

1878.

NEW ZEALAND.

NEW ZEALAND CONSTABULARY

(ANNUAL REPORTS ON).

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

No. 1.

Superintendent WELDON to the Hon. the COMMISSIONER, New Zealand Constabulary.

SIR,—

Constabulary Office, Dunedin, 24th June, 1878.

In submitting my annual report upon the state of the Constabulary under my charge in the South Island, I have the honor to represent that, organized as the force now is in three divisions—viz., the Armed Constabulary proper, the North and South Island Police—so far as this system affects the latter, I have much pleasure in saying that the unity and co-operation thus secured obviously tend to increase the efficiency of the service; and that the economy of working the department in such large districts has immense advantages over the method which hitherto existed.

The numerical strength of the division consists of 282 members of the Force of all grades, distributed in 104 stations. This, in comparison to the population (256,093), gives one policeman to about every 908 inhabitants, which is under the usual average of police to population; but as the organization already alluded to becomes more fully developed there is little doubt it will materially conduce to the most satisfactory results.

In the repression and detection of crime I am happy to say the Force has been very successful: comparatively speaking, very few serious crimes have been committed; more however could be done in this direction if the police were better aided by the law. As matters stand, without being in the possession of a warrant the police cannot arrest an offender for a lesser crime than felony, whereas there is little or no difference between felonies and misdemeanours: for instance, if a person embezzles he commits a felony and can be apprehended without a warrant, but if he obtains money or goods by false pretences, legally speaking, the police without being in possession of a warrant are powerless to arrest. They have hitherto endeavoured, by straining their powers, to get over this difficulty, but probably the time has arrived when the proper legal remedy for this state of things might be made. I would here very strongly urge that a Police Offences Act be passed embodying those and other similar offences provided for in the Otago Town and Country Police Ordinance, and giving power to arrest misdemeanants and such other offenders in the first instance without warrants.

Multifarious as the duties are which devolve upon the police, and as they are gradually increasing, it is to be feared that there must be a corresponding increase in the number of the men. Be that as it may, the great objection lies in members of the Force having to serve two officers of different departments, both giving orders irrespective of each other, and requiring the police to carry out their separate instructions at one and the same time, whereby orders clash, inefficiency sets in, and the ultimate result will be demoralization. This is most noticeable in Westland, where no less than five sergeants and constables have to act as clerks to Wardens and Magistrates, and in consequence (without going into details here) inefficiency has set in. I have therefore to recommend that the system as adopted on the Otago Gold Fields, where the Magistrates and Wardens manage these matters admirably, be followed elsewhere.

I regret to say that some considerable expense will have to be incurred in the erection of and repairs to police-stations and lock-ups. In this respect Westland, Nelson, and Marlborough demand most attention, as the buildings alluded to in those districts have been allowed to fall into a state of decay, and little or no apparent handiwork is visible for the preservation of the barracks or comfort of the occupants.

I cannot conclude this report without bringing prominently before you the able and zealous exertions of the officers, sergeants, and constables of this division in the performance of their duty—exertions which render life and property very secure. Besides, the *esprit de corps* reigning in the division in thus rendering the very best services has been repeatedly remarked, and ought to be encouraged. Therefore to maintain these commendable qualifications I have a duty to perform towards the Force, and that is to ask for the members considerations which elsewhere, and indeed all over Her Majesty's dominions, are conceded to police. I refer to provision in the shape of pensions and retiring allowances. Taking into consideration the heavy loss sustained by some of the sergeants and constables of long standing, through no fault of their own, but by the change in the Constitution

of the Government of the colony, which to them has entailed a loss of from 4s. 4d. in the ranks of the former to that of 1s. 2d. in the latter per day, I would also respectfully ask for a favourable consideration of their case as to an increase in their present rate of pay.

Herewith I beg to enclose the following returns:—

No. 1. The numerical strength and distribution of the officers, sergeants, and constables of the division.

No. 2. All offences reported and apprehensions made for the twelve months ending on the 30th of April last.

I have, &c.,

T. K. WELDON,

Superintendent of Constabulary in Charge,
South Island.

The Hon. the Commissioner,
New Zealand Constabulary, Wellington.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Table No. 1.

SOUTH ISLAND DIVISION OF CONSTABULARY.

RETURN showing the STRENGTH and DISTRIBUTION of the CONSTABULARY on 1st June, 1878.

DISTRICT.	STATIONS.	NUMERICAL STRENGTH.																
		Superintendents.		Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	District Clerks.	Sergeants-Major.	Sergeants.			Constables.			Detectives.			Special Constables.	District Constables.
		1st class.	2nd class.					1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.	1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.	1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.		
OTAGO.	Dunedin ...	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	2	3	9	5	1	2	...	...	...
	North Dunedin ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	4	3	...	...	...	...	...
	Kensington ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Anderson's Bay ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Caversham ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Green Island ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Linden ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Mornington ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Mosgiel ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Outram ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Port Chalmers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Blueskin ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Palmerston ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Hawkesbury ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Macrae's ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Invercargill ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Riverton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Campbelltown ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Mataura ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Winton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Switzer's ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Lowther ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Orepuki ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Stewart Island ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Lawrence ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Balclutha ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Clinton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Milton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Roxburgh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tapanui ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Waihola ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Waipori ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Waitahuna ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clyde ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Alexandra ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black's ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. Bathans ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naseby ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cromwell ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cardrona ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arrowtown ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Queenstown ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oamaru ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	5	1	...	...	...	...	...
Hampden ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CANTERBURY.	Christchurch ...	1	...	1	...	1	2	2	2	4	4	21	...	1	1	...	...
	Lincoln ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Phillipstown ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	St. Albans ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Sydenham ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Carried forward	2	...	5	1	2	1	13	8	8	34	45	34	1	3	1	2	...

