

1924.
NEW ZEALAND.

THE POLICE FORCE OF THE DOMINION

(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

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

The COMMISSIONER OF POLICE to the Hon. the MINISTER IN CHARGE OF POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Police Department, Wellington, 21st July, 1924.

I HAVE the honour to present the annual report on the Police Force for the year ended 31st March last.

STRENGTH OF FORCE.

On the 31st March last the number of permanent members of the Force of all ranks was 1,009, being an increase of 29 during the year. The total is made up as follows:—

Superintendents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Inspectors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Sub-Inspectors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Senior Sergeants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Sergeants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	91
Constables	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	819
Senior Detectives	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Detective-sergeants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Detectives	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
In addition to the above there were—								
Police surgeons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Matrons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
District constables	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Native constables	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

There were also 18 temporary constables appointed under section 2 of the Police Force Amendment Act, 1919: 1 of these was a recruit undergoing a period of probationary service with a view to permanent appointment; the remaining 17 were temporary constables appointed during the war period who were over age or otherwise unsuitable for permanent appointment.

STATIONS.

New stations have been established at Henderson, Moturoa, and Pukehuia, and the stations at Waitotira and Bealey Flat have been closed.

CASUALTIES.

The following are the casualties for the year ended 31st March last: Retired on pension under the Public Service Superannuation Act, 12; retired as medically unfit, 3; died, 5; resigned voluntarily, 39; called upon to resign, 5; dismissed, 1: total, 65. This is 4 less than in the preceding year.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The criminal statistics (Appendix A) deal with offences reported to the police during the year ended 31st December last, and show an aggregate net increase of 1,420 on the figures of 1922. The proportion of offences to the population was 1.93 per cent., as against 1.86 the previous year.

The principal increases during the year appear under the following headings, viz.:—

False declarations	..	..	..	..	25	Gaming offences	..	..	..	111
Assault (common)	..	..	..	..	77	Failing to maintain wives and children	..	..	..	485
Theft by clerks or servants	..	..	..	..	45	Ship-desertion	..	..	..	50
Forgery	..	..	..	..	77	Selling liquor after hours	..	..	..	125
Drunkenness	..	..	..	..	625	Being found on licensed premises after hours	..	..	..	62
Using profane, indecent, or obscene language	..	..	..	..	43	Breaches of Arms Act	..	..	..	70

There were decreases in the following:—

Theft (undescribed)	..	..	..	..	68	Arson	..	..	..	25
Theft from the person	..	..	..	..	25	Breaches of the peace	..	..	..	116
Theft from dwellings	..	..	..	..	206	Vagrancy offences	..	..	..	106
House and shop breaking, &c.	..	..	..	..	119	Illegally using horses, motor-cars, &c.	..	..	..	36

The following return shows the number of offences reported in each police district during the year, the number of cases in which arrests or summonses resulted, and the number in which no prosecution followed :—

Police District.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Number in which no Arrests or Summonses resulted.
Whangarei	827	789	38
Auckland	6,121	5,585	536
Hamilton	2,036	1,912	124
Gisborne	945	932	13
Napier	1,244	1,171	73
New Plymouth	764	722	42
Wanganui	1,138	1,106	32
Palmerston North	1,282	1,225	57
Wellington	4,335	4,020	315
Greymouth	1,236	1,204	32
Christchurch	3,235	2,894	341
Timaru	854	795	59
Dunedin	1,267	1,196	71
Invercargill	835	805	30
Totals	26,119	24,356	1,763

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from offences reported during the year 1923 was 93·25, the figures of the preceding year being 92·48.

SERIOUS CRIMES.

The following is a return of the number of serious crimes as compared with the previous year :—

Crimes.	1922.		1923.	
	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	33	33	8	3
Robbery and aggravated robbery	11	10	10	8
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c.	872	626	743	498
Forgery and uttering	156	133	242	230
Murder	5	5	7	6
Murder, attempted	10	9	1	1
Rape	4	2	9	9
Receiving stolen property	138	136	121	121
Wounding with intent ... ..	...	...	3	3
Totals	1,229	954	1,144	879

Indecent and sexual offences were as under :—

Offences.	1922.	1923.
Unnatural offence	8	6
Unnatural offence, attempted	2	3
Indecently assaulting a male	43	42
Incest	8	9
Indecent acts	27	27
Concealment of birth	3	5
Assault, indecent	85	90
Rape	4	9
Rape, attempted	11	12
Carnally knowing girls	29	30
Carnally knowing girls, attempted	12	7
Abortion, procuring, &c.	5	28
Exposure of person and grossly indecent acts	231	232
Totals	468	500

DRUNKENNESS.

There has been an increase of 626 in the number of prosecutions for drunkenness during the year as compared with the previous year.

The number charged with drunkenness in 1923 was 7,035 (6,665 males and 370 females), whereas in 1922 the number was 6,409 (6,088 males and 321 females).

The following return shows the number of prosecutions for drunkenness in each police district during the year 1923 as compared with 1922 :—

Police District.	Number of Prosecutions, 1922.	Number of Prosecutions, 1923.	Increase.	Decrease.
Whangarei ...	225	211	...	14
Auckland ...	1,385	1,609	224	...
Hamilton ...	470	567	97	...
Gisborne ...	207	210	3	...
Napier ...	283	333	50	...
New Plymouth ...	139	140	1	...
Wanganui ...	308	365	57	...
Palmerston North ...	275	309	34	...
Wellington ...	1,434	1,513	79	...
Greymouth ...	176	218	42	...
Christchurch ...	787	765	...	22
Timaru ...	306	295	...	11
Dunedin ...	275	341	66	...
Invercargill ...	139	159	20	...
Totals ...	6,409	7,035	626	47

From the following table it will be observed that 39.44 per cent. of the males and 63.78 per cent. of the females had previous convictions recorded against them, and 6.25 per cent. of the males were not permanent residents of the Dominion.

Return showing the Number of Persons charged with Drunkenness during the Year 1923, and the Number of Previous Convictions against them, so far as is known.

Police District.	Not previously convicted.		One Previous Conviction.		Two Previous Convictions.		Three Previous Convictions.		Four Previous Convictions.		Five Previous Convictions.		Over Five Previous Convictions.		Totals.		Number of Foregoing who were Members of Crews of Vessels in Port.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Whangarei ..	188	..	20	..	5	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	211	..	3
Auckland ..	709	29	187	2	91	7	96	10	72	14	55	6	275	56	1,485	124	149
Hamilton ..	435	5	44	..	21	..	17	..	6	2	5	..	31	1	559	8	..
Gisborne ..	112	2	26	1	14	..	8	..	9	..	9	..	29	..	207	3	3
Napier ..	194	5	41	..	18	..	12	1	10	..	14	..	37	1	326	7	13
New Plymouth ..	111	8	7	1	4	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	4	..	131	9	..
Wanganui ...	259	8	49	2	17	2	12	..	5	..	..	..	11	..	353	12	3
Palmerston North..	137	10	41	4	30	2	29	..	16	1	14	1	24	..	291	18	..
Wellington ..	984	37	180	7	83	8	46	6	19	2	20	4	95	22	1,427	86	111
Greymouth ..	130	5	30	..	16	..	13	..	6	..	7	..	11	..	213	5	16
Christchurch ..	347	16	112	9	64	10	43	9	32	8	37	10	57	11	692	73	83
Timaru ..	171	1	32	1	30	1	14	..	10	..	11	..	24	..	292	3	13
Dunedin ..	161	6	36	1	29	4	13	1	19	..	24	1	39	7	321	20	14
Invercargill ..	103	2	19	..	11	..	5	..	2	..	4	..	13	..	157	2	9
Totals ..	4,036	134	824	28	433	34	313	27	209	27	200	22	650	98	6,665	370	417

Return showing the Number of Persons arrested for Drunkenness within each Principal Centre during the Years 1922 and 1923, the Number convicted, the Number discharged or otherwise dealt with (Males and Females shown separately), and the Increase or Decrease in Arrests.

Centre.	Number arrested, 1922.		Number arrested, 1923.		Number convicted, 1923.		Number discharged or otherwise dealt with, 1923.		Increase in Arrests.	Decrease in Arrests.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Auckland and suburbs ...	887	43	919	81	917	81	2	...	70	...
Wellington and suburbs	1,078	74	1,115	76	1,115	75	...	1	39	...
Christchurch and suburbs	465	52	457	70	456	70	1	...	10	...
Dunedin and suburbs ...	211	15	251	18	250	18	1	...	43	...
Totals ...	2,641	184	2,742	245	2,738	244	4	1	162	...

Return showing the Number of Persons arrested for Drunkenness on Sundays within each Principal Centre during the Years 1922 and 1923 (Males and Females shown separately).

