

SESS. II.—1879.
NEW ZEALAND.

NEW ZEALAND CONSTABULARY

(ANNUAL REPORTS ON).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

No. 1.

The Hon. Colonel WHITMORE to His Excellency the GOVERNOR.

New Zealand Constabulary Commissioner's Office,
Wellington, 24th July, 1879.

SIR,—

I have to forward herewith, for your Excellency's information, the enclosed reports from the Inspecting Superintendents of the Police Branch of the Armed Constabulary in each Island.

In connection with these reports, I have to inform your Excellency that the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee which sat last year have been carried out, and many of the officers and subordinate members of the force have been removed from one station to another throughout both Islands.

The detective branch of the force has been increased in numbers, and its efficiency is improved. A Bill has been prepared for creating a pension fund for the force by deductions from the pay of the members, aided by a Government grant: the pay of the force was temporarily increased last year on the understanding that the Government would undertake this step. Should the present proposal be carried into effect, good men will obtain an advantage and encouragement which must exercise a beneficial effect upon the force.

The requirements of the increasing population of the colony render some addition both to the numbers and accommodation of the force absolutely essential; but the proportion of police to the population here compares favourably with that of other colonies and countries.

The course adopted during the last two years of confining the employment of the police to those duties properly belonging to the force until now enabled the Superintendents to avoid a larger augmentation than the very limited one of last year, but it is now found necessary to propose a further increase to the numbers for the consideration of Parliament.

I have pleasure in reporting to your Excellency that the officers and members of the force have, during the past year, conducted themselves with great propriety and intelligence, and have manifested much promptitude and zeal on several remarkable occasions.

The Inspecting Superintendents have been unremitting in their efforts to keep up a high standard of character in the force.

The Armed Constabulary (Reserve Branch) has, owing to the state of things on the West Coast, been very largely increased during the current year. Great care and attention have been bestowed upon the selection of candidates for admission, and it has been thought right to enrol a proportion of men who, though beyond the regulation age, have already acquired some experience in active field service in the colony.

As it is hoped that the necessity for maintaining so large a force will be but temporary, several of the officers appointed have been informed that their services will not necessarily be continued, in the event of a reduction taking place.

I cannot give too much praise to the officers and Drill Instructors of the dépôt for the manner in which the equipment and training of the force has been carried out; and I may add that Lieut.-Colonel Lyon, in Waikato, has also given material assistance in the same direction.

The Armed Constabulary Reserve Force at present consists of 870 men of all ranks, of which number 600 are on the West Coast, and 100 in Wellington. All are armed with short Sniders, and fully equipped for active service. At all the principal stations large reserves of ammunition and stores are collected, and the officers serving with the force have already acquired great experience in the field.

Lieut.-Colonel Roberts, N.Z.C., is in command of the main force on the West Coast, and Lieut.-Colonel Lyon remains in command of the Waikato Frontier District.

While expressing a strong hope that peace may be preserved, still I desire to assure your Excellency that the colony may firmly rely on the efficiency of the force now assembled on the West Coast should any outbreak occur.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, G.C.M.G.

G. S. WHITMORE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Superintendent SHEARMAN to the Hon. the COMMISSIONER, New Zealand Constabulary.

New Zealand Constabulary Depôt, Wellington,

31st May, 1879.

SIR,—

In reply to your letter of the 7th May, No. 352, I have the honor to forward the following report showing the state of the police in the North Island, where employed, and how far they have been successful in preventing and detecting crime.

The officers have shown unusual zeal for the service and ability in conducting the many onerous duties devolving on them; they have been willingly and well assisted by the sergeants; and the constables, with few exceptions, have given the utmost satisfaction. All grades have provided themselves with clothing according to the uniform pattern. The mounted division of the force is supplied with carbines, revolvers, and ammunition; and the foot with batons. The house accommodation is indifferent throughout, though improving; there are some buildings in course of erection, and others contemplated. The officers, with two exceptions, are without quarters. Complete records for future reference have been introduced at the several stations. Steps have been taken to place the members of the force in a position to make themselves acquainted with the laws of the country. The police in districts where the population is scattered are still, in many instances, without horses to enable them to move about with facility, make themselves acquainted with the community, roads, and tracks, and to prevent and detect crime. Members of the force are employed, in some instances, as gaolers, bailiffs, clerks to the Bench, poundkeepers, dog registrars, rent collectors for Immigration Department, immigration officers, distributors of charitable aid, and inspectors of nuisances, thereby subverting the discipline of the service, failing, as a rule, to give satisfaction in any capacity, and increasing the cost of the department.

The tabular form attached, marked A, will show the total strength, 212, exclusive of men employed as gaolers, and 88 police stations. Taking the population to be 220,897 it will give one member of the force to every 1,041 of the population, and the cost of maintenance will be 3s. 7d. per head per annum. Stations have been established during the current period in the following places:—Newtown, Wellington; Awanui, Kopua, Tolago Bay, and Woodville, Hawke's Bay; Whakatane, Tauranga, Paeroa and Wangaroa, Auckland; and Halcombe, Wanganui. Others have been authorized at Waipukurau, Hawke's Bay; Katikati and Maketu, Tauranga; Warkworth, Auckland; and Stratford, Taranaki. The present expenditure in many places where stations are established would be sufficient to meet the requirements of a much larger population: with the increase of numbers there will be a proportionate decrease of cost. Permanent reductions on the cost of maintenance could be effected in forage by providing paddocks for use of the department.

The Offences Return for 1877, marked B, shows that 6,059 offences came to the knowledge of the police: 205 were committed for trial, 4,853 summarily convicted, 747 discharged, and 5,805 prosecuted, leaving 254 offences undetected. In 1878, 6,726 reported, 184 committed, 5,241 summarily convicted, 910 discharged, 6,335 prosecuted, 391 undetected; showing, for 1878, 667 more offences known to police, 21 less committed for trial, 388 more summary convictions, 163 more discharged, 530 more prosecuted, and 137 more undetected. The apparent increase is to be attributed to additional population, also a more correct system of recording crime, and is principally confined to minor offences. The cases committed for trial before the Supreme Court number 21 less than for the previous year.

