## 1943 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 Wellington, 21st May, 1943.

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 1,640, being an increase of 41 during the year. The total is made up as follows: 5 Superintendents, 17 Inspectors, 7 Sub-Inspectors, 43 senior sergeants, 132 sergeants, 978 constables, 346 temporary constables, 10 senior detectives, 39 detective-sergeants, and 63 detectives. There were also 3 district constables, 1 Native constable, 20 police-women, 7 matrons, and 15 police surgeons.

The following are the losses in personnel for the year ended 31st March last: Retired on pension under the Public Service Superannuation Act, 3; retired as medically unfit, 2; died, 7; resigned

voluntarily, 15; discharged, 4; dismissed, 18; total, 49.

Stations.—New stations were established during the year at Ngongotaha, Ohakea, and Norsewood, and the stations at Kopuawhara, Charleston, and Ormondville 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 decrease of 3,951 on the figures of 1941. The percentage of offences to the population was 2·11, as against 2·35 the previous year.

The number of offences reported during the year was 34,608, the number of cases in which arrests or summonses resulted was 30,790, leaving 3,818 cases in which no prosecution followed.

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from offences reported during the year 1942 was 88-96, the figures of the preceding year being 93-09.

There was an increase in the number of serious crimes as compared with the previous year, and also in the number of indecent and sexual offences.

Drunkenness.—There has been a decrease of 1,886 in the number of prosecutions for drunkenness during the year as compared with the previous year.

The number charged with drunkenness in 1942 was 3,001 (2,856 males and 145 females), whereas in 1941 the number was 4,887 (4,752 males and 135 females).

Seven hundred and sixty-nine males (26.92 per cent.) and 44 females (30.34 per cent.) had previous convictions recorded against them, and 5.25 per cent. of the males were not permanent residents of the Dominion.

Prosecutions against Hotelkeepers.—The number of prosecutions against hotelkeepers during the year shows an increase of 4 as compared with the preceding year. There were 518 prosecutions, resulting in 373 convictions, during 1942, as against 514 prosecutions and 409 convictions in 1941.

Sly-groy Selling.—There were 225 prosecutions during the year for selling liquor without a license, and there were also 117 prosecutions for other offences against the provisions of the Licensing Act in force in no-license districts.

The fines imposed on the sly-grog sellers during the year 1942 amounted to £3,496 8s.

Gaming Offences.—There were 304 prosecutions during the year under the Gaming Act, against 500 prosecutions in 1941.

One hundred and fifty-six prosecutions in connection with bookmaking during the year ended 31st March, 1943, resulted in 156 convictions, the amount of fines imposed being £6,064.

Growth of Department.—The following return shows the growth of the Department, the population, and the total number of offences (irrespective of by-law offences) reported, and in which arrests or summonses resulted, at each tenth year since 1877, prior to which date each province in the Dominion had its own Police Force. The figures for 1939, 1940, 1941, and 1942 are also shown:—

Year.	Officers.	Non-commis- sioned Officers.	Detectives.	Constables.	Total.	Police to Population.	Cost per Inhabit- ant.		Offences reported.	Offences where Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Arrests for Drunkenness (included in "Offences reported").
1878	25	90	14	329	458	$1  ext{ to } 944$	*	432,352	14,157	13,959	6,668
1888	13	69	17	388	487	1 to 1,328	$3/1\frac{3}{4}$	646,913	12,897	11,854	5,387
1898	7	56	16	457	536	1 to 1,435	$\frac{2}{8}$	768,910	16,378	14.730	5,532
1908	15	83	32	604	734	1 to 1,331	$3/2\frac{1}{4}$	977,215	23,510	22,484	10,343
1918	20	111	38	732†	901	1  to  1,274		1,147,391	19,067	18,043	7,228
1928	23	127	54	913†	1,117	1 to 1,301	5/9	1,453,517	33,138	30,622	6,601
1938	26	145	93	1,164	1,428	1  to  1,123	7/6	1,604,479	44,308	41,618	5,446
1939	27	148	91	$1,173\dagger$	1,439	1  to  1,129	$7/5\frac{3}{4}$	1,624,714	46,378	43,162	5,935
1940	27	149	90	1,191†	1,457	1 to 1,126	$7/8\frac{1}{2}$	1,640,901	45,009	41,619	5,470
1941	<b>2</b> 8	155	97	1,229†	1,509	1 to 1,084	$7/11\frac{1}{4}$	1,636,230	38,559	35,896	4,887
1942	29	159	105	1,306†	1,599	1  to  1,022		1,634,338	34,608	30,790	3,001
1943	29	175	112	1,324†	1,640	1 to 998	$8/10\frac{1}{2}$	1,636,700	• •		

