

GAMING OFFENCES.

There were 420 prosecutions, resulting in 373 convictions, during the year under the Gaming Act, against 432 prosecutions and 393 convictions in 1925.

Prosecutions of Bookmakers.

The following return shows the result of prosecutions in connection with bookmaking during the year ended 31st March, 1927 :—

Offence.	Number of Prosecutions.	Number of Convictions.	Amount of Fines imposed.
			£
Carrying on business of bookmaker	24	22	860
Keeping common gaming house	46	43	1,928
Found in common gaming house	19	14	37
Laying totalizator odds	29	29	350
Publishing betting-charts	3	2	..
Street betting	6	3	170
Betting with infant	1	1	25
Betting with bookmaker	1	1	30
Totals	129	115	3,400

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

The finger-impressions of 3,846 persons were received, classified, searched, and filed during the year; 255 persons were identified as previous offenders, either in this Dominion, the Australian States, or England, &c., who, had it not been for the finger-print system, would have passed as first offenders; one unknown deceased person was identified; 1,246 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the branch; the photographs of 1,796 prisoners (5,930 photographs) were dealt with, and 736 photographs were reproduced in the *Police Gazette*.

In thirty-nine cases of breaking and entering, and one case of indecent assault, finger-prints left by offenders when committing the crime were identified. In these forty cases, all the offenders except three pleaded guilty. These three were found guilty on production of finger-print evidence in the Supreme Courts. The following cases are worthy of note :—

The office and garage of the Bell Motor-bus Co., of Wellington, were broken into, and the premises were examined by an expert from this branch, who found a portion of one finger-print on the front of one of the drawers in the office desk; from this the offender was identified after a most tedious and strenuous search of six days' duration. He was arrested, and admitted not only this offence, but ten others also. The same offender's finger-impressions were identified as those found at H. L. Young's premises at Hamilton, and he admitted breaking into eleven premises in that town.

A shop in one of the Wellington suburbs was broken into during the night, and next morning finger-prints found on the broken window were brought to this branch, from which the offender was identified within two hours; he was arrested an hour later with all the stolen property in his possession.

The following table shows the increase 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	1916 ..	18,134	1,452	218
1905 ..	4,200	700	72	1917 ..	19,508	1,374	166
1906 ..	5,000	800	88	1918 ..	20,982	1,474	132
1907 ..	6,151	1,151	104	1919 ..	22,332	1,350	153
1908 ..	7,622	1,471	123	1920 ..	23,686	1,354	176
1909 ..	8,718	1,096	138	1921 ..	26,650	2,964	232
1910 ..	9,919	1,201	140	1922 ..	28,408	1,758	255
1911 ..	10,905	986	148	1923 ..	30,284	1,876	292
1912 ..	12,097	1,192	178	1924 ..	31,929	1,645	289
1913 ..	13,552	1,455	183	1925 ..	33,802	1,873	267
1914 ..	15,302	1,750	230	1926 ..	35,844	2,042	292
1915 ..	16,682	1,380	270	1927 ..	37,808	1,964	255