

## PART IV.

## LAW, CRIME, ETC.

Legal system  
in Victoria.

A statement, giving the basic principles and main provisions of the law of Victoria, appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 189.

## LITIGATION AND LEGAL BUSINESS.

Supreme  
Court civil  
business.

The Supreme Court of Victoria was established in 1852, and although the procedure was entirely remoulded by the *Judicature Act* 1883 (now incorporated in the *Supreme Court Act* 1928), its constitution and powers remain practically unaltered. There were, in 1952, ten Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and nine Puisne Judges.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the five years 1948 to 1952 :—

## VICTORIA—SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1948 TO 1952.

Heading.	Year Ended 31st December—				
	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
Number of places at which sittings were held	6	7	10	10	10
Causes entered—					
For assessment of damages	1	8	2	12	5
For trial	411	449	604	831	1,093
Number of causes tried—					
By juries of six	69	86	70	169	119
By a Judge	54	36	51	63	76
Verdicts returned for—					
Plaintiff	98	92	95	132	92
Defendant	25	30	26	44	42
Amounts awarded	£ 91,734	120,598	124,104	193,575	193,432
Writs of summons issued	1,157	1,271	1,512	2,081	2,655
Other original proceedings	36	46	107	55	60
Appellate proceedings (other than Criminal Appeals heard and determined)—					
By Full Court	36	45	44	42	51
By a Judge	61	68	49	75	109
Fees collected	£ 7,635	8,360	11,344	13,918	19,904

**County Courts.** County Courts have jurisdiction, both in equity and common law cases, limited to £1,000 but, in the case of any action arising out of any accident in which any vehicle is involved, the limit is £2,500, and all personal actions where the amount, value, or damages sought to be recovered is more than the appropriate sum aforesaid if both parties or their respective solicitors consent thereto in writing, and all actions in respect of which jurisdiction is given by any Act, and actions of tort or contract commenced in the Supreme Court may, under certain conditions, be remitted to the County Court, even although the amount claimed may exceed such sums. At the present time County Courts are held at Melbourne and at seventeen other places in Victoria. Every Court has jurisdiction throughout the whole of Victoria.

VICTORIA—COUNTY COURT CASES, 1949 TO 1953.

Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Causes Tried.	Amount Sued for.	Amount Awarded.
		£	£
1949 .. .. .	1,355	811,742	41,502
1950 .. .. .	1,576	954,466	46,332
1951 .. .. .	1,591	1,092,465	47,600
1952 .. .. .	1,672	1,587,992	46,138
1953 .. .. .	1,783	4,038,969	94,621

**Writs by the Sheriff.**

The table hereunder records the number of writs received by the Sheriff in the five years, 1949 to 1953.

VICTORIA—WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF,  
1949 TO 1953.

Year Ended 31st December.	Sovereign's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person.	Property.	
1949 .. .. .	..	3	90	93
1950 .. .. .	7	2	106	115
1951 .. .. .	18	..	126	144
1952 .. .. .	14	1	213	228
1953 .. .. .	42	5	202	249

**BANKRUPTCIES.**

A Bankruptcy Act passed by the Commonwealth Parliament in October, 1924, and amended in 1927, was brought into operation on 1st August, 1928. It supersedes the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Acts of the States, with the exception of any provisions relating to matters not dealt with in the Commonwealth Act.

The number of sequestrations, &c., in Victoria during each of the five years ended 31st July, 1953, under the *Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act* 1924-1950, and the amount of liabilities and assets relating thereto were as follows:—

**VICTORIA—BANKRUPTCIES, 1949 TO 1953.**

Year Ended 31st July—	Sequestration Orders and Orders for Administration of Deceased Debtors' Estates.	Compositions, Assignments, &c., under Part XI. of the Act.	Deeds of Arrangement under Part XII. of the Act.	Total.
<b>NUMBER.</b>				
1949 .. ..	57	3	10	70
1950 .. ..	78	4	14	96
1951 .. ..	58	..	14	72
1952 .. ..	67	4	17	88
1953 .. ..	129	4	51	184
<b>LIABILITIES.</b>				
	£	£	£	£
1949 .. ..	51,375	7,390	126,013	184,778
1950 .. ..	139,743	85,965	43,959	269,667
1951 .. ..	91,613	..	82,507	174,120
1952 .. ..	111,669	20,083	74,543	206,295
1953 .. ..	262,764	15,981	318,499	597,244
<b>ASSETS.</b>				
	£	£	£	£
1949 .. ..	48,464	9,561	120,400	178,425
1950 .. ..	39,152	28,716	38,745	106,613
1951 .. ..	30,965	..	53,193	84,158
1952 .. ..	35,043	27,663	54,488	117,194
1953 .. ..	139,280	17,302	226,512	383,094

The yearly average number of sequestrations, declared liabilities and assets are shown in the subjoined table for each of the quinquennial periods ended in 1943, 1948, and 1953.

	Yearly Average Number.	Yearly Average Declared Liabilities.	Yearly Average Declared Assets.
		£	£
1938-39 to 1942-43 ..	296	297,886	128,033
1943-44 to 1947-48 ..	51	100,175	66,667
1948-49 to 1952-53 ..	102	286,421	173,897

**DIVORCE.**

Divorce statistics, which were formerly included in this Part are, from 1952, now published in Part *Vital Statistics* of this *Year-Book*.

**RACECOURSE LICENCES AND PERMITS.**

**Racecourse  
licences,  
permits and  
percentage  
fees.**

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

In the case of a race meeting held for charitable or similar special purposes, the gross revenue of the meeting may be exempted from such percentage charges on application to the Chief Secretary.

