	4·02	3·11	77·43
	1892	12,216	9,607	4·15	3·27	78·64
Scotland ...	1880	2,583	2,046	6·97	5·52	79·21
	1885	2,535	1,956	6·57	5·07	77·16
	1890	2,312	1,825	5·77	4·56	78·94
	1891	2,353	1,822	5·83	4·52	77·43
	1892	2,252	1,778	5·54	4·37	78·95
Ireland ...	1880	4,716	2,383	9·06	4·58	50·53
	1885	2,850	1,573	5·78	3·19	55·19
	1890	2,061	1,193	4·39	2·54	57·88
	1891	2,112	1,255	4·51	2·68	59·42
	1892	2,031	1,196	4·38	2·58	58·89
Total ...	1880	22,069	15,643	6·37	4·52	70·88
	1885	18,971	14,029	5·27	3·90	73·94
	1890	16,347	12,260	4·36	3·27	75·00
	1891	16,160	12,132	4·28	3·21	75·07
	1892	16,499	12,581	4·33	3·30	76·25

Decrease of crime in United Kingdom.

1566. According to the commitments for trial, crime, in proportion to population, has fallen off in the United Kingdom by 32 per cent. since 1880, the decrease being most marked in the case of Ireland, where probably, in consequence of political disturbances, the commitments in 1880 were exceptionally numerous. The proportion of both commitments and convictions has usually been most numerous in Scotland, and least so in England ; although Ireland had the largest proportion of commitments in 1880, and the smallest number of convictions in 1890, 1891, and 1892.

Crime in proportion to adults in colonies and Britain.

1567. As scarcely any persons under 15 years of age are committed for trial, it is necessary, in order to ascertain more fairly the relative criminality of the several Australasian Colonies and the various divisions of the United Kingdom, to compare the commitments and convictions which took place in each during 1891 with the population

over 15 years of age as enumerated at the census taken in the same year. The following are the results of such a comparison :—

PROPORTION OF COMMITMENTS AND CONVICTIONS TO POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND UPWARDS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES AND UNITED KINGDOM, 1891.

Per 10,000 Persons Living, aged 15 years and upwards.

Commitments for Trial.			Convictions after Commitment.		
Western Australia	...	29 87	New South Wales	...	13 92
Queensland	...	23 27	Western Australia	...	13 54
New South Wales	...	22 84	Victoria ...	...	9 79
Victoria ...	...	15 03	Queensland	...	9 79
New Zealand	...	12 28	Tasmania	...	7 06
Tasmania	...	10 98	Scotland ...	...	7 03
Scotland ...	...	9 07	New Zealand	...	5 69
South Australia	...	8 80	England and Wales	...	4 95
Ireland ...	...	6 65	South Australia	...	4 63
England and Wales	...	6 21	Ireland ...	...	3 95

1568. It will be observed that, in proportion to the population of 15 years of age and upwards, the commitments in Scotland were above those in South Australia, and the convictions in Scotland were above those in New Zealand and that colony; also that the convictions in England were above those in South Australia, but, in all other cases, that the commitments and convictions in the British Isles were below those in any of the Australasian Colonies. Crime in Britain generally below that in colonies.

1569. From the following figures it appears that in 1891 conviction followed commitment with more certainty in England and Scotland than in any of the Australasian Colonies, but Victoria and New South Wales, in this respect, stand above Ireland. All the other colonies stand below these, Queensland being at the bottom of the list with only 42 convictions to every 100 commitments :— Proportion of convictions to commitments in colonies and Britain.

PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS TO COMMITMENTS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES AND UNITED KINGDOM, 1891.

	Per cent.		Per cent.
England and Wales	... 77 43	South Australia	... 56 33
Scotland ...	... 77 43	New Zealand	... 46 32
Victoria ...	... 63 86	Western Australia	... 45 38
New South Wales	... 60 95	Tasmania	... 44 96
Ireland ...	... 59 42	Queensland	... 42 22

1570. The Victorian police force is an admirably organized body of men, and although, in proportion to population, it is smaller than similar bodies in the other Australasian Colonies with the exception of New Zealand, its efficiency is such that crime is kept effectively in check, Police in Australasian Colonies.

and in past years has generally been less rife here than elsewhere. The following figures show the number of police and their proportion to the population in each colony :—

POLICE IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1893.

