

## PART VII.—LAW, CRIME, ETC.

626. The system whereby persons acquiring possession of land, Transfer of Land Statute. 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.\*

627. All lands alienated from the Crown since the introduction Lands under the Statute. 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.

628. 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 one half-penny in the pound of the value of all lands which become subject to its operation. The balance to the credit of this fund on the 30th June, 1888, was £54,840,† of which £34,823 had been invested in Government stock. Thirteen claims upon the fund, of which two—for £83 and £24 respectively—were satisfied in 1887-8, have been substantiated since its first formation, and sums amounting in the aggregate to £3,555 have been paid to claimants. Assurance fund.

629. In 1888, as compared with 1887, an increase took place in the number of applications to bring the land under the *Transfer of Land Statute* (29 Vict. No. 301) and in the extent and value of land brought thereunder. On the other hand, a moderate increase took place in the number of transfers, mortgages, leases, etc., and of miscellaneous transactions, but a slight decrease in the number of certificates of title issued and in the fees received. The following were the transactions in the two years :— Transactions under the Land Statute, 1887 and 1888.

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

† During the last three years 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.

TRANSFER OF LAND STATUTE, 1887 AND 1888.

				1887.	1888.
Applications to bring land under the Act	... number			1,199	1,863
Extent of land included	... acres			71,368	72,647
Land brought under the Statute—					
By application	... acres			72,806	47,248
"	... value			£1,732,860	£3,336,978
By grant and purchase from the Crown	... acres			364,392	439,968
"	... purchase money			£442,095	£644,112
Certificates of title issued	... number			15,013	21,539†
Transfers, mortgages, leases, releases, surrenders, etc.	"			41,310	57,850
Registering proprietors	"			37	11
Other transactions*	"			42,889	63,278
Forms and extras	"			429	655
Fees received	... value			£46,025	£70,213

Proportion of land under the Statute.

630. The total quantity of land under the *Transfer of Land Statute* at the end of 1888 was 12,078,163 acres, the declared value of which, at the time it was placed under the Act, was £39,659,347. The land granted and sold up to the end of 1888 was 15,584,079 acres. It, therefore, follows that at that period rather more than three-fourths of the alienated land in the colony was subject to the provisions of this Statute.

Land under Act by application and otherwise.

631. Of the whole extent of land under the Statute, 1,263,899 acres, valued at about 25¼ millions sterling, were brought thereunder by application, and the remainder, amounting to 10,814,264 acres, valued at about 13¾ millions sterling, came under its provisions by virtue of its having been purchased from or granted by the Crown since the Act was passed.‡

Transactions in Equity.

632. Since the passing of the *Judicature Act* 1883 (47 Vict. No. 791), which, with certain exceptions, came into operation on the 1st July, 1884, the business in Equity has fallen off materially, as will be seen by the following figures:—

TRANSACTIONS IN EQUITY, 1883 TO 1888.

Number of—	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
Suits by bill	81	38	1	2	...	...
Petitions filed	15	8	5	1	...	...
Commissions issued	4	4	...	...	...	...
Decrees issued	38	37	14	3	4	...
Orders issued	132	106	71	51	22	24
Reports issued	20	20	10	9	7	6
Recognizances entered into	5	2	...	...	...	...
Rolls filed	40	29	2	1	...	...

\* Not including copies of documents supplied.  
† Including 3,456 to Friendly Societies.  
‡ See paragraph 627 ante.

633. In 1888, as compared with 1887, there was a falling-off of 3 per cent. in the number of probates and letters of administration issued, but an increase of 37 per cent. in the value of property bequeathed. The average value of each estate in 1887 was £2,215, and in 1888, £3,087. The following are the figures for those years :—

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1887 AND 1888.

Year.	Probates.		Letters of Administration.*		Both.	
	Number.	Property sworn under—	Number.	Property sworn under—	Number.	Property sworn under—
		£		£		£
1887 ...	1,450	4,373,035	898	828,095	2,348	5,201,130
1888 ...	1,400	6,006,984	876	1,020,000	2,276	7,026,984
Increase	...	1,633,949	...	191,905	...	1,825,854
Decrease	50	...	22	...	72	...

Probates and letters of administration.

634. During the twenty-four years ended with 1888, the value of the property respecting which probates and letters of administration were issued amounted to fully sixty-four and three-quarter millions sterling (£64,800,512). During the same period the total number of deaths in the colony was 302,222, so that the average value of property left by each person who died was £214. The average value in 1886 was £303; in 1887, £325; and in 1888, £431; or £339 in the triennial period.†

Value of property left at death.

635. According to the present law,‡ duties are levied in Victoria on the net value of real and personal estates of deceased persons within the colony upon the following scale (half duty only being paid by widows, children, or grandchildren) :—

Scale of probate, etc., duties.

SCALE OF DUTIES ON ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS.§

Estates of less than	£1,000 in value	...	1 per cent.
"	£1,000 to £5,000	"	2 "
"	£5,000 to £10,000	"	3 "
"	£10,000 to £20,000	"	4 "
"	£20,000 to £30,000	"	5 "
"	£30,000 to £40,000	"	6 "
"	£40,000 to £60,000	"	7 "
"	£60,000 to £80,000	"	8 "
"	£80,000 to £100,000	"	9 "
"	£100,000 and upwards	"	10 "

\* Including those granted to the Curator of Intestate Estates.

† See latter portion of Part "Accumulation," Vol. I.

‡ The Acts relating to estates of deceased persons are 34 Vict. No. 338, 35 Vict. No. 403, 36 Vict. No. 427, and 39 Vict. No. 523.

§ Whilst these pages were passing through the press, the law relating to estates of deceased persons was altered by the *Duties on Estates Amendment Act* 1889 (53 Vict. No. 1,053), the effect being to exempt estates of the net value of £1,000 and under from the payment of succession duty, and to exempt estates of the net value of less than £5,000 from the payment of succession duty upon £1,000 of such net value.

Amount of  
probate, etc.,  
duties.

636. The amount realised by the State in 1888 from duties on estates of deceased persons was more than in 1887 by £68,232, more than in 1886 by £90,021, and very much more than in any previous year. The amounts fluctuate considerably from year to year, as will be observed by the following figures for the last eighteen years:—

DUTIES ON ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS, 1871 TO 1888.

		£			£
1871	...	17,069	1880	...	48,697
1872	...	37,643	1881	...	78,914
1873	...	39,026	1882	...	78,547
1874	...	67,998	1883	...	96,427
1875	...	50,057	1884	...	125,697
1876	...	33,638	1885	...	85,979
1877	...	82,201	1886	...	129,479
1878	...	45,470	1887	...	151,268
1879	...	47,607	1888	...	219,500

Intestate  
estates.

637. The new intestate estates dealt with by the Curator in 1887 numbered 310; those in 1888 numbered 301. The estimated value of such estates amounted to £53,093 in the former and to £58,144 in the latter year.\* The sums received by the Curator on these estates and on others remaining from former years were £68,476 in 1887 and £53,031 in 1888. In the eighteen years ended with 1888, the number of intestate estates dealt with was 4,189, and their estimated value £764,174. The amount received by the Curator in respect to these estates during the eighteen years was £786,740.

Divorce and  
matrimonial.

638. Under the head of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes there were 28 decrees for dissolution of marriage in 1888 as against 18 in 1887. One decree for judicial separation was pronounced in 1888, and five such decrees in 1887. The following was the business done in the two years:—

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL, 1887 AND 1888.

		1887.	1888.
Petitions for dissolution of marriage	... number	27	38
„ judicial separation	... „	7	4
„ alimony	... „	6	—
Decrees for dissolution of marriage	... „	18	28
„ judicial separation	... „	5	1
„ alimony	... „	3	1

Divorces in  
twenty-  
seven years.

639. 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, 270 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 49 decrees for judicial separation have been made.

\* These numbers and values are included in those given in the table following paragraph 633 ante.

640. As the marriages in 1888 numbered 8,946, the petitions for dissolution of marriage were in the proportion of 1 to every 235 marriages, and the decrees for dissolution of marriage were in the proportion of 1 to every 319 marriages. In the 17 years ended with 1887, the marriages numbered 98,878, the petitions for dissolution of marriage numbered 379, and the decrees for dissolution of marriage numbered 182. Thus, during the 17 years referred to, there was 1 petition to dissolve marriage to every 260 marriages celebrated, and 1 marriage was dissolved to every 543 marriages celebrated.

Proportion  
of divorces  
to mar-  
riages.

641. In proportion to the number of marriages, the petitions for dissolution of marriage are about twice as numerous in Victoria as in England and Wales, the annual average per 1,000 marriages over a series of years being 3·79 in the former and 1·88 in the latter. The decrees for the dissolution of marriage are also, in proportion to the number of marriages, much more numerous in Victoria, the number per 10,000 being 18·21 as against 9·5 in England and Wales. The proportion of decrees to petitions is, however, somewhat higher in England and Wales than in Victoria, being 50 per cent. in the former, but not quite 48 per cent. in the latter.

Divorces in  
Victoria  
and Eng-  
land.

642. The divorce law of France dates from the latter part of 1884. In the three years ended with 1887 there were 10,863 divorces, the marriages in the same three years being 44,434. There was thus 1 divorce to about 77 marriages. In some of the American States the proportions are much higher. It is stated that in Rhode Island 1 divorce takes place to every 12 marriages; in Massachusetts 1 to every 21 marriages; and in Ohio 1 to every 26 marriages; whilst in the city of San Francisco, during the 21 years ended with 1887, there was 1 divorce to every 10 marriages, and in the last eight years of that period there was 1 to every 6 marriages.

Divorces in  
France and  
the United  
States.

643. The fees in Equity amounted in the aggregate to £150 in 1887, and to £136 in 1888; those on Probates amounted to £1,870 in 1887, and to £1,901 in 1888; those in divorce amounted to £89 in 1887, and to £84 in 1888. The total amount of these fees was thus £2,109 in 1887, and £2,121 in 1888.

Fees in  
Equity, etc.

644. The moneys collected and appropriated in the department of the Master-in-Lunacy, on behalf of patients (including "percentage" and fees) increased from £27,500 in 1887, to £31,363 in 1888. It may be mentioned that the total expenditure in 1887-8 on Hospitals for the Insane was £101,994, so that, after allowing for moneys collected from private sources, the net cost to the State on account of lunatic patients in that year was about £70,600.

Collections  
in Lunacy.

Insolven-  
cies.

645. In the twenty-one years ended with 1888, 14,658 insolvencies took place in Victoria, with liabilities amounting to nearly 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> millions sterling, as against which assets were declared amounting to nearly 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> millions sterling. The following is a statement of the number of insolvencies in each year, also of the declared liabilities and assets of the estates, and of the amounts by which the latter were exceeded by the former :—

INSOLVENCIES, 1868 TO 1888.

Year.	Number of Insolvencies.	As shown by the Insolvents' Schedules.		
		Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
		£	£	£
1868 ... ..	863	617,764	167,226	450,538
1869 ... ..	818	653,614	194,251	459,363
1870 ... ..	996	479,491	150,170	329,321
1871 ... ..	631	444,117	217,841	226,276
1872 ... ..	804	696,868	222,770	474,098
1873 ... ..	672	330,337	188,351	141,986
1874 ... ..	776	543,157	269,130	274,027
1875 ... ..	773	641,390	389,330	252,060
1876 ... ..	712	551,814	280,962	270,852
1877 ... ..	715	462,651	272,720	189,931
1878 ... ..	781	677,364	408,677	268,687
1879 ... ..	1,007	1,655,485	1,204,051	451,434
1880 ... ..	768	526,130	298,384	227,746
1881 ... ..	620	303,892	161,386	142,506
1882 ... ..	500	536,194	311,186	225,008
1883 ... ..	603	782,116	423,528	358,588
1884 ... ..	495	479,700	264,686	215,014
1885 ... ..	467	591,957	282,502	309,455
1886 ... ..	559	830,176	570,867	259,309
1887 ... ..	619	563,894	1,009,385	+ 445,491*
1888 ... ..	479	347,658	185,871	161,787
Total ... ..	14,658	12,715,769	7,473,274	5,242,495†

Proportion  
of liabilities  
to assets.

646. The proportion of the assets to the liabilities, as shown by the insolvents' schedules, fluctuates considerably from year to year. In the year under review, the former amounted to 53 per cent. of the latter ; but, strange to say, in the previous year, the declared assets exceeded the declared liabilities by £445,491, or 79 per cent.† In the whole period of twenty-one years, the declared assets were in the proportion of about 59 per cent. to the declared liabilities.

\* Surplus.  
† The surplus shown by the returns of 1887 resulted from the fact that the declared assets of that year were largely made up of a debt of £570,597 set down as due by the Crown to the estate of Mr. W. R. Merry. Had this not been included, the declared assets, as compared with the declared liabilities, would have shown an apparent deficiency of £125,106.

† Net figures.

647. It will be observed that in 1888 insolvencies were less numerous by 140 than in 1887, and were also fewer than in any of the other years named, except 1885; the declared liabilities were less by £216,236 than in 1887, whilst the declared assets were less by £823,514 than those in that year. Comparing the year under review with 1879, when insolvencies were at their maximum, the number has fallen off by 53 per cent., and the apparent deficiency as shown by the insolvents' schedules by 64 per cent.

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

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1887 AND 1888.

Occupations.	1887.	1888.
<b>GOVERNMENT, PROFESSIONS, ARTS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE—</b>		
Artist ... ..	...	1
Chemist ... ..	2	1
Civil servant ... ..	2	1
Comedian ... ..	1	2
Dentist ... ..	1	...
Journalist ... ..	2	1
Musician ... ..	...	2
News agent ... ..	1	...
Photographer ... ..	1	1
Printer ... ..	1	1
Schoolmaster, teacher ... ..	1	3
Solicitor ... ..	1	...
Theatrical manager ... ..	1	2
<b>BOARD AND LODGING, DOMESTIC DUTIES, ATTENDANCE—</b>		
Billiard-room keeper ... ..	1	...
Boarding-house keeper ... ..	11	12
Caterer ... ..	1	...
Coffee-stall keeper ... ..	1	...
Hotel-broker ... ..	2	...
Hotel-keeper ... ..	21	17
Married woman ... ..	5	1
Odd Job Help Company ... ..	1	...
Public Entertainer ... ..	1	...
Restaurant-keeper ... ..	2	2
Servants' registry office keeper ... ..	1	...
Spinster ... ..	1	...
Widow ... ..	6	1
<b>COMMERCIAL PURSUITS—</b>		
Accountant ... ..	1	4
Agent, commission agent... ..	16	10
Auctioneer ... ..	1	...
Bellman ... ..	...	1
Bookkeeper, clerk ... ..	11	3
Commercial traveller, canvasser ... ..	5	2
Dealer (undefined) ... ..	10	3

Insolvencies, 1888 and previous years.

Occupations of insolvents.

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1887 AND 1888—*continued.*

Occupations.	1887.	1888.
<b>COMMERCIAL PURSUITS—<i>continued</i>—</b>		
Debt collector ... ..	1	...
Financier ... ..	1	...
Hawker ... ..	4	1
Merchant ... ..	3	4
Salesman ... ..	2	...
Sewing machine importer ... ..	1	...
Storekeeper (undefined) ... ..	12	13
Warehouseman ... ..	1	...
<b>CARRIERS—</b>		
Bullock driver ... ..	1	1
Cabman ... ..	3	4
Carrier, carter ... ..	10	12
Mariner ... ..	1	...
Omnibus driver... ..	1	1
Railway employé ... ..	1	...
Station-master ... ..	1	..
Stoker ... ..	...	2
<b>AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS AND LAND—</b>		
Farmer, selector ... ..	53	62
Freeholder ... ..	1	...
Gardener ... ..	5	2
Nurseryman ... ..	...	1
Surveyor ... ..	1	1
Vine-grower ... ..	...	1
<b>PASTORAL PURSUITS AND ANIMALS—</b>		
Boundary rider... ..	1	...
Cattle dealer ... ..	1	2
Fisherman ... ..	...	1
Grazier ... ..	14	6
Groom ... ..	1	...
Horse proprietor, dealer, trainer ... ..	2	2
Livery stable keeper ... ..	1	1
Rabbit trapper ... ..	1	...
Stock and station agent ... ..	1	1
<b>ARTIZANS, MECHANICS, LABOURERS—</b>		
Bellows-maker ... ..	...	1
Bricklayer ... ..	4	3
Builder, contractor ... ..	55	45
Carpenter ... ..	14	12
Coachbuilder ... ..	8	1
Cooper ... ..	1	1
Dyer ... ..	1	...
Engraver ... ..	1	1
Fancy goods maker ... ..	1	...
Fire-kindler maker ... ..	1	...
Furniture-maker, dealer, warehouseman ... ..	3	1
Labourer (undefined) ... ..	75	57
Manufacturer (undefined) ... ..	...	1
Mason ... ..	1	1



OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1887 AND 1888—*continued*.