<sup>\*</sup> Not obtainable.

† Includes temporary constables.

Criminal Registration Branch.—At Headquarters during the year the finger impressions of 3,736 persons were received, classified, indexed, and filed; 174 persons were identified as previous offenders who, had it not been for the finger-print system, would have passed as first offenders; 2,141 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the Branch; the photographs of 2,665 prisoners (4,112 photographs) were received and dealt with; 528 photographs were reproduced in the Police Gazette; 13 wanted persons located; and 3 unknown deceased persons identified by finger-prints.

Finger-prints left by offenders committing 43 crimes were identified as belonging to 26 persons, all of whom were convicted.

Finger-prints of 116 persons were received for inquiry from other countries, of which 18 were identified as those of persons previously convicted in New Zealand; the finger impressions of 43 New Zealand offenders were sent overseas for inquiry, 17 being identified as having been previously convicted outside this Dominion.

It is interesting to note that in New Zealand the finger-print system has, to date, been responsible for the identification of 7,865 persons.

In conjunction with the Arms Bureau, various photographs and lecture slides were prepared.

Auckland Criminal Registration Branch.—On the 31st March, 1943, the finger-print collection in Auckland totalled 9,320 sets.

During the year 1,094 sets of finger-prints were received and were duly classified, searched, and filed. The remanded prisoner forms with the results of the cases inserted for 475 prisoners were dealt with.

The photographs of 201 prisoners were taken, and 1,005 prints were taken from the negatives; also numbers of photographs of scenes of crimes and motor accidents, &c., were taken, the total number of photographs produced by the Branch during the year being 1,752.

In five cases offenders who would not otherwise have been known as having been previously convicted were traced by their finger-prints, and in eleven other cases finger-prints left by offenders when committing crimes were identified and the offenders duly arrested and dealt with by the Courts.

Arms Bureau.—The work of this Bureau is being extended, especially in relation to the identification of metal objects which have been recovered by the police and which have been interfered with by filing or otherwise to disguise their ownership or origin. During the year a number of such articles, including bicycles, were dealt with, identified, and traced to their owners. In one case of wholesale theft of bicycles, this process led to a Supreme Court conviction.

Many reports in respect of firearms which caused deaths were prepared for Coroners, and evidence given in several of the cases. Accidents with firearms are common, and every possible effort is being made to improve the knowledge of sportsmen and to make shooting safer.

The firearms accident rate has risen again from 37 in 1941–42 to 52 in the past year; of these, 16 were fatal. The average age of persons injured was slightly over 28—the oldest victim being 88 and the youngest 2 years of age.

An unusual feature of the year's accidents was the number which occurred with the service rifle—viz., 16, of which 4 were fatal. The ·22 rifle accounted for 21 cases; shotguns, 10; revolvers, 3; and odd rifles, 2.

Police Buildings, &c.—The following works in connection with police-stations were carried out during the year by the Public Works Department:—

A new station was erected at Eltham, and those at Norsewood and Havelock completed. Residences for sergeants at Feilding and Reefton and offices at New Brighton were built, and motor-garages were constructed at Kaiapoi and Karori. Sites for police-stations were acquired at Bay View (Napier) and Owaka.

Repairs, renovations, and improvements were also affected at many stations throughout the Dominion.