Centre.	Number arrested, 1922.		Number arrested, 1923.		Number convicted, 1923.		Number discharged or otherwise dealt with, 1923.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Auckland and suburbs ...	67	4	46	5	46	5	...	...
Wellington and suburbs...	28	2	23	2	23	2	...	...
Christchurch and suburbs	7	1	9	1	9	1	...	...
Dunedin and suburbs ...	8	1	6	...	6	...	...	...
Totals ...	110	8	84	8	84	8	...	...

The following table shows the convictions for drunkenness per ten thousand of the population for each year from 1918 to 1922 in Australia and New Zealand :—

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Commonwealth	85.3	79.5	92.6	96.9	101.8
New Zealand	63.5	67.0	71.3	69.4	48.7

PROSECUTIONS AGAINST HOTELKEEPERS.

The number of prosecutions (501) against hotelkeepers during the year shows an increase of 62 as compared with the preceding year.

Return showing the Number of Prosecutions against Hotelkeepers in each District during the Year 1923 as compared with 1922, the Number convicted, and the Number discharged or otherwise dealt with.

District.	Prosecutions, 1922.	Prosecutions, 1923.	Convictions, 1923.	Discharged or otherwise dealt with, 1923.
Whangarei ...	4	1	1	...
Auckland ...	31	44	15	29
Hamilton ...	13	12	1	11
Gisborne ...	6	16	11	5
Napier ...	16	22	18	4
New Plymouth ...	19	38	24	14
Wanganui ...	9	13	3	10
Palmerston North ...	32	73	27	46
Wellington ...	78	76	52	24
Greymouth ...	152	101	46	55
Christchurch ...	31	48	32	16
Timaru ...	13	34	15	19
Dunedin ...	15	18	12	6
Invercargill ...	20	5	4	1
Totals ...	439	501	261	240

Return showing the Number of Prosecutions against Hotelkeepers within each Principal Centre during the Year 1923 as compared with 1922, the Number convicted, and the Number discharged or otherwise dealt with.

Centre.	Prosecutions, 1922.	Prosecutions, 1923.	Convictions, 1923.	Discharged or otherwise dealt with, 1923.
Auckland and suburbs ...	19	23	8	15
Wellington and suburbs ...	13	13	6	7
Christchurch and suburbs ...	9	23	16	7
Dunedin and suburbs ...	8	7	6	1
Totals ...	49	66	36	30

SLY-GROG SELLING.

There were 81 prosecutions during the year for selling liquor without a license, resulting in 57 convictions, and there were also 95 prosecutions, resulting in 88 convictions, for other offences against the provisions of the Licensing Act in force in no-license districts.

The fines imposed on sly-grog sellers during the year 1923 amounted to £1,640.

The amount of fines in the various districts is as follows :—

	£		£
Whangarei	150	Greymouth .. .. .	..
Auckland	113	Christchurch	215
Hamilton	125	Timaru	95
Gisborne .. .. .	..	Dunedin	110
Napier .. .. .	..	Invercargill .. .. .	..
New Plymouth	15		
Wanganui	631	Total	<u>£1,640</u>
Palmerston North	12		
Wellington	174		

The direct cost to the Department in detecting and prosecuting sly-grog sellers during the year was £325, this being £1,315 less than the amount of fines imposed.

GAMING OFFENCES.

There were 435 prosecutions, resulting in 358 convictions, during the year under the Gaming Act, against 324 prosecutions and 290 convictions in 1922.

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

The finger-impressions of 3,071 persons were received, classified, searched, and filed during the year; 289 persons were identified as previous offenders either in this Dominion, the Australian States, or England; 988 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the branch; the photographs of 1,875 prisoners (7,015 photographs) were dealt with, and 664 photographs were reproduced in the *Police Gazette*.

In several cases photographic enlargements and plans were prepared and produced as exhibits in the Supreme Court. One unknown deceased man was identified by his finger-prints. In 16 cases of breaking and entering, finger-prints left by offenders when committing the crime were identified, the most notable being a series of breaking and entering in Auckland, in which the offender was identified from the finger-print exhibits sent to this branch. When arrested he pleaded guilty to each offence; he was a stranger to Auckland and previously unknown to the police there.

On the 31st March the finger-print collection consisted of the impressions of 31,929 persons, an increase of 1,645 on last year's figures.

The following table shows the increase of the finger-print collection since the introduction of the finger-print system of identification in March, 1903 :—

Year.	Number of Prints in Collection.	Increase on Previous Year.	Prisoners traced as Previous Offenders.	Year.	Number of Prints in Collection.	Increase on Previous Year.	Prisoners traced as Previous Offenders.
1904	3,500	3,500	117	1915	16,682	1,380	270
1905	4,200	700	72	1916	18,134	1,452	218
1906	5,000	800	88	1917	19,508	1,374	166
1907	6,151	1,151	104	1918	20,982	1,474	132
1908	7,622	1,471	123	1919	22,332	1,350	153
1909	8,718	1,096	138	1920	23,686	1,354	176
1910	9,919	1,201	140	1921	26,650	2,964	232
1911	10,905	986	148	1922	28,408	1,758	255
1912	12,097	1,192	178	1923	30,284	1,876	292
1913	13,552	1,455	183	1924	31,929	1,645	289
1914	15,302	1,750	230				

APPOINTMENTS TO POLICE FORCE.

Ninety-four men were permanently appointed to the Force during the year, their birthplaces, religions, and occupations being as follows: Birthplaces: New Zealand, 60; England, 14; Scotland, 8; Ireland, 9; Australia, 1; Tahiti, 1; Fiji, 1. Religions: Church of England, 40; Presbyterian, 34; Roman Catholic, 14; Salvation Army, 1; Baptist, 1; Methodist, 3; Unitarian, 1. Occupations: Bushmen, 2; carpenter, 1; carter, 1; cheesemaker, 1; clerks, 2; cooper, 1; ex-constables, 9; electrician, 1; farm labourers, 27; fire-brigadesmen, 2; guide, 1; labourers, 25; mailman, 1; machinist, 1; miners, 3; motor mechanic, 1; painter, 1; roadman, 1; signalman, 1; storemen, 3; seamen, 5; sheep-farmer, 1; warehousemen, 2; watchmaker, 1.

GROWTH OF DEPARTMENT.

The following return shows the growth of the Department, the continued increase of the population, and the total number of offences (irrespective of by-law offences) reported, and in which arrests or summonses resulted, each year since 1877, prior to which date each province in the Dominion had its own Police Force, and reliable data are not available :—

