

**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 first established in 1852, and its constitution and powers remain substantially unaltered by recent legislation, although the procedure was entirely remoulded by *The Judicature Act 1883* (now incorporated in the *Supreme Court Act 1928*). There were in 1931 seven Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and six Puisne Judges.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the last five years :—

**SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1926 TO 1930.**

Year.	Writs of Summons.		Causes Entered for Trial.	Causes Tried.	Verdicts for—		Amount Awarded.
	Number Issued.	Amount Claimed.			Plaintiff.	Defendant.	
		£					£
1926 ..	1,074	227,253	224	73	46	10	21,560
1927 ..	1,288	244,320	250	112	48	14	34,560
1928 ..	1,087	264,332	253	124	53	33	16,432
1929 ..	1,204	219,588	231	88	66	22	65,709
1930 ..	1,222	311,523	230	119	77	42	28,209

**County Court business.**

County Courts have a jurisdiction both in equity and common law cases, limited to £500; also in cases remitted by the Supreme Court. The cause of action must have arisen within 100 miles of the court in which proceedings are taken, which court must not be more than ten miles further away from

defendant's residence than some other County Court in which the plaintiff might have sued. In 1930 there were 101 sessions, lasting 436 days and held in 34 places. Particulars of litigation in each of the last five years are as follows :—

COUNTY COURT CASES, 1926 TO 1930.

Year.				Number of Cases Tried.	Amount Sued For.	Amount Awarded.
					£	£
1926	..	..	..	1,003	680,502	309,087
1927	..	..	..	937	761,250	354,292
1928	..	..	..	1,019	735,872	355,687
1929	..	..	..	934	777,536	402,131
1930	..	..	..	936	833,441	387,092

**Workers' Compensation—Arbitration cases.** The number of requests for arbitration under the Workers' Compensation Act during the year 1930 was 325. The aggregate amount of compensation claimed was £53,394, and the amount awarded, £51,398. These figures are not included in the above table.

**Petty Sessions civil business.** Courts of Petty Sessions were held at 229 places in Victoria in 1930 by stipendiary magistrates and honorary justices. Clerks of courts of ten years' standing, who have passed the prescribed examination, and barristers of five years' standing are eligible for appointment as police 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 such cases heard during the last five years are given hereunder :—

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, 1926 TO 1930.

Year.			Cases Heard.	Amount Claimed.	Amount Awarded.
				£	£
1926	..	..	90,299	809,240	611,528
1927	..	..	97,993	851,029	653,548
1928	..	..	103,906	873,199	680,151
1929	..	..	111,832	982,945	776,238
1930	..	..	120,063	1,141,614	882,594

In addition to the ordinary cases above mentioned, and to the criminal jurisdiction hereafter mentioned, Courts of Petty Sessions deal with other business of a civil and quasi-criminal nature. During the year 1930, 710 appeals against municipal ratings, 19 Children's Maintenance Act cases, 1,331 ejectment cases, 2,391 fraud summons cases against debtors, 3,464 garnishee cases, 14,506 cases relating to licences and certificates, 1,869 maintenance cases, 199 prohibition cases, and 2,870 miscellaneous cases were heard, and 238 persons alleged to be lunatics were examined.

Writs by  
the Sheriff.

A statement is given below of the number of writs received by the Sheriff in the last five years:—

#### WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1926 TO 1930.

Year.	King's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person.	Property.	
1926 .. ..	4	8	350	362
1927 .. ..	4	12	397	413
1928 .. ..	3	12	315	330
1929 .. ..	15	9	413	437
1930 .. ..	9	17	346	372

High Court of  
Australia.

A statement showing the nature of this court and the powers vested in it appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 433.

#### BANKRUPTCIES.

A Bankruptcy Act passed by the Federal 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 Federal Act.

The number of sequestrations, &c., in Victoria during **Bankruptcies.** the years ended 31st July, 1929, 1930 and 1931 under the *Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act 1924-28*, and the amount of liabilities and assets relating thereto, were as follows:—

Year ended 31st July—	Sequestration Orders and Orders for Administration of Deceased Debtors' Estates.	Compositions, Assignments, &c., under Part XI. of the Act.	Deeds of Arrangement under Part XII. of the Act.	Total.
NUMBER.				
1929 ..	304	15	159	478
1930 ..	418	11	276	705
1931 ..	473	26	553	1,052
LIABILITIES.				
	£	£	£	£
1929 ..	419,005	2,502	1,175,992	1,597,499
1930 ..	410,870	6,500*	827,973	1,244,443
1931 ..	564,565	53,448*	1,108,495	1,726,508
ASSETS.				
	£	£	£	£
1929 ..	123,472	3,061	1,102,766	1,229,299
1930 ..	219,555	4,619*	751,861	976,035
1931 ..	290,457	21,301*	1,009,103	1,320,861

\* Complete figures are not available.

