

1941.
NEW ZEALAND.

THE POLICE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

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

The COMMISSIONER OF POLICE to the HON. the MINISTER IN CHARGE OF POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Police Department, Wellington, 10th July, 1941.

I HAVE the honour to present the annual report on the Police Force for the year ended 31st March last.

STRENGTH OF FORCE.

On the 31st March last the number of members of the Force of all ranks was 1,509, being an increase of fifty-two during the year. The total is made up as follows:—

Superintendents	4
Inspectors	17
Sub-Inspectors	7
Senior sergeants	42
Sergeants	113
Constables	1,094
Temporary constables	135
Senior detectives	5
Detective-sergeants	36
Detectives	56

In addition to the above there were—

Police surgeons	15
Matrons	8
District constables	3
Native constable	1

The temporary constables were appointed under section 2 of the Police Force Amendment Act, 1919, the majority of them being on probation with a view to filling vacancies in the permanent staff if found suitable.

The following are the losses in personnel for the year ended 31st March last: Retired on pension under the Public Service Superannuation Act, 8; retired as medically unfit, 11; died, 11; resigned voluntarily, 52; dismissed, 13; total, 95.

STATIONS.

New stations were established during the year at Trentham and Waiouru, and the name of the station at Pembroke changed to Wanaka.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The criminal statistics (Appendix A) deal with offences reported to the police during the year ended 31st December last, and show an aggregate net decrease of 1,369 on the figures of 1939. The percentage of offences to the population was 2.75, as against 2.83 the previous year.

There were increases during the year under the following headings, viz.:—

Subversive statements: Making, publishing, &c.	60	Unlawfully using horses, motor-cars, &c.	200
Indecently assaulting a male	37	Unlawfully on premises at night without criminal intent	24
Assault, indecent	26	Found on premises where liquor seized under a warrant	67
Theft (petty)	781	In possession of liquor in vicinity of dance-halls, &c.	1040
Burglary: House and shop breaking	136	Opium: Smoking, &c.	21
Arson	41	Arms Act, breaches of	60
Mischief	187		
Using profane, indecent, or obscene language	34		

The principal decreases were—

False statements and declarations	52	Selling or supplying liquor or exposing for sale, or opening or keeping open premises at unauthorized times	31
False pretences	88	Supplying liquor to persons under twenty-one years	41
Obtaining credit by fraud	38	Illegally supplying liquor to Natives	78
Receiving property dishonestly obtained	37	Breaches of prohibition orders	163
Forgery and uttering	47	Found on licensed premises after closing hours	103
Breach of the peace or behaviour with intent	40	Offences against provisions in force in no-license districts	27
Drunkenness, &c.	465	Offences against provisions of no-licence in Native proclaimed areas	39
Exposure of person and grossly indecent acts	49	Being intoxicated in charge of a motor-vehicle	122
Vagrancy	75	Reckless or negligent driving	808
Assaulting, obstructing, or resisting the police	20	Minor breaches of Motor-Vehicles Act	662
Gaming offences	97		
Damaging post-office boxes and telegraph equipment	51		
Maintenance offences	697		
Ship desertion	102		