

The principal increases during the year appear under the following headings, viz. :—

Arson	15	Gaming offences	32
Assaults, common	127	Illegally on premises	25
Assaults and robbery	22	Indecent exposure	50
Breaches of the peace	71	Introducing liquor into Maori pas	24
Cruelty to animals	22	Sly-grog selling	76
Disobeying orders of Court	72	Soliciting prostitution	46
Drunkenness	314	Theft (undescribed)	47
Failing to support relatives	56	Vagrancy	131
Forgery and uttering	51		

The principle decreases were :—

Assaults, indecent	9	Obstructing police	33
Assaults causing bodily harm	11	Receiving stolen property	30
Burglary	112	Theft by servants	33
Deserting wives and families	108	Theft from dwellings	29
Deserting merchant ships	61	Theft from person	20
Disorderly and riotous conduct	102	Theft of cattle and horses	12
Malicious injury to property	23	Theft of sheep	10
Obscene language	30		

It will be noticed that the increase has been mostly confined to the less serious form of crime, such as assaults, breaches of the peace, drunkenness, sly-grog selling and vagrancy, whilst there has been a gratifying decrease under the heading of burglary and certain classes of theft.

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from all offences reported during the year under review is 95.61, the figures of the preceding year being 95.63.

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	6,063	5,829	234
Thames	719	697	22
Napier	1,994	1,930	64
Wanganui	2,554	2,488	66
Wellington	5,508	5,308	200
Greymouth	804	770	34
Christchurch	3,652	3,492	160
Dunedin	2,116	1,882	234
Invercargill	520	484	36
	23,930	22,880	1,050

SERIOUS CRIMES.

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

Crimes.	1908.		1909.	
	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	13	8	28	27
Assault and robbery	35	32	57	55
Burglary (breaking into shops and dwellings)	476	364	364	242
Forgery and uttering	135	114	186	176
Murder	6	5	7	7
" attempted	12	12	5	4
Rape	11	10	8	8
Receiving stolen property	65	63	35	35
Shooting with intent	6	5	6	6
	759	613	696	560

During the last nine years the number of serious crimes as above described has varied from 520 to 759, so that the present total (696) does not call for comment.