

1907.
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, 4th June, 1907.

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 699 (exclusive of two constables on leave prior to retirement) of all ranks, being an increase of 32 during the year. The total is made up as follows:—

Inspectors	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sub-inspectors	...	...	...	...	...	6
Station sergeants	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sergeant-major	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sergeants	...	...	...	...	...	73
Constables	...	...	...	...	...	561
Chief detectives	...	...	...	...	...	5
Detectives	...	...	...	...	...	25
Acting-detectives	...	...	...	...	...	16

In addition to the above there were—

Police surgeons	...	...	...	...	...	4
Matrons	...	...	...	...	...	4
District constables	...	...	...	...	...	13
Native constables	...	...	...	...	...	9
Troop horses	...	...	...	...	...	51

STATIONS.

New stations have been formed at Epsom, Gladstone, Granity, Morrinsville, Otira, Pongaroa, Raurimu, Riccarton, Seinde (Napier), and Seddon. The Native and district constable at Waipiro and Murchison have been replaced by regular members of the Force, and a district constable has replaced the regular constable at Moawhango. The stations at Makuri and Renwicktown have been closed, and the station formed at Turangarere during the year was closed in February last with the view to opening one at Ohakune.

CASUALTIES.

The following are the casualties for the year ended 31st March last: Retired under Police Provident Fund Act, 12; died, 1; resigned voluntarily, 24; dismissed, 4; called upon to resign, 4; total, 45. This is 21 less than in the preceding year.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The criminal statistics (Appendix A) deal with all offences reported to the police during the year ended the 31st December last, and show an aggregate net increase of 911 on the figures of 1905, this being about the average yearly increase on a population basis. The proportion of offences to the population was 2·21 per cent.

The following return shows the number of offences reported in each Police District during the year, the number of cases in which arrests or summonses resulted, and the number in which no prosecution followed :—

District.	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Number in which no Arrests or Summonses re- sulted.
Auckland	5,273	5,088	185
Napier	2,089	2,019	70
Wanganui	2,405	2,339	66
Wellington	5,000	4,872	128
Greymouth	574	533	41
Christchurch	3,415	3,209	206
Dunedin	1,740	1,556	184
Invercargill	664	625	39
	21,160	20,241	919

The principal increases during the year as shown by the statistics were as follows, viz. :—

Absconding from industrial schools ... 48	Illegally on premises	51
Deserters from H. M. ships ... 62	Malicious injury to property	77
Disorderly conduct	Obscene language	106
Drunkenness	Vagrancy	87

The principal decreases were—

Assaults, common	60	Opium, smoking or in possession of ...	55
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c. 82		Sly-grog selling	50
Disobeying orders on board ships ... 46		Theft undescribed	79

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from all offences reported during the year under review is 95·65, the figures of the preceding year being 94·87.

SERIOUS CRIMES.

From the following return of serious crimes it is satisfactory to note the decrease (82) in the number of burglaries reported during the year. The number of arrests which resulted from serious offences reported appears figuratively small, but it frequently occurs that one person commits a series of offences, a number of which are not brought home to him, hence the apparent discrepancy.

The following is a return of the number of serious crimes as compared with the preceding year :—

Crimes.	1905.		1906.	
	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	16	14	17	14
Assault and robbery	45	34	55	48
Burglary (breaking into shops and dwellings) ...	397	241	315	231
Forgery and uttering	112	97	103	86
Murder	5	5	6	5
" attempted	1	1	7	7
Rape	11	11	10	9
Receiving stolen property	40	36	41	41
Shooting with intent	5	5	4	4
	632	444	558	445

The number of indecent and sexual offences dealt with during the year under review was 352, being 34 in excess of the previous year. The majority (235) were cases of indecent exposure or behaviour.

DRUNKENNESS.

There has been an increase of 503 in the number of persons prosecuted for drunkenness during the year as compared with the previous year, but a decrease of 405 as compared with 1904.

From the following table it will be observed that 41·9 per cent. of the males and 67·7 per cent. of the females had previous convictions recorded against them, and 8·71 per cent. of the males were not permanent residents in the colony.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of PERSONS charged with DRUNKENNESS during the Year 1906, and the Number of Previous Convictions against them, so far as known.

District.	Not Pre-viously Convicted.		One Pre-vious Con- viction.		Two Pre-vious Con- victions.		Three Pre-vious Con- victions.		Four Pre-vious Con- victions.		Five Pre-vious Con- victions.		Over Five Previous Convictions		Totals.		Number of Foregoing who were Members of Crews of Vessels in Port.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Auckland ..	1,064	64	226	19	113	11	79	9	39	5	26	7	229	74	1,776	189	173
Napier ..	507	15	128	11	91	9	52	3	31	2	13	4	89	2	911	46	23
Wanganui ..	651	49	128	6	48	5	30	3	13	1	2	..	39	1	911	65	12
Wellington ..	1,455	84	246	16	150	17	92	5	65	1	56	8	375	131	2,439	262	296
Greymouth ..	122	6	28	3	12	1	5	1	2	..	1	..	4	2	174	13	10
Christchurch ..	553	30	200	14	109	14	94	10	100	6	117	5	150	45	1,323	124	103
Dunedin ..	364	8	61	4	34	6	21	3	28	10	44	16	78	47	630	94	114
Invercargill ..	170	2	28	3	14	1	17	..	9	..	5	..	4	..	247	6	2
	4,886	258	1,045	76	571	64	390	34	287	25	264	40	968	302	8,411	799	733

The number charged with drunkenness in 1905 was 8,707 (7,905 males and 802 females), whereas in 1906 the number was 9,210 (8,411 males and 799 females).

RETURN showing the NUMBER of PERSONS arrested for DRUNKENNESS within each Principal Centre during the Years 1905-6, the Number convicted, the Number discharged or withdrawn (Males and Females shown separately), and the Total Increase in Arrests.