In the future much can be done to prevent crime by the members of the force making themselves acquainted with all classes of the community, their places of abode, the habits and means of subsistence of possible criminals and the criminal class, possessing a thorough knowledge of the roads, tracks, and by-ways, visiting places frequently at uncertain times, and being always ready for any emergency. Certainty of detection and speedy punishment have a powerful influence to prevent and deter the criminal class and those who would otherwise drift into habits of crime. It is a well-known fact that people who live by dishonest means will discover and select the places where they can ply their calling with least hindrance and to the best advantage.

The Ordinances in force in the various provincial districts for the managing of towns and other populous places are dissimilar, meagre, and ill-adapted for present requirements. I beg to submit it would improve the efficiency of the police, contribute to the safety, good order, and comfort of the community, and be the means of introducing many advantages, to repeal the whole and have a comprehensive Act passed similar to the ones now in force in most of the other colonies.

The provisions of an Act for preventing the adulteration of food or drugs, and selling or exhibiting for sale adulterated or unwholesome food or drugs, can only, under the existing law, be enforced by Inspectors of Nuisances or Inspectors of Weights and Measures: where there are no persons holding such appointments the Act ceases to take effect; and Wellington and Auckland are the only places where there are legally-appointed analysts. I respectfully beg to submit that the Act be amended, and similar powers to those held by Inspectors of Nuisances and Weights and Measures be extended to the police; that persons selling or exhibiting for sale be compelled, on demand, to sell, at the current rates, any articles of consumption; and that an analyst be appointed for each of the large towns, principally to check that nefarious and growing evil of adulterating liquors, thus tending to reduce the number of inmates in lunatic asylums, and protecting the revenue from fraud.

I have, &c.,

R. C. SHEARMAN,

Superintendent in Charge of North Island Police.

The Hon. the Commissioner of
Armed Constabulary, Wellington.

PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION in the NORTH ISLAND for the Year ending 30th June, 1880.

Number of Stations.	District.	Station.	Super-intendents.		Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Sergeants-Major.	Sergeants.	Mounted Constables.	Foot Constables.	Detectives.	Strength of Station.	Horses.	Remarks.
			1st Class.	2nd Class.										
1	Wellington	Wellington	*1	1	+2	4	1	25	2	36	1	* In charge of North Island Police, † Sergeant-Major who compiles <i>Police Gazette</i> included.
2	"	Lower Hutt	1	...	1	...	Mounted instead of Foot Constable proposed. Mounted instead of Foot Constable proposed. Proposed increase, 1 Mounted Sergeant. Mounted instead of Foot Constable proposed. Mounted instead of Foot Constable proposed. Established from 1st October, 1878.
3	"	Upper Hutt	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
4	"	Featherston	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
5	"	Greytown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
6	"	Carterton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
7	"	Masterton	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...
8	"	Whareama	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
9	"	Porirua	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
10	"	Newtown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
10	Proposed	strength	1	1	2	5	5	30	2	46	6	
11	Napier	Napier	1	2	1	6	1	11	1	Proposed. Proposed. Established from 1st October, 1878.
12	"	Taradale	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
13	"	Clive	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
14	"	Harelock	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
15	"	Waipawa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
16	"	Waipukurau	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
17	"	Kopua	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
18	"	Danevirik	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
19	"	Woodville	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
20	"	Porangahau	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
21	"	Spit	2	...	2	...	Established from 1st March, 1878. Established from 1st October, 1878.
22	"	Wairoa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
23	"	Gisborne	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	5	1
24	"	Ormond	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
25	"	Tolago Bay	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
26	"	Awanui	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	3	2
16	Proposed	strength	...	...	1	...	...	5	11	15	1	33	12
27	Tauranga	Tauranga	1	1	1	3	...	6	1	Mounted instead of Foot Constable proposed. Mounted instead of Foot Constable proposed. Established from 1st August, 1878. Proposed.
28	"	Opotiki	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	1
29	"	Ohinemutu	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
30	"	Whakatane	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
31	"	Katikati	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
32	"	Maketu	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
6	Proposed	strength	...	...	1	...	...	2	6	3	...	12	6

PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION in the NORTH ISLAND—continued.

Number of Stations.	District.]	Station.	Super-intendents.		Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Sergeants-Major.	Sergeants.	Mounted Constables.	Foot Constables.	Detectives.	Strength of Station.	Horses.	Remarks.
			1st Class.	2nd Class.										
33	Auckland	Auckland	..	1	..	1	1	6	2	22	2	35	2	
34	"	Alexandra	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
35	"	Cambridge	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	
36	"	Coromandel	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	
37	"	Dargaville	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
38	"	Devenport	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	
39	"	Freeman's Bay	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
40	"	Grahamstown...	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	8	1	10	..	
41	"	Hamilton East	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	1	
42	"	Hamilton West	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	
43	"	Helensville	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
44	"	Hokianga	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	
45	"	Kawakawa	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	
46	"	Mercer	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
47	"	Mercury Bay	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
48	"	Mongonui	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
49	"	Newcastle	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	
50	"	Newtown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
51	"	Onehunga	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	
52	"	Otahuhu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
53	"	Paeroa	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	
54	"	Panmure	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	
55	"	Papakura	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	
56	"	Parnell	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	
57	"	Raglan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
58	"	Russell	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
59	"	Shortland	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2	..	
60	"	Te Awamutu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
61	"	Te Kopuru	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
62	"	Whangarei	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
63	"	Whatawhata	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
64	"	Craigieburn	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
65	"	Mangawai	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
66	"	Port Albert	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
67	"	Tairua	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	
68	"	Waiuku	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
69	"	Whangaroa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
70	"	Warkworth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
38	Proposed	strength ..	..	1	..	2	1	14	5	66	4	93	5	Established from 5th September, 1878. District Constable replaced by regular Constable from 27th August, 1878. Proposed.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

Superintendent WELDON to the Hon. the COMMISSIONER, New Zealand Constabulary.

SIR,—

Constabulary Office, Dunedin, 30th June, 1879.

In submitting my annual report for this year, I have the honor to state that the system of working the Constabulary in divisions (inaugurated a little over twelve months ago) is, so far as it affects the South Island, giving much satisfaction. It is found to admit of dispensing with a certain amount of supervision over officers holding responsible positions, and accelerates the general transaction of business. Indeed the acceleration and ease of the system is not alone apparent, but obviously felt as being most effectual, economic, and simple; and the more effect that is given thereto, particularly in carrying out the minor details by the divisional superintendent, the still higher will this system be appreciated.

