

Indecent and sexual offences were as under :—

Offences.	1927.	1928.
Unnatural offence	4	4
Unnatural offence, attempted	5	4
Indecently assaulting a male	61	55
Incest	7	5
Indecent acts	30	42
Concealment of birth	7	6
Assault, indecent	105	85
Rape	11	13
Rape, attempted	10	10
Carnally knowing girls	54	58
Carnally knowing girls, attempted	14	8
Abortion, procuring, &c.	9	6
Exposure of person and grossly indecent acts	240	255
Totals	557	551

DRUNKENNESS.

There has been a decrease of 283 in the number of prosecutions for drunkenness during the year as compared with the previous year.

The number charged with drunkenness in 1928 was 6,601 (6,298 males and 303 females), whereas in 1927 the number was 6,884 (6,546 males and 338 females).

From the following table it will be observed that 35·5 per cent. of the males and 51·4 per cent. of the females had previous convictions recorded against them, and 3·6 per cent. of the males were not permanent residents of the Dominion.

Return showing the Number of Persons charged with Drunkenness during the Year 1928, and the Number of Previous Convictions against them, so far as is known.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Not previously convicted	4,062	147	4,209
One previous conviction	734	45	779
Two previous convictions	373	25	398
Three previous convictions	201	18	219
Four previous convictions	133	10	143
Five previous convictions	196	10	206
Over five previous convictions	599	48	647
Totals	6,298	303	6,601

Number of foregoing who were members of the crews of vessels in port, 232.

The following table shows the convictions for drunkenness per ten thousand of the population for each year from 1923 to 1927 in Australia and New Zealand :—

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Commonwealth	102·9	98·7	97·3	99·5	101·3
New Zealand	52·2	52·7	58·6	53·0	44·6

PROSECUTIONS AGAINST HOTELKEEPERS.

The number of prosecutions against hotelkeepers during the year shows an increase of 158 as compared with the preceding year. There were 667 prosecutions, resulting in 361 convictions, during 1928, as against 509 prosecutions and 292 convictions in 1927.

SLY-GROG SELLING.

There were thirty-seven prosecutions during the year for selling liquor without a license, resulting in thirty-six convictions, and there were also fifty prosecutions, resulting in forty-four 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 1928 amounted to £882.

GAMING OFFENCES.

There were 319 prosecutions, resulting in 295 convictions, during the year under the Gaming Act, against 670 prosecutions and 576 convictions in 1927.