

The principal increases were—

Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c.	40	Gaming offences	...	...	...	67
Deserting and failing to provide for wives and children	...	Neglected and criminal children	...	...	...	49
Disobeying orders on board ships	...	Theft undescribed	...	...	...	167
False pretences	...	Trespass	...	...	...	88

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from all offences reported during the year under review is 94·87, the figures of the preceding year being 95·23; the average percentage for the last five years was 94·49.

SERIOUS CRIMES.

From the following return of serious crimes it will be observed that the only noticeable increase is in the number of burglaries (40) and forgeries (29), but as the returns for the last ten years show that the annual number of burglary cases varied from 314 to 458 and the forgery cases from 71 to 113, the present figures (397 burglaries and 112 forgeries) are not exceptional. The number of arrests shown for such offences appears figuratively small, but it frequently occurs that one person commits a series of offences, a number of which are not brought home to him, hence the apparent discrepancy.

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

Crimes.	1904.		1905.	
	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	29	22	16	14
Assault and robbery	53	47	45	34
Burglary (breaking into shops and dwellings)	357	219	397	241
Forgery and uttering	83	76	112	97
Murder	3	3	5	5
" attempted	2	2	1	1
Rape	10	10	11	11
Receiving stolen property	44	40	40	36
Shooting with intent	1	1	5	5
	582	420	632	444

The number of indecent and sexual offences shows a decrease of 30 as compared with the preceding year, the number being 347 in 1904 and 318 in 1905, a prosecution being instituted in 306 cases.

DRUNKENNESS.

There has been a considerable decrease (908) in the total number of persons dealt with under this heading as compared with the preceding year. The average annual increase for the previous five years was 665, so that, although the numbers vary considerably from year to year, this year's decrease seems satisfactory, and may, I think, be principally attributed to the passing of "The Licensing Act Amendment Act, 1904," and the activity of police in carrying it out, and partly to the discontinuance of licenses to railway refreshment-rooms.

From the following table it will be observed that 38·59 per cent. of the males and 64·21 per cent. of the females had previous convictions recorded against them, and 9·61 per cent. of the males were not permanent residents in the colony.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of PERSONS charged with DRUNKENNESS during the Year 1905, and the Number of Previous Convictions against them, so far as known.

District.	Not Previously Convicted.		One Previous Conviction.		Two Previous Convictions.		Three Previous Convictions.		Four Previous Convictions.		Five Previous Convictions.		Over Five Previous Convictions.		Totals.		Number of Foregoing who were Members of Crews of Vessels in Port.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Auckland	975	50	289	20	84	14	60	4	49	4	31	2	133	80	1,621	174	213
Napier	548	15	136	11	72	13	43	3	16	1	24	4	74	4	913	51	18
Wanganui	676	37	97	10	42	2	20	..	7	1	5	..	21	2	868	52	8
Wellington	1,424	127	294	53	177	18	83	15	15	..	17	5	53	5	2,063	223	238
Greymouth	189	11	32	3	8	2	9	1	2	1	2	..	1	..	243	18	29
Christchurch	569	36	208	20	101	15	100	10	106	6	120	..	155	91	1,359	178	130
Dunedin	357	9	43	8	31	8	25	4	20	8	45	15	83	40	604	92	105
Invercargill	116	2	41	2	27	3	13	1	7	1	10	1	20	4	234	14	19
	4,854	287	1,140	127	542	75	353	38	222	22	254	27	540	226	7,905	802	760

The number charged with drunkenness in 1904 was 9,615 (8,660 males and 955 females), whereas in 1905 the number was 8,707 (7,905 males and 802 females).