1. New Zealand	had	503	police,	or	1	to	1,277*	persons.
2. Victoria	„	1,483	„	„	„	„	789	„
3. New South Wales	„	1,776	„	„	„	„	682	„
4. South Australia	„	521	„	„	„	„	655	„
5. Tasmania	„	308	„	„	„	„	496*	„
6. Queensland	„	868	„	„	„	„	492	„
7. Western Australia	„	239	„	„	„	„	234*	„

1571. The following figures show the number of persons one policeman keeps in order and protects in each of the Australasian capitals :—

POLICE IN AUSTRALASIAN CAPITAL CITIES, 1893.

1. Adelaide	had	161	police,	or	1	to	861	persons.
2. Wellington	„	42	„	„	„	„	841*	„
3. Sydney	„	603	„	„	„	„	690	„
4. Hobart	„	50	„	„	„	„	689*	„
5. Melbourne	„	716	„	„	„	„	639	„
6. Brisbane	„	180	„	„	„	„	581	„
7. Perth	„	35	„	„	„	„	302*	„

1572. The number of criminal cases tried in the Supreme Court at the various places throughout the colony where sittings were held in 1893 was 511, of which 381 were for felony, and 130 for misdemeanours. The convictions for felony numbered 251, and for misdemeanours 81. The number of places where sittings were held was 18, the number of sittings was 59, and the total duration of sittings was 208 days.

1573. Sittings may be held at the same number of places, to try civil cases, but no causes were entered at 11 out of the 18 places in 1893. The number of causes entered for trial during the year was 344, and 2 for assessment of damages, but the number of causes tried was only 248, of which 39 were tried by juries of six, 4 by juries of twelve, and 205 by a judge alone. All of these except three were defended. The damages laid in the declarations amounted in the aggregate to £289,177. Verdicts were returned in 189 instances, and there were 3 nonsuits. Of the verdicts 136, or about 72 per cent., were for the plaintiff. The aggregate amount awarded was £82,733, or nearly 29 per cent. of the damages laid. In the ten years ended with 1892, the damages sued for in these courts amounted to £3,830,359, and the sums awarded to £427,731, or to 11 per cent. of the damages sued for.

* Figures for 1892.

Police in
Austral-
asian
capitals.

Supreme
Court
criminal
sittings.

Supreme
Court civil
sittings.

1574. Courts of General Sessions have jurisdiction in criminal cases within certain limitations, and have also appellate jurisdiction in civil cases from petty sessions. The places at which such courts were held in 1893 numbered 23, and the number of courts held 62, extending over periods amounting in the aggregate to 126 days. The number of cases tried was 284, in 233 of which, or 82 per cent., convictions were obtained. The number of appeals heard was 59. In the ten years prior to 1893, 3,436 cases were tried in Courts of General Sessions, and 2,301 convictions were obtained; thus the latter were to the former in the proportion of 67 per cent.

Courts of
General
Sessions.

1575. County Courts have jurisdiction in civil cases up to £500. The number of places at which they were held in 1893 was 51, and the number of courts held was 162, extending over 489 days. The total number of cases tried was 2,457; the amount sued for was £339,734, and the amount recovered £137,826, or only 41 per cent. of the amount sued for. The costs awarded to the plaintiffs amounted to £12,827, and the costs awarded to the defendants to £7,616. During the ten years prior to the year under review the aggregate amount sued for in County Courts was £2,796,194, and the aggregate amount awarded was £1,061,862, or 38 per cent. of the amount sued for.

County
Courts.

1576. Courts of Mines have jurisdiction concerning all questions or disputes which may arise out of mining on Crown lands. The places at which they were held in 1893 numbered 11, and the courts held numbered 31, occupying 18 days. The total number of suits was 14, and the aggregate amount or value of demand, £540. The gross amount of costs awarded to the plaintiffs was £36, and to the defendants £155. These figures do not include all mining disputes which took place during the year, as those of minor importance are adjudicated on by the wardens of the gold-fields. In the ten years prior to 1893 the value sued for in Courts of Mines amounted in the aggregate to £14,405. The business has fallen off very considerably for several years past.