RETURN showing the STRENGTH and DISTRIBUTION of the CONSTABULARY—continued.

DISTRICT.	STATIONS.	NUMERICAL STRENGTH.																	
		Superintendents.		Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	District Clerks.	Sergeants-Major.	Sergeants.			Constables.			Detectives.			Special Constables.	District Constables.	
		1st class.	2nd class.					1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.	1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.	1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.			
CANTERBURY—continued.	Brought forward	2	...	5	1	2	1	13	8	8	34	45	34	1	3	1	2	...	
	Lyttelton	1	1	2	2	1	
	Governor's Bay	1	
	Akaroa	1	1	
	Little River	1	
	Head of the Bay	1	
	Timaru	1	1	1	3	2	...	1	
	Opawa	1	1	
	Pleasant Point	1	
	Temuka	1	1	
	Waimate	1	...	1	1	
	Waitangi	1	
	Geraldine	1	
	Ashburton	1	...	1	3	
	Rakaia	1	
	Kaipoi	1	1	...	2	
	Amberley	1	
	Hurunui	1	
Rangiora	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oxford	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malvern	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Coalgate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bealey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Southbridge	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Leeston	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
WESTLAND.	Hokitika	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	1	2	1	...	...	...	...
	Greymouth	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Kumara	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	...
	Westport	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Charleston	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Lyell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Reefton	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ahaura	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	No Town	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Maori Gully	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Dunganville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Greenstone	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Waimea	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Stafford	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kanieri	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ross	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Okarito	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arawata	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
NELSON.	Nelson	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	4	...	...	1	...	...
	Richmond	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Spring Grove	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Moutere	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Motueka	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Motueka Valley	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Takaka	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
MARLBOROUGH.	Collingwood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Waiau	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Blenheim	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
	Havelock	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
MARLBOROUGH.	Kaikoura	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Picton	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total	2	1	10	2	2	2	29	11	16	73	59	58	2	4	3	2	6	=282

T. K. WELDON,
Superintendent of Police.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

Table No. 2.

SOUTH ISLAND DIVISION OF CONSTABULARY.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of OFFENCES committed and APPREHENSIONS during the Year ending 30th April, 1878.

Offences.	Number of all Offences committed during the Year ending 30th April, 1878.	Persons Apprehended or Proceeded against by Summons.						Total number of Persons apprehended or proceeded against by Summons during the Year ending the 30th April, 1878.
		Committed for Trial.		Summarily Convicted.		Discharged.		
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Abduction	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Abortion	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Absconding from bail	5	...	...	4	...	1	...	5
Absconding from Industrial School	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Arson	25	7	...	...	...	4	...	11
Arson, attempted	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Assaults, common	231	...	...	166	12	53	...	231
Assaults, violent	9	3	...	4	...	2	...	9
Assaults on police	193	...	...	180	3	7	3	193
Assaults, indecent	23	7	...	13	...	3	...	23
Assault and robbery	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Assault with intent to do bodily harm	15	6	...	6	1	1	...	14
Bestiality	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	5
Begging	3	...	...	2	...	1	...	3
Breach of the peace	115	...	...	104	1	10	...	115
Burglary, attempted	12	2	...	...	...	6	...	8
Burglary	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Breaking into offices and attempting to steal therefrom	20	5	...	9	...	...	...	14
Cattle-stealing	18	4	...	1	...	3	...	8
Carrying offensive weapons	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Contempt of Court	25	...	...	22	...	3	...	25
Conspiring to defraud	5	3	2	...	...	...	...	5
Child desertion	9	...	3	...	1	...	5	9
Cruelty to animals	6	...	...	4	...	2	...	6
Cutting and wounding with intent	3	1	...	...	...	2	...	3
Damaging property	143	...	...	90	10	12	...	112
Damaging police uniform	5	...	...	4	1	...	...	5
Demanding money by menaces and threats	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Deserting from hired service	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Discharging firearms in a public place	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Disobeying summonses	4	...	...	1	...	2	...	3
Disobeying orders of the Court	14	...	...	6	...	6	...	12
Disorderly conduct	70	...	...	46	16	8	...	70
Distillation Act, breaches of	4	...	...	3	...	1	...	4
Drunk and disorderly	4,432	...	...	3,617	457	322	36	4,432
Dog-stealing	9	...	...	2	...	2	...	4
Dog Nuisance Ordinance, breaches of	4	...	...	2	...	2	...	4
Embezzlement	53	17	3	11	...	12	...	43
Embezzling ships' cargo and stores	7	...	...	5	...	2	...	7
Employment of Females Act, breaches of	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Escaping from legal custody	5	1	...	1	3	...	...	5
False pretences, obtaining goods and money by	77	4	...	19	6	27	16	72
Furious riding and driving	19	...	...	19	...	...	...	19
Forgery	46	35	2	...	...	2	...	39
Gambling	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Habitual drunkenness	20	...	...	6	10	4	...	20
Harbouring ship deserters	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Hawkers' License Ordinance, breaches of	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Horse-stealing	28	3	...	...	...	4	...	7
Illicit distillation	7	1	...	1	...	4	...	6
Illegally on premises	32	...	...	13	1	16	2	32
Infanticide	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Indecent exposure	18	...	...	15	1	2	...	18
Keeping houses of ill-fame	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Larceny	843	42	6	274	48	135	23	528
Larceny from dwellings	38	3	1	11	1	8	3	27
Larceny from shops	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Larceny from the person	15	5	1	2	...	5	2	15
Larceny from gold mines	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Larceny from offices	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Larceny as bailees	39	11	2	10	2	7	...	32
Lunacy	288	...	...	201	36	38	13	288
Licensing Ordinance, breaches of	27	...	...	26	...	1	...	27
Letting off fireworks	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Murder	7	3	2	...	...	...	2	7
Manslaughter	7	4	2	...	...	1	...	7
Maliciously obstructing a railway line	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Maliciously maiming cattle	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Municipal By-laws, breaches of	165	...	...	136	2	27	...	165
Neglected and criminal children	184	...	...	82	66	23	13	184
Obscene language	296	...	...	233	44	13	6	296
Obstructing police	12	...	...	11	...	1	...	12
Perjury	15	10	2	...	...	2	...	14
Profane language	4	...	...	3	...	1	...	4
Carried forward	7,704	189	28	5,375	724	795	125	7,236

