

consists principally in cases of drunkenness (993), and other minor offences. The increase in the strength of the Police Force no doubt accounts to a degree for the increase in the number of arrests shown. The proportion of offences to the population was 2·37 per cent.

The principal increases during the year as shown by the statistics were as follows, viz. :—

Assaults, common	112	False pretences	62
Breach of the peace	165	Gaming offences	52
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c. ...	35	Indecent exposure or behaviour ...	114
Cruelty to animals	45	Malicious injury to property ...	37
Deserters and absentees from merchant vessels	48	Opium, smoking or being in possession of ...	55
Disobeying orders of Court and summonses ...	136	Sly-grog selling	38
Drunkenness	993	Theft (undescribed)	165
Failing to support parents and near relatives	48	Theft by servants	30

The principal decreases were :—

Assaults on police	33	Theft as a bailee	37
Illegally on premises	67	Theft from dwellings	27
Offensive publications	41		

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from all offences reported during the year under review is 95·86, the figures of the preceding year being 95·65.

The following return shows the number of offences reported in each Police District during the year, the number of cases in which arrests or summonses resulted, and the number in which no prosecution followed :—

District.	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Number in which no Arrests or Summonses resulted.
Auckland	4,995	4,784	211
Thames	783	762	21
Napier	2,161	2,095	66
Wanganui	2,626	2,547	79
Wellington	5,739	5,564	175
Greymouth	561	526	35
Christchurch	3,651	3,488	163
Dunedin	2,029	1,853	176
Invercargill	659	625	34
	23,204	22,244	960

SERIOUS CRIMES.

From the following return it will be observed that there has been a slight diminution (10) in the total number of serious crimes reported during the year as compared with the previous year. Burglary cases show an increase of 35, but there is nothing abnormal in this, as all offences reported vary considerably in number from year to year, and on a five-years-average basis the present number (350) is 22 below the average yearly number reported.

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

Crimes.	1906.		1907.	
	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	17	14	12	12
Assault and robbery	55	48	47	43
Burglary (breaking into shops and dwellings) ...	315	231	350	242
Forgery and uttering	103	86	98	87
Murder	6	5	5	5
" attempted	7	7	1	1
Rape	10	9	4	3
Receiving stolen property	41	41	29	29
Shooting with intent	4	4	2	2
	558	445	548	424