

<i>Additions, Repairs, &c., in Hand.</i>					
Blenheim	...	Fencing.	Tauranga	...	Additions, &c.
Mokau	...	Renovations.	Timaru	...	Improvements
Oxford	...	Additions.	Wellington (Lambton Quay)		Additions.
Rotorua	...	Additions, &c.			
<i>New Stations, &c., required.</i>					
Alexandra South	...	New office.	Masterton	...	New station and improvements.
Auckland	...	Renovating.	Methven	...	New station and lock-up.
Carterton	...	New station.	Milton	...	New lock-up and shed
Cheviot	...	"	Newtown (Wellington)	...	New station.
Clinton	...	"	Petone	...	Purchase of site.
Collingwood	...	Additions and repairs.	South Dunedin	...	Additions.
Dunedin	...	New wing to Central Station.	Taupo	...	New station.
Geraldine	...	Lock-up.	Waimate	...	"
Hampden	...	New station and lock-up.	Wellington	...	New training depot.
Kaiapoi	...	New station.	Whangarei	...	Purchase of site, and new cells.
Kihikihi	...	"			
Kumara	...	"			

Sites acquired.

Ngapara.

Newtown (Wellington).

Building removed.

Lock-up from Hakarau to Mangawai.

LEGAL.

"The Licensing Act Amendment Act, 1904."

This Act, from a departmental view, has supplied a long-felt want, and enables the police to deal much more effectively with hotelkeepers who infringe the law, whilst it inflicts no hardships on them, the result being that hotels are better conducted, drinking during prohibited hours is checked, and drunkenness is minimised.

"The Police Provident Fund Act, 1899."

In view of the satisfactory state of this fund, which on the 31st March last shows a credit balance of £27,121, and the fact that the sum of £14,932 has been saved in the way of compassionate-allowances since its inauguration, I consider the time has arrived for removing some of the disadvantages now apparent in the working of the Act.

Allowances to Widows and Children.—At present no provision is made for widows and children of deceased contributors whose deaths occur from natural causes whilst in the service, and they have to look to the Government for assistance. Provision should be made to meet such cases.

Dismissals and Resignations.—If members are dismissed from the service the Act provides that the Board may grant the return of half their contributions, and if they resign voluntarily, having under ten years' or over twenty-five years' service, no return of their contributions can be granted. In all such cases provision should be made for the return of the whole of the sum contributed.

Computation of Pensions.—Under the Act a pension is computed on the rate of pay drawn at time of retirement, or if promoted within five years of retirement on the average pay drawn during the preceding seven years; but no provision is made for averaging the allowance for members reduced. The same provision should apply to reduction as to promotion.

The Railway Superannuation Fund Act provides for the advantages herein sought.

"The Gaming and Lotteries Act, 1881."

I have to direct attention to the apparent necessity to amend this Act so as to enable police to deal with persons congregating in private places and playing the game of "two-up." This kind of gambling is on the increase, especially on Sundays and holidays, and ought to be stamped out. Under existing laws the police cannot cope with it.

"The Habitual Criminals Act, 1905," of New South Wales.

This Act, which provides for indeterminate sentences being passed on persons declared habitual criminals, is believed to be driving the worst class of criminals to this colony, it is therefore essential that similar legislation should obtain here. I have little faith in the reformation of habitual criminals by such treatment, but if properly administered it may be the means of their longer detention and better supervision on release than at present. The juveniles or first offenders are the persons concerning whom the greatest exertions should be made with the view to reformation.