The division now consists of twelve districts (that is, including those called subdistricts), each presided over by an inspector or sub-inspector, who is afforded ample means of speedily giving effect to all matters connected with crime. The boundaries of these districts are, as far as possible, in conformity with those of counties, so that, if thought advisable, the services of the police can be advantageously utilized in the collection of statistics.

It may be seen that, by a readjustment in the matter of supervision, the services of one inspector, one sub-inspector, five sergeants, and three district constables have been dispensed with, which, with little additional expense, admits of an increase of seventeen constables, who were much needed consequent upon the increase of the population.

I think I can fairly say that the peace of the division is, and has been, well maintained. But, owing to so many experienced men having left the force, the burden of the work devolved upon the officers, sergeants, and senior constables, who have worked zealously, and indeed to them may be ascribed the credit of having upheld the efficiency of the service; for, although no doubt the men of short service have also done their best, yet their deficiency in the knowledge of their duties obviously places them at a disadvantage for a time.

Forwarded herewith are the following returns:—

No. 1. The numerical strength and distribution of the police of the division.

No. 2. Criminal statistics thereof.

No. 3. Police and stations as localized, and the crime of the respective districts.

No. 4. Number of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and prosecutions against licensees for breaches of the licensing law.

No. 5. Inquests on dead bodies, and on fires.

No. 6. Resignations and discharges from the force.

The return of the distribution of the force shows that there are 276 of all ranks, including district constables, but exclusive of gaolers, and posted at 108 stations. Thus, estimating the population of this Island to be 270,000 or thereabouts, it gives one policeman to about every 978 persons. It will further be seen, by comparing the return of this year with that of last year, that an increase of six stations has taken place.

Notwithstanding an increase of about 14,000 in the population since last year, yet the criminal statistics have not, I may say, proportionately increased. Out of 7,431 cases reported, 6,954 of the offenders were arrested, leaving only about 6 per cent. of undetected crime. Needless to say the best efforts are being directed to the repression of crime, and, satisfactory as this is at present, I anticipate that year after year still better results will follow.

Return No. 3 classifies the crimes under the headings of offences against the person, against property, and miscellaneous. It also shows the localities where the offences were committed, hence a comparison can easily be made as to the crimes of the respective districts and the repressive efforts of the police thereof. This is the first time that this system of comparison has been introduced here; but, as the officers in charge of the districts alluded to are held responsible for the repression of crime within their respective commands, I propose that due notice be taken of those who show best results with the average number of police to population.

As the excessive use of intoxicating liquors has unquestionably much to do with crime, I accordingly furnish a return of the number of places licensed in this division for the sale of such liquors, and by it may be seen that, irrespective of that sold by wholesale, there is 1 retail* licensed house to about every 210 of the population. This return likewise gives information as to prosecutions against licensees for breaches of the licensing law. But, while upon this subject, permit me to say that, as there exists the general and detective Constabulary to cope with crime, so ought there, in my opinion, be established another branch of the force, to be known as the revenue police, to specially enforce the licensing law, the law dealing with the adulteration of food and liquor, the prohibition of illicit distillation of spirits, smuggling, &c.; and, with the information derivable by each branch of the service, and the whole working in co-operation, obviously the usefulness of the department could be immensely increased.

In furnishing a return of inquests on dead bodies and on fires, I have but little to say on the former, save that the dangers, difficulties, hardships, &c., which beset persons in the colonies are attributable to sudden deaths. But, as to the latter, I may mention that fires are of such frequent occurrence, and so little to be gained by inquests thereon, that that mode of investigation is falling into disuse. The chief cause for the many fires which have taken place is assignable to accidents, combined with carelessness, and wilfulness, to obtain the amount of insurance. Not unfrequently are insurance companies blamed for taking heavy risks, which tend to divest persons holding policies of insurance of interest as to their loss. It is needless, however, to say that every exertion is being made by the police to prevent fires, and rewards are offered up to £500 for information leading to the conviction of incendiaries.

A cause may possibly be sought for to account for so many men having left the force, but when it is

* This includes bottle licenses.

borne in mind the opportunities police have of finding out how best they can employ themselves, it is easy to understand their accepting more lucrative positions than that which the service holds out to them; and when they look around and see so many ex-members of the force, and probably their companions, who have gone into business and prospered, it is only human to follow the example. Again, there are others who do not suit the force and whom the force does not suit, hence resignations and discharges ensue. But, no doubt, when the members of the force generally have something in the shape of retiring allowances to look forward to, then the inducements here as elsewhere will be such as to retain the services of men so long as they are useful.

I have not thought fit, in this report, to enter into the minute details connected with minor departmental matters, as these from time to time form subjects for special representation. Hence I have only alluded in a general sense to the state of the police of this Island; and in doing so venture to hope that the present arrangements, which are working well, may continue, and also give satisfaction.

I have, &c.,

To the Under Secretary,
Constabulary Department, Wellington.

T. K. WELDON,
Superintendent of Constabulary.

Table No. 1.
SOUTH ISLAND DIVISION OF CONSTABULARY.
RETURN showing the STRENGTH and DISTRIBUTION of CONSTABULARY on 30th April, 1879.

District.	Stations.	Numerical Strength.												Gaolers.						Remarks.							
		Officers.				District Clerks.	Sergeants.			Constables.			Detectives.			Sergeants.			Constables.			Totals.					
		Superintendent, 1st class.	Superintendent, 2nd class.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.		1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.	Sergeant-Major.	1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.	1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.	1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.								
Otago	MacLagan Street, Dunedin	1	..	1	..	1	1	1	1	2	2	5	8	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	Decrease, 1 sergeant. Increase, 8 constables, 6 new stations. Transferred to Blenheim, 1 sub-inspector (Smith). Transferred from Westland, 1 sub-inspector (O'Donnell). Transferred to Wellington, 1 sergeant. Transferred from Canterbury, 1 sergeant, 4 constables, 2 stations.	
	King Street, Dunedin	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11		
	North-East Valley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Ravensbourne	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Kensington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Anderson's Bay	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Caversham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Linden	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Mornington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Green Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Mosgiel	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Outram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Port Chalmers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		15
	Blueskin	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Palmerston	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		2
	Hawkesbury	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Macrae's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Invercargill	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		8
	Riverton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		2
	Campbelltown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		2
	Winton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Lowther	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Mataura	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Gore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
	Waikua	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1
Orepuki	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1		
Stewart Island	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5		
Lawrence	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2		
Milton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2		
Waihola	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1		
Balclutha	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1		
Kaitangata	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1		
Clinton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1		
Tapanui	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2		
Waitahuna	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1		

Table No. 1.—continued.
SOUTH ISLAND DIVISION OF CONSTABULARY
RETURN showing the STRENGTH and DISTRIBUTION, &c.—continued.

