

and Dunedin, which could be used for the purpose if it is found impossible at present to build. A small gymnasium should be at once provided at the Training Depot.

In connection with physical training, I consider that the Department would be more than repaid in efficiency by the appointment of a special officer to act as Physical Instructor. He should give a certain time each year to each centre, and to the training of recruits at the Training Depot. It would not be long before there would be men quite competent to undertake the duties of interim Instructors during his absence. There is a member of the Force at the present time in the person of Constable Skinner, now stationed at Tauranga, who has special qualifications for the position, and who is a perfect enthusiast in all that pertains to the culture of physical attributes. Some very interesting evidence given by this constable will be found on page 369 of the evidence herewith. Apart from his evidence he gave me instances by means of photographs of stages of extraordinary development to which his pupils might be brought. I commend this matter to the favourable consideration of the Police Department.

#### *Rifle Shooting.*

During the course of this inquiry my attention has been directed to a matter which appeals to me as being of some importance. It is not strictly perhaps within the order of reference; but, if at all, it would come under the head of efficiency. It seems to me that every constable on joining should be trained in the use of the rifle, and to do this he should receive instruction both manual and firing. After coming out of the depot he should be encouraged to still further perfect himself as a marksman, and every encouragement should be given by prizes, competition, &c. In this way the Police Force of New Zealand could be trained to become a most valuable and effective nucleus of an armed force whose greatest value would be shown at a time of future emergency, if such unfortunately arose. I make no recommendations of details, but I strongly commend the idea to the consideration of those in authority.

#### *Attending Court.*

A matter has been mentioned in all the centres which seems to me to be deserving of some remark and consideration, because it certainly involves in some cases an appearance of hardship and consequent dissatisfaction. I refer to the cases of constables who, having been on night duty, and having to attend Court in the morning to support charges against prisoners, have their ordinary period of rest so completely broken as to render them in some degree unfit for the following night's duty, and to make them so sleepy as to cause a risk of being haled before the Inspector for not working the beat properly. Of course, one fully recognises that constables in the discharge of their duty must take the rough with the smooth, but the grievance in this instance seems to me to be a real one, and as, in my opinion, the matter may be easily remedied, I think one may fairly be justified in suggesting a remedy. At present all constables who have arrested persons during the night duty, and who come off such duty at 5 a.m., are required to attend the sitting of the Court at which these persons will be dealt with, at such hour—say, 9.30 a.m. up to, say, 11 a.m.—as the Court has been appointed to sit at. The great majority of these cases are the ordinary simple “drunks,” and the great mass of these always plead “Guilty,” and no evidence is required. I suggest that the arresting constable should not be required to attend Court until notified by his superior officer of the necessity for doing so. Where a man is admitted to bail after arrest, as is often the case, the condition of the recognisance might be arranged for some hour p.m., so that, if the man does not then appear, the constable giving evidence would have received the necessary amount of rest. In those cases in which prisoners in custody plead “Not guilty,” it could easily be arranged that the case should be adjourned to such later hour as the Magistrate might deem suitable, and thus secure the same result. I am aware that, in order to satisfactorily carry out my suggestions, the approval and co-operation of the Court authorities in the four