

LAW, CRIME, ETC.

THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA.

The Commonwealth Constitution Act (section 71) provides that the judicial power of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a Federal Supreme Court, to be called the High Court of Australia, and to consist of a Chief Justice, and at least two other Justices. Power is also given to the Federal Parliament to create other Federal courts, or to invest State courts with Federal jurisdiction. Section 72 provides that the Justices shall be appointed by the Governor-General in Council, and shall not be removed, except on an address from both Houses of Parliament in the same session praying for their removal on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity; also that the Parliament shall fix the remuneration, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office. The High Court is invested by the Constitution with both original and appellate jurisdiction. Section 73 provides that the High Court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals from all judgments, decrees, orders, and sentences of any Justice exercising the original jurisdiction of the court, or of any other Federal Court or court exercising Federal jurisdiction, or of the Supreme or any other court of a State, from which there was on 1st January, 1901, an appeal to the Privy Council, or of the Inter-State Commission, but in the last mentioned case as to questions of law only. The Parliament may regulate the mode in which the jurisdiction may be exercised, and may limit the jurisdiction by excluding specified cases, or classes of cases, from it; but no such regulation or exception shall prevent the High Court from hearing and determining any appeal from the Supreme Court of a State in any matter in which, at the establishment of the Constitution—1st January, 1901—an appeal lay to the Privy Council. Section 74 provides that there shall be no appeal to the Privy Council “from a decision of the High Court upon any question, howsoever arising, as to the limits *inter se* of the constitutional powers of the Commonwealth and those of any State or States, or as to the limits *inter se* of the constitutional powers of any two or more States, unless the High Court shall certify that the question is one which ought to be determined by His Majesty in Council.” It is, however, provided that except as above mentioned the “Constitution shall not impair any right which the King may be pleased to exercise by virtue of His Royal prerogative to grant special leave of appeal from the High Court to His Majesty in Council”; but the Parliament may limit the matters in respect of which leave may be asked, and a Bill containing any such limitation shall be reserved by the Governor-General

for the Royal pleasure. Section 73 provides that the judgment of the High Court, in its appellate jurisdiction, shall be final and conclusive; but this (except as regards the particular class of constitutional questions mentioned above) is qualified by the above provision, preserving the prerogative right of the King in Council to grant special leave of appeal from such a judgment. By section 75, the High Court is invested with original jurisdiction in all matters arising under any treaty; affecting consuls or other representatives of other countries; in which the Commonwealth, or a person, suing or being sued on behalf of the Commonwealth, is a party; between States, or between residents of different States, or between a State and a resident of another State; or in which a writ of mandamus or prohibition or an injunction is sought against an officer of the Commonwealth. By sections 76, 77, and 78, the Parliament is empowered to confer additional original jurisdiction on the High Court in any matter arising under the Constitution, or involving its interpretation, or under any laws made by the Parliament, also in matters of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction, and in those relating to the same subject-matter claimed under the laws of different States.

The Parliament is also empowered to define the jurisdiction of any Federal court other than the High Court; to define the extent to which the jurisdiction of any Federal court shall be exclusive of that which belongs to or is invested in the courts of the States; to invest any court of a State with Federal jurisdiction; and to confer "rights to proceed against the Commonwealth or a State in respect of matters within the limits of the judicial power." By section 79 the Parliament may prescribe the number of Judges by whom the Federal jurisdiction of any court may be exercised; and section 80 provides for trial by jury of any indictable offence against any law of the Commonwealth, and for the venue of the trial.

**Commonwealth
Judiciary Act
1903-1915.**

In pursuance of the powers conferred upon it by the Constitution, and within the limits specified therein, the Commonwealth Parliament passed a Judiciary Act, which was assented to on 25th August, 1903, and has been amended by Acts of 1906, 1907, 1910, 1912, 1914, and 1915. The High Court consists of a Chief Justice and six other Justices; and its principal seat is at the seat of Government, where there shall be the principal registry of the court. A district registry in each other State is also provided for, and peripatetic sittings are to be held when required. Chamber business may be dealt with by a single Justice of the High Court, or (except in matters within the exclusive jurisdiction of the High Court) by a single Judge in Chambers of the Supreme Court of a State. A Full Court, consisting of any two or more Justices of the High Court, sitting together, may hear and determine any case or question referred by, and appeals from judgments of, any such single Justice or Judge; appeals from judgments of any other court exercising Federal jurisdiction, or of the Inter-State Commission; applications for a new trial; and applications for leave or special leave to

appeal to the High Court from a judgment of the Supreme Court of a State, or of any other court of a State from which, at the establishment of the Commonwealth, an appeal lay to the Privy Council. The jurisdiction of the High Court to hear and determine appeals from judgments of the Supreme Court of a State sitting as a Full Court, or of any other court of a State from which at the establishment of the Commonwealth an appeal lay to the Privy Council, and applications for a certificate that a question, decided by the High Court, as to the constitutional powers of the Commonwealth and a State, or of any two or more States, is one which ought to be determined by the Privy Council, shall be exercised by a Full Court consisting of not less than three Justices.

In addition to the original jurisdiction conferred by section 75 of the Constitution, previously mentioned, the High Court is, by section 30 of the Judiciary Act, invested with original jurisdiction in all matters arising under the Constitution or involving its interpretation, in matters of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction, and in trials of indictable offences against the laws of the Commonwealth. By section 23 of the Act, as amended in 1912, a Full Court consisting of less than all the Justices cannot decide a constitutional question, unless a majority of all the Justices concur in the decision. Subject to this enactment, when the Full Court is divided in opinion, the question is to be decided by the decision of the majority, if there is a majority; but, if the Court is equally divided, then, if a decision of a Justice of the High Court, or of a Supreme Court of a State, or a Judge thereof, is called in question by appeal or otherwise, the decision appealed from is to be affirmed; but in any other case the opinion of the Chief Justice, or, if he is absent, the opinion of the senior Justice present, is to prevail. By section 33 the High Court is empowered to make orders or issue writs of mandamus, prohibition, ouster of office, and *habeas corpus* in certain cases. Part V. of the Act limits and defines the appellate jurisdiction; Part VI., as amended by the Act of 1907, defines the matters in which the jurisdiction of the High Court is exclusive; Part VII., as amended by the same Act, provides for the removal to the High Court of causes arising under the Constitution or involving its interpretation, which are pending in any State Court, and also provides that where in any cause pending in the Supreme Court of a State there arises any question as to the limits *inter se* of the constitutional powers of the Commonwealth and those of any State or States, or as to the limits *inter se* of the constitutional powers of any two or more States, it shall be the duty of the Court to proceed no further in the cause, and the cause is, by virtue of the Act and without any order of the High Court, removed to the High Court; Part VIII. treats of the members and officers of the High Court; Part IX. of suits by and against the Commonwealth and the States; and Part X. of criminal jurisdiction, and Part XI. contains supplementary provisions, dealing with appearance of parties, applications of laws, venue, and rules of court.

By the *Judiciary Act* 1910, a new Part, viz., Part XII., was added to the Principal Act. This part enables the Governor-General to refer to the High Court any question of law as to the validity of any Act or enactment of the Federal Parliament, and confers on the Court jurisdiction to hear and determine the matter. The matter has to be heard before all the Justices, except in the case of illness or absence from the Commonwealth of any Justice. The States are entitled to be represented, also any persons interested. The decision of the High Court is final, and not subject to any appeal.

By section 49 of the Act it is provided that any person entitled to practise as a barrister or solicitor or both in any State shall have the like right to practise in any Federal Court, upon entry of his name in a Register of Practitioners at the Principal Registry; and by section 86 (*ga*) the Justices of the High Court are empowered to make Rules of Court for the admission of persons to practise as barristers or solicitors in any Federal Court. Rules of Court have been made accordingly (Statutory Rules, 1908, No. 35), which establish a Board, called the Commonwealth Practitioners' Board, and consisting of the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth, the Secretary to the Attorney-General's Department, the Principal Registrar of the High Court, and such practising barristers or solicitors as the Chief Justice may from time to time appoint. The Rules further provide for the admission of persons as students-at-law and for their examination and admission as practitioners. By an amending Rule of Court passed during 1913 (Statutory Rules 1913, No. 330) it has been provided that persons qualified to practise as barristers or solicitors of the Superior Courts of the United Kingdom or of any self-governing part of the British Empire may, if the High Court thinks that special and sufficient reason exists, be admitted on motion to practise as barristers or solicitors of any Federal Court.

By a further amending Rule of Court passed in 1914 (Statutory Rules, 1914, No. 148) a person who satisfies the Board that he has served for a period of ten years either in a Registry of the High Court or in the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor's office, and during the last five of those years has been intrusted with duties requiring a professional knowledge of law, is entitled to the privileges of a student-at-law who has passed the Intermediate Examination.

THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN VICTORIA.

The law of Victoria, in its basic principles and main provisions, is founded on the law of England. All laws in force in England in 1828 were, so far as they should be held to apply to the circumstances of Australia, by Imperial Statute made law in New South Wales (which then included Victoria); and, in case of any doubt as to their applicability, the Colonial Legislature was empowered to declare whether or not they did apply, or to establish any modification or limitation of them within the colony. The same Statute established a Legislature within New South Wales with power to make laws for

that colony; and Supreme and other courts were constituted. On the separation of Port Phillip from New South Wales in 1851, the new colony of Victoria was invested with similar powers, which were widened on the establishment of responsible government in 1855. In order, therefore, to ascertain the law of Victoria as to any particular matter or point, considerable research is often involved. The first step is a search of the Victorian Statutes. If the matter is fully dealt with there, the labour is concluded; but, if it has never been dealt with by any Victorian Act, recourse must be had to the Statutes of New South Wales and the Imperial Statutes specially applicable to New South Wales passed between 1828 and 1851. If no law on the point is obtainable from these sources, the law of England in 1828 must be ascertained, which in most cases is found in the English text-books. Having found the apparent law from one of these sources, it is still necessary to search through series of law reports for decisions which may either modify or interpret the same.

Heirship in Victoria has been since 1864 limited to cases in which probate or letters of administration have been granted, and, by the *Administration and Probate Act 1872* (now incorporated in the *Administration and Probate Act 1915*), it is provided that the real estate of a deceased person shall be applied as if the same were personalty. The following are the rules by which the property and effects, both real and personal, of persons dying intestate are now by law distributed:—

(a) IF A MAN OR WOMAN DIE INTESTATE—

Leaving—	Proportions taken by Representatives.
No husband, wife, or child	All to next-of-kin of equal degree.
Husband or wife and child or children, and children of a deceased child	One-third to husband or wife, rest to child or children equally; and, if children are dead, then to their lineal descendants; but any child who had estate by settlement of intestate, or received an advance from him in his lifetime, shall bring such estate or advance into account.
No husband or wife or children, but both father and mother	Half each.
No husband or wife, but child or children, whether by one or more husbands or wives	All to him or her or to them equally.
Child and grandchild by a deceased child	Half each.
Father, brothers, and sisters	Whole to father.
Mother, brothers, and sisters	If net value of estate £500 or under, whole to mother; if over £500 net, share equally.
Mother, but no husband or wife, or child, father, brother, sister, nephew, or niece	Whole to mother.
Brother or sister, and children of a deceased brother or sister	Half to brother or sister <i>per capita</i> , half to such children <i>per stirpes</i> .

(a) IF A MAN OR WOMAN DIE INTTESTATE—*continued.*

Leaving —	Proportions taken by Representatives.
Brother or sister of whole blood, and brother or sister of half-blood	Equally to both.
Uncles' or aunts' children, and brothers' or sisters' grandchildren	Equally to all.
Grandfather or grandmother, and uncle or aunt	Whole to grandfather or grandmother.
Aunts, nephews, and nieces	Equally to all.
Uncle and deceased uncle's child ..	Whole to the uncle.
Nephew by brother, and nephew by half-sister	Equally <i>per capita</i> .
Nephew by deceased brother, and nephews or nieces by deceased brother or sister	Equally <i>per capita</i> .
Brother or sister, and nephew or niece by deceased brother or sister	Divide equally, nephews or nieces <i>per stirpes</i> .
Brother and grandfather	Whole to brother.
Great grandfather and uncle ..	Equally.
Brother's grandson and brother's or sister's daughter	Whole to daughter.
Brother and two aunts	Whole to brother.

(b) IF A MAN DIE INTTESTATE—

Wife, no children	If net value of estate £1,000 or under whole to wife; if over £1,000, first £1,000 to wife; residue—half to wife, half to next-of-kin.
Wife only, no next-of-kin	If net estate £1,000 or under, whole to wife; if over £1,000, first £1,000 to wife; residue—half to wife, half to Crown.
Wife and father or mother	First £1,000 to wife as above; residue half each.
Wife, father and mother	First £1,000 to wife as above; residue, half to wife, half between father and mother.
Wife, mother, nephews, and nieces ..	First £1,000 to wife as above; if net residue £1,000 or under, half to wife, half to mother; if over £1,000, half to wife, one-fourth to mother, one-fourth to nephews and nieces <i>per stirpes</i> .
Wife, mother, brothers, sisters, nephews, and nieces ..	First £1,000 to wife as above; net residue, if £1,000 or under, half to wife, half to mother; if net residue over £1,000, half to wife, one-fourth to mother; residue to others (as to nephews and nieces <i>per stirpes</i>).
Wife, brothers or sisters, and mother..	First £1,000 to wife as above; net residue, if £1,000 or under, half to wife, half to mother; net residue, if over £1,000, half to wife, one-fourth to mother, one-fourth to others <i>per stirpes</i> .
Wife and brother	First £1,000 to wife as above; residue, half to each.

