

Prosecutions of Bookmakers.

The following return shows the result of prosecutions in connection with bookmaking during the year ended 31st March, 1929 :—

Offence.	Number of Prosecutions.	Number of Convictions.	Amount of Fines imposed.
			£ s. d.
Carrying on business of bookmaker	16	14	432 0 0
Keeping common gaming house	43	39	1,890 0 0
Found in common gaming house	13	13	28 10 0
Laying totalizator odds	10	9	62 0 0
Publishing betting-charts	2	2	9 0 0
Betting with bookmaker	2	2	25 0 0
Totals	86	79	2,446 10 0

POLICE PROSECUTIONS.

The following is a return of the number of convictions for which fines were imposed and the total amount of such fines in respect of prosecutions instituted by the police during the year ended 31st March, 1929 :—

Fines payable to	Number of Convictions.	Total Amount of Fines imposed.
		£
Consolidated Fund	12,308	21,664
Main Highways Revenue Fund (section 24, Motor-vehicles Act, 1924)	4,857	8,052
Local Authorities (By-law offences)	997	935
	18,162	£30,651

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

The finger-impressions of 2,934 persons were received, classified, searched, and filed during the year ; 208 persons were identified as previous offenders who, had it not been for the finger-print system, would have passed as first offenders ; 1,233 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the branch ; the photographs of 2,130 prisoners (7,494 photographs) were dealt with, and 656 photographs were reproduced in the *Police Gazette*.

In twenty-one cases of breaking and entering, finger-prints left by offenders when committing the crime were identified. All pleaded guilty except one, who strongly denied having committed the offence of breaking and entering a shop and theft of a safe and its contents (about £70). The only evidence to connect the accused with the premises on the night of the crime was finger-prints, which were found at the shop the following morning. The accused was found guilty of breaking and entering with intent to commit a crime, but before sentence was passed he, by leave of the Court, showed the police and other officers where the missing safe had been hidden.

During the year the finger-print system was responsible for the identification of twenty-one persons wanted by the police.

The following table shows the increase in the finger-print collection 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	1917 ..	19,508	1,374	166
1905 ..	4,200	700	72	1918 ..	20,982	1,474	132
1906 ..	5,000	800	88	1919 ..	22,332	1,350	153
1907 ..	6,151	1,151	104	1920 ..	23,686	1,354	176
1908 ..	7,622	1,471	123	1921 ..	26,650	2,964	232
1909 ..	8,718	1,096	138	1922 ..	28,408	1,758	255
1910 ..	9,919	1,201	140	1923 ..	30,284	1,876	292
1911 ..	10,905	986	148	1924 ..	31,929	1,645	289
1912 ..	12,097	1,192	178	1925 ..	33,802	1,873	267
1913 ..	13,552	1,455	183	1926 ..	35,844	2,042	292
1914 ..	15,302	1,750	230	1927 ..	37,808	1,964	255
1915 ..	16,682	1,380	270	1928 ..	39,409	1,601	276
1916 ..	18,134	1,452	218	1929 ..	40,852	1,443	208