

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

	£
Auckland	20
Hamilton	693
Napier	70
Wanganui	508
Wellington	56
Greymouth	20
Christchurch	55
Dunedin	200
Invercargill	10
Total	<u>£1,632</u>

The direct cost to the Department in detecting and prosecuting sly-grog sellers during the year was £412, this being £1,220 less than the amount of fines imposed.

GAMING OFFENCES.

There were 239 prosecutions, resulting in 208 convictions, during the year under the gaming laws, against 257 prosecutions and 216 convictions in 1916.

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

During the year the finger-impressions of 2,496 prisoners were received, classified, searched, and filed, and 132 prisoners were identified as previous offenders in this Dominion, Australia, England, &c.; 1,249 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to this branch; the portraits of 1,012 prisoners were dealt with, and 328 photographs of discharged prisoners were reproduced in the *Police Gazette*.

The number of photographs taken during the year shows an increase of over 75 per cent. on last year's figures. They included many exhibits in important Court cases such as copies of letters, &c., in a case of forgery of a will at Wellington, and finger-print enlargements in two breaking-and-entering cases at Christchurch.

The *Police Gazette* work shows an increase on the previous year. The *Gazette* itself has decreased in volume, but this is due to the fact that since the beginning of 1917 Law Reports and War Regulations have not been reprinted in the *Gazette*, but issued separately.

On the 31st March last the finger-print collection consisted of the impressions of 20,982 offenders, being an increase of 1,474 over the previous year.

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
1918	20,982	1,474	132

CANDIDATES FOR FORCE.

Seven men were permanently appointed to the Force during the year, their nationalities, religions, and occupations being as follows :—Nationalities: New Zealand, 5; Scotland, 2. Religions: Presbyterian, 5; Roman Catholic, 2. Occupations: Ex-constables, 4; ex-soldiers, 2; labourer, 1.

POLICE BUILDINGS, ETC.

The following works in connection with police-stations have been carried out during the year by the Public Works Department :—

New buildings erected: Auckland (Central), additions; Wellington (headquarters, Johnston Street).

New buildings in course of erection: Wairoa, Oamaru.

Site acquired: Lower Hutt.

Alterations, improvements, &c., were effected at Hikurangi, Kawakawa, Russell, Whakatane, Tokomaru Bay, Waitara, Whangamomona, Palmerston North, Te Nui, Kilbirnie, Mount Cook, Denniston, Seddonville, Nelson, Amberley, Christchurch, Darfield, St. Andrew's, and Ophir.