

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, 1933 :—

Fines payable to	Number of Convictions.	Total Amount of Fines imposed.
Consolidated Fund	9,628	£ 23,764
Main Highways Revenue Fund (section 24, Motor-vehicles Act, 1924)	3,859	6,956
Local authorities (by-law offences)	402	265
Total	13,889	30,985

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

At Headquarters the finger-impressions of 2,945 persons were received, classified, searched, indexed, and filed during the year; 213 persons were identified as previous offenders who, had it not been for the finger-print system, would have passed as first offenders; 1,712 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the Branch; the photographs of 3,168 prisoners (6,451 photographs) were dealt with, and 832 photographs were reproduced in the *Police Gazette*.

In twenty-three cases of breaking and entering, finger-prints left by the offenders when committing the crimes were identified, and the offenders prosecuted. In five of these cases enlarged photographs were prepared and the necessary evidence tendered, resulting in four convictions in the Supreme Court, and one admission of guilt in the lower Court. The eighteen other offenders pleaded guilty at the lower Court, thus saving the expense of Supreme Court trials.

Some cases worthy of mention are the following :—

At the Supreme Court in Napier two brothers were tried for breaking into a shop at Hastings. The principal evidence tendered against them was that their finger-prints were found on a broken window, through which entry had been made. The jury found both guilty, and they were sentenced to imprisonment.

A large drapery emporium at Palmerston North was broken into and goods to the value of £130 stolen. Poor finger-prints were found on the glass door-panel through which entrance was effected. Within eighteen hours from the time of receipt of this glass in the Criminal Registration Branch both the Palmerston North and Wellington detectives were advised as to the person whose finger-prints were found thereon. He was arrested the same day, and later found guilty at the Supreme Court and sentenced for the offence.

In two cases of housebreaking finger-prints found were identified as belonging to a person who had been wanted on warrant for seven years. He was arrested and many offences cleared up.

It is interesting to note that the finger-print system in New Zealand has to date been responsible for the identification of no less than 5,926 persons.

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	1919 ..	22,332	1,350	153
1905 ..	4,200	700	72	1920 ..	23,686	1,354	176
1906 ..	5,000	800	88	1921 ..	26,650	2,964	232
1907 ..	6,151	1,151	104	1922 ..	28,408	1,758	255
1908 ..	7,622	1,471	123	1923 ..	30,284	1,876	292
1909 ..	8,718	1,096	138	1924 ..	31,929	1,645	289
1910 ..	9,919	1,201	140	1925 ..	33,802	1,873	267
1911 ..	10,905	986	148	1926 ..	35,844	2,042	292
1912 ..	12,097	1,192	178	1927 ..	37,808	1,964	255
1913 ..	13,552	1,455	183	1928 ..	39,409	1,601	276
1914 ..	15,302	1,750	230	1929 ..	40,852	1,443	208
1915 ..	16,682	1,380	270	1930 ..	42,371	1,519	239
1916 ..	18,134	1,452	218	1931 ..	43,973	1,602	257
1917 ..	19,508	1,374	166	1932 ..	45,692	1,719	215
1918 ..	20,982	1,474	132	1933 ..	47,306	1,614	213