Centre.	Number arrested, 1905.		Number arrested, 1906.		Number convicted, 1906.		Number discharged or withdrawn, 1906.		Total Increase or Decrease in Arrests.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Increase. M. and F.	Decrease. M. and F.
Auckland and suburbs...	1,094	132	1,235	172	1,231	172	4	...	181	...
Wellington and suburbs	1,617	192	1,908	242	1,908	241	...	1	341	...
Christchurch and suburbs	594	144	575	94	572	93	3	1	...	69
Dunedin and suburbs ...	413	89	374	66	374	66	...	...	...	62
Totals ..	3,718	557	4,092	574	4,085	572	7	2	522	131
							Total increase,		391.	

RETURN showing the NUMBER of PERSONS arrested for DRUNKENNESS on SUNDAYS within each Principal Centre during the Years 1905-6 (Males and Females shown separately).

Centre.	Number arrested, 1905.		Number arrested, 1906.		Number convicted, 1906.		Number discharged or withdrawn, 1906.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Auckland and suburbs ...	26	...	20	1	20	1	...	...
Wellington and suburbs...	7	3	15	2	14	2	1	...
Christchurch and suburbs	5	1	3	1	3	1	...	...
Dunedin and suburbs ...	19	4	2	...	2	...	...	...
Totals ...	57	8	40	4	39	4	1	...

PROSECUTIONS AGAINST HOTELKEEPERS.

The number of prosecutions against hotelkeepers during the year shows an increase of 11 as compared with the preceding year. The management of hotels generally continues to improve.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of PROSECUTIONS against PUBLICANS in each District during the Year 1906 as compared with 1905, the Number convicted, and the Number discharged or withdrawn.

District.	Prosecutions, 1905.	Prosecutions, 1906.	Convictions.	Discharged or withdrawn.
Auckland	46	71	32	39
Napier	43	32	8	24
Wanganui	25	15	8	7
Wellington	6	23	19	4
Greymouth	33	15	11	4
Christchurch	19	14	7	7
Dunedin	2	12	5	7
Invercargill ... ..	...	3	2	1
Totals	174	185	92	93

RETURN showing the NUMBER of PROSECUTIONS against PUBLICANS within each Principal Centre during the Year 1906, the Number convicted, and the Number discharged or withdrawn.

Centre.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Discharged or withdrawn.
Auckland and suburbs	28	13	15
Wellington and suburbs	4	3	1
Christchurch and suburbs	6	5	1
Dunedin and suburbs	3	3	...
Totals	41	24	17

SLY-GROG.

There were 145 prosecutions during the year for sly-grog selling, resulting in 113 convictions, against 188 prosecutions and 115 convictions during the preceding year.

Although the Department continues to adopt special tactics to bring sly-grog sellers to justice, the offence is still persisted in and carried on with greater secrecy. I am of opinion that if more severe punishments were inflicted when convictions are recorded they would have a deterrent effect. The work of detection is disagreeable and demoralising, but with one or two exceptions it has been carried out by members of the Force, and has resulted most satisfactorily both as regards the number of prosecutions and the reduction in expenditure (£61 17s. 3d.).

The fines imposed on sly-grog sellers during the year 1906 amounted to £1,719 16s., against £1,103 10s. in 1905.

The amounts of fines in the various districts are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Auckland	615	0	0
Napier	5	0	0
Wanganui	142	0	0
Wellington	73	0	0
Greymouth ... ..	...	...	...
Christchurch	234	0	0
Dunedin	350	16	0
Invercargill	300	0	0
Total	£1,719	16	0

The direct cost to the colony in detecting and prosecuting sly-grog sellers during the year was £665 12s. 6d., this being £1,054 3s. 6d. less than the amount of fines imposed.

GAMING OFFENCES.

There were 143 prosecutions, resulting in 110 convictions, during the year under the gaming laws, against 180 prosecutions and 162 convictions in 1905.

"THE INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT, 1896."

During the year there were 570 registered homes throughout the colony, representing 794 infants, against 557 homes and 862 infants in 1905.

Nineteen deaths occurred in the homes during the year, against 20 in the preceding year. Ten licensees were prosecuted for breaches of the Act, and 6 were convicted, against 4 prosecutions and 3 convictions in 1905. No licenses were cancelled, and no neglect of licensees was disclosed at inquests.

CONDUCT OF MEMBERS OF THE FORCE.

During the year under review the conduct of senior members of the service has, on the whole, been highly satisfactory; but not so that of a number of the junior hands, who have had to be dealt with strictly for misconduct, some being discharged.

FINGER-PRINT BRANCH.

On the 31st March last the finger-print collection consisted of the impressions of 6,151 offenders.

During the year 104 persons, claiming to be first offenders, were by means of their finger-prints identified as previously convicted persons, an increase of 16 over last year.

Finger-prints of prisoners in custody here, whose antecedents were unknown to our police, have been identified during the year at Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart, Sydney, and Cape Town as those of persons previously convicted in those cities.

During the Exhibition an officer of the branch was temporarily stationed at Christchurch, with the result that two separate parties of housebreakers, who for a considerable time had baffled the local police, and who had committed a number of burglaries, were brought to justice by the branch identifying their finger-prints which they had left on various articles they had handled in the burgled houses.

The detection of these offenders in this manner doubtless had its effect upon other criminals of this class, as during the whole of the Exhibition Christchurch was remarkably free from offences of this description, and indeed from crime of any kind.

The photographic portion of the branch works well, and still supplies all photographs required by the Department in Wellington and in special cases elsewhere, besides photographing finger-prints for transmission abroad, enlarging them when necessary in Police Court cases, and photographing finger-prints discovered in criminal cases. The photographing and plans of the buildings in the Papakaio murder case were executed by this branch, thus effecting a considerable saving in the expenditure and having the work executed more expeditiously than it could otherwise have been done. Photographs to the number of 2,247 were turned out by the branch during the year.

Members of the service are now becoming more impressed with the importance of the finger-print system of identification, and greater care is exercised by them in searching for prints in criminal cases. Seventeen articles with prints thereon were sent to headquarters for examination during the year, and in six cases the prints were identified as those of previously convicted persons.

TRAINING OF CANDIDATES, ETC.

The training of candidates is still proving highly satisfactory. The benefits derived from the instruction imparted to probationers in education, drill, ambulance work, technical police duties, police Acts, and the finger-print system of identification is having a marked effect on the men.