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

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

**VICTORIA—REVENUE FROM RACECOURSE LICENCES,  
PERMITS, AND PERCENTAGE FEES, 1943-44 TO 1952-53.**

Year Ended 30th June.	Amount.	Year Ended 30th June.	Amount.
	£		£
1944 .. ..	11,688	1949 .. ..	27,862
1945 .. ..	14,049	1950 .. ..	32,163
1946 .. ..	18,429	1951 .. ..	34,101
1947 .. ..	21,727	1952 .. ..	34,214
1948 .. ..	26,316	1953 .. ..	35,092

Under the *Police Offences (Race Meetings) Act* No. 5284 of 1948, the amount received in percentage fees payable on the gross revenue derived from racecourses not within 30 miles of the General Post Office, Melbourne, during the twelve months ended 31st July, 1948, and annually thereafter, is paid into a Treasury Fund known as the Country Racecourses Improvement Fund and used for subsidizing local expenditure on improvements to racecourses not being within 30 miles from Melbourne. The amounts paid to the Fund were £7,042 in 1951-52 and £7,800 in 1952-53.

### CRIME.

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

**Administration of the criminal law.**

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

**Abolition of death penalty in certain cases.**

### VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS.

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

**Jurisdiction.**

The table which follows shows the number of cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts during the year 1952.

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF,  
1952.

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Disposed of—				Committed for Trial.		
		Convicted.		Dismissed, Withdrawn, Struck Out.		M.	F.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.			
<b>Against the person—</b>								
Assaults .. .. .	39	24	4	10	1	..	..	
Others .. .. .	103	79	..	18	..	6	..	
Total .. .. .	142	103	4	28	1	6	..	
<b>Against property—</b>								
Larceny, &c. .. .. .	2,427	1,906	132	362	27	..	..	
Wilful damage .. .. .	78	53	8	15	2	..	..	
Others .. .. .	386	339	5	41	1	..	..	
Total .. .. .	2,891	2,298	145	418	30	..	..	
<b>Against good order—</b>								
Drunkenness .. .. .	13	12	..	1	..	..	..	
Others .. .. .	223	178	8	36	1	..	..	
Total .. .. .	236	190	8	37	1	..	..	
<b>Other offences, &amp;c.—</b>								
Traffic offences .. .. .	288	231	15	39	3	..	..	
Other offences .. .. .	179	124	4	50	1	..	..	
Neglected children .. .. .	447	169	166	62	50	..	..	
Total .. .. .	914	524	185	151	54	..	..	
Grand Total .. .. .	4,183	3,115	342	634	86	6	..	

The number of cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts in each of the five years 1948 to 1952 is given in the following statement :—

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES DISPOSED OF,  
1948 TO 1952.

Nature of Offence.	Year Ended 31st December—				
	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
Against the person—					
Assaults .. .. .	24	14	33	46	39
Others .. .. .	51	70	33	82	103
Against property—					
Larceny, &c. .. .	1,739	1,842	1,917	2,362	2,427
Wilful damage .. .	57	79	76	74	78
Others .. .. .	20	30	64	262	386
Against good order—					
Drunkenness .. .	13	12	7	13	13
Others .. .. .	81	68	75	90	223
Other Offences—					
Traffic offences .. .	356	286	297	352	288
Other offences .. .	138	122	156	207	179
Neglected children .. .	294	370	371	368	447
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>2,773</b>	<b>2,893</b>	<b>3,029</b>	<b>3,856</b>	<b>4,183</b>
Summarily convicted .. .	2,337	2,382	2,305	3,075	3,457
Summarily dismissed, &c. .. .	425	503	724	778	720
Committed for trial .. .	11	8	..	3	6

The following statement gives particulars of the manner in which the cases in the Children's Courts were disposed of by magistrates in 1952 :—

VICTORIA—CHILDREN'S COURTS: CASES, HOW DEALT WITH, 1952.

How Dealt With.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Adjourned for period without probation ..	956	75	1,031
Released on probation .. .. .	1,001	83	1,084
Committed to care of Children's Welfare Department .. .. .	357	144	501
Committed to care of private person or institution .. .. .	..	..	..
Committed to reformatory .. .. .	143	5	148
Fined .. .. .	472	29	501
Released under Section 356 of <i>Crimes Act</i> 1928	14	..	14
Dismissed on payment of costs or damages or both .. .. .	10	..	10
Discharged upon surety .. .. .	12	2	14
Sentenced to term of imprisonment ..	15	1	16
Sentenced to imprisonment, the execution of which has been suspended .. .. .	37	..	37
Convicted and discharged .. .. .	48	..	48
Discharged with a caution .. .. .	46	3	49
Otherwise dealt with .. .. .	4	..	4
Summarily convicted .. .. .	3,115	342	3,457
Summarily dismissed, &c. .. .. .	634	86	720
Committed for trial .. .. .	6	..	6
Grand Total .. .. .	3,755	428	4,183



## VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

**Petty Sessions civil business.** In 1952, Courts of Petty Sessions before stipendiary magistrates and/or honorary justices were held at 227 places in Victoria. Clerks of courts of ten years' standing, who have passed the prescribed examination, and barristers of five years' standing are eligible for appointment as stipendiary magistrates, but there is no legal training or knowledge of the law required as a condition precedent to the appointment of a person as an honorary justice of the peace. The jurisdiction in civil cases is limited to what may be called ordinary debts, damages for assault, and restitution of goods, where the amount in dispute does not exceed £50. Particulars of civil cases, &c., heard during the five years 1948 to 1952 as shown below, were compiled from quarterly statements prepared by Clerks of Petty Sessions for the Law Department.