(e) IF A WOMAN DIE INTESTATE—

Leaving—	Proportions taken by Representatives.
Husband, no children	Half to husband, half to next-of-kin.
Husband only, no children or next-of-kin	Half to husband, half to Crown.
Husband and father	Half each.
Husband and mother	Half each.
Husband, father, and mother	Half to husband, half between father and mother.
Husband, mother, nephews, and nieces	Half to husband, one-fourth to mother, other fourth to nephews and nieces <i>per stirpes</i> . If, however, nephews were sons of a deceased brother and nieces were daughters of a deceased sister, the mother's share would be one-sixth.
Husband, mother, brothers, sisters, and nephews and nieces	Half to husband; residue to others (as to nephews and nieces <i>per stirpes</i>).
Husband, brothers or sisters, and mother	Half to husband, half to others equally.

Births, deaths, marriages, &c., transactions and fees. Subjoined is a statement of the number of transactions and fees collected in connexion with the registration of births, deaths, and marriages during the year 1916 :—

GOVERNMENT STATIST'S TRANSACTIONS AND FEES, 1916.

Transactions.	Fees Payable.		Number of Transactions.	Amount.
	s.	d.		
Searches—				£
Ordinary	2	6	16,720	2,090
In church records	1	0	246	12
Free—				
On account of applications for—				
Old-age pensions .. .. .	...	...	3,040	...
War pensions .. .. .	...	...	4,229	...
Others .. .. .	...	...	1,460	...
Certificates—				
Ordinary	5	0	4,229	1,057
Of church records	1	0	23	1
Under Commonwealth Life Assurance Act	2	6	248	31
Under Friendly Societies Act	1	0	1,705	85
Free .. .. .	...	...	283	...
*Correction of entries	2	6	214	25
Addition of name within 12 months of registration	2	6	19	2
*Registration of births—				
After 60 days and under 1 year	5	0	59	11
,, 1 year and under 7 years	10	0	7	4
,, 7 years	10	0	26	13
*Legitimation cases	5	0	140	35
Production of documents .. .. .	...	...	3	3
Total... .. .	...	...	32,651	3,369

* Including cases where fees were remitted as follows :—Registration of Births after 60 days—Ordinary, 14; Legitimation cases, 2; Correction of entries, 14.

The amounts received during the previous five years were :—£2,748 in 1911, £3,459 in 1912, £3,136 in 1913, £2,901 in 1914, and £3,319 in 1915.

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 remodelled by the "Judicature Act of 1883." There were in 1916 five Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and four Puisne Judges.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the last year of each of the five decennial periods ended 1910; and the last five years:—

SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1870 TO 1916.

Year.	Writs of Summons.		Causes Entered for Trial.	Causes Tried.	Verdicts for—		Amount Awarded.
	Number Issued.	Amount Claimed.			Plaintiff.	Defendant.	
1870 ..	5,583	£ 154,296	237	165	133	29	£ 29,298
1880 ..	5,065	185,131	221	161	133	28	47,401
1890 ..	6,619	687,503	535	297	229	65	68,592
1900 ..	825	137,083	161	106	62	31	101,896
1910 ..	743	69,182	129	85	37	16	7,984
1912 ..	745	80,156	108	92	35	26	12,343
1913 ..	637	77,867	116	106	32	11	14,293
1914 ..	662	76,755	92	53	28	22	14,501
1915 ..	572	105,468	120	66	21	21	8,081
1916 ..	659	125,585	98	56	28	12	14,541

Decline in litigation. There has been a considerable decline in litigation in the Supreme Court since 1890. In 1916, the writs issued were one-tenth; the amount sued for was about one-fifth; and the causes which actually came to trial were about one-fifth of the corresponding numbers and amount in 1890. The figures show that a very small proportion of writs result in actual trials, whilst a large number of trials are either abandoned before a verdict is given, postponed to the following year, or settled.

County courts 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 1916, there were 101 sessions lasting 421 days and held in 37 places. Particulars of litigation in the five decennial periods ended 1910, and the last five years, are as follows:—

COUNTY COURT CASES, 1870 TO 1916.

Year.	Number of Cases tried.	Amount sued for.	Amount awarded.	Costs awarded to—	
				Plaintiff.	Defendant.
1870	11,866	£ 277,236	£ 102,822	£ 13,815	£ 4,268
1880	9,498	215,929	99,338	13,765	3,956
1890	12,635	349,028	127,433	15,363	6,072
1900	789	160,676	49,595	5,188	2,782
1910	626	144,550	45,196	5,199	1,992
1912	545	201,472	63,543	6,216	2,555
1913	511	203,273	77,135	7,454	2,419
1914	657	203,506	77,402	7,365	3,067
1915	647	202,578	85,614	*	*
1916	480	181,054	90,424	*	*

*No record.

The number of cases tried continues below the average of ten years ago. The number in 1916 was the lowest recorded, and was only one-twenty-sixth of that in 1890. The amount sued for and awarded had not, however, fallen off to anything like the same extent. This would seem to indicate that the public is less inclined than formerly to institute legal proceedings for the settlement of disputes; and that the County Court is not resorted to for the recovery of petty and trade debts to the same extent as in former years.

Courts of Petty Sessions were held at 256 places in Victoria in 1916 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

Petty Sessions civil business.

goods, where the amount in dispute does not exceed £50. Particulars of such cases heard during a series of years are given hereunder :—

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, 1870 TO 1916.

Year.	Cases heard.	Amount claimed.	Amount awarded.
		£	£
1870	27,722	190,242	105,086
1880	19,983	75,684	50,764
1890	30,466	196,917	132,663
1900	17,577	95,890	80,960
1910	29,902	186,538	146,284
1912	36,043	251,564	190,485
1913	39,911	266,165	204,175
1914	41,497	277,156	207,863
1915	41,055	260,707	188,542
1916	38,573	243,007	170,086

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 1916, 281 appeals against municipal ratings, 1,035 maintenance cases, 738 fraud summonses against debtors, 66,358 electoral revision cases, 4,977 cases relating to licences and certificates, 380 garnishee cases, 387 ejection cases, 52 prohibition cases, and 625 miscellaneous cases were heard, and 418 persons alleged to be lunatics were examined.

A statement is given below of the number of writs received by the Sheriff for the five decennial periods ended 1910, and the last five years, from which it will be seen that the decrease in later years is very considerable :—

Writs by
the Sheriff.

WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1870 TO 1916.

Year.	King's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person	Property.	
1870	35	75	2,146	2,256
1880	35	58	1,944	2,037
1890	13	21	2,282	2,316
1900	4	3	199	206
1910 ... ..	...	4	166	170
1912	3	3	205	211
1913	4	2	201	207
1914	6	1	203	210
1915	1	6	172	179
1916 ... ..	...	2	155	157

INSOLVENCIES.

The number of failures and the declared assets and liabilities during the five decennial periods ended 1910 and in each of the last five years were as follows:—

**INSOLVENCIES AND DEEDS OF ARRANGEMENT,
1870 TO 1916.**

Year.	Insolvencies.			Deeds of Arrangement.		
	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.
		£	£		£	£
1870 ..	996	479,491	150,170	*	*	*
1880 ..	768	526,130	298,384	*	*	*
1890 ..	795	2,301,271	2,041,200	*	*	*
1900 ..	344	183,531	88,760	149	168,700	159,771
1910 ..	359	132,841	54,381	131	113,597	91,271
1912 ..	404	265,046	159,723	172	177,061	168,218
1913 ..	455	440,318	237,868	186	147,023	134,976
1914 ..	450	272,582	171,295	235	251,320	236,053
1915 ..	436	414,439	273,805	230	272,213	247,740
1916 ..	337	213,989	127,730	167	203,940	169,962

* Information not available.

The number of insolvencies in 1916 was the lowest recorded since 1857, with the exception of 1911 (306) and 1901 (327). The average number during the last eight years was 390, and the average declared liabilities £247,699. During the ten years 1899 to 1908 the average yearly number was 445, with declared liabilities of £244,538, whereas during the ten years 1889 to 1898, when the failures resulting from the financial crisis swelled the returns, the yearly average number was 833, with declared liabilities of £2,213,592. During the ten years 1879 to 1888 the average yearly number was 612, with declared liabilities of £661,720.

Insolvencies are of two kinds, voluntary and compulsory, and the following table shows the number of petitions of each kind in the last five years:—

Year.	Voluntary.	Compulsory.	Total.
1912 ...	374	30	404
1913 ...	411	44	455
1914 ...	409	41	450
1915 ...	391	45	436
1916 ...	300	37	337

Occupations of Insolvents.

In the next return will be found the occupations, in six classes, of those who became insolvent or compromised with their creditors during the last five years, also the number

of breadwinners in each class at the census of 1911, and the proportion of the former to the latter. The total number of insolvents does not include 98 whose occupations were not stated:—

OCCUPATION OF INSOLVENTS, 1912 TO 1916.

Occupation Groups.	Number of Breadwinners, Census, 1911.	Average Number of Insolvents, 1912 to 1916.	Insolvents to every 10,000 Breadwinners.
Professional	43,819	17	3·88
Domestic	62,175	24	3·86
Commercial	91,611	160	17·47
Transport and Communication	39,238	28	7·14
Industrial	187,773	246	13·10
Primary Producers	144,384	120	8·31
Total	569,000*	595	10·46

* Exclusive of 8,053 persons of independent means.

Fewer breadwinners of the domestic and professional classes became insolvent than those of other classes, in proportion to their numbers in the community, whilst a greater proportion of the commercial than of any other class found it necessary to file their schedules or compound with their creditors.

Occupations of insolvents in detail.

The following figures show the occupations of insolvents for each of the five years 1912 to 1916:—

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS.

Occupations.	Number of Insolvents during—				
	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
<i>Professional Class.</i>					
Barrister, solicitor	3	..	..	1	1
Chemist .. .. .	..	1	..	..	1
Civil servant	5	1	1	1	2
Dentist .. .. .	..	..	1	2	..
Police	2	2	2	2	4
Others	4	18	11	9	10
<i>Domestic Class.</i>					
Boardinghouse keeper	3	4	..	5	2
Hotelkeeper	11	10	6	14	20
Others	6	7	12	12	8
<i>Commercial Class.</i>					
Agent	7	8	14	14	11
Butcher	24	14	23	22	15
Clerk, accountant	6	14	10	9	5
Commercial traveller, salesman, canvasser	8	6	10	14	6
Dealer	12	5	22	12	7
Draper	12	13	8	17	2

OCCUPATIONS OF INSOLVENTS—continued.

Occupations.	Number of Insolvents during—				
	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
<i>Commercial Class—continued.</i>					
Grocer, storekeeper	54	50	62	57	45
Hawker	3	3	2	3	2
Merchant, importer	4	7	16	9	7
Others	21	34	94	25	22
<i>Transport and Communication Class.</i>					
Carrier, carter, driver	11	13	17	16	8
Railway service	5	15	8	5	18
Tramway service	1	1	3	2	2
Others	1	1	3	1	7
<i>Industrial Class.</i>					
Blacksmith	6	9	17	5	7
Bootmaker	3	3	6	4	3
Builder, contractor	22	26	42	39	40
Carpenter, joiner	10	16	16	15	11
Coachbuilder, painter	6	..	4	8	5
Engineer, engine-driver	6	12	8	9	9
Labourer	91	87	81	108	78
Miller, baker	6	8	11	10	5
Saddler	3	2	6	2	5
Tailor, dressmaker	10	14	6	12	5
Watchmaker .. ..	..	3	1	1	..
Others	49	56	70	90	44
<i>Primary Producers:</i>					
Farmer	82	102	86	42	43
Grazier	9	8	6	11	2
Miner	30	21	24	20	13
Others	21	22	28	17	13
<i>Indefinite Class</i>	19	25	17	21	16
Total	576	641	685	666	504

DIVORCE.

Divorce, &c. Under the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act, passed in 1861, a petition might be presented to the Supreme Court (a) by a husband praying that his marriage might be dissolved, on the ground that his wife had, since the celebration thereof, been guilty of adultery; (b) by a wife praying that her marriage might be dissolved on the ground that, since the celebration thereof, her husband had been guilty of incestuous adultery, or of bigamy with adultery, or of rape, sodomy, or bestiality, or of adultery, coupled with cruelty, or of adultery, coupled with desertion without reasonable excuse for two years.

Judicial separation was obtainable either by husband or wife on the ground of adultery, or cruelty, or of desertion without cause for a period of two years.

The *Divorce Act* 1889 (now incorporated with the *Marriage Act* 1915) extended the grounds upon which divorces might be granted, those added being as follows:—

- (a) That the respondent has, without just cause or excuse, wilfully deserted the petitioner, and, without any such cause or excuse, left him or her continuously so deserted during three years and upwards.
- (b) That the respondent has during three years and upwards been an habitual drunkard and either habitually left his wife without the means of support, or habitually been guilty of cruelty towards her, or being the petitioner's wife has for a like period been an habitual drunkard and habitually neglected her domestic duties or rendered herself unfit to discharge them.
- (c) That at the time of the presentation of the petition the respondent has been imprisoned for a period of not less than three years and is still in prison under a commuted sentence for a capital crime, or under sentence to penal servitude for seven years or upwards, or, being a husband, has within five years undergone frequent convictions for crime, and been sentenced in the aggregate to imprisonment for three years or upwards and left his wife habitually without means of support.
- (d) That within one year previously the respondent has been convicted of having attempted to murder the petitioner, or of having assaulted him or her with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm, or on the ground that the respondent has repeatedly during that period assaulted and cruelly beaten the petitioner.
- (e) That the respondent, being a husband, has since the celebration of his marriage and the date of this Act been guilty of adultery in the conjugal residence, or coupled with circumstances or conduct of aggravation, or of a repeated act of adultery.

The Act further provides for simplifying and cheapening the mode of procedure, for the hearing and trying of suits in private at the discretion of the court, for prohibiting the publication of evidence, and for the intervention of the Attorney-General where collusion is suspected, but there is no provision as in earlier legislation for applications or decrees for the restoration of conjugal rights. The Act can only be taken advantage of by persons domiciled in the State for at least two years.

