

1937.
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 Hon. the MINISTER IN CHARGE OF POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Police Department, Wellington, 3rd August, 1937.

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

STRENGTH OF FORCE.

On the 31st March last the number of permanent members of the Force of all ranks was 1,199, being an increase of thirty-six during the year. The total is made up as follows:—

Superintendents	..	..	..	..	..	4
Inspectors	..	..	..	..	..	16
Sub-Inspectors	..	..	..	..	..	5
Senior Sergeants	..	..	..	..	..	28
Sergeants	..	..	..	..	..	99
Constables	..	..	..	..	..	956
Senior Detectives	..	..	..	..	..	3
Detective-sergeants	..	..	..	..	..	17
Detectives	..	..	..	..	..	71

In addition to the above there were—

Police surgeons	..	..	..	..	..	15
Matrons	..	..	..	..	..	7
District constables	..	..	..	..	..	3
Native constable	..	..	..	..	..	1

There were also fifty-six temporary constables appointed under section 2 of the Police Force Amendment Act, 1919. The majority of these were appointed on probation with a view to filling vacancies in the permanent staff if found suitable.

STATIONS.

New stations were established during the year at Surfdale (Waiheke Island), Maori Hill, Bartlett's, and Manurewa, and the station at Cowes (Waiheke Island), was closed.

CASUALTIES.

The following are the casualties for the year ended 31st March last: Retired on pension under the Public Service Superannuation Act, 6; retired as medically unfit, 3; died, 7; resigned voluntarily, 12; dismissed, 5: total, 33.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The criminal statistics (Appendix A) deal with offences reported to the police during the year ended 31st December last, and show an aggregate net increase of 2,280 on the figures of 1935. The proportion of offences to the population was 2.23 per cent., as against 2.11 the previous year.

There were increases during the year under the following headings, viz.:—

Assault (common)	..	..	110	Maintenance offences	..	..	48
Breaches of prohibition orders	..	..	72	Causing death or bodily injury through reckless driving	..	..	29
Drunkenness	..	..	1,016	Being intoxicated in charge of a motor-vehicle	..	..	160
Exposure of person and grossly indecent acts	..	..	36	Reckless or negligent driving	..	..	536
False statements and declarations	..	..	63	Minor breaches of Motor-vehicles Act	..	..	669
Found on licensed premises after closing-hours	..	..	136	Selling or exposing liquor for sale without a license	..	..	71
Found on premises where liquor was seized under a warrant	..	..	109	Thefts by clerks or servants	..	..	39
Found in common gaming-house	..	..	108	Unlawfully using horses, motor-cars, &c.	..	..	240

The principal decreases were—

Burglary, house or shop breaking	..	263	Forgery and uttering	..	..	86
Breaches of Arms Act	..	95	Obtaining credit by fraud	..	..	39
Conspiracy to defraud	..	41	Opium smoking, &c.	..	..	41
Failing to comply with conditions of release under First Offenders Probation Act	..	38	Receiving property dishonestly obtained	..	..	49
False pretences	..	219	Theft (petty)	..	..	169
			Theft from dwellings	..	..	60
			Vagrancy offences	..	..	114

The following return shows the number of offences reported in each police district during the year, the number of cases in which arrests or summonses resulted, and the number in which no prosecution followed :—

Police District.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Number in which no Arrests or Summonses resulted.
Whangarei	1,413	1,351	62
Auckland	7,262	6,572	690
Hamilton	2,870	2,641	229
Gisborne	1,171	1,113	58
Napier	1,673	1,648	25
New Plymouth	1,401	1,358	43
Wanganui	1,204	1,129	75
Palmerston North	1,464	1,369	95
Wellington	6,266	5,928	338
Nelson	788	733	55
Greymouth	997	917	80
Christchurch	4,177	3,800	377
Timaru	678	606	72
Dunedin	2,951	2,836	115
Invercargill	1,133	1,051	82
Totals	35,448	33,052	2,396

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from offences reported during the year 1936 was 93.24, the figures of the preceding year being 92.26.

SERIOUS CRIMES.

The following is a return of the number of serious crimes as compared with the previous year :—

Crimes.	1935.		1936.	
	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	25	21	15	14
Robbery and aggravated robbery	7	2	9	8
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c. ..	1,325	938	1,063	774
Forgery and uttering	190	178	104	92
Murder	11	6	8	4
Murder, attempted	6	6	5	4
Rape	13	13	..	..
Receiving stolen property	215	215	166	166
Wounding with intent	..	..	2	2
Totals	1,792	1,379	1,372	1,064

Eight deaths occurred as a result of murder, being 3 less than in the previous year. Of the offenders, 4 were arrested, 1 committed suicide, and in one case no arrest was made despite long and diligent investigation. Of the 4 arrested, 3 were committed for trial, and the charge against the other was dismissed by a Magistrate. Of the 3 committed for trial, all were acquitted, but one whose acquittal was on the grounds of insanity was ordered to be detained in a mental hospital.

Indecent and sexual offences were as under :—

Offences.	1935.	1936.
Unnatural offence	7	16
Unnatural offence, attempted	1	8
Indecently assaulting a male	47	66
Incest	21	13
Indecent acts	32	11
Concealment of birth	1	3
Assault, indecent	130	133
Rape	13	..
Rape, attempted	7	5
Carnally knowing girls	86	74
Carnally knowing girls, attempted	14	17
Abortion, procuring, &c.	18	11
Exposure of person and grossly indecent acts ..	166	202
Totals	543	559

DRUNKENNESS.

There has been an increase of 1,016 in the number of prosecutions for drunkenness during the year as compared with the previous year.

The number charged with drunkenness in 1936 was 4,186 (4,043 males and 143 females), whereas in 1935 the number was 3,170 (3,057 males and 113 females).

