

INSPECTOR HOLLIS, AUCKLAND CENTRAL DISTRICT.

During the past year, at intervals, for the prevention and detection of crime, motor patrol in the outer suburban areas of the co-ordinated districts has been very beneficial.

During the year serious crime has decreased in the Auckland Central District.

The conduct of the police during the year has been, on the whole, satisfactory. Both branches of the service have shown zeal, and in many cases considerable ability, in the discharge of their duties.

SUPERINTENDENT EMERSON, WELLINGTON HEAD DISTRICT.

The Lower Hutt and Petone Subdistricts are growing very fast. A new station was opened at Moera on the 24th January last.

For the year ended 31st December, 1928, the total number of offences reported was 5,057, being an increase of 283 over last year. There has been no serious crime worth mentioning during the year.

The conduct of the members of the Force has been good. Nine constables and one detective were dealt with for breach of Police Regulations.

SUPERINTENDENT EALES, CHRISTCHURCH HEAD DISTRICT.

In February last Inspector Allan Cameron took charge of the Christchurch Central District, which consists of nineteen stations. The head district, under myself, consists of twenty country stations. There is a decided improvement in the handling and despatch of correspondence, which now goes direct from the officer in charge to its destination without having to be forwarded through the Superintendent. As a result it has been found that the clerk who formerly kept the Inspector's records is not now required, and, so far, the district office staff has been able to deal with the correspondence without addition to the strength.

New police stations have been opened during the year at Beckenham and North New Brighton.

During the year 4,220 offences were reported, as against 4,182 in 1928. The majority of the offences were committed in the Central District.

Generally the conduct of members of the Force in the co-ordinated districts has been good. Several were dealt with for minor breaches of discipline.

INSPECTOR CAMERON, CHRISTCHURCH CENTRAL DISTRICT.

Offences reported for the year ended 31st December, 1928, totalled 3,492, as against 3,389 the previous year, being an increase of 103. 2,836 persons were dealt with by arrest or summons. The principal increases were in house and shop breaking; persons found unlawfully on premises; failing to provide maintenance for wives and families; breaches of the Arms Act, and obtaining credit by fraud. There was a marked increase in the number of juvenile offenders. There was an increase in detections of 117 against those of last year. The decreases were in cases of assault, false pretences, indecent assault, vagrancy, theft, unlawfully using motor-cars, and breaches of the Licensing Acts. Generally, the return shows a slight increase in the more serious crimes, and a slight decrease in minor offences.

The conduct of the members of the Force, with a few exceptions, has been good. The great majority of the men show that they are taking a keen interest in their work.

INSPECTOR HARVEY, WHANGAREI DISTRICT.

There has been an increase of offences reported during the year—namely, 764, against 722 for the previous year, resulting in 726 prosecutions. There has been an increase in drunkenness, false pretences, and offences under the Destitute Persons Act, and a decrease in breaches of Arms Act and Motor-vehicles Act. Six offences of rape were reported, resulting in five convictions. The worst case was committed on a schoolgirl near Ruawai by a stranger in the district, who pleaded guilty. He was also charged with a similar offence committed near Pukekohe on an old woman. He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to ten years on each charge.

The conduct of the members of the Force during the year has been good.

INSPECTOR ECCLES, HAMILTON DISTRICT.

The number of offences reported for the year ended 31st December, 1928, was 1,767, as compared with 2,255 for the previous year, showing a decrease of 488. The reason for the decrease is that eight stations were transferred from this district to Auckland Head District on the 1st January, 1928. Of the offences reported, 1,569 were accounted for by arrest or summons, leaving 198 undetected. There was no serious crime worthy of mention during the year.

There were six constables fined for breaches of Police Regulations during the year, and with these exceptions the conduct of the police was satisfactory.

INSPECTOR O'HALLORAN, GISBORNE DISTRICT.

The total number of offences reported in the district during the year was 1,200, showing an increase of 175 on the previous year. This increase has been brought about mostly by a more rigid enforcement of the provisions of the Motor-vehicles Act and Regulations. The district during the past year has been fairly free from serious crime, excepting some cases of safe-blowing. A gang was convicted of all except one of these crimes, and the stolen goods and money recovered.

The conduct of the police in the district during the past year has been very satisfactory, there being no defaulters.