Since jurisdiction was first conferred upon the Supreme Court of Victoria in matters matrimonial in 1861, 3,894 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 99 decrees for judicial separation have been granted. Of these, 3,546 and 28 respectively have been issued since 1890; so that, during the 30 years ended 1890, only 348 decrees for dissolution of marriage were issued, and 71 for judicial separation, 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 less than 136 decrees per annum for dissolution of marriage have been granted, while the decrees for judicial separation have decreased to about one per annum.

The next table gives the sex of the petitioner, also the number of decrees granted for divorce, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage during the year 1916 :—

DIVORCES, 1916.

	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husband.	Wife.	Total.	Husband.	Wife.	Total.
Dissolution of Marriage	129	135	264	91	114	205
Judicial Separation ...	1	5	6	...	1	1
Nullity of Marriage ...	...	1	1	...	1	1
Total ...	130	141	271	91	116	207

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the last two years were :—

Grounds for Divorce.	Divorces granted to—			
	Husband.		Wife.	
	1915.	1916.	1915.	1916.
Adultery ...	42	40	28	32
Assaults (violent) ...	...	...	...	...
Cruelty, repeated acts of...:	...	...	...	...
Desertion ...	41	50	92	75
Desertion and adultery ...	...	1	3	3
Drunkenness (habitual) and cruelty	1	...	7	2
Sentences for crime ...	1	...	...	2
Total ...	85	91	130	114

Divorces in
Australian
States and
New
Zealand.

The following is a statement of the number of petitions and decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation in the Australian States and the Dominion of New Zealand during the four decennial periods ended 1911, and each of the last five years, also of the proportion of decrees per 100,000 married couples living :—

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1881 TO 1916.

State.	Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separation per 100,000 Married Couples Living.
		Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
Victoria	1881	18	10	9	..	7
	1891	153	1	99	..	57
	1901	148	2	83	..	46
	1911	262	2	211	..	99
	1912	300	2	247	2	113
	1913	290	4	234	2	104
	1914	310	4	241	1	104
	1915	274	9	215	1	93
	1916	264	6	205	1	90
New South Wales	1881	23	..	15	..	14
	1891	99	17	50	17	40
	1901	353	33	208	20	111
	1911	426	22	206	12	79
	1912	494	27	343	12	122
	1913	304	24	313	9	107
	1914	577	32	295	5	97
	1915	564	29	346	6	112
	1916	645	22	347	11	114
Queensland	1881	7	1	2	..	7
	1891	12	4	5	1	10
	1901	15	1	14	..	19
	1911	17	2	27	1	29
	1912	22	5	15	1	16
	1913	38	2	31	1	31
	1914	30	2	29	1	28
	1915	36	3	26	..	24
	1916	23	3	49	..	46
South Australia	1881	7	4	3	1	9
	1891	13	1	5	..	10
	1901	13	1	6	..	11
	1911	23	..	20	..	29
	1912	14	1	11	..	15
	1913	39	2	9	..	12
	1914	26	2	20	..	27
	1915	24	1	19	..	25
	1916	27	..	14	..	19

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1881 TO 1916—continued.

State.	Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.
		Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
Western Australia	1881	1	..	2	1	73
	1891	3	..	4	..	59
	1901	16	1	12	1	44
	1911	37	2	30	2	66
	1912	70	2	36	..	70
	1913	87	2	37	..	69
	1914	80	6	16	1	31
	1915	53	6	30	2	58
	1916	48	2	13	..	24
Tasmania	1881	2	..	1	..	6
	1891	4	..	3	..	14
	1901	11	..	11	..	43
	1911	4	1	3	1	13
	1912	8	..	8	..	25
	1913	12	..	5	..	15
	1914	9	..	9	..	28
	1915	5	..	5	..	15
	1916	12	..	2	..	6
Northern Territory	1913	2	..	1	..	227
	1914	1	..	1	..	222
	1915	..	..	..	..	..
	1916	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	1881	58	15	32	2	10
	1891	284	23	166	18	39
	1901	556	38	334	21	63
	1911	769	29	497	16	70
	1912	908	37	660	15	88
	1913	1,072	34	630	12	81
	1914	1,033	46	611	8	76
	1915	956	48	641	9	80
	1916	1,019	33	630	12	79
Dominion of New Zealand	1881	*	*	*	*	*
	1891	31	5	20	3	25
	1901	136	1	101	1	86
	1911	226	4	161	..	94
	1912	274	3	222	2	127
	1913	260	5	223	..	123
	1914	290	3	234	..	126
	1915	249	3	221	..	118
	1916	289	4	249	..	133

* Figures not available.

The grounds of divorce have been extended in New South Wales and New Zealand, and are now substantially the same in Victoria

and New South Wales. The extension of the grounds upon which divorce may be obtained has had in New South Wales and New Zealand, as in Victoria, the effect of greatly increasing the number of petitions and decrees.

The divorce rate is higher in Australia than in the United Kingdom, but lower than in most of the other principal countries of the world. The number of divorces in various countries and their proportions to the populations are shown in the accompanying table for the latest periods for which the information is available:—

DIVORCES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Country.	Period.	Population.	Divorces (Annual Average).	
			Number.	Per 100,000 Popu- lation.
Australia	1912-1916	4,845,000	634	13
Austria	1906-1910	27,943,000	342	1
Belgium	1908-1912	7,460,400	1,052	14
Bulgaria	1896-1900	3,744,280	396	11
Denmark	1906-1910	2,669,000	677	25
England and Wales	"	35,063,000	639	2
Finland	"	3,005,000	166	6
France	"	39,376,000	13,119	33
German Empire	"	62,863,000	13,460	21
Bavaria	"	6,719,000	833	12
Prussia	"	38,777,000	8,441	22
Saxony	"	4,661,000	1,490	32
Hungary	"	17,908,000	6,082	34
Ireland	1899-1903	4,458,770	*	*
Italy	"	32,475,250	819	3
Japan	1906-1910	49,546,000	61,089	123
Netherlands	1909-1913	6,038,600	908	15
New Zealand	1912-1916	1,079,800	229	21
Norway	1909-1913	2,416,900	434	18
Roumania	1906-1910	6,776,000	2,357	35
Scotland	"	4,679,000	199	4
Servia	"	2,821,000	438	16
Sweden	1909-1913	5,560,700	634	11
Switzerland	1906-1910	3,647,000	1,490	41
United States	1902-1906	81,697,200	66,500	81

* Annual average less than one. Only one divorce granted during the five-year period.

CRIME.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE CRIMINAL LAW.

In nearly all cases where the criminal law has been broken, the alleged offender is brought at the very first opportunity before a Court of Petty Sessions, before two honorary justices or a police magistrate, or both, or in some cases a single magistrate, and the court, if the matter is one which comes within its summary jurisdiction, disposes of the case summarily. If the offence is an indictable one, the magistrates hold a preliminary investigation and, if they are satisfied that a *prima facie* case has been made out by the prosecution, the accused is committed for trial to a superior court. There are two superior courts with criminal jurisdiction, viz., the Supreme Court, and a Court of General Sessions, which are held at various places throughout the State. The latter court may deal with all cases of an indictable nature except such as are expressly excluded from its jurisdiction, viz., ten of the most serious crimes. A person may be brought before magistrates by three modes of procedure, viz., by an arrest by a police officer on warrant issued on a sworn information; or in a limited number of cases without warrant if the offence has been witnessed by the arresting constable; or by a summons. If at a coroner's inquest a verdict is returned of murder or manslaughter, the accused person is sent for trial to the Supreme Court without any investigation before magistrates. The Attorney-General or Solicitor-General also has the power of presenting any person for trial before a superior court without the necessity of a preliminary magisterial hearing: and upon the application of any person, properly supported by affidavit, a grand jury may be summoned, on the order of the Full Court, if the affidavit discloses that an indictable offence has been committed by a corporate body; or that such an offence has been committed by any person, and that some justice has refused to commit such person for trial; or in the case of a committal that no presentment has been made at the court at which the trial would in due course have taken place. The grand jury consists of 23 men, who investigate the charge, and, if they are of opinion that a *prima facie* ground of action has been made out, the case is sent for trial. The cases which are presented under these latter forms of procedure are, however, very rare.

Indeterminate sentences.

The Indeterminate Sentences Act came into force on 1st July, 1908. Its 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, consisting of Mr. C. A. Topp, M.A., LL.B. (chairman), Mr. W. R. Anderson, P.M., Secretary to the Crown Law Department,

and the Rev. J. H. Ingham, was appointed on 18th August, 1908. Mr. Topp resigned his position on the Board on 24th April, 1912, and the Hon. S. Mauger was appointed by the Governor in Council in his stead on 1st May, 1912. Mr. Topp was re-appointed a member of the Board *vice* Rev. J. H. Ingham, deceased, on 5th October, 1914. Mr. Mauger was subsequently elected chairman.

The chief functions of the Board are to make visits of inspection monthly to each reformatory prison, to examine the conduct reports of the inmates, and accounts of their earnings, to authorize promotion in grade, to approve of indulgences, and to make careful inquiries as to whether any persons detained in a reformatory prison are sufficiently reformed to be released on probation, and submit recommendations accordingly to the Chief Secretary; also generally to report on the working of the Indeterminate Sentences Act and the regulations. Additional important powers have been vested in the Board under the provisions of the Amending Indeterminate Sentences Act of 1915, chief among which are—

- (a) To parole a prisoner temporarily for the purpose of testing his reform;
- (b) To impose conditions of release;
- (c) To transfer prisoners from one reformatory prison to another;
- (d) To hear charges of misconduct and impose punishments in place of the visiting justice at a reformatory prison for the detention of persons not habitual criminals;
- (e) To control the disbursement of a prisoner's earnings upon release; and
- (f) To recommend to the Minister that he make an order permitting a prisoner detained in a reformatory prison to leave such prison temporarily—
 - (1) for the purpose of being treated in a hospital; or
 - (2) to visit a relative believed to be dying; or
 - (3) for any other reason which appears to the Board to be sufficient.

Another important change under the Amending Act is the substitution of "Minister" for "Governor in Council" as the authority by whose direction a prisoner may be released on probation on the Board's recommendation. Regulations governing the treatment of declared habitual criminals, and of offenders, not habituals, who are detained under indeterminate sentence in a reformatory prison, are now in operation.

In the early part of the financial year 1916-17, the Board was enabled to bring 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 the establishment of a forestry settlement at French Island. The farm at Castlemaine is located three miles from the prison, and the inmates—twelve to fifteen in number—are taken to and fro daily.

They have largely to be placed on their honour, and it is satisfactory to note that only three have broken their trust by yielding to the temptation to abscond, their recapture being effected after a brief interval in each case. The lads have shown an eagerness to be employed on the farm, and they have taken an interest in the work. They are receiving a practical training in farming operations, which will be useful to them on release, and the greater freedom they enjoy has not made them less amenable to discipline. The improvements they have effected in the course of eleven months have very considerably added to the value of the property.

For the afforestation camp, known as the McLeod Settlement, French Island, the men have been selected from those under indeterminate detention at Pentridge. The first company, five in number, despatched to lay out the camp, set up a high standard of conduct and industry which, it is pleasing to record, has been maintained by those who have followed. The strength of the camp has been gradually increased from five to thirty-five prisoners, with three officers. At the outset, the men were housed in tents, but they now occupy rooms or cubicles built of weatherboard, and erected by themselves under the supervision of a Public Works officer. In addition to clearing the land about the camp and erecting buildings, they have been employed in tree planting or carrying out work preparatory to tree planting, under the direction of an officer of the Forests Department, and have accomplished much useful work. Like the youths engaged on the farm at Castlemaine, they have largely to be placed on their honour, and their good behaviour, loyalty, and industry afford the best evidence of their appreciation of the change from confinement within the prison walls to the open-air life and comparative freedom of the camp.

Both experiments give promise of being successful both from a reformatory and an economic point of view.

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

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year ended 30th June.	
	1916.	1917.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison	91	58
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison	34	26
Reformatory for Females, Coburg	3	4
McLeod Settlement, French Island .. ..	..	29
Total	128	117

Probation officers to supervise first offenders released by the Courts on recognizance under the provisions of the *Crimes Act 1915*, are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Board, and 234 such officers have been appointed to date.

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 1916, distinguishing between arrests and summons cases :—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1916.

Nature of Offence.	Number of—		Total Offences.	How disposed of—		
	Arrests made.	Summonses issued.		Summarily convicted, held to bail, &c.	Dis- charged.	Com- mitted for trial.
Against the Person—						
Murder and attempts at	18	...	18	...	5	13
Manslaughter ...	4	...	4	...	...	4
Shooting at, wounding, &c. ...	21	...	21	...	5	16
Assaults ...	434	711	1,145	641	504	...
Others ...	121	109	230	52	80	98
Total ...	598	820	1,418	693	594	131
Against Property—						
Robbery, burglary, &c.	265	...	265	63	68	134
Larceny and similar offences ...	1,131	1,123	2,254	1,423	651	180
Wilful damage ...	115	406	521	345	176	...
Others ...	160	201	361	212	113	36
Total ...	1,671	1,730	3,401	2,043	1,008	350
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	20	...	20	...	2	18
Against Good Order—						
Drunkenness ...	11,264	52	11,316	6,049	5,267	...
Others ...	3,218	4,453	7,671	5,404	2,267	...
Total ...	14,482	4,505	18,987	11,453	7,534	...
Other Offences—						
Perjury ...	27	...	27	...	2	25
Breaches of—						
Defence Act ...	232	543	775	685	90	...
Education Act ...	21	5,535	5,556	4,783	773	...
Electoral Act ...	...	12,756	12,756	6,939	5,817	...
Licensing Act ...	2	2,053	2,055	1,421	634	...
Pure Food Act ...	...	263	263	198	65	...
Miscellaneous ...	546	13,511	14,057	12,031	1,998	28
Total ...	828	34,661	35,489	26,057	9,379	53
Grand Total ...	17,599	41,716	59,315	40,246	18,517	552

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 41,716 summons cases, 29,752 were summarily convicted, 11,921 were discharged, and 43 were committed for trial. Of the total persons dealt with (59,315), 40,246 were summarily convicted, 18,517 were discharged, and 552 were committed for trial.