Occupations.						1887.	1888.
<b>ARTIZANS, MECHANICS, LABOURERS—<i>continued</i>—</b>							
Monumental Mason	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Painter	...	...	...	...	...	6	3
Plasterer	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
Plumber	...	...	...	...	...	7	3
Saddler	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Shipwright	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Slater	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Turner	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Upholsterer	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Venetian-blind maker	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Watchmaker, jeweller	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
Wheelwright	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
<b>DRESS—</b>							
Boot—Shoe-maker, dealer	...	...	...	...	...	21	14
Draper—Assistant to ditto	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
Dressmaker	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Hairdresser	...	...	...	...	...	3	7
Hatter	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Laundress	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Seamstress	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shirt-maker	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tailor	...	...	...	...	...	6	3
<b>FIBROUS MATERIALS—</b>							
Flock manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Tent-maker	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<b>ANIMAL FOOD—</b>							
Butcher	...	...	...	...	...	18	13
Fishmonger	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Ham and beef-shop keeper	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Milk-seller	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Poulterer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<b>VEGETABLE FOOD—</b>							
Baker...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
Confectioner	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Fruiterer	...	...	...	...	...	6	8
Miller...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
<b>DRINKS AND STIMULANTS—</b>							
Aërated water, cordial manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Brewer	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Grocer	...	...	...	...	...	12	7
Tea-packer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tobacconist	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
<b>ANIMAL MATTERS—</b>							
Currier	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Leather merchant	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Tanner	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Wool-presser	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

## OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS, 1887 AND 1888—continued.

Occupations.	1887.	1888.
<b>VEGETABLE MATTERS—</b>		
Chaff-cutter ... ..	1	...
French polisher ... ..	...	1
Hay, corn, and produce dealer ... ..	6	3
Saw-mill owner, sawyer ... ..	7	3
Stationer—Assistant to ditto ... ..	2	...
Timber merchant ... ..	2	...
Wood, coal merchant ... ..	3	3
Wood-splitter ... ..	...	5
<b>MINING, ENGAGED IN—</b>		
Miner ... ..	22	20
Mining manager ... ..	1	1
Mining speculator ... ..	2	1
Quartz-crusher ... ..	...	1
Stamper feeder ... ..	1	...
<b>STONE, CLAY, ETC.—</b>		
Brickmaker ... ..	2	5
Chimney-sweeper ... ..	...	1
Nightman ... ..	1	...
Quarryman ... ..	1	...
Tile-maker ... ..	1	...
<b>MINERALS AND METALS—</b>		
Blacksmith ... ..	5	10
Boilermaker ... ..	1	...
Engine driver (undefined) ... ..	3	3
Engineer ... ..	1	4
Ironfounder, dresser ... ..	1	1
Ironmonger ... ..	2	...
Machinery Merchant ... ..	1	...
Pyrites works, owner of ... ..	2	...
<b>INDEFINITE AND NON-PRODUCTIVE—</b>		
Gentleman ... ..	3	3
Gentlewoman ... ..	1	...
Out of business ... ..	14	12
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>619</b>	<b>479</b>

Occupations  
with most  
insol-  
vencies.

649. It will be noticed that the occupations which contributed most largely to the list of insolvents in the two years were those of labourers, numbering 132; farmers or selectors, 115; builders and contractors, 100; miners, 42; hotelkeepers, 38; boot and shoe makers, 35; butchers, 31; carpenters and commission agents, each 26; storekeepers, 25; boarding-house keepers, 23; and graziers 20. Of the last-named, however, 14, or 70 per cent., became insolvent in the first and only 6 in the second of the years named.

650. In the last six years insolvencies have been much more numerous in New South Wales than in Victoria; and in 1886 and 1887 they were even more numerous than in the worst year (1879) named in the table following paragraph 645 ante. In 1883, the liabilities, as shown by the insolvents' schedules, were higher in Victoria than in New South Wales, but in the last five years the liabilities similarly shown were much higher in New South Wales than in Victoria. The following are the figures for New South Wales:—

Insolventcies  
in New  
South  
Wales.

INSOLVENCIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES, 1883 TO 1888.

Year.	Number of Insolvencies.	As shown by the Insolvents' Schedules.		
		Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
		£	£	£
1883 ... ..	785	444,594	245,836	198,758
1884 ... ..	918	836,165	580,195	255,970
1885 ... ..	929	773,212	589,359	183,853
1886 ... ..	1,221	989,262	733,127	256,135
1887 ... ..	1,351	1,081,726	788,941	292,785
1889 ... ..	851	659,307	459,677	199,630

651. According to statistics issued by Mr. Richard Seyd, F.G.S.,\* the following are the number of failures in the United Kingdom during the nine years ended with 1887:—

Failures in  
United  
Kingdom.

FAILURES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1879-1887.

Year.	Number of Failures.		
	In Wholesale Trades.†	In Retail Trades.‡	Total.
1879 ... ..	2,546	14,091	16,637
1880 ... ..	1,478	11,669	13,147
1881 ... ..	1,325	10,680	12,005
1882 ... ..	1,314	9,705	11,019
1883 ... ..	1,361	9,238	10,599
1884 ... ..	607	3,787	4,394
1885 ... ..	586	4,503	5,089
1886 ... ..	533	5,181	5,714
1887 ... ..	619	5,233	5,852
Total ... ..	10,369	74,087	84,456

\* See Annual Supplement to *The Statist*, 11th February, 1888, page 14.  
† Embraces the "financial, wholesale, and manufacturing branches of trade."  
‡ Consisting of "retail traders, professional men, builders, publicans, the working classes, etc."

Insolvencies  
in England  
and  
Victoria  
compared.

652. It will be noticed that by far the largest number of failures occurred in 1879, but since then a considerable falling-off has taken place in each year, but most especially in the last four years, when the numbers were fewer by about 50 per cent. than that in any of the five preceding years. This experience was very similar to that recorded in Victoria, for during the last twenty years the maximum number of insolvencies occurred in 1879; and in 1884 and 1885, notwithstanding the increase of population, the numbers were absolutely the lowest in the last twenty years.

Registrar-  
General.

653. 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 1888, as compared with 1887, there was a considerable increase in the number of transactions and in the fees received under most of these heads, the chief increase being under the *Companies Statute*. The following are the returns for the two years:—

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TRANSACTIONS AND FEES, 1887 AND 1888.

Nature of Transaction.	Transactions.		Fees.	
	1887.	1888.	1887.	1888.
			£	£
Registry ... ..	18,976	21,044	5,459	6,836
<i>Companies Statute</i> ... ..	14,492	36,149	3,165	10,096
Bills and contracts of sale ... ..	7,140	6,392	357	319
Births, deaths, and marriages certificates ... ..	4,326	4,297	1,072	1,065
Patents ... ..	1,249	883	1,374	1,891
Copyrights ... ..	585	617	88	88
Trade-marks ... ..	806	506	369	413
Searches in connexion with the above ... ..	22,829	26,252	1,836	1,818
Miscellaneous fees ... ..	...	...	7	56
Total ... ..	70,403	96,140	13,727	22,582

Offences re-  
ported.

654. The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during 1887 and 1888 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.\* An increase of 3,090 occurred in the

\* 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.

number of offences classed under the second and third heads, but a falling-off of 1,596 in the summons cases; the net increase during the year being 1,494 offences, or about 3 per cent.:—

### OFFENCES REPORTED, 1887 AND 1888.

Offences in respect to which—	1887.	1888.	Increase.
1. Persons were brought before magistrates on summons	24,563	22,967	- 1,596†
2. „ „ apprehended by the police	34,473	37,309	2,836
3. The offenders were still at large* ...	6,220	6,474	254
Total ... ..	65,256	66,750	1,494‡

655. Thirty-eight 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. These 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*, etc. Comparing 1888 with 1887, a decrease is shown under all the heads. The following are the figures for the two years:—

### OFFENCES DEALT WITH BY SUMMONS, 1887 AND 1888.§

—	1887.	1888.	Decrease.
Offences against the person ... ..	1,500	1,216	284
„ „ property ... ..	535	463	72
Minor offences ... ..	22,528	21,288	1,240
Total ... ..	24,563	22,967	1,596
Cases dismissed by magistrates ... ..	6,590	5,220	1,370
Offender summarily convicted or held to bail...	17,973	17,747	226

\* 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.

† The minus (—) sign indicates decrease.

‡ Net figures.

§ 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.

|| Figures amended since last publication.

Charges  
counted as  
persons.

656. Very full details are given of the offences which gave occasion for the apprehensions made by the police; but, in making up the returns, a person arrested more than once during the year, or arrested at one time on several charges, is counted as a separate individual in respect to each arrest or charge, and this, except where the contrary is stated, must be borne in mind by those consulting the following paragraphs and tables.\*

Arrests, 1887  
and 1888.

657. The persons† who were taken in charge by the Victorian police in 1888 numbered 37,309, as against 34,473 in 1887. The increase in one year was thus 2,836, or at the rate of 8 per cent.

Arrests,  
1878, 1883,  
and 1888.

658. The arrests in 1888, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennia, were as follow :—

PERSONS‡ ARRESTED, 1878, 1883, AND 1888.§

Number of Persons.	1878.	1883.	1888.
Taken into custody ... ..	25,544	27,074	37,309
Discharged by magistrates ...	7,448	8,713	13,129
Summarily convicted or held to bail	17,438	17,755	23,307
Committed for trial ... ..	658	606	873

Arrests:  
proportion  
to popula-  
tion.

659. At the last period, it will be observed, arrests were much more numerous than at either of the two previous periods. This is also the case, if the numbers of the population be taken into account, but the arrests in proportion to population were more numerous at the first than at the middle period. The estimated average population in 1878 was 821,466; in 1883, 910,982; and in 1888, 1,062,050. The arrests were, therefore, in the proportion of 1 to every 32 persons living at the first period, 1 to every 34 persons living at the second period, and 1 to every 28 persons living at the third period.

Proportion  
of times  
charge was  
sustained.

660. The persons summarily convicted, held to bail, or committed for trial, were, to the whole number arrested, in the proportion of 71 per cent. at the first period, 68 per cent. at the second period, and of 65 per cent. at the third period.

\* For 1884, a table was compiled showing the number of charges on which each individual was arrested. See paragraph 684 *et seq. post.*

† See preceding paragraph.

‡ See paragraph 656 *ante.*

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

661. There has been a slight increase in the prevalence of serious offences since 1883, but a considerable falling-off since 1878; this may be ascertained by comparing the commitments for trial with the total arrests at the three periods. These were in the proportion of 1 to every 39 arrests at the first period, of 1 to every 45 arrests at the middle period, and of 1 to every 43 arrests at the third period. Serious offences.

662. The sexes of the persons arrested, and of such of them as were discharged by magistrates, summarily dealt with, or sent for trial, were as follow at the same three periods:— Males and females arrested.

MALES AND FEMALES\* ARRESTED, 1878, 1883, AND 1888.

	1878.		1883.		1888.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Taken into custody ... ..	19,714	5,830	21,276	5,798	31,219	6,090
Discharged by magistrates ...	5,684	1,764	6,762	1,951	11,063	2,066
Summarily convicted or held to bail	13,442	3,996	13,961	3,794	19,360	3,947
Committed for trial ... ..	588	70	553	53	796	77

663. 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 71 per cent. and 70 per cent. in 1878; of 68 per cent. and 66 per cent. in 1883; and of 65 per cent. and 66 per cent. in 1888. Cases in which charge was sustained.

664. The next table shows the relative proportions 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, 1878, 1883, AND 1888.

	Number of Females to 100 Males.		
	1878.	1883.	1888.
Taken into custody ... ..	29·57	27·25	19·51
Discharged by magistrates ... ..	31·03	28·85	18·67
Summarily convicted or held to bail...	29·73	27·18	20·39
Committed for trial ... ..	11·90	9·58	9·67

\* See paragraph 656 ante.

Relative proportions of male and female criminals at three periods.

665. It will be observed that, relatively to the males taken into custody or summarily convicted, the proportion of females similarly dealt with was at the last period much lower than at either of the former periods; but the proportion of females committed for trial was a fraction larger at the last than at the middle period. 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; at the first period the females in the colony were in the proportion of 86, and at the second of 90, and at the third period of about 88, to every 100 males.

Causes of arrest.

666. A condensed statement of the offences for which arrests were made in the same three years, together with the numbers arrested for each offence, will be found in the following table:—

CAUSES OF ARREST, 1878, 1883, AND 1888.

Offence.	1878.	1883.	1888.
Murder and attempt at murder ... ..	21	18	34
Manslaughter ... ..	15	20	23
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	73	56	77
Assault ... ..	1,636	1,816	2,280
Rape and indecent assault on females ... ..	54	52	58
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit	2	8	21
Minor offences against the person ... ..	114	113	129
Robbery with violence, burglary, etc. ... ..	187	262	352
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, etc. ... ..	173	158	167
Other offences against property ... ..	3,622	3,030	3,912
Forgery and offences against the currency ... ..	122	59	124
Drunkenness ... ..	11,825	12,408	18,526
Other offences against good order ... ..	5,978	7,417	9,922
Offences relating to carrying out laws ... ..	308	169	276
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	68	63	121
Offences against public welfare ... ..	1,346	1,425	1,287
Total ... ..	25,544	27,074	37,309

Offences at last period.

667. The causes in respect to which more arrests were made at the last period than at either of the former ones were murder and attempts to murder, manslaughter, shooting at or wounding with intent, assaults, rape and indecent assaults on females, unnatural offences, minor offences against the person, robbery with violence or burglary, miscellaneous offences against property, forgery, drunkenness, and other offences against good order; and smuggling and other offences against the revenue. But, for horse, sheep, and cattle



stealing, and offences relating to carrying out laws, there were fewer arrests at the last than at the first period, and for offences against public welfare than at either of the former periods. The most marked increase in 1888, as compared with previous periods, has occurred in the arrests for robbery and burglary, and for drunkenness, the former in that year being nearly twice as numerous and the latter half as numerous again as in 1883.

668. The number of arrests for 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, there would have been taken into custody for drunkenness :—

In 1874, one person in every 71 living in Victoria.					
" 1875,	"	"	68	"	"
" 1876,	"	"	69	"	"
" 1877,	"	"	65	"	"
" 1878,	"	"	69	"	"
" 1879,	"	"	77	"	"
" 1880,	"	"	85	"	"
" 1881,	"	"	79	"	"
" 1882,	"	"	76	"	"
" 1883,	"	"	74	"	"
" 1884,	"	"	73	"	"
" 1885,	"	"	72	"	"
" 1886,	"	"	68	"	"
" 1887,	"	"	65	"	"
" 1888,	"	"	57	"	"

669. It will be observed that in 1879, 1880, and 1881, embracing the year in which the colony was in a depressed condition, as already stated, and the two following years, drunkenness was less rife than at any preceding or subsequent period. Since 1880, however, as the colony became more prosperous, arrests for drunkenness, in proportion to the population, have been steadily increasing, and on this basis were a third more numerous in 1888 than in 1880.

670. 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. Arrests for these numbered 22,771 in 1878, 24,280 in 1883, and 33,647 in 1888; and to the whole number of arrests were in the proportion of 89 per cent. at the first period, and 90 per cent. at the two later periods. Thus only 11 per cent. of the arrests at the first

period, and 10 per cent. at the middle and last periods, were for crimes in the strict sense of the word.

Smuggling  
and other  
offences  
against  
revenue.

671. It is worthy of remark that, notwithstanding the inducement which high import duties might be supposed to offer to smugglers, offences against the revenue have never led to many arrests in Victoria. Only 121 persons were taken into custody for such offences in 1888, which, however, is larger than the number in 1883 or in 1878.

Age and  
education  
of arrested  
persons.

672. The ages of those taken into custody in 1888, and the degree of instruction possessed by them, are shown in the following table:—

DEGREE OF INSTRUCTION AND AGE OF PERSONS\* ARRESTED, 1888.