Eligible candidates are not so plentiful as heretofore, partly owing, no doubt, to applicants having now to pass the Fifth Standard examination under "The Education Act, 1904," before being eligible for appointment to the Department, but principally owing to the fact that those willing to work can earn more money as labourers than in the Department. Thus far the raising of the educational qualifications has not improved the standard of the men appointed to the Department, as the present rate of pay is not a sufficient inducement for good men to join the service. I have therefore submitted a recommendation for a general increase of pay to all ranks of the Force, which I trust will receive favourable consideration.

During the year there were 56 fresh candidates who, after inquiry, measurement, &c., were found to be eligible for the service.

Seventy-eight men were taken on during the year. The nationalities, religions, and occupations of these 78 men are as follows:—Nationalities: New-Zealand-born, 52; Australians, 8; Irish, 7; English, 6; Scotch, 5. Religions: Church of England, 22; Roman Catholics, 32; Presbyterians, 19; Wesleyans, 2; Methodists, 2; Church of Christ, 1. Occupations: Labourers, 26; farm-labourers, 12; miners, 5; artillerymen, 5; farmers, 4; butchers, 5; drivers, 2; clerks, 2; bakers, 2; carpenters, 2; sawmillers, 2; shepherd, 1; ex-constable, 1; warp-dresser, 1; contractor, 1; grocer, 1; bootmaker, 1; machinist, 1; plasterer, 1; dairyman, 1; surfaceman, 1; asylum attendant, 1.

POLICE PROVIDENT FUND.

On the 31st March last the amount standing to the credit of the fund was £29,126 1s. 3d., being an increase on the year of £2,004 18s. 9d. On the same date there were on the fund 3 ex-Inspectors, 21 ex-sergeants, 37 ex-constables, 3 ex-detectives, and 2 widows and 2 orphans of deceased constables, their aggregate annual allowances being £6,270 17s. 6d.

Since the Act came into force the Government have saved the sum of £17,159 8s. 11d. in the form of retiring-allowances which would no doubt have been paid had it not existed.

STATIONS, ETC.

During the year the following works have been completed:—

New Buildings.

Addington ...	...	Station.	Hokitika ...	...	Lock-up.
Avondale ...	...	"	Newton ...	...	Station.
Bingsland ...	...	"	Ohacawai ...	...	Lock-up.
Gore ...	...	"	Taumarunui ...	...	Station.
Helensville ...	...	"	Tolago Bay ...	...	"

New Buildings in Course of Erection.

Christchurch	... Quarters.	Kihikihi	... Station.
"	... Barracks.	Kimbolton	... Lock-up and office.
Karangahake	... Station.	Nelson	... Station.

Additions, Repairs, &c.

Blenheim	... Fencing.	Timaru	... Alterations, &c.
Martinborough	... Improvements.	Waipiro	... Additions.
Napier (Carlyle Street)	"	Wairoa	... Improvements.
Oxford	"	Wellington (Lamb-	Additional story, &c.
Rotorua	"	ton Quay)	
Tauranga	... Additions.	Whakatane	... Additions.

Additions, Repairs, &c., in Hand.

Feilding	... Drainage.	South Dunedin	... Office.
Inglewood	"	Waihi	...
Invercargill	... Additions.		

Properties acquired.

Aramoho	... Station.	Masterton	... Office.
Birkenhead	"	Methven	... Station.
Collingwood	... Site.	Wellington South	... Site.

LEGAL.

Habitual Criminals.

The Habitual Criminals Act of last year has already been applied in several cases, and should prove a most effective deterrent to crime if properly administered.

Juvenile Offenders.

"The Juvenile Offenders Act, 1906," which provides for special treatment by Magistrates of offenders under the age of sixteen years, is being applied with satisfactory results, and is unquestionably a judicious step in the direction of preventing juveniles from becoming habitual criminals.

"The Licensing Act Amendment Act, 1904."

This Act is working most satisfactorily, and has checked drinking during prohibited hours to a considerable extent, the result being that hotels are better conducted now than heretofore, and drunkenness is minimised.

"The Police Provident Fund Act, 1899."

In view of the satisfactory state of this fund, which on the 31st March last shows a credit balance of £29,126 1s. 3d., and the fact that the sum of £17,159 8s. 11d. has been saved in the way of compassionate-allowances since its inauguration, I consider, as stated in my last report, the time has arrived for removing some of the disadvantages now apparent in the working of the Act.

Allowances to Widows and Children.—At present no provision is made for widows and children of deceased contributors whose deaths occur from natural causes whilst in the service, and they have to look to the Government for assistance. Provision should be made to meet such cases.

Dismissals and Resignations.—If members are dismissed from the service the Act provides that the Board may grant the return of half their contributions, and if they resign voluntarily, having under ten years' or over twenty-five years' service, no return of their contributions can be granted. In all such cases provision should be made for the return of the whole of the sum contributed.

Computation of Pensions.—Under the Act a pension is computed on the rate of pay drawn at time of retirement, or if promoted within five years of retirement on the average pay drawn during the preceding seven years; but no provision is made for averaging the allowance for members reduced. The same provision should apply to reduction as to promotion.

The Railway Superannuation Fund Act provides for the advantages herein sought.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Police Instruction Classes.

The formation in August last year of weekly police instruction classes in the four centres has thus far proved satisfactory, and must have beneficial results.

The first annual examination, which consisted of a selection of subjects from the Police Acts, Police Regulations, and police duties generally, was held in January last.

Thirty-seven members offered themselves for examination: 17 passed and 20 failed. On the whole, the examinations showed that the members examined possessed a considerable knowledge of the subjects referred to.

First Aid to the Injured.

During the year ended March, 1907, 77 probationers presented themselves, at the conclusion of their course of training at the depot, for examination in "first aid to the injured," the examinations being held under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Association.

Of the 77 men who sat, 73 passed and 4 failed.

The highest number of marks gained was 94, the average of those who passed being 74.22. (Maximum, 100; bare pass, 50.)

The lecturer was in each case Dr. Henry, Police Surgeon, and the examiners different medical men appointed by the Association.

The Papakaio Murder.