The table hereunder shows the number of arrests and summonses for various offences which were disposed of in Children's Courts during the year 1916 :—

CHILDREN'S COURTS: ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1916.

Nature of Offence.	Number of Offences for which—		Others (Application to board out, &c.).	Total Offences.
	Arrests, were made.	Summonses were issued.		
Against the Person—				
Assaults	2	33	..	35
Others	7	9	..	16
Total	9	42	..	51
Against Property—				
Larceny, &c.	473	859	..	1,332
Wilful Damage	17	291	..	308
Others	5	52	..	57
Total	495	1,202	..	1,697
Against Good Order—				
Drunkenness	2	1	..	3
Others	83	974	..	1,057
Total	85	975	..	1,060
Other Offences—				
Breaches of Defence Act ..	7	223	..	230
" Licensing Act .. ..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	690	613	1,420	2,723
Total	697	836	1,420	2,953
Grand Total	1,286	3,055	1,420	5,761

The arrests of neglected children, which in 1916 numbered 1,495, viz., 783 males and 712 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.

Of the persons who were brought before magistrates during the past five years, 35 per cent. were arrested, and 65 per cent. summoned. The great increase in summons cases since 1906 is due principally to the number of prosecutions

Arrests and summonses cases.

under the Licensing, Pure Foods, Commonwealth Electoral, and Defence Acts, and is also partially accounted for by more parents having been summoned for neglecting to send their children to school than in previous years—the compulsory clauses of the Amending Education Act requiring children to attend a greater number of times than formerly. The particulars for the last year of each of the four decennial periods ended with 1911, and for each of the last five years, are shown in the subjoined table :—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES, 1881 TO 1916.

Year.	Arrested by the Police.	Brought before Magistrates on Summons.	Total.
1881	22,640	19,384	42,024
1891	31,971	24,525	56,496
1901	27,855	21,130	48,985
1911	19,398	25,128	44,526
1912	19,814	33,273	53,087
1913	21,554	34,504	56,058
1914	21,084	36,893	57,977
1915	20,276	42,864	63,140
1916	17,599	41,716	59,315

Neglected children arrested.

The arrests of neglected children, which are excluded from this and the following tables, numbered 1,228 in 1912, 1,465 in 1913, 1,443 in 1914, 1,846 in 1915, and 1,495 in 1916.

Offences dealt with by magistrates.

The following are particulars of cases brought before magistrates, from which it will be seen that about 72 per cent. of the persons are generally summarily convicted and 27 per cent. are discharged, whilst 1 per cent. are sent for trial to superior courts :—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES DEALT WITH BY MAGISTRATES, 1912 TO 1916.

Number of Persons.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Arrested or summoned	53,087	56,058	57,977	63,140	59,315
Discharged by magistrates	13,870	15,661	16,373	17,559	15,746
Summarily convicted or dealt with	38,646	39,786	41,033	44,947	43,017
Committed for trial	571	611	571	634	552
Persons summarily convicted or committed per 1,000 of population	29.0	29.6	29.2	32.0	30.9

In regard to persons arrested, included in these figures, minor charges are excluded, and only that charge which throughout the hearing of the case has been most prominent is taken account of ; but, in regard to summons cases, the unit is each separate charge or case.

CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS IN AUSTRALASIA.

A proper comparison of crime cannot be made between different States or countries unless several considerations are taken into account. The first point necessary is that the criminal law in the places compared should be substantially the same; the second, that it should be administered with equal strictness; and the third, that proper allowances are made for differences in the age and sex constitution of the population. The last consideration is one that must also be taken into account in comparing crime in recent years with that for previous periods when the population was very differently constituted in regard to sex and age. The returns of the States and the Dominion of New Zealand do not afford sufficient data to enable one to allow for these differences. In regard to the first two points above mentioned, the basis and main provisions of the criminal law are the same in each State; and it must be presumed, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, that the law is administered with equal strictness in each State. The following table shows, for a series of years, the number of persons arrested or summoned for the only classes of offence for which complete comparisons can be made:—

CRIME IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1890 TO 1915.

State.	Year.	Number of Persons Arrested or Summoned for—				
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	Total.
Victoria	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
	1911	1,654	2,671	13,603	26,598	44,526
	1912	1,617	2,978	13,524	34,968	53,087
	1913	1,598	3,096	14,782	36,582	56,058
	1914	1,544	3,239	14,437	38,757	57,977
	1915	1,539	3,634	13,453	44,514	63,140
	New South Wales	1890	8,729	7,616	18,654	31,088	66,087
1895		4,459	6,153	18,379	35,987	64,978
1900		4,435	6,675	21,003	30,747	62,860
1910		3,608	6,517	27,542	36,293	73,960
1911		3,725	5,924	29,398	36,067	75,114
1912		4,197	7,055	32,915	45,784	89,951
1913		4,177	7,440	32,676	47,814	92,107
1914		4,454	7,427	33,393	49,492	94,766
1915		4,017	7,953	26,010	48,596	86,576
Queensland		1890	2,713	2,487	6,332	7,464	18,996
	1895	2,073	2,085	4,993	8,522	17,673
	1900	1,937	2,552	9,254	10,621	24,364
	1910	871	1,699	10,870	8,664	22,104
	1911	913	1,613	12,824	10,132	25,482
	1912	782	1,642	14,225	10,674	27,323
	1913	951	1,580	14,852	11,783	29,166
	1914	837	1,567	16,510	10,721	29,635
	1915	802	1,694	16,260	11,291	30,047

CRIME IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND,
1890 TO 1915—continued.

State.	Year.	Number of Persons Arrested or Summoned for—				Total.
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	
South Australia	1890	520	501	2,382	3,572	6,975
	1895	411	677	1,763	2,128	4,979
	1900	304	575	2,249	2,847	5,975
	1910	333	449	4,383	3,163	8,328
	1911	320	484	4,673	2,958	8,435
	1912	306	552	5,470	4,357	10,685
	1913	328	598	5,994	4,898	11,818
	1914	385	657	5,282	4,369	10,693
	1915	315	651	4,060	4,561	9,587
Western Australia	1890	371	536	1,181	2,602	4,690
	1895	654	1,080	2,154	4,489	8,377
	1900	1,037	1,746	3,070	8,920	14,773
	1910	545	1,083	4,550	7,082	13,260
	1911	454	1,189	4,857	7,362	13,862
	1912	479	1,161	4,908	8,544	15,092
	1913	505	1,153	5,353	9,431	16,442
	1914	536	1,269	5,795	10,279	17,879
	1915	351	1,091	4,836	8,616	14,894
Tasmania	1890	483	619	1,151	4,143	6,396
	1895	353	710	463	3,237	4,763
	1900	368	676	832	3,475	5,351
	1910	267	600	761	5,451	7,079
	1911	237	549	756	5,055	6,597
	1912	234	545	644	5,661	7,084
	1913	219	581	729	5,572	7,101
	1914	222	567	685	5,007	6,481
	1915	175	565	628	4,938	6,306
Northern Territory	1911	13	...	34	45	92
	1912	25	9	80	105	219
	1913	8	8	61	62	139
	1914	24	10	76	93	203
	1915-16	12	13	158	104	287
Total Australia	1890	16,907	16,795	48,201	85,325	167,228
	1895	10,294	14,041	38,895	75,206	138,436
	1900	10,184	15,330	52,286	84,613	162,413
	1910	7,287	13,400	60,825	95,279	176,791
	1911	7,316	12,430	66,145	88,217	174,108
	1912	7,640	13,942	71,766	110,093	203,441
	1913	7,786	14,456	74,447	116,142	212,831
	1914	8,002	14,736	76,178	118,778	217,634
	1915	7,211	15,601	65,405	122,620	210,837
Dominion of New Zealand (excluding Maoris)	1890	1,516	2,297	5,830	8,604	18,247
	1895	1,281	2,557	5,104	8,639	17,581
	1900	1,526	2,680	7,319	13,165	24,690
	1910	1,178	3,555	11,695	21,566	37,994
	1911	1,190	3,487	11,495	21,923	38,095
	1912	1,165	3,733	11,627	25,869	42,394
	1913	1,219	4,092	11,691	29,845	46,847
	1914	1,290	4,082	13,258	30,741	49,371
	1915	1,132	3,913	13,028	27,432	45,505

The next table gives the number of persons arrested or summoned per 1,000 of the population in the Australian States and New Zealand during a series of years:—

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALIAN STATE AND THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1890 TO 1915.

State.	Year.	Persons Arrested or Summoned per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.
Victoria	1890	3·66	4·50	16·54	32·59
	1895	1·93	2·82	9·41	17·60
	1900	1·76	2·60	13·31	23·47
	1910	1·30	2·38	9·92	27·00
	1911	1·25	2·02	10·30	20·15
	1912	1·19	2·20	9·97	25·78
	1913	1·15	2·22	10·61	26·26
	1914	1·08	2·28	10·14	27·23
	1915	1·08	2·55	9·43	31·20
New South Wales	1890	7·92	6·91	16·93	28·21
	1895	3·53	4·87	14·53	28·46
	1900	3·28	4·93	15·51	22·70
	1910	2·23	4·02	17·00	22·40
	1911	2·24	3·56	17·66	21·67
	1912	2·42	4·06	18·95	26·36
	1913	2·31	4·12	18·07	26·44
	1914	2·40	4·01	18·03	26·72
	1915	2·15	4·26	13·92	26·00
Queensland	1890	7·03	6·45	16·41	19·35
	1895	4·58	4·60	11·03	18·82
	1900	3·95	5·21	18·90	21·68
	1910	1·47	2·87	18·36	14·63
	1911	1·50	2·64	21·00	16·59
	1912	1·24	2·60	22·52	16·90
	1913	1·46	2·42	22·76	18·06
	1914	1·24	2·32	24·46	15·89
	1915	1·17	2·47	23·67	16·43
South Australia	1890	1·64	1·60	7·53	11·35
	1895	1·18	1·94	5·06	6·11
	1900	·85	1·60	6·26	7·93
	1910	·83	1·12	10·93	7·88
	1911	·78	1·17	11·33	7·17
	1912	·72	1·30	12·90	10·27
	1913	·76	1·38	13·82	11·30
	1914	·88	1·49	12·00	9·93
	1915	·72	1·48	9·23	10·38

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALIAN STATE AND THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1890 TO 1915—*continued.*

State.	Year.	Persons Arrested or Summoned per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.
Western Australia	1890	8.28	11.97	26.37	58.09
	1895	7.06	11.66	23.25	48.45
	1900	5.86	9.86	17.34	51.45
	1910	2.01	4.00	16.79	26.13
	1911	1.58	4.15	16.94	25.69
	1912	1.59	3.85	16.28	28.35
	1913	1.61	3.67	17.05	30.03
	1914	1.66	3.92	17.92	31.78
	1915	1.09	3.38	15.00	26.73
Tasmania	1890	3.36	4.31	8.01	28.93
	1895	2.22	4.46	2.91	20.36
	1900	2.13	3.91	4.82	20.29
	1910	1.39	3.12	3.95	28.33
	1911	1.22	2.84	3.90	26.11
	1912	1.20	2.79	3.30	28.98
	1913	1.12	2.96	3.72	28.45
	1914	1.12	2.86	3.45	25.24
	1915	.88	2.83	3.15	24.77
Northern Territory	1911	3.97	...	10.39	13.74
	1912	7.44	2.68	23.83	31.25
	1913	2.19	2.19	16.66	16.94
	1914	6.40	2.67	20.26	24.79
	1915-6	2.73	2.95	35.88	23.62
Australia	1890	5.44	5.41	15.51	27.46
	1895	2.98	4.06	11.24	21.74
	1900	2.72	4.10	13.98	22.62
	1910	1.67	3.06	13.92	21.80
	1911	1.63	2.77	14.73	19.64
	1912	1.64	3.00	15.45	23.70
	1913	1.62	3.01	15.50	24.18
	1914	1.63	2.99	15.49	24.13
	1915	1.46	3.15	13.21	24.77
Dominion of New Zealand	1890	2.44	3.70	9.39	13.86
	1895	1.85	3.71	7.37	12.48
	1900	2.00	3.51	9.58	17.24
	1910	1.19	3.58	11.78	21.72
	1911	1.17	3.44	11.33	21.60
	1912	1.12	3.59	11.19	24.90
	1913	1.14	3.83	10.94	27.93
	1914	1.18	3.74	12.16	28.20
	1915	1.03	3.56	11.85	24.95

Almost all serious crimes are either offences against the person or offences against property. 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 1915 only 48 of such crimes out of a total of 44,514 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. A comparison of the relative proportions in the various States of charges under the heading "Other Offences" is not of much value, on account of the differences in the laws of the States in these matters, and of the large proportion of the offences which are not crimes, but mere breaches of various Acts and by-laws.

Offences against the person. Offences against the person set out in the first column of the preceding table consist mainly of assault, but include murder, manslaughter, shooting, wounding, and all crimes of lust. A glance at the figures shows that since 1890 there has been a very large decline in these crimes in every State in proportion to population. South Australia easily holds the pride of place, then comes Tasmania, closely followed by New Zealand, Victoria, Western Australia, and Queensland, then New South Wales and Northern Territory, in that order.

