

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Sub-Inspector CLARE, Waikato District, to the COMMISSIONER, Armed Constabulary Force.

SIR,—

A.C. District Office, Waikato, Hamilton, 3rd June, 1875.

With reference to your Circular Memorandum No. 161, of 23rd March last, I have the honor to transmit the following report of the district under my command, prepared in accordance with the requirements of the former circular therein noted, and showing the general nature and extent of the duties and works upon which the men of the Force have been employed during the past year:—

MILITARY DUTIES.

1. *Average Strength of Officers and Men.*—The average monthly strength of the Armed Constabulary Force stationed in the Waikato district during the year ending 31st May, 1875, has been:—7 officers, 2 medical officers, 1 veterinary surgeon, 20 non-commissioned officers, and 139 constables. Of these numbers, 3 non-commissioned officers and 18 constables are mounted.

2. *Parades and Drills.*—Inspection parades and drills in marching order have been maintained weekly, as also Divine service parades on Sundays, and occasional light infantry drills throughout the year, as frequently as the general work would allow. These have been under the supervision of the officers or non-commissioned officers in charge of stations and posts. There have also been monthly inspection parade and drill in marching order for the officer commanding the district. The annual course of musketry instruction and drill was conducted in Hamilton, commencing on 29th October, 1874; and was brought to a termination on 19th March, 1875.

3. *Mails and Despatches.*—A weekly public mail has been carried by the mounted orderlies of the Force to and from Hamilton, Te Awamutu, and Kihikihi throughout the year, and another between Alexandra and Harapipi. Weekly communications between the several posts have been maintained in the same manner.

4. *Escorts and Guards.*—A mounted party consisting of 1 sergeant and 9 constables, and a guard of 1 sergeant and 7 foot constables, proceeded to Auckland from this district, to receive his Excellency the Marquis of Normanby on his arrival in the colony, and remained in attendance until his departure South. No other escort parties have been required during the year, except those for the purpose of conducting prisoners to Auckland Gaol when under sentence or for trial. Night guards or patrols proportioned to strength of detachments have been regularly maintained.

Under this head it may be noted that a field party, consisting of 1 officer, 1 sergeant, and 10 constables, was detached in January to the Thames district for temporary duty with the staff employed during the Colonial Annual Prize Firing. Immediately after the conclusion of that service this detachment was removed to Ohinemuri Gold Field, and has remained there ever since employed in civil duties.

5. *Target Ranges.*—The target range at Cambridge station has been altered to a new position, offering a more extended range, up to 900 yards; and at Rotorangi a new range has been marked out, cleared, and formed up to a like distance. Both at Kihikihi and Alexandra considerable labour has been expended in extending and improving the ranges already in existence.

6. *Issuers and Storekeepers.*—One sergeant is employed at head-quarters as storekeeper to the Force in the district.

7. *Erection of Redoubts, Stockades, &c.*—A new stockade has been erected at Cambridge. The material used consists of round poles from 8 to 12 inches in diameter, 12 feet in length, adzed smooth down the sides, pointed at top, and planted four feet deep, after charring the butt ends. 750 poles were cut for this work, and brought in from a bush some six miles from the spot.

CIVIL DUTIES.

Nine men of the force are specially employed upon the civil duties of the several townships in the district. These attend the Resident Magistrates' Courts. One constable is acting as clerk in the office of the Resident Magistrate at Alexandra, and 1 sergeant has been attached to the Immigration Department as agent in Waikato for the reception and distribution of immigrants.

Other constables have been engaged in these duties and in attendance upon the coroner from time to time as circumstances have required.

Six men were employed in the month of February, collecting information for the agricultural statistical enumerators.

PUBLIC AND USEFUL WORKS.

A small party of 1 sergeant and 9 constables, under supervision of the officer in charge at Rotorangi, has been employed throughout the year in making a new road through the Paikuku swamp. Deep broad drains have been cut on either side of the road, which is 70.58 chains in length. 10,270 fascines were cut and laid upon it, and six large culverts made in the course of it. A channel or canal was also cut 1.55 chains in length, 20 feet broad by 3½ in depth, to divert the direction of Mangapiko Creek, over which at the spot a substantial sawn timber bridge has been erected. This party has also cut and formed a further length of road 89.30 chains over rough undulating ground. These works presented considerable difficulty, and have been very laborious, and required both skill and patience. They have been well and substantially completed.

Another small party of men was placed under the supervision of the District Resident Engineer on 24th March, to commence work upon the public road between Havelock's Leap and Paterangi, and has been employed upon earthworks, cutting and filling.

At Alexandra, the small detachment has been fully employed throughout the year on the various necessary and useful works at this station. The redoubt is extensive, and requires constant care and attention to preserve it in good repair: 3,472 square feet of the exterior slope of the parapet have been soddened with couch-grass sods, a work which will add much to its strength and durability; a large portion of the ditch has also been built up with sods. A twelve-acre paddock has been ploughed and sown