Courts of
Mines.

1577. The cases of indictable offences heard at Petty Sessions during 1893 numbered 2,626, which resulted in 983 commitments for trial. Commitments were thus obtained in 37 per cent. of the cases. The offences summarily dealt with numbered 44,089, in 32,025 of which, or 73 per cent., the offender was convicted.

Courts of
Petty
Sessions:
criminal
cases.

1578. Courts of Petty Sessions have jurisdiction in ordinary civil cases, and in master and servant cases, up to £50. Such courts were held at 240 places during the year. The civil cases heard numbered 35,203, in which the total amount of debts or damages claimed was £219,322, and the total amount awarded was £178,731, or 81 per cent. of the amount claimed. In the ten years ended with 1892 the debts or damages claimed in these courts amounted in all to £1,433,694, and the sums awarded to £942,148, or to 66 per cent. of the amounts claimed.

1579. The net results of the civil cases tried in 1893 may be gathered from the following table, which shows the total amount of debts and damages sued for in the various courts, and the aggregate value of the awards, also the percentage of the latter to the former, in 1893 and the previous decennium. It will be noticed that the whole amount at stake was £848,233, and that not quite one-half was recovered :—

DEBTS AND DAMAGES CLAIMED AND AWARDED.*

Name of Court.	Amount of Debts and Damages, 1893.		Proportion of Debts and Damages Recovered.	
	Claimed.	Awarded.	1893.	Average of previous Ten Years.
	£	£	per cent.	per cent.
Supreme Court	289,177	82,733	29	11
County Courts	339,734	137,826	41	38
Courts of Petty Sessions ...	219,322	178,731	81	66
Total	848,233	399,290	47	30

1580. The number of writs issued in 1893, in the six bailiwicks into which the colony is divided, was 1,588, or 654 less than in the previous year. Of the whole number 32 were Queen's writs against both person and property, 19 were subjects' writs against the person alone, and 1,537 were subjects' writs against property alone.

1581. Places for the reception of prisoners in Victoria are of three kinds : ordinary gaols, police gaols, and a penal establishment. The ordinary gaols and the penal establishment are houses of correction. The police gaols are used for the detention of prisoners sentenced to short periods of imprisonment, or awaiting trial or transfer to some other gaol or penal establishment, or to a lunatic asylum.

* The amounts claimed and awarded, especially in the Supreme Court, are not strictly comparable, for whereas the amount claimed is set down for every case entered, whether tried or not, the amount awarded obviously only applies to cases actually tried. In the Supreme Court only about two-thirds of the cases entered are actually tried.

Courts of
Petty
Sessions:
civil cases.

Debts sued
or and
awarded.

Writs.

Gaols and
penal estab-
lishments.

1582. The gross, distinct, and average number of prisoners detained in each description of prison during 1893 will be found in the following table, males and females being distinguished :—

GAOLS AND PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS, 1893.

Description of Prison.	Number of Institutions.	Prisoners Detained during the Year.												
		Gross Number.*			Distinct Individuals.†			Daily Average.						
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.				
Gaols ...	8	7,083	2,283	9,366	} 7,292	1,518	8,810	} 763	300	1,063				
Penal Establishment ...	1	1,057	...	1,057							...	634	...	634
Police Gaols ...	6	620	48	668							527	41	568‡	22	1	23
Total ...	15	8,760	2,331	11,091	7,819	1,559	9,378	1,419	301	1,720				

1583. According to this table, the number of individual prisoners detained, during the whole or some portion of 1893, in the gaols and penal establishments of the colony was 9,378, viz., 7,819 males and 1,559 females. In the previous year, the number of distinct prisoners was 10,236, viz., 8,487 males and 1,749 females; thus showing a falling-off of 858 during the year under review, viz., a decrease of 668 in the case of the males, and of 190 in that of the female prisoners.

1584. Comparing the figures for 1893 with those showing the mean population of that year, it appears that 1 person in every 125 persons in the colony, or 1 male in every 78 males, and 1 female in every 361 females, passed some portion of the year in prison. These proportions are lower than those of the previous year, viz., 1 person in every 114, or 1 male in every 72, and 1 female in every 318. In the estimates made no account is taken of persons lodged temporarily in watch-houses, &c., pending examination before magistrates, the prisoners here referred to being only those detained in regular gaols or penal establishments.