RETURN showing the NUMBER of OFFENCES committed and APPREHENSIONS, &c.—*continued.*

Offences.	Number of all Offences committed during the Year ending 30th April, 1878.	Persons Apprehended or Proceeded against by Summons.						Total number of Persons apprehended or proceeded against by Summons during Year ending the 30th April, 1878.
		Committed for Trial.		Summarily Convicted.		Discharged.		
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Brought forward	7,704	189	28	5,375	724	795	125	7,236
Protection of Animals Act, breaches of	15	...	...	9	...	2	...	11
Personating females	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Prisons Act, breaches of	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Rape	12	9	...	1	...	2	...	12
Rape, attempted	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Railway By-laws, breaches of	60	...	...	53	2	7	...	62
Receiving stolen property	8	2	...	1	...	5	...	8
Rescuing prisoners	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Resisting and obstructing police	27	...	...	26	...	1	...	27
Resisting bailiffs	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Refusing to assist bailiffs	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Robbery with violence	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rogues and vagabonds	10	2	...	8	...	...	...	10
Sacrilege	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sale of Spirits to Natives Ordinance, breaches of	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Shooting with intent	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Shipping Act, breaches of, disobedience of orders, &c.	109	...	...	81	...	10	...	91
Ship desertion	43	...	...	22	...	...	...	22
Sheep-stealing	3	1	...	...	...	2	...	3
Suicide, attempted	16	3	1	2	2	4	3	15
Surreptitiously obtaining passages by ships Threatening language	8	...	...	8	...	...	...	8
Threatening language	20	...	...	17	...	3	...	20
Throwing stones in public places	12	...	...	9	...	3	...	12
Trespass	15	...	...	9	...	5	...	14
Town and Country Police Ordinance, breaches of, minor offences	71	...	...	67	...	4	...	71
Uttering forged cheques	8	...	...	5	1	2	...	8
Vagrancy	466	...	...	301	90	55	20	466
Wife desertion	69	...	...	28	...	18	...	46
Total	8,691	212	29	6,027	819	919	148	8,154

No. 2.

Lieut.-Colonel LYON to the Hon. the COMMISSIONER, New Zealand Constabulary.

SIR,— Armed Constabulary Head-quarters, Cambridge, 20th June, 1878.

In accordance with Circular No. 181, of 24th April, 1876, I have the honor to forward for your information the following reports of duties performed by the Armed Constabulary in the Waikato and other districts for the past year, and it gives me much pleasure in being able to testify to the attention to duty and general good conduct of the Force under my command.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Commissioner,
New Zealand Constabulary, Wellington.

WILLIAM C. LYON, Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding Reserve Division, A.C.F.

WAIKATO DISTRICT.

MILITARY DUTIES.

Average Strength of Officers and Men.—The average strength of the Armed Constabulary in this district during the past year has been—3 officers, 9 non-commissioned officers, and 65 constables.

Parades and Drills.—Divine service parade, also heavy marching order parade and drill once a week.

Mails and Despatches.—No mail duties have been performed by members of the Force in this district during the year. Communication has been maintained between head-quarters and road parties and out-stations by mounted orderlies.

Escorts and Guards.—One non-commissioned officer and eight constables were on duty at Government House, Auckland, during the stay of His Excellency the Governor at that city. Mounted orderlies were in attendance on His Excellency the Governor, the Hon. Sir George Grey, and other members of the Ministry, during their visits to the Waikato.

Target Ranges.—The target ranges at Cambridge and Alexandra have been kept in good repair.

Issuer and Storekeeper.—Sergeant-Major Heany is issuer and storekeeper at head-quarters, and is also in charge of a considerable quantity of Public Works stores.

Erection of Redoubts and Stockades.—No new redoubt or stockade has been erected during the year.

CIVIL DUTIES.

Constable Kirk is Clerk to the Resident Magistrate's Court at Alexandra. Ten non-commissioned officers and constables were employed during the month of March in taking the census and collecting the agricultural statistics of the Electoral Districts of Waikato and Waipa.

PUBLIC AND USEFUL WORKS.

