

There were increases during the year under the following headings, viz. :—

Theft by clerks or servants	104	Gaming offences	35
Theft of animals	27	Selling or supplying liquor after hours ..	36
False pretences	229	Offences against provisions of no-license in	
Forgery	43	Native proclaimed areas	45
Breach of the peace or behaviour with intent	48	Opium-smoking	25
Assaulting, obstructing, or resisting con-		Minor breaches of Motor-vehicles Act ..	158
stablers	38		

The principal decreases were—

False statements or declarations.. ..	32	Exposure of person and grossly indecent acts	41
Indecently assaulting a male	20	Using profane, indecent, or obscene language	66
Assault (common)	165	Vagrancy offences	49
Theft (petty)	458	Unlawfully using motor-cars, &c. ..	112
Obtaining credit by fraud	29	Stealing postal packets	31
Burglary, house or shop breaking	74	Failing to maintain wives and children ..	268
Receiving property dishonestly obtained	54	Breaches of Arms Act	38
Mischief	131	Being intoxicated in charge of a motor-car	78
Drunkenness	205		

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	1,189	1,124	65
Auckland	6,629	5,898	731
Hamilton	2,094	1,982	112
Gisborne	983	888	95
Napier	1,665	1,537	128
New Plymouth	1,185	1,113	72
Wanganui	1,159	996	163
Palmerston North	1,651	1,494	157
Wellington	5,796	5,446	350
Nelson	800	677	123
Greymouth	873	794	79
Christchurch	3,808	3,454	354
Timaru	813	717	96
Dunedin	2,324	2,199	125
Invercargill	1,317	1,108	209
Totals	32,286	29,427	2,859

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from offences reported during the year 1934 was 91·16, the figures of the preceding year being 90·48.

SERIOUS CRIMES.

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

Crimes.	1933.		1934.	
	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	14	9	12	7
Robbery and aggravated robbery	11	8	13	11
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c. ..	1,348	875	1,274	831
Forgery and uttering	176	160	218	213
Murder	22	12	16	4
Murder, attempted	3	3	1	1
Rape	5	5	6	6
Receiving stolen property	209	209	155	155
Wounding with intent	4	2	4	4
Totals	1,792	1,283	1,699	1,232

Sixteen deaths occurred as a result of murder, being 6 less than in the previous year. In respect of the 16 offences reported there were 9 offenders, 4 of whom (responsible between them for 11 deaths) committed suicide following their crimes ; and 4 were committed for trial. Of those committed for trial, 2 were acquitted and discharged ; 1 was acquitted on the grounds of insanity and detained ; in 1 case the Grand Jury returned a “no bill.” In the remaining case the alleged offender has since been arrested and is awaiting trial.