

1944

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, 19th July, 1944.

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

Strength of Force.—On 31st March last the number of members of the Force of all ranks was 1,634, being a decrease of 6 during the year. The total is made up as follows: 6 Superintendents, 18 Inspectors, 7 Sub-Inspectors, 48 senior sergeants, 125 sergeants, 928 constables, 386 temporary constables, 12 senior detectives, 34 detective-sergeants, and 70 detectives. There were also 2 district constables, 1 Native constable, 33 women police, 8 matrons, and 14 police surgeons.

The following are the losses in personnel for the year ended 31st March last: retired on pension under Public Service Superannuation Act, 9; retired as medically unfit, 4; died, 7; resigned voluntarily, 32; discharged, 3; dismissed, 17; total, 72.

Stations.—No stations were established during the year.

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 1,416 on the figures of 1942. The percentage of offences to the population was 2·02, as against 2·11 the previous year.

The number of offences reported during the year was 33,192, the number of cases in which arrests or summonses resulted was 28,722, leaving 4,470 cases in which no prosecution followed.

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from offences reported during the year 1943 was 86·53, the figures of the preceding year being 88·96.

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

Drunkenness.—There has been a decrease of 697 in the number of prosecutions for drunkenness during the year as compared with the previous year.

The number charged with drunkenness in 1943 was 2,304 (2,127 males and 177 females), whereas in 1942 the number was 3,001 (2,856 males and 145 females).

Five hundred males (23·51 per cent.) and 42 females (23·73 per cent.) had previous convictions recorded against them, and 4·56 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 a decrease of 96 as compared with the preceding year. There were 422 prosecutions, resulting in 317 convictions, during 1943, as against 518 prosecutions and 373 convictions in 1942.

Sly-grog Selling.—There were 403 prosecutions during the year for selling liquor without a license, and there were also 55 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 1943 amounted to £2,126.

Gaming Offences.—There were 529 prosecutions during the year under the Gaming Act, against 304 prosecutions in 1942.

Two hundred and twenty-two prosecutions in connection with bookmaking during the year ended 31st March, 1944, resulted in 211 convictions, the amount of fines imposed being £9,347.

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 each year from 1939 to 1943 are also shown:—

Year.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers.	Detectives.	Constables.	Total.	Police to Population.	Cost per Inhabitant.	Population.	Offences reported.	Offences where Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Arrests for Drunkenness (included in "Offences reported").
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1878	25	90	14	329	458	1 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	2 8	768,910	16,378	14,730	5,532
1908	15	83	32	604	734	1 to 1,331	3 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	977,215	23,510	22,484	10,343
1918	20	111	38	732†	901	1 to 1,274	4 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	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†	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	28	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	8 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	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	33,192	28,722	2,304
1944	31	173	116	1,314†	1,634	1 to 1,006	9 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,643,909	..	..	..

* Not obtainable.

† Includes temporary constables.