The average yearly number of sequestrations and the average declared liabilities are shown in the subjoined table for the five decennial periods ended with 1928:—

Period.	Average Yearly Number.	Average declared liabilities. £
1879 to 1888 ..	612	661,720
1889 to 1898* ..	833	2,213,592
1899 to 1908 ..	445	244,538
1909 to 1918 ..	358	226,517
1919 to 1928 ..	438	396,845

\* The failures resulting from the financial crisis of that period swelled these returns.

### DIVORCE.

The present law in regard to divorce is contained in the *Marriage Act 1915*, and a summary thereof is given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 445. The Act of 1915 was amended by Acts passed in 1919, 1921, and 1923, but the amendments relate to minor matters and do not affect the main features of the principal Act. The provisions of these Acts are now embodied in the Consolidated Act of 1928. The grounds upon which divorce might be granted were considerably extended by an Act passed in 1889.

**Number of Divorces.** Since jurisdiction was first conferred upon the Supreme Court of Victoria in matters matrimonial in 1861, 9,443 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 122 decrees for judicial separation have been granted. Of these, 9,095 and 51 respectively have been issued since 1890; so that, during the 30 years ended 1890, only 348 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 71 for judicial separation were issued, or an average per annum of about twelve of the former and two of the latter; whereas, since the Divorce Act of 1889 received the Royal Assent in 1890, no fewer than 227 decrees per annum for dissolution of marriage have been granted, while the decrees for judicial separation have decreased to about one per annum.

**Divorces, Sex.** The following table gives the number of petitions filed by husband and wife respectively, and the number of decrees granted for divorce, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage during the year 1930:—

**DIVORCES, 1930.**

	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husband.	Wife.	Total.	Husband.	Wife.	Total.
Dissolution of Marriage	215	274	489	153	228	381
Judicial Separation ...	...	2	2	...	1	1
Nullity of Marriage ...	2	3	5	3	3	6
Total ...	217	279	496	156	232	388

**Grounds of divorce.** The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1930 were as follows:—

Grounds on which Granted.	Dissolution of Marriage.		Judicial Separation.		Nullity of Marriage.	
	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.
Adultery ...	55	60	...	1	...	...
Bigamy ...	1	1	...	...	2	1
Desertion ...	91	157	...	...	...	...
Desertion and adultery ...	1	3	...	...	...	...
Drunkenness (habitual) ...	2	2	...	...	...	...
Drunkenness and cruelty ...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Impotence ...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Insanity ...	4	1	...	...	...	...
Sentences for crime ...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Total ...	153	228	...	1	3	3

**Divorces, 1926 to 1930.** The following is a statement of the number of petitions and decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation in the State of Victoria during the last five years, also of the proportion of decrees per 100,000 married couples living:—

**DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN VICTORIA  
1926 TO 1930.**

Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.
	Dissolution of Marriage	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
1926	576	9	466	2	151
1927	590	4	513	2	163
1928	604	9	481	..	150
1929	528	3	542	2	168
1930	489	2	381	1	117

In New South Wales, where the law in regard to divorce does not differ much from that in Victoria, there were, in 1930, 1,148 decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation. The number of divorces and separations in that year per 100,000 married couples living was 247. The average annual number for the five-year period 1926-30, in proportion to a like number of married couples, was 244, as compared with an average of 150 for the same period in Victoria.

### CRIME.

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

**Indeterminate sentences.** The Indeterminate Sentences Act came into force on 1st July, 1908. 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 minors.

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

In the early part of the financial year 1916-17 the Board brought into operation two valuable aids to the reformation of the inmates of the reformatory prisons, by the Government sanctioning the purchase of a farm in connexion with the Castlemaine Reformatory, and by the establishment of a forestry settlement at French Island.

The gaol at Beechworth, after undergoing some remodelling, was opened as a reformatory prison in 1926.

In 1929 upwards of 190 acres of land were acquired for penal purposes within three miles of the reformatory. The area has since been added to, making in all 253 acres. Useful work is found on this land for a number of the inmates of the reformatory in clearing the timber, planting pines, and eradicating the St. John's wort pest.

