

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 529 on the figures of 1926. The proportion of offences to the population was 2·21 per cent., as against 2·19 the previous year.

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

False pretences	191	Gaming offences	252
Burglary, house-breaking, &c.	251	Failing to maintain wives, &c.	142
Arson	23	Selling liquor after hours	64
Breaches of the peace	86	Found on licensed premises after hours	160
Vagrancy offences	59	Breaches of Motor-vehicles Act	982

There were decreases in the following :—

Assault (common)	56	Using profane, indecent, or obscene language	71
Theft from dwellings (attempted)	68	Assaulting or resisting police	49
Drunkenness	970	Unlawfully using motor-cars	66
Exposure of person and grossly indecent acts	72	Arms Act, breaches of	135

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	722	703	19
Auckland	8,861	8,017	844
Hamilton	2,255	2,204	51
Gisborne	1,025	998	27
Napier	1,484	1,441	43
New Plymouth	1,046	977	69
Wanganui	997	935	62
Palmerston North	1,359	1,317	42
Wellington	5,398	5,164	234
Greymouth	1,158	1,128	30
Christchurch	4,182	3,479	703
Timaru	1,008	939	69
Dunedin	1,614	1,503	111
Invercargill	1,035	994	41
Totals	32,144	29,799	2,345

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from offences reported during the year 1927 was 92·7, the figures of the preceding year being 92·35.

SERIOUS CRIMES.

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

Crimes.	1926.		1927.	
	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	24	13	47	46
Robbery and aggravated robbery	13	9	20	16
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c.	850	511	1,101	687
Forgery and uttering	196	181	215	203
Murder	13	9	13	7
Murder, attempted	5	5	4	3
Rape	8	6	11	10
Receiving stolen property	111	109	107	107
Wounding with intent	4	4	2	2
Totals	1,224	847	1,520	1,081