

Police, Queensland. Apologies for unavoidable absence were received from the Chief Commissioner of Police, Victoria, the Commissioner of Police, Western Australia, and the Superintendent of Police, Northern Territory.

The conference was opened at Wellington by the Right Hon. Walter Nash, Acting Prime Minister, in the absence of the Right Hon. the Prime Minister in London, and subsequently sessions were held at Christchurch, Dunedin, Palmerston North, Napier, Rotorua, Hamilton, and Auckland. At each of these centres all commissioned officers were drawn into the conference and given an opportunity of discussing matters on the agenda. In addition, all ranks of the Force were assembled at the various points and were addressed on matters of interest by one of the members of the conference. It is the aim of these conferences to achieve the closest possible co-operation between the various Police Forces represented at the gatherings, and matters of common interest are discussed. The interchange of views on police methods and procedure, legislative provisions, equipment, radio communications, transport, and other kindred matters are of the utmost value to the police of both countries. Air travel has brought the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand closely together in point of time. A journey between the two countries can now be accomplished in a few hours, and this has emphasized the necessity for the closest co-operation between the respective Police Forces.

The Commissioner of Police, Sydney, is the channel through which very close contact is kept with Australian crime and industrial difficulties, and as a consequence a constant and heavy volume of correspondence is interchanged between the two countries, to their mutual advantage.

At the conclusion of the conference the visiting members made appreciative reference to the hospitality extended to them by the New Zealand Government and the police during their stay in this country, and stressed the benefits to be derived from the deliberations, which, it was unanimously agreed, were of the utmost value to the administrative officers.

*Conference of Commissioned Officers.*—The annual conference of commissioned officers was again held in Wellington during the year. This provides a medium for discussion of common problems, assists with the co-ordination of policy, and generally is of substantial assistance to the administration.

*Interchange of Officers.*—The policy of effecting an interchange of members of the New Zealand Police Force with those of Australia was put into practice during the year, and has proved a marked success. Two members of the Women's Division of the New South Wales Police Force carried out duty in New Zealand for two months, while two women police from New Zealand took up duty at Sydney for two months and at Melbourne for one month. Upon their return to New Zealand these two members have lectured other members of the Women's Division at the main centres and have given them the benefit of the wider experience gained overseas. Two members of the New South Wales Detective Force took up duty in New Zealand for two months, and were followed later in the year by two other members from that State. These visiting members were of considerable assistance in locating or identifying Australian criminals in New Zealand at the time. Under the reciprocal arrangement two senior members of the Detective Branch of the New Zealand Police Force gained valuable experience during interchange duty of two months at Sydney and one month at Melbourne. I desire to place on record my appreciation of the friendly spirit, assistance, and co-operation extended to the members of the New Zealand Police Force, both men and women, during their term of duty in Australia. Every facility was placed at their disposal to make their visit instructive and educational. It is clear that only the greatest good can come out of this interchange of officers.