Offences against property. A decrease, as compared with 1890, has also occurred in the proportion of offences against property in all the Australian States and New Zealand. The decrease in respect of these offences in Australia is, however, not nearly so marked as that in respect of offences against the person. Offences against property are far less rife in South Australia than in any other State or New Zealand, Queensland coming next, followed by Victoria, Tasmania, Northern Territory, Western Australia, New Zealand, and New South Wales, in that order. Offences against property consist principally of larceny and similar offences; but include burglary, robbery, &c., cattle stealing, and wilful damage to property.

Drunkenness. In four Australian States, viz., Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, and Tasmania, there was a decrease in drunkenness cases before magistrates in 1915, as compared with 1890; but there was an increase in New Zealand. This offence is much less frequent in Tasmania than in any other State, South Australia coming next, and Victoria, New Zealand, New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland, and Northern Territory following in that order.

Charges against persons arrested, 1871 to 1916. Appended is a table showing the number of charges against persons arrested under each class of offence in the five census years ended with 1911, and in 1916:—

CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED AT FIVE DECENNIAL PERIODS AND IN 1916.

Offences.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1916.
<i>Against the Person—</i>						
Murder and attempts at ...	28	16	44	12	17	19
Manslaughter ...	14	16	9	11	6	4
Shooting at, or wounding with intent to do bodily harm, &c.	63	82	84	83	44	23
Assaults ...	1,023	1,155	1,317	832	487	493
Rape, and other offences against females ...	88	71	66	116	93	94
Unnatural offence and attempts at ...	18	5	14	13	8	11
Suicide, attempted ...	79	81	96	57	45	13
Others ...	11	28	21	18	19	21
<i>Against Property—</i>						
Robbery, burglary, house-breaking, &c. ...	421	367	609	460	324	251
Horse, cattle, and sheep stealing ...	121	89	96	56	37	33
Larceny ...	2,052	2,024	2,384	1,807	1,175	1,302
Embezzlement ...	43	32	70	28	16	20
False pretences and imposing or endeavouring to impose ...	195	206	243	137	142	112
Wilful damage ...	581	547	503	314	146	192
Others ...	413	468	253	157	163	266
Forgery and offences against the currency ...	82	58	109	47	44	40
<i>Against Good Order—</i>						
Drunkenness ...	9,968	11,065	18,057	17,360	13,538	11,264
Indecent, riotous, or offensive conduct, and obscene, threatening, or abusive language ...	1,099	3,997	5,010	4,269	2,698	2,220
Having no visible lawful means of support, begging, and vagrancy (unspecified)	886	1,419	2,020	1,035	421	485
Offences against Gambling						
Suppression Act ...	85	95	177	324	65	414
Others ...	2,825	1,366	1,940	1,988	655	843
<i>Other Offences—</i>						
Perjury ...	32	21	56	33	21	29
Marriage and Matrimonial Causes Act (desertion of family, &c.) ...	174	150	211	188	191	194
Others ...	1,190	837	772	426	387	725
Total ...	21,491	24,195	34,161	29,771	20,742	19,068

Proportion of
arrests for
various
offences,
1871 to 1916.

Subjoined is a statement of the proportions to the population aged 15 years and upwards of those arrested for different offences in the five census years ended with 1911, and in 1916 :—

CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED PER 10,000 OF POPULATION, AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, AT FIVE DECENNIAL PERIODS AND IN 1916.

Offences.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1916.
<i>Against the Person—</i>						
Murder and attempts at ...	·66	·30	·59	·15	·19	·20
Manslaughter ...	·33	·30	·12	·14	·07	·04
Shooting at, or wounding with intent to do bodily harm, &c.	1·49	1·54	1·12	1·05	·48	·24
Assaults ...	24·20	21·70	17·62	10·49	5·31	5·10
Rape, and other offences against females ...	2·08	1·34	·88	1·46	1·01	·97
Unnatural offence and attempts at ...	·43	·09	·19	·16	·09	·11
Suicide, attempted ...	1·87	1·52	1·28	·72	·49	·13
Others ...	·26	·53	·28	·23	·21	·22
<i>Against Property—</i>						
Robbery, burglary, house-breaking, &c. ...	9·95	6·90	8·15	5·80	3·54	2·60
Horse, cattle, and sheep stealing	2·86	1·67	1·29	·71	·40	·34
Larceny ...	48·54	38·04	31·90	22·79	12·82	13·46
Embezzlement ...	1·02	·60	·94	·35	·18	·21
False pretences and imposing or endeavouring to impose ...	4·61	3·87	3·25	1·73	1·55	1·16
Wilful damage ...	13·74	10·23	6·73	3·96	1·59	1·98
Others ...	9·77	8·80	3·39	1·98	1·78	2·75
Forgery and offences against the currency ...	1·94	1·09	1·46	·59	·48	·41
<i>Against Good Order—</i>						
Drunkenness ...	235·79	207·95	241·61	218·98	147·72	116·50
Indecent, riotous, or offensive conduct, and obscene, threatening, or abusive language ...	26·00	75·12	67·04	53·85	29·44	22·96
Having no visible lawful means of support, begging, and vagrancy (unspecified) ...	20·96	26·67	27·03	13·06	4·59	5·02
Offences against Gambling						
Suppression Act ...	2·01	1·78	2·37	4·10	·71	·428
Others ...	66·82	25·67	25·95	25·06	7·15	8·72
<i>Other Offences—</i>						
Perjury ...	·76	·39	·75	·42	·23	·30
Marriage and Matrimonial Causes Act (desertion of family, &c.) ...	4·11	2·82	2·82	2·37	2·08	2·01
Others ...	28·15	15·73	10·33	5·38	4·22	7·50
Total ...	508·35	454·70	457·09	375·53	226·33	197·21

Males and
females
arrested.

The sexes of persons brought up on summons are not recorded; but it usually happens that about 20 per cent. of the persons arrested are females. The males and females arrested, and the disposal of the cases, in 1916, were as follows:—

MALES AND FEMALES ARRESTED, 1916.

Disposal.	Arrests.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Summarily Convicted	8,462	2,032	10,494
Discharged by Magistrates	5,642	954	6,596
Committed for Trial	465	44	509
Total	14,569	3,030	17,599

SENTENCES PASSED.

Sentenced by
Magistrates.

The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates during 1916 were as follows:—

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF PERSONS ARRESTED, 1916.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	3,961	667	4,628
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	2,713	1,010	3,723
1 and under 6 months	696	195	891
6 and under 12 months	142	43	185
1 to 2 years	26	10	36
2 years	6	...	6
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	295	57	352
Admonished	271	31	302
Sent to Industrial or Reformatory Schools	96	11	107
Otherwise dealt with	256	8	264
Total sentenced	8,462	2,032	10,494
Discharged	5,642	954	6,596
Total summarily disposed of	14,104	2,986	17,090
Sentenced per 10,000 of population	124·44	27·86	74·46

Sentences in superior courts.

The following were the sentences of the arrested persons tried and convicted in superior courts during 1916 :—

SENTENCES OF ARRESTED PERSONS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1916.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	2	2	4
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	2	1	3
1 and under 6 months	41	6	47
6 " 12 "	64	3	67
1 " 4 years	118	5	123
4 " 7 "	15	...	15
7 " 11 "	4	...	4
Life ... ..	...	1	1
Death recorded	5	...	5
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	53	6	59
Sent to Reformatory Schools	4	...	4
" " Prison	9	1	10
" " Salvation Army Home ... ..	...	1	1
Total convicted	317	26	343
Acquitted	148	14	162
Not prosecuted	11	2	13
Convictions per 10,000 of population...	4.66	3.3	2.43

In addition to being sent to gaol, one person was ordered to be kept in solitary confinement during a portion of his term of imprisonment, and three prisoners were ordered one whipping each with a cat-o'-nine tails. Prisoners remaining for trial from the previous year are included in the above statement, but those awaiting trial at the end of the year are excluded.

To enable a comparison to be made of the relative criminality of the population at different ages, it is necessary to separate the sexes of arrested persons, to divide each sex into age groups, and to show the number of charges laid against the males and females in the different groups between ages 10 and 60 per 10,000 persons living in each group. The following are the particulars on this basis for the last five census years :—

CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED AT DIFFERENT AGES PER 10,000 OF POPULATION, 1871 TO 1911.

Ages.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901	1911.
	MALES.				
10 to 15 years	104	111	96	49	26
15 to 20 "	338	335	305	228	145
20 to 25 "	773	720	691	593	284
25 to 30 "	834	823	777	713	393
30 to 40 "	771	865	869	702	462
40 to 50 "	726	721	1,054	872	493
50 to 60 "	830	623	756	804	519
60 years and over	756	661	586	430	309

CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED AT DIFFERENT AGES PER
10,000 OF POPULATION, 1871 TO 1911—*continued.*

Ages.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.
	FEMALES.				
10 to 15 years	37	26	16	15	15
15 to 20 "	80	90	50	28	13
20 to 25 "	141	178	141	117	32
25 to 30 "	232	219	171	173	95
30 to 40 "	303	290	189	168	114
40 to 50 "	272	322	239	171	117
50 to 60 "	245	223	215	119	86
60 years and over	186	166	144	109	45

These figures prove that there has been a great decrease in crime in recent, as compared with former, years. In every age group there has been a considerable falling-off. The spread of education has doubtless had much to do with this result. Religious teaching was struck out of the curriculum of the State schools in 1873, and many attempts have been made to ascertain the effect on the community as revealed by statistics of crime. No definite conclusion can, however, be arrived at by merely examining these statistics for a series of years.

In comparing the criminal records of different periods many factors must be taken into account, some of which have a tendency to increase and others to decrease the numbers of arrests and summonses issued. For example, new laws are constantly being passed the contravention of which will lead to proceedings being taken against the person concerned. During a period of prosperity the earnings of the people are increased, a larger sum than usual is spent on alcoholic liquors, and there may be an increase in the number of arrests for drunkenness. On the other hand, when work is plentiful, the temptation to commit offences against property is less than during periods of depression. The work carried out by reformatory agencies also will tend to reduce the number of arrests of persons who have previously been convicted.

It is not possible from the records of a single community to ascertain the effect of a change in one element of the social economy unless the effect of all other changes is known. An approximate idea of the consequences of a change in one particular may, however, be obtained if a comparison be made between the criminal statistics of two communities during a term of years when the conditions were very similar except in regard to the special element under consideration.

It has already been stated that in making up the returns a person arrested more than once is counted as a separate individual in respect to each arrest, but it is possible to ascertain approximately the number of distinct persons passing through the hands of the police by making a close comparison of names,

Arrest of
distinct
individuals.

DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1916.

Sex and Age of Persons Arrested.	Number of Arrests.	Number of Distinct Individuals Arrested.	Number of Times on which Distinct Individuals were Arrested.																										
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	23	25	29			
SEX.																													
Males	14,569	11,188	9,325	1,203	331	149	74	42	16	14	12	6	3	3	2	1	2	2	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	
Females	3,030	1,705	1,267	222	76	36	29	12	14	10	5	9	1	7	1	2	1	2	3	1	3	..	..	..	2	2
Total	17,599	12,893	10,592	1,425	407	185	103	54	30	24	17	15	4	10	3	3	3	4	3	1	3	1	1	1	2	2			
AGE.																													
Under 10 years ..	11	11	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10 to 15	118	106	94	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 to 20	902	805	735	56	8	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 to 25	1,646	1,477	1,337	118	16	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25 to 30	2,046	1,650	1,426	158	33	12	8	5	1	1	1	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
30 to 40	4,155	2,970	2,427	327	103	38	27	11	8	7	4	6	1	2	..	1	..	2	2	..	1	1	1	..	..	1	
40 to 50	4,193	2,877	2,260	357	112	66	25	17	10	10	4	3	2	4	2	1	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
50 to 60	3,012	1,978	1,505	270	87	49	29	13	6	6	4	1	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	..
60 to 70	1,217	821	645	98	40	10	8	7	4	..	3	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	
70 to 80	257	171	130	25	8	3	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
80 years and over..	42	27	22	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

ages, birth-places, religions, occupations, &c., of the individuals dealt with. This has been done for 1916, so far as sex and age of the persons arrested are concerned, and the result is given in the following table:—

Of the total number of arrests, 17,599, only 12,893, or 73 per cent., were of distinct individuals. Of these, 10,592 or 82 per cent., were arrested only once; 1,425, or 11 per cent., twice; 407, or 3 per cent., three times; 185, or 2 per cent., four times; and 284, or 2 per cent., five times and over—one of these persons having been arrested twenty-three times, two twenty-five times, and two twenty-nine times. The table which follows gives a comparison of 1916 with 1884, from which it will be seen that there has been a large decline in the number of distinct persons arrested, but that little change has occurred in the proportions arrested once, twice or oftener:—

DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED, 1884 AND 1916.

Year.	Distinct Persons Arrested.						Percentage Arrested.				
	Number.			Per 100,000 of the Population.			Once.	Twice.	Thrice.	Four Times.	More than Four Times.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.					
1884 ...	16,229	3,628	19,857	3,309	820	2,129	78	14	4	2	2
1916 ...	11,188	1,705	12,893	1,645	234	915	82	11	3	2	2

Sexes of those arrested more than once. The tendency of females to be arrested over and over again is much greater than that of males, for, while only 17 per cent. of the males who fell into the hands of the police were arrested more than once, as many as 26 per cent. of the females were so arrested.

Distinct persons arrested more than once for drunkenness. The distinct persons arrested for drunkenness during 1916 numbered 7,774, and, of these, 1,622, or 22 per cent., were arrested more than once, viz., 954 twice; 307 thrice; 147 four times; 69 five times; and 145 more than five times, of whom 2 were arrested twenty-nine times.

Drunkenness, 1884 and 1916. The number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness was 10,287 in the year 1884, and 7,774 in 1916. The proportions per 1,000 of the population were 11.03 and 5.52 respectively in the years mentioned, the decrease in the later year being equivalent to a reduction of 50 per cent.