District.	Stations.	Numerical Strength.										Gaolers.			Remarks.					
		Officers.			District Clerks.	Sergeants.			Constables.			Detectives.	District Constables.							
		Superintendent, 1st class.	Superintendent, 2nd class.	Inspectors.		Sub-Inspectors.	Sergeant-Major.	1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.										
Westland—con.	Brought forward	2	...	8	1	2	2	18	10	11	70	46	51	1	5	...	1	2	238	Otago District, 1 sub-inspector (O'Donnell). Transferred to Nelson District, 1 sergeant. Transferred to form a new (Grey) district, 1 inspector (Feast), 3 sergeants, 17 constables.
	Kanieri	1	
	Ross	1	
	Okarito	1	
Grey	Ararua	1	8	
	Greyhound	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Greenstone	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Dunstanville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	No Town	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Ahaura	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Reefton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Lytell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3
	Westport	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Charleston	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3
Nelson	Nelson	...	1	2	1	...	3	1	2	1	...	11	Transferred from Wellington, 1 superintendent (Atchison). Transferred to Hokitika, 1 inspector (Kiely). Transferred from Wellington, 1 sergeant. Increase, 1 constable. Transferred to Canterbury District, 1 district constable. Discharged, 1 district constable. 1 station (Waiau) transferred to Canterbury District.	
	Richmond	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Spring Grove	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Collingwood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Motueka	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Moutere	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Motueka Valley	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marlborough...	Blenheim	1	1	...	2	1	5	Transferred to North Island Division, 1 inspector (Emerson). Transferred from Otago District, 1 sub-inspector (Smith). Transferred to Canterbury District, 1 constable. 1 station (Kaikoura) transferred to Canterbury District.	
	Havelock	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Picton	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Totals	2	1	9	2	2	2	23	12	13	85	55	57	1	5	1	7	1		289

T. K. WELDON,
Superintendent of Constabulary, in charge of South Island Division.

Table No. 2.

SOUTH ISLAND DIVISION OF CONSTABULARY.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of OFFENCES REPORTED, PERSONS APPREHENDED, and COMPARISON of CRIME, during the YEAR ending the 30th April, 1878, and the YEAR ending the 30th April, 1879.

OFFENCES.	1878.										1879.									
	Number of all Offences reported.	Persons Apprehended.						Total Number of Persons Apprehended.	Number of all Offences reported.	Persons Apprehended.						Total Number of Persons Apprehended.	Increase.	Decrease.		
		Committed for Trial.		Summarily Convicted.		Discharged.				Committed for Trial.		Summarily Convicted.		Discharged.						
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.					
Abduction	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abortion	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abducting from bail	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arson	25	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arson, attempted	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Assaults, common	231	...	...	...	...	166	12	53	...	161	11	63	...	243	...	...	...
Assaults, violent	9	...	...	...	...	4	...	2	...	4	...	1	...	7	...	...	...
Assaults on police	193	...	...	...	...	180	3	7	...	136	6	6	...	148	...	...	...
Assaults, indecent	23	...	...	...	...	13	...	3	...	2	...	7	...	20	...	...	...
Assaults and robbery	1	...	...	...	...	6	1	...	...	5	...	6	...	15	...	...	...
Assaults with intent to do bodily harm	15	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bestiality	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bigamy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Breach of the peace	115	...	...	...	...	104	1	10	...	96	9	31	...	136	...	...	...
Burglary, attempted	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	1	...	...	...	5	...	...	...
Breaking into offices and attempting to steal therefrom	20	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cattle-stealing	18	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Carrying offensive weapons	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Concealment of birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Contempt of Court	25	...	...	...	...	22	...	3	...	18	2	2	...	23	...	...	...
Conspiring to defraud	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
Child desertion	9	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cruelty to animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cutting and wounding with intent	6	...	...	...	...	4	...	2	...	6	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Damaging property	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Damaging police uniform	143	...	...	...	...	90	10	12	...	82	10	83	...	135	...	...	...
Demanding money by menaces and threats	5	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	10	1	...	...	11	...	...	...
Debtors and Creditors Act, breach of	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Disorderly conduct	...	...	...	...	...	46	16	...	...	31	1	...	...	36	...	...	...
Drunk and disorderly	70	...	...	...	...	3,617	457	322	...	3,349	470	333	...	4,205	...	...	...
Carried forward	5,377	44	6	4,271	502	443	44	5,310	3,902	510	500	67	5,026	106	384	...	...	

Table No. 3.

SOUTH ISLAND DIVISION OF CONSTABULARY.

RETURN of the LOCAL DISTRIBUTION of the POLICE, also all CRIME reported in the respective DISTRICTS of the SOUTH ISLAND DIVISION of CONSTABULARY, &c., during the Year ending 30th April, 1879.

Districts.	Boundaries.	Popula- tion.	Number of Constabulary of all Ranks.	Number of Police Stations.	CRIME.					
					Reported.			Detected.		
					Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Miscellaneous.	Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Miscellaneous.
Dunedin ...	That of and including the Counties of Taieri, Waikouaiti, and Peninsula	62,119	57	17	153	172	1,286	149	123	1,216
Southland ...	That of and including the Counties of Southland, Wallace, and Fiord	23,000	19	10	34	6	110	33	2	86
Tuapeka ...	That of and including the Counties of Tuapeka, Clutha, and Bruce	16,663	17	10	14	6	226	14	5	205
Dunstan ...	That of and including the Counties of Vincent, Maniototo, and Lake	11,511	19	9	44	40	127	44	22	122
Oamaru ...	That of and including the Counties of Waitaki and Waimate	16,864	16	6	106	83	398	94	69	396
Selwyn ...	That of and including the Counties of Selwyn and Akaroa	58,084	62	15	155	393	1,695	153	360	1,641
Kaipoi ...	That of and including the Counties of Kaikoura, Cheviot, Ashley, and that portion of Amuri south of a line drawn from head of the Maruia to junction of the Acheron with Clarence River	15,199	12	7	30	43	170	27	25	167
Timaru ...	That of and including the Counties of Ashburton and Geraldine	20,287	19	7	118	138	863	107	102	833
Nelson ...	That of and including the Counties of Waimea, Sound, and Collingwood	16,000	17	7	25	5	199	25	4	194
Westland ...	That of and including the County of Westland	11,100	21	8	50	64	170	49	40	169
Grey ...	That of and including the Counties of Grey, Inangahua, and Buller	12,406	21	9	27	67	243	27	39	241
Marlborough ...	That of and including the Counties of Marlborough, Kaikoura, and that portion of Amuri and Cheviot north of a line drawn from head of the Maruia to junction of the Acheron with Clarence River	6,767	9	3	24	21	126	24	21	126
Total ...		270,000	289	108	780	1,038	5,613	746	812	5,396

