

for recklessly operating motor vehicles, exceeding the speed limit and other causes having to do particularly with the safety of the general public. Arrests involving peace cases decreased by more than 1,800 and 952 fewer persons were apprehended for violation of the lottery laws.

Comparison of offenses of serious character reported in 1931 with the number reported in the previous year shows the following:

<i>Offense</i>	<i>1931</i>	<i>1930</i>	<i>In-crease</i>	<i>De-crease</i>
Aggravated Assault..	145	133	12	
Murder	79	63	16	
Rape	45	55		10
Larceny (exclusive of automobiles)	4,172	4,429		257
False Pretense.....	686	755		69
Embezzlement	71	68	3	
Robbery	513	413	100	
Burglary	2,540	1,785	755	
Forgery	36	16	20	
Manslaughter	185	144	41	

The total of such cases this year—8,472, as compared with those occurring in 1930,—7,861, disclose an increase of 7.8%, but arrests in these offenses total 3,802,—44.9%, as compared with 3,580—45.5% in the previous year.

Cases of robbery as above listed, include in the main, reports that might be considered as of a petty nature, such as robbery of chauffeur by occupant of taxicab and similar situations arising at filling stations and in neighborhood stores, but loot in the majority of instances has been trifling; nevertheless, for statistical purposes, these crimes have been classified as indicated. The Department, too, is handicapped in its investigation of situations of this character as it frequently happens that the victim is unable to cooperate even to the extent of furnishing an accurate description of the culprit.

A similar situation exists with respect to reports of burglaries. The amount obtained in most instances was very small and the increase in number is probably accounted for by the prevailing economic situation. It is a pleasure, however, to report that approximately all serious cases, in this classification, have been cleared by arrest and it has not been necessary to call upon members of the Department for extra service as the result of any crime condition during the year.