1585. If a comparison be made between the gross number of prisoners (exclusive of transfers) and the distinct prisoners, it will be found that 84.56 per cent. of the prisoners dealt with in 1893—viz., 89.26 per cent. in the case of males, and 66.88 per cent. in the case of females—were distinct individuals. In the previous year the proportions were :—Total, 82.86 per cent. ; males, 87.07 per cent. ; females 67.11 per cent.

* Exclusive of prisoners transferred from one gaol to another. The numbers here given represent imprisonments, each person being counted afresh every time imprisoned.
 † See table following paragraph 1587 post.
 ‡ Estimated.

Proportion of
prisoners to
population.

1586. If the figures in the table showing the average number of prisoners are compared with the mean population, it follows that 1 person in every 680 persons living was constantly in prison during 1893; or, distinguishing the sexes, that, during that year, 1 male in every 428 males living, and 1 female in every 1,870 females living, were constantly in detention. By the following table, which gives the figures for the last two years, and for three previous quinquennial periods, it will be seen that the proportion of prisoners to the population was much the lowest in 1893—the only year which even approached it being 1885:—

PROPORTION OF PRISONERS TO POPULATION, 1880, 1885,
1890, 1892, AND 1893.

Year.	Of the Total Population one Person was constantly in Prison to every—		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1880	348	1,274	532
1885	466	1,357	670
1890	387	1,556	600
1892	406	1,674	637
1893	428	1,870	680

Number
of times
individuals
were in
prison.

1587. In the Inspector-General's annual reports a return appears showing the number of times each individual was imprisoned during the year. The following are the particulars for 1893* also the proportions per cent. :—

DISTINCT PRISONERS, 1893.
(Exclusive of those in Police Gaols.)

Number of Times imprisoned during year.	Distinct Prisoners, 1893.					
	Number.			Percentage.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Once	5,135	954	6,089	70·41	62·84	69·11
Twice	736	222	958	10·09	14·63	10·88
Three times	177	89	266	2·43	5·86	3·02
Four times	48	34	82	·66	2·24	·93
Five times	23	17	40	·32	1·12	·45
Six times and upwards †	16	19	35	·22	1·25	·40
Total received ...	6,135	1,335	7,470	84·13	87·94	84·79
In detention at commence- ment of year ‡	1,157	183	1,340	15·87	12·06	15·21
Grand Total ...	7,292	1,518	8,810	100·00	100·00	100·00

* See Inspector-General's Report for 1893, Parliamentary Paper No 17, Session 1894.

† Six males and eight females admitted six times; four males and six females admitted seven, four males and three females admitted eight, one male and one female nine, one male and one female ten times.

‡ Exclusive of those discharged and re-admitted during the year, who numbered 385, viz., 245 males and 140 females, they being included with the figures in the previous line.

1588. Adding the numbers at the commencement of the year to those in the first line of the table, it is found that nearly $84\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. of the distinct prisoners in 1893 were imprisoned only once during the year, and consequently $15\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. were imprisoned more than once. In the case of males, the proportions were $86\frac{1}{4}$ and $13\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; and in the case of females 75 and 25 per cent. respectively. The tendency of females to be imprisoned over and over again is greater than that of males; thus, during the year, nearly $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole number of females were imprisoned three times or upwards, and about $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. four times or upwards; whereas only about $3\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. of the males were imprisoned more than twice, and only $1\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. more than three times.

Prisoners imprisoned more than once.

1589. The following is a classification of the prisoners in confinement at the end of 1893, according to the grounds in respect to which they were detained. It will be noticed that 81, or 5 per cent., were untried; also that of those tried, nearly three-fifths of the males, but only a sixth of the females, had been convicted of felony:—

Grounds of imprisonment.

GROUND FOR DETENTION OF PRISONERS, 1893.