From the following table it will be observed that 42·74 per cent. of the males and 58·04 per cent. of the females had previous convictions recorded against them, and 2·87 per cent. of the males were not permanent residents of the Dominion.

Return showing the Number of Persons charged with Drunkenness during the Year 1936, and the Number of Previous Convictions against them, so far as is known.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Not previously convicted	2,315	60	2,375
One previous conviction	472	13	485
Two previous convictions	262	5	267
Three previous convictions	153	5	158
Four previous convictions	120	4	124
Five previous convictions	113	3	116
Over five previous convictions	608	53	661
Totals	4,043	143	4,186

Number of foregoing who were members of the crews of vessels in port, 116.

The following table shows the convictions for drunkenness per ten thousand of the population for each year from 1931 to 1935 in Australia and New Zealand :—

	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
Commonwealth	58·6	60·7	67·6	68·9	76·3
New Zealand	32·1	26·7	23·3	22·3	21·5

PROSECUTIONS AGAINST HOTELKEEPERS.

The number of prosecutions against hotelkeepers during the year shows a increase of 22 as compared with the preceding year. There were 667 prosecutions, resulting in 421 convictions during 1936, as against 645 prosecutions and 404 convictions in 1935.

SLY-GROG SELLING.

There were 134 prosecutions during the year for selling liquor without a license, resulting in 126 convictions, and there were also 79 prosecutions, resulting in 52 convictions, for other offences against the provisions of the Licensing Act in force in no-license districts.

The fines imposed on the sly-grog sellers during the year 1936 amounted to £1,713 3s.

GAMING OFFENCES.

There were 670 prosecutions, resulting in 635 convictions, during the year under the Gaming Act, against 578 prosecutions and 554 convictions in 1935.

Prosecutions of Bookmakers.

The following return shows the result of prosecutions in connection with bookmaking during the year ended 31st March, 1937 :—

Offence.	Number of Prosecutions.	Number of Convictions.	Amount of Fines imposed.
			£ s. d.
Carrying on business of bookmaker	55	55	1,752 0 0
Keeping common gaming-house	94	93	3,221 10 0
Found in common gaming-house	7	7	13 10 0
Laying totalizator odds	9	9	52 0 0
Publishing betting-charts	3	2	7 10 0
Street betting	11	11	550 0 0
Totals	179	177	5,596 10 0

GROWTH OF DEPARTMENT.

The following return shows 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 Dominion had its own Police Force, and reliable data are not available:—

Year.	Officers.	Non-commis- sioned Officers.	Detectives.	Constables.	Total.	Police to Population.	Cost per Inhabit- ant.	Population.	Offences reported.	Offences where Arrests or Summonses resulted.	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	3/3	587,295	18,263	17,322	7,151
1885	20	65	17	372	474	1 to 1,293	3/0 ³ / ₄	613,212	18,955	17,723	7,034
1886	20	66	18	390	494	1 to 1,266	3/2	625,849	18,135	17,000	6,260
1887	20	69	18	395	502	1 to 1,265	3/2 ¹ / ₄	635,215	17,752	16,500	5,226
1888	13	69	17	388	487	1 to 1,328	3/1 ³ / ₄	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 / ₂	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 ³ / 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	23,204	22,244	10,203
1908	15	83	32	604	734	1 to 1,331	3/2 ¹ / ₄	977,215	23,510	22,484	10,343
1909	16	87	35	633	771	1 to 1,308	3/4 ¹ / ₄	1,008,373	23,930	22,880	10,657
1910	16	86	34	639	775	1 to 1,330	3/3 ¹ / ₂	1,030,657	25,106	23,949	11,718
1911	15	87	38	648	788	1 to 1,333	3/4 ¹ / ₂	1,050,410	24,999	23,492	11,699
1912	15	89	39	692	835	1 to 1,287	3/5	1,075,250	25,981	24,837	11,884
1913	17	93	41	695	846	1 to 1,303	3/8	1,102,389	25,415	24,364	11,707
1914	17	94	40	719	870	1 to 1,304	3/9	1,134,506	27,563	26,494	13,189
1915	19	100	37	755	911	1 to 1,257	4/1	1,145,840	28,412	27,096	13,268
1916	19	104	36	757	916	1 to 1,258	4/2 ³ / ₄	1,152,669	24,920	23,848	10,833
1917	20	108	36	734	898	1 to 1,280	4/3	1,150,002	21,724	20,701	8,800
1918	20	111	38	732*	901	1 to 1,274	4/6 ¹ / ₂	1,147,391	19,067	18,043	7,228
1919	20	112	41	705*	878	1 to 1,319	5/2 ¹ / ₂	1,158,156	24,278	23,312	8,216
1920	21	114	38	743*	916	1 to 1,325	4/11 ¹ / ₂	1,214,184	26,106	24,718	8,979
1921	23	112	47	768*	950	1 to 1,310	6/4 ³ / ₂	1,244,620	26,551	25,054	8,671
1922	22	118	43	826*	1,009	1 to 1,289	6/3 ³ / ₄	1,300,967	24,699	22,843	6,409
1923	23	118	44	818*	1,003	1 to 1,321	5/8 ¹ / ₂	1,325,301	26,119	24,356	7,035
1924	23	120	47	837*	1,027	1 to 1,312	5/8 ¹ / ₂	1,347,853	27,025	25,048	7,470
1925	23	121	51	831*	1,026	1 to 1,344	5/9 ¹ / ₂	1,379,487	30,470	28,668	8,277
1926	24	121	52	888*	1,085	1 to 1,299	5/9 ¹ / ₂	1,409,692	31,615	29,199	7,854
1927	22	123	56	895*	1,096	1 to 1,312	5/8 ¹ / ₂	1,437,980	32,144	29,799	6,884
1928	23	127	54	913*	1,117	1 to 1,301	5/9	1,453,517	33,138	30,622	6,601
1929	23	128	56	948*	1,155	1 to 1,273	6/1 ³ / ₄	1,470,649	34,250	31,575	6,810
1930	22	127	54	943*	1,146	1 to 1,298	6/1	1,488,612	37,214	33,690	6,125
1931	25	120	65	959*	1,169	1 to 1,292	6/0 ¹ / ₂	1,510,940	36,680	32,659	4,687
1932	25	123	65	944*	1,157	1 to 1,317	5/5	1,524,633	35,368	32,006	3,868
1933	24	121	67	983*	1,195	1 to 1,286	5/6 ¹ / ₂	1,536,964	33,302	30,133	3,499
1934	23	124	72	922*	1,211	1 to 1,279	5/6 ¹ / ₄	1,548,909	32,286	29,427	3,294
1935	28	127	74	990*	1,219	1 to 1,280	5/7	1,559,624	33,168	30,601	3,170
1936	26	123	77	1,000*	1,226	1 to 1,283	5/9 ¹ / ₄	1,573,300	35,448	33,052	4,186
1937	25	127	91	1,012*	1,255	1 to 1,265	6/3	1,587,211	..	..	..

