

The Papakaio Murder.

This atrocious crime, which resulted in the arrest and conviction of a noted criminal—who was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, and declared an habitual criminal under the new Act—for burglary, was one of those exceptionally difficult cases to investigate with any degree of satisfaction, as no direct evidence of guilt was obtainable, and the circumstantial evidence forthcoming had to be carefully obtained and linked together in order to make the chain of evidence strong enough upon which to secure a conviction. Owing to the importance of the case I devoted some considerable time to supervising the investigations, which were carried out by the officers concerned with untiring energy, assisted materially by local inhabitants of Papakaio. Although the accused was acquitted on the capital charge, owing principally to certain witnesses deviating from their original statements to police, and partly to the circulation of false rumours bearing on the case, the investigations, which had not been relaxed since the committal of the cold-blooded murder, were still continued, in the hope of the evidence being strengthened and the burglary charge proved. Success attended the continued efforts, and, on the stolen bicycle being accidentally found, accused was rearrested, and convicted as above.

The subsequent dismissal of the prisoner's appeal for a new trial, on the ground that the verdict was against the weight of evidence, was highly satisfactory from a public point of view, as the clear and exhaustive manner in which the evidence was summarised by the Judges on the occasion must have dispelled any doubt existing as to the guilt of the prisoner.

The New Zealand Police Force.

The following return may be interesting as showing the growth of the Department, the continued increase of the population, and the total number of offences (irrespective of by-law offences) reported, and in which arrests or summonses resulted, each year since 1877, prior to which date each province in the colony had its own Police Force, and reliable data are not available.

Year.	Officers.	Non-Commis- sioned.	Detectives.	Constables.	Total.	Police to Population.	Cost per Inhabit- ant.	Population.	Offences reported.	Offences where Arrests or Sum- monses re- sulted.	Arrests for Drunkenness (included in "Offences reported").
1878	25	90	14	329	458	1 to 944	Not obtain- able	432,352	14,157	13,959	6,668
1879	25	84	16	364	489	1 to 948		463,572	16,374	14,696	6,794
1880	25	86	21	379	511	1 to 949		484,939	17,837	16,723	6,484
1881	13	73	18	337	441	1 to 1,136		500,976	16,635	15,212	5,587
1882	13	72	19	343	447	1 to 1,158		517,626	18,613	17,470	6,860
1883	13	72	20	356	461	1 to 1,173		540,753	18,775	17,727	7,572
1884	13	70	17	365	465	1 to 1,263		587,295	18,263	17,322	7,151
1885	20	65	17	372	474	1 to 1,293		613,212	18,955	17,723	7,034
1886	20	66	18	390	494	1 to 1,266		625,849	18,135	17,000	6,260
1887	20	69	18	395	502	1 to 1,265		635,215	17,752	16,500	5,226
1888	13	69	17	388	487	1 to 1,328	3/12	646,913	12,897	11,854	5,387
1889	13	65	17	389	484	1 to 1,347	2/10 3/4	652,125	12,945	11,885	5,444
1890	12	66	13	403	494	1 to 1,346	2/10 3/4	664,855	13,115	12,177	5,866
1891	7	61	14	404	486	1 to 1,375	2/11 1/2	668,353	12,674	11,748	5,416
1892	7	60	14	401	482	1 to 1,401	2/9	675,775	13,153	12,187	5,360
1893	7	53	14	407	481	1 to 1,439	2/8 1/2	692,426	13,165	12,100	5,251
1894	7	55	13	410	485	1 to 1,472	2/7 1/4	714,258	13,530	12,500	4,594
1895	7	51	13	416	487	1 to 1,495	2/6 3/4	728,121	14,010	12,435	4,636
1896	6	51	13	414	484	1 to 1,530	2/7 1/2	740,699	14,673	13,171	5,005
1897	7	45	12	453	517	1 to 1,461	2/7 1/2	754,016	15,219	14,042	5,204
1898	7	56	16	457	536	1 to 1,435	2/8	768,910	16,378	14,730	5,532
1899	11	53	15	475	554	1 to 1,414	2/9 1/4	783,317	16,865	15,561	6,289
1900	11	56	20	499	586	1 to 1,359	2/10 1/4	796,359	18,358	17,131	7,299
1901	11	56	20	504	591	1 to 1,381	2/10 1/4	816,290	19,909	18,742	8,057
1902	12	58	20	514	604	1 to 1,375	2/10 1/2	830,800	19,771	18,802	8,269
1903	12	59	20	522	613	1 to 1,388	2/10 1/2	851,068	20,736	19,867	8,815
1904	12	59	21	534	626	1 to 1,398	2/10 1/4	875,648	21,066	20,118	9,615
1905	12	65	25	553	655	1 to 1,375	2/10 1/4	900,682	20,249	19,251	8,707
1906	14	71	25	557	667	1 to 1,387	2/10 1/2	925,605	21,160	20,241	9,210
1907	14	78	30	577	699	1 to 1,375	3/0	961,604	...	...	...

In addition to the strength of the Force as shown above, there are 18 district constables, 9 Native constables, 4 police surgeons (one in each city), 4 matrons (one in each city), and 51 troop horses.

THE NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The police arrangements for the prevention and detection of crime and the preservation of order during the Exhibition, considering the large attendances and practical immunity from crime, resulted most satisfactorily.

From a police point of view the Licensing Committee's action in withholding licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquor in the Exhibition or Exhibition grounds conducted considerably to the