

SLY-GROG SELLING.

There were 45 prosecutions during the year for selling liquor without a license, resulting in 37 convictions, and there were also 107 prosecutions, resulting in 83 convictions, for other offences against the provisions of the Licensing Act in force in no-license districts.

The fines imposed on sly-grog sellers during the year 1922 amounted to £1,424.

The amount of fines in the various districts is as follows :—

	£
Whangarei	65
Auckland	175
Hamilton	60
Gisborne	..
Napier	..
New Plymouth	..
Wanganui	489
Palmerston North	25
Wellington	425
Greymouth	..
Christchurch	20
Timaru	..
Dunedin	90
Invercargill	75
Total	<u>£1,424</u>

The direct cost to the Department in detecting and prosecuting sly-grog sellers during the year was £339, this being £1,085 less than the amount of fines imposed.

GAMING OFFENCES.

There were 324 prosecutions, resulting in 290 convictions, during the year under the Gaming Act, against 245 prosecutions and 194 convictions in 1921.

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

The finger-impressions of 3,003 persons were received, classified, searched, and filed during the year; 292 persons were identified as previous offenders either in this Dominion, the Australian States, or England; 1,559 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the branch; the photographs of 1,999 prisoners (8,143 photographs) were dealt with, and 848 photographs were reproduced in the *Police Gazette*.

In 25 cases of breaking and entering, finger-prints left by offenders when committing the crime were identified. In these cases the majority admitted their guilt. Two cases are worthy of note. A church was broken into and the safe blown open, and two other places were entered, from one of which a number of revolvers were stolen. Finger-prints were found which indicated that the offences were committed by a certain person, and these were the only evidence obtainable. He denied his guilt, but was convicted and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment.

In the second case a large sum of money was stolen from an hotel safe. The offender left the impressions of his fingers on a glass jug which contained some of the money. These prints were identified, and in consequence the offender, although he strenuously denied his guilt, was found guilty and punished.

On the 31st March the finger-print collection consisted of the impressions of 30,284 persons, an increase of 1,876 on last year's figures.

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.	Year.	Number of Prints in Collection.	Increase on Previous Year.	Prisoners traced as Previous Offenders.
1904 ..	3,500	3,500	117	1914 ..	15,302	1,750	230
1905 ..	4,200	700	72	1915 ..	16,682	1,380	270
1906 ..	5,000	800	88	1916 ..	18,134	1,452	218
1907 ..	6,151	1,151	104	1917 ..	19,508	1,374	166
1908 ..	7,622	1,471	123	1918 ..	20,982	1,474	132
1909 ..	8,718	1,096	138	1919 ..	22,332	1,350	153
1910 ..	9,919	1,201	140	1920 ..	23,686	1,354	176
1911 ..	10,905	986	148	1921 ..	26,650	2,964	232
1912 ..	12,097	1,192	178	1922 ..	28,408	1,758	255
1913 ..	13,552	1,455	183	1923 ..	30,284	1,876	292