* Includes temporary constables.

POLICE PROSECUTIONS.

The following is a return of the number of convictions for which fines were imposed and the total amount of such fines in respect of prosecutions instituted by the police during the year ended 31st March, 1937 :—

Fines payable to	Number of Convictions.	Total Amount of Fines imposed.
		£ s. d.
Consolidated Fund	11,060	25,126 3 6
Main Highways Revenue Account (section 24, Motor-vehicles Act, 1924)	5,104	10,544 14 0
Local authorities (by-law offences)	332	223 17 0
Total	16,496	£35,894 14 6

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

At Headquarters the finger-impressions of 2,506 persons were received, classified, indexed, and filed during the year; 164 persons were identified as previous offenders who, had it not been for the finger-print system, would have passed as first offenders; 1,806 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the Branch; the photographs of 3,097 prisoners (5,345 photographs) were dealt with; 512 photographs were reproduced in the *Police Gazette*, and 17 wanted persons located.

Finger-prints left by the offenders when committing the crimes were identified as belonging to 18 persons, who were prosecuted. It was necessary in only one of these cases to prepare enlarged photographs and tender finger-print evidence at Court, which resulted in a conviction. The other 17 offenders pleaded guilty.

Two cases worthy of mention are the following :—During the second week of January, 1936, two shops in Wellington were broken into and jewellery, &c., to the value of £181 was stolen. All efforts to locate the offender failed until the 24th December, 1936, over eleven months later, when a detective obtained the finger-prints of a suspect in connection with a petty theft. These finger-prints were found to be identical with those which had been found on the windows of the shops referred to. When he was told that his finger-prints were found at the shops he admitted these and several other robberies, and that he had taken the stolen goods to London and disposed of them there. A copy of this man's finger-prints were then sent to New Scotland Yard, London, for inquiry, and it was ascertained that he had several convictions recorded against him in England.

In May, 1936, a New Plymouth jeweller's shop was broken into and jewellery valued at £326 stolen. Finger-prints were found on wooden louvres of a fanlight at the rear of the shop. Two weeks later a stowaway from Wellington was arrested at Sydney in possession of a large quantity of jewellery. When this man's finger-prints were received here they were found to be identical with those from the New Plymouth shop. This offender, after his return in custody to New Zealand, pleaded guilty to breaking and entering the New Plymouth shop and stealing the jewellery; he was sentenced to two years' reformatory detention.

On account of the growth of the finger-print collection (now 52,461 recorded) it has become imperative to further subdivide the respective groups. This is a long and tedious task which can only be undertaken as time permits, but during the past twelve months sufficient time was available to accomplish approximately one-third of this work.

The inauguration of the Battley single finger-print system is a step forward. This is a practical method of classifying and filing single finger-prints and fragmentary impressions; it is an addition to and an extension of the original system, the value of which it in no way impairs. This system has been used by the London Metropolitan Police for the past seven years, and it has proved to be of great value.

During the year the finger-prints of 2,142 criminals (21,420 finger-prints) have been filed according to this system.

It is interesting to note that in New Zealand the finger-print system has, to date, been responsible for the identification of 6,680 persons.

The following table shows the increase in the finger-print collection since the introduction of the finger-print system of identification in March, 1903.

Year.	Number of Prints in Collection.	Increase on Previous Year.	Prisoners traced as Previous Offenders.	Year.	Number of Prints in Collection.	Increase on Previous Year.	Prisoners traced as Previous Offenders.
1904 ..	3,500	3,500	117	1921 ..	26,650	2,964	232
1905 ..	4,200	700	72	1922 ..	28,408	1,758	255
1906 ..	5,000	800	88	1923 ..	30,284	1,876	292
1907 ..	6,151	1,151	104	1924 ..	31,929	1,645	289
1908 ..	7,622	1,471	123	1925 ..	33,802	1,873	267
1909 ..	8,718	1,096	138	1926 ..	35,844	2,042	292
1910 ..	9,919	1,201	140	1927 ..	37,808	1,964	255
1911 ..	10,905	986	148	1928 ..	39,409	1,601	276
1912 ..	12,097	1,192	178	1929 ..	40,852	1,443	208
1913 ..	13,552	1,455	183	1930 ..	42,371	1,519	239
1914 ..	15,302	1,750	230	1931 ..	43,973	1,602	257
1915 ..	16,682	1,380	270	1932 ..	45,692	1,719	215
1916 ..	18,134	1,452	218	1933 ..	47,306	1,614	213
1917 ..	19,508	1,374	166	1934 ..	48,545	1,239	183
1918 ..	20,982	1,474	132	1935 ..	49,796	1,251	200
1919 ..	22,332	1,350	153	1936 ..	51,053	1,257	207
1920 ..	23,686	1,354	176	1937 ..	52,461	1,408	164

On 31st March, 1937, the finger-print collection in Auckland totalled 5,341 sets.

