

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The criminal statistics (Appendix A) deal with offences reported to the police during the year ended 31st December last, and show an aggregate net increase of 1,145 on the figures of 1925. The proportion of offences to the population was 2·19 per cent., as against 2·16 the previous year.

The principal increases during the year appear under the following headings, viz. :—

Theft (undescribed)	806	Using profane, indecent, or obscene language	73
Theft from dwellings	30	Vagrancy offences	234
Theft from dwellings (attempted)	65	Unlawfully using horses, motor-cars, &c. ..	201
False pretences	108	Failing to maintain wives, &c.	706
Obtaining credit by fraud	60	Breaches of Arms Act	127
Burglary, house-breaking, &c.	211	Breaches of Motor-vehicles Act	684
Indecent exposure, &c.	88		

There were decreases in the following :—

Assault (common)	31	Stealing postal packets	31
Mischief	68	Ship-desertion	132
Breaches of the peace	152	Disciplinary-offences on ships	782
Drunkenness	424	Selling liquor after hours	125
Trespassing on racecourses	68	Being found on licensed premises after hours	337

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.
Whangarei	890	842	48
Auckland	8,281	7,299	982
Hamilton	3,017	2,889	128
Gisborne	1,163	1,142	21
Napier	1,550	1,492	58
New Plymouth	1,055	979	76
Wanganui	1,157	1,121	36
Palmerston North	1,242	1,143	99
Wellington	5,350	5,064	286
Greymouth	1,159	1,128	31
Christchurch	3,650	3,210	440
Timaru	651	613	38
Dunedin	1,486	1,334	152
Invercargill	964	943	21
Totals	31,615	29,199	2,416

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from offences reported during the year 1926 was 92·35, the figures of the preceding year being 94·08.

SERIOUS CRIMES.

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

Crimes.	1925.		1926.	
	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	22	18	24	13
Robbery and aggravated robbery	4	3	13	9
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c. ..	639	445	850	511
Forgery and uttering	222	210	196	181
Murder	6	5	13	9
Murder, attempted	2	2	5	5
Rape	11	8	8	6
Receiving stolen property	116	116	111	109
Wounding with intent	1	1	4	4
Totals	1,023	808	1,224	847