Ages.			Superior Instruction.	Read and Write well.	Read only or Read and Write imperfectly.	Unable to Read.	Total.
Under 10 years	...	...	...	3	80	354	437
10 " 15 "	...	...	...	26	454	85	565
15 " 20 "	...	...	6	282	2,073	120	2,481
20 " 25 "	...	...	9	651	4,823	250	5,733
25 " 30 "	...	...	27	720	4,793	310	5,850
30 " 40 "	...	...	60	1,019	6,705	512	8,296
40 " 50 "	...	...	35	673	5,100	605	6,413
50 " 60 "	...	...	32	380	3,562	515	4,489
60 years and upwards	...	...	16	213	2,370	440	3,039
Unspecified	...	...	...	2	4	...	6
Total	...	...	185	3,969	29,964	3,191	37,309

Education  
of children  
arrested.

673. The returns of those under 15 years of age taken in charge by the police embrace neglected and deserted children as well as criminals. The whole number in 1888, according to the table, was 1,002, and of these not one was possessed of superior instruction; only 29, or one in 35, could read and write well; and 439, or nearly half, were unable to read. The number of children under 15 committed for trial was 8; all were boys, seven of whom could read, and could also write more or less imperfectly, but not one was unable to read.

Education  
of adults.

674. Those over 15 years arrested numbered 36,307, and of these, 4,125, or more than a ninth (including those possessed of superior instruction), could read and write well, whilst 2,752, or a thirteenth, could not read. Those over 15 years of age committed for trial numbered 865, of whom 222, or a little over a fourth, could read and write well, or were possessed of superior instruction, and 43, or a

\* See paragraph 656 ante.

twentieth, were unable to read. According to these figures the persons charged with offences serious enough to call for their commitment for trial were somewhat 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, for at the last census all over 15 years of age, except about a tenth, were returned as being able to read and write, and only an eighteenth were returned as entirely illiterate.

675. The following table shows the birthplaces and religions of the persons taken into custody and of those committed for trial in 1888, also the ratio of those of each country and sect to the estimated numbers of the same country and sect in the population:—

Birthplaces  
and reli-  
gions of  
criminals.

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PERSONS \* ARRESTED AND  
COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1888.

Birthplace and Religion.	Persons Arrested.		Persons Committed for Trial.	
	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 living.	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 living.†
<b>BIRTHPLACE.</b>				
Victoria ... ..	11,092	17·61	376	·60
Other Australasian colonies ‡	2,373	47·18	85	1·69
Australian Aborigines ...	50	...	1	...
England and Wales ...	8,420	48·27	184	1·05
Scotland ... ..	3,281	57·83	53	·93
Ireland ... ..	9,441	93·22	81	·80
China ... ..	179	14·59	4	·33
Other countries ... ..	2,473	66·04	89	2·38
Total ... ..	37,309	35·13	873	·82
<b>RELIGION.</b>				
Protestants ... ..	20,644	27·11	533	·70
Roman Catholics ... ..	15,598	62·28	296	1·18
Jews ... ..	133	24·95	17	3·19
Buddhists, Confucians, etc....	188	16·62	5	·44
Others ... ..	746	22·30	22	·66

676. Until the year under notice it has always been found that fewer Victorians have been arrested, and fewer committed for trial, 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; with the increasing ages of the Victorian-born population,

Relative  
numbers of  
each birth-  
place.

\* See paragraph 656 *ante*.

† The estimated population of each birthplace and religion with which these calculations have been made will be found in the tables following paragraphs 48 and 59 of Volume I.

‡ Exclusive of Aborigines.

however, the number of criminals is becoming larger, and in 1888, for the first time, one of the other nationalities, viz., the Chinese, showed a smaller proportion both of arrests and commitments. In 1878 only 4,790, and in 1883 no more than 6,893 persons of Victorian birth were taken into custody, whereas in the year under review the number had risen to 11,092, whilst the rate in proportion per 1,000 of the Victorian-born population rose from  $10\frac{1}{3}$  in 1878 to 13 in 1883, and to  $17\frac{2}{3}$  in 1888. Of places outside Victoria, the country which supplies the largest number of arrested persons is Ireland. In 1888, those arrested of this nationality exceeded the English and Welsh arrested by 1,021, and this although natives of England and Wales in the population out-numbered the Irish by about 73,000, or over 70 per cent. The offences with which the Irish were charged, however, could not have been of so serious a nature as those in respect to which the English and Welsh were arrested, as the number of the latter committed for trial was more numerous in proportion to the numbers in the population, than that of the former; the proportion of Scotch arrested was also above that of the English, but that of the Scotch committed for trial, whilst slightly above that of the Irish, was somewhat below that of the English. The proportion of Chinese arrested and the proportion committed for trial was below that of persons of any other nationality. Arrests and commitments of natives of other Australasian colonies were, in proportion to their numbers, much more numerous than those of Victoria.

Relative  
numbers of  
each  
religion.

677. In proportion to their numbers in the community, the Roman Catholics supplied about two and a third times as many arrested persons as the Protestants or the Jews, and nearly four times as many as the Buddhists, Confucians, etc. In view of a similar proportion, the Roman Catholics committed for trial were more than half as numerous again as the Protestants, but two and three-quarter times less numerous than the Jews. It is, however, quite exceptional for so large a proportion of Jews to be committed for trial. A statement of the offences which formed the grounds for arrest will be found in the next table but one.

Religions of  
persons  
convicted  
and  
sentenced.

678. It is generally assumed that nearly every person sent to trial is guilty of the offence for which he was committed, and, although he may subsequently be acquitted, the probability is that a conviction would have been obtained if sufficient evidence had been available. On the other hand, it may be maintained that many of those discharged had been unjustly accused, and should not be classed as criminals. If the latter assumption be correct, it would appear by

the following table—which shows the number of the various religions tried and the number convicted together with the percentage of convictions obtained for different periods—that whilst in 1887 a somewhat larger proportion of Roman Catholics were unjustly committed than of Protestants, in 1888 the proportions were about equal; also that, over a series of years, a smaller proportion of Jews, but a larger proportion of Pagans, Buddhists, Confucians, etc., are unjustly accused than in the case of either Protestants or Roman Catholics. It should, however, be pointed out that the number of Jews and Pagans committed for trial was so small that any proportions based thereon are but of little value :—

#### RELIGIONS OF PERSONS\* TRIED† AND CONVICTED, 1888.

Religions.	Number tried in 1888.†	Convictions in 1888.		Percentage in Year 1887.	Seven Years, 1880-1886.
		Total Number.	Percentage of Number Tried.		
Protestants ...	485	341	70·31	71·1	66·5
Roman Catholics	264	187	70·83	65·8	65·2
Jews ...	14	10	71·43	75·0	72·9
Buddhists, Confucians, etc.	7	5	71·43	70·0	59·3
Others ...	17	14	82·35	92·9	70·8
Total ...	787	557	70·78	69·7	66·2

679. The religions of the persons\* taken into custody in 1888 are given in the following table in connexion with their offences :—

Causes of arrest, and religions.

#### CAUSES OF ARREST, AND RELIGIONS, 1888.

Offence.	Religions.					
	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Jews.	Buddhists, Confucians, etc.	Others.	Total.
Murder and attempt at murder	24	9	...	...	1	34
Manslaughter ...	13	8	1	...	1	23
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	45	26	...	2	4	77
Assault ...	1,182	1,017	8	27	46	2,280
Rape and indecent assault on females	33	23	...	...	2	58
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit ...	15	5	1	...	...	21

\* See paragraph (\*) *ante*.

† Exclusive of those not prosecuted, who numbered 86 in 1888. The number "tried," moreover, differs from the number "committed for trial," since the former is inclusive of those awaiting trial at the beginning, but exclusive of those awaiting trial at the end of the year.

CAUSES OF ARRESTS, AND RELIGIONS, 1888—continued.

Offence.	Religions.					
	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Jews.	Buddhists, Confucians, etc.	Others.	Total.
Other offences against the person	83	38	2	2	4	129
Robbery with violence, burglary, etc.	180	150	7	...	15	352
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, etc.	102	59	...	5	1	167
Other offences against property	2,293	1,447	45	27	100	3,912
Forgery and offences against the currency	84	39	...	1	...	124
Drunkenness ... ..	10,162	8,013	24	16	311	18,526
Other offences against good order	5,395	4,223	34	82	188	9,922
Offences relating to the carrying out of laws	154	104	3	6	9	276
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	45	50	2	17	7	121
Offences against public welfare	834	387	6	3	57	1,287
Total ... ..	20,644	15,598	133	188	746	37,309

Causes of arrest of each sect compared.

680. It will be observed that 24 Protestants, 9 Roman Catholics, and 1 of other beliefs were arrested for murder and attempt at murder; 58 Protestants, 34 Roman Catholics, 1 Jew, 2 Buddhists, etc., and 5 of other beliefs were arrested for manslaughter, shooting at, or seriously wounding; 48 Protestants and 28 Roman Catholics, 1 Jew, and 2 of other beliefs, were arrested for sexual offences. Over 10,000 Protestants, over 8,000 Roman Catholics, 24 Jews, 16 Buddhists, etc., and 311 of unspecified religions were arrested for drunkenness. Only one Jew was arrested during the year for homicide, and only one for a sexual offence.

Religions of drunkards.

681. Arrests for drunkenness and other offences against good order were in the proportion of 75 per cent. of the total arrests of Protestants, of 78 per cent. of those of Roman Catholics, of 44 per cent. of those of Jews, of 52 per cent. of those of Buddhists, Confucians, etc., and of 67 per cent. of those of persons of other beliefs. These proportions vary but little from year to year.

Occupations of persons arrested.

682. The next table shows the occupations of the males and females taken into custody in 1888:—

## OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES\* ARRESTED, 1888.

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
<b>GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONS, ARTS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE.</b>		
Government officer ... ..	13	...
Police, penal officer ... ..	5	...
Officer of local body ... ..	2	...
Army, navy—officer, man ... ..	29	...
Clergyman, etc. ... ..	3	...
Lawyer ... ..	39	...
Others connected with law ... ..	5	...
Medical man, student ... ..	25	...
Dentist ... ..	8	...
Chemist, druggist ... ..	60	...
Others connected with medicine ... ..	2	...
Author, editor, reporter ... ..	23	...
Bookseller, newsvendor ... ..	30	...
Printer ... ..	213	...
Science, connected with ... ..	29	...
Education, engaged in ... ..	27	3
Fine arts, engaged in ... ..	17	...
Photographer ... ..	10	...
Music, teacher of, musician ... ..	67	3
Theatres and exhibitions, connected with ... ..	82	1
<b>BOARD AND LODGING, DOMESTIC DUTIES, ATTENDANCE.</b>		
Hotelkeeper ... ..	48	3
Board and lodging, connected with ... ..	7	5
Domestic servant, cook ... ..	353	706
Hotel, boarding-house, etc., servant ... ..	94	9
Charitable institution, servant ... ..	1	...
Nurse (not servant) ... ..	...	12
Shoeblack ... ..	1	...
Opium shopkeeper ... ..	2	...
Attendance, engaged in ... ..	7	40
<b>COMMERCIAL PURSUITS.</b>		
Merchant ... ..	18	...
Auctioneer, etc. ... ..	7	...
Broker, agent, etc. ... ..	181	...
Commercial clerk, etc. ... ..	529	...
Commercial traveller, salesman ... ..	147	1
Other mercantile persons ... ..	29	1
Shopkeeper ... ..	63	...
Pawnbroker ... ..	2	...
Hawker, pedlar ... ..	543	5
Marine storekeeper ... ..	5	...
General dealer ... ..	334	2
<b>CARRYING AND MESSAGES.</b>		
Railway service ... ..	17	...
Omnibus, cab—driver, owner ... ..	300	...
Drayman, carter, carrier ... ..	542	...
Others connected with conveyance ... ..	6	...
Ship—owner, master, officer seaman (not navy) ... ..	1,105	...

\* See paragraph 656 ante.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES\* ARRESTED, 1888—*continued.*

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
<b>CARRYING AND MESSAGES—<i>continued.</i></b>		
Ship—servant, steward, etc. ... ..	44	...
Boatman, waterman, etc. ... ..	6	...
Stevedore, or otherwise connected with ships ... ..	4	...
Messenger, porter, errand boy... ..	18	...
Telegraph service ... ..	7	...
<b>AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS AND LAND.</b>		
Farmer, market gardener, farm servant, labourer, etc. ...	835	...
Land, estate—agent, proprietor, etc. ... ..	2	...
Land surveyor and assistants ... ..	25	...
<b>PASTORAL PURSUITS AND ANIMALS.</b>		
Squatter, grazier, station servant, labourer, etc. ... ..	75	...
Others connected with land ... ..	8	...
Horse dealer, proprietor, etc. ... ..	7	...
Veterinary surgeon, farrier ... ..	22	...
Horse-breaker, groom, jockey ... ..	387	...
Live stock salesman ... ..	2	...
Animal dealer, keeper ... ..	2	...
Game, rabbit catcher ... ..	2	...
Fisherman ... ..	29	...
Drover and others engaged about animals ... ..	59	...
<b>ARTIZANS, MECHANICS, LABOUREERS.</b>		
Bookbinder ... ..	7	2
Musical instrument maker, dealer ... ..	14	...
Prints and pictures, connected with ... ..	5	...
Carving and figures, connected with ... ..	8	...
Tackle and sports, connected with ... ..	1	...
Designs and medals, connected with ... ..	1	...
Watch and clock maker, dealer ... ..	42	...
Philosophical instrument maker, dealer... ..	3	...
Gunsmith, etc. ... ..	3	...
Mechanical or undefined engineer ... ..	316	...
Toolmaker, cutler, etc. ... ..	26	...
Carriagemaker, wheelwright ... ..	58	...
Saddle, harness, and whipmaker, dealer ... ..	134	...
Shipwright, rigger, boatbuilder ... ..	22	...
Sailmaker, shipchandler, etc. ... ..	29	...
Builder, architect ... ..	100	...
Carpenter, joiner ... ..	940	...
Cooper, turner ... ..	72	...
Bricklayer, mason, plasterer, shingler, slater ... ..	845	...
Painter, paperhanger, plumber, etc. ... ..	476	...
Others connected with buildings ... ..	2	...
Cabinet, etc., maker, dealer ... ..	127	...
Undertaker ... ..	1	...
Chemicals, working or dealing in ... ..	8	...
Mechanic (undefined) ... ..	6	...
Labourer (undefined) ... ..	14,890	5

\* See paragraph 656 *ante*.



OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES\* ARRESTED, 1888—*continued.*

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
<b>TEXTILE FABRICS AND DRESS.</b>		
Textile fabrics, manufacturer of, weaver ... ..	33	...
Draper and assistants ... ..	85	1
Hairdresser, wigmaker, etc. ... ..	92	...
Hat and cap maker ... ..	33	...
Tailor, tailoress, dealer in clothing ... ..	249	41
Milliner, dressmaker ... ..	...	40
Clothing, manufacture, engaged in, machinist ... ..	2	26
Boot and shoe maker ... ..	770	...
Umbrella—maker, mender ... ..	10	...
Washerwoman, laundry man ... ..	1	14
<b>FIBROUS MATERIALS.</b>		
Rope, mat, sack, maker ... ..	9	...
Tent, tarpaulin, maker, canvas dealer ... ..	5	...
<b>ANIMAL FOOD.</b>		
Cowkeeper, dairyman, woman ... ..	33	...
Butcher, etc. ... ..	308	...
Poulterer, fishmonger ... ..	23	1
<b>VEGETABLE FOOD.</b>		
Miller, grain and flour dealer, and assistants ... ..	10	...
Baker, confectioner ... ..	308	1
Greengrocer, fruiterer ... ..	19	...
Others dealing in vegetable food ... ..	2	...
<b>DRINKS AND STIMULANTS.</b>		
Brewing, connected with ... ..	14	...
Distiller, rectifier ... ..	2	...
Gingerbeer and sodawater maker ... ..	15	...
Grocer and assistants ... ..	99	1
Tobacco manufacture, engaged in ... ..	33	5
Tobacconist ... ..	13	...
<b>ANIMAL MATTERS.</b>		
Soapboiler, candlemaker, tallowmelter ... ..	3	...
Tanner, fellmonger, currier ... ..	56	...
Leather articles, maker of ... ..	4	...
Brush, broom maker ... ..	14	...
Wool classer ... ..	26	...
Animal matters, working or dealing in ... ..	4	...
<b>VEGETABLE MATTERS.</b>		
Japanner, french polisher ... ..	57	...
Timber merchant and assistant ... ..	2	...
Firewood—dealer, chopper, splitter, fencer ... ..	45	...
Sawyer, sawmill owner, worker ... ..	39	...
Basketmaker ... ..	6	...
Hay, straw, chaff—dealer, cutter ... ..	1	...
Papermaker ... ..	1	...
Rag, bottle gatherer ... ..	30	...

\* See paragraph 656 *ante*.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES\* ARRESTED, 1888—*continued*.