## VICTORIA—COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, ETC., 1948 TO 1952.

Heading.	Year Ended 31st December—				
	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
Civil cases—					
Number heard .. ..	34,914	39,490	45,174	40,352	51,058
Debts or damages—					
Claimed .. .. £	355,318	462,614	505,908	471,828	626,478
Awarded .. .. £	261,229	338,606	365,257	352,269	462,107
Other cases—					
Appeals against rates ..	331	424	350	559	712
Ejectment cases (a) ..	3,322	3,008	3,875	3,766	3,311
Fraud summonses .. ..	2,409	2,357	2,178	2,070	1,792
Garnishee cases .. ..	873	1,093	991	949	938
Maintenance cases .. ..	1,267	1,281	1,274	1,233	1,428
Show cause summonses ..	1,672	2,009	2,350	2,354	2,517
Applications under Landlord and Tenant Acts .. ..	451	1,165	1,455	1,711	1,443
Other .. .. ..	3,353	3,088	4,090	3,577	8,667
Licences and certificates issued	14,251	16,592	17,744	16,495	17,178

(a) Figures shown represent the total cases listed before Courts. Details of Ejectment Orders granted are available for the Metropolitan Area only. For the year ended 31st December, 1952, 2,595 Ejectment cases were listed in Courts in the Metropolitan Area; 1298 Ejectment Orders were granted.

VICTORIA—ARREST CASES SUMMARILY DISPOSED OF  
IN COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS, 1952.

How Disposed of.	Year Ended 31st December, 1952.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fined .. .. .	13,591	1,029	14,620
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month .. .. .	4,861	593	5,454
1 month and under 6 months .. .. .	1,970	179	2,149
6 months and under 12 months .. .. .	272	30	302
1 year and under 2 years .. .. .	33	..	33
Admonished (convicted and discharged) .. .. .	6,951	578	7,529
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety .. .. .	599	90	689
Sent to reformatory schools .. .. .	20	..	20
Committed to Children's Welfare Department .. .. .	67	2	69
Otherwise dealt with .. .. .	503	24	527
Total convicted .. .. .	28,867	2,525	31,392
Dismissed, withdrawn, struck out .. .. .	2,691	287	2,978
Total summarily disposed of .. .. .	31,558	2,812	34,370

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

In the following statistical tables details are given of the total number of cases dealt with in Courts of Petty Sessions and Children's Courts. If it be desired to compare the figures in these tables with those relating to other States or countries it is necessary that consideration be given to several points. The first is that the criminal law in the places compared be substantially the same; the second, that it be administered with equal strictness; and the third, that proper allowances be made for differences in the age and sex constitution of the population. These points must also be taken into account in comparing crime in recent years with that in previous periods when there may have been differences in the law and when the population was very differently constituted in regard to sex and age.

VICTORIA—ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1952.

Nature of Offence.	Total Cases.	Summarily Disposed of—				Committed for Trial.	
		Dismissed, Withdrawn, Struck Out.		Convicted.		M.	F.
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
<b>Against the person—</b>							
Murder* .. .. .	9	7	2	..	..	..	..
Intent to murder .. .. .	9	2	1	..	..	6	..
Manslaughter* .. .. .	5	5	..	..	..	..	..
Shooting at, wounding, &c. ..	52	23	3	..	..	25	1
Assaults .. .. .	2,016	826	102	989	89	10	..
Others .. .. .	499	95	12	170	12	201	9
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Against property—</b>							
Robbery, Shopbreaking, house-breaking, &c. .. .. .	1,019	87	4	165	13	730	20
Larceny and similar offences ..	6,135	1,043	96	4,209	408	353	26
Willful damage .. .. .	267	73	6	162	19	7	..
Others .. .. .	1,815	352	18	1,313	30	93	9
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>9,236</b>	<b>1,555</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>5,849</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Forgery and offences against the currency .. .. .</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Against good order—</b>							
Drunkenness† .. .. .	21,751	202	23	19,915	1,611	..	..
Others .. .. .	9,525	1,443	218	7,084	766	13	1
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>31,276</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>26,999</b>	<b>2,377</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other offences—</b>							
<b>Breaches of—</b>							
Education Act .. .. .	2,487	184	55	1,835	413	..	..
Licensing Act .. .. .	3,598	421	55	2,967	155	..	..
Motor Car Act .. .. .	25,468	1,590	55	23,233	590	..	..
Traffic Regulations .. .. .	16,783	897	28	15,362	496	..	..
Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act .. .. .	241	35	7	182	17	..	..
Miscellaneous .. .. .	37,277	3,468	424	31,099	2,207	60	19
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>85,854</b>	<b>6,595</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>74,678</b>	<b>3,878</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Grand Total .. .. .</b>	<b>129,091</b>	<b>10,765</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>108,708</b>	<b>6,826</b>	<b>1,577</b>	<b>94</b>

\* See Inquests, page 232, on proceedings relating to persons charged with these offences.  
 † See footnote on page 228.

**Arrest and summons cases.**

Particulars of the arrest and summons cases for the five years 1948 to 1952 are given in the subjoined table.

**VICTORIA—ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES, 1948 TO 1952.**

Year Ended 31st December.	Arrest Cases.		Summons Cases.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
1948 .. ..	24,394	2,233	46,779	3,110	76,516
1949 .. ..	25,740	2,283	48,932	3,556	80,511
1950 .. ..	30,431	2,572	59,696	4,502	97,201
1951 .. ..	32,843	2,711	69,404	4,108	109,066
1952 .. ..	32,957	2,883	88,093	5,158	129,091

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

**VICTORIA—DISPOSAL OF ARREST AND SUMMONS CASES, 1948 TO 1952.**

Year Ended 31st December.	Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Dismissed, Struck Out, or Withdrawn.	Committed for Trial.
1948 .. ..	76,516	68,243	6,277	1,996
1949 .. ..	80,511	72,416	6,344	1,751
1950 .. ..	97,201	87,873	7,690	1,638
1951 .. ..	109,066	98,369	9,047	1,650
1952 .. ..	129,091	115,534	11,886	1,671
Number per 10,000 of Population.				
1948 .. ..	366·1	326·5	30·1	9·5
1949 .. ..	376·4	338·6	29·6	8·2
1950 .. ..	441·0	398·7	34·9	7·4
1951 .. ..	480·7	433·5	39·9	7·3
1952 .. ..	552·9	494·8	50·9	7·2

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

## CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS.

**Alteration in method of tabulation.**

The statistics of crime and drunkenness for the years subsequent to 1932 were compiled on a basis which differed from that for the years 1893 to 1932. The particulars for the years 1933 to 1952 represent, in respect of multiple charges, the total number of all offences with which arrested persons were charged whereas, for the period 1893 to 1932, only the most serious offence in each case was tabulated. Summons cases in 1933 to 1952 relate, as in previous years, to all offences with which a person was charged. The statistics for the past twenty years are comparable, therefore, with those for the years prior to 1893, appearing in earlier issues of the *Year-Book*.