During June and July last year a bridge, 70 feet long and 10 feet wide, was built over the Tiarere Stream (Cambridge and Taupo Road). The height of the stringers from summer water-level is 22 feet 6 inches, and from flood level 13 feet. The sill into which are stepped the piles of the centre pier is founded in a bed of reddish cement equal to rock, and at a depth below the bed of the creek of 6 feet. The sills of end piers have foundations almost equally good. The timber throughout is rimu, being the best hard wood procurable, and 8,500 feet have been sawn and used in its construction. The timber was sawn by members of the Force, and hauled or carted by Armed Constabulary teams from the Hinuera bush, a distance of over two miles: this portion of the work was most difficult and laborious, owing to the numerous swamps and gullies which intervene. Twenty miles of the Cambridge and Taupo Road through a broken country have been reopened and widened; three very large culverts, equal to small bridges, twenty box-drains, 24 feet by 12 feet 9 inches, and a large number of stone and tile culverts have been fixed along the road over the numerous small streams; the stone used in the culverts was quarried by the men. A bridge, 90 feet by 12 feet, over the Karapera Creek at Cambridge, has been re-erected and strengthened; also a small bridge, 18 feet by 6 feet, over a stream on the Rifle Range.

The head-quarters of the district removed from Hamilton to Cambridge last July; the magazine, Government store, gymnasium, and three other buildings were brought up and re-erected at this station. Two barrack-rooms, 30 feet by 20 feet, have been match-lined and ceiled and put in proper repair. A cook-house, 18 feet by 20, has been built. The palisading round the barracks has been taken down; the ends of the poles, which were beginning to decay, sawn off, and the whole re-erected. The four-acre paddock on which the barracks stand has been refenced, in which a well 40 feet deep has been sunk, and a pump fixed for station use. The five-acre paddock has been ploughed up, harrowed, and resown with grass and clover; the fence also has been renewed. Alexandra Station, with its large redoubt, has been kept in good order, fully employing the few men that have been stationed there. Kihikihi Station, after being closed from May, 1877, to January, 1878, has been regarrisoned, the buildings repaired and newly painted.

TAUPO DISTRICT.

MILITARY DUTIES.

Average Strength of Officers and Men.—The average strength of the Force in this district during the past twelve months has been—1 Superintendent, 1 Sub-Inspector, 1 Surgeon, 9 non-commissioned officers, and 66 constables.

Nature of Parades and Drills.—Parades have been held as follows:—For Divine service on Sundays at 10 a.m.; in heavy marching order, every Monday; and for inspection and drill, once a week. The firing for prizes allotted by the Government, in lieu of the "annual course of musketry," took place between the 27th February and 6th March.

Carrying Mails and Despatches.—Despatches, &c., have been carried by mounted orderlies, as occasion required.

Escorts, Guards, &c.—A mounted constable escorted two prisoners (charge dismissed against one) from Rotorua to Taupo; and a foot constable performed a like duty and handed over the other (committed for trial) to the authorities in Napier. A guard has been kept up regularly on the redoubt at head-quarters.

Making and Improving Target Ranges.—The ranges at Opepe, Tarawera, and Tapuacharuru have been kept in repair.

Storekeepers and Issuers.—The duties of storekeeper have been performed by the officer commanding the district.

Erection of Redoubts and Stockades.—The redoubt at head-quarters has been entirely rebuilt, and the ditch enlarged. At Opepe the stockade has also been renewed, and improvements made.

CIVIL DUTIES.

Steps taken for the Prevention of Crime.—Constables have been told off for police duty, if required, at Tarawera and Taupo.

Attending Civil Courts.—Constable Thompson is still Clerk to the Resident Magistrate's Court at Taupo, which holds its Civil sittings fortnightly. Members of the Force attend on Court days.

Attending Native Land Court.—Constables were told off for duty at the sittings of the Native Land Court held at Taupo in August. A Native sergeant and constable also attended the Land Court sitting at Maketu in May.

Taking Census.—Four mounted constables were employed in February and March collecting agricultural statistics and taking the census in Petane Riding (Hawke's Bay District), and Counties of East and West Taupo.

PUBLIC AND USEFUL WORKS.

Nature and Extent of Roadwork.—The road between Atiamuri and Kaiwaka (109 miles) has been kept in good order by Armed Constabulary labour alone. During the year 2,313 chains of road have been re-formed, 12,827 chains of ruts filled in and water-tables cleared out, entailing a removal of 3,462 cubic yards of earth; 10 chains of road have been fascined, 360 yards (cubic) of embankment built up, slips removed to the extent of 197 cubic yards, 6 cubic yards of metal broken and laid down, 6 chains of drain (3 feet wide by 2 feet deep) cut, and 90 cubic yards of rock blasted. Men have also been employed clearing logs and laying off and chaining a new road at Kaiwaka. A road from Taupo to the

Hot Springs was commenced in October, and up to 31st May 132 chains had been completed, comprising 1,511 cubic yards embankment, 2,264 cubic yards block, 1,982 cubic yards side cuttings, and 69 chains of new formation. The value of the roadwork during the year has been estimated by the Road Inspector at over £1,200.

Building Bridges and Culverts.—No new bridges or culverts have been built, but those in existence have been kept in repair. Six culverts have been taken up and thoroughly cleaned out.

Building Houses, Stables, &c.—The barrack-room (48 feet by 18 feet) and mess-house (40 feet by 12 feet) at Taupo have been completed; a bake-oven has been attached to the bakehouse, and the surgery removed from Opepe to Taupo. A stable, 32 feet by 16 feet, with forage store attached, has also been commenced at head-quarters. At Opepe 13,968 feet of timber have been sawn; 729 posts, 1,244 rails, 160 slabs, 25,000 shingles, and 625 palings split.

Fencing Paddocks, and Laying down in Grass.—The paddock at Taupo has been enlarged, 19 chains newly fenced, and 5 acres laid down in grass. The fences round the paddocks at Opepe and Tarawera have also been kept in thorough repair.

