

CHRISTCHURCH, on the following days, at 11 a.m. :—

Monday, 15th February.  
Monday, 31st May.  
Monday, 16th August.  
Monday, 15th November.

TIMARU, on the following days, at 11 a.m. :—

Tuesday, 9th February.  
Tuesday, 22nd June.  
Tuesday, 21st September.

DUNEDIN, on the following days, at 10 a.m. :—

Monday, 1st March.  
Monday, 31st May.  
Monday, 30th August.  
Monday, 29th November.

INVERCARGILL, on the following days, at 10 a.m. :—

Tuesday, 9th February.  
Tuesday, 8th June.  
Tuesday, 21st September.

OAMARU, on the following days, at 10 a.m. :—

Tuesday, 9th March.  
Tuesday, 7th September.

NELSON, on the following days, at 10 a.m. :—

Wednesday, 3rd March.  
Wednesday, 7th July.  
Wednesday, 17th November.

BLenheim, on the following days, at 11 a.m. :—

Wednesday, 10th March.  
Wednesday, 14th July.  
Wednesday, 24th November.

HOKITIKA, on the following days, at 11 a.m. :—

Monday, 8th March.  
Monday, 6th September.

If any of the days above appointed for sittings should be a public holiday, the sittings will commence on the first day after the day so appointed which is not a holiday.

#### District Courts Criminal Sittings.

CRIMINAL sittings of the District Courts have been fixed as follows :—

(*Vide New Zealand Gazette*, 1892, page 601, and 1895, pages 1713 and 2024.)

NEW PLYMOUTH, on the third Wednesday in February, April, June, August, October, and December in every year.

HAWERA, on the second Wednesday in January, March, May, July, September, and November in every year.

WANGANUI, on the first Monday in January, March, May, July, September, and November in every year.

PALMERSTON NORTH, on the first Thursday in February, April, June, August, October, and December in every year.

(*Vide New Zealand Gazette*, 1896, page 1791.)

TIMARU, on the 17th November, 1897.

OAMARU, on the 15th January and 16th July, 1897.

LAWRENCE, on the 1st June and 30th November, 1897.

QUEENSTOWN, on the 27th January and 27th July, 1897.

NASEBY, on the 31st March and 22nd September, 1897.

INVERCARGILL, on the 24th November, 1897.

WESTPORT, on the 23rd February, 14th June, and 26th October, 1897.

GREYMOUTH, on the 17th February, 23rd June, and 20th October, 1897.

HOKITIKA, on the 25th June and 17th December, 1897.

Provided that in case any of the days so fixed as aforesaid shall happen to be a holiday, then the Court appointed for that day shall be holden on the first day thereafter not being a holiday.

[NOTE.—Returns of prisoners tried at the above Courts are to be made out by officers in charge at the places at which the Courts are held, and forwarded immediately after the sittings are over to the Commissioner of Police, Wellington, in envelopes marked "For Gazette." In the event of there being no prisoners for trial on the date appointed for the sitting of the Court, a "Nil" return must be furnished.]

#### Fire Brigades.

Circular No. 1/97.)

INSPECTORS in charge of districts are requested to furnish the following information for the Registrar-General :—

1. Place where brigade is situated.

2. Number of officers as on 31st December, 1896.

3. Number of men as on same date.

A. HUME,  
Commissioner of Police.

Wellington, 4th January, 1897.

#### Discharge.

FIRST-CLASS SERGEANT SOREN CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM MÖLLER, No. 33.

#### Dismissals.

FIRST-CLASS SERGEANT JOHN DUFFIN, No. 18.  
CONSTABLE JOHN OSMERS, No. 669.

#### Reward.

SERGEANT E. WILSON, No. 94, Christchurch police, has been awarded £5 for obtaining the conviction of F. Cross on four charges of selling liquor without a license. (96/1683.)

THE following decisions are published for general information.

REG. v. RING (17 Cox C.C. 491, 61 L.J.M.C. 116).

*Attempting to steal from a Person unknown.*

The prisoners were seen to hustle some women on a railway platform, and one of them put his hand into one of the women's pockets. The Court held that they might be convicted of attempting to steal although the women were not called as witnesses, nor was there any evidence that the women had anything in their pockets. This case overrules that of *R. v. Collins* (33 L.J.M.C. 177). Section 225 of "The Criminal Code Act, 1893," imposes a liability to fourteen years' imprisonment for stealing from the person, and section 328 of the Code provides a punishment for the attempt to commit any crime for which the punishment is three years and upwards. In cases of picking pockets and similar cases where the person whose pocket has been picked is not known or cannot be called, the charge should be, as in *R. v. Ring*, "Attempting to steal property from the person of some person unknown."

JULL v. TREANOR (14 N.Z.L.R. 513).

*Licensing Acts—Sale during Prohibited Hours by Unauthorised Persons.*

Defendant, an hotelkeeper, was convicted of selling liquor during prohibited hours. He appealed. It appeared that he had in his employ a lad whose duty it was to clean out the bar, but who had no authority to sell liquor. This lad did sell liquor without the defendant's knowledge, and the Chief Justice allowed the appeal. He said: "The question here is whether the person actually selling had an express or implied authority to sell, not whether the licensee by his negligence or want of vigilance allowed the sale to be made. Neither negligence nor want of vigilance is equivalent to authority." In *Henry v. Felton* (8 N.Z.L.R. 551) the facts were very similar, but it was held that the onus of proving that the person selling had no authority to sell liquor at all lay upon the hotelkeeper.

NOTE.—The result of the authorities appears to be that under section 170 of the Licensing Act it is sufficient for the prosecution to prove a consumption or intended consumption of liquor to have taken place, and it then lies upon the defendant to show that the person supplying it had no authority to sell. If the person selling had authority to sell at all, it is no defence to show that in the case in question he was selling without or in defiance of his master's orders.

#### Extract from Victoria Police Gazette.

(From Gazette, 1896, page 389.)

THOMAS YOUNG and WILLIAM MALONEY deserted H.M.S. "Penguin" at Auckland, New Zealand, on the 6th instant. Description: First, English, ordinary seaman, eighteen years of age, 5ft. 3½in. high, dark-brown hair, brown eyes, dark complexion, three dots tattooed on left forearm. Second, English, A.B., twenty-four years of age, 5ft. 3in. high, light-brown hair, fair complexion, a sailor tattooed on right forearm.—O. 11173. 15th December, 1896.