Prisoners for this reformatory are chosen in the same way as for French Island, viz., from those under indeterminate detention at Pentridge.

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

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year ended 30th June.				
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	59	76	97	93	79
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	84	86	105	97	110
Reformatory for Females, Coburg ..	2	3	1	2	2
McLeod Settlement, French Island ..	38	42	42	40	51
Geelong Reformatory Prison ..	9	10	13	16	16
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	21	29	29	53	71
Metropolitan Gaol Reformatory Prison ..	..	..	1	2	2
Total .. ..	213	246	288	303	331

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. The position is honorary, and a number of persons connected with religious and philanthropic organizations have been appointed to the office.

**OFFENCES HEARD BY MAGISTRATES.**

Arrests and  
summonses  
for various  
offences.

The following are particulars of the different classes of offences dealt with by magistrates in 1930 :—

**ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1930.**

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Convicted, &c.		Discharged by Magistrates.		Committed for Trial.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
<b>Against the Person—</b>							
Murder and attempts at	7	...	...	5	...	2	...
Manslaughter ...	7	...	...	2	...	3	2
Shooting at, wounding, &c. ...	40	1	...	10	...	27	2
Assaults ...	1,345	692	66	529	58	...	...
Others ...	281	43	6	89	7	128	8
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>1,680</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Against Property—</b>							
Robbery, burglary, &c.	578	144	6	59	4	357	8
Larceny and similar offences ...	3,227	2,033	177	640	53	307	17
Wilful damage	430	283	11	124	12	...	...
Others ...	843	586	12	194	10	36	5
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>5,078</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Forgery and Offences against the Currency</b>	21	...	...	1	...	20	...
<b>Against Good Order—</b>							
Drunkenness ...	8,132	5,576	667	1,722	167	...	...
Others ...	8,429	5,816	697	1,565	343	8	...
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>16,561</b>	<b>11,392</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>3,287</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Other Offences—</b>							
Perjury ...	5	...	...	...	...	4	1
<b>Breaches of—</b>							
Defence Act ...	27	16	...	11	...	...	...
Education Act ...	7,830	5,923	1,026	730	131	...	...
Electoral Act ...	304	135	43	71	55	...	...
Licensing Act ...	4,689	3,263	433	819	174	...	...
Pure Food Act ...	745	466	101	159	19	...	...
Miscellaneous ...	19,809	16,387	928	2,285	196	7	6
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>33,409</b>	<b>26,190</b>	<b>2,531</b>	<b>4,095</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Grand Total</b> ...	<b>56,749</b>	<b>41,364</b>	<b>4,173</b>	<b>9,035</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>49</b>

These particulars include the arrests and summonses disposed of in Children's Courts, which are detailed in the next table, other than arrests of neglected children.



Of the persons dealt with in the 39,454 summons cases, 33,026 were summarily convicted, 6,365 were discharged, and 63 were committed for trial. Of the total persons dealt with (56,749), 45,537 were summarily convicted, 10,264 were discharged, and 948 were committed for trial.

The table which follows shows the number of arrests and summonses for various offences which were disposed of in Children's Courts during the year 1930 :—

**CHILDREN'S COURTS: ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1930.**

Nature of Offence.	Number of Offences for which—				Others (Application to board out, &c.).		Total Offences.	
	Arrests were made.		Summonses were issued.		M.	F.	M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.				
<b>Against the Person—</b>								
Assaults .. ..	18	1	64	2	..	..	82	3
Others .. ..	2	..	11	..	..	..	13	..
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Against Property—</b>								
Larceny, &c. .. ..	566	31	1,131	41	..	..	1,697	72
Wilful Damage .. ..	22	2	220	3	..	..	242	5
Others .. ..	19	..	43	..	..	..	62	..
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>2,001</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Against Good Order—</b>								
Drunkenness .. ..	3	1	1	..	..	..	4	1
Others .. ..	49	21	268	12	..	..	317	33
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Other Offences—</b>								
Breach of Licensing Act .. ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Miscellaneous .. ..	161	122	787	11	19	23	967	156
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>Grand Total .. ..</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>2,525</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3,386</b>	<b>270</b>

The number of arrests and summons cases which were disposed of in Children's Courts in the previous five years were :—3,514 in 1925, 4,031 in 1926, 4,248 in 1927, 3,760 in 1928, and 3,980 in 1929.

