

1920.
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 Right Hon. the MINISTER IN CHARGE OF POLICE DEPARTMENT.
Police Department, Wellington, 1st August, 1920.

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

STRENGTH OF FORCE.

On the 31st March last the number of permanent members of the Force of all ranks was 844, being an increase of 53 during the year. The total is made up as follows:—

Superintendents	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Inspectors	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Sub-Inspectors	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Senior Sergeants	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Sergeants	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Constables	...	...	...	...	...	...	671
Senior Detectives	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Detective-sergeants	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Detectives	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
In addition to the above there were—							
Police surgeons	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Matrons	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
District constables	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Native constables	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

There were also 72 temporary constables appointed under section 2 of the Police Force Amendment Act, 1919: 40 of these were recruits undergoing a period of probationary service with a view to permanent appointment; the remaining 32 were temporary constables appointed during the war period who were over age or otherwise unsuitable for permanent appointment.

STATIONS.

New stations have been established at Lyall Bay (Wellington), Fortrose, and Waikiwi, and the stations at Panmure, Clyde Quay (Wellington), Globe Mine, Gladstone, and Tokonui have been closed.

On the 1st December last a new police district was established with headquarters at Timaru. It comprises 13 stations, of which 9 were formerly included in Christchurch District and 4 in Dunedin District.

CASUALTIES.

The following are the casualties for the year ended 31st March last: Retired on pension under the Public Service Superannuation Act, 10; retired as medically unfit, 3; died, 5; resigned voluntarily, 39; dismissed, 3: total, 60. This is 2 less than in the preceding year.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The criminal statistics (Appendix A) deal with offences reported to the police during the year ended the 31st December last, and show an aggregate net increase of 4,010 on the figures of 1918. The proportion of offences to the population was 1.99 per cent., as against 1.75 the previous year.

The principal increases during the year appear under the following headings, viz.:—

Assault, common	..	..	..	173	Drunkenness	..	..	..	988
Theft (undescribed)	..	..	..	651	Using profane, indecent, or obscene language	..	..	..	253
Theft from dwellings	..	..	..	34	Vagrancy offences	..	..	..	196
House or shop breaking, &c.	..	..	..	161	Gaming offences	..	..	..	99
Mischief	..	..	..	156	Failing to provide maintenance for wives, &c.	..	..	..	396
Breach of the peace	..	..	..	117	Breach of prohibition order	..	..	..	372
There were decreases in the following:—									
Assault causing bodily harm	..	..	..	12	Selling liquor without a license	..	..	..	41
Burglary	..	..	..	102	Absconding from industrial schools	..	..	..	36
Receiving stolen property	..	..	..	34	Keeping brothels, &c.	..	..	..	17
Theft of animals	..	..	..	20					