Grounds for Detention.	Gaols.		Police Gaols.		Penal Establishment.	Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Felony, tried ...	292	39	3	...	443	738	39	777
" untried ...	31	5	5	...	...	36	5	41
Misdemeanours, tried...	232	161	3	...	119	354	161	515
" untried	15	5	2	...	...	17	5	22
Other offences, tried ...	157	43	6	...	19	182	43	225
" untried	15	3	...	...	...	15	3	18
Total ...	742	256	19	...	581	1,342	256	1,598

1590. The total number of prisoners (exclusive of transfers) admitted, in 1893, to ordinary gaols and the penal establishment was 8,698, and of these 478 were imprisoned on charges of vagrancy, but really for medical attention, and 719 were received for shelter. There were thus 1,197 persons—of whom 691 were males and 506 females—as against 1,398 in 1892, who were admitted on account of their destitute condition, and went to swell the ranks of the prison population, instead of being otherwise provided for as objects of charity.

Destitution a cause of imprisonment.

If these destitute prisoners be deducted from the total number of admissions, the balance, viz., 7,501, as compared with 8,407 in 1892, will more correctly represent the criminal admissions during the year.*

Sickness in
prisons.

1591. The total number of distinct cases in which prisoners were absent from work during the year on account of sickness was 2,134, being in the proportion of one case to every 4·4 individual prisoners. The daily average number of prisoners incapacitated from labour by reason of sickness was 68, or 1 in every 20 of the average number constantly employed. The greatest number of cases of sickness at any one time was 135.

Deaths in
prisons.

1592. Fifty-four deaths occurred in prisons during 1892, and 51 deaths in 1893; and there was in 1893 one criminal executed. The deaths were in the proportion of 1 to every 190 in the former year, and 1 to every 173 in the latter year, of the estimated individual prisoners; or in the proportion of 1 to every 34 in each year of the daily average number of prisoners detained. The death-rate was thus higher in the year under review than in the previous one.

Prisoners
absconding.

1593. In the last eight years no permanently successful attempt to escape from prison has taken place. In 1893 no attempt was made to escape from a regular gaol, although one absconded from the police gaol; but in the previous seven years ten attempts were made to escape.

Ages of
prisoners.

1594. An abstract of the estimated mean population at various ages, of the average number of prisoners at the same age, and the proportion of the latter to the former, will be found in the following table :—

AGES OF PRISONERS, 1893.

Ages.	Estimated Mean Population, 1893.†	Average Number of Prisoners Constantly Detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
Under 20 years	519,785	119	2·29
20 to 30 "	237,818	623	26·19
30 to 40 "	166,725	409	24·53
40 to 50 "	88,738	248	27·94
50 to 60 "	79,076	165	20·86
60 years and upwards ...	78,188	156	19·95
Total	1,170,330	1,720	14·70

* See Inspector-General's Report, page 4.

† The figures here given supersede those in paragraph 85 *ante*; a serious error having been made in the summation of the detailed results.

1595. It appears from this table that, in 1893, the proportion of prisoners constantly detained to the population was greatest between the ages of 20 and 50. Of persons over 20 living in Victoria, 1 in every 379; of those between 20 and 40, 1 in every 368; of those over 40, 1 in every 397; and of those over 60, 1 in every 411, were constantly in prison throughout the year.

Proportion of prisoners at various ages.

1596. The birthplaces and religions of the prisoners constantly detained during the year, deduced from the total numbers of each nationality and religion returned as passing through the institutions, also the totals of the same nationality and religion, living in the colony, are compared in the following table :—

Birthplaces and religions of prisoners.

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PRISONERS, 1893.

Native Country and Religion.	Estimated Mean Population.	Average Number of Prisoners Constantly Detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
NATIVE COUNTRY.			
Australasian Colonies	851,009	888	10·43
England and Wales	149,758	333	22·24
Scotland	46,668	93	19·93
Ireland	78,911	261	33·08
China	7,549	20	26·49
Other Countries	36,435	125	34·31
Total	1,170,330	1,720	14·70
RELIGION.			
Protestants	865,954	1,006	11·62
Roman Catholics	257,297	667	25·92
Jews	6,679	12	17·97
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	6,914	12	17·36
Others	33,486	23	6·87

1597. It will be observed that, in view of their respective numbers in the population, natives of the Australasian Colonies contributed much less than their share to the number of inmates of prisons; but the natives of Scotland contributed 36 per cent. more, natives of England and Wales 51 per cent. more, and natives of Ireland 125 per cent. more, than their share to that number; whilst the proportion of Chinese was larger than that of any other nationality except the natives of Ireland. Also that of the religious denominations shown, Protestants contributed less, but Roman Catholics contributed 76 per cent., Jews 22 per cent., Buddhists, &c., 18 per cent. more than their share to the number of such inmates.