This atrocious crime, which resulted in the arrest and conviction of a noted criminal—who was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, and declared an habitual criminal under the new Act—for burglary, was one of those exceptionally difficult cases to investigate with any degree of satisfaction, as no direct evidence of guilt was obtainable, and the circumstantial evidence forthcoming had to be carefully obtained and linked together in order to make the chain of evidence strong enough upon which to secure a conviction. Owing to the importance of the case I devoted some considerable time to supervising the investigations, which were carried out by the officers concerned with untiring energy, assisted materially by local inhabitants of Papakaio. Although the accused was acquitted on the capital charge, owing principally to certain witnesses deviating from their original statements to police, and partly to the circulation of false rumours bearing on the case, the investigations, which had not been relaxed since the committal of the cold-blooded murder, were still continued, in the hope of the evidence being strengthened and the burglary charge proved. Success attended the continued efforts, and, on the stolen bicycle being accidentally found, accused was rearrested, and convicted as above.

The subsequent dismissal of the prisoner's appeal for a new trial, on the ground that the verdict was against the weight of evidence, was highly satisfactory from a public point of view, as the clear and exhaustive manner in which the evidence was summarised by the Judges on the occasion must have dispelled any doubt existing as to the guilt of the prisoner.

The New Zealand Police Force.

The following return may be interesting as showing the growth of the Department, the continued increase of the population, and the total number of offences (irrespective of by-law offences) reported, and in which arrests or summonses resulted, each year since 1877, prior to which date each province in the colony had its own Police Force, and reliable data are not available.

Year.	Officers.	Non-Commis- sioned.	Detectives.	Constables.	Total.	Police to Population.	Cost per Inhabit- ant.	Population.	Offences reported.	Offences where Arrests or Sum- monses re- sulted.	Arrests for Drunkenness (included in "Offences reported").
1878	25	90	14	329	458	1 to 944	Not obtain- able	432,352	14,157	13,959	6,668
1879	25	84	16	364	489	1 to 948		463,572	16,374	14,696	6,794
1880	25	86	21	379	511	1 to 949		484,939	17,837	16,723	6,484
1881	13	73	18	337	441	1 to 1,136		500,976	16,635	15,212	5,587
1882	13	72	19	343	447	1 to 1,158		517,626	18,613	17,470	6,860
1883	13	72	20	356	461	1 to 1,173		540,753	18,775	17,727	7,572
1884	13	70	17	365	465	1 to 1,263		587,295	18,263	17,322	7,151
1885	20	65	17	372	474	1 to 1,293		613,212	18,955	17,723	7,034
1886	20	66	18	390	494	1 to 1,266		625,849	18,135	17,000	6,260
1887	20	69	18	395	502	1 to 1,265		635,215	17,752	16,500	5,226
1888	13	69	17	388	487	1 to 1,328	3/12	646,913	12,897	11,854	5,387
1889	13	65	17	389	484	1 to 1,347	2/10 3/4	652,125	12,945	11,885	5,444
1890	12	66	13	403	494	1 to 1,346	2/10 3/4	664,855	13,115	12,177	5,866
1891	7	61	14	404	486	1 to 1,375	2/11 1/2	668,353	12,674	11,748	5,416
1892	7	60	14	401	482	1 to 1,401	2/9	675,775	13,153	12,187	5,360
1893	7	53	14	407	481	1 to 1,439	2/8 1/2	692,426	13,165	12,100	5,251
1894	7	55	13	410	485	1 to 1,472	2/7 1/4	714,258	13,530	12,500	4,594
1895	7	51	13	416	487	1 to 1,495	2/6 3/4	728,121	14,010	12,435	4,636
1896	6	51	13	414	484	1 to 1,530	2/7 1/2	740,699	14,673	13,171	5,005
1897	7	45	12	453	517	1 to 1,461	2/7 1/2	754,016	15,219	14,042	5,204
1898	7	56	16	457	536	1 to 1,435	2/8	768,910	16,378	14,730	5,532
1899	11	53	15	475	554	1 to 1,414	2/9 1/4	783,317	16,865	15,561	6,289
1900	11	56	20	499	586	1 to 1,359	2/10 1/4	796,359	18,358	17,131	7,299
1901	11	56	20	504	591	1 to 1,381	2/10 1/4	816,290	19,909	18,742	8,057
1902	12	58	20	514	604	1 to 1,375	2/10 1/2	830,800	19,771	18,802	8,269
1903	12	59	20	522	613	1 to 1,388	2/10 1/2	851,068	20,736	19,867	8,815
1904	12	59	21	534	626	1 to 1,398	2/10 1/4	875,648	21,066	20,118	9,615
1905	12	65	25	553	655	1 to 1,375	2/10 1/4	900,682	20,249	19,251	8,707
1906	14	71	25	557	667	1 to 1,387	2/10 1/2	925,605	21,160	20,241	9,210
1907	14	78	30	577	699	1 to 1,375	3/0	961,604	...	...	...

In addition to the strength of the Force as shown above, there are 18 district constables, 9 Native constables, 4 police surgeons (one in each city), 4 matrons (one in each city), and 51 troop horses.

THE NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The police arrangements for the prevention and detection of crime and the preservation of order during the Exhibition, considering the large attendances and practical immunity from crime, resulted most satisfactorily.

From a police point of view the Licensing Committee's action in withholding licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquor in the Exhibition or Exhibition grounds conducted considerably to the

STRENGTH AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE FORCE.

Continued demands for additional police protection from city and outside districts are received by the Department; and, owing to the increased population, it is evident that a number of them will soon have to be satisfied. I consider that an augmentation of at least 2 sergeants, 20 constables, and 2 detectives is necessary to meet legitimate demands. The proportion of police to population would then be only one to every 1,294 inhabitants.

COST OF POLICE, ETC.

A return is herewith annexed (Appendix C) giving proportion of police to the population and the cost of police per inhabitant in each of the Australian States and in this colony.

INSPECTORS' REPORTS.

Extracts from the annual reports of the Inspectors in charge of districts are hereto annexed.

I have, &c.,
W. DINNIE,
Commissioner of Police.

EXTRACTS FROM ANNUAL REPORTS OF OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF DISTRICTS.

