

## POLICE PROSECUTIONS.

The following is a return of the number of convictions for which fines were imposed and the total amount of such fines in respect of prosecutions instituted by the police during the year ended 31st March, 1930 :—

Fines payable to	Number of Convictions.	Total Amount of Fines imposed.
Consolidated Fund .. .. .	13,868	£ 26,917
Main Highways Revenue Fund (section 24, Motor-vehicles Act, 1924)	4,856	11,117
Local authorities (by-law offences) .. .. .	719	648
Total .. .. .	19,443	38,682

## CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

At headquarters the finger-impressions of 3,055 persons were received, classified, searched, and filed during the year; 239 persons were identified as previous offenders who, had it not been for the finger-print system, would probably have passed as first offenders; 960 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the Branch; the photographs of 2,515 prisoners (4,189 photographs) were dealt with, and 528 photographs were reproduced in the *Police Gazette*.

In fifteen cases of breaking and entering, finger-prints left by the offenders when committing the crimes were identified and the offenders brought to justice. The most noteworthy of these were the following :—

(1) At 2 a.m. on the 17th December last a constable in Dunedin saw a man loitering in one of the streets. He was interviewed, and his finger-prints obtained, and these were found to correspond with some left on a safe which had been blown open in Dunedin a few days previously. On receipt of this information the Dunedin police again located the man and arrested him for this offence. He then made a confession admitting fourteen offences (mostly safe-blowing) which he had committed in Christchurch and Dunedin. Details of his finger-prints were cabled to New Scotland Yard, London, and a reply was received the next day giving particulars of previous convictions recorded against him in England. He was later sentenced to five years hard labour, and declared an habitual criminal.

(2) In July last finger-prints were found at a shop in Christchurch which had been broken into and a partner of the firm shot by the intruder. These impressions were identified as those of a youth who was arrested for another offence, and who subsequently pleaded guilty to the charge of attempted murder and several other charges.

During the year the finger-print system was responsible for the identification of twenty persons wanted by the police, also for identifying one deceased person.

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	1918 ..	20,982	1,474	132
1905 ..	4,200	700	72	1919 ..	22,332	1,350	153
1906 ..	5,000	800	88	1920 ..	23,686	1,354	176
1907 ..	6,151	1,151	104	1921 ..	26,650	2,964	232
1908 ..	7,622	1,471	123	1922 ..	28,408	1,758	255
1909 ..	8,718	1,096	138	1923 ..	30,284	1,876	292
1910 ..	9,919	1,201	140	1924 ..	31,929	1,645	289
1911 ..	10,905	986	148	1925 ..	33,802	1,873	267
1912 ..	12,097	1,192	178	1926 ..	35,844	2,042	292
1913 ..	13,552	1,455	183	1927 ..	37,808	1,964	255
1914 ..	15,302	1,750	230	1928 ..	39,409	1,601	276
1915 ..	16,682	1,380	270	1929 ..	40,852	1,443	208
1916 ..	18,134	1,452	218	1930 ..	42,371	1,519	239
1917 ..	19,508	1,374	166				

The section of the Criminal Registration Branch at Auckland which was established in June, 1928, reports as follows :—

The finger-impressions of 764 persons were received, classified, searched, card-indexed, and filed during the year, and fourteen persons were identified as previous offenders. The finger-print collection now totals 1,270 impressions, and 135 re-convictions have been recorded.

The photographs of 288 prisoners were taken, and 1,395 photographs with descriptions and criminal histories supplied to the Department; 233 miscellaneous photographs of exhibits, views of localities, &c., required in investigations and prosecutions were also supplied.

The results of prosecutions and particulars of previous local criminal history were furnished in 390 cases to headquarters.