

SLY-GROG SELLING.

There were 81 prosecutions during the year for selling liquor without a license, resulting in 57 convictions, and there were also 95 prosecutions, resulting in 88 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 1923 amounted to £1,640.

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

	£		£
Whangarei	150	Greymouth	..
Auckland	113	Christchurch	215
Hamilton	125	Timaru	95
Gisborne	..	Dunedin	110
Napier	..	Invercargill	..
New Plymouth	15		
Wanganui	631	Total	£1,640
Palmerston North	12		
Wellington	174		

The direct cost to the Department in detecting and prosecuting sly-grog sellers during the year was £325, this being £1,315 less than the amount of fines imposed.

GAMING OFFENCES.

There were 435 prosecutions, resulting in 358 convictions, during the year under the Gaming Act, against 324 prosecutions and 290 convictions in 1922.

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

The finger-impressions of 3,071 persons were received, classified, searched, and filed during the year; 289 persons were identified as previous offenders either in this Dominion, the Australian States, or England; 988 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the branch; the photographs of 1,875 prisoners (7,015 photographs) were dealt with, and 664 photographs were reproduced in the *Police Gazette*.

In several cases photographic enlargements and plans were prepared and produced as exhibits in the Supreme Court. One unknown deceased man was identified by his finger-prints. In 16 cases of breaking and entering, finger-prints left by offenders when committing the crime were identified, the most notable being a series of breaking and entering in Auckland, in which the offender was identified from the finger-print exhibits sent to this branch. When arrested he pleaded guilty to each offence; he was a stranger to Auckland and previously unknown to the police there.

On the 31st March the finger-print collection consisted of the impressions of 31,929 persons, an increase of 1,645 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	1915 ..	16,682	1,380	270
1905 ..	4,200	700	72	1916 ..	18,134	1,452	218
1906 ..	5,000	800	88	1917 ..	19,508	1,374	166
1907 ..	6,151	1,151	104	1918 ..	20,982	1,474	132
1908 ..	7,622	1,471	123	1919 ..	22,332	1,350	153
1909 ..	8,718	1,096	138	1920 ..	23,686	1,354	176
1910 ..	9,919	1,201	140	1921 ..	26,650	2,964	232
1911 ..	10,905	986	148	1922 ..	28,408	1,758	255
1912 ..	12,097	1,192	178	1923 ..	30,284	1,876	292
1913 ..	13,552	1,455	183	1924 ..	31,929	1,645	289
1914 ..	15,302	1,750	230				

APPOINTMENTS TO POLICE FORCE.

Ninety-four men were permanently appointed to the Force during the year, their birthplaces, religions, and occupations being as follows: Birthplaces: New Zealand, 60; England, 14; Scotland, 8; Ireland, 9; Australia, 1; Tahiti, 1; Fiji, 1. Religions: Church of England, 40; Presbyterian, 34; Roman Catholic, 14; Salvation Army, 1; Baptist, 1; Methodist, 3; Unitarian, 1. Occupations: Bushmen, 2; carpenter, 1; carter, 1; cheesemaker, 1; clerks, 2; cooper, 1; ex-constables, 9; electrician, 1; farm labourers, 27; fire-brigadesmen, 2; guide, 1; labourers, 25; mailman, 1; machinist, 1; miners, 3; motor mechanic, 1; painter, 1; roadman, 1; signalman, 1; storemen, 3; seamen, 5; sheep-farmer, 1; warehousemen, 2; watchmaker, 1.