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
VEGETABLE MATTERS— <i>continued</i> .		
Billsticker ... ..	1	...
Vegetable matters, others working or dealing in ...	3	1
MINING, ENGAGED IN		
Miners, etc. ... ..	882	...
COAL, STONE, CLAY, EARTHENWARE, GLASS.		
Coal and charcoal, working or dealing in ... ..	7	...
Chimney sweep ... ..	10	...
Quarryman, limeburner, etc. ... ..	62	...
Brickmaker, potter ... ..	105	...
Navvy ... ..	265	...
Nightman, scavenger ... ..	13	...
Earth, stone, glass, etc., others working or dealing in ...	19	...
MINERALS AND METALS.		
Goldsmith, silversmith, jeweller ... ..	33	...
Engine driver (undefined) ... ..	236	...
Ironfounder, blacksmith, locksmith ... ..	551	...
Ironmonger ... ..	20	...
Brassfounder, finisher, gasfitter ... ..	30	...
Other metals, working or dealing in ... ..	204	...
INDEFINITE AND NON-PRODUCTIVE.		
Manager, apprentice, etc. ... ..	2	1
Independent means ... ..	19	...
Pensioner, inmate of institution, etc. ... ..	11	1
Beggar, pauper, vagrant ... ..	1	...
Criminal, thief, pickpocket ... ..	5	...
Prostitute, brothel-keeper ... ..	...	1,624
Gambler, gaminghouse-keeper ... ..	6	...
No stated occupation, over 15 years of age ... ..	878	3,317
„ „ under „ „ ... ..	700	218
Total ... ..	31,219	6,090

Chief occupations of persons arrested.

683. It will be observed that, of the males arrested, nearly half were labourers; and that of other occupations, those most frequently arrested were sailors, carpenters, miners, bricklayers, shoemakers, carters, clerks, and painters, in the order named. No occupation was returned in 1,578 cases, but of those 700 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 a fourth were set down as prostitutes or brothel-keepers. About three-fifths, including 218 young girls, were of no specified occupation; and of the few returned as following regular occupations more than two-

\* See paragraph 656 *ante*.

thirds were domestic servants, and the bulk of the remainder were dressmakers and tailoresses.

684. It has been already stated that, in making up the returns, a person arrested more than once is counted as a separate individual in respect to each arrest or charge,\* but it is possible to ascertain approximately the actual numbers passing through the hands of the police by means of a close comparison of the names, ages, birthplaces, religions, occupations, residences, etc., of the individuals in question. This is too tedious and laborious—and consequently expensive—an investigation to be attempted every year, but it was done for 1884, so far as the sexes and birthplaces of the persons arrested are concerned, and the result is given in the following table:—

DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1884.

Sex and Birthplace of Arrested Persons.			Number of Charges on which Arrests were made.	Number of Distinct Individuals Arrested.	Number of Charges on which Distinct Individuals were Arrested.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
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685. The total number of charges shown in the table (27,503) corresponds with the number of persons set down as arrested in the returns for 1884, but it is seen that only 19,857 were distinct individuals, or nearly a fourth less than that number. Of these, 15,504, or 78 per cent., were only arrested once; 2,749, or 14 per cent., were arrested or charged twice; 889, or 4 per cent., three times; 356, or 2 per cent., four times; and 359, or 2 per cent., more than four times; 2 having been arrested or charged as many as twenty, and 1 as many as twenty-eight times.

\* See paragraph 656 ante.

Sexes of  
those  
arrested  
more than  
once.

686. It appears that the tendency of females to be arrested over and over again, or on several charges, is greater than that of males, for whereas, in 1884, only 21 per cent. of the males who fell into the hands of the police were apprehended more than once, or were charged with more than one offence, as many as 26 per cent. of the females who fell into the hands of the police were so apprehended or charged.

Countries  
of those  
arrested  
more than  
once.

687. Twenty-six per cent. of the natives of British possessions outside of the United Kingdom and the Australasian colonies were taken into custody or charged with an offence more than once during the year, as also were 24 per cent. of the Irish, 22 per cent. of the Victorians, the other Australians, and the Scotch, 21 per cent. of the Americans, 20 per cent. of the English, 19 per cent. of the French, 13 per cent. of the Germans, and 10 per cent. of the Chinese.

Individuals  
arrested  
more than  
once for  
drunken-  
ness.

688. The distinct persons taken into custody for drunkenness during 1884 numbered 10,287, and of these, 1,520, or 15 per cent., were apprehended more than once, viz.:—994 twice, 288 thrice, 112 four times, 51 five times, 25 six times, 19 seven times, 11 eight times, 7 nine times, 1 ten times, 4 eleven times, 1 twelve times, 2 thirteen times, 1 fourteen times, 2 fifteen times, 1 twenty times, and 1 twenty-six times.

Drunkards  
charged  
with other  
offences.

689. Whilst the number of individuals arrested for drunkenness was 10,287, the charges of drunkenness brought against them numbered 12,938; but these persons were charged with 2,622 other offences, so that the total number of charges of all kinds against drunkards was 15,560, as against 27,503 charges of all descriptions. Thus 57 per cent. of the offences for which persons were arrested, during 1884, were committed by persons who were arrested during the same year for drunkenness.

Results of  
summary  
disposal.

690. The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates in the year 1888 were as follow:—

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF ARRESTED PERSONS,\*  
1888.

Sentence.				Males.	Females.
Imprisonment for 2 years	...	...	...	18	...
" 1 year and under 2 years	...	...	...	189	105
" 6 months and under 1 year	...	...	...	280	128
" 4 months	..	...	...	36	7
" 3 months	...	...	...	946	403
" 2 months and under 3 months	...	...	...	261	40

\* See paragraph 656 *ante*.

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF ARRESTED PERSONS,\*  
1888—continued.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Imprisonment for 1 month and under 2 months ..	1,270	388
„ 15 days and under 1 month ...	67	6
„ 8 days and under 15 days ...	761	175
„ 7 days and under ...	5,098	1,421
Fined ..	9,296	949
Ordered to find bail ...	285	32
Sent to lunatic asylum ...	281	139
Sent to industrial school or reformatory ...	376	146
Otherwise dealt with ...	196	8
Total sentenced ...	19,360	3,947
Discharged ...	11,063	2,066
Total summarily disposed of ...	30,423	6,013

691. Of the persons sentenced by magistrates during 1888, 48 per cent. of the males, and 24 per cent. of the females, were fined; 31 per cent. of the former, and 41 per cent. of the latter, were sentenced to imprisonment for various terms under a month, and 14 and 24 per cent., respectively, for periods varying from 1 to 12 months; about 1 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 8 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.

692. 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. Six offenders were so sentenced in 1888, one of whom was ordered to receive one whipping of twelve, and two were ordered to receive one whipping of fifteen lashes. The other three were each ordered to receive two whippings of fifteen lashes on each occasion. Whipping ordered by magistrates.

693. Under the *Juvenile Offenders Act* 1887,† magistrates are empowered to order youths under 16 years of age convicted of any offence punishable on summary conviction with imprisonment, to be privately whipped with a cane or birch rod by a constable, either in addition to, or in lieu of, any other punishment they may be lawfully sentenced to receive. Under this Statute fourteen boys were Punishment of juvenile offenders.

\* See paragraph 656 ante.

† 51 Vict. No. 951, section 57.

whipped in 1888, of whom one received 5 strokes, five 10 strokes, three 12 strokes, three 15 strokes, and two 20 strokes, all with a cane. In six instances the offence was assault, in two instances an offence against property (undefined), and in one instance burglary.

Results of  
commitments  
for trial.

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

RESULTS OF COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL,\* 1878, 1883, AND 1888.

	1878.	1883.	1888.
Number for trial ... ..	700	593	873
Convicted and sentenced ... ..	458	350	557
Acquitted... ..	178	191	230
Not prosecuted ... ..	64	52	86

Proportion  
of convictions  
obtained.

695. Of those committed for trial, 636 were eventually tried in 1878, 541 in 1883, and 787 in 1888. At the first period 72 per cent., at the second period 65 per cent., and at the third period 71 per cent. of the trials resulted in convictions.

Sentences in  
superior  
courts.

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

SENTENCES OF PERSONS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1888.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Death ... ..	7†	1
Hard labour on roads or public works for 15 years and upwards	4	...
"    "    "    10 years and under		
15 years ...	9	...
"    "    "    7 years and under		
10 years ...	9	1
"    "    "    4 years and under		
7 years ...	46	5
Imprisonment for 2 years and under 4 years ... ..	112	5
"    1 year and under 2 years ... ..	144	8
"    6 months and under 1 year ... ..	108	9
"    1 month and under 6 months ... ..	45	9
"    under 1 month ... ..	14	4
Fined ... ..	2	...
Recognizances estreated ... ..	1	...
To find bail to appear when called upon ... ..	13	1
Total tried and convicted... ..	514	43

\* 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 three of these, sentence of death was only recorded.

697. Of males convicted in superior courts, seven were sentenced to death—3 being cases in which death was merely “recorded”—in 1888; all the rest except 16 were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, with or without hard labour; of those imprisoned, about three-fifths were sentenced for periods of less than two years, and nearly one-seventh to more than four years. Of the females, 1 was sentenced to death, and 19 were sentenced to over one, and 22 to under one, year’s imprisonment. Thirteen males were sentenced to be imprisoned for a longer period than ten years. Six females were sentenced to a longer period than four years.

Lengths of sentences in superior courts.

698. 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. Of these, 1 had been convicted of shooting at or wounding; 2 of manslaughter; 4 of assaults; 3 of rape or indecent assaults on females; 1 of an unnatural offence; 1 of bigamy; 27 of robbery under arms or burglary; 1 of sheep stealing, etc.; 16 of other offences against property; 5 of forgery, etc.; and 1 of offences against the carrying out of the laws.

Solitary confinement ordered by superior courts.

699. The total number of offenders sentenced by superior courts to be whipped was, in addition to terms of imprisonment in all cases, 10. Rape or indecent assaults on females were the crimes of three of these, for each of whom 2 whippings of 10 lashes each were ordered. Unnatural offence was the crime of three men, two of whom were sentenced to receive one whipping of 15 lashes, and the third one of 20 lashes. The remaining four offenders were convicted of robbery with violence, and were each ordered 3 whippings of 15 lashes. Judges of the Supreme Court and Courts of General Sessions can sentence males to receive corporal punishment, under Act 27 Vict. No. 233, for unnatural offences, 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; also, under Act 35 Vict. No. 399, for attempts to commit rape, or for rape itself where sentence of death is commuted. The greatest number of whippings an individual can be sentenced to receive for one offence is three, and the greatest number of lashes at each whipping is 50.

Whippings ordered by superior courts.

700. The number of individuals sentenced to corporal punishment in 1874 was 11, viz., 6 by magistrates and 5 by superior courts; the number in 1875 was 5, viz., 2 by magistrates and 3 by superior courts;

Whippings ordered 1874-1888.

\* Exclusive of those ordered to be kept in separate confinement. See next paragraph.

the number in 1876 was 11, viz., 1 by magistrates and 10 by superior courts; the number in 1877 was 11, viz., 5 by magistrates and 6 by superior courts; the number in 1878 was 17, viz., 2 by magistrates and 15 by superior courts; the number in 1879 was 9, viz., 4 by magistrates and 5 by superior courts; the number in 1880 was 5, 17 in 1881, 8 in 1882—all by superior courts; the number in 1883 was 14, viz., 2 by magistrates and 12 by superior courts; the number in 1884 was 17, the number in 1885 was 6, and the number in 1886 was 11—all by superior courts; the number in 1887 was 10, viz., 4 by magistrates and 6 by superior courts; and the number in 1888 was 29, viz., 19 by magistrates and 10 by superior courts. The total number of whippings directed to be administered in the fifteen years was 254, of which 54\* were ordered by magistrates and 200 by superior courts. The number of persons sentenced to be whipped in 1888 was thus much greater than in any other year since 1873.

#### Executions.

701. One criminal, a native of Scotland, and claiming to be a member of the Presbyterian Church, was executed in 1888, for murder. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip, 142 criminals have been executed within the colony, of whom only one was a female. No execution took place in 1887 or in 1882, 1878, 1874, 1850, 1849, 1846, 1845, 1844, 1843, or any year prior to 1842, but one or more executions took place in all the other years. 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 1888.

Birthplace, Religion, and Offence.								Number.
Total number executed								142
Birthplace—	Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
"	Other Australian colonies	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
"	England	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
"	Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
"	Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
"	Scotland	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
"	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	Germany	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	Sweden	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	Sicily	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	United States of America	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

\* Including 14 cases of juvenile offenders.



CRIMINALS EXECUTED, 1842 TO 1888—*continued.*

Birthplace, Religion, and Offence.										Number.
Birthplace—West Indies ... ..										2
" China ... ..										8
" At sea ... ..										1
Religion—Church of England ... ..										32
" Presbyterian ... ..										6
" Wesleyan ... ..										8
" Baptist ... ..										1
" Lutheran ... ..										2
" Protestant undefined ... ..										30
" Roman Catholic ... ..										52
" Buddhist, Confucian, etc....										6
" No Religion ... ..										5*
Offence—Murder ... ..										106
" Attempt to murder... ..										17
" Rape ... ..										9
" Unnatural offence on a child ... ..										1
" Robbery with violence ... ..										9

702. It is stated† that from the accession of Queen Victoria to the period of Her Majesty's jubilee, 840 criminals were executed in the United Kingdom, or an average of 17 per annum. In 1837 there were no less than 13 crimes subject to capital punishment, and no fewer than 671 persons had been condemned to death in twelve months; but since the Queen's accession a more humane code has prevailed, and few have been executed, except for murder.

Executions  
in United  
Kingdom.

703. The offences in respect to which no persons were apprehended numbered 6,474 in 1888, or 254 more than in 1887, and, both in 1887 and 1888, were far more numerous than in any of the nine years ended with 1886. Whilst there was a marked decrease in the offences against the person, those against property showed a striking increase. The following are the undetected offences in the last eleven years:—

Undetected  
crime.

UNDETECTED CRIME, 1878 TO 1888.

Year.	Number of Offences.			
	Against the Person.	Against Property.	Other Offences.	Total.
1878 ... ..	496	4,011	385	4,892
1879 ... ..	503	3,763	364	4,630
1880 ... ..	613	3,935	350	4,898
1881 ... ..	461	3,770	400	4,631

\* Aborigines.

† See *Fifty Years of National Progress*, page 107.

UNDETECTED CRIME, 1878 TO 1888—continued.

Year.	Number of Offences.			
	Against the Person.	Against Property.	Other Offences.	Total.
1882 ... ..	572	3,980	433	4,985
1883 ... ..	596	4,209	584	5,389
1884 ... ..	450	3,249	350	4,049
1885 ... ..	491	3,000	388	3,879
1886 ... ..	523	3,160	436	4,119
1887 ... ..	211	5,593	416	6,220
1888 ... ..	270	5,627	577	6,474

Offender perhaps arrested on other grounds.

704. 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 be arrested, and perhaps punished, for other misdeeds.

Crime in Australasian colonies.

705. 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 each of the eleven years 1877 to 1887, 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 to 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, 1877 TO 1887.

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... ..	1877	45,844	29,528	594	340
	1878	44,742	29,452	658	458
	1879	43,936	28,266	628	397
	1880	41,778	26,950	680	398

\* Not including civil cases.

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1877 TO 1887—*continued.*

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— <i>continued</i>	1881	44,730	29,131	591	332
	1882	47,234	31,542	616	402
	1883	48,974	33,480	606	350
	1884	51,397	34,456	695	407
	1885	52,566	34,180	768	444
	1886	54,361	36,599	756	492
	1887	59,036	38,742	820	506
New South Wales †	1877	47,739	33,003	1,517	829
	1878	53,325	37,924	1,803	959
	1879	53,870	38,828	1,743	1,090
	1880	57,784	42,205	1,717	1,148
	1881	66,600	51,130	1,626	1,058
	1882	65,936	50,126	1,724	1,065
	1883	72,231	55,463	1,606	1,008
	1884	75,680	57,897	1,550	928
	1885	77,092	59,345	1,540	785
	1886	81,503	62,268†	1,594	957
	1887	72,119	53,614	1,402	854
Queensland †	1877	9,929	6,444	312	177
	1878	9,563	6,153	344	197
	1879	9,058	5,762	377	185
	1880	9,133	6,051	316	170
	1881	10,063	7,253	264	126
	1882	11,649	8,025	308	144
	1883	13,804	9,788	427	193
	1884	15,518	11,620	555	274
	1885	15,763	11,451	538	267
	1886	17,640	12,841	611	289
	1887	16,769	12,449	480	247
South Australia ...	1877	10,314	8,696	240	156
	1878	13,682	11,685	369	229
	1879	12,843	10,970	384	223
	1880	15,063	12,814	353	199
	1881	15,347	13,258	342	213
	1882	14,672	12,634	339	211
	1883	13,104	11,378	305	166
	1884	11,988	10,425	293	127
	1885	10,406	8,901	240	133
	1886	8,202	6,850	228	121
	1887	7,122	6,032	208	102

\* 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, 532 lunatics in 1887, and 4,867 in the previous ten years; and in Queensland, 319 in 1887, and 3,672 during the previous ten years; and in Tasmania, 64 lunatics in 1887, and 183 in the previous three years, were admitted to asylums. Probably four-fifths of these were apprehended by the police.