Drunkards charged with other offences. Whilst the number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness was 7,774, the charges of drunkenness brought against them numbered 11,264; these persons were also charged with 1,207 other offences, so that the total number of charges of all kinds against drunkards was 12,471, as compared

with 19,068 charges of all descriptions. Thus 65 per cent. of the offences for which persons were arrested during 1916 were committed by persons who were arrested for drunkenness.

Education of persons arrested. Over 2 per cent. of the distinct individuals arrested in 1916 were entirely illiterate, 97 per cent. could read only, or read and write, and under 1 per cent. were possessed of superior or good education.

Criminal cases in superior courts. The number of criminal cases tried and of convictions in the superior courts, the Supreme Court and the Court of General Sessions, throughout the State, in the last year of each of the five decennial periods ended 1910, and in each of the last five years, was as follows:—

CRIMINAL CASES—SUPREME COURT AND GENERAL SESSIONS, 1870 TO 1916.

Year.	Total Number of Cases Tried.	Total Number of Convictions.	Proportions of Conviction per 10,000 of Population.
1870 ...	835	573	8·03
1880 ...	567	387	4·55
1890 ...	964	662	5·92
1900 ...	652	451	3·78
1910 ...	669	435	3·35
1912 ...	753	501	3·70
1913 ...	757	506	3·63
1914 ...	708	494	3·47
1915 ...	777	533	3·74
1916 ...	644	462	3·28

This statement shows that there was a fall in 1916 as compared with 1890 of 33 per cent. in the number of criminal cases tried in the higher courts, and of 30 per cent. in the number of convictions.

Crime in United Kingdom. The statistics to hand relating to the United Kingdom give the commitments for trial and convictions in the superior courts. The following table shows the number of commitments for trial and convictions, and their respective proportions to the population of each division of the

United Kingdom during the last year of each of the three decennial periods ended 1910, and during each of the four years ended 1914 :—

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1880 TO 1914.

Country.	Year.	Commitments for Trial.	Convictions.	Proportion per 10,000 of Population of—	
				Commitments.	Convictions.
England and Wales...	1880	14,770	11,214	5·74	4·36
	1890	11,974	9,242	4·16	3·21
	1900	10,331	8,157	3·20	2·53
	1910	14,330	11,987	4·00	3·35
	1911	13,643	11,338	3·78	3·14
	1912	14,021	11,666	3·84	3·19
	1913	13,125	10,779	3·55	2·92
	1914	11,409	9,277	3·10	2·52
Scotland ...	1880	2,583	2,046	6·97	5·52
	1890	2,312	1,825	5·77	4·56
	1900	2,167	1,835	4·88	4·14
	1910	1,488	1,225	3·14	2·59
	1911	1,401	1,122	2·94	2·36
	1912	1,533	1,189	3·24	2·51
	1913	1,358	1,056	2·87	2·23
	1914	1,292	1,012	2·73	2·14
Ireland ...	1880	4,716	2,383	9·06	4·58
	1890	2,061	1,193	4·39	2·54
	1900	1,682	1,087	3·76	2·43
	1910	2,036	1,373	4·66	3·14
	1911	2,114	1,496	4·82	3·41
	1912	2,109	1,443	4·81	3·29
	1913	2,238	1,483	5·11	3·39
	1914	1,970	1,410	4·50	3·22
Total United Kingdom	1880	22,069	15,643	6·37	4·52
	1890	16,347	12,260	4·36	3·27
	1900	14,180	11,079	3·45	2·69
	1910	17,854	14,585	3·98	3·25
	1911	17,158	13,956	3·79	3·09
	1912	17,663	14,298	3·87	3·13
	1913	16,719	13,316	3·63	2·89
	1914	14,671	11,699	3·20	2·55

From the next table it will be observed that, in proportion to the population, the commitments in the years 1911-15 in England were above those in Scotland, South Australia, and Tasmania, also that the convictions in Ireland, England, and Scotland exceeded those in South Australia and Tasmania; in all other cases the commitments

Proportion of commitments for trial and convictions in Australian States, New Zealand, and Britain.

and convictions in the three portions of the United Kingdom were below those in the Australian States and New Zealand :—

PROPORTION OF COMMITMENTS AND CONVICTIONS TO EVERY 10,000 PERSONS LIVING IN THE AUSTRALIAN STATES, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1911 TO 1915.

Commitments for Trial to every 10,000 of Population.		Convictions after Commitment to every 10,000 of Population.	
New South Wales	8·31	Queensland	5·48
Queensland	7·02	New South Wales	5·23
Western Australia	5·75	New Zealand	3·90
New Zealand	5·21	Victoria	3·63
Victoria	5·15	Western Australia	3·33
Ireland (1910-14)	4·78	Ireland (1910-14)	3·29
England and Wales (1910-14) ...	3·65	England and Wales (1910-14) ...	3·02
Scotland (1910-14)	2·98	Scotland (1910-14)	2·37
Tasmania	2·81	South Australia	1·92
South Australia	2·80	Tasmania	1·59

The following figures show that in the five years, 1911 to 1915, convictions followed commitment with more certainty in England and Scotland than in any of the Australian States and New Zealand, but Queensland, New Zealand, and Victoria in this respect stood above Ireland. All the other Australian States occupy positions below these, Tasmania being at the bottom of the list with about 57 convictions to every 100 commitments :—

PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS TO COMMITMENTS IN THE AUSTRALIAN STATES, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1911 TO 1915.

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
England and Wales (1910-14) ...	82·74	Ireland (1910-14)	68·83
Scotland (1910-14)	79·53	South Australia	68·72
Queensland	78·06	New South Wales	62·94
New Zealand	74·90	Western Australia	57·91
Victoria	70·47	Tasmania	56·58

Drunkennes, 1912 to 1916. The number and proportion per 1,000 of the population of persons arrested or summoned for drunkenness during the last five years are given hereunder:—

PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS, 1912 TO 1916.

Year.	Number of Persons—			Proportion per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1912 ...	13,481	43	13,524	9·99
1913 ...	14,726	56	14,782	10·61
1914 ...	14,388	49	14,437	10·14
1915 ...	13,390	63	13,453	9·43
1916 ...	11,264	52	11,316	8·03

Drunkennes — Comparison with previous years. The amount of drunkenness in proportion to population, as evidenced by arrests, being taken as 100 in 1874-8, the numbers for subsequent periods will show the increase or decrease by comparison:—

Period.	Index Number.
1874-8	Average 5 years 100
1879-85	" 7 " 88
1886-92	" 7 " 106
1893-97	" 5 " 65
1898-1902	" 5 " 84
1903-7	" 5 " 77
1908-12	" 5 " 68
1913 ..	" 72
1914 ..	" 69
1915 ..	" 64
1916 ..	" 55

A very considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown for the five years 1893-7, 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, and during the eight years ended 1915 the number relatively to population was only slightly above the lowest point of previous years. It will be noticed that the index number for the year 1916 was the lowest on record. 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 this may account in part for the decrease in drunkenness in the following year.

Young persons charged with drunkenness. The accompanying table shows the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness, also the proportion 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, 1895 TO 1916.

Year.	Number.	Proportion per 100,000 of the Population under 20 years of age.
1895	185	35·60
1900	222	42·38
1910	128	24·19
1912	146	26·48
1913	148	26·09
1914	163	28·12
1915	135	22·96
1916	113	19·25

Apparent leniency of magistrates in drunkenness cases in Victoria.

The following tabulation shows the number of charges of drunkenness made against persons in each State and in New Zealand during 1915, also the number of convictions and the percentage of the latter to the former:—

PERCENTAGE OF CONVICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1915.

State.	Charges of Drunkenness.	Convictions.	
		Total.	Percentage of Charges.
Victoria	13,453	7,086	52·67
New South Wales	26,010	25,863	99·51
Queensland	16,260	16,196	99·61
South Australia	4,060	4,027	99·19
Western Australia	4,836	4,806	99·38
Tasmania	628	612	97·45
Northern Territory	158	158	100·00
Australia	65,405	58,748	89·82
Dominion of New Zealand	13,028	12,962	99·49
Australasia	78,433	71,710	91·43

It will be seen from the last column in the above table that the percentage of convictions in Victoria was much less than in the other States and the Dominion of New Zealand, nearly every case resulting in a conviction in the latter places, as compared with about one out of every two cases in the former. These figures seem to denote a comparative leniency on the part of magistrates in drunkenness cases in

Victoria, but investigations show that in this State an offender on his first appearance is generally discharged, and that those who have been arrested on a Saturday and detained in custody until Monday are similarly dealt with. In some cases also, when an offender has been admitted to bail after arrest, he is discharged on putting a donation in the poor-box. In all these cases no conviction is recorded in Victoria, but in the other States a conviction is entered on the records in nearly every case, whether any punishment is inflicted or not.

CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR.

The next table shows for a period of five years the average yearly consumption of intoxicating liquors in the principal countries of the world, the information for foreign countries having been compiled from a return prepared to the order of the British House of Commons, dated 21st November, 1910 :—

AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS, BEER, AND WINE IN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE PRINCIPAL BRITISH POSSESSIONS AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Countries.	Yearly Average Quantity Consumed. 1912 to 1916.			Proportion per Head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
British—						
Commonwealth of						
Australia ..	3,599,100	63,048,900	1,721,600	•74	13•02	•36
Dominion of New Zealand ..	868,100	10,675,100	151,800	•80	9•88	•14
	1909 to 1913.					
Canada ..	7,523,400	48,785,000	889,200	1•04	6•74	•12
Cape of Good Hope*	1,391,400	3,812,200	4,589,000	•56	1•56	1•84
Natal*	338,000	955,300	51,000	•28	•31	•04
Newfoundland ..	100,400	66,200	9,600	•41	•30	•04
United Kingdom ..	30,667,000	1,213,269,000	11,577,400	•70	26•80	•26
	1905 to 1909.					
Foreign—						
Austria ..	39,050,000	422,721,000	127,362,000	1•41	15•18	4•52
Belgium ..	7,907,000	355,436,000	7,660,000	1•08	48•58	1•04
Bulgaria ..	449,000	2,622,000	26,721,600	•11	•63	6•42
Denmark ..	6,026,000	53,878,000	..	2•29	20•50	..
France ..	51,902,000	313,236,000	1,353,823,000	1•33	7•96	34•52
German Empire ..	92,664,000	1,485,004,000	73,986,000	1•48	23•74	1•19
Holland ..	7,955,000	..	1,989,000	1•39	..	•35
Hungary ..	37,030,000	44,559,000	98,534,000	1•85	2•20	4•74
Italy ..	14,498,000	10,850,000	875,464,000	•43	•32	25•84
Norway ..	1,338,000	9,376,000	..	•67	4•06	..
Portugal ..	..	..	108,574,000	..	..	20•60
Roumania ..	5,130,000	3,507,000	35,468,000	•76	•53	5•36
Russian Empire ..	173,600,000	173,731,000	..	1•15	1•15	..
Servia ..	..	2,020,000	12,241,000	..	•73	4•40
Spain ..	..	..	325,015,000	..	..	17•32
Sweden ..	7,137,000	68,231,000	..	1•33	12•80	..
Switzerland ..	2,698,000	53,095,000	53,174,000	•77	15•22	15•26
United States ..	105,844,000	1,439,525,000	42,181,000	1•23	16•78	•49

NOTE.—Where blanks occur the information is not available.

* Figures refer to period 1905 to 1909.

Consumption
of drink in
various
countries
compared.

By comparing the figures for Australia in the foregoing table with those for the other countries mentioned therein it will be seen that the consumption of intoxicants was proportionately less in Australia than in many of them. As regards spirits, whilst the consumption in Australia was three-fourths of a gallon per head per year, in Denmark it amounted to $2\frac{1}{4}$ gallons; in Hungary to nearly 2 gallons; in Germany and Austria to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons; in Holland, Sweden, France, Belgium, the Russian Empire, and the United States to more than a gallon; and in the United Kingdom to nearly three-fourths of a gallon. The greatest beer-producing countries of the world are the German Empire, the United States, and the United Kingdom, in that order; but in consumption per head of the population Belgium, with $48\frac{1}{2}$ gallons; the United Kingdom, with 27 gallons; Germany, with $23\frac{3}{4}$ gallons; and Denmark, with $20\frac{1}{2}$ gallons, are the foremost. The particulars in this table would indicate that Belgium consumes more beer than any other country in the world, but the statistics of the States comprising the German Empire show that Bavaria is entitled to that distinction, with a consumption of $50\frac{1}{2}$ gallons per head. The consumption in Würtemberg and in Baden was also high, reaching 32 gallons per head. The Australian consumption of 13 gallons does not appear to be large by comparison with those figures. The chief wine-producing countries of the world—France and Italy—are also the greatest consumers, the former averaging $34\frac{1}{2}$ gallons, and the latter 26 gallons per head. Portugal, with $20\frac{1}{2}$ gallons; Spain, with $17\frac{3}{4}$ gallons; and Switzerland, with $15\frac{1}{4}$ gallons, are also large consumers. The inhabitants of the British Empire are small wine-drinkers. At the Cape of Good Hope the consumption is highest, with nearly 2 gallons per head; Australia consumes less than two-fifths of a gallon per head; the United Kingdom about one-quarter of a gallon; and Canada nearly one-eighth of a gallon.

It will be observed that the figures for foreign countries relate to a period which terminated some years before the commencement of the war.

Expenditure
by the people
on intoxicating
liquor.

With the assistance of the figures in the preceding table, it is possible to estimate for Australia, with some degree of accuracy, the approximate expenditure of the people on intoxicating liquors in a year, and this is done in the

following table, taking as a basis the yearly average consumption over a period of five years :—

AUSTRALIAN DRINK BILL.—YEARLY AVERAGE, 1912 TO 1916.

