

EXTRACTS FROM ANNUAL REPORTS OF OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF DISTRICTS.

INSPECTOR J. CULLEN, AUCKLAND DISTRICT.

The authorised strength of the district on the 31st March last was 155 of all ranks, an increase of 14 over the preceding year. Eight of the number of increase were transferred from Napier and East Coast District.

The Force has been increased at Auckland (1 station-sergeant, 1 sergeant and 2 constables), Eden Terrace (1 sergeant), Howick (1 constable), Waihi (2 constables), and was decreased at Coromandel (1 constable), and Paeroa (1 constable).

The station in course of erection at Newton is nearing completion, and will be ready for occupation at an early date. A station has been erected at Waiuku, and cells at Cambridge, Taumarunui, and Te Awamutu. Quarters have also been provided for the Inspector at Auckland.

The following stations have been transferred to this district from the Napier and East Coast District: Katikati, 1 district constable; Omapo, 1 Native constable; Opotiki, 1 constable and 1 Native constable; Rotorua, 1 sergeant, 1 constable, and 1 Native constable; Taupo, 1 constable; Te Puke, 1 constable; Te Whaiti, 1 district constable; Tokaanu, 1 district constable; Tauranga, 1 sergeant, 1 constable; and Whakatane, 1 constable. A station has been opened at Birkenhead, and Surrey Hills Station has been closed.

The casualties during the year were as follow: Death, 1 constable; retired on pension, 1 constable; resigned, 3 constables; dismissed, 3 constables.

The appointment of a station sergeant to assist the sub-inspector is so far giving satisfaction.

A considerable number of cases of house-breaking and burglary have been reported during the year, but I am pleased to be able to state that most of the offenders have been brought to justice.

A physical-culture class, Sandow system, with Constable Skinner as instructor, is being carried on here for the benefit of those members of the Force who are desirous to avail themselves of the opportunity of improving their physique.

INSPECTOR E. MACDONELL, NAPIER DISTRICT.

The return of crimes for the year ending 31st December, 1905, shows that 2,199 offences of various kinds were reported to the police, as against 1,898 during the year 1904, an increase of 301. Of these, 2,117 resulted in the prosecution of the offenders, leaving 82 offences for which the offenders were not arrested or summoned.

The following offences show the principal increases over last year: Assaults, common, 20; assaults occasioning bodily harm, 8; breaches of peace, 33; deserting wives and children, 6; drunkenness, 203; failing to support parents and relatives, 21; illegally on premises, 16; malicious injury to property, 24; obscene language, 8; theft of cattle and horses, 9; vagrancy, 16; forcibly detaining land from lawful custody, 14.

The principal decreases are: Burglary, 29; carnally knowing girls, 4; disorderly and riotous conduct, 12; forgery and uttering, 10; furious riding and driving, 9; obstructing and resisting police, 9; theft undescribed, 13.

The increase in drunkenness occurs mainly at Napier (37), Gisborne (141), Dannevirke (21), and Spit (17).

The police in the Rotorua Sub-district have experienced a certain amount of trouble in dealing with the Native trouble over the Galatea Block claimed by Mrs. Beale, from which she endeavoured to evict the Natives. Fourteen of the Natives were prosecuted for "forcibly detaining the land," 7 being discharged in the lower Court, and the remaining 7, after committal, were discharged at the Supreme Court, Auckland.

Forty-three informations were laid during the year ending 31st December against licensees for breaches of the licensing laws, resulting in 15 convictions, 28 being dismissed or withdrawn. So many discharges are accounted for by usually having two or more informations laid for one offence to, if possible, prevent offenders escaping on technicalities, &c.

Seventy-five fires were reported during the year, as against 89 for the previous year, one person being arrested for three cases of arson and sentenced to four years' hard labour on each charge.

Several transfers of members of the service were made during the year, no doubt to the benefit of the service in this district. The members remaining and the new arrivals have conducted themselves, as a whole, very fairly, and the Force in the district is now more satisfactory than it was a couple of years ago. Considering the amount of crime reported, the small proportion undetected shows that the police throughout the district have been very attentive to their duty.

On the 19th March last ten stations situated in the Bay of Plenty and Rotorua districts were transferred to the Auckland Police District.

INSPECTOR N. KIELY.—WANGANUI DISTRICT.

The criminal statistics for 1905 show 2,354 offences reported and 2,288 detected, which leaves a very low percentage of undetected crimes. There was a decrease of 422 offences from the number for 1904, chiefly in drunkenness, 284; abusive and threatening language, 14; breaches of the peace, 14; disobeying orders of Court, 38; disorderly conduct, 19; failing to support parents, 25; indecent exposure 15; malicious injuries to property, 13; obscene and profane language, 55; obstructing the police, 29; theft from dwellings, 19; and vagrancy, 16. There was a slight increase