

offences including drunkenness, vagrancy, &c. The offences against property are higher than in pre-war years, but it is satisfactory to observe that the number of offences of this class last year showed a decrease on the number for the previous year by 20 per cent. :—

Year.	Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness, Vagrancy, and other Offences.	Total.
1909	181	727	2,251	3,159
1910	238	772	2,232	3,242
1911	153	587	2,137	2,877
1912	153	598	2,272	3,023
1913	220	685	2,324	3,229
1929	196	854	1,546	2,596
1930	194	968	1,703	2,864
1931	216	1,155	1,832	3,203
1932	194	1,313	1,893	3,401
1933	196	1,048	1,487	2,731

A similar comparison, with offenders classified under age groups, is shown in a further table. It will be observed that whereas in pre-war years the greater incidence of crime was among offenders of thirty years and upwards, in recent years there has been a tendency for more crime among younger persons, particularly among the groups falling between the ages of twenty and thirty. This has been sometimes characterized as the "reckless age." In England this phenomenon has been regarded as a reaction from the influence of the war, but it is more probably symptomatic of the times, the lack of restraint and discipline, the difficulty in securing suitable vocational outlets, and the facilities afforded by cars, &c., for "pulling off jobs."

Notwithstanding the upward movement in recent years so far as these younger age groups are concerned, it is pleasing to note that there was a drop last year, particularly amongst those in the groups under twenty and twenty-five years of age. A sympathetic fall has also been observed in the cases dealt with in the Children's Courts. The general position in the Dominion is thus exceedingly gratifying.

Ages of Distinct Persons received (Comparative Table).

	During Pre-war Quinquennium.					During Past Five Years.				
	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Under 20	98	100	85	130	119	181	164	203	222	175
20-25	342	356	291	256	349	350	429	555	559	459
25-30	497	535	436	464	505	400	426	488	504	403
30-40	897	972	902	947	1,071	594	716	822	903	747
40 upwards	1,325	1,279	1,163	1,120	1,185	1,064	1,118	1,129	1,207	937
Not stated .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	7	11	6	6	10
Totals	3,159	3,242	2,877	2,917	3,229	2,596	2,964	3,203	3,401	2,731

A further table is included showing the receptions for the past five years classified on a nationality basis. It will be observed that there has been a fall of nearly 350 in the number of persons born in New Zealand committed to prison last year as compared with the previous year. In my report for last year I referred to the disquieting increase in the amount of crime amongst Maoris, and it is satisfactory to note that during 1933 there were 253 commitments of Maoris as compared with 316 for the previous year.

Nationality of Prisoners received.

Year.	New Zealand-born (excluding Maoris).	Maoris.	British and Foreign.	Total.
1933	1,604	253	874	2,731
1932	1,941	316	1,144	3,401
1931	1,779	271	1,153	3,203
1930	1,576	184	1,104	2,864
1929	1,383	173	1,040	2,596