

Return showing the Number of Prosecutions against Hotelkeepers within each Principal Centre during the Year 1924 as compared with 1923, the Number convicted, and the Number discharged or otherwise dealt with.

Centre.			Prosecutions, 1923.	Prosecutions, 1924.	Convictions, 1924.	Discharged or otherwise deal with, 1924.
Auckland and suburbs	...	...	23	27	12	15
Wellington and suburbs	...	...	13	37	14	23
Christchurch and suburbs	...	...	23	44	30	14
Dunedin and suburbs	...	...	7	5	5	...
Totals	...	...	66	113	61	52

SLY-GROG SELLING.

There were sixty-seven prosecutions during the year for selling liquor without a license, resulting in forty-four convictions, and there were also seventy prosecutions, resulting in fifty-nine convictions, for other offences against the provisions of the Licensing Act in force in no-license districts.

The fines imposed on sly-grog sellers during the year 1924 amounted to £1,195.

The amount of fines in the various districts is as follows :—

	£		£
Whangarei	50	Greymouth .. .. .	..
Auckland	121	Christchurch	100
Hamilton	396	Timaru	50
Gisborne	35	Dunedin .. .. .	..
Napier	20	Invercargill .. .. .	..
New Plymouth .. .. .	..	
Wanganui	278	Total	£1,195
Palmerston North .. .. .	..	
Wellington	145		

The direct cost to the Department in detecting and prosecuting sly-grog sellers during the year was £283, this being £912 less than the amount of fines imposed.

GAMING OFFENCES.

There were 467 prosecutions, resulting in 386 convictions, during the year under the Gaming Act, against 435 prosecutions and 358 convictions in 1923.

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

The finger-impressions of 2,764 persons were received, classified, searched, and filed during the year; 267 persons were identified as previous offenders either in the Dominion, the Australian States, or England, and two unknown deceased men were identified by their finger-prints; 1,065 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the branch; the photographs of 1,903 prisoners (8,038 photographs) were dealt with, and 632 photographs were reproduced in the *Police Gazette*.

Photographic enlargements were prepared and produced as exhibits in the Supreme Court as required.

In eighteen cases of breaking and entering, finger-prints left by offenders when committing the crime were identified.

During the year a fair amount of revision work has been accomplished.

Two coded finger-print classifications were received by cablegram from the London police, and a search in the local finger-print collection revealed the fact that these offenders' prints had not been recorded here. The cablegrams were then repeated to the Sydney police, and they identified each offender and cabled their records direct to London. This is believed to be the first occasion on which coded finger-prints have been received by cablegram in Australasia, and by means of them the London police were able to produce the Australian records of the two offenders in the London Court within a few hours of their arrest.

On the 31st March the finger-print collection consisted of the impressions of 33,802 persons, an increase of 1,873 on last year's figures.

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.
1904 ..	3,500	3,500	117	1915 ..	16,682	1,380	270
1905 ..	4,200	700	72	1916 ..	18,134	1,452	218
1906 ..	5,000	800	88	1917 ..	19,508	1,374	166
1907 ..	6,151	1,151	104	1918 ..	20,982	1,474	132
1908 ..	7,622	1,471	123	1919 ..	22,332	1,350	153
1909 ..	8,718	1,096	138	1920 ..	23,686	1,354	176
1910 ..	9,919	1,201	140	1921 ..	26,650	2,964	232
1911 ..	10,905	986	148	1922 ..	28,408	1,758	255
1912 ..	12,097	1,192	178	1923 ..	30,284	1,876	292
1913 ..	13,552	1,455	183	1924 ..	31,929	1,645	289
1914 ..	15,302	1,750	230	1925 ..	33,802	1,873	267