

THE sum of £2 2s. has been awarded to Detective Alexander Henderson, Dunedin Police, in acknowledgment of prompt and praiseworthy action shown by him in effecting the arrest of Charles Bilson, sentenced to two years' labour for stealing clothes from the Pier Hotel, Dunedin.

THE sum of £7 7s. has been awarded to Constable John Hartnett, Anderson's Bay Police, in acknowledgment of his exertions in extinguishing a bush fire, near Anderson's Bay, on the 24th of February last, thereby preventing the destruction of a considerable amount of property.

THE sum of £3 has been awarded to Constable William N. Meredith, Otago Police, in acknowledgment of his exertions in effecting the arrest of Thomas W. Cochrane, who deserted from the barque "Glen Cald," at Campbelltown.

THE sum of £2 has been awarded from the Reward Fund to Sergeant Charles Rutledge, Waimate Police, in acknowledgment of perseverance shown by him in the detection of Florence Porter, fined £10 for sly grog-selling.

A POLICE STATION has been formed at Tolago Bay, in the Hawke's Bay District.

DURING the nights of the 9th and 10th ultimo, at Christchurch, nine panes of glass were maliciously broken with stones in the windows of St. John's Episcopal Church.

ON the morning of the 19th ultimo, at Cambridge Terrace West, Christchurch, two granite head-stones were maliciously broken, and four marble head-stones maliciously damaged; the property of Isaac Butterfield. Damage to the value of £50 has been done.

Supreme Court Criminal Sittings.

CRIMINAL SITTINGS of the Supreme Court are held—

At Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington on the first Monday in January, April, July, and October, in each year:

At Blenheim, Invercargill, and Napier on the second Monday in June and December in each year:

At Timaru on the 10th of June and 10th of December in each year:

At New Plymouth on the first Monday in May and November in each year:

At Lawrence on the third Tuesday in March and September in each year:

At Wanganui on the fourth Monday in April and October in each year:

At Hokitika and Nelson on dates fixed from time to time.

District Court Criminal Sittings.

CRIMINAL SITTINGS of the District Court are held—

At Nelson on the third Monday in January, March, May, July, September, and November, in each year:

At Hokitika on the 7th of January, 1st of March, May, and August, 3rd of October, and 28th of November, in each year:

At Greymouth on the 11th of January, 6th of March, May, and August, 8th of October, and 3rd of December, in each year:

At Reefton on the 12th of February, 9th of April, 17th of June, 12th of August, 14th of October, and 9th of December, in each year:

At Westport on the 18th of February, 15th of April, 24th of June, 19th of August, 21st of October, and 16th of December, in each year:

At Timaru on the 1st of March and 1st of September in each year:

At Oamaru on the 7th of March, June, September, and December, in each year:

At Tokomairiro on the 15th of March, June, September, and December, in each year:

At Invercargill on the 20th of March and 20th of September in each year:

At Naseby on the 28th of January, 25th of March, 27th of May, 29th of July, 23rd of September, and 25th of November, in each year:

At Clyde on the 4th of February, 1st of April, 3rd of June, 5th of August, 30th of September, and 2nd of December, in each year:

At Cromwell on the 7th of February, 4th of April, 6th of June, 8th of August, 3rd of October, and 5th of December, in each year:

At Queenstown on the 11th of February, 8th of April, 10th of June, 12th of August, 7th of October, and 9th of December, in each year:

At Lawrence on the 20th of February, 17th of April, 19th of June, 21st of August, 16th of October, and 18th of December, in each year:

At Palmerston South on the 24th of January, 26th of February, 21st of March, 23rd of April, 23rd of May, 25th of June, 25th of July, 27th of August, 19th of September, 22nd of October, 21st of November, and 23rd of December, in each year:

At Arrowtown on the 13th of June, 15th of August, 10th of October, and 12th of December, in each year:

At Carlyle on the first Wednesday in March, June, and November, in each year:

At Wanganui on the Monday following the first Wednesday in March, June, and November, in each year.

At New Plymouth at intervals of not less than six days nor more than seventeen days between the first day of each sitting of such Court.

Extracts from New Zealand Gazette.

(From *Gazette*, 23rd May, 1878, page 646.)

Despatch.—Apprehension of Deserters from Merchant Vessels.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Wellington, 22nd May, 1878.

THE following despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, relative to the apprehension of deserters from merchant vessels, is published for general information.

ROBERT STOUT,
(in the absence of the Colonial Secretary.)

Downing Street, 21st January, 1878.

SIR,—The Italian Government having represented that the authorities in New Zealand refused to assist in the apprehension of deserters from Italian merchant vessels, in accordance with the terms of the Order in Council of 11th June, 1863, extending the provisions of "The Foreign Deserters Act, 1852," to the Kingdom of Italy, I caused inquiries to be instituted into the matter, and it was found that the order in question, and all others passed under this Act previous to the year 1865, of which a list is given in the margin,* were not brought under the notice of this department at the time of their being passed, and consequently have never been communicated to the colonies.

As these orders affect the whole of Her Majesty's dominions, and as it is of importance that the colonies should therefore be in possession of them, I have now obtained copies, and transmit a set herewith for your information, and for publication in the colony under your Government.

I have, &c.,
CARNARVON.

The Officer Administering the Government,
New Zealand.

* 1852. Peru, Sweden and Norway, Russia, Austria, Hanse Towns, Prussia.

1853. Denmark, Oldenburg.

1854. Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Netherlands, Hanover, France.

1855. Belgium.

1856. Chili.

1857. Morocco and Fez.

1860. Spain, Nicaragua, Russia.

1863. Italy, Salvador.

At the Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, the 18th day of August, 1852.

Present:

THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY IN COUNCIL.

WHEREAS by the "Foreign Deserters Act 1852," it is provided that, whenever it is made to appear to Her Majesty that due facilities are or will be given for recovering and apprehending seamen who desert from British merchant ships in the territories of any foreign power, Her Majesty may, by Order in Council stating that such facilities are or will be given, declare that seamen, not being slaves, who desert from merchant ships belonging to a subject of such power, when within Her Majesty's dominions or the territories of the East India Company, shall be liable to be apprehended and carried on board their respective ships, and may limit the operation of such order, and may render the operation thereof subject to such conditions and qualifications, if any, as may be deemed expedient:

And whereas it hath been made to appear to Her Majesty that due facilities have been or will be given for recovering and apprehending seamen who desert from British merchant ships in the territories of the Emperor of all the Russias, the King of Sweden and Norway, and the Republic of Peru:

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by virtue of the powers vested in Her by the said "Foreign Deserters Act, 1852," and by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, is pleased to order and declare, and it is hereby ordered and declared, that, from and after the publication hereof in the *London Gazette*, seamen, not being slaves, who desert from merchant ships belonging to subjects of any of the three powers aforesaid, when within Her