

The principal decreases were,—

Abusive, insulting, or threatening words or behaviour	73	False pretences	68
Animals Protection Act, offences under	45	Malicious injury to property	92
Assaults, common	97	Obscene language	145
Breaches of the peace	59	Obstructing or resisting police	45
Discharging firearms	56	Sly-grog selling	38
Drunkenness	2,435	Theft (undescribed)	262
Failing to maintain wives, &c.	166	Theft from dwellings	46
		Vagrancy offences	129

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 :—

Police District.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Number in which no Arrests or Summonses resulted.
Auckland	5,105	4,886	219
Hamilton	1,871	1,801	70
Napier	1,703	1,613	90
Wanganui	2,376	2,299	77
Wellington	6,262	5,957	305
Greymouth	571	556	15
Christchurch	3,978	3,781	197
Dunedin	2,319	2,242	77
Invercargill	735	713	22
Totals	24,920	23,848	1,072

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from offences reported during the year 1916 was 95·70, the figures of the preceding year being 95·36.

SERIOUS CRIMES.

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

Crimes.	1915.		1916.	
	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	20	17	29	28
Assault and robbery	20	16	21	21
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c.	411	289	440	300
Forgery and uttering	119	110	135	112
Murder	6	5	4	2
Murder, attempted	1	1	3	3
Rape	3	2	6	5
Receiving stolen property	63	63	73	73
Shooting with intent	1	1	3	3
Totals	644	504	714	547

Indecent and sexual offences were as under :—

Offences.	1915.	1916.
Assaults, indecent	91	97
Bestiality	7	...
Carnally knowing girls	30	41
Carnally knowing, attempted	15	11
Concealment of birth	1	4
Incest	6	5
Indecent exposure or behaviour	288	300
Rape	3	6
Rape, attempted	7	6
Sodomy	3	3
Sodomy, attempted	2	5
Totals	453	478