

GROWTH OF DEPARTMENT.

The following return shows the growth of the Department, the population, and the total number of offences (irrespective of by-law offences) reported, and in which arrests or summonses resulted, at each tenth year since 1877, prior to which date each province in the Dominion had its own Police Force. The figures for 1939, 1940, and 1941, are also shown :—

Year.	Officers.	Non-commis- sioned Officers.	Detectives.	Constables.	Total.	Police to Population.	Cost per Inhabit- ant.	Population.	Offences reported.	Offences where Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Arrests for Drunkenness (included in "Offences reported").
1878	25	90	14	329	458	1 to 944	*	432,352	14,157	13,959	6,668
1888	13	69	17	388	487	1 to 1,328	3/1 ³ / ₄	646,913	12,897	11,854	5,387
1898	7	56	16	457	536	1 to 1,435	2/8	768,910	16,378	14,730	5,532
1908	15	83	32	604	734	1 to 1,331	3/2 ¹ / ₄	977,245	23,510	22,484	10,343
1918	20	111	38	732†	901	1 to 1,274	4/6 ¹ / ₂	1,147,394	19,067	18,043	7,228
1928	23	127	54	913†	1,117	1 to 1,301	5/9	1,453,517	33,138	30,622	6,601
1938	26	145	93	1,164†	1,428	1 to 1,123	7/6	1,604,479	44,308	41,618	5,446
1939	27	148	91	1,173†	1,439	1 to 1,129	7/5 ³ / ₄	1,624,714	46,378	43,162	5,935
1940	27	149	90	1,191†	1,457	1 to 1,126	7/8 ¹ / ₂	1,640,901	45,009	41,619	5,470
1941	28	155	97	1,229†	1,509	1 to 1,084	7/11 ¹ / ₄	1,636,230			

* Not obtainable. † Includes temporary constables.

POLICE PROSECUTIONS.

The following is a return of the number of convictions for which fines were imposed and the total amount of such fines in respect of prosecutions instituted by the police during the year ended 31st March, 1941.

Fines payable to						Number of Convictions.	Total Amount of Fines imposed.
							£ s. d.
Consolidated Fund	..	..	..	..	..	19,449	44,627 16 3
Local authorities (by-law offences)	..	..	..	..	..	319	223 4 0
Total	..	..	..	..	..	19,768	£44,851 0 3

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

At Headquarters during the year the finger impressions of 3,055 persons were received, classified, indexed, and filed : 219 persons were identified as previous offenders who, had it not been for the finger-print system, would have passed as first offenders ; 1,890 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the Branch : the photographs of 2,727 prisoners (4,941 photographs) were received and dealt with : 784 photographs were reproduced in the *Police Gazette* ; 15 wanted persons located ; and 1 unknown deceased person identified by finger-prints.

Finger-prints left by offenders when committing 23 crimes were identified as belonging to 14 persons, who were prosecuted. All pleaded guilty with the exception of one, who was convicted at the Supreme Court on finger-print evidence.

In one of the cases mentioned above two portions of finger-prints were found on an oak desk at the scene where a safe had been blown open and its contents stolen. A search in the single finger-print collection revealed corresponding impressions belonging to a previous offender. As it was considered unlikely that this person would use explosives, arrangements were made to have him watched, which led to the discovery that he was consorting with a well-known safe-blower. Through this information the notorious safe-blower, with another man, was located during the following week-end, and both arrested for being in possession of housebreaking instruments and explosives at night, for which offence they were both sentenced to terms of imprisonment.

A few days after this arrest the person whose finger-prints had been identified was arrested, but in the meantime his prints had been found to agree with those from various premises which had been feloniously entered. After having denied all knowledge of these crimes he was finally found guilty and sentenced for six charges of burglary, the principal evidence in each case being that of finger-prints.

Finger-prints of 249 persons were received for inquiry from other countries, of which 36 were identified as those of persons previously convicted in New Zealand : the finger impressions of 66 New Zealand offenders were sent overseas for inquiry, 29 being identified as having been previously convicted outside this Dominion.

It is interesting to note that in New Zealand the finger-print system has, to date, been responsible for the identification of 7,691 persons.

In conjunction with the Arms Bureau, various photographs and lecture slides were prepared.