

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The criminal statistics (Appendix A) deal with offences reported to the police during the year ended 31st December last, and show an aggregate net increase of 906 on the figures of 1923. The proportion of offences to the population was 1·95 per cent., as against 1·93 the previous year.

The principal increases during the year appear under the following headings, viz. :—

Unnatural offence	27	Assaulting, obstructing, or resisting police ..	70
Indecent assault on males	23	Unlawfully using motor-cars	84
Indecent assault on females	23	Gaming offences	35
Theft (undescribed)	242	Failing to maintain wives, &c.	150
Theft from dwellings	44	Ship-desertion, absence without leave, &c. ..	136
Mischief	35	Being on licensed premises after hours ..	366
Drunkenness	434		

There were decreases in the following :—

Assault (common)	149	Cruelty to animals	26
Theft by clerks or servants	66	Vagrancy offences	32
Burglary, housebreaking, &c.	231	Supplying liquor to persons under twenty-one ..	65
Receiving stolen property	35	Illegally supplying liquor to Natives	33
Forgery	48	Breaches of Arms Act	82

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 :—

Police District.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Number in which no Arrests or Summonses resulted.
Whangarei	808	798	10
Auckland	6,637	5,982	655
Hamilton	2,212	2,109	103
Gisborne	1,039	1,024	15
Napier	1,293	1,249	44
New Plymouth	802	737	65
Wanganui	1,065	1,011	54
Palmerston North	1,239	1,165	74
Wellington	4,486	4,202	284
Greymouth	1,230	1,214	16
Christchurch	3,176	2,745	431
Timaru	772	706	66
Dunedin	1,326	1,208	118
Invercargill	940	898	42
Totals	27,025	25,048	1,977

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from offences reported during the year 1924 was 92·68, the figures of the preceding year being 93·25.

SERIOUS CRIMES.

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

Crimes.	1923.		1924.	
	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	8	3	19	16
Robbery and aggravated robbery	10	8	3	3
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c. ..	743	498	512	294
Forgery and uttering	242	230	213	208
Murder	7	6	8	7
Murder, attempted	1	1	3	3
Rape	9	9	6	5
Receiving stolen property	121	121	86	73
Wounding with intent	3	3	3	3
Totals	1,144	879	853	612