

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

	£	s.	d.
Auckland	157	8	0
Hamilton	1,111	0	0
Napier	65	0	0
Wanganui	265	0	0
Wellington	295	0	0
Greymouth	—	—	—
Christchurch	130	0	0
Dunedin	41	12	0
Invercargill	184	0	0
Total	£2,249	0	0

The direct cost to the Department in detecting and prosecuting sly-grog sellers during the year was £322, this being £1,927 less than the amount of fines imposed.

GAMING OFFENCES.

There were 257 prosecutions, resulting in 216 convictions, during the year under the gaming laws, against 214 prosecutions and 181 convictions in 1915.

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

During the year the finger-impressions of 2,590 prisoners were received, classified, searched, and filed, and 166 prisoners were identified as previous offenders in this Dominion, Australia, England, &c.; 710 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to this branch; the portraits of 1,811 prisoners were dealt with; and 439 photographs of discharged prisoners were reproduced in the *Police Gazette*. The *Police Gazette* increased in volume by 47 pages of printed matter.

On the 31st March last the finger-print collection consisted of the impressions of 19,508 offenders, being an increase of 1,374 over the previous year. The total number of finger-impressions received during the year shows a decrease of 382 compared with the previous year, and the number of prisoners identified shows a decrease of 52.

The finger-print collection, now containing nearly twenty thousand sets of impressions, in its present state of classification requires too much time when searching for corresponding prints, and the work of further subdividing it has been commenced. This is a long and tedious task, as each set of impressions has to be dealt with separately and reference made on index cards, criminal histories, correspondence files, &c. The work will take some months to complete, as it can be done only in spare time.

The following table shows the increase of the finger-print collection since the introduction of the finger-print system of identification in March, 1903.

Year.	Number of Prints in Collection.	Increase on Previous Year.	Prisoners traced as Previous Offenders.
1904	3,500	3,500	117
1905	4,200	700	72
1906	5,000	800	88
1907	6,151	1,151	104
1908	7,622	1,471	123
1909	8,718	1,096	138
1910	9,919	1,201	140
1911	10,905	986	148
1912	12,097	1,192	178
1913	13,552	1,455	183
1914	15,302	1,750	230
1915	16,682	1,380	270
1916	18,134	1,452	218
1917	19,508	1,374	166

CANDIDATES FOR FORCE.

Forty-two men were taken on during the year, their nationalities, religions, and occupations being as follows :—Nationalities : England, 2; Scotland, 2; Ireland, 8; New Zealand, 26; Australia, 4. Religions : Church of England, 13; Presbyterian, 13; Roman Catholic, 10; Methodist, 6. Occupations : Asylum attendant, 1; baker, 1; blacksmith, 1; boilermaker, 1; bootmaker, 1; bricklayer, 1; builder, 1; bushmen, 2; butchers, 2; carpenter, 1; ex-constables, 4; ex-soldier, 1; electrician, 1; farm labourers, 4; fireman, 1; fisherman, 1; labourers, 12; milkman, 1; miner, 1; prison warder, 1; railway porter, 1; sawmill hand, 1; tailor, 1.

During the year 17 probationers presented themselves, at the conclusion of their course of training at the depot, for examination in "first aid to the injured," the examinations being held under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Association. All passed the examination, the average number of marks gained being 85.6 (maximum, 100; bare pass, 50). The lecturer was in each case Dr. Henry, Police Surgeon, and the examiners different medical men appointed by the association.