

Failure of the police to enforce the licensing-laws :—William Wilcox Tanner, M.H.R., Christchurch, attended, was sworn, and gave evidence, which was taken down by the reporter. John William Simms, printer, Christchurch, attended, was sworn, and gave evidence, which was taken down by the reporter.

At 1.15 the Commission adjourned until 10 o'clock a.m. on Monday next.

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MONDAY, 25TH APRIL, 1898.

The Commission sat at 10 a.m.

*Present* : Messrs. Wardell, Poynton, and Colonel Pitt.

Minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed.

Colonel Hume and Mr. Tunbridge were in attendance.

Charges lodged by Mr. George Spencer Fleming against certain members of the Police Force :—Mr. Weston, solicitor, appeared for Mr. Fleming; Mr. Donnelly, solicitor, appeared for Constable Hill; and Mr. Kippenberger appeared for Sergeant Scully. The following witnesses attended, and, each being sworn, gave evidence, which was taken down by the reporter—viz., George Spencer Fleming, J.P., farmer, Port Hills; Hugh D. Buchanan, sheep-farmer, Little River; John Henry Menzies, J.P., Mackintosh Bay, sheep-farmer; John Randall, sheep-farmer, Christchurch; William Bowes Clarkson, cattle-dealer, Christchurch (James Gibbs, shepherd, was called, but, as it appeared his evidence would not be material to the charges, he did not give evidence); Richard Shanks, warehouseman, Christchurch; Patrick Ryan, constable, Little River; Annie Murdoch, spinster, Christchurch; Victor Austin Hill, constable, Christchurch; Patrick Scully, sergeant of police, Christchurch; William Henry Scott, constable, Christchurch; Thomas Moore, night-watchman, Christchurch; Elizabeth Smythe, spinster, Christchurch; and Jule Lelievry, of Little River, farmer; John Finnerty, boardinghouse-keeper, Christchurch; Patrick Scully, sergeant of police, Christchurch (recalled).

A 5 o'clock p.m. the Commission adjourned until to-morrow, at 10 o'clock a.m.

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TUESDAY, 26TH APRIL, 1898.

The Commission sat at 10 o'clock.

*Present* : Messrs. Wardell, Poynton, and Colonel Pitt.

Minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed.

Colonel Hume and Mr. Tunbridge were in attendance.

Political interference :—John Connell, constable, Lyttelton, and the Rev. Father Salvador, Roman Catholic priest, Lyttelton, attended, and, each being sworn, gave evidence, which was taken down by the reporter.

Charges of Mr. Fleming against the police :—George Laurenson, J.P., merchant, Lyttelton, and Mr. G. S. Fleming attended, and, each being sworn, gave evidence, which was taken down by the reporter.

Complaint :—Joseph D. Crockatt, of Christchurch, ex-mounted constable, attended, and, being sworn, gave evidence, which was taken down by the reporter. Colonel Hume attended, was sworn, and gave evidence, which was taken down by the reporter.

Delegates *re* repairing bicycles in use by detectives :—Richard Marsack, detective, Christchurch, attended as a delegate, and, being sworn, gave evidence, which was taken down by the reporter.

General working of the Force :—Thomas Broham, Inspector of Police, attended, and, being reminded he was still on his former oath, gave evidence, which was taken down by the reporter.

Suggestions :—Harry Feast, general commission agent, Christchurch, and ex-Inspector of Police, attended, and, being sworn, gave evidence, which was taken down by the reporter.

Complaint of Mr. T. E. Taylor :—Mr. Taylor, M.H.R., lodged the following complaint : That Constable Patrick McGill is of intemperate habits, and has, during the past year and previously, been seen in a state of drunkenness on the public streets. Also that, in connection with the collection of the dog-tax in Sydenham, he has displayed gross carelessness, and in the case of an intended visit of inspection *re* kerosene licenses he informed the person concerned of the intended visit.

At 4 o'clock p.m. the Commission adjourned until to-morrow, at 10 o'clock a.m.

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WEDNESDAY, 27TH APRIL, 1898.

The Commission sat at 10 o'clock.

*Present* : Messrs. Wardell, Poynton, and Colonel Pitt.

Minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed.

Colonel Hume, Mr. Tunbridge, and Mr. T. E. Taylor, M.H.R., were in attendance.

Complaint :—Samuel Flewellen, constable, stationed at Bingsland, attended, was sworn, and gave evidence, which was taken down by the reporter.

Complaint :—Sydney Day, of Sydenham, butcher, attended, was sworn, and gave evidence, which was taken down by the reporter. The witness was proceeding to give evidence which amounted to a charge against a police-officer. The Commission decided to adjourn the further evidence of the witness until the officer referred to had notice.