Year.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers.	Detectives.	Constables.	Total.	Police to Population.	Cost per Inhabitant.	Population.	Offences reported.	Offences where Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Arrests for Drunkenness (included in "Offences reported").
1878	25	90	14	329	458	1 to 944	Not obtainable	432,352	14,157	13,959	6,668
1879	25	84	16	364	489	1 to 948		463,572	16,374	14,696	6,794
1880	25	86	21	379	511	1 to 949		484,939	17,837	16,723	6,484
1881	13	73	18	337	441	1 to 1,136		500,976	16,635	15,212	5,587
1882	13	72	19	343	447	1 to 1,158		517,626	18,613	17,470	6,860
1883	13	72	20	356	461	1 to 1,173		540,753	18,775	17,727	7,572
1884	13	70	17	365	465	1 to 1,263		587,295	18,263	17,322	7,151
1885	20	65	17	372	474	1 to 1,293		613,212	18,955	17,723	7,034
1886	20	66	18	390	494	1 to 1,266		625,849	18,135	17,000	6,260
1887	20	69	18	395	502	1 to 1,265		635,215	17,752	16,500	5,226
1888	13	69	17	388	487	1 to 1,328		646,913	12,897	11,854	5,387
1889	13	65	17	389	484	1 to 1,347		652,125	12,945	11,885	5,444
1890	12	66	13	403	494	1 to 1,346		664,855	13,115	12,177	5,866
1891	7	61	14	404	486	1 to 1,375		668,353	12,674	11,748	5,416
1892	7	60	14	401	482	1 to 1,401		675,775	13,153	12,187	5,360
1893	7	53	14	407	481	1 to 1,439		692,426	13,165	12,100	5,251
1894	7	55	13	410	485	1 to 1,472		714,258	13,530	12,500	4,594
1895	7	51	13	416	487	1 to 1,495		728,121	14,010	12,435	4,636
1896	6	51	13	414	484	1 to 1,530		740,699	14,673	13,171	5,005
1897	7	45	12	453	517	1 to 1,461		754,016	15,219	14,042	5,204
1898	7	56	16	457	536	1 to 1,435		768,910	16,378	14,730	5,532
1899	11	53	15	475	554	1 to 1,414		783,317	16,865	15,561	6,289
1900	11	56	20	499	586	1 to 1,359		796,359	18,358	17,131	7,299
1901	11	56	20	504	591	1 to 1,381		816,290	19,909	18,742	8,057
1902	12	58	20	514	604	1 to 1,375	830,800	19,771	18,802	8,269	
1903	12	59	20	522	613	1 to 1,388	851,068	20,736	19,867	8,815	
1904	12	59	21	534	626	1 to 1,398	875,648	21,066	20,118	9,615	
1905	12	65	25	553	655	1 to 1,375	900,682	20,249	19,251	8,707	
1906	14	71	25	557	667	1 to 1,387	925,605	21,160	20,241	9,210	
1907	14	78	30	577	699	1 to 1,375	961,604	23,204	22,244	10,203	
1908	15	83	32	604	734	1 to 1,331	977,215	23,510	22,484	10,343	
1909	16	87	35	633	771	1 to 1,308	1,008,373	23,930	22,880	10,657	
1910	16	86	34	639	775	1 to 1,330	1,030,657	25,106	23,949	11,718	
1911	15	87	38	648	788	1 to 1,333	1,050,410	24,999	23,492	11,699	
1912	15	89	39	692	835	1 to 1,287	1,075,250	25,981	24,837	11,884	
1913	17	93	41	695	846	1 to 1,303	1,102,339	25,415	24,364	11,707	
1914	17	94	40	719	870	1 to 1,304	1,134,506	27,563	26,494	13,189	
1915	19	100	37	755	911	1 to 1,257	1,145,840	28,412	27,096	13,268	
1916	19	104	36	757	916	1 to 1,258	1,152,669	24,920	23,848	10,833	
1917	20	108	36	734	898	1 to 1,280	1,150,002	21,724	20,701	8,800	
1918	20	111	38	732*	901	1 to 1,274	1,147,391	19,067	18,043	7,228	
1919	20	112	41	705*	878	1 to 1,319	1,158,156	24,278	23,312	8,216	
1920	21	114	38	743*	916	1 to 1,325	1,214,184	26,106	24,718	8,979	
1921	23	112	47	768*	950	1 to 1,310	1,244,620	26,551	25,054	8,671	
1922	22	118	43	826*	1,009	1 to 1,289	1,300,967	24,699	22,843	6,409	
1923	23	118	44	818*	1,003	1 to 1,321	1,325,301	26,119	24,356	7,035	
1924	23	120	47	837*	1,027	1 to 1,312	1,347,853	...	...	...

* Includes temporary constables.

POLICE BUILDINGS, ETC.

The following works in connection with police-stations have been carried out during the year by the Public Works Department :—

New police-stations were erected at Devonport, Nuhaka, and St. Albans; the erection of a constable's residence at Clyde, lock-up and office at Ruatorea, and additional office accommodation at Wanganui were put in hand, and houses for use as police-stations were purchased at Henderson and Taneatua.

Renovations and improvements were effected at Aratapu, Kawakawa, Kaitaia, Waipu, Whangarei, Whangaroa, Auckland Central, Avondale, Birkenhead, Ellerslie, Epsom, Frankton, Grey Lynn, Hamilton, Hamilton East, Huŋtly, Kingsland, Morrinsville, Mount Eden, Mount Roskill, Ngaruawahia, Newton, Otorohanga, Onchunga, Paeroa, Ponsonby, Pukekohe, Raglan, Remuera, Thames, Waihi, Whakatane, Rotorua, Taupo, Taumarunui, Rangaroa, Ongarue, Waipukurau, Takapau, Port Ahuriri, Picton, Southbridge, Rangiora, Ashburton, and Ranfurly.

GENERAL.

Arms Act.—The importance of regulating the possession of arms is receiving the attention of the authorities in many parts of the world. At a recent International Police Conference held at New York, at which representatives from England, Ireland, Canada, South America, and nearly all the European States attended, the matter was fully discussed. The carriage of firearms was referred to by those representing the United States as “our national menace and our national weapon.” The practice of carrying weapons was unanimously condemned, and the ownership of such weapons shown to be foolish and unnecessary. Heavy license fees up to 100 dollars were advocated for the right to possess or transfer a pistol.

This confirms the opinion I have previously expressed that the possession of pistols is quite unnecessary in this country, and should be discouraged in every possible way. There can be no doubt that they only lead to the loss of life, both intentionally and accidentally; they serve no useful purpose, and in the hands of inexperienced persons, as most respectable citizens are, they become a source of danger to the owner and his family.

The Act of 1920 has already proved useful, and will continue to do so. Some people resent not being allowed to land or purchase revolvers, but it is only in very exceptional cases that permits are granted, and, as revolvers are constantly being surrendered to the police by persons who no longer desire to be bothered with the necessary registration on change of address, it is only a matter of time when the number held will be materially reduced.

Buildings.—Extensive repairs to stations have been effected during the year, and it will be necessary to continue spending far more than the average amount for some years to come to bring the buildings up to date. Only very urgent work has been put in hand for some years past, and single men have been sent to places where stations should be provided and married men stationed.

Candidates.—The number of candidates for the Force during the year was 215; of these 102 were rejected, 85 placed on list, and 28 are still under inquiry. As about 70 are required each year to fill vacancies, it will be seen that a sufficient number of suitable men is offering; but the margin is not great enough to allow of only the best men being selected. On the whole a good class is offering, and I have no fault to find with them. The fact that not more are seeking to join the police is very good evidence of the prosperity of the Dominion and the abundance of private employment.

Detective Branch.—This branch is in a very satisfactory state and doing good work. During the year the detective allowances were revised by the Government, and the increase granted has made the detective staff a much more contented body of men than formerly.

Discipline.—Discipline has been maintained during the year, and all ranks have been energetic and well conducted. As may be expected, a number have been punished for breaches of regulations, but I am pleased to say that serious offences have been conspicuous by their absence.

Drunkness.—There has been a slight increase in the number of persons arrested for drunkenness during the year—viz., 626—but, as the previous year’s returns showed a phenomenal decrease, the present year’s figures call for no comment.

Gaming Act.—The police are frequently criticized for not suppressing bookmakers; they might with equal reason be blamed for not suppressing all crime. They do their best with the means at their disposal, and will continue to do so, but while the general public support bookmakers and sympathize with them, as indicated by acquittals by juries of persons charged with bookmaking on clear evidence, it is not so easy to suppress them as at first sight appears. The police have been active in this direction during the year, and large fines have been inflicted by Magistrates.

Promotions.—The following officers have been promoted during the year: Inspectors W. Fouhy, W. H. Mackinnon, W. B. McIlveney, and C. R. Broberg to be Superintendents; Sub-Inspectors J. K. Simpson, S. Till, and W. Eccles to be Inspectors; Senior Detective J. McIlveney and Senior Sergeants A. S. Bird and D. C. Fraser to be Sub-Inspectors. Three sergeants were promoted to the rank of Senior Sergeant, and ten constables to the rank of sergeant. In the Detective Branch one detective-sergeant was promoted to the rank of Senior Detective, one detective to the rank of detective-sergeant, and six acting-detectives were appointed detectives.

Serious Crimes.—Under this heading there has been a decrease of 85 offences reported; there were 129 less burglaries and breaking and entering cases, but there was an increase of 86 forgeries. There were 7 murders, as compared with 5 the previous year, and in 6 cases the offender was arrested. The only case in which no arrest was made was that of the murder of Mrs. Oates at Wanganui, referred to in extract from Superintendent Fouhy’s report annexed. Inquiries are still being continued.

Strength of Force.—The actual strength on the 31st March last was 1,009 permanent members and 18 temporary constables, as compared with 980 permanent and 23 temporary in March, 1923, a net increase of 24 men. Officers in charge of districts ask for 83 more men to meet the requirements of the service, and as the population increases there can be no doubt that the strength of the police must be increased at the same ratio to carry on the work in an efficient manner. In 1915 the proportion of police to population was 1 to 1,257; at the present time it is 1 to 1,312. To bring up the Force to its proper standard at least 45 more men are required.

Training-depot.—The training-depot continues to do good work, and the instruction afforded is of the greatest value to the recruits, who start their actual police duties with a very fair knowledge of their powers and responsibilities. During the year 83 recruits were trained and added to the strength.

I append extracts from reports of officers in charge of districts.

A. H. WRIGHT,
Commissioner of Police.

EXTRACTS FROM ANNUAL REPORTS OF OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF DISTRICTS.

INSPECTOR EMERSON, WHANGAREI DISTRICT.

The strength of the Force in this district at the 31st March shows an increase of one sergeant, due to the promotion of the constable engaged as District Clerk at Whangarei, and an increase of one constable, transferred from Auckland to Whangarei. A temporary constable at Rawene has been replaced by a permanent constable. The extra constable at Whangarei has been a great help in carrying out police duties there. We are now able to keep up a regular day and night patrol.

