

1902.

NEW ZEALAND.

## THE POLICE FORCE OF THE COLONY

(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 OF JUSTICE.

SIR,—

Police Department, Commissioner's Office, 28th May, 1902.

I have the honour to submit for your information the annual report on the Police Force of the colony (together with the criminal statistics) for the year ended 31st March last.

## STRENGTH OF FORCE.

On the 31st March last the strength of the Force was 604 of all ranks, being an increase of 13 during the year. The total is made up as follows: Inspectors, 7; Sub-Inspectors, 5; sergeants-major, 2; sergeants, 56; constables, 514; detectives, 20. In addition to above, there were 4 police surgeons, 4 matrons, 22 district constables, 7 Native constables, and 85 horses.

## STATIONS.

New stations have been formed at Ongarue and Poolburn. Poro-o-tarao has been closed; and district constables have been appointed at Whatatutu, Weber, and Renwicktown.

## AUGMENTATIONS.

Augmentations have been made at Auckland, 4; Onehunga, 1; Waihi, 1; Palmerston North, 1; Stratford, 1; Wellington, 3; Masterton, 1; Dunedin, 3; and Bluff, 1.

## DECREASES.

Decreases have been made at: Newton, 1; Thames, 1; Cromwell, 1; and South Dunedin, 1.

## CASUALTIES.

The casualties (Appendix C) have been: Retired under the Police Provident Fund Act, 11; resigned, 9; died, 3: total, 23. This is six less than in the preceding year.

## CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

These statistics (Appendix A) include all offences reported to the police during the year ended 31st December last, and they show an aggregate net increase of 1,551 on the figures of the preceding year.

The principal increases are: Absconding from industrial schools, 15; assaults, indecent, 16; cruelty to animals, 29; deserting and failing to provide for wives and children, 97; disobeying orders of Court and summonses, 134; drunkenness, 758; failing to support parents and near relatives, 77; false pretences, 41; forgery and uttering, 41; furious riding and driving, 35; game illegally shooting, 21; illegally on premises, 33; lunacy, 31; malicious injury to property, 53; obscene and profane language, 83; obstructing and resisting police, 51; refusing to quit licensed premises, 46; stone-throwing, 23; theft, undescribed, 43; theft from dwelling, 34; theft from the person, 16; and vagrancy, 58.

The principal decreases are: Assaults on police, 26; deserters and absentees from merchant ships, 63; discharging firearms, 17; disturbing meetings and congregations, 42; gaming offences, 51; sly-grog selling, 25; smuggling, 17; sureties of the peace, 25; theft of horses and cattle, 14; theft of dogs, 13; and theft of post letters, 12.

## REMARKS ON CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The net increase of 1,551 is the largest increase for many years past, but as it is practically accounted for by the increases in the number of such offences as: Absconding from industrial schools, cruelty to animals, deserting and failing to provide for wives, &c., disobeying orders of Court, drunkenness, failing to support parents, &c., illegally taking fish, furious riding or driving, illegally shooting game, illegally on premises, lunacy, neglecting children, obscene and profane language, obstructing and resisting police, refusing to quit licensed premises,