

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

Abseonding from industrial schools ..	34	Furious riding and driving ..	81
Abusive, insulting, or threatening words or behaviour ..	114	Gaming offences ..	193
Deserting or absenting from merchant vessels	120	Malicious injury to property ..	82
Discharging firearms ..	37	Mischief ..	80
Drunkenness ..	185	Neglected or criminal children ..	54
Failing to provide for wives, children, or relatives ..	76	Soliciting prostitution ..	30
Forgery and uttering ..	37	Stowing away on board ships ..	53
		Sureties of the peace ..	118
		Theft of cattle and horses ..	22

The principal decreases were,—

Assaults, indecent ..	19	Maliciously killing or maiming animals ..	17
Breaches of the peace ..	73	Sly-grog selling ..	65
Cruelty to animals ..	25	Theft from dwellings ..	14
Disobeying orders of Court and summonses ..	24	Theft of sheep ..	20
Illegally on premises ..	24	Vagrancy ..	30
Indecent exposure or behaviour ..	70		

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from all offences reported during the year 1912 was 95·59, the figures of the preceding year being 93·97.

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 resulted.
Auckland ..	6,833	6,478	355
Thames ..	971	961	10
Napier ..	2,197	2,156	41
Wanganui ..	2,445	2,370	75
Wellington ..	6,025	5,720	305
Greymouth ..	1,013	976	37
Christchurch ..	4,011	3,821	190
Dunedin ..	1,773	1,682	91
Invercargill ..	713	673	40
	25,981	24,837	1,144

SERIOUS CRIMES.

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

Crimes.	1911.		1912.	
	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson ..	15	13	12	12
Assault and robbery ..	19	16	19	19
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c.	371	284	367	312
Forgery and uttering ..	122	108	159	148
Murder ..	5	5	3	2
Murder, attempted ..	1	1	1	1
Rape ..	5	5	6	6
Receiving stolen property ..	42	42	46	46
Shooting with intent ..	...	...	4	4
	580	474	617	550

During the last ten years the number of serious crimes as above described has varied from 520 to 759, the present total (617) being slightly below the average.