

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, 1938 :—

Fines payable to	Number of Convictions.	Total Amount of Fines imposed.		
		£	s.	d.
Consolidated Fund	14,556	29,633	0	8
Main Highways Revenue Account (section 24, Motor-vehicles Act, 1924)	7,651	13,690	9	11
Local authorities (by-law offences)	240	180	9	0
Total	22,447	£43,503	19	7

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

At Headquarters the finger impressions of 3,046 persons were received, classified, indexed, and filed during the year: 260 persons were identified as previous offenders who, had it not been for the finger-print system, would have passed as first offenders: 2,063 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the Branch: the photographs of 1,737 prisoners (3,400 photographs) were dealt with: 560 photographs were reproduced in the *Police Gazette* and 14 wanted persons located. Finger-prints left by the offenders when committing 35 crimes were identified as belonging to 24 persons, who were prosecuted. All pleaded guilty.

Three unknown deceased persons were identified by their finger-prints. During the year 4,860 prints were added to the single finger-print system, and steady progress was made in the further subdivision of the groups in the main collection. The finger-impressions of 3,590 persons over the age of seventy-five years were removed from the main collection and filed separately, together with the index cards relating thereto.

Recently it has been noticed that a greater number of finger-prints has been received for inquiry from outside New Zealand, denoting closer co-operation between the various Police Forces. During the past twelve months 285 sets of finger-prints were received from other countries, of which 25 were identified as those of persons previously convicted in New Zealand.

It is interesting to note that in New Zealand the finger-print system has, to date, been responsible for the identification of 6,940 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	1922 ..	28,408	1,758	255
1905 ..	4,200	700	72	1923 ..	30,284	1,876	292
1906 ..	5,000	800	88	1924 ..	31,929	1,645	289
1907 ..	6,151	1,151	104	1925 ..	33,802	1,873	267
1908 ..	7,622	1,471	123	1926 ..	35,844	2,042	292
1909 ..	8,718	1,096	138	1927 ..	37,808	1,964	255
1910 ..	9,919	1,201	140	1928 ..	39,409	1,601	276
1911 ..	10,905	986	148	1929 ..	40,852	1,443	208
1912 ..	12,097	1,192	178	1930 ..	42,371	1,519	239
1913 ..	13,552	1,455	183	1931 ..	43,973	1,602	257
1914 ..	15,302	1,750	230	1932 ..	45,692	1,719	215
1915 ..	16,682	1,380	270	1933 ..	47,306	1,614	213
1916 ..	18,134	1,452	218	1934 ..	48,545	1,239	183
1917 ..	19,508	1,374	166	1935 ..	49,796	1,251	200
1918 ..	20,982	1,474	132	1936 ..	51,053	1,257	207
1919 ..	22,332	1,350	153	1937 ..	52,461	1,408	164
1920 ..	23,686	1,354	176	1938 ..	54,062	1,601	260
1921 ..	26,650	2,964	232				

On 31st March, 1938, the finger-print collection in Auckland totalled 5,970 sets.

During the year 880 sets of finger-prints were received or taken, and were duly classified, searched, and filed.

The photographs of 192 prisoners were taken, and 1,152 prints were made from the negatives; also a large number of photographs of scenes of crimes and motor accidents, &c., were taken. The total number of photographs produced by the Branch during the year was 1,987.

The remanded-prisoner forms, together with the results of the cases inserted, for 359 prisoners were dealt with and returned to Headquarters.

In twenty-five cases offenders who would not otherwise have been known as having been previously convicted were traced by their finger-prints.