

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

Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c.	126	Gaming offences	..	16
Deserters and absentees from merchant vessels	22	Illegally on premises	..	88
Deserting and failing to provide for wives and children	126	Malicious injury to property	..	22
Disobeying orders of Court and summonses	59	Obscene and profane language	..	52
Drunkenness	140	Receiving stolen property	..	36
Forgery and uttering	37	Soliciting prostitution	..	32
		Theft (undescribed)	..	228
		Theft from dwellings	..	34

The principal decreases were :—

Assaults, common	118	Opium, smoking or being in possession of	..	49
Breaches of the peace	135	Sly-grog selling	..	25
Carnally knowing girls	24	Sureties of the peace	..	27
Failing to support parents and near relatives	91	Trespass	..	107
Indecent exposure or behaviour	82	Vagrancy	..	67
Obstructing thoroughfares	64			

The increase (126) in the number of burglary cases and theft (228) has resulted partly through the influx to the Dominion of an unusual number of Australian criminals, and I ascribe this in a degree to the licensing of bookmakers and the indiscriminate granting of betting-licenses by racing authorities, which has induced a number of Australian undesirables to become bookmakers, who, with their followers when not engaged in bookmaking, resort to crime. Juvenile offenders are, I regret to say, responsible for many of these offences.

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from all offences reported during the year under review is 95·63, the figures of the preceding year being 95·86.

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	5,055	4,825	230
Thames	908	879	29
Napier	2,311	2,236	75
Wanganui	2,480	2,407	73
Wellington	5,865	5,643	222
Greymouth	754	719	35
Christchurch	3,304	3,155	149
Dunedin	2,213	2,033	180
Invercargill	620	587	33
	23,510	22,484	1,026

SERIOUS CRIMES.

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

Crimes.	1907.		1908.	
	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	12	12	13	8
Assault and robbery	47	43	35	32
Burglary (breaking into shops and dwellings)	350	242	476	364
Forgery and uttering	98	87	135	114
Murder	5	5	6	5
" attempted	1	1	12	12
Rape	4	3	11	10
Receiving stolen property	29	29	65	63
Shooting with intent	2	2	6	5
	548	424	759	613

During the last eight years the number of serious crimes as above described has varied from 520 to 723, so that the present total (759) is not abnormal on a population basis.