#### GENERAL

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Recruiting.—Owing to war conditions it has been necessary to strengthen the Force at the principal ports and other vital points. It has been difficult to obtain satisfactory recruits. I have found it necessary to relax the regulations considerably and take on men above the maximum age (thirty years) in normal conditions. I have also had to accept men much below the standard of education and physique adopted prior to the war. The men taken on during the past year have had no special training in the training school, but they are given weekly lectures and are coached and supervised by the sectional sergeants under whom they are directly serving. Considering the fact that they have not received the usual training, I am pleased to report that, with a few exceptions, the men have done exceedingly well. I am still 24 men short of the authorized strength of the Force. A short time ago the numerical strength was well down, but with assistance from the Army Department, which has released some men to me, it is gradually picking up. The Department has now taken over some vital points hitherto guarded by the Army. Quite a number of our permanent staff applied for permission to join the armed Services, but it was not possible to grant them permission, as it meant depriving this Department of the services of trained personnel, of which we are very short now. The service is carrying on with a very large number of untrained men. All branches of the service have worked very harmoniously.

Efficiency.—Considering the very large number of men in the Force with little training and short service, the standard of efficiency is very high. A great deal of hard work has fallen on the shoulders of the experienced personnel, who have responded admirably, working very long hours at times and with a great measure of success.

Conduct of the Police.—The general conduct of the police, with a few exceptions, has been very satisfactory.

Offences.—Some very serious crimes were committed during the year. With the exception of a few cases, all have been detected. There has been a noticeable reduction in the number of cases of drunkenness during the year, the decrease being 38 per cent. on the figures for the previous year.

Transport.—Our efficiency in this respect has been well maintained, notwithstanding the difficulty in acquiring tires for the cars of men in charge of country districts and headquarter stations outside the four centres, where we have our own fleet of cars. Unless the Department is given more consideration in the matter of allocation of tires, it will be impossible for the Department to give the service required of it. In view of the enormous number of calls on the police, it is essential we have at least efficient transport for the carrying-out of all duties cast upon us, particularly where crime is concerned and the visting of vital points throughout the country.

Buildings.—Little progress was made during the year with the erection of new buildings, especially in the country districts, owing to the calls on all skilled tradesmen for Army purposes. Good progress, however, was made in improving and modernizing old buildings, particularly at some of the centres. Many improvements were made throughout the Dominion to various stations and dwellings. Many more are awaiting attention as soon as tradesmen are available to do the work. The repairs have been authorized, but the difficulty is to get the work done. I have submitted a special report on the question of housing.

Aliens.—Alien registration and control continue to form one of the principal items of the extra duties devolving upon the police in consequence of the war. This duty is of a continuous nature, and does not terminate at registration. A close watch is being kept upon the conduct of all aliens, and any untoward incident is promptly investigated. A special staff is maintained for this purpose so that the investigation is carried out by experienced members of the Force. The work is controlled from and all the information co-ordinated at Head Office.

War Activities.—In addition to the supervision of wharves, shipping, and the many vital points throughout New Zealand, a great deal of time is given to the three armed Services and the National Service Department in the nature of inquiries, which have increased considerably. Military and National Service defaulters and conscientious objectors also take up a lot of time in inquiries and the escorting of them to various camps and prisons.

Breaches of the Oil Fuel Regulations are fairly numerous and cause much extra work in respect of inquiries and prosecutions, as also do breaches of the Censorship and other Emergency Regulations.

Additional Staff required.—In order to deal more efficiently with the additional work cast upon us by the expansion of some districts and suburban areas adjacent to the cities, I beg to ask for authority for 3 additional sergeants and 13 constables at an annual cost of £6,375, the amount required for this financial year being £4,780.