Relative numbers of each country and sect.

1598. According to the following figures, which show the state of education of prisoners at various periods since 1873, the proportion of

Education of prisoners.

those able to read and write has considerably increased, and the proportion of the entirely illiterate has largely diminished since 1873-80:—

EDUCATION OF PRISONERS, 1873 TO 1893.

Period.	Numbers in every 100—		
	Able to Read and Write.	Able to Read only.	Unable to Read.
1873 to 1876	64	18	18
1877 to 1880	74	8	18
1881 to 1883	83	6	11
1884 to 1886	84	6	10
1887 to 1889	86	4	10
1890 to 1892	88	3	9
1893	89	2	9

NOTE.—The present system of secular, compulsory, and free State education was inaugurated in 1873.

1599. The following cases of punishment for offences committed within the prison took place in 1893. Of these, 169 were awarded by visiting magistrates, and the balance by the governors of gaols. It will be observed that solitary confinement, which is said to be more dreaded by prisoners than any other punishment, was prescribed in about three-fourths of the cases. The “other punishments” include “separate confinement,” which is gradually taking the place of solitary confinement; but do not include whipping, as corporal punishment is not administered in Victoria for any breach of prison regulations:—

PUNISHMENTS FOR OFFENCES WITHIN PRISONS, 1893.

Nature of Punishment.	Gaols.			Penal Establish-ment.	Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Hard labour	5	...	5	11	16	...	16
Solitary confinement ...	556	76	632	548	1,104	76	1,180
Other punishments ...	188	103	291	197	385	103	488
Total	749	179	928	756	1,505	179	1,684

1600. The punishments for offences within the prison, as detailed in the last table, were in the proportion of 1 to every $5\frac{1}{2}$ individual prisoners, 1 punishment of a male to every 5 individual male prisoners, 1 punishment of a female to every 8 individual female prisoners. According to the daily average number of prisoners, there was not quite 1 punishment to every prisoner, or 1 punishment of a male to every .9 males, and 1 punishment of a female to every 1.7 females.

Gaol punish-ments.

Proportion of prisoners punished.

1601. A statement of the occupations of inmates of gaols and penal establishment was obtained at the census of 1891. The following is a condensation of the particulars then returned* :—

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS OF PRISONERS, 1891.

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
Servants	53	221
Traders, merchants, shopkeepers, clerks	227	1
Sailors, and others connected with shipping	61	...
Painters, glaziers, plumbers	39	...
Tailors, bootmakers, shoemakers, dressmakers, milliners	84	26
Blacksmiths, whitesmiths, ironfounders	41	...
Carpenters, joiners, turners, furniture makers, &c.	46	...
Navvies, excavators	174	...
Labourers, undefined	460	1
Squatters, farmers, gardeners, shearers, &c.	51	1
Miners	26	...
All others	212	52
Total	1,474	302

1602. In the following statement of the cost† and earnings of prisoners in detention during the year 1893, the value of prison labour —so far as it was utilized for prison requirements—is added to the cost, as well as accounted for in the earnings of the prisoners :—

COST OF PRISONERS.†

Salaries, wages, and contingencies	£57,863‡
Value of prison labour utilized on gaol buildings or in making up clothing, materials, implements, and other gaol requirements	37,964
Total cost	£95,827

EARNINGS OF PRISONERS.

Work for other Departments, municipalities, &c.—Paid for in cash	£7,344
Value of work in connexion with prison buildings, &c. ...	9,788
„ articles manufactured for gaol purposes	6,702
„ work for other gaol purposes	21,474
Total earnings	£45,308

1603. The gross cost of prisoners in 1893 (£95,827) was in the proportion of £56 9s. 4d. per head of the average number of prisoners detained (1,697). The difference between the gross cost and the earnings of prisoners, *i.e.*, the net cost, was £50,519, or £29 15s. 5d. per head. The earnings of the prisoners in the year (£45,308) amounted

* For more detailed particulars see issue of this work for 1893, Vol. II., paragraphs 667 and 668.