Waiotira Station (a single-man station on railway-works) was closed on the 21st January, 1924, and Pukehuia Station opened instead.

One constable retired on voluntary resignation, and a temporary constable was discharged on compulsory resignation.

The number of offences reported during the year total 827, as against 787 for the previous year, being an increase of 40. Action was taken in 789 out of the 827 cases reported. No serious crime was reported during the year.

The conduct of the police throughout the district has been good.

The population is on the increase, and there is every sign of prosperity throughout the district.

SUPERINTENDENT HENDREY, AUCKLAND DISTRICT.

During the year the strength has been increased by one constable at Mount Eden Station, one constable at Newton Station, two constables for detective duty, and one constable at Henderson—a total increase of five constables.

Increase of strength is urgently required at following stations:—

Freeman's Bay: One constable, to enable two constables to be kept on night patrol. The present night-duty beat takes nearly two hours to patrol, and should be divided into two beats.

Queen Street Wharf: Six additional constables are required for this station. The Prince's Wharf is now near completion, and will be open for traffic in May. This is the largest wharf in Auckland, and will require constant supervision. An increase of three constables will permit this being done. In addition, three men are required to act as watchhouse-keepers and reserve men at the wharf station.

Mount Eden Station: Two extra sergeants are required for this station, one for day duty and one for night duty. At present the sergeant in charge has to supervise Mount Eden Station, Mount Eden South, Kingsland, Mount Roskill, and Mount Albert Stations, and he is therefore unable to give adequate supervision to the men on duty at all points in his large district.

Newton Station: An increase of five constables is required at this station—two extra men for beat duty, one to relieve the pointsmen for refreshments, &c., and three extra constables for watchhouse duty. There are now thirteen constables at this station, and this permits a relief of four constables, with one man for inquiry duty, which takes up all his time.

Auckland Station: An increase of twenty constables is required at this station to permit all beats and fixed points to be filled, and to make up for the daily loss of men through sickness, escort, relieving, and other duties.

St. Heliers Bay: One constable is required for a new station at this growing seaside resort.

A police-station has been opened at Henderson during the year, where quarters were purchased. No station has been closed.

Casualties during the year amounted to sixteen, made up as follows: Resignations, thirteen constables; retired medically unfit, one constable; deaths, one constable and one sergeant.

The offences return for year ended 31st December, 1923, shows that the total number of all offences committed amounted to 6,121, a net increase of 948 over the previous year. Of the 6,121 offences reported, 5,585 were accounted for by arrest or summons, leaving 536 offences undetected. Of the cases dealt with, 388 males and 28 females were committed for trial or sentence, 4,512 males and 270 females were summarily convicted, and 370 males and 17 females were discharged. Of those committed for trial, 315 males and 11 females were convicted, and 73 males and 17 females were acquitted.

Figures show an increase in drunkenness and drink offences, and a decrease in offences against rights of property, indicating that work and money have been more plentiful than during the preceding year. No serious crime has been committed that calls for special comment.

The conduct of the police on the whole has been satisfactory. Twenty-four constables and one sergeant were punished for breaches of Police Regulations, none of which were of a serious nature.

The population of the district continues to steadily increase; large numbers of dwellinghouses have been and are being erected in the city and suburbs. Men willing to work have been able to find work, and this condition is likely to continue.

INSPECTOR WOHLMANN, HAMILTON DISTRICT.

On the 31st March last the authorized strength was 68, being the same as in 1922. The actual strength of constables was one below the authorized strength. Four constables resigned during the year, one on reaching retiring-age and three on their own application. District Constable Grant died as a result of injuries received in the Main Trunk train accident in July, 1923.

As recommended last year, increases in strength are required as follows:—

Te Kuiti: One constable. The work of this subdistrict is increasing, chiefly due to additional sawmills, demanding continuous absence of one constable in the country. Not infrequently both constables and the sergeant have been called from the town. The heavy night-train traffic and necessity for alertness by the police to check surreptitious introduction of liquor make the hours of duty unduly long.

Frankton Junction: For the reasons given in my previous reports, I beg to recommend the appointment of a sergeant to take charge of this station. The work is beyond the two constables now stationed at Frankton, and is not receiving the attention necessary. The business portion of Frankton also requires more constant patrol than the present staff can perform.

The conduct of members of the Force in this district has generally been good. The two or three exceptions have been adequately dealt with under the regulations.

The amount of sickness experienced by members of the Force has been above normal. Two constables were seriously injured in the execution of their duty. Constable Monson, while arresting a violent mental patient at Te Aroha, had his ankle broken. Constable Olsen, of Waihi, was shot in the abdomen when endeavouring to arrest Higgins, who had just murdered two school-children at Waikino Public School. Both officers were off duty for several months.

The administration of the Arms Act is now working so smoothly as to call for but passing notice. It is effectively answering the purpose for which it was passed.

The growth of population is being steadily maintained, except in the gold-mining districts. The closing-down, for the present at any rate, of the Grand Junction Gold-mine at Waihi has caused some two hundred men to seek work in other localities. About thirty miners were absorbed by the Waihi Gold-mining Company. A large temporary increase of some thousand men, who will be employed on the Arapuni electrical works, will require an increase of police in the Putaruru subdistrict.

The offences return for year ending 31st December last shows 2,036 offences reported, compared with 1,749 for previous twelve months, being an increase of 287. Of the offences reported 1,912, or 94 per cent., were accounted for by arrest or summons, leaving 124 offences undetected. 240 offenders were committed for trial, being 78 in excess of the previous year: 200 of the 240 were convicted.

On the 19th October, 1923, the community was shocked by the enactment of a terrible tragedy in the little mining township of Waikino, when John Christopher Higgins, a settler, visited the public school armed with an automatic pistol, dagger, and gelignite. After parleying with Mr. R. T. Reid, the headmaster, who courageously endeavoured to prevent Higgins attacking the school-children, Higgins shot Mr. Reid through the jaw, and then, visiting the class-rooms, fired rapidly at the terrified children. Two little boys, McLean and Stewart, were shot dead, and four other children were wounded by bullets. The local citizens surrounded the schoolhouse to endeavour to capture the murderer, but were kept at bay by Higgins, who fired from the master's window. Later the arrival of the police, also further civilian assistance with two rifles, induced Higgins to surrender. While besieged Higgins, firing through a door, shot and wounded Constable Olsen. He was tried on the two charges of murder at Auckland Supreme Court and convicted. Sentence of death was subsequently commuted by the Executive on grounds of Higgins's insanity.

INSPECTOR HUTTON, GISBORNE DISTRICT.

The authorized strength of the Police Force in the Gisborne District on the 31st March, 1924, was 33.

No stations were opened or closed during the year, and there were no additions to the staff.

A constable is very much required at Kaiti, in the suburbs of Gisborne, and the inhabitants have been applying and pressing for such for some years. A constable is also required in the Taneatua Township, as the railway-works are progressing in that locality.

On account of the many demands made, an additional detective should be stationed at Gisborne. There is too much work for one man, as he is frequently away in other parts of the district engaged on important cases, and there is no one to fill the gap. The local police will not suffice to satisfy the settlers' demands, as nothing but a detective is wanted.

The conduct of the police, generally speaking, has been good during the year. Five monetary penalties were inflicted for breaches of the Police Regulations. Two constables recently voluntarily resigned—one at Gisborne, and one (temporary constable) at Whakatane to better his position. Few complaints were made by the public.

For the year ended 31st December, 1923, the total number of offences reported was 945, as against 807 for the previous year, an increase of 138. Arrests or summonses resulted in 932 cases, leaving 13 unaccounted-for. Of the cases dealt with, 47 were committed for trial and 41 resulted in convictions, 833 were summarily convicted and 52 discharged.

A serious crime of murder and outrage occurred at Makaraka, three miles from Gisborne, on the night of the 28th January, 1924, a girl aged eleven years being attacked in a lane at 8 p.m. when returning home from a message. The offender was subsequently arrested and tried at the Supreme Court, Gisborne, and found guilty, sentenced to death, and executed.

There has been little change in the population of the district during the year.

The railway-works between Awakeri and Taneatua, the opening-up of the roads in the Urewera country, and surveys have attracted a certain amount of labouring population of a migratory character.

INSPECTOR MATHIESON, NAPIER DISTRICT.

I took charge of the district on the 31st March, 1924.

The authorized strength of the Force on the 31st March was fifty-one, the actual strength on that date being the same as authorized. The strength has not been increased or decreased since last annual report. An extra constable is required at Port Ahuriri so that there may be more supervision at night.

