

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 994 on the figures of 1927. The proportion of offences to the population was 2·25 per cent., as against 2·21 the previous year.

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

Theft (petty)	32	Failing to maintain wives, &c.	313
Obtaining credit by fraud	59	Selling liquor after hours	124
False accounting by clerks, &c.	88	Being found on licensed premises after hours	193
Receiving stolen goods	65	Breaches of Motor-vehicles Act	1,506
Mischief	142		

There were decreases in the following offences :—

Assault (common)	105	Breaches of the peace	144
Theft by clerks or servants	35	Drunkenness	283
False pretences	71	Vagrancy offences	172
Burglary, shop-breaking, &c.	115	Gaming offences	357
Arson	27	Breaches of prohibition orders	110

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	764	726	38
Auckland co-ordinated districts	8,909	8,207	702
Hamilton	1,767	1,569	198
Gisborne	1,200	1,176	24
Napier	1,459	1,390	69
New Plymouth	1,485	1,409	76
Wanganui	1,017	952	65
Palmerston North	1,246	1,151	95
Wellington co-ordinated districts	5,057	4,765	292
Nelson	682	632	50
Greymouth	1,404	1,380	24
Christchurch co-ordinated districts	4,220	3,575	645
Timaru	1,131	1,082	49
Dunedin	1,588	1,431	157
Invercargill	1,209	1,177	32
Totals	33,138	30,622	2,516

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from offences reported during the year 1928 was 92·4, the figures of the preceding year being 92·7.

SERIOUS CRIMES.

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

Crimes.	1927.		1928.	
	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	47	46	20	17
Robbery and aggravated robbery	20	16	10	8
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c.	1,101	687	986	546
Forgery and uttering	215	203	208	200
Murder	13	7	2	2
Murder, attempted	4	3	3	3
Rape	11	10	13	12
Receiving stolen property	107	107	172	171
Wounding with intent	2	2	1	1
Totals	1,520	1,081	1,415	960