The arrests of neglected children, which in 1930 numbered 133, viz., 83 males and 50 females, have been included in this table to indicate the business done by Children's Courts, but they are eliminated from all other criminal tabulations.

Arrests and summons cases.

Of the persons who were brought before magistrates during the last five years, 29 per cent. were arrested, and 71 per cent. summoned. Particulars for the last five years are given in the subjoined table:—

#### ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES, 1926 TO 1930.

Year.	Arrested by the Police.	Brought before Magistrates on Summons.	Total.
1926 ... ..	18,853	56,703	75,556
1927 ... ..	19,507	47,769	67,276
1928 ... ..	18,559	42,003	60,562
1929 ... ..	18,637	39,460	58,097
1930 ... ..	17,295	39,454	56,749

Neglected children arrested.

The arrests of neglected children, which are excluded from the above table and the tables which follow, numbered 67 in 1926, 132 in 1927, 109 in 1928, 82 in 1929, and 133 in 1930.

Arrests and summons cases.

The following table shows for each of the last five years the number of offences for which persons were arrested or summoned, summarily convicted, discharged by magistrates, committed for trial, and convicted after commitment, also the number per 10,000 of the population:—

#### NUMBER OF ARRESTS AND SUMMONS CASES, 1926 TO 1930.

Year.	Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Discharged by Magistrates.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.
1926 ... ..	75,556	60,728	14,067	761	461
1927 ... ..	67,276	53,612	12,890	774	474
1928 ... ..	60,562	47,865	11,966	731	521
1929 ... ..	58,097	45,318	11,829	950	630
1930 ... ..	56,749	45,537	10,264	948	720
Number per 10,000 of Population.					
1926 ... ..	445·3	357·9	82·9	4·5	2·7
1927 ... ..	389·5	310·4	74·6	4·5	2·7
1928 ... ..	345·8	273·3	68·3	4·2	3·0
1929 ... ..	328·4	256·2	66·8	5·4	3·6
1930 ... ..	318·0	255·2	57·5	5·3	4·0

In regard to persons arrested, minor charges are excluded, and only that charge which throughout the hearing of the case was most prominent is taken account of; but, in summons cases, the unit is each separate charge or case, and the number of convictions discharges, &c., is, therefore, greater than the number of persons concerned.

**CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS.**

**Offences and drunkenness.** The subjoined table shows, for a series of years, the number of persons arrested or summoned, also the number per 1,000 of the population, for the only classes of offence for which complete comparisons can be made :—

**CRIME IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA, 1890 TO 1930.**

Year.	Number of Persons Arrested or Summoned for—				
	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
1926	1,748	3,841	10,150	59,817	75,556
1927	1,632	4,372	10,793	50,479	67,276
1928	1,615	4,198	9,635	45,114	60,562
1929	1,640	4,752	9,385	42,320	58,097
1930	1,680	5,078	8,132	41,859	56,749
	Number per 1,000 of the 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
1926	1.03	2.26	5.98	35.26	44.53
1927	.95	2.53	6.25	29.22	38.95
1928	.92	2.40	5.50	25.76	34.58
1929	.93	2.69	5.30	23.92	32.84
1930	.94	2.85	4.56	23.45	31.80

**Drunkenness.** The most noticeable feature of the above table is the large decrease in the arrests for drunkenness in the last five years as compared with the years prior to 1920.

**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, 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, and these are very few in number, there having been in Victoria in 1930 only 34 of such crimes out of a total of 41,859 in the

category to which they belong. A large proportion of the cases under the heading "Other Offences" are merely 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 is also among them a large number of offences against good order, including insulting behaviour, vagrancy, &c.

If it be desired to compare the above figures with those relating to other States or countries several considerations must be taken into account. The first point necessary 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 considerations 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.

**Cases summarily disposed of by magistrates.** During the year 1930, 16,410 persons were summarily dealt with by magistrates, viz., 14,503 males and 1,907 females. Of the number sentenced, 11,103 were males and 1,408 females, and of those discharged 3,400 were males and 499 females.

