

The decreases in serious crimes and percentage of arrests are as follows :—

Crimes.	1902.		1903.	
	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson ... ..	64	61	19	16
Assault and robbery ... ..	52	48	47	44
Burglary ... ..	449	189	340	213
Forgery and uttering ... ..	99	90	76	73
Murder ... ..	7	7	5	4
" attempted ... ..	8	8	3	3
Rape ... ..	10	9	7	7
Receiving stolen property ... ..	29	29	22	22
Shooting with intent ... ..	5	5	1	1
	723	446	520	383

Percentage of arrests in 1902 ... ..	61.68
" " 1903 ... ..	73.65

I regret to report the, so far, unsuccessful result of investigations carried out to trace the man wanted on warrant for murder at Te Awaite. A reward has been offered for information leading to his arrest, and search is still being continued.

The percentage of arrests and summonses to all cases reported, irrespective of class, continues to show slight improvement, the figures being 94.45 for 1902 and 95.53 for 1903.

The number of indecent and sexual offences shows an increase of 56 as compared with the preceding year, the numbers being 303 in 1902 and 359 in 1903, a prosecution being instituted in 353 cases.

DRUNKENNESS.

During the year there was an increase of 546 in the number of persons charged with drunkenness as compared with the preceding year, but this increase is no doubt due to the increased population and continued prosperity of the colony.

The number charged with this offence in 1902 was 8,269 (7,405 males and 864 females), and in 1903 8,815 (7,977 males and 838 females).

From the following table it will be observed that 40.85 per cent. of the males and 73.03 per cent. of the females had previous convictions recorded against them, and 10.41 per cent. of the males were not permanent residents in the colony.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of PERSONS charged with DRUNKENNESS during the Year 1903, and the Number of Previous Convictions against same, as far as known.

District.	Not Pre-viously Con- victed.		One Pre-vious Con- viction.		Two Pre-vious Con- victions.		Three Pre-vious Con- victions.		Four Pre-vious Con- victions.		Five Pre-vious Con- victions.		Over Five Previous Convict'ns.		Totals.		Number of foregoing who were Members of Crews of Ves- sels in Port.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Auckland, Waikato, and Bay of Islands	729	34	169	9	95	5	44	5	37	7	19	9	129	81	1,222	150	124
Napier and East Coast	368	21	85	3	42	3	29	1	17	1	26	3	65	8	632	40	3
Wanganui and West Coast	752	31	130	6	64	1	31	1	17	..	7	..	42	..	1,043	39	14
Wellington and Marlborough	1,282	61	314	40	147	17	86	6	44	11	32	21	99	67	2,004	223	388
Nelson and West-land	197	6	30	..	19	..	11	..	9	1	5	3	3	3	274	13	32
Canterbury and North Otago	856	38	270	21	164	25	125	11	71	9	68	22	219	90	1,773	216	106
Dunedin	431	33	81	7	77	8	54	8	33	9	22	9	71	59	769	133	145
Southland	103	2	36	2	32	1	27	5	19	..	21	1	22	13	260	24	21
	4,718	226	1,115	88	640	60	407	37	247	38	200	68	650	321	7,977	838	831

The obtaining of prohibition orders against persons addicted to drink does not seem to remedy the existing evil, and it is evident some special steps will have to be adopted with the view of redeeming those men and women who have become a prey to habits of intemperance and dissipation.