One constable voluntarily resigned and two constables retired on superannuation during the year. Inspector Dew died on the 31st January, 1924.

The offences return for the year ended 31st December shows a total of 1,244 offences reported, as compared with 1,210 during the previous year, making an increase of 34. Of the offences reported, 1,171 were accounted for by arrests or summonses, leaving 73 cases undetected. Of the cases dealt with, 123 were committed for trial, 958 summarily convicted, and 90 discharged. 122 of those committed for trial were convicted.

The police duties in this district have been carried on in a satisfactory manner during the past year. The conduct of the police has been good, only a few having been dealt with for minor breaches of the regulations.

The population of this district is on the increase. This has been a very prosperous year for Hawke's Bay, on account of the enhanced value of wool sold during the year.

INSPECTOR MURRAY, NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT.

The authorized strength of the police in this district on the 31st March last was thirty-two. An increase in the rank of sergeant was brought about by the promotion of the District Clerk.

Another constable is required at Stratford so that a more efficient night patrol may be provided.

During the year one constable retired on superannuation and one resigned to take up other employment.

The offences return for this district shows that in 1923 a total of 764 offences were reported, as compared with 677 the previous year. 722 were accounted for by arrest or summons, leaving 42 undetected. 41 males and 1 female were committed for trial, 36 males and 1 female being convicted. 603 males and 18 females were summarily convicted, and 53 males and 6 females discharged.

The conduct of the police has been good, and the duties satisfactorily performed.

The population of this district is steadily increasing. During the past five years the population of the Borough of New Plymouth has increased from 8,500 to approximately 15,000.

SUPERINTENDENT FOUHY, WANGANUI DISTRICT.

The strength of the Force on the 31st March last was forty-one all told, an increase of one over the previous year. The authorized strength of Wanganui has been increased by one detective and one constable. Another constable each is required at Wanganui and Taihape, and two at Taumarunui.

The number of offences reported during the year ended 31st December, 1923, was 1,138, as against 1,105 for the year 1922, an increase of 33.

At 8.15 p.m. on the 26th October, 1923, a Mrs. Oates left her husband in his shop at Aramoho and went to her home, about half a mile distant. About an hour and a half afterwards her husband returned home, and states: "I left my bicycle, on which was a bag containing more than £100, near the back door. When opening the back door I was struck from behind on the head with some blunt instrument and felled inwards on to the kitchen-floor. Here, though on my back, I defended myself successfully with my arms and feet against the further attacks of my assailant, whom I did not see on account of the blood from my wounds trickling down over my eyes. When the assailant disappeared I found that my bag and contents had also disappeared, and immediately afterwards found my wife in another room with her head battered in. She died three hours afterwards without regaining consciousness." Exhaustive inquiries have, so far, failed to trace the offender.

Sly-grog selling in the King-country is well kept in check. The fines imposed for this offence during the year amount to £631.

The behaviour of the members of the Force has in general been good; only two defaulters.

The district continues prosperous and the population of Wanganui and suburbs continues to increase.

On the 6th July, 1923, at 6 a.m., the night express train, Auckland to Wellington, struck a large boulder which had fallen off the hill on to the railway-line at Ongarue. Part of the train was derailed and sixteen passengers killed.

INSPECTOR SIMPSON, PALMERSTON NORTH DISTRICT.

The strength of the Force in the Palmerston North District on the 31st March, 1924, was forty-three.

During the year an additional detective was placed on the strength at Palmerston North. There is urgent need for at least three constables for beat duty at this station, the present number being inadequate to give the town proper attention. The population is rapidly increasing in the town and district, and the work of the police increased in consequence.

An additional constable is also required at Feilding, where the present staff is insufficient to afford an all-night patrol and give the town the attention due to a place of its size and importance.

A new station is required at Marton Junction, where, owing to the considerable railway traffic and inquiry work, a constable could be kept fully employed. The duties of attending to the town and surrounding districts, the population of which is rapidly increasing, are quite sufficient to keep the two constables at present stationed at Marton fully employed.

A request has been made for an additional constable at Otaki. The constable stationed there has to attend to all police work as far south as Paekakariki—twenty miles distant. I am of opinion, however, that a constable stationed at the latter place would be more useful than a second constable stationed at Otaki.

One sergeant resigned during the year.

An increase is shown this year in the total number of offences dealt with in the district—viz., 1,282 cases, as against 1,119 for the previous year. There has been no serious crime in the district to call for special remark. The increase of offences may be attributed to the increased population and the number of outsiders attracted by the public works going on in the district. Of the offences

reported, 95 per cent. were accounted for either by arrest or summons. The conduct of the members of the Force has been very good. Three constables were dealt with for breaches of the regulations.

The population of all towns and rural districts appears to be steadily increasing; the increase in population and apparent prosperity in the Town of Palmerston North being very noticeable at present.

SUPERINTENDENT McILVENEY, WELLINGTON DISTRICT.

On the 31st March, 1924, the authorized strength of the Force in this district was 186. During the year there was an increase of four constables to provide for contingent details at the Central Station in the City of Wellington and at Wellington South Station.

I recommend an early increase of two sergeants and twelve constables, to meet requirements at the Central and Taranaki Street Police-stations and at Blenheim. At the latter station an additional constable for night duty is necessary, as at present there is only one constable available for that duty, and his services are inadequate. In Wellington City a sergeant is needed to take charge of the watchhouse at night, and four constables to meet demands at the Central Station and give attention to outlying suburbs where stations have not been opened; and a sergeant and seven constables at Taranaki Street Station are actually required, in order to give adequate service in the commercial area of the city, and at Clyde Quay, Oriental Bay, and Roseneath. Within the past five years there has not been an addition in the number of sergeants here.

Since last annual report no stations have been opened or closed in this district.

The casualties were: One acting-detective, eight constables, and one temporary constable, by voluntary resignation; one constable by compulsory resignation; two temporary constables by discharge; and one constable by dismissal.

For the year ended 31st December, 1923, the total number of offences reported was 4,335, as against 4,463 for the previous year—a decrease of 128—and 4,020 prosecutions resulted.

The increases do not call for special remark excepting in the cases of murder, unlawful detention of children, and procurement of abortion. These offences were detected during the investigation of baby-farming cases for which Daniel Richard Cooper was responsible. Offender was convicted and executed for the murder of one of his victims.

The general conduct of the police and the standard of efficiency maintained have been satisfactory and creditable.

The population of Wellington urban area is now estimated at 113,560, and is steadily increasing. Suburban stations are required at Kelburn (population 3,250) and Wadestown (population 1,750).

Recent legislation has been found to work smoothly and well, and in some instances to have materially strengthened the hands of the police. I recommend favourable consideration of an extension of the age of juvenile offenders under Part III of the Justices of the Peace Act, 1908.

INSPECTOR ECCLES, GREYMOOUTH DISTRICT.

The strength of the Force on the 31st March last was forty-four, which shows an increase of one constable compared with last year's return and one constable short of authorized strength of the district. I recommend an increase of one constable for Greymouth Station, as a constable is urgently required for duty as day watchhouse-keeper, and he could also assist the Senior Sergeant in the Arms Office.

No new stations were opened during the year, and none were closed.

The police-station at Rimu was destroyed by fire on the 14th April, 1923. At the time of the fire the station had been unoccupied for a few days, owing to the transfer of the constable to another station. The origin of the fire is unknown.

One constable retired on pension, and one constable compulsorily resigned during the year.

The offences return for the year ended 31st December, 1923, shows that the total number of all offences reported was 1,236, as compared with 1,347 for 1922, a net decrease of 111. Of the offences reported, 1,204 were accounted for by arrest or summons, leaving 32 undetected, a very small percentage. Of the cases dealt with, 11 were committed for trial, 1,043 were summarily convicted, and 150 were discharged. Of those committed for trial, 5 were convicted and 6 acquitted.

The only serious crime during the year worthy of mention was a case against a ship's fireman, who was committed for trial on a charge of manslaughter, and was acquitted. There was also a case where a seaman stabbed another seaman, and he was committed for trial on a charge of assault causing actual bodily harm. He was convicted, and admitted to probation for two years.

The conduct of the police has been very good, and no fines were inflicted during the year.

The population of the district shows a slight increase, due to the fact of improved railway communication, the Otira Tunnel being opened for railway traffic on the 4th August, 1923. There appears to be plenty of employment in this district, and the people are apparently fairly prosperous.

I am of the opinion that the law should be amended so as to give a Stipendiary Magistrate power to deal summarily, without the right of trial by a jury, in the following offences—viz., offences mentioned in sections 41, 42, 50, 51, and 52, Police Offences Act, 1908, and also the offences mentioned in section 179, Justices of the Peace Act, 1908. Section 3, Police Offences Amendment Act, 1919, should be amended so as to give the police power of arrest.

