

1877.

NEW ZEALAND.

ARMED CONSTABULARY FORCE.

(ANNUAL REPORT OF COMMISSIONER.)

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

The COMMISSIONER, Armed Constabulary Force, to the Hon. the NATIVE MINISTER.

SIR,— Armed Constabulary Office, Wellington, 18th July, 1877.

In compliance with clause No. 159 of the Armed Constabulary Regulations, I have the honor to submit the following report for the year 1876-77.

At the close of the last financial year the Force consisted of 676 of all ranks. During the year there have been 507 enrolled, including the officers and constables of the Provincial police, making a total of 1,183. From that number is to be deducted 395 who have become non-effective in consequence of reduction and other causes, leaving the strength at the close of the year 788. (*Vide* tables 1, 2, 3.)

In the early part of January last it was decided by the Government to amalgamate the Provincial police with the Armed Constabulary, and this has been carried out as follows:—

The provincial districts remain very nearly as before, except that the officers and men of the local police have been sworn in under "The Armed Constabulary Act, 1867," and their total number increased by transfers from the Armed Constabulary from 318 to 427, the present strength. The pay and allowances of the non-commissioned officers and constables has also been fixed at a uniform rate, instead of being as formerly in some districts double that of others. By this arrangement the pay of the men in most districts is slightly increased, though in a few cases a reduction had to be made.

The Armed Constabulary has been reduced from 676 to 350, and distributed as follows:—Four divisions, called "Reserve Divisions," have been formed, each consisting of 80 of all ranks, and a depôt at Wellington numbering 30, making a total as above, these divisions being stationed as follows:—

- One division, Waikato District;
- One division, Taupo District;
- One division, Taranaki and Patea Districts;
- One division, Opotiki and Wairoa Districts.

The "Reserve Divisions" are trained and equipped for field service, and are essentially a field force, which in case of emergency would be assisted by the police divisions, the men for which receive a short training in company, rifle, and skirmishing drill at the depôt before being transferred to the police.

The new Constabulary Bill provides for a retiring allowance, which will be a great boon to the Force, and will, I trust, induce men to remain, as the difficulty of replacing well trained and efficient constables can only be fully understood by those versed in police matters, who are aware that a constable's knowledge of his duty is only acquired after many years of experience.

There are at present in the Districts of Auckland, Napier, and Nelson some special or district constables, the majority of whom are of little or no service for the prevention or detection of crime, and who, from their almost sole dependence for a livelihood upon the community amongst whom they reside, cannot be expected to act independently or impartially. The police protection they afford is very inadequate to the growing wants of the sub-districts where they are respectively stationed, which are rapidly increasing in population and importance; it is therefore intended to replace these men by efficient constables as soon as the change can be conveniently carried out.

It is satisfactory to learn that a comparison of the criminal statistics for the past twelve months with the preceding year show that, while there is but slight variation in the character of offences, the total number of arrests has diminished, notwithstanding the increase of population. With regard to aboriginal criminals, I regret to say the number is increasing, no less than sixteen Maori offenders having been convicted at the Supreme Court, Auckland, during the year 1876, the majority of the convictions being for breaking into stores and dwelling-houses, and for horse stealing.

The distribution of the police, as shown in Table No. 4, is such that very general protection is afforded throughout the colony, and with the facilities of telegraph communication, which extends to nearly all the places where police are stationed, together with the speedy means of travelling by railway, tends greatly to expedite the general working of the service, and to economy in departmental expenditure.

The Naval "Training School" and "Industrial Schools" are (each in its own way) steadily and satisfactorily doing the work of reclaiming the little "waifs" of society, who, now forcibly rescued

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.	Total.
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

Table No. 5.

EXTRACT from the ANNUAL RETURN OF MUSKETRY PRACTICE of the ARMED CONSTABULARY FORCE for 1877, showing the Distribution of Prizes for the Year.

MOUNTED.

District.	Register Number.	Rank and Name.	Points at			Total.	No. of Prize.	Amount.	Remarks.
			200 Yds.	300 Yds.	400 Yds.				
Depôt ...	1975	1st Class Sergeant E. E. Edmunds	23	17	21	61	1st	£8	
Opotiki ...	1096	Mounted Constable G. Taylor	22	21	17	60	2nd	5	
Taupo ...	1894	" W. Brady	18	17	21	56	3rd	3	Carbine ... £19
Opotiki ...	1964	" J. Finnucane	18	22	14	54	4th	2	
Waikato ...	326	" J. T. Steel	23	17	11	51	5th	1	

Badges ... £15

FOOT.

District.	Register Number.	Rank and Name.	Points at			Total.	No. of Prize.	Amount.	Remarks.
			400 Yds.	500 Yds.	600 Yds.				
Opotiki ...	5	1st Class Sergeant A. Smith	24	25	18	67	1st	£15	
" ...	1684	Foot Constable B. Reed	25	17	23	65	2nd	10	Rifle ... £96
Taupo ...	1458	" J. Gallagher	18	22	23	63	3rd	9	
Taranaki ...	1773	" W. A. Ryan	23	21	19	63	4th	8	£180
Taupo ...	38	" Wm. Ebbett	25	23	15	63	5th	7	
Opotiki ...	1703	" Jno. O'Kane	23	21	18	62	6th	6	
Depôt ...	1180	Provost Sergeant R. Langtry	22	21	17	60	7th	5	
" ...	2017	Foot Constable T. Sewell	26	21	13	60	8th	5	
" ...	1836	Provost Sergeant J. Ellison	25	19	15	59	9th	4	
" ...	1835	2nd Class Sergeant A. Black	24	21	14	59	10th	4	
Taupo ...	2090	Foot Constable McCullum	22	25	12	59	11th	3	
" ...	1822	" G. Crosswell	16	22	20	58	12th	3	
Taranaki ...	1790	2nd Class Sergeant Geo. Morley	23	18	16	57	13th	3	
" ...	627	Foot Constable Wm. Elder	25	15	15	55	14th	2	
Taupo ...	226	Sergeant-Major H. Dundas	22	19	14	55	15th	2	
Depôt ...	1837	2nd Class Sergeant A. G. Withers	20	18	16	54	16th	1	
Opotiki ...	1680	Foot Constable D. Strickland	16	16	21	53	17th	1	
Taupo ...	2016	" A. Todd	19	16	18	53	18th	1	
Opotiki ...	2142	Provost Sergeant C. O. Hawke	22	15	15	52	19th	1	
Taranaki ...	1223	Foot Constable W. H. Roberts	18	20	13	51	20th	1	
Taupo ...	1499	1st Class Sergeant I. H. Green	20	20	11	51	21st	1	
Taranaki ...	1787	Foot Constable J. Pellew	18	13	19	50	22nd	1	
Opotiki ...	2120	" Fred. Loose	20	13	17	50	23rd	1	
" ...	1559	2nd Class Sergeant A. Mathias	20	14	16	50	24th	1	
" ...	2176	Foot Constable F. Arden	21	21	8	50	25th	1	

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