INSPECTOR CULLEN, AUCKLAND DISTRICT.

The casualties during the year were 1 sergeant, 1 detective, and 9 constables resigned, 1 constable dismissed, and 4 constables retired on superannuation.

New stations have been opened at Epsom, Morrinsville, and Raurimu.

The criminal statistics for the year ending 31st December last show a decrease in almost all the serious classes of offences except sexual ones, in which there has been a very marked increase, more especially offences against girls under the age of consent.

The conduct of the senior members of the Force has been good, but that of some of the junior hands has been quite the reverse.

INSPECTOR E. MACDONELL, NAPIER DISTRICT.

The return of crime for the year ending 31st December last shows a slight diminution from the figures presented in the last year's report, but actually the offences reported in the present district have considerably increased, the difference being accounted for by the fact that the returns for 1905 included those stations transferred in March last year to the Auckland District.

During the year 2,089 offences were reported, as against 2,199 for the previous year from the larger district and 1883 from the stations included in the present district, showing an actual increase of 206. Of these, 2,019 resulted in the prosecution of offenders, leaving 70 offences for which the offenders were not summoned or arrested.

The following offences show the principal increases: Abusive and threatening language, 21; burglary, 29; deserting wives and children, 22; drunkenness, 40; theft (undescribed), 37.

The principal increase in drunkenness occurred at Dannevirke—viz., 43; while the following stations show a substantial decrease: Spit, 10; Waipawa, 26; and Napier, 28.

Thirty-two informations were laid against licensees for breaches of the licensing laws, resulting in 8 convictions and 24 dismissals or withdrawals.

A new station was opened at Scinde in Napier, and one at Waipiro Bay.

INSPECTOR N. KIELY, WANGANUI DISTRICT.

The criminal statistics for the year 1906 show 2,405 cases reported and 2,339 detected, which is a slight increase (51) on the previous year. Only 66 offences remained undetected, which clearly shows the energy displayed in the detection of crime in this district.

There was a slight increase in some cases—chiefly drunkenness, 56; obscene and profane language, 23; failing to support relatives, 25; malicious injury to property, 30. There was a decrease in breaches of the peace, 21; burglary, 18; deserting wives and families, 20; and theft (undescribed), 14. There was no marked increase in the more serious crimes, although 1 man and 1 woman were convicted of murder during the year.

The strength of the district is 1 Inspector, 5 sergeants, 58 constables, 3 detectives, and 2 district constables.

INSPECTOR J. W. ELLISON, WELLINGTON DISTRICT.

During the twelve months ended 31st March the district has been equally as prosperous as the previous year. A great many people have been travelling, and the population has increased considerably.

In the City of Wellington, as well as in most of the adjoining boroughs, numerous buildings have been erected. Wellington City has spread out in a remarkable manner, and the same can be said of the suburbs.

The expansion of the city and suburbs demands a considerable increase in the police staff in order to afford reasonable protection and keep pace with the progress being made in all directions.

The number of arrests and summonses for the year was 4,872, as compared with 4,143 for the previous twelve months, an apparent increase of 729; but as the Nelson Subdistrict return, which was not included in this district last year, furnished 162 of the cases, the net increase was 567.

The number of offences reported in which no prosecutions resulted was 128, as against 136 for the previous year.

As will be observed in the annual offences return, some offences, including burglary, house-breaking, and false pretences, show a decrease, whilst others show an increase, the principal increase being in arrests for drunkenness.

The detective staff has been particularly busy, and has done excellent work during the year. In addition to attending to criminal work, a great deal of other inquiry work involving lengthy reports and careful investigation has been attended to. The same can be said of many members of the uniform branch of the service.

Whilst referring to the work done by the Department I desire to bear testimony to the excellent service rendered by the officers of the Finger-print Branch in numerous instances where their assistance has been invoked.

During the year new stations have been opened at Pongaroa and Seddon, and the district constables' stations at Makuri and Renwicktown have been closed.

Five constables resigned and 1 was dismissed, 1 sergeant retired on pension, and 2 sergeants, 24 constables, and 1 detective were transferred to other districts. Two sergeants, 1 detective, and 12 constables were transferred from other districts, and 27 recruits appointed.

The strength of the district has been increased by 1 constable at Petone, 1 at Nelson, 1 at Pongaroa, 1 at Carterton, 1 at Seddon, and 4 in Wellington.

INSPECTOR E. WILSON, GREYMOUTH DISTRICT.

The strength of the Force in this district on the 31st March last was 1 Inspector, 5 sergeants, 28 constables, 1 detective, and 1 district constable.

New stations have been opened at Granity and Otira, while a member of the regular Force has been placed in charge at Murchison.

The conduct of the men has on the whole been satisfactory, and punishments have not been inflicted for any offences of a serious nature.

Our statistics for 1906 show an increase of about 50 offences on the previous year's return, there being 574 offences reported, resulting in 533 prosecutions, leaving 41 offences (a number of which are very doubtful) undetected.

During the year there have been 15 prosecutions against publicans, resulting in 11 convictions, as against 33 prosecutions and 17 convictions in 1905, there being no prosecutions for sly-grog selling.

INSPECTOR R. J. GILLIES, CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT.

On the 31st March last the strength of the Force was 135 men of all ranks, made up as follows: 1 Inspector, 2 Sub-Inspectors, 1 station sergeant, 13 sergeants, 108 constables, 5 detectives, and 5 acting-detectives.

There is a surgeon and matron attached to the Christchurch station.

The casualties were: 1 retired on pension, 1 medically unfit, 5 resignations, 2 dismissals, 1 death.

The total number of offences reported during the year was 3,415, and the number in which arrest or summons resulted was 3,209, a decrease of 154 offences as compared with the previous year.

The records show that 460 bicycles were reported missing during the year, and that 446 were recovered.

Fines amounting to £234 were imposed against sly-grog sellers during the year. The usual difficulties in procuring evidence for the Crown are always experienced. There is no open trading as a rule, and the police have to be very alert to gain any knowledge of what may be going on almost within their reach. Sly-grog selling is rarely indulged in, except in districts where "no license" has been carried.