During the year 691 sets of finger-prints were received or taken, and duly classified, searched, and filed.

The photographs of 136 prisoners were taken and 816 prints were taken from the negatives; also a large number of photographs of scenes of crimes and motor accidents were taken. The total number of photographs produced during the year was 1,916. One thousand four hundred New South Wales prisoners' photographs were received, card-indexed, and the cards filed in order of finger-print classification.

The remanded-prisoner forms, with the results of the cases inserted, for 311 prisoners were dealt with and returned to the Criminal Registration Branch in Wellington.

In twelve cases offenders who would not otherwise have been known as having been previously convicted were traced by their finger-prints. In three other cases finger-prints left by offenders when committing crimes were identified; the offenders, on being interviewed, duly admitting the charges.

ARMS BUREAU.

Following on the passing of the Arms Amendment Act, 1934, which provided that no firearms could thereafter be imported into the Dominion without an import license issued by a Superintendent or Inspector of Police, an Arms Bureau was established at police headquarters for the examination and testing of firearms and to advise Superintendents and Inspectors in respect of firearms for which applications for import licenses were received. The object of the statute was to endeavour to minimize the large number of shooting accidents. In order to do this two main lines of action are being pursued. The first of these is to exclude from the Dominion firearms of such poor quality that they are apt to cause accidents; and in this a good deal has been done without causing serious inconvenience to the dealers in firearms. Among the 1,150 licensed dealers in the Dominion there appears to be no dissatisfaction with the operation of the Act. Several of the manufacturing firms have already effected safety improvements to their firearms at the request of the Department. The benefit of these improvements will not be immediately apparent in New Zealand, but must eventually do good. It is estimated that there are about 250,000 firearms in the Dominion, exclusive of those on issue to Government Forces. Among these it is inevitable that there are many which are dangerous through wear, faulty design, or poor quality, and their evil effect will be noticed, no doubt, in the number of accidents to sportsmen for many years to come.

The second method of dealing with shooting accidents is one which was initiated by the Minister of Internal Affairs, and may be called the "educational system." The idea is for the Arms Bureau and other organizations to attempt to reach the children in secondary schools and to teach them the correct handling of firearms. The Minister in Charge of Police has consented to lectures being given to teachers in training colleges and to the pupils themselves in secondary schools whenever this is possible. Up to the present it has not been possible to put the scheme into operation so far as the Arms Bureau is concerned owing to the pressure of other departmental work.

Accidents with firearms have been recorded during the past two years, and the statistical charts contain some features which appear to be worth special notice. There have been ninety-six accidents in 104 weeks, and in these thirty-six people have lost their lives. Of the sixty injured, some have been crippled by the loss of limbs, and one has lost both eyes. Seventy-seven of the accidents have occurred to males under the age of forty and of these, thirty-six were under twenty years of age. There are probably many other accidents of a less serious nature which have not come under the notice of the police.

Of the forty-two accidents which occurred with shot-guns thirty-six were with hammer-guns—that is, guns with exposed hammers, while only six were with the hammerless type. It is considered that shot-guns of the double-barrelled hammer kind have such a bad record in relation to the number of accidents that their exclusion from importation would be justified. The much safer hammerless guns can be procured at a comparatively small increase in cost.

Rifles of .22 calibre—sometimes misnamed "pea-rifles"—have been responsible for forty-four accidents. The chief offender is the simple bolt-action single-shot rifle, and many of the models which were the cause of accidents are now obsolete or are excluded from the Dominion.

A reference to the statistics also shows that the firearms with which accidents have happened may be divided into two classes—those which belong to the list of arms approved for importation, and those not approved or which are unknown. It is interesting to note that more than half the accidents reported have occurred with the latter class, the figures being forty-nine and forty-five.

During the past year lectures have been given to the police in Whangarei, Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Napier, Wanganui, New Plymouth, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin. The subjects covered included "The Care and Handling of Firearms," "Investigation of Shooting Cases and the Preservation of Exhibits," and "The Shooting Accident: How it occurs and how to prevent it." These lectures were also given to the police probationers at the training depot.

Special reports have been prepared in the investigation of two murder and three attempted murder cases.

A fair amount of time has been devoted to experimental and research work, and ballistic data for the use of police have been recorded. Two mechanical safety appliances for firearms have been designed, and one of these has been adopted by two Belgian factories.

A collection of sample firearms which may be of use in the investigation of shooting cases has been commenced, and this is being added to as opportunities occur.

POLICE BUILDINGS, ETC.

The following works in connection with police-stations have been carried out during the year by the Public Works Department :—

New police-stations were erected at Waitotara and Woodville, new offices and lock-up at Wairoa, and offices at Patea and Waikouaiti. Additions were made to the Invercargill Police-station. A house and section were purchased for a police-station at Maori Hill, Dunedin, and a site for police purposes was acquired at Port Chalmers.

Repairs, renovations, and/or improvements were effected at the following stations :—

Whangarei District.—Dargaville, Houhora, Kaikohe, Kaitaia, Kawakawa, Maungaturoto, Ruawai, Russell, Whangarei, and Whangaroa.

Auckland District.—Auckland Central, Coromandel, Devonport, Ellerslie, Epsom, Freeman's Bay, Grey Lynn, Howick, Huntly, Mercer, Mount Albert, Newmarket, Newton, Ponsonby, Pukekohe, Thames, Waiuku, Warkworth, and Wellsford.

Hamilton District.—Cambridge, Frankton Junction, Hamilton, Hamilton East, Katikati, Kihikihi, Matamata, Morrinsville, Ngaruawahia, Paeroa, Putaruru, Raglan, Rotorua, Taupo, Tauranga, Te Aroha, Te Whaiti, Tokaanu, and Waihi.