**Offences against the person and property.**

Almost all serious crimes are either offences against the person or offences against property. The first-named consist mainly of assault, but include murder, manslaughter, shooting, wounding, and all crimes of lust. Offences against property consist principally of larceny and similar offences, but include burglary, house and shop-breaking, robbery, &c., cattle stealing, and wilful damage to property.

**Other offences.**

The only serious crimes included under "Other Offences" are forgery, counterfeiting, conspiracy, and perjury. These were very few in number, there having been in Victoria in 1952 only 148 of such charges out of a total of 95,514 in the category to which they belong. The cases under the heading "Other Offences" were mainly breaches of various Acts of Parliament, by-laws, &c., which indicate no degree of criminal instinct or intent on the part of the person charged. There was also among them a large number of offences against good order, including offensive behaviour, indecent language, vagrancy, &c.

**Offences and drunkenness.**

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

## VICTORIA—OFFENCES AND DRUNKENNESS, 1890 TO 1952.

Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Arrest and Summons Cases—				
	Offences Against the Person.	Offences Against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	Total.
1890 .. ..	4,091	5,036	18,501	36,456	64,084
1895* .. ..	2,344	3,336	11,143	20,843	37,666
1900* .. ..	2,103	3,106	15,878	28,003	49,090
1910* .. ..	1,663	3,052	12,719	34,626	52,060
1920* .. ..	1,909	4,877	7,154	42,758	56,698
1930* .. ..	1,680	5,078	8,132	41,859	56,749
1940 .. ..	1,346	7,698	11,619	65,624	86,287
1942 .. ..	1,632	8,210	12,887	51,769	74,498
1943 .. ..	1,618	8,268	12,561	48,646	71,093
1944 .. ..	1,660	7,874	12,518	42,837	64,889
1945 .. ..	1,711	6,535	10,534	41,964	60,744
1946 .. ..	1,920	6,591	11,720	44,252	64,483
1947 .. ..	1,956	6,144	14,952	50,938	73,990
1948 .. ..	1,972	6,378	16,600	51,566	76,516
1949 .. ..	1,945	5,909	17,972	54,685	80,511
1950 .. ..	2,092	6,498	21,248	67,363	97,201
1951 .. ..	2,478	7,724	23,151	75,713	109,066
1952 .. ..	2,590	9,236	21,751	95,514	129,091
	Number of Arrest and Summons Cases per 1,000 of Population.				
1890 .. ..	3·66	4·50	16·54	32·59	57·29
1895* .. ..	1·98	2·82	9·41	17·60	31·81
1900* .. ..	1·76	2·60	13·31	23·47	41·14
1910* .. ..	1·30	2·38	9·92	27·00	40·60
1920* .. ..	1·26	3·23	4·73	28·27	37·49
1930* .. ..	0·94	2·84	4·55	23·44	31·77
1940 .. ..	0·71	4·04	6·10	34·47	45·32
1942 .. ..	0·83	4·18	6·57	26·37	37·95
1943 .. ..	0·82	4·18	6·35	24·60	35·95
1944 .. ..	0·83	3·95	6·28	21·48	32·54
1945 .. ..	0·85	3·25	5·23	20·86	30·19
1946 .. ..	0·95	3·25	5·77	21·79	31·76
1947 .. ..	0·96	3·01	7·33	24·97	36·27
1948 .. ..	0·94	3·05	7·94	24·68	36·61
1949 .. ..	0·91	2·76	8·40	25·57	37·64
1950 .. ..	0·95	2·95	9·64	30·57	44·11
1951 .. ..	1·09	3·40	10·20	33·37	48·06
1952 .. ..	1·11	3·95	9·32	40·91	55·29

\* See paragraph "Alteration in method of tabulation" on page 229.

**Drunkenness.** The number of persons and the number per 1,000 of the population arrested or summoned for drunkenness during the five years 1948 to 1952 are given hereunder :—

VICTORIA—PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS, 1948 TO 1952.

Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Persons.			Number per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1948 .. .. .	16,554	46	16,600	7.94
1949 .. .. .	17,943	29	17,972	8.40
1950 .. .. .	21,203	45	21,248	9.64
1951 .. .. .	23,109	42	23,151	10.20
1952 .. .. .	21,668	83	21,751	9.32

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

VICTORIA—DRUNKENNESS, 1874 TO 1952.

Years Ended 31st December.	Index Number.	Years Ended 31st December.	Index Number.
1874–78 .. .. .	100	1928–32 .. .. .	30
1879–85 .. .. .	88	1933–37 .. .. .	36
1886–92 .. .. .	106	1938–42 .. .. .	42
1893–97 .. .. .	65	1943–47 .. .. .	42
1898–1902 .. .. .	84	1948 .. .. .	54
1903–07 .. .. .	77	1949 .. .. .	57
1908–12 .. .. .	68	1950 .. .. .	66
1913–17 .. .. .	59	1951 .. .. .	69
1918–22 .. .. .	32	1952 .. .. .	64
1923–27 .. .. .	41		

A considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown for the five years 1893–97, which was a period of general depression, followed by an increase in the subsequent five-yearly period. A similar trend is shown for the depression years 1928–32 and subsequent years. In the middle of the year 1915, an Act was passed reducing the number of hours during which alcoholic liquors could be sold in hotels, and a further reduction was made in the following year.