REMARKS.

During the past year the district has remained undisturbed. A non-commissioned officer, stationed at Napier, has received and forwarded all Government stores for use in this district (two wagons and a dray in charge of members of the Force having been employed between Napier and Taupo, where cartage has been required), Te Wairoa, &c., but is about to be removed, and the Armed Constabulary Office given up.

Major Tisdall visited and inspected the Government property throughout the district in January.

The following casualties have taken place:—One Sub-Inspector (Cripp) resigned his commission; 7 constables were discharged and 2 dismissed (absent without leave and medically unfit); 3 non-commissioned officers and 17 constables arrived from, and 1 non-commissioned officer and 5 constables were transferred to, the depôt and other districts; and 1 constable was enrolled to be employed as farrier in addition to mounted duties.

In conclusion, I would beg to report most favourably of the Force under my command, and that all members have been diligent in the discharge of their respective duties during the past twelve months.

TARANAKI DISTRICT.

Average Strength.—The average strength has been 76, all ranks, being slightly under the authorized number.

Parades and Drills.—The usual parades and frequent drills have taken place. Much attention has been paid, in particular, to skirmishing drill, in which I am able to report a marked improvement.

Field Operations.—No field operations have been necessary, and, with the exception of a small temporary addition to the garrison at Opunake, I have no movement to report.

Patrols.—A patrol leaves Waihi at uncertain times, day or night, for Normanby, on civil duties.

Scouts.—Scouts are not at present required.

Conveying Mails and Despatches.—Mails and despatches have been regularly conveyed, as usual, to out-stations in this district, and mails are also carried from Hawera to Normanby twice daily, a duty of which I trust the Constabulary may be shortly relieved, as there is now a good road between the two townships, and it would be better if tenders were invited by the Post Office authorities for the performance of such duty direct.

Escorts and Guards.—Escorts have been furnished for either civil or military purposes when required. Regular guards are maintained at Pukearuhe, Waihi, and other stations, in accordance with any existing necessity.

Target Ranges.—Target ranges have been kept in repair where required.

Telegraph Duties.—Telegrams on Government service are forwarded by special orderly with all necessary despatch to places unconnected by wire with head-quarters.

Issuers and Storekeepers.—Members of the Force are still detailed for these, in addition to their ordinary duties.

Redoubts.—Existing redoubts, stockades, or earthworks have been kept in repair, or, when necessary, rebuilt.

Civil Duties.—Every assistance required has been rendered to the civil authorities.

Attending Civil Courts.—Members of the Reserve Division have attended Courts when required.

Agricultural Statistics.—The agricultural statistics of Taranaki District were partially collected by mounted members of the division.

PUBLIC AND USEFUL WORKS.

Nature and Extent of Roadwork.—About 45 chains of road have been formed at Waihi; several chains of bush road have also been made for the purpose of getting out timber and firewood.

At Pukearuhe about 5 chains of main road near Waiti have been formed, proper ditches dug to carry off drainage from swamps, 7 chains of road near camp reformed, old culverts replaced by new, the track to the beach repaired, and 8 or 10 chains of bush road made for camp purposes.

A detachment from Opunake has improved and repaired the main line of road.

Building and Repairing Bridges, &c.—Some small bridges in the vicinity of Waihi Station have been raised and otherwise put in repair.

Buildings, &c.—An eight-stalled stable has been completed at Waihi, with saddle-room attached; this building will also accommodate wagon and drays. A new mess-room and kitchen have been built by members of the Force, at their own expense. The blockhouses and guardroom have been partially repaired. The reading-room and library have been lined and papered, an extra room fitted up for the sergeant-major, two small extra rooms added to officers' quarters, and the buildings in camp painted and generally repaired.

At Pukearuhe a forage store 12 feet by 17 feet, of corrugated iron, has been erected; a washing-room 18 feet by 7 feet, for the men added to the barrack-room; the barracks, hospital, &c., painted, and numerous necessary repairs performed.

The men's quarters at Opuake have been lined, and officers' quarters generally improved.

The blockhouse at Okato has been re-shingled and otherwise repaired.

The buildings at New Plymouth Station have been kept in repair, and, as in other instances, considerably improved at the expense of the men there quartered.

Fencing.—The general fencing at Waihi has been kept in repair, a five-acre paddock fenced off for oats, and about 7 chains of ditch and bank erected to secure a stable paddock of about three acres.

About 14 chains of ditch and bank have been completed at Pukearuhe, and several chains of other fencing; 60 hurdles have also been constructed to preserve recreation ground from the trespass of cattle, &c.

Eight chains of post-and-rail fence have been erected in the Government paddock, New Plymouth, and about 30 chains of ditching completed round horse paddock at Opuake.

About 12 tons of oaten hay were saved from the five-acre paddock at Waihi, and about twenty acres surface-sown with rye.

The men were frequently employed on other useful and necessary works of a minor nature at the several stations in the district when required.

OPOTIKI DISTRICT.

MILITARY DUTIES.

Average Strength of Officers and Men.—Four officers, and 68 non-commissioned officers and men.

Nature of Parades and Drills.—Divine service parades at each station every Sunday, and heavy marching order and inspection parades once a week; light infantry and company drill when necessary, and when sufficient men are available.

Operations in the Field.—Nil.

Patrolling and Scouting.—Nil.

Conveying Mails and Despatches.—A mail is carried by orderly weekly from Onepoto and Ohuka to Te Kapu, and a public mail from Te Kapu to Clyde also weekly. Despatches have been forwarded from station to station, &c., when necessary.

