

from the haunts of vice and misery, would, in the majority of cases, have inevitably become thieves or prostitutes but for the efforts thus put forth for the amelioration of their condition.

A considerable amount of public and useful works have been executed by the Reserve Divisions during the past year. In Waikato the whole of the men that could be spared from station duty have been employed on the Cambridge and Taupo Road, where fifteen miles have been opened over a rough country, a large portion of which has been fascined and well covered with ballast, twenty culverts put in, and ten bridges built, for which the timber was cut by members of the Force. The Napier and Tauranga Road, for a distance of 109 miles, has been kept in repair by the men of the Force stationed at Taupo, except for a short time in March, when, on account of the damage done by the heavy rains and floods, twenty civilians were employed by the District Engineer to assist and enable the roads, then closed, to be opened for traffic in as short a time as possible. In other districts all available men have been employed on the following works:—Making a road between Optiki and Ormond, improving road between Wairoa and Gisborne, maintaining road between Whakatane and Ohope, repairing roads between Te Kapu and Waikaremoana and Tauranga and Ohinemutu, besides a number of other works.

In consequence of all men of the Force who could possibly be spared from station duties having been employed during the past year on road works in the Armed Constabulary districts, the annual course of musketry had to be suspended, and it became necessary to alter the conditions of the competitions for the prizes allotted to the Force out of the sum voted for rifle shooting during the year. Similar amounts had in past years been awarded to the marksmen in the annual course of musketry practice, but the sum was this year distributed in prizes to be competed for with as little expenditure of time as could be. The result is shown in Table No. 5, and the firing may, I think, be considered good. As regards the competition for colonial prizes, I would observe that the Force was at a great disadvantage, from the fact that the reduction I have referred to took place immediately before the colonial firing, and very few members of the Force went to the meeting as compared with former years; nevertheless, these succeeded in obtaining a fair amount of prizes.

The detectives have experienced more than average success in the detection of all serious cases of crime reported.

In conclusion, it gives me pleasure to state that the officers, non-commissioned officers, and constables have displayed very commendable zeal in their efforts to preserve the peace and good order of the colony, and, by their generally careful attention to their duties, together with their respectable demeanour and conduct, have aided much to raise the Police Force in the estimation of the public.

I have, &c.,

W. MOULE, Lieut.-Colonel,  
Commissioner, A. C. Force.

The Hon. the Native Minister, Wellington.

Table No. 1.

RETURN showing the MONTHLY STRENGTH of the ARMED CONSTABULARY FORCE, from 1st June, 1876, to 30th June, 1877.

Year.	Month.	Officers.							Non-commissioned Officers.							Constables.	Total all Ranks.	Horses.					
		Inspectors, 1st Class.	Inspectors, 2nd Class.	Musketry Instructors.	Sub-Inspectors, 1st Class.	Sub-Inspectors, 2nd Class.	Surgeons.	Assistant-Surgeons.	Accountants.	Veterinary Surgeons.	Drill Instructors.	Sergeants-Major.	Sergeants, 1st Class.	Sergeants, 2nd Class.	Sergeants, 3rd Class.			Detectives, 1st Class.	Detectives, 2nd Class.	Detectives, 3rd Class.	Troop.	Draught.	Pack.
1876	June ...	8	1	116	8	4	3	...	1	2	8	33	42	...	...	...	...	549	676	76	36	10	122
"	July ...	8	1	116	9	4	3	...	...	2	9	30	40	...	...	...	...	525	648	76	36	10	122
"	August ...	8	1	116	9	4	3	...	...	2	10	29	42	...	...	...	...	516	641	77	34	10	121
"	September	8	1	116	9	4	3	...	...	2	10	29	42	...	...	...	...	514	639	79	34	10	123
"	October ...	8	1	116	8	4	3	...	...	2	10	28	41	...	...	...	...	509	631	79	34	10	123
"	November	8	1	115	8	4	3	...	...	1	10	29	41	...	...	...	...	496	617	77	34	10	121
"	December	8	1	115	8	4	3	...	...	1	10	30	41	...	...	...	...	489	611	76	34	10	120
1877	January ...	8	1	115	8	4	3	...	...	1	10	28	41	...	...	...	...	462	582	70	33	6	109
"	February	6	...	112	1	1	1	...	...	1	7	29	31	...	...	...	...	406	496	28	51	10	89
"	March ...	6	...	112	1	1	1	...	...	1	6	29	31	...	...	...	...	398	487	46	29	10	85
"	April ...	4	...	111	...	1	1	...	...	1	4	19	21	...	...	...	...	307	370	29	41	10	80
"	May ...	19	2	116	...	1	1	1	...	...	8	57	46	11	4	5	2	625	799	159	38	9	206
"	June ...	19	2	115	...	1	1	1	...	...	9	56	46	12	4	6	1	614	788	160	38	9	207