**Sentences in superior courts.** The following were the sentences of the arrested persons tried and convicted in superior courts during 1930:—

### SENTENCES OF ARRESTED PERSONS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1930.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid ... ..	3	...	3
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month ... ..	6	...	6
1 and under 6 months ... ..	61	3	64
6 " 12 " ... ..	219	5	224
1 year and under 4 years ... ..	124	1	125
4 years " 7 " ... ..	10	...	10
10 " ... ..	2	...	2
15 " ... ..	1	...	1
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety ... ..	140	10	150
Sent to Reformatory prison ... ..	96	1	97
" Convent ... ..	...	1	1
<b>Total convicted ... ..</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>683</b>
<b>Acquitted ... ..</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>Not prosecuted ... ..</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Convictions per 10,000 of population...</b>	<b>7.49</b>	<b>.23</b>	<b>3.83</b>

In addition to being sent to gaol, eight prisoners were ordered one whipping each, with a cat-of-nine-tails.

Prisoners remaining for trial from the previous year and sentenced in the year mentioned are included in the above statement, but those awaiting trial at the end of the year are excluded.

Arrests of distinct individuals.

A statement, showing the number of distinct individuals arrested in 1928, is shown in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, pages 205 to 208.

Drunkenness, 1926 to 1930.

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

PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS, 1926 TO 1930.

Year.	Number of Persons—			Number per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1926 ...	10,066	84	10,150	5.98
1927 ...	10,655	138	10,793	6.25
1928 ...	9,562	73	9,635	5.50
1929 ...	9,294	91	9,385	5.30
1930 ...	8,054	78	8,132	4.56

Drunkenness—Comparison with previous years.

The amount of drunkenness in proportion to population, as evidenced by arrests, being taken as 100 in 1874-8, the corresponding numbers for subsequent periods will show the increase or decrease by comparison. These numbers are given in the following statement :—

Period.	Index Number.	Period.	Index Number.
1874-78 .. ..	100	1913-17 .. ..	59
1879-85 .. ..	88	1918-22 .. ..	32
1886-92 .. ..	106	1923-27 .. ..	41
1893-97 .. ..	65	1928 .. .. ..	37
1898-1902 ..	84	1929 .. .. ..	36
1903-07 .. ..	77	1930 .. .. ..	31
1908-12 .. ..	68		

A very considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown for the five years 1893-97, which was a period of general depression. In the five years following an increase occurred, but since that time the arrests for this offence have declined. In the middle of the year 1915 an Act was passed limiting the number of hours during which

alcoholic liquors could be sold in hotels, and a further limitation was made in the following year. This probably accounts for the marked decrease in drunkenness in the last fifteen years. The index numbers for that period are the lowest on record.

The accompanying table shows the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness, also the number arrested per 100,000 of the population under that age, from which it will be seen that very few young persons are arrested for this offence :—

#### ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1926 TO 1930.

Year.	Number.	Number per 100,000 of the Population under 20 years of age.
1926	142	21·81
1927	162	24·44
1928	137	20·39
1929	143	21·06
1930	136	19·86

#### CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR.

The next table shows for a period of years the average yearly consumption of intoxicating liquors in Australia and New Zealand.

#### AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS, BEER, AND WINE IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

	Yearly Average Quantity Consumed. 1st July, 1925, to 30th June, 1930.			Consumption per Head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
Commonwealth of Australia ..	2,480,800	69,430,200	2,790,600	·40	11·17	·45
*Dominion of New Zealand ..	624,400	12,778,400	215,600	·45	9·19	·16

\* Average for five years ended 31st December, 1930.

The quantities consumed per head in Australia and New Zealand during three quinquennial periods in the years 1916 to 1930, were as follows:—

	Australia.			New Zealand.		
	Average Consumption per Head for Five Years ended—					
	30th June—			31st December—		
	1920.	1925.	1930.	1920.	1925.	1930.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
Spirits ..	·53	·39	·40	·66	·52	·45
Beer ..	12·32	11·46	11·17	11·05	10·46	9·19
Wine ..	·33	·49	·45	·14	·14	·16

With the assistance of the figures in the preceding table, it is possible to estimate for Australia and New Zealand, with some degree of accuracy, the approximate expenditure of the people on intoxicating liquors in a year. The following table shows the average yearly consumption over a period of years:—

**AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DRINK BILL.—  
YEARLY AVERAGE.**

	Expenditure by the People on—					
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Total.		
				Amount.	Per Head	Per Adult Individual.
	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
*Commonwealth of Australia ..	10,663,200	20,809,100	2,790,600	34,262,900	5 10 3	9 6 6
†Dominion of New Zealand ..	2,653,800	3,833,500	215,600	6,702,900	4 16 6	7 16 0

\* Average for five years ended 30th June, 1930.

† Average for five years ended 31st December, 1930.