**Young persons charged with drunkenness.** The accompanying table shows for the five years 1948 to 1952 the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness.

**VICTORIA—ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF  
AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1948 TO 1952.**

Year Ended 31st December.	Numbers.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
1948 .. .. .	249	9	258
1949 .. .. .	311	14	325
1950 .. .. .	323	16	339
1951 .. .. .	352	21	373
1952 .. .. .	321	16	337

### INQUESTS.

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

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

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

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

The following shows the number of inquest cases in Victoria during the years 1949 to 1953, and the number of persons subsequently committed for trial. The information was furnished by the Department of Law.



Year Ended 31st December.	Inquests into Deaths of—			Persons Committed for Trial.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1949 .. ..	1,243	521	1,764	15	2	17
1950 .. ..	1,314	602	1,916	36	6	42
1951 .. ..	1,403	667	2,070	31	3	34
1952 .. ..	1,401	664	2,065	25	1	26
1953 .. ..	1,405	566	1,971	18	2	20

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

Year.	Murder.			Manslaughter.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1949 .. ..	7	1	8	8	1	9
1950 .. ..	26	6	32	10	..	10
1951 .. ..	18	2*	20*	13	1	14
1952 .. ..	13	1	14	12	..	12
1953 .. ..	13	2	15	5	..	5

\* Including one for abortion.

### HIGHER COURTS.

The number of distinct persons convicted in the Supreme Court and in Courts of General Sessions in Victoria during each of the years 1948 to 1952 is shown below. The offences of distinct persons convicted during 1952 are detailed in tabulations immediately following :—

#### HIGHER COURTS—DISTINCT PERSONS CONVICTED— 1948 TO 1952.

Year Ended 31st December—	Males.			Total.
	Against the Person.	Against Property.	Other.	
1948 .. ..	171	556	39	766
1949 .. ..	128	480	37	645
1950 .. ..	177	476	22	675
1951 .. ..	206	498	27	731
1952 .. ..	194	613	42	849

  

Year Ended 31st December—	Females.			Total.
	Against the Person.	Against Property.	Other.	
1948 .. ..	14	16	10	40
1949 .. ..	4	14	6	24
1950 .. ..	13	19	15	47
1951 .. ..	6	17	7	30
1952 .. ..	8	18	8	34

The following table shows the offences of distinct persons  
Sessions in Victoria during 1952 after committal from  
Where a person was charged with more than one offence

### HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

Offence.	Males (Ages in Years).														
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 59.	60 to 69.
<b>MALES.</b>															
Against the Person—															
Murder ..	1								1						
Murder, attempted ..										1	2			2	
Manslaughter ..				1	1				2						
Wounding, &c., or inflict grievous bodily harm ..							1	3	3		1			2	
Shoot at with intent to do grievous bodily harm ..										1	1	3	1		
Unlawfully wounding ..									3	3			1		
Assault ..						1		4	3						
Against Females—															
Rape ..							2		3	1					
Rape, attempted ..										1					
Rape, assault with intent to ..								1							
Carnal knowledge ..			5	7	2	1	10		2	2		1			
Carnal knowledge, attempt- ed ..								1							
Incest ..			2	1	1	1	1	1			2			1	2
Indecent assault ..			3	1	1	2	1	5	4	5	4			2	2
Unnatural offence ..			2	1		2	5	6	4	3	1	3	2		
Unnatural offence, at- tempted ..						1		1							
Indecent assault on male ..								3	2	4	2	1	3	5	
Bigamy ..								1	3	5	1	1	1	2	
Concealment of birth ..										1					
Obscene exposure ..							1			1					
Attempted suicide ..									1						
Total against the Person	1		12	11	7	10	31	34	27	18	11	13	12	4	
Against Property—										2				1	
Robbery ..															
Robbery under arms ..									1						
Robbery with violence ..						2		2	4	1	1				
Robbery in company ..	1	3	1	2	2	2	4					1			
Robbery, assault with intent ..									1						
Burglary ..					1				1						
Housebreaking ..			7	7	5	14	25	24	14	6	4	2	3	3	

(a) Sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 504 of

(b) Committed to imprisonment for life without any remissions

(c) Including one who on expiration of sentence is to be committed

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

CONVICTED 1952 (PRINCIPAL OFFENCE ONLY COUNTED).

70 and over.	Total.	How Dealt With.												Detained during the Governor's Pleasure.	Death Sentence.	Sentence Suspended on Entering a Bond.	Sent to Reformatory Prison.	Sent to Reformatory School.								
		Fined.	Imprisoned for—						2 to 2½.	3.	5.	7.	8.						10.	12.						
			Months.																		Years.					
			Under 3.	3 and Under 6.	6 and Under 12.	12.	Over 12 to 18.	Over 18 and Under 24.													2 to 2½.	3.	5.	7.	8.	10.
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(a)1	(b)1	..	..	..								
..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	4	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..								
..	10	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..								
..	6	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..								
..	7	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..								
..	8	1	2	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..								
..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..								
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..								
..	30	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	..	..								
..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..								
..	11	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..								
2	32	1	..	3	4	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	..	..								
..	29	1	..	2	2	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	..	..								
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..								
1	21	..	1	2	2	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..								
..	14	..	2	2	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..								
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..								
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..								
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..								
3	194	..	3	9	16	14	10	..	14	5	1	4	2	4	1	1	1	109								
..	3	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..								
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..								
..	10	..	..	1	..	3	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..								
..	16	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	7	2	..								
..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..								
..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..								
..	114	1	5	27	21	8	1	(c)12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	7	..								

Crimes Act 1928 as enacted by section (3) 2 of Crimes Act 1949. and without the benefit of regulations relating to remission of sentences. to a Reformatory Prison during Governor's pleasure.

HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

Offence.	Males (Ages in Years).														
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 59.	60 to 69.
<b>Against Property—continued—</b>															
Shop, office, store, factory, &c., breaking .....	..	..	..	26	24	20	19	50	52	24	12	9	3	5	3
Larceny in a dwelling .....	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	3	2	1	3	..	..	..	..
Larceny as a clerk or servant .....	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	3	1	..	1	1	..	2	..
Larceny as a bailee .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Larceny, all other .....	..	..	..	6	3	2	4	28	21	14	10	5	3	5	1
Stealing postal articles .....	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cattle stealing .....	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	1	..
Sheep stealing .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Breaking and entering .....	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Found on premises with in- tent to commit a felony .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accessory after the fact to a felony .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Possession of explosives under suspicious circum- stances .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Embezzlement .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
False pretences .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	6	1	3	1	..	3	..
Unlawfully receiving .....	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	7	9	9	7	7	2	1	1
Setting fire to a building .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..
Arson .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..
Maleiciously damaging property .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total against Property</b> .....	..	1	3	49	36	34	43	133	124	75	46	29	10	21	9
<b>Forgery and uttering</b> .....	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	5	2	5	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Against Good Order—     Common Law (public     mischief)</b> .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	2	1	1	..	..	..	..
<b>Other Offences—</b>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	1	..
Perjury .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Conspiracy .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..
Escape from lawful custody .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Contempt of Court .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Against Post and Telegraph Act .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	..
Against Statutory Declara- tions Act .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
<b>Total Other Offences..</b> .....	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	4	2	4	3	1	1	3	..
<b>Grand Total—Males</b> .....	1	1	3	62	47	43	55	176	164	112	68	41	24	36	13



## HIGHER COURTS—OFFENCES AND AGES OF DISTINCT PERSONS

Offence.	Females (Ages in Years).														
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 59.	60 to 69.
FEMALES.															
Against the Person—															
Wound with intent to do grievous bodily harm ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Unlawfully wounding ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Bigamy ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Suicide, attempted ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Aid and abet unlawful use of an instrument to procure an abortion ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Total against the Person	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	..	3	..	..
Against Property—															
Robbery in company ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Housebreaking and stealing ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Shoppbreaking and stealing ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cattle stealing ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Larceny as a bailee ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larceny, all other ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..
False pretences ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Receiving ..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Total against Property	..	..	2	1	4	1	2	1	1	6	..	..	..	..	..
Forgery and uttering ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..
Other Offences—															
Perjury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Conspiracy ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1
Total Other Offences ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	1
Grand Total—Females	..	..	2	3	4	1	3	4	1	9	1	1	5	..	1
Total -- Males and Females ..	1	1	3	64	50	47	56	179	168	113	77	42	29	36	14



## REGULATION OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.

### Licences Reduction Board.

Information relating to the nature of the duties of and the powers vested in the Licences Reduction Board is given in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, page 476, and in that for 1928-29, page 213.

To 31st December, 1952, 1,867 hotels had been closed by the Board or had surrendered their licences. Of these hotels 531 were located in metropolitan districts and 1,336 in country districts. The total sum paid in compensation in all districts of the State was £1,311,916.

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

A section of the Board's work which has grown rapidly in extent and importance since 1922 is the consideration given to enforcing improvement in the type of structure and in the class of accommodation of licensed houses.

Since 1922 plans have been passed by the Board for new and improved licensed premises, the estimated cost thereof being £6,885,966 exclusive of the cost of sewerage and new equipment. Restrictions on building operations relating to hotels were relaxed by an Order in Council on 5th August, 1952, and the *Building Operations and Building Control Act* No. 5650 of 1952. During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1952, plans to the value of £123,596 were approved subject to permits being obtained from the Building Directorate.

### Licensing Fund.

The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1952, amounted to £1,347,602. The amounts received from the various sources were: Licences, certificates, and permits, £1,323,275; interest on investments, £10,982; fees and fines, £12,369; and miscellaneous, £976. The expenditure, which totalled £1,347,602 consisted of the following items: Annual payments to municipalities, £58,924; compensation, £175; transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 311 of Act No. 3717, £23,000; transferred to revenue under section 312 of Act No. 3717, as amended by Act No. 5089, £1,220,656; and salaries, expenses, &c., £44,847. The amount at credit of the fund at 30th June, 1952, was £410,976, of which £341,000 was invested.

### Number of Hotels.

The following return shows the number of hotels, including roadside licences, in Victoria in 1885, 1906, and certain subsequent years, and the average number of persons to each hotel in those years. The years 1885 and 1906 have been selected because in those years important alterations were made in the liquor licensing laws.



## VICTORIA—NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885 TO 1952.

Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Hotels.*	Average Number of Persons to Each Hotel.	Year Ended 31st December.	Number of Hotels.*	Average Number of Persons to Each Hotel.
1885 ..	4,339	223	1945 ..	1,665	1,210
1906 ..	3,520	347	1946 ..	1,665	1,225
1930 ..	1,803	994	1947 ..	1,666	1,237
1935 ..	1,744	1,056	1948 ..	1,666	1,264
1940 ..	1,691	1,132	1949 ..	1,666	1,299
1941 ..	1,683	1,157	1950 ..	1,666	1,333
1942 ..	1,671	1,174	1951 ..	1,666	1,375
1943 ..	1,670	1,187	1952 ..	1,663	1,417
1944 ..	1,666	1,199			

\* Including Roadside Licences.

In addition to hotels, liquor licences under the following headings were held during the five years 1948 to 1952:—

	Year Ended 31st December—				
	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
Australian Wine Licences ..	126	124	122	116	115
Registered Clubs ..	122	122	122	122	122
Railway Refreshment Rooms ..	26	26	26	26	26
Grocers' licences ..	251	252	253	254	256

During the period 1885 to 31st December, 1952, 227 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 1,865 were deprived of or surrendered their licences, and 60 hotel licences lapsed. During the period 1907 to 31st December, 1952, 83 new licences were granted.

