

The principal decreases were—

Absconding from industrial schools ..	41	Illegally on premises ..	83
Abusive, insulting, or threatening words or behaviour ..	50	Indecent exposure or behaviour ..	53
Cruelty to animals ..	42	Keeping disorderly houses or brothels ..	37
Deserting from Military Forces ..	173	Neglected and criminal children ..	48
Deserting from merchant ships ..	155	Obscene and profane language ..	81
Drunkenness ..	1,571	Soliciting prostitution ..	73
Failing to maintain wives and families ..	261	Vagrancy offences ..	253

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 ..	4,295	4,106	189
Hamilton ..	1,562	1,498	64
Napier ..	1,811	1,719	92
Wanganui ..	1,195	1,145	50
Palmerston North ..	923	890	33
Wellington ..	3,930	3,701	229
Greymouth ..	396	378	18
Christchurch ..	2,996	2,738	258
Dunedin ..	1,427	1,359	68
Invercargill ..	532	509	23
Totals ..	19,067	18,043	1,024

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from offences reported during the year 1918 was 94·62, the figures of the preceding year being 95·29.

SERIOUS CRIMES.

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

Crimes.	1917.		1918.	
	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson ..	19	15	13	13
Assault and robbery ..	5	5	6	5
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c. ..	402	286	406	326
Forgery and uttering ..	114	109	82	76
Murder ..	14	14	4	3
Murder, attempted ..	13	12	5	3
Rape ..	2	2	1	1
Receiving stolen property ..	74	74	97	97
Shooting with intent ..	1	1	2	2
Totals ..	644	518	616	526

Indecent and sexual offences were as under :—

Offences.	1917.	1918.
Assaults, indecent ..	90	83
Bestiality ..	3	1
Carnally knowing girls ..	46	23
Carnally knowing, attempted ..	9	9
Concealment of birth ..	2	3
Incest ..	16	4
Indecent exposure or behaviour ..	263	210
Rape ..	2	1
Rape, attempted ..	4	6
Sodomy ..	7	2
Sodomy, attempted ..	3	3
Totals ..	445	345