These figures show that the average yearly expenditure on drink in Australia during the five years ended 30th June, 1930, was £34,262,900, and that in New Zealand during the quinquennium 1926 to 1930 it was £6,702,900. The expenditure per head for the Commonwealth was £5 10s. 3d., and for New Zealand, £4 16s. 6d. The corresponding expenditures for the quinquennium 1916-20 were £3 11s. 3d. and £3 15s. 3d. per head, and for a similar period in the years 1920 to 1925, £5 5s. 5d. and £5 4s. 2d. per head.

**LOCAL OPTION.**

**Local Option Acts of 1920 and 1922.**

A statement, giving particulars of the provisions of the Local Option Acts of 1920 and 1922, appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, pages 211 and 212.

**Local Option Poll held 21st October, 1920.** In accordance with the *Licensing Act 1915* certain resolutions were submitted to the electors throughout the State for approval on 21st October, 1920. One of these (Resolution C) "That no licence be granted" was carried in two licensing districts in the State, viz., Boroondara and Nunawading. Seven hotels in the former district and three in the latter had, therefore, to be closed. The amount of compensation awarded by the Licences Reduction Board was £12,100, or an average of £1,210 for each hotel.

**Licensing Poll, 1930.** On the 29th March, 1930, a Referendum, called a Licensing Poll, was conducted under Part XIV. of the *Licensing Act 1928* (as amended) to determine whether or not licences shall be abolished. The poll was State-wide, and was the first of the octennial polls provided for by the *Licensing Act of 1922* (now incorporated in the *Licensing Act 1928*).

The resolution submitted to electors was "Abolition—That licences shall be abolished (Resolution 1)." The number of votes recorded for the resolution was 418,902, whilst 552,339 votes were recorded against it.

The number of electors on the roll and the number who recorded their votes at the Licensing Poll held on the 29th March, 1930, was as follows:—

	Number.
Electors on the electoral roll ..	1,029,420
Electors who voted—	
Male .. .. .	474,232
Female .. .. .	503,280
Total .. .. .	977,512
Informal votes .. .. .	6,271

**Hotels Closed, 1835-1905.** During the period 1835 to 1905, 217 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls. The amount of compensation awarded was £212,771, or an average of £980 for each hotel. This sum was provided partly out of the Licensing Fund, and, when this was insufficient for the purpose, out of the general revenue.

**Restricting the hours for the sale of intoxicants.** In the year 1915 an Act was passed (No. 2584) which fixed the hours during which alcoholic liquors might be sold in hotels during the period of the war at from 9 o'clock in the morning until half-past 9 at night. By an Act passed in 1916 (No. 2827) the closing hour was fixed at 6 o'clock instead of 9.30. The latter provision was made permanent by Act No. 3028, passed on 19th December, 1919.



LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD.

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.

Up to 30th September, 1931, 1,729 hotels had been closed by the Board or had surrendered their licences. The total sum paid in compensation was £1,127,516, or an average of £652 each. Five hundred and fourteen of these hotels were located in the Greater Melbourne district; the compensation paid in connexion with these totalled £553,792, making an average of £1,077 each. There were 1,215 hotels closed in country districts, whose owners and licensees received £573,724, or an average of £472 for each hotel.

In addition to the above closings, the following have been deprived of their licences as a result of the local option poll held on 21st October, 1920:—5 spirit merchants, 4 grocers, 1 club, and 4 Australian wine licensees. The amount of compensation awarded was £550. Since 1922, 6 spirit merchants', 2 grocers', and 61 Australian wine licences have been taken away, for which compensation to the amount of £11,720 has been awarded.

Improvement  
and Extension  
of Licensed  
accommodation

A section of the Board's work which has grown rapidly in extent and importance is the 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 being £3,408,575.

Hotels, 1885,  
1906 and 1931.

The return given hereunder shows the number of hotels, including roadside licences, in Victoria in 1885, 1906 and 1931, and the 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:—

NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885, 1906 AND 1931.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.*	Persons to each Hotel.
1885 ... ..	969,200	4,339	223
1906 ... ..	1,244,470	3,520	354
1931 (30th September) ...	1,800,000	1,789	1,006
Increase, 1885 to 1931 ...	830,800	...	783
Decrease, ,, ,, ...	...	2,550	...

\* Including Roadside Licences.

