

PROSECUTIONS AGAINST HOTELKEEPERS.

The number of prosecutions (177) against hotelkeepers during the year shows a decrease of 48 as compared with the preceding year. Generally speaking, hotels in the Dominion are well conducted, and licensees seem to realise that it is in their own interests to observe the law.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of PROSECUTIONS against PUBLICANS in each District during the Year 1908 as compared with 1907, the Number convicted, and the Number discharged or withdrawn.

District.	Prosecutions, 1907.	Prosecutions, 1908.	Convictions.	Discharged or withdrawn.
Auckland	48	24	5	19
Thames	15	5	2	3
Napier	35	30	13	17
Wanganui	40	13	5	8
Wellington	32	11	5	6
Greymouth	30	45	18	27
Christchurch	14	25	10	15
Dunedin	10	23	12	11
Invercargill	1	1	...	1
Totals	225	177	70	107

RETURN showing the NUMBER of PROSECUTIONS against PUBLICANS within each Principal Centre during the Year 1908, the Number convicted, and the Number discharged or withdrawn.

Centre.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Discharged or withdrawn.
Auckland and suburbs	24	5	19
Wellington and suburbs	1	1	...
Christchurch and suburbs	4	1	3
Dunedin and suburbs	10	7	3
Totals	39	14	25

SLY-GROG.

There were 158 prosecutions during the year for sly-grog selling, resulting in 127 convictions, against 182 prosecutions and 125 convictions during the preceding year.

The difficulty experienced in former years in securing evidence in sly-grog cases still obtains, and it is only by having recourse to methods which are repugnant alike to the public, the police, and those who assist the latter that the necessary evidence to warrant prosecutions can be obtained. On the whole sly-grog selling is kept well in check, but if more severe penalties were inflicted better results would ensue.

The fines imposed on sly-grog sellers during the year 1908 amounted to £1,749 15s., as against £1,391 2s. in 1907.

The amounts of fines in the various districts are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Auckland	316	10	0
Thames	16	0	0
Napier	62	0	0
Wanganui	310	0	0
Wellington	160	0	0
Greymouth	...	...	...
Christchurch	335	0	0
Dunedin	235	5	0
Invercargill	315	0	0
Total	£1,749	15	0

The direct cost to the Dominion in detecting and prosecuting sly-grog sellers during the year was £921 7s. 9d., this being £828 7s. 3d. less than the amount of fines imposed.

GAMING OFFENCES.

There were 213 prosecutions, resulting in 184 convictions, during the year under the gaming laws, against 193 prosecutions and 142 convictions in 1907.