New stations have been erected at Christchurch, Addington, and Bingsland. There was ample accommodation for all the extra men on duty at the Exhibition, which proved to be most convenient, the expenditure being thereby considerably reduced.

The New Zealand Exhibition.—As it was anticipated that a number of the criminal class would arrive from the Australian States, special precautions were taken for the safety of visitors to the Exhibition, and I am pleased with the system adopted and the manner in which instructions were adhered to. The organization throughout was so complete that only a few of the criminal class succeeded in leaving the Australian ports for New Zealand, and those were so closely watched on arrival that they had no alternative but to return from whence they came. The Exhibition was open from the 1st November, 1906, to the 15th April, 1907, and the total attendance was 1,966,861, the daily average attendance being 13,949. Good order was maintained throughout the season, there being comparatively little crime to contend with. The detectives fortunately succeeded in securing a conviction against a gang of burglars, which was due principally to the evidence of the finger-print experts.

INSPECTOR T. O'BRIEN, DUNEDIN DISTRICT.

The total number of offences reported during the year was 1,740, being a decrease of 49 as compared with the preceding year. The number of cases in which arrests or procedure by summons took place was 1,556. The following offences show an increase as compared with the preceding year—namely: Assaults, common, 8; assaults on police, 4; breaches of the peace, 13; deserting and failing to provide for wives and children, 22; drunkenness, 28; failing to support parents, 14; manslaughter, 2; obscene and profane language, 11; obstructing police, 12; stone-throwing, 7; stowing away on board ships, 6; theft as a bailee, 16. And the following offences

show a decrease—namely: Assault and robbery, 4; burglary and breaking into shops, 24; carnally knowing girls, 3; cruelty to animals, 5; disobeying orders of Court and summonses, 22; disorderly and riotous conduct, 11; illegally on premises, 9; malicious injury to property, 12; neglected and criminal children, 19; opium smoking and being in possession of, 12; theft by servants, 8; theft from dwellings, 17; theft from the person, 4; and vagrancy, 13.

On the 31st March last the strength of the Force in this district was 1 Inspector, 1 Sub-Inspector, 1 station sergeant, 11 sergeants, 75 constables, 3 detectives, 1 district constable, 1 matron.

The casualties were: Retired under Police Provident Fund Act, 1 sergeant, 1 constable; resigned, 5 constables.

There has been a slight increase (28) in the number of persons dealt with for drunkenness during the year.

There have been 24 prosecutions for sly-grog selling during the year, and fines to the amount of £350 16s. have been inflicted. This class of offence got a strong check in the Clutha district during the year by the conviction of two persons against whom there was no evidence other than the fact that they purchased abnormal quantities of liquor at a hotel close by the no-license boundary and took it to the no-license area. Portion of the Clutha Electoral District is now in the Southland Police District—that is, Tapanui and Clinton Stations—the change having been made on the 31st December last.

During the year there were 59 registered homes in this district. Five deaths occurred in such homes during the year, an inquest being held in each case, which in every instance went to show that the home-keeper did all that human power could accomplish in alleviating the sufferer in each case. One prosecution took place for breaches of the Act during the year, and one conviction recorded. Several applications for licenses have been refused, the applicants not being deemed suitable.

Licensed hotels have invariably been well conducted during the year, particularly in the city. There have been 12 prosecutions against licensees, resulting in 5 convictions. The amendment to the Licensing Act made in 1904 making it an offence to be found on licensed premises after the hours of closing at night or on Sundays has been a great boon, and continues to give full satisfaction.

Sunday trading in shops is much indulged in, particularly by tobacconists and sellers of cordials. The recent amendment to "The Police Offences Act, 1884," rendering it unnecessary for the police to prove that the transaction took place within view of a public place, has greatly assisted the prosecution in such cases.

The conduct of members of the Force has, with a few trifling exceptions, been exemplary—and considering that the majority of them are but young in the service, they have on the whole proved themselves fairly efficient.

The appointment of a station sergeant in the city has filled a long-felt want, and is giving entire satisfaction. Hitherto it was utterly impossible, owing to the increased office duties of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, for these officers to give that amount of outside supervision which was necessary.

INSPECTOR A. J. MITCHELL, INVERCARGILL DISTRICT.

The strength of the Invercargill Police District on the 31st March last was 1 Inspector, 4 sergeants, 31 constables, and 1 detective, being an increase of 4 constables over that for the previous year, and due (a) to the inclusion of Tapanui and Clinton Stations in this district on the 1st January, 1907; (b) to the opening of the Gladstone Station, 6th July, 1906; and (c) to augmenting the staff at Invercargill Central Station by 1 constable.

Sergeant Fleming retired on three months' leave in July, 1906, and thereafter the Queenstown police staff was reduced by 1 sergeant and increased by 1 constable, which fully meets the requirements of that sub-district. This allowed Invercargill Central Station to be benefited by an additional sergeant being appointed to it, and thus enabling very fair supervision to be maintained over the beat-duty constables both by day and night.

No-license obtained in the Invercargill Licensing District on the 1st July last, consequent upon which—(a) brewery depots were established at Waikiwi, on the margin of the no-license area, at which youths and men purchase beer in 2 gal. and 5 gal. kegs, oftentimes when not in a fit state to be supplied. It is by no means an uncommon sight to see a number of young fellows collected round a keg on the roadside, or in an adjoining paddock, some of them showing signs of excessive drinking, and yet the police are helpless to control such sales, the vendors being subjected to no restrictions. (b.) The locker system came into existence at four establishments here. This system as carried on is, I think, an undoubted evasion of the law. The closing of the open bar has materially improved the order and conduct in the streets, and to my own knowledge many homes that formerly knew misery through its existence now enjoy happiness and contentment. At the same time, the consumption of liquor in Southland, as shown in the Customs return, has not decreased. During the nine months ended the 31st March last 78 cases of drunkenness were before the Invercargill Court, and in all cases but one the supply of liquor was conclusively traced to sources outside the no-license area—Bluff, by rail 17 miles; Woodlands, by rail 12 miles; Wallacetown, by road or rail 5 miles; and Waikiwi depots, by road 3 miles—so that it will be readily seen the facilities for obtaining liquor are numerous, and prevent no-license receiving a fair trial. During the same period 5 convictions have been recorded here for sly-grog selling, resulting in fines totalling £250; and, though we have a population of over 13,000, there is no reason to believe that illicit sales of liquor are at present being carried on to any appreciable extent.