‡ Figures amended since last publication.

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1877 TO 1887—*continued*.

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.
Western Australia ...	1877	6,855	5,272	83	27
	1878	6,126	4,552	102	45
	1879	6,471	4,853	85	53
	1880	5,577	4,221	50	25
	1881	5,460	4,134	109	61
	1882	5,089	3,683	90	46
	1883	4,739	3,450	72	46
	1884	4,831	3,477	64	40
	1885	4,900	3,436	86	51
	1886	5,703	3,980	95	54
	1887	5,363	3,562	121	75
Tasmania † ...	1877	6,606	5,140	102	49
	1878	6,644	5,131	113	54
	1879	7,184	5,641	110	67
	1880	6,903	5,418	117	73
	1881	6,229	4,799	90	51
	1882	7,615	5,942	93	36
	1883	8,039	5,394	88	33
	1884	6,273	4,843	70	39
	1885	5,983	4,876	71	31
	1886	6,586	5,253	76	46
	1887	5,932	4,806	89	56
New Zealand ‡ ...	1877	21,953	16,293	405	250
	1878	22,237	16,370	415	292
	1879	22,492	16,088	734§	296
	1880	21,181	15,025	592	370
	1881	19,796	14,079	474	235
	1882	22,659	16,573	467	219
	1883	23,090	16,944	459	231
	1884	23,572	17,968	509	241
	1885	23,103	17,804	428	236
	1886	21,662	16,705	536	286
	1887	20,336	15,557	646	334
Australasia ...	1877	149,240	104,376	3,253	1,828
	1878	156,319	111,267	3,804	2,234
	1879	155,854	110,408	4,061	2,311
	1880	157,424	112,684	3,825	2,383

\* Not including civil cases.

† See footnote (†) preceding page. It is pointed out by Mr. R. M. Johnston, the Government Statistician of Tasmania, in his Report for 1886, page li, that, prior to 1884, a considerable proportion of purely civil cases, such as petty debts, non-payment of rates, etc., were improperly included in the returns of offences for which persons were apprehended or summoned in that colony.

‡ Maoris are included. In 1887 the number of cases in which they were concerned was 412—in 279 of which summary convictions were obtained, in 109 cases the prisoner was discharged, and in 24 cases committed for trial.

§ This large increase appears to have been owing to Maori disturbances, as 202 of that race were committed for trial in 1879, as against only 18 in the previous year.

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1877 TO 1887—*continued.*

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.
Australasia—continued	1881	168,225	123,784	3,496	2,076
	1882	174,854	128,525	3,637	2,123
	1883	183,981	135,897	3,563	2,027
	1884	189,259	140,686	3,736	2,056
	1885	189,813	139,993	3,671	1,947
	1886	195,657	144,496	3,896	2,245
	1887	186,677	134,762	3,766	2,174

706. By this table it would appear that crime is so much more prevalent in New South Wales than in Victoria that, notwithstanding the smaller population,† there has been, in every year, 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 being in New South Wales, as a rule, more than twice as numerous as in Victoria. In the former colony, however, offences of this character have not been so numerous during the last four years as formerly. In 1887 the apprehensions and summonses in New South Wales exceeded those in Victoria by 23 per cent., and the summary convictions by 39 per cent. It must, moreover, be remembered that the returns of the latter are swelled by the apprehensions of lunatics, whilst these are not included in the returns of the former.

Large amount of crime in New South Wales.

707. 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 last eleven 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.

\* Not including civil cases.

† Up to the last year named in the table, the estimated population of New South Wales was smaller than that of Victoria. The population of the former is now believed to be somewhat the larger.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, COMMITMENTS, AND CONVICTIONS IN  
AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES TO POPULATION, ETC., 1877 TO 1887.

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 Con- victions to Ap- prehensions and Summons Cases.*	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.		
Victoria	...	...	1877	56.69	36.52	7.35	4.20	64.40	57.24
			1878	54.47	35.85	8.01	5.58	65.82	69.60
			1879	52.68	33.89	7.53	4.76	64.33	63.22
			1880	49.13	31.69	8.00	4.68	64.51	58.53
			1881	51.48	33.52	6.80	3.82	65.13	56.18
			1882	53.05	35.43	6.92	4.52	66.78	65.26
			1883	53.76	36.75	6.65	3.84	68.36	57.76
			1884	55.03	36.89	7.44	4.36	67.04	58.56
			1885	54.84	35.66	8.01	4.63	65.02	57.81
			1886	55.08	37.08	7.66	4.98	67.34	65.08
			1887	57.90	37.99	8.04	4.96	65.63	61.71
New South Wales	...	...	1877	75.90	52.52	24.12	13.18	69.13	54.65
			1878	81.07	57.66	27.41	14.58	71.12	53.19
			1879	78.00	56.23	25.24	15.78	72.08	62.54
			1880	79.63	58.16	23.66	15.83	73.04	66.86
			1881	87.60	67.25	21.39	13.92	76.77	65.07
			1882	82.96	63.07	21.69	13.40	76.02	61.77
			1883	86.59	66.48	19.25	12.08	76.79	62.76
			1884	85.92	65.73	17.60	10.53	76.50	59.87
			1885	82.81	63.75	16.54	8.43	76.98	53.51
			1886	83.17	63.91	16.27	9.77	76.84	60.04
			1887	70.54	52.44	13.71	8.35	74.34	60.91
Queensland	...	...	1877	50.89	33.03	15.99	9.07	64.90	56.73
			1878	46.24	29.75	16.63	9.53	64.34	57.27
			1879	42.29	26.90	17.60	8.64	63.61	49.07
			1880	41.15	27.26	14.24	7.66	66.25	53.80
			1881	45.53	32.82	11.95	5.70	72.08	47.73
			1882	49.03	33.77	12.96	6.06	68.89	46.75
			1883	51.53	36.54	15.94	7.20	70.90	45.20
			1884	52.64	39.42	18.93	9.29	74.88	49.38
			1885	51.05	37.08	17.42	8.65	72.64	49.63
			1886	53.05	38.62	18.38	8.69	72.79	47.30
			1887	47.27	35.09	13.53	6.96	74.24	51.46
South Australia	...	...	1877	44.60	37.60	10.38	6.75	84.31	65.00
			1878	56.34	48.12	15.20	9.43	85.40	62.06
			1879	50.50	43.17	15.11	8.77	85.48	58.07
			1880	57.16	48.63	13.40	7.55	85.07	56.43
			1881	53.18	45.94	11.81	7.38	86.39	62.28
			1882	50.61	43.58	11.69	7.28	86.11	62.24
			1883	43.82	38.05	10.20	5.55	86.82	54.43
			1884	38.83	33.78	9.49	4.11	86.96	43.34
			1885	33.23	25.84	7.67	4.25	77.76	55.42
			1886	26.20	21.88	7.28	3.86	83.52	43.07
			1887	22.73	19.25	6.64	3.26	84.70	49.04

\* Not including civil cases.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, ETC., 1877 TO 1887—*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.	Convictions after Commitment.	Summary Con- victions to Ap- prehensions and Summons Cases.*	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.
Western Australia ...	1877	248.55	191.16	30.09	9.79	76.90	32.53
	1878	218.77	162.56	36.43	16.07	74.31	44.11
	1879	227.72	170.78	29.91	18.65	75.00	62.35
	1880	193.35	146.34	17.33	8.67	75.69	50.00
	1881	182.93	138.50	36.52	20.44	75.71	55.96
	1882	167.46	121.19	29.62	15.14	72.37	51.11
	1883	151.73	110.46	23.05	14.72	72.80	63.89
	1884	149.43	107.55	19.80	12.37	71.97	62.50
	1885	143.81	100.85	25.27	14.97	70.12	59.30
	1886	153.37	107.04	25.55	14.52	69.80	56.84
	1887	128.61	85.42	29.02	17.99	66.42	62.00
Tasmania † ...	1877	62.15	48.37	9.60	4.61	79.97	48.04
	1878	61.22	47.28	10.41	4.98	79.00	47.78
	1879	64.60	50.73	9.89	6.02	81.08	60.91
	1880	60.80	47.69	10.30	6.43	80.19	62.40
	1881	53.11	40.91	7.67	4.35	78.64	56.67
	1882	63.09	49.23	7.70	2.98	78.73	38.71
	1883	64.65	43.37	7.08	2.65‡	80.80	37.50
	1884	48.86	37.72	5.45	3.04	77.20	55.71
	1885	45.27	36.89	5.37	2.35	81.50	43.66
	1886	48.60	38.77	5.61	3.39	79.91	60.53
	1887	42.42	34.37	6.36	4.00	81.02	62.92
New Zealand ...	1877	53.76	39.90	9.92	6.12	74.22	61.73
	1878	52.74	38.82	9.84	6.92	73.62	70.36
	1879	50.19	35.90	16.38§	6.61	71.53	40.33
	1880	44.66	31.68	12.48	7.80	70.94	62.50
	1881	40.11	28.52	9.60	4.76	71.12	49.58
	1882	44.49	32.54	9.17	4.30	73.14	46.90
	1883	43.62	32.01	8.67	4.36	73.38	50.33
	1884	42.94	32.73	9.27	4.39	76.23	47.35
	1885	40.80	31.45	7.56	4.17	77.06	55.14
	1886	37.21	28.53	9.21	4.91	76.67	53.63
	1887	34.10	26.08	10.83	5.60	76.50	51.70
Total Australasia ...	1877	62.02	43.37	13.51	7.49	70.10	56.19
	1878	62.73	44.73	15.29	8.98	71.32	58.73
	1879	60.39	42.77	15.73	8.94	71.06	56.91
	1880	58.77	42.07	14.28	8.89	71.73	62.30

\* Not including civil cases.

† See footnote (†) on page 344 *ante*.

‡ This small proportion is in consequence of the large number of cases not prosecuted.

§ See footnote (§) on page 344 *ante*.

|| This small proportion of convictions is owing to the fact that the Maoris committed for disturbances of a political nature were leniently dealt with.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, ETC., 1877 TO 1887—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 Summonses Cases.*	Summary Convictions.	Commitments for Trial.	Convictions after Commitment.	Summary Con- victions to Ap- prehensions and Summonses Cases.*	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.
Total Australasia— <i>continued.</i>	1881	60·52	44·53	12·57	7·46	73·68	59·38
	1882	60·86	44·73	12·65	7·38	73·57	58·37
	1883	61·38	45·34	11·88	6·76	74·50	56·80
	1884	60·47	44·97	11·94	6·57	74·33	55·06
	1885	58·51	42·91	11·09	6·00	73·32	54·12
	1886	58·10	42·96	11·57	6·67	74·04	57·62
	1887	53·52	38·64	10·80	6·24	72·20	57·73

Order of colonies in respect to apprehensions, etc.

708. 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 throughout the eleven years named, and Tasmania stood next until 1884,† when Victoria and Queensland rose above that colony. New Zealand stood lowest on the list until 1884, since which year that place has been occupied by South Australia, the depression in which colony has been accompanied by a reduction in the amount of crime. The following is the order of the various colonies in this respect in 1887, 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, 1887.

1. Western Australia.

2. New South Wales.

3. Victoria.

4. Queensland.
5. Tasmania.

6. New Zealand.

7. South Australia.

Order of colonies in respect to summary convictions

709. 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 1887 Victoria occupied the third place, having risen thereto from the fifth position, which it had occupied during several previous years. 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:—

\* Not including civil cases.  
† It is stated that, prior to 1884, some petty debt cases were improperly included in the returns of offences for which persons were apprehended or summoned in Tasmania.



ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO SUMMARY CONVICTIONS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1887.

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

710. In every year prior to 1884 Victoria showed, relatively to population, a much smaller number of persons committed for trial than any other colony, but since then the proportion having fallen in some of the other colonies, in 1886 and 1887 it was higher in Victoria than in Tasmania or South Australia. Western Australia has been at the head of the list throughout the period, and New South Wales stood second until 1884, when, for the first time, Queensland rose above it. In 1887, however, New South Wales again rose to the second place. In respect to the proportion of commitments for trial to population, the colonies stood in the following order in 1887 :—

Order of colonies in respect to commitments for trial.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS COMMITTED FOR TRIAL IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1887.

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

711. In respect to convictions in superior courts, Victoria, which formerly had—with the exception of Tasmania—the smallest number in proportion to population, occupied the fourth position in 1885 and 1886. In 1887, however, New Zealand rose above Victoria, and this colony consequently fell below all the others except South Australia and Tasmania. Western Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland were still at the top of the list, a position they had occupied during most of the last eleven years :—

Order of colonies in respect to convictions in superior courts.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1887.

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

712. 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 lower in this colony than in any of the others. The following is the order of the colonies in respect to convictions of this kind in 1887, the colony in which the rate of summary

Order of colonies in respect to summary convictions obtained.

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, 1887.

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

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

713. In regard to the proportion of convictions to commitments for trial, Victoria was third on the list in 1887, Western Australia and Tasmania being above her and New South Wales next below her. In the subjoined statement the colonies are placed in order, the one in which the convictions, in 1887, bore the highest proportion to commitment being placed first :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS  
IN SUPERIOR COURTS TO COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL, 1887.

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

Incomplete returns in some colonies.

714. 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.

Arrests, etc., for various offences in Australasian colonies.

715. Notwithstanding New South Wales has hitherto possessed a smaller population than Victoria, arrests for most descriptions of offences have for years past been much more numerous in the former colony than in the latter. Thus, in 1887, arrests for homicide in New South Wales numbered 36 against 35 in Victoria; arrests for rape and other sexual offences numbered 138 against 59; arrests for other offences against the person numbered 8,729 against 3,923; arrests for horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, etc., numbered 307 against 131; arrests for miscellaneous offences against property numbered 7,410 against 4,468; arrests for drunkenness numbered 24,146\* against

\* Contrary to statements which have frequently appeared in the press of an adjacent colony, the law relating to drunkenness is the same in Victoria as in New South Wales. In both colonies a drunken person is liable to be arrested even although not guilty of disorderly conduct.

15,578. An exception occurred in the last three years in regard to arrests for robbery, burglary, etc., which in 1887 numbered 300 in New South Wales as against 421 in Victoria, also in the last year in regard to "other offences," which numbered 31,053 in New South Wales as against 34,421 in Victoria. The following table shows the offences for which apprehensions were made or summonses issued in the various Australasian colonies during the eleven years 1877 to 1887, so far as the information can be gathered from their respective *Statistical Registers* :—

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE  
AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1877 TO 1887.

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, etc.	Horse, Sheep, and Cattle Stealing, etc.	Other Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
Victoria	1877	50	48	4,316	155	195	4,167	12,447	24,466
	1878	36	54	4,456	187	173	4,274	11,825	23,737
	1879	29	60	4,174	203	154	4,160	10,859	24,297
	1880	36	81	4,376	245	171	3,880	10,056	22,933
	1881	32	71	4,526	195	153	4,383	11,065	24,305
	1882	33	66	4,340	206	169	4,853	11,749	25,818
	1883	38	52	3,785	262	158	4,146	12,408	28,125
	1884	39	70	3,539	205	130	4,038	12,938	30,438
	1885	31	57	4,071	287	149	3,797	13,580	30,594
	1886	34	51	4,105	282	154	4,340	14,528	30,867
	1887	35	59	3,923	421	131	4,468	15,578	34,421
New South Wales	1877	8,539			6,130			16,696	16,374
	1878	9,398			6,807			17,224	19,896
	1879	63	85	9,102	266	472	6,126	17,713	20,043
	1880	75	95	9,364	245	469	6,154	18,777	22,605
	1881	68	104	9,031	231	465	6,237	22,560	27,904
	1882	54	110	9,080	274	529	6,643	22,280	26,966
	1883	76	109	10,484	203	348	6,343	23,178	31,490
	1884	98	119	9,842	263	482	6,415	25,428	33,033
	1885	50	115	9,353	230	403	6,576	27,493	32,872
	1886	73	163	9,899	261	307	6,787	27,722	36,291
	1887	36	138	8,729	300	307	7,410	24,146	31,053
Queensland	1877	1,550			1,201			3,019	4,159
	1878	1,273			1,191			3,215	3,884
	1879	1,238			1,175			2,997	3,648
	1880	1,320			1,186			2,867	3,760
	1881	1,304			1,146			3,275	4,338

\* See footnote to preceding page.