† Including the cost of the head office, but exclusive of any allowance for cost of prisoners in Police Gaols, for interest on the cost of gaol buildings, or for such repairs to gaol buildings as were effected by the Public Works Department.

‡ Of which about one-third was for contingencies.

to £32 15s. 2d. per head of the average number of prisoners employed (viz., 1,383) which is equivalent to 2s. 2d. per head per diem for the 307 working days the year contained.

Prisoners in
Victoria and
New South
Wales.

1604. By the following comparative statement of the number of prisoners detained in the gaols and penal establishments of Victoria and New South Wales at the end of each of the five years ended with 1893, it appears that in proportion to population the average number of prisoners in the mother colony exceeds that in Victoria by 49 per cent. :—

PRISONERS IN VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES, 31ST DECEMBER,
1889 TO 1893.

Year.	Number of Prisoners.		Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.	
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	New South Wales.
1889	1,820	2,370	16·49	21·91
1890	1,887	2,425	16·65	21·62
1891	1,810	2,616	15·64	22·45
1892	1,746	2,622	14·96	21·90
1893	1,598	2,440	13·61	19·94
Means	1,772	2,495	15·47	21·56

Expenditure
on police,
gaols, &c.

1605. In the 29½ years ended with 1893-4, the total amount expended in connexion with the police and penal establishments and gaols of Victoria was £8,131,341, viz., £6,355,999 on the former and £1,775,342 on the latter.* The following table shows the amounts and the amounts per head expended in connexion with the police and the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria during each of the five years ended with 1893-4. The cost of buildings is not included :—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE, GAOLS, ETC., 1889-90 TO 1893-4.

Year.	Amount expended † on—			Amount per Head of Population.
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Total.	
1889-90	£ 265,149	£ 71,146	£ 336,295	s. 6 d. 1
1890-91	284,097	71,429	355,526	6 3
1891-2	283,409	65,679	349,088	6 0
1892-3	271,162	59,336	330,498	5 8
1893-4	254,864	54,472	309,336	5 3

* For figures for earlier years, see paragraph 672 in issue of this work for 1893, Vol. II.

† Exclusive of the cost of buildings, which in 1889-90 amounted to £51,558, in 1890-91 to £43,891, in 1891-2 to £42,432, in 1892-3 to £20,675, and in 1893-4 to £25,118.

1606. By the figures in the last column it will be observed that the police and gaols expenditure fell from 6s. 3d. per head in 1890-91 to about 5s. 3d. in 1893-4, the latest year shown. Expenditure
per head.

1607. The inquests held in 1893 numbered 1,626, as against 1,470 in 1892. In 908 instances the death was found to have resulted from disease or natural causes; in 6 cases from intemperance; in 705 cases from violence; in 2 cases from doubtful causes; and in 5 cases a verdict of "still-born" was returned. Of the deaths set down to violence, the verdict in 453 cases was to the effect that the death had resulted from accident; in 31 from homicide; in 133 from suicide; in 1 from execution; and in 87 that the cause of the violent death was doubtful. In 1893 the proportion which verdicts of death from causes other than violence (*i.e.*, "disease or natural causes" and intemperance) bore to the total number of specified verdicts given was 56 per cent., as compared with an average of 51 per cent. during the five years 1888 to 1892, and of 55 per cent. in the seven years 1881 to 1887. Inquests in cases of death occurring under suspicious circumstances are held at the discretion of the coroner of the district within which the death takes place, subject to instructions issued by the Governor in Council under the 4th section of the *Coroners Act* 1890 (54 Vict. No. 1077). Inquests.

1608. No fire inquests were held in 1893, as against 8 in 1892, 6 in 1891, 2 in 1890, 6 in 1889, none in 1888, 5 in 1887, 4 in 1886, and 9 in both 1885 and 1884. Under the *Coroners Act* 1890 (54 Vict. No. 1077), fire inquests may be held at the request of any individual who lodges with his application a fee of £5 5s., or in pursuance of Ministerial authority, which is only given when circumstances appear sufficiently suspicious to warrant action being taken. Fire
inquests.