The conduct of the members of the Force during the year has been on the whole good, and through attention to their duties the percentage of undetected crime in this district has been small.

APPENDIX B.

RETURN showing the STRENGTH and DISTRIBUTION of the NEW ZEALAND POLICE FORCE on the 31st March, 1907.

Stations.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Station-Sergeants-major.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Detectives.	Acting-Detectives.	Total.	Probationers.	District Constables.	Native Constables.	Matrons.	Surgeons.
Auckland District—													
Auckland ..	1	1	1	6	43	6	2	60				1	1
Aratapu ..					1			1					
Avondale ..					1			1					
Birkenhead ..					1			1					
Cambridge ..					1			1					
Coromandel ..					1			1					
Cowes ..									1				
Dargaville ..					1			1					
Devonport ..					3			3					
Eden Terrace ..				1	2			3					
Ellerslie ..					1			1					
Epsom ..					1			1					
Freeman's Bay ..					1			1					
Hamilton ..				1	2			3					
Helensville ..					1			1		1			
Hikurangi ..					1			1					
Hobsonville ..									1				
Hohoua ..									1				
Howick ..					1			1					
Huntly ..					1			1					
Kaikohe ..					1			1					
Kaitaia ..					1			1					
Karangahake ..					1			1					
Katikati ..									1				
Kawakawa ..					1			1					
Kawhia ..					1			1					
Kihikihi ..					1			1					
Mangawai ..									1				
Mangonui ..					1			1		1			
Mercer ..					1			1					
Mt. Roskill Road ..					1			1					
Morrinsville ..								1					
Newmarket ..				1	2			3					
Newton ..				3	4	2	1	10					
Ngauwahia ..					1			1					
Northcote ..					1			1					
Ohaeawai ..									1				
Okupu ..									1				
Omaio ..										1			
Onehunga ..				1	2			3					
Ongarue ..					1			1					
Opotiki ..					1			1		1			
Otahuhu ..					1			1					
Otorohanga ..					1			1		1			
Paeroa ..					1			1					
Pahi ..					1			1					
Panmure ..									1				
Papakura ..					1			1					
Parnell ..					3			3					
Ponsonby ..					3			3					
Port Albert ..					1			1					
Pukekohe ..					1			1					
Raglan ..					1			1					
Raurimu ..					1			1					
Rawene ..					1			1					
Rotorua ..				1	1			2		1			
Russell ..					1			1					
Shortland ..					1			1					
Taumarunui ..					1			1					
Taupo ..					1			1					
Tauranga ..					2			2					
Te Aroha ..					1			1					
Te Awamutu ..					1			1					
Te Kuiti ..					1			1					
Te Puke ..					1			1					
Te Whaiti ..									1				
Thames ..				1	3		1	5					
Tokaanu ..									1				
Waihi ..				1	4			5					
Waikino ..					1			1					
Waipu ..					1			1					
Waiuku ..					1			1					
Warkworth ..					1			1					
Whakatane ..					1			1		1			
Whangarei ..				1	1			2					
Whangaroa ..					1			1					
Whitianga ..					1			1					
Totals ..	1	1	1	17	127	8	4	159	10	8	1	1	
Napier District—													
Napier ..	1				1	8	1	11					
Carlyle Street ..					1	1		1					
Clive ..					1	1		1					
Dannevirke ..					1	2		3					
Gisborne ..					1	5	1	7					
Hastings ..					1	3		4					
Herbertville ..					1			1					
Ormondville ..					1			1					
Porongahau ..					1			1					
Port Awanui ..					1			1					
Scinde ..					1			1					
Spit ..					1			1					
Taradale ..					1			1					
Te Karaka ..					1			1					
Tolaga Bay ..					1			1					
Tuparoa ..											1		
Waikaremoana ..											1		
Waipawa ..						2		2					
Waipiro ..						1		1					
Waipukurau ..						1		1					
Wairoa ..						1		1					
Weber ..											1		
Woodville ..						2		2					
Totals ..	1				4	35	2	42		2	1		
Wanganui District—													
Wanganui ..	1				1	9	1	12					
Aramoho ..						1		1					
Ashhurst ..						1		1					
Bull's ..						1		1					
Eltham ..						1		1					
Feilding ..						1	2	3					
Foxton ..						1	2	3					
Hawera ..						1	2	3					
Hunterville ..						1		1					
Inglewood ..						1		1					
Kimbolton ..						1		1					
Mania ..						1		1					
Mangaweka ..						1		1					
Marton ..						1		1					
Moawhango ..											1		
Mokau ..						1		1					
New Plymouth ..						1	5	7					
Normanby ..						1		1					
Opunake ..						1		1					
Patea ..						1		1					
Palmerston N. ..						1	8	10					
Raetihi ..						2		2					
Rahotu ..						1		1					
Rongotea ..						1		1					
Shannon ..						1		1					
Stratford ..						3		3					
Taihape ..						2		2					
Terrace End ..						1		1					
Waitara ..						1		1					
Waitotara ..						1		1					
Waverley ..						1		1					
Whangamomona ..											1		
Willis St. (Pal.N.) ..						1		1					
Totals ..	1				5	57	3	66		2			
Wellington District—													
Wellington ..	1	2	1		7	35	6	55				1	1
Brooklyn ..						1		1					
Clyde Quay ..						1		1					
Manners St. (W.) ..						1		1					
Mount Cook ..						5	15	21		11			
Thorndon ..						1		1					
Tinakori Road ..						1		1					
Wellington S. ..						3		3					
Blenheim ..						1	4	5					
Carterton ..						2		2					
Collingwood ..						1		1					
Cullensville ..											1		
Eketahuna ..						1		1					

APPENDIX B—continued.

RETURN showing the STRENGTH, &c., of the NEW ZEALAND POLICE FORCE—continued.

