

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, 1939:

Fines payable to	Number of Convictions.	Total Amount of Fines imposed.
		£ s. d.
Consolidated Fund	12,135	29,790 15 7
Main Highways Revenue Account (section 24, Motor-vehicles Act, 1924)	7,806	15,337 13 3
Local authorities (by-law offences)	439	400 6 7
Total	20,380	£45,528 15 5

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

At Headquarters during the year the finger impressions of 3,220 persons were received, classified, indexed, and filed: 284 persons were identified as previous offenders who, had it not been for the finger-print system, would have passed as first offenders: 2,737 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the Branch: the photographs of 2,881 prisoners (5,143 photographs) were received and dealt with: 720 photographs were reproduced in the *Police Gazette*: 48 wanted persons located: and 2 unknown deceased persons identified by finger-prints.

Finger-prints left by the offenders when committing 27 crimes were identified as belonging to 22 persons, who were prosecuted. All pleaded guilty with the exception of 2, who were convicted on finger-print evidence.

During the year the sub-division of the groups in the main collection was completed. The finger impressions of 2,622 persons over the age of seventy-five years were removed from the main collection and filed separately, together with the index cards relating thereto.

Finger-prints of 417 persons were received for inquiry from other countries, of which 38 were identified as those of persons previously convicted in New Zealand: and the finger impressions of 100 New Zealand offenders were sent overseas for inquiry, 36 being identified as having been previously convicted outside this Dominion.

It is interesting to note that in New Zealand the finger-print system has, to date, been responsible for the identification of 7,224 persons.

The above figures indicate a marked general increase in the work of this branch.

In addition to the usual illustrated lectures on finger-prints, &c., given to the police trainees at the depot, the senior officer of this Branch visited twenty-three towns throughout the Dominion and gave illustrated lectures and instructions to members of the Force.

The comparison microscope, besides being in constant use in the Arms Bureau, has already been the means of clearing up two shooting cases, establishing the fact that the bullets were fired from certain rifles. It was also used to great advantage to prove that a strip of material used to tie the top of a bag containing stolen money dug up from the ground was part of a handkerchief found in a suspect's pocket.

The balopticon has been used to project illustrations during lectures given to members of the Force.

The other instruments procured during the year, especially the ultra-violet-ray and spot lamps, have also been found to be of the utmost value for the examination of questioned documents, &c.

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.
1901 ..	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 ..	9,949	1,201	140	1928 ..	39,409	1,601	276
1911 ..	10,365	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	1939 ..	55,801	1,739	284