Escorts, Guards, &c.—A night watchman is told off at each station, and remains till daylight, the stations not being strong enough to furnish a regular guard. No escorts were required during the year.

Making and improving Target Ranges.—The rifle ranges at Te Kapu and Onepoto Stations have been cleared, and new butts built.

Telegraph Linesmen.—None required.

Issuers and Storekeepers.—The whole of the Armed Constabulary clothing, reserve arms and ammunition, &c., is placed under the charge of a non-commissioned officer at Tauranga, Opotiki, and Te Kapu Stations, and who also act as magazine-keepers, and render their returns of the reserve ammunition, &c., direct to the head storekeeper. The clothing is inspected by each officer in charge of a station monthly.

Erection of Redoubts and Stockades.—The redoubts at Tauranga, Opotiki, Te Kapu, and Onepoto Stations have been kept in good order and repair.

CIVIL DUTIES.

Steps taken for the Prevention of Crime.—This duty is performed by the police, under the command of Inspector Thomson, Auckland.

Attending Civil Courts.—One second-class sergeant acted as Clerk to the Civil Commissioner at Tauranga, and also as Clerk to the Resident Magistrate's Court, up to the 30th June, 1877, when he was discharged at his own request.

Attending Land Courts.—Nil.

Taking Census.—Eight constables were employed collecting the census in the Counties of Tauranga, Whakatane, and Wairoa. A constable was also sent from Te Kapu to Poverty Bay with the census returns collected in Wairoa County.

PUBLIC AND USEFUL WORKS.

Nature and Extent of Roadwork.—At Opotiki Station about 16 chains of road has been reformed and well gravelled, and 20 chains of gravel has also been placed around the Magistrate's Court. The road between Te Kapu and Waikaremoana, a distance of 30 miles, has been put in thorough repair, slips removed, and new cuttings made. Two men are also employed throughout the year in keeping the road in repair from Ohuka to the Waikare-Taheka Ferry, a distance of 6 miles, as well as the road on the Te Kapu side, a distance of 3 miles. At Te Kapu Ferry a cutting along the bank of the river some hundred yards long has been made, to join the public road. This work has been done in consequence of people passing through the Government paddocks, and invariably leaving the gates open. On the Opotiki and Ormond Road the following roadwork has been performed:—12,923 yards of earth shifted, 1,309 chains of road maintained, and 166 chains of road formed. The bush on each side of the road has been felled and cleared away half a chain on each side to admit sun and air. The length of road completed during the year on the above line is in actual distance about 31 miles.

Building Bridges and Culverts.—At Opotiki two bridges have been almost rebuilt, the Waioeka and the Hunter's Creek Bridge, which were destroyed by a heavy flood. Four men have been employed on this work almost daily, under the supervision of Mr. S. Crapp, of the Public Works Department. Between Te Kapu and Waikaremoana three bridges and nine culverts have been repaired, some of the latter having to be entirely rebuilt. Five men were employed daily for some considerable time, under

the supervision of a civilian appointed by the county, in partly rebuilding the Scamperdown Bridge between Te Kapu and Wairoa, and the approaches to it reconstructed. Bush bridges, made of matai stringers and kopunga flooring, have also been constructed on the Opotiki and Ormond Road.

Building Houses, Stables, &c.—The stable at Tauranga has been repaired, and additions made. A cart-shed has been put up at the back of the stable at Opotiki Station. At Te Kapu Station the barrack-room and library have been partly lined, there not being sufficient timber to complete them. Officers' quarters have also been repaired. At Onepoto a building 22 feet by 10 feet has been built at the back of the officers' quarters, and 4,400 feet of timber sawn for the purpose of erecting a new barrack-room, which has been commenced, but not yet finished. The cutting of the above-mentioned timber necessitated a great deal of extra work, such as making a road from the saw-pits to the barracks, and building culverts, the distance being over half a mile. Two hundred and eighty feet of planking were also sawn for the purpose of building a new boat for Waikaremoana Lake. The mess-room has also been floored and put in repair. A boatshed 36 feet by 12 feet has also been erected. Some of the stalls in the stable at Te Kapu Station have been paved with bricks, the yard raised and gravelled, and the building put in good repair. Two chimneys at Te Kapu, and one at Onepoto, have also been pulled down and rebuilt.

Fencing Paddocks and Laying down in Grass.—In consequence of a portion of the Government paddock at Tauranga being sold, one side of the fence had to be taken down and re-erected, two new gates made and placed on roadway, and the remainder of the fence kept in good order and repair. The Government paddock at Opotiki has been ploughed three times, well rolled and harrowed, and laid down in English grass. A small quantity of oats was sown with it to protect the grass from frost, &c. The paddock has been fenced with a good two-rail fence, and the ditch cleansed and kept in good order. The fences round the paddocks at Te Kapu and Onepoto Stations have been kept in repair. Ten acres of hay were cut, but owing to the long drought the yield was very small. Two hundred posts and three hundred rails have been split at Onepoto Station for fencing purposes.

Erecting and Repairing Telegraph Lines.—Nil.

Building Sea-walls.—Nil.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The cemetery fence at Tauranga has been repaired, the soldiers' and sailors' graves cleaned, and the grave fences, head-boards, &c., repaired and painted. The well in the Government paddock has been sunk deeper, and a new cover, windlass, &c., erected. The Defence Magazine has also been painted. One dray and two draught horses are constantly employed in carting forage and stores from Clyde to Te Kapu. The following changes have taken place in the district during the year:—Sub-Inspector Preece resigned June, 1877; Inspector Richardson's services dispensed with, January, 1878. There have been 14 non-commissioned officers and constables discharged; 10 constables transferred from, and 9 constables to, the district during the year. Three deaths also have occurred during that time.

