

SERIOUS CRIMES.

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

Crimes.	1934.		1935.	
	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	12	7	25	21
Robbery and aggravated robbery	13	11	7	2
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c. ..	1,274	831	1,325	938
Forgery and uttering	218	213	190	178
Murder	16	4	11	6
Murder, attempted	1	1	6	6
Rape	6	6	13	13
Receiving stolen property	155	155	215	215
Wounding with intent	4	4	..	..
Totals	1,699	1,232	1,792	1,379

Eleven deaths occurred as a result of murder, being 5 less than in the previous year. Of the offenders, 6 were arrested, 4 others committed suicide, and in one case no arrest was made despite long and diligent investigation. Of those (6) committed for trial, 2 were found guilty and sentenced to death, 3 were acquitted on the ground of insanity, and 1 was, owing to mental condition, unable to plead. These four were ordered to be detained in mental hospitals.

Indecent and sexual offences were as under :—

Offences.	1934.	1935.
Unnatural offence	6	7
Unnatural offence, attempted	..	1
Indecently assaulting a male	62	47
Incest	18	21
Indecent acts	36	32
Concealment of birth	2	1
Assault, indecent	96	130
Rape	6	13
Rape, attempted	6	7
Carnally knowing girls	62	86
Carnally knowing girls, attempted	14	14
Abortion, procuring, &c.	9	18
Exposure of person and grossly indecent acts	155	166
Totals	472	543

DRUNKENNESS.

There has been a decrease of 122 in the number of prosecutions for drunkenness during the year as compared with the previous year.

The number charged with drunkenness in 1935 was 3,170 (3,057 males and 113 females), whereas in 1934 the number was 3,294 (3,152 males and 142 females).

From the following table it will be observed that 43·09 per cent. of the males and 55·75 per cent. of the females had previous convictions recorded against them, and 2·51 per cent. of the males were not permanent residents of the Dominion.