Stations.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Station-Sergeants.	Sergeants-major.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Detectives.	Acting-Detectives.	Total.	Probationers.	District Constables.	Native Constables.	Matrons.	Surgeons.
Wellington District—contd.														
Featherston ..						1			1					
Greytown North ..						1			1					
Havelock ..						1			1					
Johnsonville ..						1			1					
Levin ..						2			2					
Lower Hutt ..						2			2					
Mangatainoka ..						1			1					
Martinborough ..						1			1					
Masterton ..				1	4				5					
Motueka ..					1				1					
Nelson ..				1	6		1		8					
Otaki ..					1				1					
Pahiatua ..					2				2					
Petone ..					3				3					
Picton ..					2				2					
Pongaroa ..					1				1					
Richmond ..					1				1					
Seddon ..					1				1					
Spring Grove ..					1				1					
Takaka ..					1				1					
Te Nui ..					1				1					
The Port ..					1				1					
Upper Hutt ..					1				1					
Totals ..	1	2	1	1	14	103	7	4	133	11	1		1	1
Greymouth District—														
Greymouth ..	1			2	5	1			9					
Ahaura ..					1				1					
Blackball ..					1				1					
Brunnerton ..					1				1					
Charleston ..					1				1					
Denniston ..					1				1					
Granity ..					1				1					
Hokitika ..				1	3				4					
Kanieri ..					1				1					
Karamea ..										1				
Kumara ..					1				1					
Lyell ..					1				1					
Murchison ..					1				1					
Okarito ..					1				1					
Otira ..					1				1					
Reefton ..				1	2				3					
Ross ..					1				1					
Seddonville ..					1				1					
Stafford ..					1				1					
Westport ..				1	3				4					
Totals ..	1			5	28	1			35		1			
Christchurch District—														
Christchurch ..	1	1	1	6	41	3	5	58				1	1	
Addington ..					1			1						
Akaroa ..					2			2						
Amberley ..					1			1						
Ashburton ..				1	5			6						
Belfast ..					1			1						
Bingsland ..					1			1						
Cheviot ..					1			1						
Coalgate ..					1			1						
Culverden ..					1			1						
Fairlie ..					1			1						
Geraldine ..					1			1						
Glenavy ..					1			1						
Hampden ..					1			1						
Kaipoi ..					2			2						
Kaikoura ..					1			1						
Kurow ..					1			1						
Leeston ..					1			1						
Lincoln ..					1			1						
Linwood ..					1			1						
Little River ..					1			1						
Lyttelton ..				1	4	1		6						
Methven ..					1			1						
New Brighton ..					1			1						
Ngapara ..					1			1						
Oamaru ..				1	5			6						
Oxford ..					1			1						
Papanui ..					1			1						
Phillipstown ..					1			1						
Pleasant Point ..					1			1						
Christchurch District—contd.														
Rakaia ..						1			1					
Rangiora ..					1				1					
Riccarton ..					1				1					
St. Albans ..					1				1					
St. Andrew's ..					1				1					
Sheffield ..					1				1					
Southbridge ..					1				1					
Sumner ..					1				1					
Sydenham ..					1	3			4					
Temuka ..					1	8	1		11					
Timaru ..		1			1	8			10					
Waimate ..					3				3					
Woolston ..					1				1					
Totals ..	1	2	1		13	108	5	5	135				1	1
Dunedin District—														
Dunedin ..	1	1	1		6	29	3	3	44				1	1
Alexandra South ..						2			2					
Anderson's Bay ..						1			1					
Balclutha ..						1			1					
Broad Bay ..											1			
Caversham ..						1			1					
Clyde ..					1	1			2					
Cromwell ..						1			1					
Green Island ..						1			1					
Kaitangata ..						1			1					
King Street ..					1	4			5					
Lawrence ..					1	1			2					
Middlemarch ..						1			1					
Milton ..						1			1					
Mornington ..						1			1					
Mosgiel ..						1			1					
Naseby ..						2			2					
North-east Valley ..						1			1					
Ophir ..						1			1					
Outram ..						1			1					
Owaka ..						1			1					
Palmerston S. ..						1			1					
Port Chalmers ..					1	3			4					
Ravensbourne ..						1			1					
Roslyn ..						1			1					
Roxburgh ..						1			1					
St. Bathans ..						1			1					
St. Clair ..						1			1					
South Dunedin ..					1	6			7					
Waikouaiti ..						1			1					
Waitahuna ..						1			1					
Waitati ..						1			1					
Woodhaugh ..						1			1					
Totals ..	1	1	1		11	72	3	3	92		1		1	1
Invercargill District—														
Invercargill ..	1				2	9	1		13					
Arrowtown ..					1	1			1					
Bluff ..					1	2			3					
Clinton ..						1			1					
Gladstone ..						1			1					
Gore ..					1	2			3					
Half-moon Bay ..											1			
Lumsden ..						1			1					
Mataura ..						1			1					
Nightcaps ..						1			1					
N. Invercargill ..						1			1					
Orepuki ..						1			1					
Otautau ..						1			1					
Pembroke ..						1			1					
Queenstown ..					2				2					
Riverton ..						1			1					
S. Invercargill ..						1			1					
Tapanui ..						1			1					
Waikaia ..						1			1					
Winton ..						1			1					
Wyndham ..						1			1					
Totals ..	1				4	31	1		37		1			
Grand totals ..	8	6	4		173	561	30	16	699	11	18		9	4
On leave prior to retirement ..						2			2					

APPENDIX C.

RETURN showing the PROPORTION of POLICE to POPULATION and COST of POLICE per INHABITANT in each of the undermentioned Places.

Place.	Number of Police.	Population.	Proportion of Police to Population.	Cost of Police per Inhabitant.
				s. d.
New Zealand	699	961,604	1 to 1,375	3 0
Victoria	1,554	1,237,998	1 to 796	4 7
New South Wales..	2,384	1,530,986	1 to 642	5 9½
South Australia ..	380	383,831	1 to 1,010	4 0½
Queensland	887	535,110	1 to 603	6 9½
Western Australia	517	261,746	1 to 506	9 8½
Tasmania	229	178,620	1 to 780	3 10½

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (1,950 copies), £12 9s. 6d.

By Authority : JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1907.

Price 6d.