

SLY-GROG SELLING.

There were 70 prosecutions during the year for selling liquor without a license, resulting in 58 convictions, and there were also 53 prosecutions, resulting in 43 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 1920 amounted to £1,914, as against £1,820 in 1919.

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

	£	s.	d.
Whangarei	84	0	0
Auckland	442	10	0
Hamilton	766	0	0
Hapier
Wanganui	267	0	0
Palmerston North
Wellington	87	10	0
Greymouth	5	0	0
Christchurch	77	0	0
Timaru	125	0	0
Dunedin	20	0	0
Invercargill	40	0	0
Total	£1,914	0	0

The direct cost to the Department in detecting and prosecuting sly-grog sellers during the year was £439, this being £1,475 less than the amount of fines imposed.

GAMING OFFENCES.

There were 279 prosecutions, resulting in 196 convictions, during the year under the Gaming Act, against 324 prosecutions and 224 convictions in 1919.

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

The work in this branch continues to increase. During the year the finger-impressions of 3,081 persons were received, classified, searched, and filed, an increase of 395 on the number received in the preceding year. 232 prisoners were identified as previous offenders in either this Dominion, Australia, or England (an increase of 56); 1,716 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the branch (increase, 586); the portraits of 1,996 prisoners were dealt with (increase, 472); and 444 photographs of discharged prisoners were reproduced in the *Police Gazette* (decrease, 4).

The finger-print system has continued to prove its value as a means of identification. During the year many "wanted" persons have been traced by means of their finger-prints, and in all criminal cases in which finger-print evidence was tendered the accused, with one exception, admitted their guilt.

On the 31st March the finger-print collection consisted of the impressions of 26,650 persons, an increase of 2,964 on last year's figures.

The following table shows the increase of the finger-print collection since the introduction of the system 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	1913 ..	13,552	1,455	183
1905 ..	4,200	700	72	1914 ..	15,302	1,750	230
1906 ..	5,000	800	88	1915 ..	16,682	1,380	270
1907 ..	6,151	1,151	104	1916 ..	18,134	1,452	218
1908 ..	7,622	1,471	123	1917 ..	19,508	1,374	166
1909 ..	8,718	1,096	138	1918 ..	20,982	1,474	132
1910 ..	9,919	1,201	140	1919 ..	22,332	1,350	153
1911 ..	10,905	986	148	1920 ..	23,686	1,354	176
1912 ..	12,097	1,192	178	1921 ..	26,650	2,964	232

CANDIDATES FOR FORCE.

Ninety-six men were permanently appointed to the Force during the year, their birthplaces, religions, and occupations being as follows: Birthplaces—New Zealand, 70; England, 9; Scotland, 4; Wales, 1; Ireland, 7; Australia, 4; Norway, 1. Religions—Church of England, 36; Roman Catholic, 24; Presbyterian, 1; Methodist, 12; Brethren, 1; Church of Christ, 1; Salvation Army, 1. Occupations—Asylum-attendant, 1; blacksmiths, 4; bakers, 2; butchers, 2; bushman, 1; blindmaker, 1; clerks, 2; canvasser, 1; carpenter, 1; cook, 1; cheese-factory hand, 1; cutter, 1; draper, 1; ex-constables, 6; engineer, 1; farm labourers, 22; firebrigadesman, 1; fellmonger, 1; grocer, 1; insurance agent, 1; labourers, 21; miner, 1; motor-driver, 1; metal worker, 1; plumbers, 3; ploughmen, 5; railway employees, 3; storemen, 2; school-teacher, 1; sawmill hands, 2; salesman, 1; soldier, 1; telegraphist, 1; taxi-driver, 1.