While the population has increased by 86 per cent. since 1885, the number of hotels has decreased by 59 per cent., and the number of persons to an hotel is now 351 per cent. more than it was in that 8527.—8

year. During the period 1885-1931, 227 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 1,729 were deprived of their licences by the Licences Reduction Board, or surrendered their licences to the Board, and 663 were closed voluntarily. During the period of twenty-five years, 1907 to 1930, 69 new licences were granted.

The amount at credit of this fund at 30th June, 1931, was £96,376 3s. 6d. (after deduction of investments in stock amounting to £341,000). The receipts for the year were £371,427 0s. 2d. and the expenditure was £395,765 6s. 8d. The expenditure included the following items:—Annual payment to municipalities, £61,156; compensation, £12,385; expenses of licensing poll, £576 13s. 5d.; transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 311 of Act No. 3717, £23,000; transferred to revenue under section 312 of Act No. 3717, £256,520 7s. 2d.; transferred to revenue under section 2 of Act No. 3914, £24,338 6s. 6d.; and salaries, expenses, etc., £17,788 19s. 7d.

**Racecourse licences and percentage fees.** The *Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act 1906* (now Section 152 of the *Police Offences Act 1928*) provides that all racecourses shall be licensed, for which a fee of £1 per annum is charged. It is stipulated that, in addition to this fee, there shall be paid annually a sum equal to 3 per cent. of the gross revenue derived from all sources. Where the gross revenue is less than £1,500, but more than £600, the annual sum payable is 2 per cent. of the revenue, and, where the gross revenue is £600 or less, no percentage is charged. The amounts paid into the Consolidated Revenue in licence fees and percentages on receipts during the last ten years were as follows:—

#### REVENUE FROM RACECOURSE LICENCES AND PERCENTAGE FEES, 1922 TO 1931.

Year ended 30th June.		Amount.	Year ended 30th June.		Amount.
		£			£
1922	.. ..	17,578	1927	.. ..	24,148
1923	.. ..	20,124	1928	.. ..	25,036
1924	.. ..	20,516	1929	.. ..	24,952
1925	.. ..	21,714	1930	.. ..	27,789
1926	.. ..	23,270	1931	.. ..	23,246

#### GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

**Gaols and prisoners.** There are six gaols in Victoria, including the Pentridge Penal Establishment, and six reformatory prisons, also three police gaols which are used as receiving stations. The following statement contains information for the year 1930 in

regard to the accommodation for prisoners, the daily average number in confinement, the number received during the year, and the number in confinement at the end of the year :—

## GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1930.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received.		In Confinement, 31.12.30.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge ..	662	..	590	..	1,418	..	635	..
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	68	..	88	..	171	..	73	..
Ballarat Gaol ..	62	18	23	..	309	6	40	..
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	78	..	55	..	59	..	60	..
Bendigo Gaol ..	116	28	17	..	207	5	19	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	97	..	99	..	176	..	96	..
Geelong Gaol ..	150	29	124	..	487	1	141	..
Geelong Reformatory Prison ..	37	..	17	..	10	..	17	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison ..	50	..	42	..	52	..	49	..
Metropolitan Gaol ..	208	59	173	54	4,739	622	177	41
Metropolitan Reformatory Prison, Coburg ..	6	9	3	2	77	4	2	1
Sale Gaol ..	30	5	7	..	126	..	7	..
Police Gaols ..	41	5	7	..	331	3	9	1
Total ..	1,605	153	1,245	56	8,162	641	1,325	43

Prisoners in confinement, 1871 to 1930—decrease.

A statement is given below of the average number of prisoners in detention in the gaols of the State in the last year of each of the decennial periods 1871 to 1921 inclusive, and in each of the last five years. From this it will be seen that there has been a considerable decrease in late years as compared with earlier periods. The rate per 10,000 of population, aged fifteen years and over, was, in 1930, 28 per cent. less than in 1901, 59 per cent. less than in 1891, 65 per cent. less than in 1881, and 73 per cent. less than in 1871.

## PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1930.

Year.	Average Number of Prisoners in Confinement.			Number per 10,000 of Population, aged 15 years and over.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1871 ...	1,345	274	1,619	54·77	15·46	38·30
1881 ...	1,294	304	1,598	45·25	12·35	30·03
1891 ...	1,550	350	1,900	38·78	10·07	25·43
1901 ...	951	200	1,151	23·92	5·06	14·53
1911 ...	713	100	813	15·73	2·16	8·87
1921 ...	741	54	795	14·56	·98	7·40
1926 ...	932	47	979	15·93	·78	8·22
1927 ...	949	50	999	15·92	·81	8·24
1928 ...	1,008	36	1,044	16·70	·59	8·49
1929 ...	1,128	57	1,185	18·54	·90	9·55
1930 ...	1,245	56	1,301	20·32	·89	10·45

The birthplaces and ages of prisoners constantly detained as deduced from the numbers passing through the gaols, also the number per 10,000 of population, are shown below for the years 1911, 1921, and 1930:—

## BIRTHPLACES AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED 1911 TO 1930.

	Number Constantly Detained.			Number per 10,000 of Population.*		
	1911.	1921.	1930.	1911.	1921.	1930.
<b>Birthplace—</b>						
Australia and New Zealand	595	660	1,021	5·32	4·92	6·53
England and Wales ..	87	64	126	9·73	} 6·53	12·37
Scotland ..	26	18	58	9·78		
Ireland ..	62	23	48	14·95		
China ..	4	1	2	7·14	3·54	6·23
Others ..	39	29	46	11·64	11·13	15·16
<b>Age—</b>						
Under 20 years ..	54	85	176	1·01	1·45	2·57
20 to 30 years ..	205	287	402	8·67	10·93	13·17
30 to 40 years ..	211	190	322	11·66	8·35	12·14
40 to 50 years ..	193	126	238	11·64	7·20	11·68
50 to 60 years ..	96	68	114	9·60	4·50	6·47
60 years and over	54	39	48	5·58	3·07	3·24

\* The ratios refer to 10,000 persons in the community whose birthplaces or ages were as stated above.

**POLICE PROTECTION.**

The following table shows the numbers in the various grades of the police force in Victoria on the 31st December, 1930 :—

**POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31ST DECEMBER, 1930.**

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner ... ..	1	...	1
Superintendents ... ..	4	7	11
Inspectors ... ..	7	7	14
Sub-Inspectors ... ..	17	4	21
Sergeants, First class ... ..	35	9	44
„ Second class ... ..	38	9	47
Senior Constables ... ..	143	89	232
First Constables ... ..	130	112	242
Constables ... ..	993	268	1,261
Total ... ..	1,368	505	1,873
<i>Detectives.</i>			
Sergeants, First Class ... ..	3	...	3
„ Second Class ... ..	2	...	2
Senior Detectives ... ..	14	1	15
First Detectives ... ..	18	...	18
Detectives ... ..	9	...	9
Total ... ..	46	1	47
<i>Mounted.</i>			
Senior Constables ... ..	1	...	1
First Constables ... ..	7	45	52
Constables ... ..	20	114	134
Total ... ..	28	159	187
Grand Total ... ..	1,442	665	2,107

In addition to the above there were 8 police-women, 3 matrons or female searchers and 2 black trackers employed by the Police Department on the 31st December, 1930.

The number of police in Victoria per 100,000 of the population and the corresponding proportions for other States, at the end of 1930, were as follows:—Victoria, 117·7; New South Wales, 148·0; Queensland, 129·8; South Australia, 130·9; Western Australia, 133·6; Tasmania, 110·6; and Northern Territory, 801·6.

The next table contains a statement of the amount and the amount per head of population expended in connexion with the police, and the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria, in the year 1913-14 and in each of the five years ended with 1929-30 :—

## EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1913-14 TO 1929-30.

Year ended 30th June.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Maintenance, &c.		Buildings.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablishments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablishments.		
	£	£	£	£		
1914 ..	343,518	54,083	20,174	2,472	420,247	5 11
1926 ..	622,509	101,794	24,566	14,747	763,616	9 1
1927 ..	678,812	106,059	31,637	8,338	824,846	9 8
1928 ..	681,814	106,978	39,292	4,523	832,607	9 7
1929 ..	718,007	109,062	23,223	4,190	854,482	9 8
1930 ..	727,600	119,488	21,594	2,646	871,328	9 10

**Executions.** During the twenty-six years ended with 1930 there were only eight executions in Victoria, one of which took place in 1908, one in 1912, two in 1916, two in 1918, one in 1922, and one in 1924. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 176 criminals have been executed within the State, of whom only four were females.

**Inquests.** The number of inquiries into the causes of deaths of individuals during the year 1930 was 1,491, or 8·35 per 10,000 of the population. In 566 cases death was found to be due to disease or natural causes, in 677 cases to accident, in 8 to homicide, in 212 to suicide, in 23 to external causes which could not be ascertained, and in 5 to unspecified or doubtful causes.