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE  
AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1877 TO 1887—*continued*.

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, etc.	Horse, Sheep, and Cattle Stealing, etc.	Other Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
Queensland — <i>continued</i>	1882	1,532			1,140			3,771	5,206
	1883	2,369			1,327			4,505	5,603
	1884	2,543			1,687			5,117	6,171
	1885	2,230			1,748			5,508	6,277
	1886	2,091			1,956			5,748	7,845
	1887	2,587			2,126			6,000	6,056
South Australia	1877	11	31	810	24	31	636	2,890	5,881
	1878	10	32	941	50	12	824	4,166	7,647
	1879	5	29	857	46	15	890	3,840	7,161
	1880	13	37	1,026	52	51	971	4,325	8,588
	1881	7	33	862	45	23	1,009	5,298	8,070
	1882	5	16	934	55	19	963	4,713	7,967
	1883	5	17	767	61	15	652	4,533	7,054
	1884	24	41	711	45	13	653	3,938	6,563
	1885	9	36	598	28	19	708	3,361	5,647
	1886	8	32	530	27	18	679	2,566	4,342
	1887	8	21	408	36	16	562	2,090	3,981
Western Australia	1877	470			493			5,892	
	1878	619			515			4,992	
	1879	462			387			5,622	
	1880	331			355			4,891	
	1881	418			354			4,688	
	1882	365			459			4,265	
	1883	455			372			3,912	
	1884	410			335			4,086	
	1885	403			323			4,174	
	1886	474			414			4,815	
	1887	472			532			4,359	
Tasmania †	1877	25	16	636	58	26	854	1,345	3,646
	1878	6	30	693	60	35	862	1,374	3,584
	1879	2	54	616	45	35	998	1,504	3,930
	1880	2	14	651	103	37	723	1,543	3,835
	1881	5	8	528	35	17	691	1,446	3,499
	1882	5	20	621	36	27	842	1,827	4,237
	1883	2	17	701	25	28	702	1,890	4,674
	1884	3	21	533	22	25	616	1,577	3,476
	1885	3	13	544	34	22	565	1,470	3,332
	1886	4	18	489	16	20	647	1,507	3,885
	1887	3	19	449	22	18	749	1,192	3,480

\* See footnote on page 350 *ante*.† See footnote (†) on page 344 *ante*.

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE  
AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1877 TO 1887—*continued.*

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, etc.	Horse, Sheep, and Cattle Stealing, etc.	Other Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
New Zealand ...	1877	18	41	1,899	66	61	1,855	7,429	10,564
	1878	16	43	1,890	38	44	1,684	7,105	11,417
	1879	14	51	1,869	100	67	2,563	6,672	11,156
	1880	29	56	1,909	99	65	2,272	6,371	10,380
	1881	13	59	1,937	73	85	2,146	5,770	9,713
	1882	10	47	1,920	93	62	2,226	6,996	11,305
	1883	16	46	1,605	71	50	2,358	7,494	11,450
	1884	25	35	1,652	102	66	2,270	7,154	12,268
	1885	21	30	1,734	94	60	2,044	7,012	12,108
	1886	23	49	1,545	122	86	2,185	6,297	11,355
	1887	17	43	1,600	179	54	2,304	5,661	10,478

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

Ratio of  
each group  
of offences  
to popula-  
tion of each  
colony.

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH  
AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1877 TO 1887.

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunken- ness.*	Other Offences.
Victoria ...	1877	5.46	5.59	15.39	30.26
	1878	5.53	5.64	14.40	28.90
	1879	5.11	5.42	13.02	29.13
	1880	5.28	5.05	11.83	26.97
	1881	5.33	5.44	12.73	27.97
	1882	4.99	5.87	13.20	29.00
	1883	4.25	5.01	13.62	30.87
	1884	3.91	4.68	13.85	32.59
	1885	4.34	4.42	14.17	31.92
	1886	4.24	4.84	14.72	32.28
	1887	3.94	4.92	15.28	33.75

\* See footnote on page 350 *ante.*

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH  
AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1877 TO 1887—*continued.*

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunken- ness.*	Other Offences.
New South Wales ...	1877	13·58	9·75	26·55	26·03
	1878	14·29	10·35	26·18	30·25
	1879	13·40	9·94	25·65	29·02
	1880	13·14	9·46	25·88	31·15
	1881	12·10	9·12	29·67	36·70
	1882	11·63	9·37	28·03	33·93
	1883	12·79	8·26	27·78	37·74
	1884	11·42	8·13	28·87	37·50
	1885	10·22	7·74	29·53	35·31
	1886	10·34	7·51	28·29	37·03
	1887	8·71	7·84	23·62	30·37
Queensland ...	1877	7·94	6·16	15·47	21·32
	1878	6·16	5·76	15·55	18·78
	1879	5·78	5·49	13·99	17·03
	1880	5·95	5·34	12·92	16·94
	1881	5·90	5·19	14·82	19·63
	1882	6·45	4·80	15·87	21·91
	1883	8·84	4·95	16·81	20·92
	1884	8·63	5·72	17·36	20·94
	1885	7·22	5·66	17·84	20·33
	1886	6·29	5·88	17·29	23·59
	1887	7·29	5·99	16·91	17·07
South Australia ...	1877	3·68	2·99	12·50	25·43
	1878	4·05	3·65	17·16	31·49
	1879	3·54	3·74	15·11	28·14
	1880	4·08	4·08	16·41	32·59
	1881	3·12	3·66	18·36	27·97
	1882	3·29	3·58	16·26	27·48
	1883	2·64	2·44	15·16	23·59
	1884	2·51	2·30	12·76	21·26
	1885	2·10	2·41	10·73	18·03
	1886	1·82	2·31	8·20	13·87
	1887	1·39	1·96	6·67	12·70
Western Australia ...	1877	17·04	17·87	213·63	
	1878	22·13	18·39	178·27	
	1879	16·26	13·62	197·84	
	1880	11·48	12·31	169·57	
	1881	14·00	11·86	157·06	
	1882	12·01	15·10	140·34	
	1883	14·57	11·91	125·25	
	1884	12·68	10·36	126·39	
	1885	11·83	9·48	122·53	
	1886	12·75	11·13	129·49	
	1887	11·32	12·76	104·53	

\* See footnote on page 350 *ante*.

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH  
AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1877 TO 1887—*continued*.

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
Tasmania† ...	1877	6·37	8·82	12·65	34·31
	1878	6·72	9·00	12·66	33·02
	1879	6·04	9·69	13·52	35·35
	1880	5·87	7·60	13·58	33·75
	1881	4·61	6·33	12·32	29·83
	1882	5·35	7·50	15·14	35·10
	1883	5·79	6·07	15·20	37·59
	1884	4·34	5·16	12·28	27·08
	1885	4·24	4·70	11·12	25·21
	1886	3·77	5·04	11·12	28·67
New Zealand ...	1887	3·37	5·64	8·53	24·88
	1877	4·79	4·85	18·19	25·87
	1878	4·62	4·19	16·85	27·08
	1879	4·32	6·09	14·88	24·89
	1880	4·20	5·13	13·41	21·86
	1881	4·07	4·67	11·68	19·68
	1882	3·88	4·67	13·74	22·19
	1883	3·15	4·68	14·16	21·63
	1884	3·12	4·44	13·03	22·35
	1885	3·15	3·88	12·39	21·39
	1886	2·78	4·11	10·82	19·51
	1887	2·78	4·25	9·49	17·57

717. It will be observed that, according to population, arrests or summonses for offences against the person were, in all the years, much more numerous in Western Australia and New South Wales than in any other colony; in the former of which they were—in the year 1887—nearly three times, and in the latter two and a quarter times; as numerous as in Victoria. The following is the order of the colonies in this respect during 1887—which is the same as in the previous year—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, 1887.

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

718. In 1887, arrests for offences against property in Western Australia were more than two and a-half times, and in New South Wales more than one and a-half times, as numerous, in proportion to

\* See footnote on page 350 *ante*.

† See footnote (†) on page 344 *ante*.

population, as they were in Victoria, where they were fewer than in any colonies except New Zealand and South Australia. In this respect, the order of the colonies was as follows, the colony 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, 1887.

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

Order of colonies as to drunkenness.

719. In the matter of drunkenness, New South Wales far outstrips all the other colonies of the group in which the offence is distinguished\*—the arrests for drunkenness there for several years past having been in proportion to population fully half as numerous again as in Victoria.† In the following list, wherein the colony in which the largest number of inebriates was brought before magistrates in 1887 is placed first, and that in which the number was smallest last, it will be observed that Victoria stands below New South Wales and Queensland, but above three of the other colonies:—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO APPREHENSIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1887.

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

Order of colonies as to "other offences."

720. "Other offences," which embrace breaches of corporation by-laws, *Wines and Spirit Statute*, etc., are rather violations of good order than actual crimes, and are consequently generally dealt with by summons. Relatively to population, they are usually most numerous in New South Wales, but in 1887 they were more numerous in Victoria 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 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 IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR "OTHER OFFENCES," 1887.

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

\* The only colony in which drunkenness is not distinguished is Western Australia.

† Both in Victoria and New South Wales, a drunken person is liable to be arrested, even although not disorderly.



721. 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 commitments to convictions during the eleven years ended with 1887:—

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1877 TO 1887.

Colony.		Estimated Population.	Commit- ments for Trial.	Con- victions.	Proportion of—		
					Commit- ments to Population.	Convic- tions to Population.	Convic- tions to Commit- ments.
					per 10,000.	per 10,000.	per cent.
England and Wales	1877	24,547,309	15,890	11,942	6·47	4·86	75·15
	1878	24,854,397	16,372	12,473	6·59	5·02	76·18
	1879	25,165,336	16,388	12,525	6·51	4·98	76·43
	1880	25,480,161	14,770	11,214	5·80	4·40	75·92
	1881	26,055,406	14,786	11,353	5·67	4·36	76·78
	1882	26,406,820	15,260	11,699	5·78	4·43	76·66
	1883	26,770,744	14,659	11,347	5·49	4·24	77·41
	1884	27,132,449	14,407	11,134	5·31	4·10	77·28
	1885	27,499,041	13,586	10,500	4·94	3·82	77·28
	1886	27,870,586	13,974	10,686	5·01	3·83	76·47
	1887	28,247,151	13,292	10,338	4·71	3·66	77·78
Scotland	1877	3,560,715	2,684	2,009	7·54	5·64	74·85
	1878	3,593,929	2,922	2,273	8·13	6·32	77·79
	1879	3,627,453	2,700	2,091	7·44	5·76	77·44
	1880	3,661,292	2,583	2,046	7·05	5·59	79·21
	1881	3,744,323	2,444	1,832	6·53	4·89	74·96
	1882	3,785,400	2,469	1,943	6·52	5·13	78·70
	1883	3,825,744	2,563	1,914	6·70	5·00	74·68
	1884	3,866,521	2,610	2,085	6·72	5·37	79·88
	1885	3,907,736	2,537	1,956	6·49	5·01	77·10
	1886	3,949,393	2,437	1,838	6·19	4·65	75·20
	1887	3,991,499	2,319	1,809	5·81	4·53	78·01
Ireland	1877	5,338,906	3,870	2,300	7·25	4·31	59·49
	1878	5,351,060	4,183	2,293	7·82	4·28	54·81
	1879	5,362,337	4,363	2,207	8·14	4·12	50·58
	1880	5,327,099	4,716	2,383	8·85	4·47	50·53
	1881	5,129,950	5,311	2,698	10·35	5·26	50·80
	1882	5,097,730	4,301	2,255	8·44	4·42	52·43
	1883	5,015,328	3,025	1,740	6·03	3·46	57·52
	1884	4,962,693	2,925	1,546	5·89	3·12	52·85
	1885	4,924,342	2,850	1,573	5·79	3·19	55·19
	1886	4,889,430	3,028	1,619	6·19	3·31	53·47
	1887	4,837,352	2,694	1,411	5·57	2·92	52·38

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1877 TO 1887—continued.

Colony.	Estimated Population.	Commit- ments for Trial.	Con- victions.	Proportion of—			
				Commit- ments to Population.	Convic- tions to Population.	Convic- tions to Commit- ments.	
				per 10,000.	per 10,000.	per cent.	
Total ...	1877	33,446,930	22,444	16,251	6·71	4·86	72·44
	1878	33,799,386	23,477	17,039	6·95	5·04	72·57
	1879	34,155,126	23,451	16,823	6·87	4·93	71·74
	1880	34,468,552	22,069	15,643	6·40	4·54	70·88
	1881	34,929,679	22,541	15,883	6·45	4·55	70·46
	1882	35,289,950	22,030	15,897	6·24	4·50	72·16
	1883	35,611,816	20,247	15,001	5·69	4·21	74·09
	1884	35,961,663	19,942	14,765	5·54	4·10	74·04
	1885	36,331,119	18,973	14,029	5·22	3·86	73·94
	1886	36,709,409	19,439	14,143	5·30	3·85	72·73
	1887	37,076,002	18,305	13,558	4·94	3·66	74·07

Crime in  
United  
Kingdom  
and  
Australasia  
compared.

722. Taking the mean of the eleven years given in the table, it will be found that, in proportion to population, the commitments for trial in the United Kingdom, taken as a whole, are less than in Victoria, and considerably less than in any of the other Australasian colonies ; also, that the same holds good for England and Scotland, except that the proportion in Victoria is about equal to that in the latter ; but in Ireland the proportion has, on the whole, been slightly higher than in Victoria. Convictions after commitment are, relatively to population, generally as numerous in Victoria as in the United Kingdom or England and Wales, more numerous than in Ireland, but less than in Scotland.

Convictions  
in United  
Kingdom  
and  
Australasia  
compared.

723. The convictions obtained in proportion to the commitments are, according to the figures, more numerous in England and Scotland than in any of the Australasian colonies, but the proportion in Ireland in 1886 was less than that in Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, and Tasmania during the same year.

Arrests for  
drunken-  
ness show  
extent of  
that vice.

724. In well-policed countries, such as are most, if not all, the Australasian colonies, where a drunken man showing himself in public is sure to be speedily apprehended, the arrests for drunkenness doubtless afford the most reliable indication of the extent to which that vice prevails.

Drink  
consumed  
not a true  
index of  
drunken-  
ness.

725. Less valuable in this direction is the quantity of liquor consumed, as in some countries, where there is but little drunkenness, the consumption of intoxicants is high from the fact of wine or beer being the common drink at meal times, whilst in other countries,

where there is a vast amount of drunkenness, the consumption of intoxicants is comparatively low from the fact that the common beverage at meals is tea, coffee, or water. It is possible to conceive that in the former case the major portion of the community may be moderate drinkers, with but few total abstainers and few drunkards; whilst, in the latter case, with a fair proportion of moderate drinkers and some total abstainers, there may also be a considerable number of drunkards. It will, however, be interesting to compare countries in respect to the amount of strong drink they severally consume, and, in order to do this, after having found the quantity of malt liquor, wine, and spirits drunk in each country, it obviously becomes desirable to reduce these liquids to a common standard of strength; but here a difficulty presents itself, inasmuch as the potency of the different beverages varies greatly in different countries, the *vins ordinaires* of France and the pure natural wines of the Australian colonies not being nearly so strong as the highly fortified ports and sherries drunk in the United Kingdom, colonial beer also being much weaker than London or Dublin stout or than Scotch ale; whilst on the other hand, it may be assumed that the gin commonly retailed in England contains less alcohol than the whiskey and brandy drunk in Australia.

726. It has been laid down by authority\* that a glass of gin (two and a-half ounces) is equal in alcoholic strength to a pint and a-half of English beer (thirty ounces), or to four glasses of sherry (ten ounces); whence it follows that one gallon of beer, one-third of a gallon of sherry, and one-twelfth of a gallon of gin are equivalent quantities.

Cassell's  
standard.

727. The superior strength of the wines and beers consumed in some countries being set off against the superior strength of the spirits consumed in others, the reduction to a common standard of the quantity consumed per head, upon the principle just referred to may, perhaps, in the absence of accurate information, afford the basis for a tolerably fair comparison between the quantities of intoxicants consumed in the following countries. At any rate the comparison will not be greatly wrong so far as the Australasian colonies are concerned, as the beers, wines, and spirits consumed in the different colonies vary but little in character and strength. The equivalent in beer of the different drinks consumed is given in the last column, and the countries are arranged in order according to the numbers in this column:—

Consump-  
tion of  
drink in  
various  
countries.

