

1910.
NEW ZEALAND.

ALTERATION OF CHARGE AND BAIL BOOKS AT CHRISTCHURCH POLICE-STATION

(REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE ON).

Laid upon the Table by leave of the House.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE ON HIS INQUIRY REGARDING THE ALTERATION IN THE
CHARGE-BOOK AND BAIL-BOOK AT THE CHRISTCHURCH POLICE-STATION.

Department of Justice, Wellington, 5th August, 1910.

THE HON. THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE,—

On my recent visit to Christchurch I made further inquiry regarding the alteration in the Charge-book and Bail-book at the Christchurch Police-station.

It appears that between 10 and 11 o'clock on the night of Saturday, the 7th May last, B. P. Manhire was brought to the police-station on a charge of drunkenness, and his proper name was entered in the Charge-book. Early on the following morning (Sunday) he was admitted to bail, and signed the Bail-book in his usual name. On Sunday evening, Mr. Davey, M.P., saw the Inspector of Police for the purpose of arranging that Manhire's name should not be called in Court. The Inspector thereupon instructed the Station Sergeant to alter the name in the Charge-book and Bail-book. The Charge-book was altered by striking out the name "B. P. Manhire," and inserting the name "James Brown." The page of the Bail-book containing the bond entered into by Manhire was torn out and destroyed, and a fresh bond was taken and signed by Manhire as "James Brown." These are the admitted facts.

A statement has been made that a constable was taken from duty in the watchhouse and placed on street duty as a punishment for having protested against any alteration of the books. I have satisfied myself that there are no grounds whatever for any such suggestion.

I shall address a further memorandum to you later on as to future arrangements in Christchurch, but, meanwhile, I merely state the facts of the case.

F. WALDEGRAVE.

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