SUPERINTENDENT MACKINNON, CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT.

The actual strength of the Force in this district on the 31st March, 1924, was 126, being an increase of two during the year. An extra constable has been added to the strength of St. Albans and New Brighton Stations respectively.

A considerable amount of work is thrown upon the Police Force by other Government Departments—namely, Education, Railways, Defence, Pensions, State Advances, and Internal Affairs; and I find, to cope with the extra work entailed, that I must ask for a considerable augmentation to the

present staff. Christchurch Station should be increased by at least one sergeant and ten constables in order to carry out the work efficiently. Another constable is also required at Lyttelton Station. These increases were recommended by my predecessor last year.

Bealey Flat Station was closed during the year—the completion of the Otira Tunnel permitted of this being done—and the work of that station is now performed from Otira and Darfield Stations.

Leeston Station is still being worked from Southbridge. This does not make for efficiency, and I recommend that the building of a new station at Leeston be put in hand at the earliest possible moment. Leeston is an important centre, and a constable should be stationed there.

The casualties in the district during the year are as follows: One sergeant and four constables resigned, one constable retired medically unfit, and one Superintendent and one constable retired on superannuation on reaching the age-limit.

The offences reported during the year ended 31st December, 1923, numbered 3,235, compared with 3,445 in 1922, a decrease of 210.

Two cases of murder were reported during the year. In one case an old man named McKenzie was murdered by a youth named Kissell, and in the other an infant was murdered by an imbecile named Jameson. In both cases the accused persons were acquitted on the ground of insanity, and they have been ordered to be detained during His Majesty's pleasure.

The conduct of the non-commissioned officers and constables (including the Detective Branch of the Force) has been good, and all ranks have shown a commendable zeal in the efficient performance of their duties.

The district has enjoyed a fair measure of prosperity, and the population is steadily increasing.

An amendment to the Licensing Act, 1908, in the direction of prohibiting any delivery of liquor from the bar to *any* person after closing-hours would, in my opinion, be of great assistance to the police in suppressing after-hours trading.

INSPECTOR WILLIS, TIMARU DISTRICT.

The strength of the Force in this district on the 31st March last was forty.

In accordance with the usual practice, a temporary station has been opened at Parcora, for the period of the killing season, at the local freezing-works, at the end of which it will be closed again.

During the year one Senior Sergeant and one sergeant retired on superannuation, one constable was discharged as medically unfit, and one constable resigned from the Force.

The number of offences reported during the year ended 31st December last was 854, as against 870 for the previous year, being a decrease of 16. The figures generally are very much the same as for the previous year, and do not call for special comment.

No crime of a serious nature was reported during the year, and I am glad to say that the whole district has been remarkably free from serious crime.

The conduct of members of the Force during the year has been satisfactory, nothing more serious than a few minor breaches of discipline having to be dealt with.

The population of the district continues to increase, and most noticeably so in Timaru and Oamaru. Notwithstanding that farmers have had rather a bad year, owing to the abnormally dry season, the district on the whole is very prosperous, and there has been no unemployment.

The several amendments of the law contained in the Justices of the Peace Amendment Act of last session have proved extremely valuable, particularly so the section which extends the jurisdiction of Stipendiary Magistrates in certain cases.

SUPERINTENDENT NORWOOD, DUNEDIN DISTRICT.

The authorized strength of the Force in the district on the 31st March was 105.

No new stations were opened and no stations were closed during the year.

The casualties were—Two deaths (one Chief Detective and one constable, the latter being accidentally drowned); one detective and four constables resigned.

The total number of offences was 1,267, as against 1,196 for the previous period, an increase of 71. 1,196 cases led to prosecutions.

There have been no serious crimes in the district during the year that require special review; the staff has been fairly successful in dealing with all serious crime.

The conduct of the police during the year has been satisfactory; all ranks appear to be cordially working together in the discharge of their duties.

INSPECTOR MCNAMARA, INVERCARGILL DISTRICT.

The present strength of the Force in the district is the same as last year, less one constable transferred, which leaves one constable in excess of authorized strength. During the year one constable resigned, and one sergeant retired.

Three additional constables for Invercargill are much needed. With the present strength only the main streets can be patrolled with regularity; other patrols are needed for the ingress and egress.

For the year 835 offences were reported, as against 751 for the preceding year, an increase of 84. Arrests or summonses followed in 805 cases, leaving only 30 cases undetected. Fifty-six males and 1 female were committed for trial during the year; 48 males were convicted, and 8 males and 1 female were acquitted. The percentage of convictions in connection with the crimes and offences reported is 96.66.

The Detective Branch has been hard pressed during the year. Another detective for the district is much needed.

No stations have been opened or closed during the year. Additions were made at Waikaia Station, and a new office was supplied at Invercargill North.

A residence is required for the Inspector at Invercargill. Police property to build one on is available. A motor-car for police use in the centre is a necessity.

The district is prosperous and growing in population.

APPENDIX A—continued.

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES REPORTED, THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES FOR WHICH PERSONS WERE APPREHENDED OR SUMMONED, AND COMPARISON OF CRIME DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1922, AND YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1923—continued.

Offences.	1922. Number of all Offences reported.	1923.										Increase or Decrease in Number of Offences reported.	
		Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Results of Cases in which Persons were apprehended or summoned. (Charges against Males and Females separately.)						Number of Convictions amongst those committed for Trial.		Increase.	Decrease.
				Committed for Trial.		Summarily convicted.		Dismissed.		for Trial.			
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
<i>Offences against Rights of Property.</i>													
Theft (undescribed)	3,924	3,856	3,011	219	11	2,358	193	221	9	175	9	..	68
Theft, attempted	13	12	10	..	..	7	2	1	..	..	..	..	1
Theft from the person	48	23	20	11	2	4	..	3	..	9	2	..	25
Theft from the person, attempted .. .. .	..	2	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	..
Theft from dwellings	427	221	149	55	5	74	6	9	..	50	5	..	206
Theft from dwellings, attempted	18	5	5	1	..	3	..	1	..	1	..	..	13
Theft by clerks or servants	160	205	202	170	..	24	..	8	..	167	..	45	..
Theft of animals (specified)	64	52	44	16	4	19	..	3	2	13	4	..	12
Theft of animals, attempted .. .. .	..	2	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	..
False pretences	546	507	489	145	1	307	15	20	1	134	1	..	39
False pretences, attempted	10	41	40	10	..	29	..	1	..	..	..	31	..
Obtaining credit by fraud	14	21	21	14	4	3	..	..	..	12	..	7	..
False accounting by officials or clerks	6	3	3	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
Conspiracy to defraud	5	15	9	6	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	10	..
Fortune-telling or practising witchcraft	20	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	19
Robbery and aggravated robbery	11	10	8	8	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1
Assault with intent to rob	2	7	7	5	..	..	..	2	..	5	..	5	..
Demanding with intent to steal	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Extortion by threats	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Burglary	109	109	96	89	..	5	1	1	..	79	..	..	..
Burglary, attempted	3	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..
House or shop breaking, &c.	714	595	373	290	7	64	1	10	1	272	7	..	119
House or shop breaking, &c., attempted	46	31	29	9	..	20	..	..	..	9	..	..	15
Being found in dwellinghouse by night	5	9	9	2	..	6	..	1	..	2	..	4	..
Being disguised or in possession of house-breaking implements	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Receiving property dishonestly obtained	138	121	121	23	8	57	1	27	5	16	2	..	17
Forgery	123	200	189	171	7	4	2	3	2	135	7	77	..
Uttering forged documents or false certificates	33	42	41	34	..	7	..	..	..	34	..	9	..
Sending false telegram .. .. .	..	7	7	4	..	3	..	..	..	4	..	7	..
Personation	3	12	12	3	..	7	..	1	1	..	..	9	..
Coin, offences relating to	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Arson	33	8	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	25
Arson, attempted	6	2	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Wilfully placing obstruction on railways	2	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Mischief	536	542	530	3	..	462	16	49	..	1	..	6	..
Mischief on railways and tramways	11	11	10	..	..	8	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Possessing or making explosive substance, &c., with intent thereby to commit a crime .. .. .	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Sending threatening letters	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Threatening acts with intent to intimidate	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Destroying Government documents .. .. .	..	3	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	..
Defrauding a guarantor	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Counselling commission of an offence	6	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
<i>POLICE OFFENCES ACT.</i>													
Breach of the peace or behaviour with intent	592	476	476	..	..	418	12	43	3	..	..	..	116
Cruelty to animals	180	208	207	..	..	176	..	31	..	..	..	28	..
Drunkenness	5,934	6,547	6,547	..	..	6,178	363	5	1	..	..	613	..
Drunk while in charge of horses, &c., or loaded firearms	170	182	182	..	..	174	1	7	..	..	..	12	..
Drunk and disorderly	306	306	306	..	..	298	5	3	..	..	..	..	..
Soliciting prostitution	9	11	11	..	..	..	8	3	..	..	..	2	..
Exposure of person and grossly indecent acts	231	232	224	7	..	200	6	10	1	6	..	1	..
Using profane, indecent, or obscene language	606	649	648	1	..	591	24	29	3	..	..	43	..
Vagrancy (idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, and incorrigible rogues)	755	649	649	..	1	519	61	53	15	..	1	..	106
Assaulting, obstructing, or resisting constables, &c.	175	183	183	..	..	166	5	12	..	..	..	8	..
Intimidation to restrict lawful acts	14	8	8	..	..	5	..	3	..	..	..	..	6
Inciting violence, disorder, or lawlessness	10	11	11	..	..	9	..	2	..	..	..	1	..
Unlawfully using horses, motor-cars, &c.	160	124	121	..	..	116	..	5	..	..	..	..	36
Sunday trading	57	72	72	..	..	43	26	3	..	..	..	15	..

