

ARRESTS IN 1903

Number Reaches Total of 4,419.

MORE THAN IN 1902

OVER 1,000 DRUNKS WERE IN FOR "SAFE KEEPING."

During the Year the Department Picked Up 40 Fugitives from Justice.

At 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon the turnkey's record at the central police station showed 354 arrests for the month of December, 1903, while at the Lagrange street station 64 arrests were recorded for the same period, making a total for the month of 418, and a grand total for the year just closed of 4,419. This is an increase of 538 arrests over the total of 3,881 over the year 1902 and an increase of 1,001 over the record for 1901. It was 3,437 for 1901.

All this, too, in a city where people ought to be getting better and better every day. However, the figures to be taken into consideration of the persons arrested were not criminals.

For instance, of the total number, 1,073 were simply locked up for safe keeping with no charge placed against them. In the majority of instances the "safe keepers" are drunks who are sent to headquarters for a few hours in which to sober up. Those who are released on the following morning, so that their incarceration has really been a kindness to them in more ways than one. Many a man has a whole head and a good bank roll the next day just through the fact that some kindly disposed officer has sent him to headquarters for safe keeping, whereas had he not been arrested he might be beaten unmercifully and robbed in the bargain by some thug or foot pad who would happen to cross his path.

During the year 620 persons were arrested on "suspicion" and afterwards released without having a charge placed against them. This class includes principally strangers in the city, those who have come into the city by way of the freight car route, have no visible means of support and whose appearance may lead the police to believe that possibly they are thieves and crooks. There is no ball to the charge of suspicion, hence it is the most effective charge which can be entered against one and is often employed temporarily to detain a dangerous criminal until a thorough investigation can be made.

Petit larceny is the next most common charge, there having been 357 charges of that nature during 1903.

The record also indicates that there were 217 persons arrested against whom a charge of drunkenness was preferred. Of course this is every drunk who fits the station, for the safe keeping of a rum soaked getting off scot and otherwise have to pay up a fine of \$5 and costs like that.

There were 10 arrests made in which the charge of burglary followed, the prisoners' names and during the year 10 horse thieves were booked for jobs done in Toledo.

That common charge, assault and battery, is another favorite, the arrests for this offense numbering 247.

Fifty-nine fugitives from justice were also picked up by the local patrolmen and detectives from time to time and held for the authorities of other cities. Many of these were horse thieves and others, forgers, etc., with now and then a case of grand larceny.

HIGHWAYMEN IDENTIFIED

**WILLIAM DIXON SAID TO HAVE
ROBBED VICTIM OF TWEN-
TY-NINE DOLLARS.**

William Dixon, a bartender at the Pearl hotel, was arrested at 3:45 this morning by Patrolmen Jackson and Herman, and is suspected of being a highway robber. At that hour Dixon came running down Washington street from the alley between Superior and Huron streets, and was stopped by the officers.

He claimed he had been mixed up in a fight at Erie and Washington streets, and was being taken back to the place where Dixon alleged the fight took place when the officers met three men, who reported that there had been a hold-up at the corner of Huron and Monroe streets.

Dixon was taken to the station and there identified by the victim, Oliver Alexander, of 223 Cherry street. Later the officers found \$29 in bills lying in the snow. It is supposed that Dixon threw the money away.