Gisborne District.—Gisborne, Patutahi, Ruatorea, Taneatua, Te Araroa, Te Karaka, Tolaga Bay, Waipiro Bay, and Whakatane.

Napier District.—Hastings, Napier, Nuhaka, Porangahau, Port Ahuriri, Takapau, Taradale, Waipawa, Waipukurau, and Wairoa.

New Plymouth District.—Fitzroy, New Plymouth, Rahotu, Stratford, Waitara, and Whangamomona.

Wanganui District.—Mangaweka, Manunui, Ohakune, and Taumarunui.

Palmerston North District.—Ashhurst, Eketahuna, Feilding, Kimbolton, Levin, Marton, Otaki, Palmerston North, Rongotea, and Woodville.

Wellington District.—Carterton, Greytown, Johnsonville, Karori, Kilbirnie, Lyall Bay, Masterton, Petone, Taranaki Street, Tinui, Upper Hutt, Wellington Central, and Wellington South.

Nelson District.—Havelock, Motueka, Seddon, and Wakefield.

Greymouth District.—Ahaura, Blackball, Charleston, Cobden, Granity, Greymouth, Hokitika, Kanieri, Kumara, Reefton, Ross, and Westport.

Christchurch District.—Addington, Akaroa, Ashburton, Belfast, Bingsland, Cheviot, Christchurch Central, Coalgate, Culverden, Darfield, Fendalton, Islington, Kaiapoi, Kaikoura, Leeston, Lincoln, Linwood, Lower Riccarton, Lyttelton, New Brighton, Oxford, Rakaia, Rangiora, Riccarton (Upper), Southbridge, Sydenham, Waikari, and Woolston.

Timaru District.—Duntroon, Geraldine, Glenavy, Oamaru, St. Andrews', Timaru, and Waimate.

Dunedin District.—Anderson's Bay, Caversham, Clyde, Dunedin Central, Green Island, Kaitangata, Maori Hill, Milton, Mosgiel, Naseby, North Dunedin, Outram, Owaka, Port Chalmers, Portobello, Ranfurly, Ravensbourne, St. Bathans', and South Dunedin.

Invercargill District.—Bluff, Invercargill, Mataura, Nightcaps, Otautau, Riverton, Tapanui, Waikiwi, Winton, and Wyndham.

Many police-stations throughout the Dominion are very old buildings which are getting beyond repair and are quite inadequate for present requirements.

GENERAL.

Police Buildings.—Since my last report I have had the opportunity of visiting all the district headquarter stations in the Dominion, and as time permitted I visited as many country and suburban stations in such districts as was possible with a view to seeing for myself the condition of the buildings and meeting the men attached to each station. Many of the buildings I inspected are in a bad state through age, and these will have to be replaced by new buildings as finance will permit. It would be a waste of money to attempt to repair many of them—they are old, out of date, and tumbling down with dry-rot and old age. Others, principally country and suburban stations, although in a sound condition, lack conveniences. In these cases a thorough examination has been made by Public Works experts, and a number of them have been turned into useful modern dwellings at a moderate cost. These will last for many years to come and now give convenience and comfort to those occupying them. Some £15,000 has been authorized for expenditure this year on general repairs and renovations, and the work is being proceeded with as quickly as possible. It will take four or five years to complete my programme of modernizing and renovating all existing country and suburban stations where the expenditure is warranted. A great number of country stations have yet to be visited by me, but I hope to see the majority of them in the near future. The buildings at some country stations I have inspected are beyond repair, and in these cases I am asking for authority to have them replaced by new, up-to-date buildings. At the four centres—Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin—we are very much handicapped for want of office accommodation and quarters for our single men. I have asked for the necessary provision to be made on the estimates to deal with the congestion in these centres. Authority to proceed with the work at Wellington has been already granted. At Auckland it will be necessary to acquire additional land adjoining our present site, in order to provide accommodation for expansion. New offices, quarters for single men, garage for our motor transport, new lock-up, and a parade ground are matters necessitating early attention. I am at the present moment negotiating for the additional land required. Should this be successfully arranged, plans will be prepared with a view to proceeding with the work when the necessary authority is granted.

The office accommodation at Newmarket, Auckland, consisting of two small rooms, is quite inadequate for the staff of fifteen now attached to that station. Plans have been prepared for building more commodious offices on the vacant site adjoining the present office, and it is hoped to have the work put in hand at an early date.

At Wellington the old Mount Cook site at the corner of Buckle and Tory Streets has been vested in the board of trustees of the National Art Gallery and Dominion Museum, and another site has been acquired in Buckle Street for the erection of a new station. Provision of the necessary funds to proceed with this work is being asked for.

At Petone new offices are badly required, and at Lower Hutt additional land is required adjoining the present police property for the building of new offices. I am now negotiating with the owners of the adjoining land with a view to purchasing the additional land needed for extension. At present we are badly hampered for room there.

Land has also been secured at Moera, near Petone, as a site for a new police-station.

The strength of the police in the Hutt Valley must be increased to cope with the demands made upon the Service. I know of no locality in New Zealand that is progressing like the Hutt Valley. It is going ahead by leaps and bounds, and is becoming a favourite residential suburb.

In Christchurch we have ample room to build a new wing to the present buildings. As at the other centres, offices and quarters for the single men are an urgent necessity. With an additional wing and the old building remodelled in certain directions ample accommodation will be supplied for many years to come.

At Dunedin Central Station offices and barrack accommodation present a more difficult problem. The shortage of both is acute. The site of the present offices is an ideal one—very central and in a good position. The building, taken over from the Prisons Department many years ago, was formerly a prison. I am now going into the question of trying to modernize it into suitable offices and quarters for the single men. It is going to be a very difficult job, owing to the heavy construction of the walls and subdivisions. The prison doors and all appearances of a prison should be removed and a system of central heating installed if the building can be altered at a reasonable cost.