T. K. WELDON,
Superintendent of Constabulary,
In charge of South Island Division.

No. 4.

SOUTH ISLAND DIVISION OF CONSTABULARY.

RETURN of INQUESTS held during the Year ending 30th April, 1879.

Districts.		Total No. of Inquests.	Inquests on Dead Bodies.—Verdicts.									Inquests on Fires.—Verdicts.				
			Accidental Deaths.	Excessive Drinking.	Found Dead.	Found Drowned.	Exposure.	Justifiable Homicide.	Manslaughter.	Murder.	Natural Causes.	Suicide.	Accidental.	Arson.	Arson Suspected.	Origin Unknown.
Otago	...	202	76	...	5	19	...	1	1	2	59	11	14	3	9	2
Canterbury	...	144	58	1	3	13	1	...	1	1	56	7	1	1	...	1
Westland	...	34	7	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	5	4	...	2	3	...
Grey	...	55	17	...	2	9	...	...	...	...	14	3	3	4	1	2
Nelson	...	35	13	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	11	...	1	1	...	6
Marlborough	...	11	4	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	1
Totals...		481	175	1	*10	*60	1	1	2	3	146	25	21	11	13	12

* No suspicion of foul play.

T. T. WELDON,
Superintendent of Constabulary,
In charge of South Island Division.

Table No. 5.

SOUTH ISLAND DIVISION OF CONSTABULARY.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of LICENSES issued for the SALE of FERMENTED and SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS in the respective DISTRICTS of the SOUTH ISLAND, and PROSECUTIONS initiated against the HOLDERS thereof, for the YEAR ending 30th April, 1879.

Districts.	Number of Licenses in District.	Number of Prosecutions against Licensees for Breaches of the Licensing Law.	Nature of Offences.	Number of Convicted.	Number of Dismissals.
Otago	General licenses, 483 Wholesale „ 66 Bottle „ 134	2 5 13 1 8 5 1 1 1 2 1 3 1 5	Employing a female more than ten hours in a bar Permitting gambling in licensed house Keeping licensed house open during prohibited hours Obscene language Selling drink on Sunday Supplying drink to persons in a state of drunkenness Allowing billiards to be played during prohibited hours Allowing billiards to be played without a license Allowing music and dancing without permission Allowing disorderly conduct Delaying to admit police Neglecting to provide urinal accommodation Neglecting to provide stabling Neglecting to keep lamp burning over doors	2 3 9 1 6 3 1 1 1 2 1 3 1 5	... 2 4 ... 2 2
Canterbury	General licenses, 220 Wholesale „ 154	1 6 24 4 7 1 1 1 1 6	Permitting drunkenness in licensed house Selling liquor to intoxicated persons Keeping open during prohibited hours Permitting gambling Neglecting to keep a lamp burning over door Refusing to supply travellers with meals Taking a book in pledge for liquor Selling without having received transfer of license Selling beer to Maoris in quantities that produce drunkenness Selling liquor to persons not partaking of refreshments...	1 2 10 2 5 1 ... 5	... 4 14 2 2 1 1 ... 1 1
Nelson	General licenses, 59 Wholesale „ 11 Bottle „ 2	1 3 ...	Neglecting to obtain a temporary license Neglecting to keep a lamp burning over door ...	1 2 ...	... 1 ...
Westland	General licenses, 136 Wholesale „ 11 Bottle „ 11	2 8 ...	Permitting gambling in licensed house Keeping licensed house open during prohibited hours ...	2 5 ...	... 3 ...
Grey	General licenses, 203 Wholesale „ 24 Bottle „ 6	1 5 18 9 1 1 3 1 2 1	Absent from licensed house without permission Employing females in bar during prohibited hours Keeping licensed house open during prohibited hours Neglecting to keep a lamp burning over door Neglecting to admit police on duty Neglecting to have name painted over door... Permitting disorderly conduct in licensed house Permitting drunkenness in licensed house Permitting gambling in licensed house Neglecting to obtain a temporary license	... 2 15 9 ... 1 1 2 1 2 1	1 3 3 ... 1 ... 2
Marlborough	General licenses, 30 Wholesale „ 2	1 2	Permitting disorderly conduct in licensed house Selling drink during prohibited hours	... ...	1 2
	Total ... 1,552	160	...	107	53

T. K. WELDON,
Superintendent of Constabulary,
In charge of South Island.

The Under Secretary for Defence, Wellington.

Table No. 6.
RETURN of REMOVALS from the FORCE during the YEAR ending 30th April, 1879.

Districts.				Resignations.	Discharges.	Dismissals.	Deaths.	Remarks, assigning chief Causes for Resignations, Discharges, and Dismissals.
Otago	...	...	...	9	4	10	2	Resignations.—1 appointed Bailiff to Resident Magistrate's Court, Lawrence; 1 to join the Railway Department, 1 to be a Clerk in Savings Bank at Dunedin, 1 to go into business as a blacksmith, 1 owing to ill-health (compensated), 1 to improve his position in life, 3 being discontented in the Force. Discharges.—1 for lunacy, 1 owing to ill-health (compensated), 1 for inefficiency, 1 for drunkenness. Dismissals.—9 for drunkenness, 1 for insubordinate conduct.
Canterbury	...	...	...	26	2	7	2	Resignations.—The wish to improve their position in life. Discharges.—Unfitness for the Force. Dismissals.—Drunkenness.
Westland	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2 for drunkenness and misconduct.
Grey	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	To pass through the Insolvency Court.
Nelson	...	...	...	2	1	3	...	Resignations.—1 to go into business, 1 was recommended to resign (ill-health). Discharges.—1 unfit for further service through injury received (compensated). Dismissals.—3 for drunkenness and neglect of duty.
Marlborough	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	Discharge.—For lunacy. Dismissal.—For drunkenness.
Totals	...	...	...	38	8	23	4	

T. K. WELDON,
Superintendent of Constabulary,
In charge, South Island Division.

No. 3.