D. J. CUMMINGS, Commissioner of Police.

### APPENDIX A

Return showing the Number of Offences reported, the Number of Offences for which Persons were apprehended or summoned, and Comparison of Crime during the Year ended 31st December, 1941, and Year ended 31st December, 1942

		19-	42.	1	1941.	1942.	
Offences.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences n which Arrests or Sum- monses resulted.	Offences.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests or Summonses resulted.
Crimes and Justices of the Peace Acts, etc.				CRIMES AND JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ACTS, ETC.—continued.			
Seditious offences	6	2		Offences against Rights of Property—ctd. Burglary	45	53	45
Misleading Justice Perjury and false oaths False statements and declarations Escapes and Rescues	$\frac{2}{37}$	$\frac{4}{12}$	4 12	House or shop breaking, &c House or shop breaking, &c., attempted Being found in dwellinghouse by night Being disguised or in possession of house-	$egin{array}{c} 1,152 \\ 68 \\ 10 \\ 1 \end{array}$	1,334 130 6	1,044 98 5
Breaking prison  Escaping from prison or lawful custody  Assisting or aiding escape from prison or lawful custody	$\begin{array}{c} 7\\23\\2\end{array}$	30 	5 29 	breaking implements Receiving property dishonestly obtained Forgery Uttering forged documents or false certificates	128 86 17	176 52 18	176 47 16
Offences against Morality Unnatural offence	20 · ·	12 3 3	12 3 3	Sending false telegram Procuring execution of document by false pretences Personation	2	$\begin{array}{c} 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{array}$	1 2 1
Unnatural offence, assault with intent to commit Indecently assaulting a male	104 31	$^{121}_{7}$	118 7	Coin, offences relating to	$\begin{array}{c} 2 \\ 20 \\ 6 \\ 9 \end{array}$	 5 6 11	 5 5 3
Indecent acts  Offences against the Person, &c.  Neglecting duties tending to the preservation of life or health	24	$\begin{bmatrix} 25 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$	24	Wilfully placing obstruction on railways Mischief Mischief on railways and tramways Threatening acts with intent to intimidate	$992 \\ 9 \\ 2$	974 14 5	905 14 5
Murder	$\begin{array}{c}9\\2\\7\end{array}$	5 1 4	3 1 3	Unlawfully altering brands POLICE OFFENCES ACT.	1	••	• •
Manslaughter Suicide, attempted	$\begin{array}{c} 59 \\ 2 \end{array}$	70 	69 	Breach of the peace or behaviour with intent, &c. Cruelty to animals	655 57	539 48	539 48
Concealment of birth Disabling or stupefying with intent to commit a crime	2 5			Drunkenness	4,695 19	2,842	2,842
Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm  Assault causing actual bodily harm  Causing actual bodily harm under circum-	1 15 2	1 27 5	1 27 5	Drunk and disorderly Soliciting prostitution Exposure of person and grossly indecent acts	173 1 177	139  157	139  131
stances that, if death had been caused, would be manslaughter Assault, indecent	131	182	171	Using profane, indecent, or obscene language	500	400	400
Assault with intent to commit a crime	$\frac{11}{759}$	3 690 3	657 3	Vagrancy (idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, and incorrigible rogues)	240	281	280
Rape Rape, attempted Carnally knowing girls under sixteen years	$\begin{array}{c}5\\2\\41\\6\end{array}$	19 71 6	19 69 5	Assaulting, obstructing, or resisting constables, &c. Inciting violence, disorder, or lawlessness	174	180	180
Carnally knowing girls under sixteen years, attempts to Carnally knowing idiots or imbecile women Killing unborn child		1	1	Unlawfully using horses, motor-cars, &c. Unlawfully on premises at night without criminal intent	1,160 177	1,377	863 185
Abortion, procuring	4 2 14	3 1 19 3	3 1 19 3	Sunday trading False allegation re commission of offence Falsely assuming designation of a con- stable	52 3 3	53 18 	53 18
Offences against Rights of Property. Theft (undescribed)	7,104	7,897	5,515	GAMING ACT Common gaming-house, keeping or manag-	168	103	103
Theft, attempted	$54 \\ 24 \\ 8 \\ 211$	42 15  347	35 5  209	ing, &c. Found in a common gaming-house Gaming with instruments Publishing advertisements relating to	$96 \\ 18 \\ 4$	55 6 3	55 6 3
Theft from dwellings, attempted Theft by clerks or servants Theft of animals (specified)	$\begin{array}{c} 2 \\ 53 \\ 27 \end{array}$	13 52 30	$\begin{array}{c} 9 \\ 52 \\ 23 \end{array}$	betting on horse-races  Lotteries, unlawfully establishing or conducting, &c.	22	21	21
Theft of animals, attempted	600 13	539 11	496 9	Betting, unlawful Following the occupation of bookmaker Publishing betting charts	$\begin{array}{c} 27 \\ 106 \\ 3 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1\\82\\2\end{array}$	$\begin{smallmatrix}1\\82\\2\end{smallmatrix}$
Obtaining credit by fraud  False accounting by officials or clerks  False statements by officials or public officers	132 26 1	74 2	71 2	Post and Telegraph Act Posting packet containing explosive, &c.	56	31	31
Conspiracy to defraud  Fortune-telling or practising witchcraft Robbery and aggravated robbery	7 18	1 35 13	$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 35 \\ 9 \end{array}$	Putting explosive, &c., into post-office, &c. Illegally opening or delaying postal packets	1 6	$\frac{\cdot \cdot}{2}$	2
Assault with intent to rob Extortion by threats	$\frac{2}{2}$	5	4	Stealing postal packets, mail-bags, &c Stealing money, &c., from postal packets	$\frac{65}{12}$	106 16	103 13