\* See *Cassell's Family Physician*, volume IV., page 936. It is there stated that beer contains from 5 to 6 per cent. of alcohol; sherry from 14 to 16 per cent.; wines generally from 8 to 19 per cent., although some contain as little as 6 per cent.; and others as much as 25 per cent.; brandy and whiskey contain from 50 to 60 per cent., and rum from 60 to 77 per cent.

## CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC DRINKS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Countries.	Average Annual Consumption per Head.			
	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Equivalent in Beer.*
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
France ... ..	4·53	16·52	·85	64·29
Denmark ... ..	...	...	4·48	53·76†
Holland ... ..	19·05	·49	2·08	45·48
United Kingdom ... ..	28·74	·43	·59	37·11
New South Wales ... ..	16·70	·74	1·39	35·60
Germany ... ..	19·38	1·32	·95	34·74
Queensland ... ..	9·55	·69	1·85	33·82
Victoria ... ..	16·41	1·01	1·12	32·88
Austria-Hungary ... ..	6·83	4·84	·63	28·91
South Australia ... ..	14·37	1·59	·80	28·74
United States ... ..	10·74	·37	1·34	27·93
Switzerland ... ..	8·15	2·11	1·04	26·96
New Zealand ... ..	9·31	·27	·92	21·16
Tasmania ... ..	10·00	·24	·69	19·00
Sweden ... ..	2·52	·20	1·27	18·36
Canada ... ..	2·98	·12	·99	15·22

NOTE.—The averages for the Australasian colonies have been calculated over a period of three years, those for the other countries extend over various periods.

Consumption of drink in various countries compared.

728. The fallacy involved in considering the average consumption of alcoholic drink to be a measure of the drunkenness prevailing in a community is strikingly shown by the figures in the last column, as, by these, France would appear to be the most drunken country in the world, the consumption of intoxicants being nearly twice as great there as in Victoria, and more than three times as great as in New Zealand or Tasmania, and yet it is questionable whether France is not less inebriate than any of these colonies. France is almost certainly less inebriate than Holland, where, according to the figures, the consumption is less than in France by nearly a third. Taking the figures for what they may be worth, however, Victoria stands below New South Wales or Queensland, the annual consumption per head, reduced to its equivalent in beer, being  $2\frac{3}{4}$  gallons less than that of the former, and about a gallon less than that of the latter. On the other hand, Victoria appears to consume per head 4 gallons more than South Australia, nearly 12 gallons more than New Zealand, and nearly 14 gallons more than Tasmania. It is known there are no

\* The figures in this column are based on the assumption that one gallon of beer, one-third of a gallon of wine, and one-twelfth of a gallon of spirits are equivalent quantities. Those disagreeing with this assumption have it in their power, by means of the proportions given in the three preceding columns, to calculate the equivalents upon any principle they may deem more correct.

† No figures are available respecting the beer and wine drunk in Denmark. These figures, therefore, represent the equivalent of the spirits alone.

distilleries in the former colony,\* but it is possible there may be some in the latter, although no mention of them is made in the published statistics. If it should turn out that spirits are made in Tasmania, the figures relating thereto would obviously understate the truth.

729. Turning to the earlier columns, it will be noticed that, according to population, most beer is consumed in the United Kingdom, most wine in France, and most spirits in Denmark;† also that, in point of consumption of spirits, Holland comes next to Denmark, next to which comes Queensland, then New South Wales, then the United States, then Sweden, and then Victoria. The small quantities set down for Tasmania raise doubts as to the accuracy of the figures, as has been already stated. The same may be said of Canada, and, perhaps, New Zealand.

Countries consuming most beer, wine, and spirits.

730. It should be mentioned that the quantities of each kind of drink consumed in the Australasian colonies have been obtained by taking the excess, during the three years ended with 1886, of imports over exports of wine, beer, and spirits, and adding thereto the quantities returned as having been made in the colony during the same three years.

Mode of obtaining Australasian drink returns.

731. A phase of crime, respecting which it is difficult to obtain accurate information, is female prostitution. Mr. H. M. Chomley, the Chief Commissioner of the Victorian police, however, by means of the force at his disposal and by correspondence with the police authorities of the neighbouring colonies, about six years since obtained some figures relating to the prostitution existing in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide, which will be found in the following table:—

Prostitution in Australian capitals

PROSTITUTION IN AUSTRALIAN CAPITALS.

Capital Cities.	Population (Census of 1881).	Number of Prostitutes, 1883.	Prostitutes per 10,000 of Population.
Melbourne ... ..	282,947	597	21·10
Sydney ... ..	224,211	613	27·34
Brisbane ... ..	31,109	99	31·82
Adelaide ... ..	67,954	500	73·58

732. According to the figures in the last column, Melbourne was much freer from prostitution than any one of the metropolitan cities

Results compared.

\* There are now no distilleries in New Zealand, those formerly in existence having been bought up and closed by the Government in 1874.

† No information is available as to the quantity of beer and wine consumed in Denmark.

named. It will be observed that even in actual numbers the prostitutes in Melbourne were fewer than in Sydney, although the latter has the smaller population. An enormous amount of prostitution appears to exist in Adelaide, but the figures being given in round numbers must be regarded with suspicion.

Prostitutes  
in Mel-  
bourne,  
1889.

733. From an estimate made in 1889, upon which Mr. Chomley states considerable care was expended, the number of prostitutes in Melbourne and suburbs was 629. At the same time the population amounted to 438,000, so that the proportion of prostitutes per 10,000 of the population appears to have fallen from 21 in 1883 to only 14 in the present year.

Police in  
Austral-  
asian  
colonies.

734. The Victorian police force is an admirably organized body of men, and, although smaller in numbers than the police force of New South Wales by 39, smaller also in proportion to population than the police force of either that colony or Queensland, their efficiency, combined with the orderly character of the population, is such that serious offences, as has been already shown,\* are usually much less rife in Victoria than in most of the other colonies. The following figures show the number of police and their proportion to the population in each colony:—

#### POLICE IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1889.†

1. South Australia	has	391	police,	or	1	to	814	persons.
2. Victoria	„	1,452	„	„	751	„	„	„
3. New South Wales	„	1,491	„	„	725	„	„	„
4. Queensland	„	935	„	„	414	„	„	„

Police in  
Australian  
capitals.

735. Mr. Chomley supplies the following figures to show the number of persons one policeman keeps in order and protects in each of the four Australian capitals named:—

#### POLICE IN AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL CITIES, 1889.

1. Sydney	has	514	police,	or	1	to	696	persons.
2. Melbourne	„	659	„	„	637	„	„	„
3. Brisbane	„	156	„	„	550	„	„	„
4. Adelaide	„	217	„	„	531	„	„	„

Supreme  
Court  
criminal  
sittings.

736. The number of criminal cases tried in the Supreme Court at the various places throughout the colony where sittings were held in 1888 was 428, of which 372 were for felony, and 56 for misdemeanors. The convictions for felony numbered 264, and for misdemeanors 44. The number of places where sittings were held was 18, the number of sittings was 65, and the total duration of sittings was 177 days.

\* See paragraph 710 *ante*.

† In 1883, the New Zealand police numbered 741, or 1 to every 783 persons living. No later returns are at hand respecting that colony.

737. Sittings may be held at the same number of places to try civil cases, but no causes were entered at 7 out of the 18 places in 1888. The number of causes entered for trial during the year was 375; but the number of causes tried was only 158, of which 46 were tried by juries of six, 19 by juries of twelve, and 93 by a judge alone. All of these were defended. The damages laid in the declarations amounted in the aggregate to £257,070. Verdicts were returned in 150 instances, and no nonsuits. Of the verdicts, 109, or about 73 per cent., were for the plaintiff. The aggregate amount awarded by the juries was £33,636, or 13 per cent. of the damages laid. In the ten years ended with 1887, the damages sued for in these or similar courts amounted to £2,396,940, and the sums awarded by juries to £404,192, or to about 17 per cent. of the damages sued for.

Supreme  
Court civil  
sittings.

738. 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 1888 numbered 29, and the number of courts held 76, extending over periods amounting in the aggregate to 119 days. The number of cases tried was 321, in 239 of which, or 74 per cent., convictions were obtained. The number of appeals heard was 84. In the ten years prior to 1888, 2,539 cases were tried in Courts of General Sessions, and 1,687 convictions were obtained; thus the latter were to the former in the proportion of 66 per cent.

Courts of  
General  
Sessions.

739. County Courts have jurisdiction in civil cases up to £250. The number of places at which they were held in 1888 was 63, and the number of courts held was 201, extending over 440 days. The total number of cases tried was 7,711, the amount sued for was £239,106, and the amount recovered £89,363, or only 37 per cent. of the amount sued for. The costs awarded to the plaintiff amounted to £11,292, and the costs awarded to the defendant to £5,969. During the ten years prior to the year under review the aggregate amount sued for in County Courts was £2,863,257, and the aggregate amount awarded was £876,497, or 31 per cent. of the amount sued for.

County  
Courts.

740. 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 1888 numbered 11, and the courts held numbered 30, occupying 9 days. The total number of suits was 4, and the aggregate amount or value of demand, £1,430. The amount of costs awarded to the plaintiffs was *nil*, and to the defendants £30. These figures do not include all the mining disputes which took place during the year, as those of minor importance are adjudicated on by

Courts of  
Mines.

the wardens of the gold-fields. In the ten years prior to 1888, the value sued for in Courts of Mines amounted in the aggregate to £19,930. The business has fallen off very considerably for several years past.

Courts of  
Petty Ses-  
sions :  
criminal  
cases.

741. The cases of indictable offences heard at Petty Sessions during 1888 numbered 2,186, which resulted in 927 commitments for trial. Commitments were thus obtained in 42 per cent. of the cases. The offences summarily dealt with numbered 58,090, in 40,127 of which, or 69 per cent., the offender was convicted.

Courts of  
Petty Ses-  
sions : civil  
cases.

742. Courts of Petty Sessions have jurisdiction in ordinary civil cases up to £50,\* and in master and servant cases also up to £50. Such courts were held at 232 places during the year. The civil cases heard numbered 19,885, in which the total amount of debts or damages claimed was £114,816, and the total amount awarded was £77,374, or 67 per cent. of the amount claimed. In the ten years ended with 1887, the debts or damages claimed in these courts amounted in all to £852,167, and the sums awarded to £533,366, or to 63 per cent. of the amounts claimed.

Debts sued  
for and  
awarded.

743. The net results of the civil cases tried in 1888 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 1888 and the previous decennium. It will be noticed that the whole amount at stake was £611,000, and that rather less than a third was recovered ; also that whilst the proportion recovered in the Supreme Court appears to have been considerably less,\* that in the County Courts and Courts of Petty Sessions was somewhat above the average :—

DEBTS AND DAMAGES CLAIMED AND AWARDED.†

Name of Court.	Amount of Debts and Damages, 1888.		Proportion of Debts and Damages recovered.	
	Claimed.	Awarded.	1888.	Average of Previous 10 Years.
	£	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Supreme Court ... ..	257,070	33,636	13	17
County Courts ... ..	239,106	89,363	37	31
Courts of Petty Sessions ...	114,816	77,374	67	63
Total ... ..	610,992	200,373	33	30

\* Increased from £20 by the *Justices of the Peace Act* 1887.  
† 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, whereas in 1888 only a little more than half were tried during the year.



744. The number of writs issued in 1888, in the six bailiwicks into which the colony is divided, was 1,326, or 304 fewer than in the previous year. Of the whole number 10 were Queen's writs against both person and property, 33 were subjects' writs against the person alone, and 1,283 were subjects' writs against property alone.

745. In 1888, as is shown in the following table, the insolvencies in all the Australasian colonies numbered 2,638, and the total deficiency, according to the insolvents' schedules, amounted to £744,000.\* It will be observed that the insolvencies in New South Wales exceeded those in Victoria by 372, and the deficiency in the former exceeded that in the latter by £38,000 :—

INSOLVENCIES IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1888.

Colony.	Number of Insolvencies	As shown by the Insolvents' Schedules.		
		Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
		£	£	£
Victoria ...	479	347,658	185,871	161,787
New South Wales ...	851	659,307	459,677	199,630
Queensland ...	249	258,884	122,464	136,420
South Australia ...	98	80,092	58,011	22,081
Western Australia ...	27	...	...	...
Total Australia ...	1,704	1,345,941	826,023	519,918
Tasmania ...	90	44,887	13,641	31,246
New Zealand ...	844	445,061	252,322	192,739
Total Australasia ...	2,638	1,835,889	1,091,986	743,903

746. Places for the reception of prisoners in Victoria are of three kinds: ordinary gaols, police gaols, and penal establishments. The ordinary gaols and the penal establishments 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.

747. In accordance with recommendations made by the Inspector-General of Penal Establishments, the probation system for first offenders was introduced into Victoria by the passing of the *Juvenile Offenders Act* 1887 (51 Vict. No. 951), which came into operation on 1st January, 1888. This Act gives power to a judge or chairman of the court before which, or any two or more justices before whom the conviction has taken place, in the case of persons under the age of 21 years not previously convicted, to suspend the execution of sentences

\* See also paragraphs 645 to 652 ante.

for any term of imprisonment not exceeding three years for any offence, whether indictable or punishable by summary conviction, and to release the offender from custody upon entering into recognizances, to be settled by the court, for his future good behaviour. Moreover, in the case of prisoners undergoing sentence, who had not been previously convicted and received sentence when under the age of 25 years, the Governor in Council is empowered to extend mercy to such offenders by releasing them from custody upon entering into like recognizances. In both cases, however, a prisoner so released is liable to be re-arrested for misbehaviour, and committed to prison to undergo his sentence or the residue thereof. Under the provisions of this Act, 16 male prisoners were released on probation in 1888.

Gaols and prisoners.

748. The gross, distinct, and average number of prisoners detained in each description of prison during 1888 will be found in the following table, males and females being distinguished :—

GAOLS AND PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS, 1888.

Description of Prison.	Number of Institutions.	Prisoners detained during the Year.								
		Gross Number.*			Distinct Individuals.†			Average at one time.		
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Gaols ...	9	7,637	2,470	10,107	} 7,897	1,648	9,545	{ 703	332	1,035
Penal establishments	1	1,146	...	1,146				{ 587	...	587
Police gaols ...	8	626	48	674	498	28	526‡	11	1	12
Total ...	18	9,409	2,518	11,927	8,395	1,676	10,071	1,301	333	1,634

Increase of distinct prisoners.

749. According to this table, the number of individual prisoners detained during the whole or some portion of 1888 in the gaols and penal establishments of the colony was 10,071, viz., 8,395 males and 1,676 females. In the previous year, the number of distinct prisoners was 10,359, viz., 8,428 males and 1,931 females; thus showing a decrease of 288 during the year under review, viz., 33 in the male, and of 255 in the female prisoners.

Proportion of distinct prisoners to population.

750. Comparing the figures for 1888 with those showing the mean population of that year, it appears that 1 person in every 105 persons in the colony, or 1 male in every 67 males, and 1 female in every 296 females, passed some portion of the year in prison; whereas the

\* Exclusive of prisoners transferred from one institution to another. The numbers here given represent imprisonments, each person being counted afresh every time imprisoned.  
† See table following paragraph 753 post.  
‡ Estimated.

proportion in 1887 was 1 person in every 98 persons in the colony, or 1 male in every 64 males, and 1 female in every 248 females. In these estimates no account is taken of persons lodged temporarily in watch-houses, etc., pending examination before magistrates, the prisoners here referred to being only those detained in regular gaols or penal establishments.

751. If a comparison be made between the gross number of prisoners (exclusive of transfers) and the distinct prisoners, it will be found that 84·44 per cent. of the prisoners dealt with in 1888—viz., 89·22 per cent. in the case of males, and 66·56 per cent. in the case of females—were distinct individuals. In the previous year the proportions were:—Total, 86·08 per cent.; males, 90·91 per cent; females, 69·90 per cent.

752. 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 650 persons living was constantly in prison during 1888; or, distinguishing the sexes, that, during that year, 1 male in every 434 males living, and 1 female in every 1,493 females living were constantly in detention. By the following table, which gives the figures for the last eleven years, it will be seen that the proportion of prisoners to the population has fallen from 1 in every 549 in 1878, to 1 in every 650 in 1888, the latter proportion, however, being somewhat higher than that prevailing in 1885 and 1886:—

PROPORTION OF PRISONERS TO POPULATION, 1878 TO 1888.

