

“The Thames, Coromandel, and Ohinemuri Stations have been always supervised from Auckland up till quite recently, and should be still supervised from that centre. During the time of the mining boom about fifteen years ago, when the population of those districts was twice what it is at present, it was not found necessary to have an Inspector in charge there, sergeants being found quite capable of attending to police-work there.

“The result of the new arrangements following the formation of the Thames District can be summed up as follows: Stations therein are more difficult to get at, and it costs more to inspect them from Thames than Auckland. Correspondence, of which there is a good deal, between Auckland and stations in the new district is much delayed owing to having to pass through Thames office, both going and returning, instead of going and returning direct as formerly. By having an Inspector and staff located at Thames to supervise a little over half the number of men that the station sergeant has to supervise in Auckland, an unnecessary expenditure of nearly £1,000 per annum has been incurred by the Department without the least benefit to the service, either by way of increasing the efficiency of the men in the new district or giving better supervision than they had before the new arrangements were made.

“An Inspector in charge of Thames District cannot find sufficient work to keep himself employed on an average of two hours per day.

“J. CULLEN, Inspector.”

I agree to a very large extent with what Inspector Cullen says on the matter. If the Department finds it necessary to deal with the question in the near future, the information contained in the reference I have made will be found of value.

These small districts involve unnecessary expense in various directions—unnecessary because there is no counterbalancing advantage in increased efficiency.

As will be seen by a reference to page 96 of the evidence, it was practically agreed that I should recommend rearrangement of the Canterbury and Otago Police Districts. I therefore recommend that the Waitaki River be the boundary between these two districts. This only means that four stations—Oamaru, Kurow, Ngapara, and Hampden—would be taken from Canterbury and added to Otago. I make this recommendation entirely for geographical considerations and as a matter of convenience.

“As to the efficiency, conduct, sobriety, and morality of said Force or any of them.”

Taking the Force as a whole, I believe it to be thoroughly efficient, and I deplore the fact that the exceptions have reflected so strongly on the whole. The criminal statistics show the efficiency most clearly, with the large percentage of detected crime. It speaks well for the good members of the Force that the results of their work are so thoroughly satisfactory. I have appended below a return dealing with this aspect since the date of the last Police Commission, in 1898:—

EFFICIENCY AS SHOWN BY CRIME RETURNS.

Year.	Total Number of Crimes reported in each Year.	Number of Persons summoned or apprehended.	Percentage of Persons summoned and arrested to Crimes reported.	Population of Dominion.	Proportion of Police to Population.
1898	16,378	14,730	89.90	768,910	1 to 1,435
1899	16,865	15,561	92.20	783,317	1 „ 1,414
1900	18,358	17,131	93.30	796,359	1 „ 1,359
1901	19,909	18,742	94.10	816,290	1 „ 1,381
1902	19,771	18,802	95.09	830,800	1 „ 1,375
1903	20,736	19,867	95.80	851,068	1 „ 1,388
1904	21,066	20,118	95.49	875,648	1 „ 1,398
1905	20,249	19,251	95.07	900,682	1 „ 1,375
1906	21,160	20,295	95.90	925,605	1 „ 1,387
1907	23,204	22,255	95.90	961,604	1 „ 1,375
1908	23,510	22,472	95.50	977,215	1 „ 1,331