## APPENDIX A—continued

	1941.	10	)42.		1941.	1	942.
Offences.	Number of Offences reported.  Number of Offences reported.  Number of Offences in which Arrests or Summonses resulted.		Number of Offences in which Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Offences.	Number of Offences re- ported.	Number of Offences re-	Number of Offences in which Arrests or Sum- monses resulted.
POST AND TELEGRAPH ACT—continued. Unlawfully opening mail-bags Fraudulently secreting or detaining mis-		5 1	5	LICENSING ACT—continued.  Found on premises where liquor was seized under a warrant	87	103	
delivered mail-bags, &c. Injuring post-office pillars or boxes	10	19	9	Offences against provisions in force in no-license districts	21	117	117
Damaging telegraph-equipment Posting indecent post-eards or letters	62	68 14	45 13	Selling, supplying, or giving liquor to Maoris in Native licensing districts	4	18	31
False statement re posting postal packet	ĭ			Offences against provisions of no-license	42	33	33
DESTITUTE PERSONS ACT	1.000	1,100	1 000	in Native proclaimed areas Supplying liquor to Natives in proclaimed	265	297	297
Failing to maintain wife or children Failing for fourteen days to pay main-	1,098 $1,951$	1,830	1,086 $1,794$	districts Permitting consumption of liquor in	11	15	lõ
tenance moneys Offences by husbands while separation	32	16	16	restaurants after hours In possession of liquor in vicinity of	1,055	913	907
orders are in force Offences prescribed in sections 52 to 58 of Destitute Persons Act	1			dance-halls, &c. Refusing to supply lodgings	1		
Shipping and Seamen Act Ship-desertion	103 21	131 34	121 29	MOTOR-VEHICLES ACT Causing death or bodily injury through reckless driving Being intoxicated in charge of a motor-	49	20	19
Absent without leave Offences against discipline Stowing away	21 5	2 4	$\begin{array}{c} 25 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{array}$	vehicle Reckless or negligent driving Other breaches of Act	681 8,038	192 428 5,960	$   \begin{vmatrix}     192 \\     428 \\     5,916   \end{vmatrix} $
Licensing Act Permitting drunkenness or violent conduct	7	4	4	Failing to stop and render assistance after accident	4		,,,,,,
Selling or supplying liquor to intoxicated persons	9	4	4	Miscellaneous Absconding from industrial schools	19	8	8
Permitting gaming, gambling, &c. Selling or supplying liquor, or exposing for sale, or opening or keeping open	591	595	589	Bankruptey offences Brothels or houses of ill-fame, keeping, &c. Children, wilfully ill-treating, neglecting,	23	 9 6	9 6
premises at unauthorized times Supplying liquor to persons under twenty-	76	95	95	abandoning, or exposing Deserting or absenting from His Majesty's	41	72	67
one years Selling or supplying liquor to prohibited	15	12	12	ships Drunk or behaving in a violent or offensive	48	37	37
persons Permitting prohibited persons to be on premises	1	3	3	manner, &c., on a railway, &c. Failing to comply with conditions of release under First Offenders Probation	185	112	105
Unlawfully employing females in or about a bar		2	2	$\Lambda \mathrm{et}$	, ,		
Employing minors in bars Hlegally supplying liquor to Natives		2	2	Habitual criminals or offenders, breach of conditions of probationary license	14	8	8
Obstructing Inspectors or refusing	129 6	$\begin{bmatrix} 212 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$	$\frac{210}{2}$	Indecent Publications Act, offences under Opium-smoking, &c	5 55	$\begin{array}{c} 14 \\ 2 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c c} 14 \\ 2 \end{array}$
entrance to Inspectors or constables Using bottles with labels more than once		1	1	Trespassing on railway and refusing to leave, &c.	91	76	76
Breaches of prohibition orders Found on licensed premises after closing-	$\begin{bmatrix} 428 \\ 1,688 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 278\\1,429 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{array}{c} 277 \\ 1,412 \end{array}$	Arms Act, breaches of Second-hand Dealers Act, breaches of	115 15	$\begin{array}{c} 143 \\ 26 \end{array}$	$\frac{143}{26}$
hours Refusing to quit licensed premises	14	8	8	Totals	38,559 E	34,608	30,790
Selling or exposing liquor for sale without a license	100	225	225	Decrease	3,0		.,

