

Although the total number of persons received into prison was less than in 1931, the number of distinct persons received under conviction shows a slight increase. This is more or less symptomatic of the times. It is a world-wide phenomenon that during times of depression crime, particularly in respect of offences against property, tends to increase. Unemployment disorganizes the individual. If he is an unstable type of personality he is more apt to take a short-run course and indulge in crime. If on the other hand he is a strong type of personality he rebels against the existing social order. Unemployment leads to demoralization.

The following summary shows the nature of the offences and the number of distinct persons imprisoned during the past five years, as compared with the quinquennium immediately preceding the war. It will be observed that there has been a diminution in the number of offences against the person, but the increase in the number of offences against property has been rather marked. These offences mainly comprise theft, breaking and entering, and false pretences:—

Year.	Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness, Vagrancy, and other Offences.	Total.	Ratio to 10,000 of Population.
1909	181	727	2,251	3,159	32·51
1910	238	772	2,232	3,242	32·45
1911	153	587	2,137	2,877	28·33
1912	153	598	2,272	3,023	29·10
1913	220	685	2,324	3,229	30·22
1928	165	977	1,506	2,548	17·37
1929	196	854	1,546	2,596	17·62
1930	194	968	1,703	2,864	19·19
1931	216	1,155	1,832	3,203	21·17
1932	194	1,313	1,893	3,401	22·29

An analysis of the receptions on a nationality basis shows that the proportion of New-Zealand-born offenders (excluding Maoris) increased by 9·1 per cent. over the 1931 figures, whilst those of British and foreign extraction remained almost static. The number of Maori prisoners received during 1932 shows an increase of 16·6 per cent. over the previous year. This figure represents an increase of 100 per cent. on the number received during 1928. This growth of crime among the younger Maoris, particularly in the North Auckland Districts, is a disquieting feature. Probation has proved to be largely futile, as this form of treatment is regarded by the Natives as the equivalent to "getting off," and when on probation any constructive supervision is difficult to apply as these offenders laze around the pas under conditions of indiscipline and idleness which in no way conduce to the development of any sense of social responsibility or their reformation.

The following statement summarizes the figures for the past five years:—

Nationality of Prisoners received.

Year.	New Zealand-born (excluding Maoris).	Maoris.	British and Foreign.	Total.
1932	1,941	316	1,144	3,401
1931	1,779	271	1,153	3,203
1930	1,576	184	1,104	2,864
1929	1,383	173	1,040	2,596
1928	1,380	158	1,010	2,548

An indication of the incidence of crime according to age groups is shown in the following comparative table setting out the number of offences during the past five years, as compared with a similar period immediately preceding the war. It will be noted, as compared with 1913 and 1932, the number of offenders in the group under 20 and also that between the ages of 20 and 25 show a marked increase, whilst in the groups above 25 the figures for 1932 are almost identical with those of 1913:—

Ages of Distinct Persons received (Comparative Table).

	During Pre-war Quinquennium.					During Past Five Years.				
	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Under 20 ..	98	100	85	130	119	170	181	164	203	222
20–25 ..	342	356	291	256	349	344	350	429	555	559
25–30 ..	497	535	436	464	505	390	400	426	488	504
30–40 ..	897	972	902	947	1,071	619	594	716	822	903
40 upwards ..	1,325	1,279	1,163	1,120	1,185	1,023	1,064	1,118	1,129	1,207
Not stated ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	7	11	6	6
Totals ..	3,159	3,242	2,877	2,917	3,229	2,548	2,596	2,864	3,203	3,401