

WELLINGTON
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NEW ZEALAND POLICE GAZETTE.

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WELLINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1887.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE GAZETTE.

NOTICE.—For instructions as to the manner in which reports are required to be furnished for the compilation of the *Police Gazette*, see *Gazette* No. 1 of this year.

The arrest of offenders described in the *Police Gazette*, or respecting whom crime reports have been forwarded for insertion in the *Gazette*, should be promptly notified.

When notifying the arrest of persons charged with larceny, or suspected of larceny, it should be stated whether the property stolen, or any portion of it, has been recovered.

A description of property, supposed to be stolen, found in the possession of offenders, for which owners cannot be found, should be furnished for insertion in the *Gazette*.

Communications for this *Gazette* should be addressed to the Commissioner of Police, Wellington, and the envelopes marked "For *Gazette*."

Incendiarism.

ABOUT 4 o'clock on the morning of the 5th instant an unoccupied house at Beaumont Road, Lawrence, the property of William McNickle, value about £100, was discovered on fire, by which it was destroyed. The house was insured in the Norwich Union Office for £100, and in the Standard and Northern Offices for £50 each. The fire extended to a carpenter's shop and a blacksmith's shop, the property of James Middlemiss, which were also destroyed, and the general store of T. Wilson and Co. damaged to the extent of about £600. At an inquest held on the 12th instant, before W. H. Revell, Esq., Coroner, to inquire as to the cause of the origin of the fire, the following verdict was returned: "That the house was wilfully set on fire by some person or persons unknown." The following rider was added to the verdict: "That so long as property is over-insured, as in the present case, fires will necessarily occur."

(See *Police Gazette*, 1887, page 39.)

BURNING of Elizabeth Turnbull's house in Walton's Road, Mataura: An inquest was held at Mataura, on the 12th instant, before Henry McCulloch, Esq., Coroner, to inquire as to the cause of the origin of the fire, when the following verdict was returned: "That the house in question was destroyed by fire on the 14th February, 1887, but the cause of the fire is unknown." The fire occurred on the 14th ultimo, and not on the 24th ultimo as previously gazetted.

ABOUT 1 o'clock on the morning of the 5th instant, at Centre Bush, Southland District, the saddler's shop and dwelling of Archibald Colquhoun was maliciously set on fire from the outside, by which the building and contents, value about £650, were destroyed. From the rapidity with which the fire spread it is supposed that kerosene oil was thrown on the walls of the building immediately before it was set on fire. The property destroyed was not insured.

On the morning of the 7th instant, at Gisborne, the Albion Club Hotel, containing fifty rooms, and the hotel stable, containing fifty-eight stalls, the property of S. M.

Wilson, were destroyed by fire. The hotel and contents and stable and plant were insured in various offices for about £3,400, which amount it is said was not excessive. Nearly all the stable-plant was saved. At an inquest held to inquire as to the cause of the origin of the fire a verdict of incendiarism was returned against some person or persons unknown.

Offences Not Otherwise Described.

(See *Police Gazette*, 1885, page 165, and 1886, page 71.)

GEORGE ESTALL, charged on warrant with embezzling £2 5s., the money of Thomas Campbell, has been arrested by Constable Patrick L. Harnett, Lower Hutt Police.

(See *Police Gazette*, 1887, page 51.)

HENRY TAYLOR, charged on warrant with embezzling about £15, the property of William Williams, has been arrested by Constable Arthur Reddell, Wellington Police, and remanded to Wanganui, where he was sentenced to three months' labour.

DURING the night of the 10th instant a pane of glass, value 5s., was maliciously broken in one of the windows of the store of William Roberts, at South Riverton.

Housebreaking, Stealing from the Person and from Dwellings.

(See *Police Gazette*, 1887, page 40.)

JOSEPH JACKSON, charged on warrant with stealing blankets, &c., from the dwelling of Patrick Mahoney, has been arrested by Sergeant Henry McArdle, Greymouth Police, and remanded to Masterton, where he was sentenced to four months' labour.

A MAN, name unknown, is charged with stealing, on the 8th instant, from the person of David Dodds, at the Wanganui Racecourse, eight £1 notes and a ticket in the totalisator on the horse "Silence," the winner in the cup race; value £1 19s. Description: About twenty-two years of age, 5ft. 5in. or 6in. high, medium build, fair complexion, small fair whiskers; wore dirty dark clothes and old tweed hat. Identifiable.

JAMES NOLAN, *alias* Massey, *alias* William Smith, is charged, on warrant issued by the Masterton Bench, with stealing, between the 2nd and 21st February, 1885, from the person of John McNaughton, at Masterton, a silver lever hunting-watch and a steel guard, since recovered. Description: A native of Victoria, a sawyer and labourer, forty-five years of age, 5ft. 5in. high, medium build, fresh complexion, light-brown hair, light-brown or sandy beard and moustache, usually shaves his cheeks, grey eyes, pug nose, deformed from accident, burn-marks on back of wrists, on face, nose, and ears, mark of cut on head. He was sentenced at Christchurch on the 3rd October, 1881, to three years' penal servitude for assault with intent to rob. (See *Police Gazette*, 1884, page 95.)