Year.	Of the Total Population one Person was constantly in Prison to every—		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1878	356	1,397	549
1879	351	1,267	534
1880	348	1,274	532
1881	353	1,349	543
1882	391	1,416	596
1883	429	1,346	633
1884	446	1,347	650
1885	466	1,357	670
1886	444	1,380	653
1887	429	1,360	632
1888	434	1,493	650

753. 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 1888\*, also the proportions per cent.:—

\* See Inspector General's Report for 1888, page 15.

DISTINCT PRISONERS, 1888.  
(Exclusive of those in Police Gaols.)

Number of Times Imprisoned during Year.	Distinct Prisoners, 1888.					
	Number.			Percentage.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Once ... ..	5,671	1,026	6,697	71·81	62·26	70·16
Twice ... ..	880	248	1,128	11·14	15·05	11·82
Three times ... ..	213	101	314	2·70	6·12	3·29
Four times ... ..	74	53	127	·94	3·22	1·33
Five times ... ..	24	16	40	·30	·97	·42
Six times and upwards ... ..	8	18	26*	·10	1·09	·27
Total received ... ..	6,870	1,462	8,332	86·99	88·71	87·29
In detention at commencement of year † ... ..	1,027	186	1,213	13·01	11·29	12·71
Grand Total ... ..	7,897	1,648	9,545	100·00	100·00	100·00

Persons imprisoned more than once.

754. Adding the numbers at the commencement of the year to those in the first line of the table, it is found that 83 per cent. of the distinct prisoners in 1888 were imprisoned only once during the year, and consequently 17 per cent. were imprisoned more than once. In the case of males, the proportions were 85 and 15 per cent.; and in the case of females, 74 and 26 per cent. respectively. The tendency of females to be imprisoned over and over again is greater than that of males; thus, during the year, over 11 per cent. of the whole number of females were imprisoned three times or upwards, and over 5 per cent. four times or upwards; whereas only 4 per cent. of the males were imprisoned more than twice, and only 1¼ per cent. more than three times.

Prisoners previously convicted.

755. Out of a total of 1,684 prisoners in detention on the 31st December, 1888, 976, or about 58 per cent., had been previously imprisoned under sentence in the colony—viz., 237, or 14 per cent., once; 146, or 9 per cent., twice; 93, or 5 per cent., three times; and as many as 500, or 30 per cent., four times or oftener. Of the total number, 43 had also been convicted in other countries, including 3 in other colonies, and 21 in the United Kingdom.

Grounds of imprisonment.

756. The following is a classification of the prisoners in confinement at the end of 1888, according to the grounds in respect to which

\* One male and four females admitted seven times. Two females admitted eight, and two nine times.

† Exclusive of those discharged and re-admitted during the year, who numbered 334, viz., 236 males, and 148 females, they being included with the figures in the previous line.

they were detained. It will be noticed that 102 were untried; also that more than half the males, but only a sixth of the females, had been convicted of felony :—

GROUNDS FOR DETENTION OF PRISONERS, 1888.

Grounds for Detention.	Gaols.		Police Gaols.		Penal Establishments.	Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Felony, tried... ..	236	54	1	...	464	701	54	755
„ untried ... ..	46	2	1	...	...	47	2	49
Misdemeanors, tried ...	294	174	11	...	84	389	174	563
„ untried ... ..	32	3	...	...	...	32	3	35
Other offences, tried ...	124	91	1	...	62	187	91	278
„ untried ... ..	14	4	...	...	...	14	4	18
Total ... ..	746	328	14	...	610	1,370	328	1,698

757. The total number of prisoners (exclusive of transfers) admitted in 1888, to ordinary gaols and penal establishments, was 9,656, and of these, 479, viz., 378 males and 101 females, were imprisoned on charges of vagrancy, but really for medical attention, and 751, viz., 298 males and 453 females, were received for shelter. There were thus 1,230 persons, as against 1,358 in 1887, 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. If these destitute prisoners be deducted from the total number of admissions, the balance, viz., 8,426, as compared with 8,526 in 1887, will more correctly represent the criminal admissions during the year.\*

Destitution  
a cause of  
imprison-  
ment.

758. The cases in which prisoners were absent from work during the year on account of sickness, which numbered 2,870,† were in the proportion of 1 case to every 3·5 individual prisoners. The daily average number of prisoners incapacitated from labour by reason of sickness was 121, or 1 in every 10 of the average number constantly employed. The total number of cases of sickness at any one time was 157.

Sickness in  
prisons.

759. Sixty-three deaths from natural causes occurred in prison during 1887, and 67 deaths in 1888. These deaths were in the proportion of 1 to every 164 in the former year, and 1 to every 150 in the latter year, of the estimated individual prisoners; or in the proportion of 1 to every 25 in the former year, and 1 to every 24 in

Deaths in  
prisons.

\* See Inspector-General's Report, page 9.

† The cases of sickness in gaols numbered 3,631. See Part "Vital Statistics," paragraph 329, ante.

the latter year, of the daily average number of prisoners detained The death-rate was thus somewhat higher in the year under review than in the previous one.

Prisoners  
absconding.

760. In the last three years no permanently successful attempt to escape from prison has taken place. In the first of those years one prisoner escaped from the custody of the police whilst being transferred, but was retaken, and two others made unsuccessful attempts to escape from prison; in 1887, one prisoner absconded, viz., from the Portland gaol, and was recaptured during the year; and in 1888 no instance is reported of any prisoner having attempted to escape from custody.

Prisoners  
under life  
sentences.

761. Of prisoners who had been sentenced to imprisonment for life, there have been 36 altogether in the colony, and of these, 18 have been discharged under the operation of regulations in force since February 1878 as to prisoners under commuted sentences to terms of life, 1 by special commutation, 1 to a lunatic asylum, and 2 by death; whilst 14—viz., 10 males and 4 females—still remain in custody.

Ages of  
prisoners.

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

AGES OF PRISONERS, 1888.

Ages.	Estimated Population.	Average number of Prisoners constantly detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
Under 20 years	480,087	140	2·92
20 to 30 „	229,980	591	25·70
30 „ 40 „	118,221	362	30·62
40 „ 50 „	88,366	241	27·27
50 „ 60 „	86,098	163	18·93
60 years and upwards	59,298	137	23·10
Total ... ..	1,062,050	1,634	15·39

Proportion  
of prisoners  
at various  
ages.

763. It appears from this table that, in 1888, 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 390; of those between 20 and 40, 1 in every 365; of those over 40, 1 in every 432; and of those over 60, 1 in every 433, were constantly in prison throughout the year.

764. 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 estimated totals of the same nationality and religion, are compared in the following table:—

Birthplaces and religions of prisoners.

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PRISONERS, 1888.

Native Country and Religion.	Estimated Population.	Average number of Prisoners constantly detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
<b>NATIVE COUNTRY.</b>			
Australasian Colonies ...	679,865	697	10·25
England and Wales ...	174,451	371	21·27
Scotland ... ..	56,738	107	18·86
Ireland ... ..	101,277	331	32·68
China ... ..	12,270	16	13·04
Other countries ...	37,449	112	...
Total ... ..	1,062,050	1,634	15·39
<b>RELIGION.</b>			
Protestants ... ..	761,520	918	12·05
Roman Catholics ...	250,440	682	27·23
Jews ... ..	5,331	8	15·01
Buddhists, Confucians, etc.	11,310	14	12·38
Others ... ..	33,449	12	...

765. 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 22 per cent. more, natives of England and Wales 38 per cent. more, and natives of Ireland 112 per cent. more, than their share to that number; whilst the proportion of Chinese was smaller than that of any other nationality except the Australians. Also that of the religious denominations shown, Protestants contributed much less, and Jews slightly less, than their share; but Roman Catholics 77 per cent. more than their share to the number of such inmates.

Relative numbers of each country and sect.

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

Education of prisoners.

of those able to read and write has considerably increased, and the proportion of the entirely illiterate has largely diminished of late years :—

EDUCATION OF PRISONERS, 1873 TO 1888.

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 ... ..	84	4	12
1888 ... ..	87	4	9

Gaol punish-  
ments.

767. The following cases of punishment for offences committed within the prison took place in 1888. It will be observed that solitary confinement, which is said to be more dreaded by prisoners than any other punishment, was prescribed in more than half 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, 1888.

Nature of Punishment.	Gaols.			Penal Establish- ment.	Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Hard labour ... ..	6	2	8	18	24	2	26
Solitary confinement ...	246	136	382	436	682	136	818
Other punishments ... ..	87	40	127	473	560	40	600
Total ... ..	339	178	517	927	1,266	178	1,444

Proportion  
of prisoners  
punished.

768. The punishments for offences within the prison, as detailed in the last table, were in the proportion of 1 to every 7 individual prisoners, 1 punishment of a male to every 7 individual male prisoners, 1 punishment of a female to every 9 individual female prisoners. According to the daily average number of prisoners, there was not quite 1 punishment to every prisoner; or very nearly 1 punishment to every male, and about 1 punishment to every 2 females.

Trades of  
prisoners.

769. Of the prisoners discharged in 1888, 214 were mechanics or skilled workmen, and of these 71 were set down as having a thorough,



and 143 only an imperfect knowledge of their trade. As many as 153, or 71 per cent., had acquired such knowledge as they possessed during the term of their imprisonment. The following is a statement of the handicrafts followed, and of the number of prisoners who pursued each handicraft whilst under detention :—

MECHANICS AND SKILLED WORKMEN DISCHARGED FROM  
PRISON IN 1888.

Trades.				Knowledge of Trade on Discharge.				Total.
				Good.		Imperfect.		
				Learnt Outside.	Learnt in Prison.	Learnt Outside.	Learnt in Prison.	
Bakers	...	...	1	...	...	3	4	
Blacksmiths and moulders	...	...	2	1	...	3	6	
Bookbinders	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	
Carpenters and turners	...	...	3	...	2	1	6	
Hat and bag makers	...	...	...	5	...	41	46	
Matting and mat makers	...	...	1	...	...	16	17	
Masons and bricklayers	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	
Painters	...	...	6	...	3	2	11	
Printers	...	...	1	1	...	7	9	
Shoemakers	...	...	5	16	14	19	54	
Stonecutters	...	...	1	...	...	3	4	
Tailors	...	...	2	8	6	9	25	
Tanners	...	...	1	...	...	3	4	
Tinsmiths and plumbers	...	...	2	3	...	3	8	
Weavers	...	...	10	...	...	6	16	
Total	...	...	36	35	25	118	214	

770. In the following statement of the cost\* and earnings of prisoners in detention during the year 1888, 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 prisoners:—

COST OF PRISONERS.\*

Salaries and wages ... ..	£38,656	0	0
Contingencies ... ..	27,229	0	0
Extra guard for municipal and other bodies ...	212	0	0
Value of prison labour utilized in making up clothing, materials, implements, and other gaol requirements	32,691	0	0
Total cost ... ..	£98,788	0	0

\* 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.

EARNINGS OF PRISONERS.

Work for other departments, municipalities, etc.—Paid					
for in cash*...	...	...	...	...	£6,971 0 0
Value of time not paid for	...	...	...	...	2,201 0 0
Value of work in connexion with gaol buildings	...	...	...	...	5,375 0 0
Manufacture of clothing, implements, etc., for gaol	...	...	...	...	11,092 0 0
purposes	...	...	...	...	16,224 0 0
Other gaol requirements	...	...	...	...	£41,863 0 0
Total earnings					

Cost and earnings per head.

771. The gross cost of prisoners in 1888 (£98,788) was in the proportion of £60 18s. per head of the average number of prisoners detained (1,622). The difference between the gross cost and the earnings of prisoners, i.e., the net cost, was £66,097, or £40 15s. per head. The earnings of prisoners in the year (£41,863) amounted to £35 1s. 10d. per head of the average number of prisoners employed (viz., 1,193), which is equivalent to 2s. 3d. per head per diem for the 308 working days the year contained.

Prisoners in Victoria and New South Wales.

772. 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 six years ended with 1888, it appears that in proportion to the population the average number of prisoners in the mother colony exceeds that in Victoria by over 60 per cent. :—

PRISONERS IN VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES, 1883 TO 1888.

Year.		On the 31st December.					
		Estimated Population.		Number of Prisoners.		Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.	
		Victoria.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	New South Wales.
1883	...	921,743	857,744	1,442	2,168	15·64	25·28
1884	...	946,045	903,958	1,428	2,464	15·09	27·26
1885	...	971,145	957,914	1,444	2,559	14·87	26·71
1886	...	1,003,043	1,001,966	1,550	2,501	15·45	24·96
1887	...	1,036,119	1,042,919	1,608	2,380	15·52	22·82
1888	...	1,090,869	1,085,740	1,698	2,353	15·57	21·68
Means	...	994,827	975,040	1,528	2,404	15·35	24·65

\* This was the amount paid into the Treasury.

773. The following table shows the total amounts and the amounts per head expended in connexion with the police and the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria during the 24½ years ended with 1888-9. The cost of buildings is not included:—

## EXPENDITURE ON POLICE, GAOLS, ETC., 1865 TO 1888-9.

Year.	Amount Expended* on—			Amount per head of Population.	
	Police. .	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Total.		
	£	£	£	s.	d.
1865 ... ..	187,962	62,629	250,591	8	2
1866 ... ..	194,189	72,522	266,711	8	6
1867 ... ..	138,226	52,972	191,198	5	11
1868 ... ..	201,000	71,285	272,285	8	2
1869 ... ..	157,563	50,913	208,476	6	1
1870 ... ..	198,027	56,503	254,530	7	2
1871 (six months) ...	95,363	27,101	122,464	3	4
1871-2 ... ..	190,711	57,855	248,566	6	8
1872-3 ... ..	187,101	56,017	243,118	6	5
1873-4 ... ..	194,329	61,787	256,116	6	8
1874-5 ... ..	198,312	60,469	258,781	6	7
1875-6 ... ..	199,738	61,051	260,789	6	7
1876-7 ... ..	197,371	60,008	257,379	6	5
1877-8 ... ..	207,119	58,132	265,251	6	6
1878-9 ... ..	209,041	58,442	267,483	6	5
1879-80 ... ..	233,732	56,636	290,368	6	11
1880-81 ... ..	207,674	53,565	261,239	6	1
1881-2 ... ..	201,063	53,032	254,095	5	9
1882-3 ... ..	204,561	57,128	261,689	5	9
1883-4 ... ..	216,973	55,836	272,809	5	10
1884-5 ... ..	217,684	57,311	274,995	5	9
1885-6 ... ..	224,237	60,644	284,881	5	9
1886-7 ... ..	233,173	59,894	293,067	5	10
1887-8 ... ..	240,840	65,385	306,225	5	11
1888-9 ... ..	261,329	66,128	327,457	6	1
Total ... ..	4,997,318	1,453,245	6,450,563	6	4

774. By the figures in the last column it will be observed that the police and gaols expenditure ranged from 8s. 6d. per head in 1866 to about 5s. 9d. in the five years 1881-2 to 1885-6. In 1888-9 it was 6s. 1d., or 3d. more than the average during the previous 8 years.

775. The inquests held in 1888 numbered 1,669, as against 1,674 in 1887. In 769 instances the death was found to have resulted from disease or natural causes; in 28 cases, from intemperance; in 854 cases, from violence; in 14 cases, from doubtful causes; and in 4 cases a verdict of "still-born" was returned. Of the deaths set down to

\* Exclusive of the cost of buildings, which in 1887-8 amounted to £33,417, and in 1888-9 to £35,453.

violence, the verdict in 593 cases was to the effect that the death had resulted from accident; in 22, from homicide; in 149, from suicide; 1 from execution; and in 89 that the cause of the violent death was doubtful. The practice of holding inquests in cases of other than violent deaths was not so common in 1888 as in any of the previous ten years. In 1878, the proportion which verdicts of "death from disease or natural causes" bore to the total number of verdicts given was 52 per cent.; in 1879, 50 per cent.; in 1880, 52 per cent.; in 1881, 51 per cent.; in 1882, 53 per cent.; in 1883, 49 per cent.; and in 1884 and 1885, 55 per cent.; in 1886, 51 per cent.; in 1887, 49 per cent.; and in 1888, 46 per cent. 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 3rd section of the *Coroners Statute* 1865 (28 Vict. No. 253).

Fire  
inquests.

776. No fire inquest was held in 1888, but 5 such inquests were held in 1887, 4 in 1886, 9 in both 1885 and 1884, 4 in 1883, and 5 in 1882. Under the *Amending Coroners Statute* (33 Vict. No. 338), which came into operation on the 19th August, 1869, 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.

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