	Expenditure by the People on—					
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Total.		
				Amount.	Per Head.	Per Adult Individual
	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Commonwealth of Australia	6,478,700	9,457,300	864,800	16,800,800	3 9 5	6 2 2
Dominion of New Zealand	1,558,100	1,601,300	75,900	3,235,300	2 19 11	5 3 8

These figures show that the average yearly expenditure on drink in Australia during the quinquennium 1912 to 1916, amounted to £16,800,800, and that in New Zealand to £3,235,300. The proportion per head for the Commonwealth was £3 9s. 5d., and for New Zealand £2 19s. 11d. The corresponding proportions for the quinquennium, 1907-11, were £3 6s. 1d., and £2 18s. 5d. per head.

The subjoined table shows the average quantity and the amount per head of population of alcoholic liquors consumed in Victoria during the five-year periods ended 1885 and 1909. The period immediately preceding 1886 has been selected for comparison because in the year 1885 was passed an important measure—*The Licensing Act 1885*—relating to the obtaining and holding of licences :—

AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS, BEER, AND WINE IN VICTORIA, 1881 TO 1885 AND 1905 TO 1909.

Average of five years ended—	Quantity Consumed.			Amount per head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
	gallons	gallons	gallons	gallons	gallons	gallons
1885	1,130,000*	14,110,800	713,500	1·21*	15·45	·78
1909	832,100	14,933,900	600,100	·66	11·92	·48

* Average of three years ended 1885.

After allowing for the increase of population, the fall between the five-year periods ended 1885 and 1909 in the quantities consumed per head represents a reduced consumption in the period ended 1909 of 683,300 gallons of spirits, 4,416,300 gallons of beer, and 376,800 gallons of wine. As the Commonwealth Government has discontinued keeping records of Inter-State trade, it is not possible to obtain the Victorian consumption for a later year than 1909. The consumption per head for the whole of Australia has increased slightly during the last five years.

INTOXICATING LIQUOR (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION) ACTS 1915 AND 1916.

Restricting the hours for sale of Intoxicants. Owing to the necessity which existed after the outbreak of war for removing all obstacles to its successful prosecution, it was considered desirable to limit the time during which alcoholic liquors may be sold in hotels. With this end the State Parliament passed a measure [Intoxicating Liquor (Temporary Restriction) Act No. 2584], which came into force on 6th July, 1915. Its principal provisions are as follows:—

In any licensed premises or club premises the hours during which intoxicating liquor may be sold are fixed at from nine o'clock in the morning until half-past nine o'clock at night. Power is given to keep billiard-rooms in hotels open until half-past eleven o'clock at night. Masters of vessels conveying passengers from any place within Victoria to any other place within the State are not allowed to sell liquor on Sundays. *Bona-fide* travellers, who may be served on Sundays, are defined as persons who have travelled at least twenty miles in a direct line to the licensed premises where they apply for refreshments. The penalty for drinking on unlicensed premises during prohibited hours is fixed at a sum not exceeding £2, and, for supplying drink on such premises, for a first offence the penalty is not less than £5 or more than £20, and for a second offence not less than £25 or more than £50. The term unlicensed premises embraces any premises where meals or refreshments are ordinarily sold for consumption on the premises, and includes any café, restaurant, oyster saloon, or other eating-house for which a victuallers' licence or Australian wine licence is not in force, and any building used in connexion therewith. Power is given to the members of the police force to execute search warrants at any time by day or night. If admittance to any unlicensed premises be refused or wilfully delayed to a member of the police force the offender is liable to a penalty of not less than £2 or more than

£10, and such officer may break into the premises. The penalties for the sale of liquor by unlicensed persons are increased. Consumption or intended consumption of liquor on premises is considered *prima facie* evidence of sale. The Act is to operate only during the continuance of the war.

An Act passed in 1916 (No. 2,827), which came into force on 9th October of that year, restricts the hours for the sale of intoxicating liquor to from 9 o'clock in the morning to 6 o'clock at night.

**Licences
Reduction
Board.** Just before the close of the year 1916 an amending Licensing Act (No. 2855) was passed, in which the members of the Licences Reduction Board were constituted a Licensing Court for the whole State. The taking of a local option poll was postponed to the second general election after January, 1917, and the Court was authorized in the meantime to close hotels to the extent of the Compensation Fund available, as if reduction had been carried in every Licensing District. No alteration was made in the provisions abolishing the statutory number of hotels for a district, so that the number existing on 1st January, 1917, is now the maximum number; a similar provision applying to grocers' licences, Australian wine licences, and club licences. The Mallee area was made the subject of special legislation, under which it is possible after a petition and a poll, to obtain victuallers' licences in proclaimed areas containing at least 500 electors. These hotels are to be 12 miles apart, except at Mildura, where there can be three hotels. The whole system of licence-fees was re-cast, fixed fees in the retail liquor trade being abolished and percentage fees substituted. In the wholesale section there are now percentage fees for the sales to private customers, and fixed fees in respect of the balance of the trade. The percentage fee in the case of hotels has been fixed at 6 per cent. on the annual liquor purchases, the owner paying three-eighths and the licensee five-eighths. This combines and takes the place of the old fixed fees, the 3 per cent. compensation fee, and the assessments for lost licence fees arising out of the closing of hotels. Spirit merchants and holders of grocers' licences and Australian wine licences pay 4 per cent. on the cost of liquors sold to non-licensed purchasers.

Provision was also made for the adjustment of rents owing to the reduction in the hours for selling liquor. This work was intrusted to the Board under the "9.30 Closing Act," and is now extended to include alterations due to the "6 o'clock closing." In the year 1916, about 400 cases of rent adjustment were dealt with. That number may be exceeded in the year 1917.

Up to 30th June, 1917, 1,117 hotels had been closed by the Board, or had surrendered their licences. Compensation has so far been awarded in 1,059 cases, and the total sum paid has been £543,586, or an average of £513 each. Two hundred and eighty-three of these hotels were located in the Greater Melbourne district, and their compensation totalled £250,004, making an average of £883 each; there were 776 in country districts, whose owners and licensees received £293,582, or an average of £378 for each hotel. In the appended table particulars are given regarding the hotels in the various licensing districts dealt with by the Board:—

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE, 1917.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
GREATER MELBOURNE.						
Barkly (Collingwood)	27	12	15	11	£ 7,070	£ 1,270
Beaconsfield	26	20	6	8	2,352†	280†
Bourke	82	24	58	40	31,994	7,210
Broadmeadows	23	10	13	11	3,666	490
Cardigan	58	19	39	31	21,466	3,682
Collingwood East	22	18	4	3	1,639	262
Darling (Collingwood)	30	16	14	10	7,245	1,035
Eltham	13	10	3	3	635	Nil
Emerald Hill	58	26	32	26	18,409	3,530
Fitzroy Central	22	13	9	6	4,270	600
Fitzroy South	36	15	21	16	12,226	2,090
Gipps	84	12	72	43	34,230	8,673
Jolimont	12	11	1	2	1,673	325
Latrobe	53	17	36	17	15,703	3,844
Lonsdale	51	29	22	13	12,495	2,231
Mulgrave	10	12	-2	2	...	...
North Melbourne	33	21	12	4	3,295	670
Nunawading	4	8	-4	1	...	...
Port Melbourne	46	23	23	18	12,239	2,260
Prahran	27	21	6	3	2,157	325
Princes Hill	34	19	15	12	9,326	1,253
Richmond Central	24	26	-2	4	...	...
Richmond North	24	21	3	6	1,762*	232*
Richmond South	17	18	-1	4	...	...
South Yarra	20	22	-2	5	...	...
Williamstown South	26	14	12	9	5,010	880
Total Greater Melbourne ...	862	457	405	308	208,862	41,142

* Compensation for two hotels.—† Compensation for three hotels.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE, 1917—continued.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1908.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
COUNTRY.						
Alexandra	17	9	8	5	£ 1,706	£ 145
Allansford	11	10	1	1	375	60
Ararat	17	6	11	7	2,255	570
Bacchus Marsh	11	6	5	5	1,818	155
Bairnsdale	13	10	3	1	400	100
Ballan	21	12	9	10	2,295	250
Ballarat East	41	39	2	4	1,905	245
Ballarat West	83	36	47	33	19,372	4,206
Barkly (Bendigo)	34	19	15	14	5,756	970
Beaufort	26	11	15	11	2,587	135
Beechworth	33	12	21	21	5,069§	265§
Benalla	14	11	3	3	920	195
Berwick	14	14	...	2	...	...
Boort	5	5	...	1	260	Nil
Branxholme	12	10	2	1	350	Nil
Bridgewater	23	8	15	11	2,714	415
Bright	26	10	16	16	3,983†	420†
Bullarook	8	5	3	4	1,102	170
Bungaree	21	11	10	10	1,917	310
Buninyong	25	11	14	16	3,063‡	693‡
Carisbrook	11	3	8	6	1,436	142
Castlemaine	49	12	37	33	7,969	1,666
Charlton	20	10	10	5	1,800	285
Chiltern	15	6	9	8	2,270	270
Clunes	36	12	24	28	6,668	603
Creswick	22	10	12	14	3,506	536
Dargo	6	6	...	1	75	Nil
Darling (Bendigo)	71	13	58	39	23,707	3,535
Daylesford	20	6	14	9	3,665	660
Dimboola	12	10	2	1	225	No claim
Dowling Forest	19	9	10	10	3,085	306
Drouin	11	11	...	1	...	...
Dunmunkle	16	8	8	4	1,325	135
Dunolly	24	10	14	13	3,754	616
Eaglehawk	42	16	26	22	8,533	1,150
Echuca	22	8	14	7	5,034	830
Franklin	31	11	20	19	3,676	436
Fryers	18	6	12	13	2,358	289
Geelong East	26	21	5	5	1,860*	220*
Geelong West	31	22	9	7	1,932*	300*
Gisborne	15	8	7	5	1,594	302
Glenorchy	10	8	2	1	160	48
Golden Square	57	26	31	22	11,346	1,520
Goulburn	26	12	14	10	3,547	324

Compensation for—

* Three hotels. † Fourteen hotels. ‡ Fifteen hotels. § Twenty hotels.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE, 1917—continued.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
<i>COUNTRY—continued.</i>						
Healesville	7	4	3	1	210	Nil
Heathcote	24	9	15	13	3,634	381
Heywood	4	7	-3	1	250	No claim
Horsham	16	10	6	3	1,765	125
Huntly	21	7	14	11	3,476	660
Inglewood	20	8	12	12	3,216	448
Kangaroo Flat	31	14	17	20	5,438	718
Kerang	20	12	8	1	250	Nil
Kilmore	13	8	5	4	1,655	180
Koroit	15	11	4	2	710	90
Kyneton	31	14	17	14	4,619	447
Lancefield	19	7	12	9	2,700	550
Landsborough	8	6	2	2	311	1
Lara	7	7	...	2	200*	90*
Lawloit	4	5	-1	1	160	50
Leigh	6	5	1	2	445*	Nil
Lexton	7	3	4	3	710	75
Lilydale	17	17	...	3	...	...
Maldon	23	10	13	13	2,872	510
Mansfield	13	8	5	5	1,253	217
Melton	26	8	18	11	3,697	490
Meredith	5	4	1	2	275*	Nil
Mirboo	6	7	-1	1	...	...
Moyston	10	8	2	2	405	45
Newstead	10	7	3	4	1,067	98
Newtown and Chilwell ...	8	10	-2	1	...	...
Numurkah	27	13	14	9	4,790	565
Oxley	7	9	-2	1	...	...
Penshurst	8	6	2	1	370	30
Phillip Island	12	12	...	2	...	...
Pitfield	15	12	3	7	1,428†	80†
Port Fairy	14	11	3	2	700	90
Portland	8	7	1	1	374	Nil
Queenscliff	16	13	3	2	300*	145*
Rochester	13	9	4	3	965	270
Rochester East	7	7	...	1	200	Nil
Rosedale	7	6	1	1	57	3
Runnymede	8	5	3	3	660	115
Rushworth	19	9	10	10	2,980	291
Rutherglen	19	18	6	5	1,726	380
Sale	17	7	10	8	3,441	640
Sebastopol	22	11	11	11	3,310	591
Serpentine	6	4	2	1	75	30

* Compensation for one hotel. — † Compensation for six hotels.

OPERATIONS OF THE LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD TO 30TH JUNE,
1917—continued.

Licensing District.	Licences, 31st December, 1906.			Hotels closed by Board.	Compensation Awarded.	
	Number in Existence.	Statutory Number.	Number in Excess.		Owner.	Licensee.
<i>COUNTRY—continued.</i>						
Seymour	10	8	2	1	£ 450	£ 110
Shepparton	13	9	4	4	No claim	150*
St. Arnaud	15	7	8	4	2,610	455
Stawell	28	9	19	19	5,934	1,169
Strathfieldsaye	17	6	11	8	1,885	214
Talbot	26	12	14	15	3,425	335
Taradale	17	7	10	12	1,944†	70†
Terrick	5	6	- 1	1	200	No claim
Timor	25	12	13	13	2,774	266
Towong	21	14	7	7	1,265	173
Trentham	15	7	8	5	1,458	100
Walhalla	22	10	12	15	3,910	575
Wangaratta	24	11	13	9	5,045	525
Warragul	9	9	...	1	...	...
Warrenheip	12	6	6	6	1,655	257
Warrnambool	19	12	7	4	2,260	390
Whittlesea	11	8	3	3	1,050	185
Wodonga	9	6	3	3	785	Nil
Wood's Point	10	7	3	1	120	Nil
Yackandandah	10	9	1	3	255*	No claim
Yarrawonga	23	12	11	5	1,610	25
Total Country	2,002	1,076	926	809	256,701	36,881
Grand Total	2,864	1,533	1,331	1,117	465,563	78,023

* Compensation for one hotel.

† Compensation for eleven hotels.