The police-station and lock-up at Port Chalmers are in a very bad condition and urgently in need of replacement. A suitable site has been acquired, and the preparation of plans for the erection thereon of a Sergeant's residence, police office, and lock-up is now receiving attention.

The District Headquarters at Timaru, Greymouth, Nelson, and Whangarei are all in a bad state. They have outlived their usefulness—they are very old, obsolete, have no conveniences, and cannot be made suitable for present-day requirements. New buildings are urgently needed in each of these districts. We have sufficient land at Timaru, Greymouth, and Nelson to build. At Whangarei we are in need of some additional land, and I am negotiating for the purchase of a section adjoining the present police-station.

New offices will in the near future be required at Wanganui, New Plymouth, and Napier in that order. All of these offices are very old wooden buildings, obsolete and inconvenient.

A site has been purchased in a central position in Hamilton midway between Hamilton and Frankton with a view to erecting within a few years new offices. The present offices are at the extreme southern end of the town and right out of touch with the business area. The present accommodation is inadequate, and, as the existing site is not suitable, it was considered opportune to get a suitable site and build on it rather than add to the present inconvenient offices.

Gisborne district will require additional accommodation in the near future. The present offices are good.

Palmerston North headquarters are the worst in New Zealand. Plans for a new station have been approved, and it is expected that tenders will soon be called for the erection of the building. The estimated cost is £20,000. The plans provide for the most up-to-date modern police building in the Dominion.

An addition to the Invercargill headquarters station was finished during the year, and the accommodation is now reasonably good.

The erection of the proposed new buildings cannot, of course, be all completed in one year. It will no doubt take at least the best part of two years to complete the more urgent work, the remainder to follow on in order of urgency.

Contracts have been let for the building of police-stations at Kaeo and Te Whaiti, and the work is now in hand.

Authority has been granted for the erection of a new police-station at Manunui, and plans are in course of preparation for new buildings at Ellerslie, Tauranga, Rotorua, Levin, Mosgiel, and Balclutha. Suitable houses for use as police-stations have been purchased at Maori Hill and Millerton, and the purchase of similar properties at Matawai and National Park has been authorized.

Strength.—Parliament last session authorized the addition of fifty men to the strength of the Police Force. Owing to the outgoings by way of retirements, deaths, and resignations it was not possible to make up the authorized strength to the additional fifty, but with the present batch of recruits now in Trentham Camp this will be done.

During the year the Government authorized an additional 125 men being taken on the strength of the Police Force in order to grant the Police a forty-eight-hour week in lieu of the existing fifty-six-hour week. To put this policy into operation arrangements were made with the Defence Department for the use of the facilities at Trentham Camp to train these men as our own Training Depot could not accommodate such a number. The men underwent a three months' course of training, which they completed on the 12th August, when they were posted to the various police districts. The forty-eight-hour week is now being brought into operation throughout the Dominion. This relief of one day per week from duty is greatly appreciated by all ranks of the Service. As it was not possible to

inaugurate a forty-hour week, the Government generously granted an increase in pay to the extent of 10s. per week as some compensation for the extra day worked in excess of forty hours, the general standard of hours set by the Government where it was practicable to give effect to it. The reports of officers in charge of districts indicate that, apart from the additional men required to work a forty-eight-hour week, an increase in the strength of the Force is necessary to meet the normal increase in the work of the Department in the cities and country districts. In order to provide for the more urgent requirements, I would ask that provision be made for increasing the authorized strength of the Force by another twenty-five constables.

Transport.—During the year a new car was supplied to Auckland to replace one practically worn out and one to Dunedin.

Four more cars are urgently needed to meet the requirements of the Department—one for each centre. Provision is being made in the current estimates for these.

Since my last report the position of transport throughout the Service has been reviewed and brought to a reasonable state of efficiency. In all country and suburban districts the question of increased car allowance was carefully gone into, and an allowance in keeping with the service rendered was granted. This cost about £2,000 per annum over and above what was previously paid. In return the Department requires that efficient cars be supplied. Since the increased allowance was granted, benzine has gone up 1d. per gallon, and with the prospect of a further rise of 1d. per gallon in the near future we may have to consider the granting of a further increase in the allowance to meet the increased cost of running-expenses. Our transport has increased in efficiency fully 25 per cent. during the past year. There is a good deal of room for improvement yet, but we are making excellent progress towards having an efficient transport service in the near future.

Efficiency.—In order to brighten up the efficiency of the Service, two officers—Inspector Jas. Cummings, of Palmerston North, and Inspector R. R. Ward, of Auckland—were selected to give a series of lectures throughout the various police districts during the past year on practical police and detective duties. Each took one Island, and every member of the Service (except about half a dozen who were ill) attended the lectures, which were delivered at convenient places. The lectures were greatly appreciated, and in many instances the members attending them asked that such lectures be repeated, as they were of great service, particularly to the country men, who were to some extent out of touch with the general run of police work.

I have already initiated a regular fortnightly course of lectures on practical police work in Auckland (following the recent increase in the number of officers there) for the Detective Staff, the sergeants in the Uniform Branch, and the constables—three separate classes. The probationary constables (those under twelve months' service) have a weekly class.

These classes are being extended to the other three centres. In the smaller districts classes are being arranged also to suit those districts.

I hope to be able to arrange during the current year for special lectures on the finger-print system, photography, chemistry and ballistics, and also on criminal law and medical jurisprudence.

We have no adequate technical equipment for our experts to work with. I have requested provision on the estimates for the purchase of a comparison microscope for ballistic and other microscopical work, including micro-photography, and a projector for reproducing lantern slides, &c., on a screen, for lecture purposes. I have also included provision for the installation of a wireless plant, to try out the efficiency and value of wireless communication between a city police-station and patrol-cars fitted with wireless equipment.