Lieut.-Colonel LYON to the Hon. the COMMISSIONER, New Zealand Constabulary.

SIR,— Armed Constabulary Head Quarters, Cambridge, 27th June, 1879.

In accordance with Circular Memorandum No. 181, of 24th April, 1876, I have the honor to forward, for your information, the following reports of duties performed by the Armed Constabulary in the Waikato and other districts for the past year, and it gives me great pleasure to again testify to the attention to duty and general good conduct of the force under my command.

WAIKATO DISTRICT.
MILITARY DUTIES.

Average Strength of Officers and Men.—Three officers, 9 non-commissioned officers, and 62 constables.

Parades and Drills.—Divine service and heavy-marching-order parades once a week. Light infantry and company drill when sufficient men available.

Mails and Despatches.—A daily mail was carried by mounted orderlies, up to the 31st December, 1878, between Ohaupo and Kihikihi, when the postal authorities took over the duty. Orderlies are on the road daily between Alexandra and Ohaupo with mails.

Escorts and Guards.—Orderlies have been in attendance on Ministers during their visits to Waikato.

Target Ranges.—The ranges at Cambridge and Alexandra have been kept in good repair.

Issuer and Storekeeper.—Sergeant-Major Heany is issuer and storekeeper at head-quarters, and is also in charge of a considerable quantity of Public Works' stores.

Erection of Redoubts and Stockades.—No new redoubts or stockades have been erected during the year.

CIVIL DUTIES.

Ten non-commissioned officers and constables were employed, during the month of March, in collecting the agricultural statistics of the Electoral Districts of Waikato and Waipa. Assistance is rendered to local police when necessary.

Public and Useful Works.—Work was resumed on the Taupo and Cambridge Road in October, the detachment being divided into two parties, the main body proceeding to the Waipa, while a smaller party was stationed at Fergusson's Gully. The work at this point was of a heavy description and consisted in building a bridge across the Waipa Stream, and forming approaches thereto; and, I am glad to say, the way in which it has been completed reflects the greatest credit on the party. The bridge contains 360 lineal feet of 12 x 12 piling, and 11,500 feet of timber in the superstructure; the

length is 90 feet—namely, two spans of 25 feet each and two of 20. The approaches are embankments containing 3,000 cubic yards of earth, with retaining walls of stone, which had to be blasted by the men through a rock cutting five chains long, and carted by Armed Constabulary dray to the spot. On completion of the bridge and approaches this party moved to the Pieriri Creek and repaired and widened the approaches to a bridge which was built by Armed Constabulary last year. One and a half miles of road were widened and repaired, and numerous box and pipe culverts put in, their operations meeting the smaller party on the Cambridge side of the creek. This detachment has also done good work, completing an embankment over Fergusson Gully containing more than 3,000 cubic yards of earth, also repairing and widening six miles of road and laying down box and pipe culverts where necessary. This section of the road was very much cut up during the previous winter by traffic of heavy 4-horse wagons to and from the estates of Messrs. Maclean and Company, and other proprietors using the road. One temporary bridge was repaired and strengthened, and another replaced by a large wooden culvert. The road is now in a serviceable state as far as the Waipa Bridge, a distance of twenty miles from Cambridge.

At Kihikihi the barracks have been painted, officers' quarters lined and painted, the 10-acre paddock cleared of ferns, and fences kept in repair.

At Alexandra the small detachment has been fully employed keeping the redoubt in repair; ti-tree has been cut and carted for the purpose of repairing the banquette, the revêtement of which required renewing; the officers' quarters at this station have also been thoroughly repaired.

At Cambridge the District Office has been re-shingled and the verandah renewed; the five-acre paddock ploughed, harrowed, and re-sown; the two paddocks of 5 and 6 acres re-fenced with puriri posts and seven wires.

The cemetery at Whatawhata, which was in a dilapidated state, has been put in good order and neatly fenced with a substantial picket fence.

OPOTIKI DISTRICT.

MILITARY DUTIES.

Average Strength of Officers and Men in District.—Three officers and 66 non-commissioned officers and men.

Nature of Parades and Drills.—Divine-service parades at each station every Sunday, and heavy-marching-order and inspection parades once a week. Light infantry and company drill when necessary, and when sufficient men are available.

Operations in the Field.—Nil.

Patrolling and Scouting.—Nil.

Conveying Mails and Despatches.—A mail is carried weekly by orderly from Onepoto and Ohuka to Te Kapu, and a mail from Te Kapu to Te Wairoa daily. Despatches have been forwarded from station to station when necessary.

Escorts, Guards, &c.—A night-watchman is told off at each station every night, and remains till daylight, the stations not being strong enough to furnish a regular guard.

Making and Improving Target Ranges.—The target ranges at Tauranga and Te Kapu Stations have been cleaned and repaired.

Telegraph Linesmen.—Nil.

Issuers and Storekeepers.—The whole of the Armed Constabulary clothing, reserve arms, ammunition, &c., is placed under the charge of a non-commissioned officer at Tauranga, Opotiki, and Te Kapu Stations, and who also act as magazine-keepers, and render their returns of the reserve ammunition direct to the head storekeeper. The clothing is inspected monthly by each officer in charge of a station.

Redoubts and Stockades.—The redoubts at Tauranga, Opotiki, Te Kapu, and Onepoto Stations have been kept in good order and repair.

CIVIL DUTIES.

Steps taken for the Prevention of Crime.—This duty is performed by the police under command of Inspector Emerson, Tauranga.

Attending Civil Courts.—Nil.

Attending Lands Courts.—One constable attended the Native Lands Court at Matata from 5th July to 25th September, 1878, and two constables have daily attended the Lands Court, Tauranga, under Judge Wilson, since the 10th September last.

