

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 849 on the figures of 1914. The proportion of offences to the population was 2·46 per cent., as against 2·40 the previous year.

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

Assaults, indecent	34	Failing to maintain wives, &c.	140
Cruelty to animals	40	False pretences	33
Discharging firearms	62	Mischief	53
Disobeying orders of Court or summonses ..	77	Obscene language	83
Drunkenness	78	Theft (undescribed)	234
Escaping from legal custody	46	Vagrancy offences	85

The principal decreases were,—

Assaults causing bodily harm	27	Furious riding and driving	80
Breaches of peace	28	Gaming offences	51
Burglary, housebreaking, &c.	32	Obstructing and resisting police.. ..	43
Disobeying orders on board ships	59	Suicide (attempted)	30
Forgery and uttering	30	Theft from the person	27

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from all offences reported during the year 1915 was 95·36, the figures of the preceding year being 96·12.

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	6,375	5,950	425
Hamilton	2,136	2,065	71
Napier	2,169	2,038	131
Wanganui	2,583	2,490	93
Wellington	6,921	6,591	330
Greymouth	834	812	22
Christchurch	4,110	3,962	148
Dunedin	2,417	2,340	77
Invercargill	867	848	19
Totals	28,412	27,096	1,316

SERIOUS CRIMES.

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

Crimes.	1914.		1915.	
	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	16	16	20	17
Assault and robbery	29	27	20	16
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c. ..	443	328	411	289
Forgery and uttering	149	135	119	110
Murder	9	7	6	5
Murder, attempted	4	4	1	1
Rape	6	6	3	2
Receiving stolen property	53	53	63	63
Shooting with intent	2	2	1	1
Totals	711	578	644	504