

1940.
NEW ZEALAND.

THE POLICE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

The COMMISSIONER OF POLICE to the Hon. the MINISTER IN CHARGE OF POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Police Department, Wellington, 16th July, 1940.

I HAVE the honour to present the annual report on the Police Force for the year ended 31st March last.

STRENGTH OF FORCE.

On the 31st March last the number of members of the Force of all ranks was 1,457, being an increase of eighteen during the year. The total is made up as follows:—

Superintendents	5
Inspectors	16
Sub-Inspectors	6
Senior sergeants	37
Sergeants	112
Constables	1,098
Temporary constables	93
Senior detectives	4
Detective-sergeants	34
Detectives	52

In addition to the above there were—

Police surgeons	15
Matrons	7
District constables	3
Native constable	1

The temporary constables were appointed under section 2 of the Police Force Amendment Act, 1919, the majority of them being on probation with a view to filling vacancies in the permanent staff if found suitable.

The following are the losses in personnel for the year ended 31st March last: Retired under section 26, Police Force Act, 1919, 2; retired on pension under the Public Service Superannuation Act, 13; retired as medically unfit, 3; died, 8; resigned compulsorily, 1; resigned voluntarily, 36; dismissed, 9; total, 72.

STATIONS.

New stations were established during the year at Kohukohu, Oturehua, Rolleston, and Tuai, and the stations at Thames South and St. Bathans were closed.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The criminal statistics (Appendix A) deal with offences reported to the police during the year ended 31st December last, and show an aggregate net increase of 2,070 on the figures of 1938. The proportion of offences to the population was 2.83 per cent., as against 2.73 the previous year.

There were increases during the year under the following headings, viz.:—

Assault (indecent)	47	Stealing postal packets, mail-bags, &c.	67
Assault (common)	68	Ship-desertion	41
Carnally knowing girls under sixteen years	90	Selling or supplying liquor or exposing for sale, or opening or keeping open premises at unauthorized times	106
Theft (petty)	770	Illegally supplying liquor to Natives	82
Theft (attempted)	20	Found on licensed premises after closing hours	405
False pretences	73	Selling or exposing liquor for sale without a licence	51
Obtaining credit by fraud	61	Offences against provisions in force in no-licence districts	25
Burglary: House and shop breaking	421	In possession of liquor in vicinity of dance-halls	70
Receiving property dishonestly obtained	78		
Mischief	57		
Drunkenness, &c.	489		
Vagrancy	68		
Unlawfully using horses, motor-cars, &c.	171		
Unlawfully on premises at night without criminal intent	74		

The principal decreases were—

False statements and declarations	274	Breaches of prohibition orders	38
Incest	13	Indecent Publication Act, offences under	17
Theft by clerks or servants	91	Opium-smoking, &c.	40
Theft of animals (specified)	38	Arms Act, breaches of	25
Using profane, indecent, or obscene language	22	Causing death through reckless driving	24
Sunday trading	78	Being intoxicated in charge of motor-vehicle	54
Found in common gaming-house	119	Reckless or negligent driving	173
Failing to maintain wife or children	487		