Collecting Agricultural Statistics.—Six constables were employed collecting the statistics on the East Coast.

Public and Useful Works: Nature and Extent of Road Works.—On the Motu and Ormond Road the following has been performed:—Formation, 653 chains; 7 chains of block cutting, containing 254 cubic yards; 212 chains of side cutting, containing 5,479 cubic yards; and 1,033 chains of bush have been felled and cleared. The whole extent of road repaired and cleared on this line during the year has been 40 miles; 50 chains of corduroying has also been done on this road during the year.

Building Bridges and Culverts.—At Opotiki station 6 constables have been employed, under the supervision of Mr. S. Crapp, Public Works officer, re-erecting a large bridge over the Waioeka River and a smaller one over the Hikutaia Creek, and building a new bridge over a cutting made in the embankment between the two bridges. The bridges and culverts between Te Kapu and Onepoto have been kept in repair, and in some instances rebuilt. Two constables have been employed in keeping the cuttings and culverts in repair for a distance of five miles on each side of the Ohuka Ferry. Four bridges have been repaired, and two entirely rebuilt. Ten culverts have been repaired, and in some places new ones have been formed on this road. Eighty culverts have also been built on the Ormond and Motu Road.

Building Houses, Stables, &c.—At Tauranga the roofs of the gymnasium and stable have been repaired, and the barrack-room verandah and building repaired and painted, and a partition erected for the purpose of forming a room for the use of non-commissioned officers. The mess-room has had new blocks put under it, the kitchen repaired and newly roofed, and a brick chimney built. At Opotiki 400 feet of timber has been sawn, and used in repairs to stable and in slabbing a new well that has been sunk (the old one having fallen in). A large boat-house, 60 feet by 20 feet, with walls 5 feet high, has been built for the protection of the whale-boats, and securely fenced, and a boat-way with rollers has been made from the shed to the water's edge. At Onepoto the forage-store and boat-house have been re-shingled and the roof of the cook-house repaired.

Fencing Paddocks and Laying Down in Grass.—At Te Kapu the paddocks have been securely fenced with a substantial wire fence, and dividing fences have also been erected on account of the different crops. Altogether about 77 chains of wire, 11 chains of post-and-rail, and 5 chains of manuka fence have been erected. The whole of the paddocks have been laid down in grass. Thirty-three chains of post-and-rail fencing at Onepoto has also been erected, the posts and rails being split at the station. At Opotiki Station 200 posts have been split and carted into the station for repairs to fences. At Tauranga a new line of fencing has been erected on west side of paddock, and the remainder repaired. The cemetery has been cleared of grass and weeds, and the fence repaired; the soldiers' and sailors' grave-fences, head-boards, &c., have been repaired.

Erecting and repairing Telegraph Lines.—Nil.

Building Sea-walls.—Nil.

REMARKS.

The following changes have taken place in the district during the year:—Eight constables have been discharged at their own request; 1 inspector, 1 sub-inspector, and 31 non-commissioned officers and men have been transferred from the district; and 1 sub-inspector and 10 non-commissioned officers and men transferred to the district. The behaviour of the force under my command during the year has been very good, only a few offences of a very trivial nature having occurred.

TARANAKI DISTRICT.

MILITARY DUTIES.

Average Strength.—The average strength has been 81, all ranks, except for the latter two months. Owing to the recent Native occurrences the force has been considerably increased, and at present date numbers 285 in all.

Parades and Drills.—The usual parades for inspection and drills have taken place.

Field Operations.—No operations in the field have been necessary.

Patrols.—A daily patrol has been despatched from Waihi to Normanby as hitherto, and armed patrols were sent out to intercept Hiroki, who escaped by an inland track. A daily patrol is also established from Okato to mouth of Stoney River.

Scouts.—At Waihi the men have been occasionally practiced in bush-skirmishing and scouting by Sub-Inspector Marshall, which will no doubt prove a benefit should their services be required in the field.

Carrying Mails.—Mails have been regularly conveyed between White Cliffs and Waitara twice a week; between Hawera and Normanby daily, until completion of telegraph to Waihi; and three times a week between Waihi and Opunake. Despatches are forwarded whenever it is necessary to do so.

Escorts and Guards.—Escorts and guards have been furnished as usual when required.

Target Ranges.—Target ranges have been kept in repair.

Telegraph Duties.—Nil.

Issuers and Storekeepers.—These duties are, as usual, performed by members of the force.

Redoubts.—The stockade at Waihi has been put in repair and strengthened considerably; a trench, 8 feet deep by 6 feet wide, has been dug out round two sides of palisading on the outside, and the ground sloped off on a third side towards the creek.

At Opunake a new redoubt, 120 feet by 130 feet, has been built, and about five acres of flax cleared in the vicinity.

At Okato the redoubt has been rebuilt where required, and kept in repair, and is now undergoing considerable alteration and improvement.

At New Plymouth the palisading around the barracks (now emigration barracks, but available at any time for defence) has been repaired several times by members of the force.

The Pukearuhe Redoubt has been reduced in size, having been pulled down and rebuilt, and put in thorough good order for any emergency.

CIVIL DUTIES.

Two men act as police at Oeo, and other men, when required to do so, assist the civil authorities.

Attending Civil Courts.—Members of the force have attended Civil Courts as witnesses, &c., whenever required.

Agricultural Statistics.—These statistics were collected by members of the force detailed for the purpose.

Public and Useful Works: Nature and Extent of Road Work.—A road party from Pukearuhe Station was sent to Waitoitai, a distance of eight miles from that post. They formed about twenty chains of road, partly side-cutting, and levelled about eighty chains of new road, to enable the traffic to pass over the Mimi Bridge and avoid the dangerous ford in the Mimi River.

The roads in the vicinity of Waihi, Opunake, and Pukearuhe Stations have been kept in repair, and new culverts put down where required.

Building and repairing Bridges.—No important works of this nature have been done, but small bridges in the vicinity of the several stations have been kept in repair.

Buildings, &c.—At Waihi Station the blockhouses and all other buildings have been kept in repair. A cart shed for two drays and a wagon has been erected, and an addition to men's room of

18 feet. The guard-room and canteen have been close-lined and ceiled, and an addition of a lean-to made to officers' quarters. A force-pump has been placed in the well, and two 500-gallon tanks for water supply placed in station.