APPENDIX A—continued.

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES REPORTED, THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES FOR WHICH PERSONS WERE APPREHENDED OR SUMMONED, AND COMPARISON OF CRIME DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1922, AND YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1923—continued.

Offences.	1922.		1923.								Increase or Decrease in Number of Offences reported.		
	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Results of Cases in which Persons were apprehended or summoned. (Charges against Males and Females separately.)						Number of Convictions amongst those committed for Trial.		Increase.	Decrease.
				Committed for Trial.		Summarily convicted.		Dismissed.					
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
GAMING ACT.													
Common gaming - house, keeping or managing, &c.	32	10	10	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Found in a common gaming-house ..	42	129	129	..	..	115	..	14	..	..	..	..	87
Gaming with instruments ..	118	51	51	..	..	50	..	1	..	..	..	..	67
Publishing advertisements relating to betting on horse-races	3	8	8	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	5
Lotteries, unlawfully establishing or conducting, &c.	22	79	79	2	..	44	1	32	..	..	..	..	57
Betting, unlawful ..	33	84	84	4	..	64	..	16	..	..	..	..	51
Trespassing on racecourse ..	59	75	71	..	..	67	4	..	..	..	..	..	16
Gambling on a train ..	..	3	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Following occupation of bookmaker ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Holding illegal race meeting ..	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
POST AND TELEGRAPH ACT.													
Posting packet containing explosive, &c.	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Illegally opening or delaying postal packets	6	20	18	13	2	3	..	..	..	4	1	..	14
Stealing postal packets, mail-bags, &c.	18	45	42	19	..	21	1	1	..	19	..	..	27
Stealing money, &c., from postal packets	7	7	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..
Unlawfully opening mail-bags ..	..	3	3	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Receiving property sent by post and stolen	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Fraudulently secreting or detaining misdelivered mail-bags, &c.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Injuring post-office pillars or boxes ..	6	7	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Obtaining postal packet by false pretences	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Damaging insulators ..	..	21	21	..	..	20	..	1	..	..	..	..	21
False statement re posting postal packets	2	2	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Damaging telephone ..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Personating Postal officer ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Posting indecent post-cards and letters	5	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Fraudulently using postage-stamps ..	..	5	5	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
DESTITUTE PERSONS ACT.													
Failing to maintain wife or children ..	1,422	1,627	1,502	..	..	1,072	15	415	..	..	..	..	205
Failing for fourteen days to pay maintenance-moneys	1,360	1,640	1,505	..	..	1,320	5	180	..	..	..	..	280
Offences by husbands while separation orders are in force	17	20	18	..	..	14	..	4	..	..	..	..	3
Offences prescribed in sections 52 to 58 of Destitute Persons Act	6	9	5	1	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	3
SHIPPING AND SEAMEN ACT.													
Misconduct endangering his ship or lives of persons thereon	1	11	11	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Assaults by officers ..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ship-desertion ..	30	80	49	..	..	49	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Absent without leave ..	37	22	11	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Offences against discipline ..	7	93	93	..	..	93	..	..	..	..	..	..	86
Embezzling cargo ..	13	13	12	..	..	11	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Harbouring deserters ..	..	2	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Stowing away ..	32	41	41	..	..	41	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
LICENSING ACT.													
Permitting drunkenness or violent conduct	18	12	12	..	..	6	1	5	..	..	..	..	6
Selling or supplying liquor to intoxicated persons	26	17	17	..	..	10	1	5	1	..	..	..	9
Permitting gaming, gambling, &c. ..	1	2	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Selling or supplying liquor, or exposing for sale, or opening or keeping open premises at unauthorized times	351	476	476	..	..	199	34	207	36	..	..	..	125
Supplying liquor to persons under twenty-one years	47	92	92	..	..	40	5	40	7	..	..	..	45
Selling or supplying liquor to prohibited persons	38	41	41	..	..	37	1	3	..	..	..	..	3
Permitting prohibited persons to be on premises	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2

APPENDIX A—continued.

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES REPORTED, THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES FOR WHICH PERSONS WERE APPREHENDED OR SUMMONED, AND COMPARISON OF CRIME DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1922, AND YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1923—continued.

Offences.	1922.		1923.								Increase or Decrease in Number of Offences reported.		
	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Results of Cases in which Persons were apprehended or summoned. (Charges against Males and Females separately.)						Number of Convictions amongst those committed for Trial		Increase.	Decrease.
				Committed for Trial.		Summarily convicted.		Dismissed.		M.	F.		
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
LICENSING ACT—continued.													
Unlawfully employing females in or about a bar	4	5	5	..	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	1	..
Employing minors in bars	3	6	6	..	..	4	..	1	1	..	..	3	..
Illegally supplying liquor to Natives	43	56	56	..	..	49	..	7	..	..	..	13	..
Selling adulterated liquor	1	3	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Obstructing Inspectors or refusing entrance to Inspectors or constables	7	6	6	..	..	1	..	4	1	..	..	..	1
Having or purchasing labels for bottling contrary to Act	2	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Using bottles with labels more than once	..	4	4	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	4	..
Breaches of prohibition orders ..	798	815	811	..	..	732	73	6	..	..	..	17	..
Found on licensed premises after closing-hours	1,360	1,422	1,421	..	..	1,241	14	166	..	..	..	62	..
Refusing to quit licensed premises ..	51	50	50	..	..	44	..	6	..	..	..	..	1
Selling or exposing liquor for sale without a license	45	81	81	..	..	53	4	18	6	..	..	36	..
Found on premises where liquor was seized under a warrant	19	5	5	..	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	14
Offences against provisions in force in no-license districts	107	95	95	..	..	76	12	5	2	..	..	..	12
Selling, supplying, or giving liquor to Maoris in Native licensing districts	9	13	13	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
Offences against provisions of no-license in Native proclaimed areas	89	101	98	..	..	51	9	38	..	..	..	12	..
Supplying liquor to Natives in proclaimed districts	27	37	37	..	..	33	..	4	..	..	..	10	..
Failing to provide accommodation ..	2	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Permitting consumption of liquor in restaurant after hours	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
MISCELLANEOUS.													
Absconding from industrial schools ..	69	51	42	..	..	35	7	..	..	..	..	..	18
Bankruptcy offences	5	23	22	14	1	7	..	..	..	9	1	18	..
Brothels or houses of ill fame, keeping, &c.	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Children, wilfully ill-treating, neglecting, abandoning, or exposing	18	17	17	..	..	11	2	1	3	..	..	..	1
Deserting or absenting from His Majesty's ships	16	24	9	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	8	..
Drunk or behaving in a violent or offensive manner, &c., on a railway, &c.	83	59	59	..	..	58	1	..	..	..	..	..	24
Failing to comply with conditions of release under First Offenders Probation Act	96	135	116	5	..	105	3	3	..	4	..	39	..
Habitual criminals or offenders, breach of conditions of probationary license	15	6	6	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Indecent Publications Act, offences under	3	2	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Opium-smoking, &c.	28	44	44	..	..	32	..	12	..	..	..	16	..
Smuggling	1	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Trespassing on railway and refusing to leave, &c.	14	40	40	..	..	36	2	2	..	..	..	26	..
Arms Act, breaches of	512	582	582	..	..	560	1	21	..	..	..	70	..
Chattels Transfer Act, breaches of ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Totals	24,699	26,119	24,356	1,671	85	19,534	992	1,957	117	1,391	51	2,598	1178
Increase .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,420	

APPENDIX B—continued.

RETURN SHOWING THE STRENGTH, ETC., OF THE NEW ZEALAND POLICE FORCE—continued.