The return given hereunder shows the number of hotels
Hotels,
1885 and 1917. in Victoria in 1885 and 1917, and the persons to each hotel
in both years. The year 1885 has been selected because in
that year an important alteration was made in the liquor licensing laws:—

NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885 AND 1917.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.	Persons to each Hotel.
1885	969,200	4,265	227
1917 (30th June)	1,404,379	2,300	611
Increase	435,179	...	384
Decrease ... ..	...	1,965	...

While the population has increased by 45 per cent., the number of hotels has decreased by 46 per cent., and the number of persons to an hotel is now 169 per cent. more than in 1885. During the period 1885-1917, 217 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 1,117 were deprived of their licences by the Licences Reduction Board, or surrendered their licences to the Board, and 631 closed voluntarily.

The *Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act* 1906 (now Section 152 of the *Police Offences Act* 1915) provides that all race-courses must 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 for licence fees and percentages on receipts during the past eleven years were as follows:—

REVENUE FROM RACECOURSE LICENCES AND PERCENTAGE FEES, 1907 to 1917.

Year ended 30th June.			Amount.	Year ended 30th June.			Amount.
			£				£
1907	..	..	4,962	1913	..	..	10,019
1908	..	..	5,818	1914	..	..	12,034
1909	..	..	6,007	1915	..	..	13,611
1910	..	..	6,201	1916	..	..	14,259
1911	..	..	7,977	1917	..	..	12,906
1912	..	..	9,216				

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

There are eight gaols in Victoria, including the Pentridge Penal Establishment, and four reformatory prisons, also six police gaols which are used as receiving stations, and the figures below show that there is still accommodation in the gaols for about two and a half times the average number of prisoners in confinement. The following statement gives for the year 1916 the accommodation for prisoners, the daily average in confinement, the

Goals and prisoners.

number received during the year, and the number in confinement at the end of the year :—

GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1916.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received.		In Confinement, 31.12.16.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge ..	732	..	380	..	504	..	416	..
Pentridge Reformatory Prison	86	..	77	..	37	..	70	..
Ballarat ..	62	18	18	2	255	25	18	1
Beechworth ..	66	15	12	..	56	..	2	..
Bendigo ..	28	3	9	..	181	18	10	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	92	..	31	..	26	..	22	..
Coburg Female Prison ..	..	324	..	63	..	181	..	53
Jika Reformatory Female Prison	..	9	..	5	..	1	..	2
Geelong ..	213	3	72	..	333	13	90	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison ..	17	..	13	..	23	..	17	..
Melbourne ..	249	60	132	31	2,323	1,204	70	17
Sale ..	30	5	5	..	51	..	1	..
Police Gaols ..	60	12	3	..	150	4	8	..
Total ..	1,635	449	752	101	4,439	1,446	724	73

Prisoners in confinement, 1871 to 1916—decrease.

A statement is given below of the average number of prisoners in detention in the gaols of the State in the last years of decennial periods 1871 to 1911 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 1916, 39 per cent. less than in 1901, 65 per cent. less than in 1891, 71 per cent. less than in 1881, and 77 per cent. less than in 1871.

PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1916.

Year.	Average number of Prisoners in confinement.			Proportion 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
1912 ..	726	112	838	15·56	2·35	8·88
1913 ...	776	127	903	16·01	2·61	9·30
1914 ...	774	103	877	15·71	2·06	8·84
1915 ...	792	104	896	16·73	2·03	9·10
1916 ...	752	101	853	16·44	1·98	8·81

Birthplaces,
religions,
and ages of
prisoners.

The birthplaces, religions, and ages of prisoners constantly detained, as deduced from the numbers passing through the gaols, are shown below for the five decennial periods ended with 1911 and for 1916:—

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED, 1871 TO 1916.

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1916.
Total	1,619	1,598	1,900	1,151	813	853
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand	259	584	845	689	595	636
England and Wales ..	628	401	420	149	87	95
Scotland	129	105	129	56	26	30
Ireland	430	378	336	160	62	47
China	75	27	14	18	4	3
Others	98	103	156	79	39	42
Religion—						
Protestants	977	888	1,098	651	476	496
Roman Catholics ..	556	671	729	465	317	325
Jews	7	7	14	8	4	3
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	74	27	14	12	1	2
Others	5	5	45	15	15	27
Age—						
Under 20 years	Information not available.	229	129	75	54	54
20 to 30 years		473	669	316	205	224
30 to 40 years		312	457	337	211	216
40 to 50 years		294	279	234	193	179
50 to 60 years		166	193	102	96	119
60 years and over ..		124	173	87	54	61

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED PER 10,000 OF POPULATION, 1871 TO 1916.*

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1916.
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand	7·23	10·84	10·65	7·25	5·32	5·31
England and Wales ..	36·75	27·20	25·78	12·72	9·73	9·93
Scotland	22·95	21·81	25·46	15·66	9·78	10·54
Ireland	42·80	43·58	39·39	26·01	14·95	10·59
China	42·00	22·88	16·53	28·89	7·14	4·95
Others	35·22	35·34	39·24	25·80	11·64	11·69

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

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY
DETAINED PER 10,000 OF POPULATION, 1871 TO 1916*—*continued.*

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1916.
Religion—						
Protestants	18·88	14·36	13·12	7·19	4·90	4·76
Roman Catholics.. ..	32·59	32·98	29·33	17·63	11·07	10·59
Jews	19·60	16·17	21·68	13·54	6·38	4·43
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	41·63	24·20	20·75	21·95	3·89	7·07
Others	2·27	2·00	10·78	7·03	3·11	5·24
Age—						
Under 20 years	Information not available.	5·30	2·53	1·42	1·01	·92
20 to 30 years		34·18	27·36	15·30	8·67	9·37
30 to 40 years		34·82	31·30	18·23	11·66	11·41
40 to 50 years		30·95	32·00	20·07	11·64	9·99
50 to 60 years		24·84	23·95	15·35	9·60	10·92
60 years and over		30·88	23·90	8·73	5·58	5·78

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

It will be seen from the following figures that there has been a steady increase during the last 46 years in the proportion of prisoners who are able to read and write, and that there has been a corresponding diminution in the number of those who are entirely illiterate :—

EDUCATION OF PRISONERS, 1871 TO 1916.

Year.	Number of Prisoners in every 100—		
	Able to Read and Write.	Able to Read Only.	Illiterate.
1871	63	23	14
1881	81	7	12
1891	88	3	9
1901	91	1	8
1911	96	...	4
1916	98	...	2

The accompanying table shows the number of prisoners in confinement in the Australian States and New Zealand, also the proportion per 10,000 of the population, on 31st December, in the last year of each of the five decennia ended 1911, and in each of the past four years :—

PRISONERS IN GAOLS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, 1871 TO 1916.

State.	Number of Prisoners in Confinement on the 31st December.								
	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Victoria	1,623	1,509	1,810	1,150	797	863	898	861	797
New South Wales	1,430	2,075	2,616	1,812	1,249	1,551	1,740	1,676	1,525
Queensland	231	304	613	574	514	450	518	450	340
South Australia	185	489	278	238	229	305	354	290	248
Western Australia	*	*	*	360	330	311	283	243	222
Tasmania	*	*	165	117	65	69	70	55	50
Northern Territory .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	8	11	18	8
Australia .. .. .	..	..	..	4,251	3,186	3,557	3,874	3,593	3,190
Dominion of New Zealand (including Maoris)	*	698	534	713	873	919	1,045	998	890
Prisoners per 10,000 of Population.									
Victoria	21.71	17.15	15.63	9.48	5.96	6.11	6.28	6.07	5.69
New South Wales	27.62	26.53	22.51	13.13	7.38	8.47	9.35	8.96	8.21
Queensland	13.46	13.70	15.31	11.35	8.26	6.82	7.65	6.55	5.08
South Australia	9.80	17.10	8.56	6.51	5.43	6.93	7.72	6.60	5.74
Western Australia	*	*	*	18.55	11.22	9.70	8.76	7.64	7.19
Tasmania	*	*	10.92	6.71	3.36	3.42	3.48	2.74	2.50
Northern Territory .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6.16	21.79	27.69	39.45	16.78
Australia .. .. .	..	..	..	11.11	6.97	7.30	7.84	7.29	6.54
Dominion of New Zealand	*	12.81	7.90	8.58	8.12	8.01	9.12	8.66	7.74

* Information not available.

POLICE PROTECTION.

The table below contains the numbers in the various grades of the police force in Victoria on the 31st December, 1916 :—

POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31st DECEMBER, 1916.

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner	1	..	1
Superintendents	2	9	11
Inspectors	4	3	7
Sub-Inspectors	11	6	17
Sergeants, First class	32	15	47
" Second class	30	19	49
Senior Constables	108	71	179
Constables	748	279	1,027
Detectives	39	2	41
Others	2	..	2
Total	977	404	1,381

POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31ST DECEMBER, 1916—continued.

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Mounted.</i>			
Sergeants, Second class	1	...	1
Senior Constables	2	...	2
Constables	30	224	254
Total	33	224	257
Grand Total	1,010	628	1,638

Strength of
police force in
Australia and
New Zealand.

The figures given hereunder show the numerical strength of the police force in Australia and New Zealand, and the proportion of same to population on 31st December, 1916 :—

POLICE IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1916.

State.	Number.			Proportion per 10,000 of Population.
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.	
Victoria	1,010	628	1,638	11·70
New South Wales	1,152	1,435	2,587	13·92
Queensland	378	825	1,203	17·97
South Australia	332	235	567	13·13
Western Australia	188	285	473	15·32
Tasmania	66	167	233	11·65
Northern Territory .. ..	..	26	26	54·54
Total Australia	3,126	3,601	6,727	13·80
Dominion of New Zealand	121	808	929	8·44

It will be seen that the Northern Territory and Queensland have the greatest police protection in proportion to population, Western Australia and New South Wales having the next greatest, and New Zealand by far the lowest. Of course, where the population is scattered, it is natural that more police in proportion to population will be required than in a densely populated centre where the area requiring protection is comparatively small.

Expenditure
on police,
gaols, &c.

The following 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, for the year 1871-2, and for every tenth year there

after until 1911-12 inclusive, also for each of the four years ended with 1915-16 :—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1871-2 TO 1915-16.

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.		
£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	
1872 ..	190,711	57,855	5,722	2,133	256,421	6 10
1882 ..	201,063	53,032	14,996	3,328	272,419	6 2
1892 ..	283,409	65,679	19,113	23,319	391,520	6 9
1902 ..	271,561	51,948	7,064	3,613	334,186	5 6
1912 ..	316,456	48,514	12,856	2,300	380,126	5 8
1913 ..	333,027	50,952	24,369	2,237	410,585	5 11
1914 ..	343,518	54,083	20,174	2,472	420,247	5 11
1915 ..	358,624	57,272	11,757	1,593	429,246	6 0
1916 ..	341,821	57,791	1,725	604	401,941	5 8

Expenditure on
police and
gaols in
Australasia.

The following were the amounts expended on police and gaols in the Australian States and New Zealand during the year 1915-16 :—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1915-16.

State.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Maintenance, &c.		Buildings.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablish- ments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablish- ments.		
	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.
Victoria ..	341,821	57,791	1,725	604	401,941	5 8
New South Wales ..	575,367	108,023	2,645	1,172	687,207	7 4
Queensland ..	265,048	17,671	19,272	1,181	303,172	8 11
South Australia ..	130,925	21,514	1,895	398	154,732	7 1
Western Australia ..	126,696	22,294	3,452	291	152,733	9 7
Tasmania ..	45,752	7,261	..	..	53,013	5 3
Northern Territory ..	10,275	2,127	222	123	12,747	55 10
Australia ..	1,495,884	236,681	29,211	3,769	1,765,545	7 2
Dominion of New Zealand	244,166	59,669	25,440	16,981	346,256	6 0

Executions.

During the twelve years ended with 1916 there were only four executions in Victoria, one of which took place in 1908, one in 1912, and two in 1916. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 172 criminals have been executed within the State, of whom

only four were females. The following table shows the crimes for which they were executed, also their birthplaces and religions:—

OFFENCES FOR WHICH CRIMINALS WERE EXECUTED, ALSO THEIR BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS, 1842 TO 1916.

Offence—						
Murder	...	...	...	...	...	133
Attempt to murder	...	...	...	...	...	17
Rape	...	...	...	...	...	9
Carnally knowing and abusing a girl under 12 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unnatural offence on a child	...	...	...	...	...	1
Robbery with violence	...	...	...	...	...	9
Burglary and wounding	...	...	...	...	...	1
Arson	...	...	...	...	...	1
						172
Birthplace—						
Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	16
Other Australian States	...	...	...	...	...	9
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	70
Scotland	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	42
China	...	...	...	...	...	8
Other Countries	...	...	...	...	...	19
						102
Religion—						
Protestants	...	...	...	...	...	53
Roman Catholics	...	...	...	...	...	7
Mahomedans, Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	5
No Religion (Aborigines)	...	...	...	...	...

Inquests. The number of inquiries into the causes of deaths of individuals during each of the last five years is given below:—

INQUESTS, 1912 TO 1916.

Causes of Death found to be due to—	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
External Causes—					
Accident	420	392	433	438	436
Homicide	14	12	14	14	13
Suicide	133	135	115	128	126
Execution	1	..	..	..	2
Doubtful	68	59	64	62	48
Disease or Natural Causes	736	596	669	741	665
Intemperance	2	9	3	4	2
Unspecified or Doubtful Causes	2	2	3	6	8
Being "Still Born"	1	1	..	2	2
Total	1,377	1,206	1,301	1,395	1,302
Proportion per 10,000 of Population	10·17	8·66	9·14	9·78	9·24

Of the deaths from external causes during the last five years, 68 per cent. were due to accidental causes, 2 per cent. to homicide, and 20 per cent. to suicide, while in 10 per cent. of the cases the nature or motive of the violence which caused death was doubtful.