

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The criminal statistics (Appendix A) deal with all offences reported to the police during the year ended the 31st December last, and show an aggregate net increase of 911 on the figures of 1905, this being about the average yearly increase on a population basis. The proportion of offences to the population was 2·21 per cent.

The following return shows the number of offences reported in each Police District during the year, the number of cases in which arrests or summonses resulted, and the number in which no prosecution followed :—

District.	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Number in which no Arrests or Summonses re- sulted.
Auckland	5,273	5,088	185
Napier	2,089	2,019	70
Wanganui	2,405	2,339	66
Wellington	5,000	4,872	128
Greymouth	574	533	41
Christchurch	3,415	3,209	206
Dunedin	1,740	1,556	184
Invercargill	664	625	39
	21,160	20,241	919

The principal increases during the year as shown by the statistics were as follows, viz. :—

Absconding from industrial schools ... 48	Illegally on premises 51
Deserters from H. M. ships ... 62	Malicious injury to property ... 77
Disorderly conduct ... 53	Obscene language ... 106
Drunkenness ... 503	Vagrancy ... 87

The principal decreases were—

Assaults, common ... 60	Opium, smoking or in possession of ... 55
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c. 82	Sly-grog selling ... 50
Disobeying orders on board ships ... 46	Theft undescribed ... 79

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from all offences reported during the year under review is 95·65, the figures of the preceding year being 94·87.

SERIOUS CRIMES.

From the following return of serious crimes it is satisfactory to note the decrease (82) in the number of burglaries reported during the year. The number of arrests which resulted from serious offences reported appears figuratively small, but it frequently occurs that one person commits a series of offences, a number of which are not brought home to him, hence the apparent discrepancy.

The following is a return of the number of serious crimes as compared with the preceding year :—

Crimes.	1905.		1906.	
	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	16	14	17	14
Assault and robbery	45	34	55	48
Burglary (breaking into shops and dwellings) ...	397	241	315	231
Forgery and uttering	112	97	103	86
Murder	5	5	6	5
" attempted	1	1	7	7
Rape	11	11	10	9
Receiving stolen property	40	36	41	41
Shooting with intent	5	5	4	4
	632	444	558	445