A large number of our men have been trained during the year under the direction of our firearms expert, Senior Sergeant Kelly, in the correct handling of firearms, and exceptionally good progress has been made in that direction. It is hoped to be able to complete the instruction in the South Island during the current year. It has been completed in the North Island.

Additions to Staff.—The status of the following stations was raised during the year by additions to staff: Kaitaia, by a sergeant and a constable; Rotorua, by an additional sergeant and three constables; Newmarket, by a Senior Sergeant and a constable; Ellerslie, by a sergeant and two mounted constables.

We have retained two troop horses at Auckland and attached them to Ellerslie Station. The remaining horses (six) were disposed of and additional motor transport provided in their place.

Sergeants have been placed in charge of Huntly and Tauranga stations, while additional constables have been stationed at Kaikohe, Dargaville, Gisborne, Hamilton, Hastings, Palmerston North, Waitara, Moturoa, Nelson, Motueka, and Addington.

The number of commissioned officers has been increased by the appointment of an additional Inspector at Auckland and another Sub-Inspector at Wellington, in order to provide for better supervision of police duty in these cities.

Police Regulations.—The regulations require revising and bringing up to date to suit present-day conditions. A start has been made on them, and it is hoped to have them completed within twelve months. I am particularly anxious to have new regulations framed in connection with the annual examinations and promotions.

During the year the travelling and relieving allowances were reviewed, and increases were granted, bringing them up to the allowances paid by other Government Departments. An increase was also granted in the allowance paid for supplying prisoners' rations.

Training Depot.—A very fine type of recruit was taken on during the year. Three batches of some twenty-four men each were trained at our own depot in Wellington. When it became necessary to train a larger number, the Defence Department offered us the use of their camp at Trentham, where 125 men were trained in one batch to provide the forty-eight-hour week, and there is at present a

further batch of sixty-two men there training to fill vacancies and allow for increasing the staff at various places throughout the Dominion where additional men are required, and for which authority was granted last session.

Here I wish to return my sincere thanks to the Defence Department for their kindness and co-operation in giving us the use of Trentham Camp for training. I also desire to thank the Y.M.C.A. for the many acts of kindness extended to our recruits at Trentham Camp while undergoing training and also for placing at their disposal the commodious premises of the Y.M.C.A. for social purposes in the evening.

Recreation.—The men have been encouraged to take part in all kinds of sport. Provision has been made in some centres for tennis-courts where tennis and Badminton can be played. They are also encouraged to hold social evenings. In some centres we have our own orchestra to play at our social evenings. We also have a Highland Pipe Band in Wellington, which is very popular with the public and in great demand at public functions. It is difficult at times to arrange for the bandmen being exempt from duty to allow them to take part in all the functions they are asked to.

Police Association.—Permission was granted by the Hon. the Minister in Charge of the Police Department (the Hon. P. Fraser) and the Government to the members of the Police Force to form an association for their mutual benefit. The regulations were amended to permit this, and the association was successfully formed and is now functioning. This concession was greatly appreciated by the men.

General Conduct of Members of the Force.—I am pleased to be able to report the general conduct of the members of the Force has been good. All branches of the Service have worked hard during the year.

Extracts from reports of officers in charge of districts are appended.

D. J. CUMMINGS,
Commissioner of Police.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF DISTRICTS.

INSPECTOR O'HARA, WHANGAREI DISTRICT.

During the year two additional sergeants have been appointed to this district—one at Kaitaia and the other at Whangarei. An additional constable has been stationed at Kaikohe.

An extra constable is required at Kaitaia.

The time has now arrived when a sub-district should be created on the northern side of the Hokianga Harbour (dividing Rawene), and the stationing of a constable in that locality considered, to expedite police duty in that region.

I have previously reported on the necessity for reopening the Kamo Police-station. A reliable constable stationed there would be a valuable addition to the strength of the district.

Forgery and false pretences show a marked increase, but one individual was responsible for practically all the offences reported. Receiving stolen property also shows increase, but again the charges concerned only two or three persons. Breach of the peace, drunkenness, and unlawfully using horses or motor-cars all show increases, but through no special cause. Offences under the Destitute Persons Act show a decrease possibly due to better times financially. The detection of the illegal supply of liquor to Natives was successful during the past year, and the convictions entered will probably have the desired effect. Breaches of the Licensing Act generally show an increase, but this may only be a sign of better times.

On 9th June, 1936, at Waihou Valley an elderly and prosperous farmer named Ernest Severin Nelson was murdered (by shooting with a 12 gauge shot-gun) in his own driveway about 100 yards from the Main North Road. The crime was committed in the darkness of the early evening, and the criminal made good his escape, leaving no clue. A strong body of police was soon on the scene, and exhaustive inquiries were made over a period of six months. A substantial reward was offered, but so far the murderer has not been apprehended. The locality of the crime and surrounding circumstances suggest that the murder had been planned.

The conduct of the members of the Force in the district has been satisfactory, with three exceptions.

SUPERINTENDENT TILL, AUCKLAND DISTRICT.

Subdistricts were formed and stations opened at Surfdale and Manurewa.

Kerepehi (one constable), Paeroa (two constables), and Waihi (one senior sergeant and four constables) were transferred to Hamilton Police District.

Huntly and Ellerslie stations were placed in charge of sergeants.

The offences return shows increases in drunkenness, being found in gaming-house, selling liquor after hours, and breaches of the Motor-vehicles Act. There were decreases in theft, false pretences, house-breaking, and failing to maintain. The total number of offences for the year 1936 was 7,262, as against 7,237 for the previous year. There were 690 undetected offences. The increases indicate that there was more money being spent in drink, gambling, and motoring.

Seven constables were dealt with for nine breaches of the Police Regulations.

The good conduct of members of the Force in this district has been well maintained.

On visits of inspection members of the Force were found to be smart and tidy in appearance and all police records properly kept. The buildings and premises were clean and tidy.