**Hours for Sale of Intoxicants.** The trading hours of hotels in Victoria are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., but trading is not permitted on Sundays, Anzac Day (25th April), and Good Friday. The various legislative enactments, which from time to time have curtailed such trading hours, are given in the *Year-Book* for 1935-36, page 110.

**Liquor Permits.** During the year ended 31st December, 1952, 1,135 permits authorizing the sale, disposal, or supply of liquor with bona-fide meals between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. were renewed or granted by the Licensing Court in licensed premises which include Hotels, Australian Wine Licences, and Registered Clubs.

**Consumption  
of beer.**

The estimated quantity of beer consumed in Victoria in each of the five years 1949 to 1953 was as follows:—

**CONSUMPTION OF BEER IN VICTORIA, 1949 TO 1953.**

Year Ended 30th June.					Estimated Quantity of Beer Consumed.	Per Head of Population.
					Gallons.	Gallons.
1949	..	..	..	..	39,467,800	18·68
1950	..	..	..	..	44,846,900	20·66
1951	..	..	..	..	46,713,700	20·89
1952	..	..	..	..	50,310,900	21·43
1953	..	..	..	..	50,235,600	21·26

**GAOLS AND PRISONERS.****Gaols and  
Prisoners.**

The following statement contains information relating to gaols (excluding police gaols) and reformatory prisons in Victoria for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

**VICTORIA—GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1952.**

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For Whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received (Including Transfers).		In Confinement at End of Year.*	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
<b>Gaols—</b>								
Pentridge ..	928	64	866	52	7,579	841	869	41
Ballarat ..	80	..	39	..	343	..	36	..
Beechworth Training Prison ..	78	..	57	..	75	..	60	..
Coorlemungle Prison Farm ..	42	..	30	..	63	..	37	..
Geelong ..	172	..	194	..	605	..	152	..
Sale ..	35	..	13	..	176	..	11	..
<b>Reformatory Prisons—</b>								
Pentridge ..	64	3	51	1	140	1	46	1
McLeod Settlement (French Island) ..	58	..	44	..	55	..	54	..
Langi Kal Kal ..	26	..	24	..	53	..	29	..
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>1,483</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1,258</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>9,089</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>1,294</b>	<b>42</b>

\* Including 85 males and 3 females awaiting trial.

**Prisoners  
received and  
discharged.**

The number of prisoners received at and discharged from the gaols and reformatory prisons (excluding police gaols) in Victoria is given in the following table for the year 1952 :—

**VICTORIA—PRISONERS RECEIVED AT AND DISCHARGED FROM GAOLS AND REFORMATORY PRISONS, 1952.**

*(Exclusive of Police Gaols.)*

Classification.	1952.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
<b>Number in confinement at beginning of year</b>			
Convicted .. .. .	1,014	34	1,048
Awaiting trial .. .. .	75	4	79
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1,127</b>
<b>Received during year—</b>			
Convicted of—			
Felony .. .. .	1,040	49	1,089
Misdemeanour .. .. .	776	41	817
Other offences .. .. .	4,361	569	4,930
Transfers from—			
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons .. .. .	860	..	860
Hospitals, Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c. ..	38	3	41
For Trial, not subsequently convicted .. .. .	2,014	180	2,194
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>9,089</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>9,931</b>
<b>Discharged during year—</b>			
By remission of sentence .. .. .	557	24	581
On expiration of sentence and payment of fines ..	4,886	616	5,502
Bailed to appeal .. .. .	80	7	87
On bond from Court, Judges' Order, Attorney-General's Order, &c. .. .. .	222	16	238
By special authority .. .. .	16	..	16
On parole .. .. .	61	1	62
Died .. .. .	5	..	5
Deported .. .. .	153	..	153
Absconded .. .. .	20	..	20
Transfers to—			
Other Gaols and Reformatory Prisons .. .. .	1,008	1	1,009
Hospitals, Asylums, Reformatory Schools, &c. ..	51	3	54
Unconvicted .. .. .	1,825	170	1,995
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>8,884</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>9,722</b>
<b>Number in confinement at 31st December—</b>			
Convicted .. .. .	1,209	39	1,248
Awaiting trial .. .. .	85	3	88
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>1,294</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1,336</b>

**Prisoners  
under  
sentence.**

The following table shows the number of prisoners under sentence at the end of each of the ten years 1943 to 1952.

**VICTORIA—PRISONERS UNDER SENTENCE, 1943 TO 1952.**

At 31st December—				Males.	Females.	Total.	Number per 10,000 of Population.
1943	..	..	..	1,024	65	1,089	5·48
1944	..	..	..	1,055	46	1,101	5·50
1945	..	..	..	932	34	966	4·78
1946	..	..	..	927	25	952	4·65
1947	..	..	..	876	39	915	4·45
1948	..	..	..	863	49	912	4·36
1949	..	..	..	1,021	45	1,066	4·98
1950	..	..	..	986	55	1,041	4·72
1951	..	..	..	1,089	38	1,127	4·97
1952	..	..	..	1,294	42	1,336	5·67

**Daily average  
number of  
prisoners in  
confinement.**

A statement is given below of the daily average number of prisoners in detention in the gaols of the State in the last year of each of the decennial periods 1871 to 1941 inclusive, and in each of the five years 1948 to 1952.

**VICTORIA—DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS  
IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1952.**

Year Ended 31st December.				Daily Average Number of Prisoners in Confinement.		
				Males.	Females.	Total.
1871	..	..	..	1,345	274	1,619
1881	..	..	..	1,294	304	1,598
1891	..	..	..	1,550	350	1,900
1901	..	..	..	951	200	1,151
1911	..	..	..	713	100	813
1921	..	..	..	741	54	795
1931	..	..	..	1,391	50	1,441
1941	..	..	..	1,023	50	1,073
1948	..	..	..	872	40	912
1949	..	..	..	980	44	1,024
1950	..	..	..	1,030	51	1,081
1951	..	..	..	1,050	52	1,102
1952	..	..	..	1,258	53	1,311

**Indeterminate sentences.** The *Indeterminate Sentences Act* 1908 came into force on 1st July of that year. It is now incorporated in the *Crimes Act* 1928. The principal provisions are :—

- (1) The adoption of the indeterminate sentence for (a) habitual criminals, and (b) certain classes of other offenders.
- (2) The appointment of an Indeterminate Sentences Board.
- (3) The establishment of reformatory prisons.
- (4) A system of probation applicable to adults as well as to minors.

