

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The criminal statistics (Appendix A) deal with offences reported to the police during the year ended 31st December last, and show an aggregate net increase of 445 on the figures of 1920. The proportion of offences to the population was 2·04 per cent., as against 2·09 the previous year.

The principal increases during the year appear under the following headings, viz. :—

Assault (indecent)	44	Failing to maintain wives and families ..	264
False pretences	154	Stowing away on ships	56
House or shop breaking	168	Selling liquor after closing-hours	51
Receiving stolen goods	33	Supplying liquor to persons under twenty-one	
Breach of the peace	43	years	70
Indecent exposure	60	Being found on licensed premises after hours	307
Vagrancy offences	126		

There were decreases in the following :—

Assault (common)	57	Using profane, indecent, or obscene language	165
Mischief	124	Embezzling cargo	41
Drunkenness	307	Breach of prohibition order	279

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	874	841	33
Auckland	5,082	4,904	178
Hamilton	2,055	1,943	112
Gisborne	1,001	982	19
Napier	1,393	1,342	51
New Plymouth	711	678	33
Wanganui	1,181	1,107	74
Palmerston North	1,387	1,320	67
Wellington	5,192	4,834	358
Greymouth	1,196	1,173	23
Christchurch	3,553	3,192	361
Timaru	877	815	62
Dunedin	1,349	1,247	102
Invercargill	700	676	24
Totals	26,551	25,054	1,497

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from offences reported during the year 1921 was 94·36, the figures of the preceding year being 94·68.

SERIOUS CRIMES.

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

Crimes.	1920.		1921.	
	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	16	15	19	17
Robbery and aggravated robbery	21	16	10	7
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c.	573	446	717	539
Forgery and uttering	149	127	169	162
Murder	13	12	10	8
Murder, attempted	8	8	4	4
Rape	4	4	12	10
Receiving stolen property	91	91	124	124
Wounding with intent	4	4	5	5
Totals	879	723	1,070	876