APPENDIX B

Return showing the Strength and Distribution of the New Zealand Police Force on the 31st March, 1943

Districts.	Superintendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Senior Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Permanent.	Temporary.	Senior Detectives.	Detective- Sergeants.	Detectives.	Acting-Detectives.	Total.	District Constables.	Native Constables.
Whangarei Auekland Hamilton Gisborne Napier New Plymouth Wanganui Palmerston North Wellington Nelson Greymouth Christehureh Timaru Dunedin Invereargill	1    1 	1 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	3    2  	1 10 1 1 2 3 1 1 8 2 1 4 2 2 1	4 35 8 3 5 2 3 5 24 2 4 18 3 12 3	29 190 68 30 45 38 45 41 126 30 35 104 38 75 43	5 77 8 6 10 8 8 9 102 7 5 48 6 36 10	1	1 7 2 1 4 1 2  7 1 1 5 2 2	1 18 2 1 1 1 1 3 13 1 1 1 1 5 1	12    5  1  2	42 358 91 43 68 55 61 61 291 44 48 197 53 138 62	2 1 	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Totals	4	17	7	40	131	939	345	10	37	62	20	1,612	3	1
Attached to Headquarters staff Lent to Cook Islands Adminis- tration Lent to Navy Department On leave without pay On leave prior to retirement				3 		4 1 ! !! 2	i			:: :: i		10 1 1 13 3		
Grand totals	5	17	7	43	132	958	346	10	39	63	20	1,640	3	1

 ${\bf APPENDIX~C}$  Return showing the Proportion of Police to Population and Cost of Police per Inhabitant

	Place.		Number of Police,	Estimated Population.	Proportion of Police to Population.	Cost of Police per Inhabitant	
			-			s. d.	
New Zealand		 	1,640	1,636,700	1 to 998	8 101	
Victoria		 	2,260	1,968,831	1 to 871	10 41	
New South Wales		 	3,610	2,828,639	1 to 783	$10 - 8\frac{7}{2}$	
Queensland		 	1,601	1,037,926	1 to 648	$14  3\overline{i}$	
South Australia		 	867	607,247	1 to 700	12 31	
Western Australia		 	623	470,390	1 to 755	$12 7 \frac{3}{4}$	
Tasmania		 	308	239,936	1 to 779	$12 - 8\frac{3}{4}$	

IN EACH OF THE UNDERMENTIONED PLACES

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (473 copies), £12-10s.