The Board was appointed on 18th August, 1908. A statement of its chief functions appears in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, pages 106 to 108.

The number of prisoners under indeterminate detention on 30th June in each of the five years 1949 to 1953. was as follows :—

VICTORIA—PRISONERS UNDER INDETERMINATE  
DETENTION, 1949 TO 1953.

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year Ended 30th June—				
	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	33	78	44	58	63
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	50	12	19	(a)	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	72	41	..	(b)	..
McLeod Settlement, French Island ..	23	13	17	38	56
Langi Kal Kal Training Centre ..	..	..	27	31	30
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>149</b>

(a) Closed 30th July, 1951.

(b) Closed 19th March, 1951.

Probation officers to supervise first offenders released by the courts on recognizance under the provisions of the *Crimes Act 1928* are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Board. A number of persons connected with religious and philanthropic organizations has been appointed to the office, which is honorary.

From 1st July, 1908, to 30th June, 1953, admissions to the several reformatories totalled 6,261 (6,202 males and 59 females) as follows :—

Heading.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admitted to 30th June, 1953 (including 313 recaptured) .. .. .	6,202	59	6,261
Discharged—			
By parole .. .. .	5,379	58	5,437
,, effluxion of time .. .. .	99	..	99
,, transfer to hospitals and asylums .. .. .	42	..	42
,, special authority .. .. .	43	..	43
,, deportation .. .. .	23	..	23
,, escape .. .. .	342	..	342
,, transfer to serve additional sentences .. .. .	94	..	94
,, death .. .. .	29	..	29
Total Discharged to 30th June, 1953 .. .. .	6,051	58	6,109
In reformatories on 30th June, 1953 .. .. .	151	1	152
Total to 30th June, 1953 .. .. .	6,202	59	6,261

### POLICE PROTECTION.

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

The numbers and classification of the various ranks of the police force in Victoria on 31st December, 1952, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—POLICE FORCE, CLASSIFICATION AND NUMERICAL STRENGTH AT 31st DECEMBER, 1952.

Designation.	At 31st December, 1952.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner .. .. .	1	..	1
Inspecting Superintendent .. .. .	1	..	1
Superintendents .. .. .	5	12	17
Chief Inspector .. .. .	1	..	1
Inspectors .. .. .	34	21	55
Inspector (brevet rank) .. .. .	1	..	1
Sergeants .. .. .	110	40	150
Senior Constables .. .. .	266	151	417
First Constables .. .. .	432	371	803
Constables .. .. .	1,002	211	1,213
Recruits .. .. .	51	..	51
Total .. .. .	1,904	806	2,710
<i>Detectives.</i>			
Superintendent .. .. .	1	..	1
Inspectors .. .. .	8	..	8
Sergeants .. .. .	23	..	23
Senior Constables .. .. .	38	8	46
First Constables .. .. .	69	14	83
Constables .. .. .	41	4	45
Total .. .. .	180	26	206
<i>Mounted.</i>			
Senior Constables .. .. .	1	..	1
First Constables .. .. .	6	40	46
Constables .. .. .	14	15	29
Total .. .. .	21	55	76
Grand Total .. .. .	2,105	887	2,992

\* The above particulars include 29 police-women but exclude 49 members of the Victoria Police-women's Auxiliary and 1 black tracker.

The following statement gives the numerical strength of the police force in Victoria and the number of inhabitants to each police officer at the end of each of the ten years 1943 to 1952:—

VICTORIA—POLICE FORCE, NUMERICAL STRENGTH,  
1943 TO 1952.

Year Ended 31st December.	Total Strength Including Police-women.*	Number of Inhabitants to Each Police-officer.	Year Ended 31st December.	Total Strength Including Police-women.*	Number of Inhabitants to Each Police-officer.
1943 ..	2,263	882	1948 ..	2,386	876
1944 ..	2,209	908	1949 ..	2,597	824
1945 ..	2,131	948	1950 ..	2,751	801
1946 ..	2,198	931	1951 ..	2,879	796
1947 ..	2,272	904	1952 ..	2,992	788

\* Including members with Defence Forces.

The next table shows the total amount and the amount per head of population expended from Consolidated Revenue in connexion with the police, and with the Penal establishments and gaols of Victoria, in each of the five years 1948 to 1952.

VICTORIA—EXPENDITURE FROM CONSOLIDATED REVENUE  
ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1947-48 TO 1951-52.

Year Ended 30th June.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Salaries, &c.		Buildings and Rents.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1948 ..	1,415,303	185,424	39,236	9,198	1,649,161	0 15 11
1949 ..	1,609,177	209,203	42,819	10,971	1,872,170	0 17 8
1950 ..	2,070,697	258,715	51,927	11,761	2,393,100	1 2 1
1951 ..	2,534,318	308,891	65,347	20,213	2,928,769	1 6 2
1952 ..	3,231,461	429,510	68,221	25,762	3,754,954	1 12 8

**Executions.** During the 48 years ended with 1952 there were seventeen executions in Victoria, one of which took place in 1908, one in 1912, two in 1916, two in 1918, one in 1922, one in 1924, one in 1932, two in 1936, two in 1939, one in 1941, and three in 1951. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 185 persons (180 males and 5 females) have been executed within the State on account of the following offences: murder, 145; attempted murder, 17; robbery with violence, 9; burglary and wounding, 1; sexual offences, 12; and arson, 1.