

POLICE PROSECUTIONS.

The following is a return of the number of convictions for which fines were imposed and the total amount of such fines in respect of prosecutions instituted by the police during the year ended 31st March, 1936 :—

Fines payable to	Number of Convictions.	Total Amount of Fines imposed.
Consolidated Fund	10,151	£ 19,709 12 3
Main Highways Revenue Account (section 24, Motor-vehicles Act, 1924)	4,485	7,415 14 1
Local authorities (by-law offences)	352	286 2 6
Total	14,988	27,411 8 10

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

At Headquarters the finger-impressions of 2,646 persons were received, classified, searched, indexed, and filed during the year; 207 persons were identified as previous offenders who, had it not been for the finger-print system, would have passed as first offenders; 1,967 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the Branch; the photographs of 2,123 prisoners (4,112 photographs) were dealt with, 496 photographs were reproduced in the *Police Gazette*, 16 wanted persons located, and one deceased person was identified by his finger-prints.

In 51 cases of breaking and entering, &c., finger-prints left by the offenders when committing the crimes were identified as belonging to 26 persons, who were prosecuted. In 3 of these cases enlarged photographs were prepared and the necessary evidence tendered, both in the lower and upper Courts. In these cases the offenders were found guilty by the juries and sentenced for their crimes. The 23 other offenders pleaded guilty at the lower Court.

It is interesting to note that the finger-print system has to date been responsible for the identification of no less than 6,516 persons.

The following table shows the increase in the finger-print collection since the introduction of the finger-print system of identification 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	1921 ..	26,650	2,964	232
1905 ..	4,200	700	72	1922 ..	28,408	1,758	255
1906 ..	5,000	800	88	1923 ..	30,284	1,876	292
1907 ..	6,151	1,151	104	1924 ..	31,929	1,645	289
1908 ..	7,622	1,471	123	1925 ..	33,802	1,873	267
1909 ..	8,718	1,096	138	1926 ..	35,844	2,042	292
1910 ..	9,919	1,201	140	1927 ..	37,808	1,964	255
1911 ..	10,905	986	148	1928 ..	39,409	1,601	276
1912 ..	12,097	1,192	178	1929 ..	40,852	1,443	208
1913 ..	13,552	1,455	183	1930 ..	42,371	1,519	239
1914 ..	15,302	1,750	230	1931 ..	43,973	1,602	257
1915 ..	16,682	1,380	270	1932 ..	45,692	1,719	215
1916 ..	18,134	1,452	218	1933 ..	47,306	1,614	213
1917 ..	19,508	1,374	166	1934 ..	48,545	1,239	183
1918 ..	20,982	1,474	132	1935 ..	49,796	1,251	200
1919 ..	22,332	1,350	153	1936 ..	51,053	1,257	207
1920 ..	23,686	1,354	176				

On 31st March, 1936, the finger-print collection in Auckland totalled 4,848 sets, being made up as follow: Males, 4,566; females, 258; and foreign, 24 sets.

During the year 790 sets of finger-prints were received from the Mount Eden Prison or taken at the Criminal Registration Branch, and were duly classified, searched, and filed.

The photographs of 160 prisoners were taken and 857 prints were taken from the negatives; also a large number of photographs of scenes of crimes and motor accidents, &c., were taken. The total number of photographs produced by the Branch during the year was 1,761. Two volumes (600 photos) of prisoners' photographs were received, card-indexed, and the cards filed in order of finger-print classification. The remanded-prisoner forms, together with the results of the cases inserted, for 310 prisoners were dealt with and returned to the Criminal Registration Branch, Wellington.

In 10 cases offenders who would not otherwise have been known as having been previously convicted were traced by their finger-prints, some of them having been "wanted" under other names.