

The murder case above recorded as undetected occurred in Courtenay Place, Wellington. It is one of those unfortunate occurrences in which the culprit may be known to police, but lack of evidence has prevented a prosecution. A reward has been offered, but thus far without result.

The number of indecent and sexual offences dealt with during the year under review was 323, being 128 less than during the previous year. The majority (267) were cases of indecent exposure or behaviour. The exemplary punishment inflicted for outrages on girls of tender years has apparently had the desired result.

DRUNKENNESS.

There has been an increase of 140 in the number of persons prosecuted for drunkenness during the year as compared with the previous year.

From the following table it will be observed that 41·57 per cent. of the males and 70·25 per cent. of the females had previous convictions recorded against them, and 8·99 per cent. of the males were not permanent residents in the Dominion.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of PERSONS charged with DRUNKENNESS during the Year 1908, and the Number of Previous Convictions against them, so far as is known.

District.	Not Previously Convicted.		One Previous Conviction.		Two Previous Convictions.		Three Previous Convictions.		Four Previous Convictions.		Five Previous Convictions.		Over Five Previous Convictions		Totals.		Number of Foregoing who were Members of Crews of Vessels in Port.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Auckland	917	36	200	15	106	12	74	12	51	9	52	6	305	83	1,705	173	237
Thames ..	216	4	49	..	19	..	13	..	14	..	7	..	11	..	329	4	..
Napier	647	10	209	4	92	2	44	..	20	..	32	13	70	9	1,114	38	55
Wanganui	897	65	127	12	49	7	24	3	13	2	12	1	21	3	1,143	93	1
Wellington	1,533	32	358	17	313	19	269	16	148	30	53	36	119	58	2,793	208	290
Greymouth	172	6	45	1	12	2	8	1	2	1	3	..	7	..	249	11	18
Christchurch	590	45	197	17	97	9	53	5	58	4	44	3	172	31	1,211	114	88
Dunedin	535	12	122	4	53	4	40	4	27	3	11	3	127	34	915	64	168
Invercargill	123	..	15	1	14	..	4	..	2	..	1	..	19	..	178	1	10
	5,630	210	1,322	71	755	55	529	41	335	49	215	62	851	218	9,637	706	867

The number charged with drunkenness in 1907 was 10,203 (9,368 males and 835 females), whereas in 1908 the number was 10,343 (9,637 males and 706 females).

RETURN showing the NUMBER of PERSONS arrested for DRUNKENNESS within each Principal Centre during the Years 1907–8, the Number convicted, the Number discharged or withdrawn (Males and Females shown separately), and the Total Decrease in Arrests.

Centre.	Number arrested, 1907.		Number arrested, 1908		Number convicted, 1908.		Number discharged or withdrawn, 1908.		Total Increase in Arrests.	Total Decrease in Arrests.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Auckland and suburbs ...	1,311	180	1,348	165	1,341	165	7	...	22	...
Wellington and suburbs	2,299	245	2,091	185	2,091	185	...	...	...	268
Christchurch and suburbs	811	146	651	108	648	106	3	2	...	198
Dunedin and suburbs ...	581	86	708	62	706	61	2	1	103	...
Totals ...	5,002	657	4,798	520	4,786	517	12	3	125	466

Total decrease, 341.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of PERSONS arrested for DRUNKENNESS on SUNDAYS within each Principal Centre during the Years 1907–8 (Males and Females shown separately).

Centre.	Number arrested, 1907.		Number arrested, 1908.		Number convicted, 1908.		Number discharged or withdrawn, 1908.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Auckland and suburbs ...	12	4	19	2	19	2	...	...
Wellington and suburbs ...	14	2	26	4	26	4	...	...
Christchurch and suburbs	10	3	18	2	18	2	...	...
Dunedin and suburbs ...	4	1	7	1	7	1	...	...
Totals ...	40	10	70	9	70	9	...	...