Stations.	Superintendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Senior Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Senior Detectives.	Detective-sergeants.	Detectives.	Total.	Temporary Constables.	District Constables.	Native Constables.	Stations.	Superintendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Senior Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Senior Detectives.	Detective-sergeants.	Detectives.	Total.	Temporary Constables.	District Constables.	Native Constables.
Wanganui District—														Wellington District—													
Wanganui	1			1	2	13				2	19			<i>continued.</i>													
Aramoho						1					1			Tinakori Road						1					1		
Castlecliff						1					1			Upper Hutt						1					1		
Gonville						1					1			Wakefield						1					1		
Hunterville						1					1			Wellington South						1	5				6		
Mangaweka						1					1			Wharf (Wellington)						1	6			1	8		
Manunui						1					1			Totals	1	1	1	7	13	156	2		5	186	2		
Matiere						1					1			Greymouth District—													
Moawhango						1					1		1	Greymouth	1			1	2	8			1	13			
Ohakune						1					1			Ahaura						1				1			
Ongarue						1					1			Blackball						1				1			
Patea						1					1			Brunnerton						1				1			
Raetihi						1					1			Charleston						1				1			
Raurimu						1					1			Cobden						1				1			
St. John's (Wanganui)						1					1			Denniston						1				1			
Taihape					1	2					3			Dunollie						1				1			
Taumarunui					1	2					3			Granity						1				1			
Waitotara						1					1			Hokitika						1	3			4			
Wanganui East						1					1			Karamea						1				1			
Waverley						1					1			Kumara						1				1			
Totals	1			1	4	33				2	41		1	Millerton						1				1			
Palmerston North District—														Christchurch District—													
Palmerston North	1			1	2	11		1	2	18	1			Christchurch	1	1	1	1	6	50	2	1	5	68	2		
Ashhurst						1				1				Addington						1	2			3			
Bull's						1				1				Akaroa						1				1			
Cuba Street (Palmerston N.)						1				1				Amberley						1				1			
Eketahuna						1				1				Ashburton					1	5				6			
Feilding					1	3				4				Belfast						1				1			
Foxton						2				2				Bingsland						1				1			
Kimbolton						1				1				Chatham Islands						1				1			
Levin						2				2				Cheviot						1				1			
Marton						2				2				Coalgate						1				1			
Otaki						1				1				Culverden						1				1			
Pahiatua						2				2				Darfield						1				1			
Pongaroa						1				1				Fendalton						1				1			
Rongotea						1				1				Islington						1				1			
Shannon						2				2				Kaipoi						2				2			
Terrace End (Palmerston N.)						1				1				Kaikoura						1				1			
Woodville						1				1				Leeston										1			
Totals	1			1	3	34		1	2	42	1			Lincoln						1				1			
Wellington District—														Wellington District—													
Wellington	1	1		1	2	4	49	2		4	64	1		Wellington	1	1		1	2	4	49	2		4	64	1	
Blenheim						1	4				5			Blenheim						1	4				5		
Brooklyn						1					1			Brooklyn						1					1		
Carterton						2					2			Carterton						2					2		
Collingwood						1					1			Collingwood						1					1		
Eastbourne						1					1			Eastbourne						1					1		
Featherston						2					2			Featherston						2					2		
Greytown North						1					1			Greytown North						1					1		
Havelock						1					1			Havelock						1					1		
Island Bay						1					1			Island Bay						1					1		
Johnsonville						1					1			Johnsonville						1					1		
Karori						1					1			Karori						1					1		
Kilbirnie						1					1			Kilbirnie						1					1		
Lower Hutt						2					2			Lower Hutt						2					2		
Lyal Bay						1					1			Lyal Bay						1					1		
Martinborough						1					1			Martinborough						1					1		
Masterton					1	5					6			Masterton					1	5					6		
Motueka						1					1			Motueka						1					1		
Mount Cook				1	3	21					25	1		Mount Cook				1	3	21					25	1	
Nelson					1	7					8			Nelson					1	7					8		
Petone					1	4					5			Petone					1	4					5		
Picton						2					2			Picton						2					2		
Richmond						1					1			Richmond						1					1		
Seatoun						1					1			Seatoun						1					1		
Seddon						1					1			Seddon						1					1		
Takaka						1					1			Takaka						1					1		
Taranaki Street				1	3	25					29			Taranaki Street				1	3	25					29		
Tinui						1					1			Tinui						1					1		
The Port						1					1			The Port						1					1		
Thorndon Quay						1					1			Thorndon Quay						1					1		
Totals	1	1	1	2	11	98	2	1	5	122	4			Totals	1	1	1	2	11	98	2	1	5	122	4		

APPENDIX B—continued.

RETURN SHOWING THE STRENGTH, ETC., OF THE NEW ZEALAND POLICE FORCE—continued.

Stations.	Superintendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Senior Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Senior Detectives.	Detective-sergeants.	Detectives.	Total.	Temporary Constables.	District Constables.	Native Constables.	Stations.	Superintendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Senior Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Senior Detectives.	Detective-sergeants.	Detectives.	Total.	Temporary Constables.	District Constables.	Native Constables.	
Timaru District—														Dunedin District—														
Timaru ..	1			1	1	12				16				<i>continued.</i>														
Duntroon ..						1				1				South Dunedin..					1	5					6	1		
Fairlie ..						1				1				Waikouaiti ..						1					1			
Geraldine ..						1				1				Waitahuna ..						1					1			
Glenavy ..						1				1				Waitati ..						1					1			
Hampden ..						1				1				Woodhaugh ..						1					1			
Kurov ..						1				1				Totals ..	1		1	1	11	78	1		3	96	1			
Oamaru ..				1		8				9				Invercargill District—														
Pleasant Point ..						1				1				Invercargill ..	1			1	1	14		1		18				
St. Andrew's ..						1				1				Arrowtown ..					1	1				1				
Temuka ..				1		2				3				Bluff ..					1	2				3				
Waimataitai ..						1				1				Clinton ..						1				1				
Waimate ..						1				2				Fortrose ..						1				1				
Totals ..	1			2	3	33			1	40				Gore ..					1	3				4				
Dunedin District—														Half-moon Bay..						1				1				
Dunedin ..	1		1	1	6	32	1		3	45				Lumsden ..						1				1				
Alexandra ..						1				1				Mataura ..						1				1				
Anderson's Bay ..						1				1				Nightcaps ..						1				1				
Balclutha ..						1				1				North Invercargill						1				1				
Caversham ..						1				1				Orepuki ..						1				1				
Clyde ..				1		1				2				Otautau ..						1				1				
Cromwell ..						1				1				Pembroke ..						1				1				
Green Island ..						1				1				Queenstown ..						1				1				
Kaitangata ..						1				1				Riverton ..						1				1				
Lawrence ..				1		1				2				South Invercargill						1				1				
Middlemarch ..						1				1				Tapanui ..						1				1				
Milton ..						1				1				Tuatapere ..						1				1				
Mornington ..						1				1				Waikaia ..						1				1				
Mosgiel ..						1				1				Waikiwi ..						1				1				
Naseby ..						1				1				Winton ..						1				1				
North Dunedin ..				1		5				6				Wyndham ..						1				1				
North-east Valley						1				1				Totals ..	1		1	3	39		1		45					
Ophir ..						1				1				Attached to head-quarters staff	1			1	2	3	1		8					
Outram ..						1				1				Lent to Cook Islands Administration						1			1					
Owaka ..						1				1				Lent to Samoan Administration						1			1					
Palmerston South						1				1				On leave prior to retirement	1													
Port Chalmers ..					1	4				5				Grand totals	7	12	4	29	91	819	9	6	32	1009	18	7	4	
Portobello ..						1				1																		
Ranfurly ..						1				1																		
Ravensbourne ..						1				1																		
Roslyn ..						2				2																		
Roxburgh ..						1				1																		
St. Bathans ..						1				1																		
St. Clair ..						1				1																		
St. Kilda ..						1				1																		

APPENDIX C.

RETURN SHOWING THE PROPORTION OF POLICE TO POPULATION AND COST OF POLICE PER INHABITANT IN EACH OF THE UNDERMENTIONED PLACES.

Place.	Number of Police.	Estimated Population.	Proportion of Police to Population.	Cost of Police per Inhabitant.
New Zealand ..	1,027	1,347,853	1 to 1,312	s. d. 5 8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Victoria ..	1,838	1,625,380	1 to 884	7 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
New South Wales ..	2,816	2,209,445	1 to 784	9 11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Queensland ..	1,126	811,168	1 to 720	10 5
South Australia..	585	524,748	1 to 897	8 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Western Australia	508	353,815	1 to 696	10 2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tasmania ..	236	219,074	1 to 928	7 2

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