No. 3.

Superintendent SHEARMAN to the Hon. the COMMISSIONER, New Zealand Constabulary.

Superintendent's Office, Constabulary Department,
Wellington, 23rd June, 1878.

SIR,—

In reply to your letter of the 23rd ultimo, No. 452, requesting me to furnish a report on the state of my district for the current financial year, I have the honor to inform you that I have as yet been unable to make a personal inspection of all the stations of the police in the North Island, though I have visited the head-quarters and principal outposts in Auckland and Hawke's Bay, and have inspected all the stations in the Wellington and Taranaki Districts.

Manual of Rules and Regulations.—The rules which the members of the Police Force are provided with were published expressly for the guidance of the Field Force. On examination, it will be found that further regulations are required for this branch of the service. For instance, the regulations for the guidance of city police and detectives are omitted. Rules were framed by the late Conference of police officers which would, if amended, be more suitable. I would recommend a short manual being compiled and issued to the Force.

Economy and Efficiency.—In preparing the proposed estimates for the next financial period, both features were taken into consideration: the total strength of the Force is 184, and the population 204,094. This allows one man to about every 1,109, which will compare favourably with similar establishments in other colonies. The expenditure per head of population is 3s. 4d. per annum. It would be a source of economy, and would tend towards efficiency, if suitable sites for stations and paddocks were set apart in all places likely to become centres of population. This would prevent now and hereafter large expenditure of public money, and would obviate the necessity for the purchase of forage to a large extent.

As it will be found to be true economy to have the best men in the Force, I respectfully suggest that such inducements as are possible should be offered to render the service attractive. Of this character would be retiring allowances, good quarters, rewards for good conduct; but the most important of these is the provision for old age or infirmity, which has a tendency to induce men to make the Force a career to which they devote their lives, instead of a mere resource for obtaining employment till something better offers.

Preserving the Peace, and Prevention of Crime.—Though the population is rapidly increasing in every direction, I am happy to be able to say that the peace has been very creditably preserved by the police in this Island. Taking the strength of the Force into consideration, and the scattered position of the men over so large a space, the attached offences return will be found to be very satisfactory.

Discharge of Duties.—The comparative absence of complaints, and the good feeling which exists between the public and the police, show that their duties must have been performed with consideration for the feelings of those with whom they came into unpleasant contact, and with that degree of efficiency to insure the confidence and respect of those in authority.

City Police.—The duties of the men thus employed have been performed in a manner creditable to all grades; and I hope, when regulations are framed for their guidance, there will be more uniformity of system at each of the principal centres of population.

Clothing.—During the ensuing year I hope to have complete uniformity in the uniforms and material worn by the police in this Island.

Appointments.—With few exceptions the Force is well provided, and the appointments accord with the uniform pattern; but in many instances those adapted for the foot division of the Force are in the possession of men who require the use of horses to enable them to perform their duties.

Barracks, Stables, and other Buildings.—With few exceptions the police are poorly housed; in some places where members of the Force are stationed buildings have not been provided, and in others are limited to a small cell or two with a room attached; but as I have already brought this subject under your notice when forwarding the proposed estimates for the next financial period, and made provision for requirements of this nature, it will be needless to enter further into the subject here, beyond expressing a hope that prompt measures will be taken to provide the Wellington police with suitable accommodation.

Horses.—Those I have had an opportunity of seeing are in good condition, and appear to have been well selected, except one at Hawera, which is better adapted for harness. Where there are no stables available it is necessary covers should be provided and worn during the winter months.

Forage.—This is usually a heavy item. Where the necessities of the country require the members of the Force to be mounted, economy could be exercised for the future if paddocks were secured, and, where forage is indispensable, if it were purchased immediately after harvest.

Distribution.—In some places where foot police are stationed the duties require that mounted constables should be employed. Through the absence of means of moving about and making themselves acquainted with their districts, offences are committed which might otherwise be prevented; from the same cause there are others that never come to light: consequently offenders remain at large, and become more daring. The full particulars can be seen on referring to the attached return.

Statistics of Crime.—Provision has been recently made for their collection. A return showing the number of offences reported, persons apprehended, and a comparison of crime during the years ending December, 1876 and 1877, accompanies this report. In 1876 it will be observed that 5,157 offences were reported, 5,011 persons arrested, leaving 146 undetected; but as the records of undetected crime were not available in every instance this is not to be accepted as correct.

Patrols.—In most districts, as a rule, the police belong to the foot division of the Force, and, when compelled to travel any distance from their respective stations, have to hire horses. It would be most expensive to adopt this course in every ordinary instance; therefore, in populous and scattered districts, it would not only tend towards economy to supplement the usefulness of the men by means of horses, but would enable them to take more active steps to prevent crime. I therefore beg to recommend an increase of the number of horses on the strength of the Force.

Boundaries of Districts.—The present arrangements appear to answer, with the exception of Auckland, which extends over 400 miles in a direct line. This district is too large to enable the department to comply in every instance with the provisions of the Public Revenues Act in forwarding accounts in sufficient time, nor can it receive that amount of supervision necessary for police purposes, to insure the efficient working of the district. I would recommend that the southern portion be placed under the separate charge of an experienced police officer.

