

now occupied by the force at New Plymouth, have been relined and painted. New stalls and racks have been added to the stable, which has also been thoroughly drained and paved. At Okato the quarters have also been much improved.

4. *Fencing, &c.*—Over 20 chains of ditch and bank fencing have been completed to enclose the new Government paddock at Pukearuru, and about 8 chains of post-and-rail fencing also erected for the same purpose. The fencing at Marsland Hill, New Plymouth, has also been repaired.

5. *Miscellaneous.*—Many repairs have been required to the old buildings at the camp, frequently injured by bad weather and heavy gales during the year. A paddock of about 20½ acres has been cleared and sown with cock's-foot, rye, and clover, for the use of the troop and pack-horses. Roads about the camp have been partially repaired, and much other work of a minor but necessary nature performed, keeping the force usefully employed throughout the year.

REMARKS.

I have the honor to report that the general behaviour of the Force in this district has been exceptionally good throughout the year. No discharge for misconduct has occurred, and very few complaints of irregular behaviour have been brought under my notice, a result attributable to the careful supervision of the officers and non-commissioned officers in charge of the several posts.

The conduct of the working parties at Mimi and Kaipikari, in charge of Sergeants Morley and Roberts respectively, is deserving of special mention; as also that of a party of mounted men under Sergeant Boyce, employed on special service at Okato. These men, in addition to other orderly and despatch duties, have carried the daily double telegram since 1st October last, riding over 15,500 miles without a breakdown. This service is an arduous one in the winter months for both horses and men.

I am glad to remark that much interest is still taken in our Rifle Association, and many lately-joined recruits are becoming fair average shots. The champion at the annual Government Prize Firing was tied by Constable Elder, of this district.

The men are now quartered in comfortable barracks, and, as far as possible, substantial buildings have taken the place of tents and old raupo whares at the several camps.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR TUKE, Inspector,
Commanding Taranaki District.

The Commissioner, Armed Constabulary, Wellington.

Enclosure 8 in No. 1.

Inspector TURNER, Wanganui and Patea District, to the COMMISSIONER, Armed Constabulary Force.

SIR,—

Armed Constabulary District Office, Patea, 1st June, 1875.

In accordance with instructions contained in Circular Memorandum No. 161, dated 23rd March, 1875, I have the honor to forward a report of the duties performed by the Armed Constabulary Force in the Wanganui and Patea District during the past twelve months.

MILITARY DUTIES.

Average Strength of Officers and Men in District.—One inspector, 2 sub-inspectors for duty in district, 1 sub-inspector attached to Survey Department, and 60 non-commissioned officers and constables.

Nature of Parades and Drills.—The detachments at the various out-stations have been exercised as follows:—At Waihi, H.M.O. parade and drill every Wednesday. At Opunake, skirmishing and company drill every day, weather permitting, and H.M.O. parade each Wednesday. Divine service parades have been held regularly at every station.

Patrolling and Scouting.—Beyond communication by means of mounted orderlies between the various stations, no duty of this nature has been performed.

Carriage of Mails and Despatches.—As Cobb and Co.'s coach carries a mail bi-weekly between Wanganui and Hawera, there has been little occasion for employing constables on this duty.

On the arrival of mails from Wellington and New Plymouth at Hawera, they are immediately taken on by mounted orderlies.

Mounted Escorts, Guards, &c.—Mounted orderlies, furnished from Otaki station, were constantly in attendance on His Excellency the Governor, during his visit to the Rangitikei District.

Civil prisoners, committed at Carlyle or Hawera for trial at New Plymouth, have been escorted thither by foot constables.

Number of escorts to New Plymouth and Wanganui, provided from this district, 9.

Up to the beginning of February, 1875, a guard of one non-commissioned officer and three constables was posted daily at Waihi; but since then, the strength of that station being considerably reduced, two constables only have been detailed daily for guard.

Police supervision has been constantly exercised at the smaller out-stations.

Improving Target Ranges.—The old range at Waihi, being still available, has been kept cleared, and the butts properly attended to.

Issuer and Storekeeper.—One foot constable has been employed as storeman throughout the year.

Erection of Redoubts, &c.—At Opunake, distant 28 miles from Waihi and 52 miles from Patea, a new station has been formed, a detachment of a sergeant-major and 21 constables having been sent there direct from the depôt.

No redoubt has been erected at Opunake, the iron building forming part of the flax-mill having been used as a barracks.