

24. There is no document referring to his exhibiting pictures?—I will look and see if there are any in the office. I do not think there are any other papers. I may have heard the report and inquired about it, but I am perfectly sure it was not an exhibition of obscene pictures, but the photo. of a criminal.
25. Have you the papers of Constable Florence O'Leary?—Yes.
26. When was he removed to the Wellington district from Ohingaiti?—On the 13th July, 1896.
27. Was there any special circumstances connected with his removal, or a report from Inspector McGovern in connection with his removal?—Yes. I find that for some reason or other I wrote on the 26th June, 1896, to Inspector McGovern, as follows: "I am informed that prohibition orders made by Justices of the Peace at Ohingaiti are not held to be in operation, as they are not ordered by the Stipendiary Magistrate. It is also stated that Constable O'Leary has no books for charges, records, or complaints. Please report on these matters." The Inspector reported as follows: "So far as I can judge, Constable O'Leary is hardly fit to have charge of an isolated station like Ohingaiti. He might do in the suburbs of a town where a sergeant or smart constable would have supervision." On that I removed the constable to the suburbs of Thorndon.
28. Was he given charge of Thorndon?—Yes.
29. Was anybody with him?—No. The station is only a quarter of a mile from headquarters.
30. How long was he kept at Thorndon?—A very short time. I found he was related to a hotelkeeper in Thorndon, so I sent him up to Newtown.
31. He is still at Newtown?—Yes.
32. Were any representations made to you in connection with the man's transfer by Mr. Lawry, M.H.R., of Parnell?—No.
33. You do not remember seeing Mr. Lawry about him?—Which transfer do you mean?
34. I mean the transfer from Thorndon to Newtown?—Mr. Lawry might have told me the constable had relatives in the hotel; but directly I found that out I wanted him removed.
35. Is he in charge at Newtown?—Yes.
36. Do you think, then, that a man who is not fit to take charge of the Ohingaiti Station is fit to take charge of Newtown Station?—Yes; he was not fit to be Clerk of Court at Ohingaiti.
37. He kept no books?—No.
38. Were there any other complaints against him by Inspector McGovern?—Yes. The constable lost some summonses, and I made him pay for them.
39. *Colonel Pitt.*] What was the value of them?—I think it was worth about £11. Here is my minute on the papers; "The constable is solely to blame, and I cannot put the department to expenses incurred through his neglect, and therefore he must pay the expenses." They were witnesses' expenses.
40. How long ago was that?—On the 5th December, 1894.
41. *Mr. Taylor.*] He was a pretty careless man?—I do not think he was; but that incident warmed him up, and he did not lose anything afterwards.
42. *The Chairman.*] Was he Clerk of Court at Ohingaiti?—No. I find there is a memorandum here from Sergeant Cullen, of Wanganui, to Constable O'Leary, as follows: "I herewith forward you four summonses for service upon David Creech for sly-grog selling. If he has not returned to Ohingaiti you will, on receipt of these summonses, start along the road to Karioi or wherever he may be and serve him, and then return to your station and send me a wire stating when and where you served him. I cannot send the summonses to Raetihi for the witnesses till I receive your wire re service, and, as steamer goes up river early Tuesday morning, it will be necessary to know by 5 p.m. on Monday evening next if you have served him. Do your utmost to effect service, and send me wire before Monday evening, if you can manage to serve him.—J. CULLEN, Sergeant." Well, the constable did not serve him. Then there is a report from Sergeant Cullen, reporting "Constable O'Leary, of Ohingaiti, for gross carelessness in discharge of his duty, and making false and misleading statements relating thereto."
43. Is not the charge of a station like Newtown regarded as a more responsible position than ordinary street duty?—It is very little different, because it is close to Mount Cook and is worked from there.
44. There is a difference, of course?—He gets a house; that is a pull.
45. This man was fined £11 for negligence, and made false statements in respects to this matter, and subsequently gets this position?—It is the recommendation of the Inspector, who says, "Constable O'Leary is hardly fit to have charge of an isolated station like Ohingaiti. He might do in the suburbs of a town, where a sergeant or smart constable would have supervision." That is the position he was placed in.
46. In placing him in charge of Newtown, can you remember whether you did that entirely on your own motion, or whether it was the subject of discussion with the ministerial head of the department?—No, it was purely on my own motion, because I know a man told me about the constable having a relative in a hotel.
47. When you learned he had relatives at the Railway Hotel you shifted him to Newtown?—Yes.
48. Have you the papers of Detective Henderson?—Yes.
49. Kindly read to the Commission Detective Henderson's defaulter's sheet?—He was made a constable on the 11th February, 1868, and he was made a detective on the 1st June, 1875. He has the following entries on his defaulter's sheets: 12th January, 1869, "Gross impertinence to Sub-Inspector Percy." The punishment was, "to be more careful in future." Signed "BRANIGAN." On the 28th November, 1869, "Using disgraceful language to superior officer. Discharged from the Force." I must look that up, because I do not think he went out of the Force. He was brought back a day or two after that and was made constable, on the 1st December, 1869. It seems he apologised and begged himself on again, and was reinstated. The next is on the 12th