Payments.—To facilitate the prompt settlement of claims, it would be desirable that officers who have charge of sub-districts should be allowed to act as paymasters, in addition to those in command of districts.

District Constables.—Appointments of this nature as a rule are of no advantage to the community or the service; the holders have all the power the law confers upon the police, without the safeguards which result from their training, discipline, and supervision. There are six in the Auckland District—one at each of the following places, viz., Craigieburn, Mangawai, Port Albert, Wade, Waiuku, and Whangaroa—who, I am informed, are of but little use for preventing or detecting crime, and unable or unwilling to act independently.

Reformatory School.—The necessity for an establishment of this kind in Wellington is daily becoming more apparent; and though arrangements can be made, in accordance with the 29th clause of "The Neglected and Criminal Children's Act, 1867," to send them to some other district, the seat of Government, for many reasons, is the most fitting place for the principal establishment.

I have briefly brought under your notice the most important subjects connected with the service that have already come to my knowledge, and will supply the details in my reports showing the requirements of the respective police districts.

I have, &c.,

R. C. SHEARMAN,

Superintendent in Charge, North Island Police.

The Hon. the Commissioner, New Zealand Constabulary,
Wellington.

Enclosure in No. 3.
DISTRIBUTION.—30th June, 1878.

No.	STATIONS.	Superintendents.		Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Sergeants-Major.	Sergeants.	Mounted Constables.	Foot Constables.	District Constables.	Female Searchers.	Detectives.	Horses.	REMARKS.	
		1st class.	2nd class.												
1	Wellington	1*	1				6		18		1	1		* In charge of Police, North Island.	
2	Lower Hutt								1						
3	Upper Hutt								1						
4	Featherston								1						
5	Greytown								1						
6	Carterton								1						
7	Masterton								1						
8	Whareama								1						
9	Porirua								1						
10	Otaki								1						
11	Foxton								1						
12	Palmerston								1						
13	Feilding								1						
14	Bull's								1						
15	Marion								1						
16	Turakina								1						
17	Wanganui				1		1		4						
18	Auckland		1		1	1	6	2	21		1	2	2		
19	Alexandra								1						
20	Cambridge								1						
21	Coromandel						1		1						
22	Dargaville								1						
23	Devonport								1						
24	Freeman's Bay								1						
25	Grahamstown						2		5			1			
26	Hamilton East								1						
27	Hamilton West						1	1	1				1		
28	Helensville								1						
29	Hokianga								1						
30	Kawakawa						1		1						
31	Mercer								1						
32	Mercury Bay								1						
33	Mongonui								1						
34	Newcastle						1		1			1			
35	Newton								1						
36	Ohinemutu								*					* Transferred to Tauranga, pending erection of quarters at Ohinemutu.	
37	Onehunga						1		1						
38	Opotiki								2						
39	Otahuhu								1						
40	Paeroa						1		2						
41	Panmure								1						
42	Papakura							1					1		
43	Parnell						1		1						
44	Raglan								1						
45	Russell								2						
46	Shortland				1		1		4		1				
47	Tauranga						1		3						
48	Te Awamutu								1						
49	Te Kopuru								1						
50	Whangarei								1						
51	Whatawhata								1						
52	Craigieburn									1					
53	Mangawai									1					
54	Port Albert									1					
55	Wade									1					
56	Waiuku									1					
57	Whangaroa									1					
58	Napier			1			1		7						
59	Taradale							1					1		
60	Clive								1						
61	Havelock							1					1		
62	Waipawa						1	1					2		
63	Porangahau								1						
64	Danevirke							1					1		
65	Spit								3						
66	Wairoa							1					1		
67	Gisborne						1	1	2				1		
68	Ormond							1					1		
69	Tolago Bay							1					1		
70	New Plymouth				1		2		5		1				
71	Waitara								1						
72	Inglewood								1						
73	Hawera						1	1					1		
74	Manutahi								1						
75	Carlyle						1		1						
76	Waverley								1						
77	Waitotara								1						
	Total	1	2	1	4	1	31	13	126	6	4	5	14		

R. C. SHEARMAN,
Superintendent in Charge, North Island Police.

OFFENCES RETURN.—North Island District—continued.

OFFENCES.	Number of all Offences reported.			PERSONS APPREHENDED.						Total Number of Persons Apprehended.	Increase.	Decrease.	REMARKS.					
	Number of all Offences reported.			Committed for Trial.			Discharged.											
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total									
														Summarily Convicted.			Summarily Convicted.	
Slaughterhouse Act, breaches of	7	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	1	Summons cases.	
Sale of Spirits to Natives Act, breaches of	3	...	...	Summons cases.						
Sodomy	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Summons cases.
Shooting with intent	Summons cases.						
Sureties of the peace	Summons cases.						
Suicide, attempted	Summons cases.						
Threatening language	Summons cases.						
Telegraph Protection Act, breaches of	Summons cases.						
Trespass on lands	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Summons cases.
Vagrancy	Summons cases.						
Wife Desertion	Summons cases.						
Weights and Measures Act, breaches of	Summons cases.						
Working on Sunday	Summons cases.						
Totals	5,157	158	8	3,730	480	576	59	5,011	6,059	183	22	4,288	565	667	80	5,805	1,102	200

NOTE.—There were 146 cases of undetected crime in 1876, and 254 cases in 1877; but, as records of undetected crime were not available in every instance, this cannot be accepted as correct.

R. C. SHEARMAN,
Superintendent in Charge, North Island Police.

By Authority : GEORGE DUBREUX, Government Printer, Wellington.—1878.