At Opunake, early in April, the station was shifted from Te Namu to Opunake Bay, about a mile to the south. A large amount of work was done at that time in removing buildings, stores, &c. Since arrival of detachments from depôt the men have been constantly employed completing the buildings removed from old site, building a weatherboard store, men's and cook houses, chimneys to library and officers' quarters, and stone oven, 8 feet by 6 feet, for baking bread, &c.; and all other necessary works have been pushed on as fast as possible.

At Okato the blockhouse has been painted throughout, kept in repair, and iron tanks for water supply fixed inside redoubt.

At New Plymouth Station the buildings have been re-shingled, repaired, and painted.

At Pukearuhe Station considerable improvements have been made. A shed for the wagon and dray, and a corrugated-iron five-stalled stable have been built, the whole of the buildings have been painted and kept in repair, the chimney of the institute room rebuilt, and an addition to officers' mess completed, and the whole station generally improved.

Fencing, &c.—At Waihi Station the fencing has been kept in good repair; many chains of ditching and banking have been completed and planted with gorse; the fence on side of main road, 30 chains, has been banked up. About five tons of hay were saved; and twenty-five acres of ground have been cleared of fern and are now being ploughed for oats to supply Constabulary for ensuing year.

At Opunake a considerable amount of fencing has been done, and Government paddock kept in order. Since removal to new site a new paddock has been fenced in with posts and rails from the old paddock.

At Okato Station the paddock has been considerably improved, the fencing repaired and replaced with new material where required.

At New Plymouth Station the fencing is getting very old and rotten, and has with very great difficulty been kept in repair.

At Pukearuhe and Urenui Stations the paddocks have been kept in good order; at the former place some ten tons of oaten hay were saved for winter feed.

TAUPO DISTRICT.

MILITARY DUTIES.

Average Strength of Officers and Men.—The average strength of the force in this district during the past year has been—1 superintendent, 1 sub-inspector, 1 surgeon, 1 sergeant-major, 4 first class sergeants, 2 second class sergeants, 4 second class constables, and 53 third class constables. Since the end of March, however, this strength has been reduced by 1 first class sergeant, 1 second class sergeant, and 29 third class constables, transferred to Taranaki District.

Nature of Parades and Drills.—Parades with side-arms for inspection and Divine Service have been held every Sunday, and in marching order for inspection and drill every Monday. The men in this district competed for the prizes allotted by the Government, in lieu of the annual course of musketry instruction, on the 12th February, 1879.

Carrying Mails and Despatches.—A mounted constable conveys the mail between Taupo and Opepe, and despatches have been forwarded by members of the force to Tokano and other places as occasion required.

Escorts and Guards.—No escorts have been required except for prisoners, of whom two have been conveyed to Napier and one to Rotorua.

A night watchman has been on guard every night at head-quarters.

Target Ranges.—The various ranges in the district have been kept free from scrub and in good repair.

Storekeepers and Issuers.—The duties of this department have been performed by the officer commanding the district.

Erection of Redoubts, &c.—The redoubts in the district have been repaired when necessary.

CIVIL DUTIES.

Steps taken for the Prevention of Crime.—A constable has been employed at head-quarters on police duty.

Attending Civil Courts.—Constable E. S. Thompson is clerk to the Resident Magistrate's Court, and constables attend as required.

Taking Census, &c.—A mounted constable collected the agricultural statistics for the Counties of East and West Taupo.

Attending Land Court.—Nil.

Public and useful Works: Nature and Extent of Road Work.—The road between Atiamuri and Kaiwako (109 miles) has been kept in good repair by Armed Constabulary labour alone. During the year, 1,787½ chains of road have been re-formed, 667 chains repaired, 38 chains of new road have been formed, 14,489 chains of ruts filled in with fern and clay, 2,242 chains of water-tables cleared out and fifteen culverts taken up and cleaned, 542 cubic yards of earth have been barrowed, 487 cubic yards of side-cutting excavated, a retaining wall measuring 36 cubic yards has been built, 10 cubic yards of rock blasted and removed, the road cleared of tussocks for a distance of 49 chains, and 200 trees felled, of which 77 have been cut up and removed from the road; the whole being estimated by the Road Inspector at a value of £1,414 7s. 6d.

On the road from Taupo to the Hot Springs a total length of 70½ chains of new road has been completed, of which 34 chains were formation; the remainder contains 585 cubic yards of side- and 304 cubic yards of block-cutting, and 399 cubic yards of embankment, and involved the making and laying down of 79 fascines. The whole is valued at £45 0s. 6d.

Building Bridges and Culverts.—The Waipuwera Bridge was repaired in November; and four men and two horses were employed in April, for three days, in procuring timber for further repairs; the value of the labour being estimated at £6 12s. 6d.

At Opepe Station 6,850 feet of timber have been sawn, 240 posts, 738 rails, 4,000 shingles, and 50 house-blocks have been split, during the year.

Building Houses, &c.—At head-quarters a stable and forage store have been completed, and an addition to the commanding officer's house built.

At Opepe a mess kitchen has been finished.

Fencing Paddocks, Laying Down in Grass, &c.—At Opepe 33 chains of 3-rail fence have been erected, and the old fences there and at head-quarters have been kept in repair.

Soldiers' Graves.—The graves at Opepe have been kept fenced and free from fern, &c.

REMARKS.

During the past year the district has remained undisturbed.

In July the Armed Constabulary Office at Napier was given up, and the duties formerly performed by the sergeant stationed there are now intrusted to the Napier police.

The following casualties have occurred:—1 second class sergeant, 1 second class constable, and 2 third class constables have been discharged; 1 first class sergeant and 3 third class constables have been dismissed for misconduct, and one third class constable has died; 1 superintendent, 2 first class sergeants, 1 second class sergeant, and 40 third class constables have been transferred to, and 1 superintendent, 1 first class sergeant, and 10 third class constables from, other districts, and 1 third class constable was enrolled to be employed as saddler. One third class constable has been promoted to the rank of second class sergeant. One horse has died, and 8 have been transferred to, and 1 from, other districts.

In conclusion, I would beg to report most favourably of the force under my command, and to state that all members have been diligent in the discharge of their respective duties during the past twelve months.

I have, &c.,

WM. C. LYON, Lieut.-Col.,
Commanding Reserve Divisions, A. C.

By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBURY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1879.