INSPECTOR LOPDELL, HAMILTON DISTRICT.

The authorized strength of seventy-three is ten in excess of the authorized strength on the 31st March, 1936; this is accounted for by the transfer of Waihi Station, with five men, Paeroa with two men, and Kerepehi with one man, from Auckland District to Hamilton District during the year, and also four men being added to the strength at Rotorua Station. One detective was transferred and not replaced, and one constable withdrawn from Putaruru Station.

An increase of one constable is required in each of the following stations: Te Kuiti, which is on the main Auckland-Wellington highway, and requires a constable on duty during the night, which the present staff does not permit; Frankton Junction, where the present staff is not sufficient to attend to important trains and also beat duty; and Tauranga, where a growing population and the popularity of Mount Maunganui as a holiday resort has created a demand greater than the present staff can cope with. Hamilton town is expanding rapidly, requiring greater supervision and inquiry duties. I require at least three extra constables for beat duty and one constable for inquiry duty; total of four. The detective office requires another man experienced in country work. These eight men will only meet our needs under existing hours of work.

The work in the district office now requires the services of a third clerk.

During the year ending 31st December, 1936, the offences reported were 2,870, against 2,114 for the previous year. The chief increases were—false pretences, petty theft, theft as a servant, common assault, indecent assault, drunkenness, found unlawfully on licensed premises, breaches of prohibition orders, intoxicated in charge of cars, reckless driving, and other motor breaches. These account for 610 of the 756 increase during the year.

I regret having to again draw attention to the number of persons charged with being intoxicated while being in charge of motor-vehicles. Last year there were thirty-three charges, this year eighty-four charges (four of these were dismissed). There is no evidence that this ascending scale has abated. When it is realized that these eighty convicted drivers are only a portion of such offenders on the road, and they are confined to this one Hamilton District, some idea of the danger to the orderly users of the roads will be realized. This record bears an intimate relationship to the increases during the same period of drunkenness from 222 charges to 472 charges, and other liquor offences, all of which point to where safety measures should begin.

There has been no serious crime during the year.

The conduct of the Police Force in this district throughout the year has been excellent. All ranks have co-operated in a splendid way. Only one minor breach of discipline was dealt with.

I think that the sale of liquor exempted from the operation of the Licensing Act, by section 3c, should be brought under regulation. At the present time a person, other than one having a wine-maker's license, under the Amendment Act of 1914, section 11, can sell quantities of these liquors exceeding two gallons at a time, at any time or place unrestricted. This is the cause of much of our trouble with liquor at country dances.

INSPECTOR EDWARDS, GISBORNE DISTRICT.

There has been an increase of three constables since last year—viz., two for beat duty at Gisborne and one at Bartletts.

The time has arrived when a police-station should be opened at Te Kaha and a regular constable placed in charge. The work there has been increasing each year, and a full-time constable is now required. Te Kaha is forty-seven miles from Opotiki and fifty miles from Te Araroa, which are the two adjoining subdistricts.

Some assistance is also necessary for the constables at Ruatorea and Tikitiki, the work at both stations having increased to such an extent as to occupy the men's time from early morning until late at night.

As the population at both Whakatane and Opotiki increases so the volume of police work becomes greater, and the time has arrived when consideration should be given to the appointment of an additional constable at each of these two stations.

A new station was opened on 12th November, 1936, at Bartletts, on the Napier-Gisborne railway-construction works, and an unmarried constable placed in charge.

The offences return for the year ending 31st December, 1936, showed a total of 1,171 offences reported, as compared with 1,106 the previous year, an increase of 65. Arrests or summonses resulted in 1,113 cases, leaving 58 undetected. Of the cases dealt with, 38 were committed for trial or sentence, 32 of these being convicted.

The most noticeable increases were in assault, carnally knowing girls, petty theft, theft of animals, disorderly behaviour and breaches of the peace, drunkenness, unlawfully using horses, motor-cars, &c., found on licensed premises after closing-hours, and reckless or negligent driving under Motor-vehicles Act.

The most noticeable decreases were false pretences, house or shop breaking, forgery, and failing to maintain.

The district has been free from crime of a serious nature during the year. There is a noticeable increase in carnal-knowledge cases, but in these cases the majority of the parties concerned were Maoris.

With the exception of one constable convicted for a breach of the Police Regulations and two who were dismissed, the conduct of the members of the Force has been very good during the past year.

INSPECTOR FITZPATRICK, NAPIER DISTRICT.

On the 31st March last the authorized strength of the Force in this district was sixty, being an increase of two, due to the appointment of a detective sergeant and a constable at Hastings. The additional appointments have filled a long-felt want.

I would recommend the increase of a second constable at Waipukurau, owing to the size of the town and business area, and that large stock sales are held weekly. Very often the officer in charge is absent from the town engaged on country inquiries, and the town is left without police protection. There is sufficient work for two constables at Waipukurau.

For the year ending 31st December, 1936, the total number of offences reported was 1,673, an increase on the previous year of 234.

The principal increases were house or shop breaking, &c., drunkenness, selling liquor at unauthorized times, found on licensed premises after closing-hours, being intoxicated in charge of a motor-vehicle, and other breaches of Motor-vehicles Act.

The principal decreases were theft, receiving property dishonestly obtained, forgery, mischief, and breaches of the peace.

The increase in offences relating to house or shop breaking, &c., were due to the activity of three separate gangs of criminals, who were all arrested and are now serving various terms of imprisonment for their respective crimes. In respect to offences relating to drunkenness, being on licensed premises after closing-hours, and selling at unauthorized times, the increase no doubt is due to the fact that there is more money in circulation than formerly. The principal offences committed under the Motor-vehicles Act, I submit, were solely caused by careless driving.

The only serious crime committed in the district during the year was that which led to the arrest of a woman on seven charges of having used an instrument with intent to procure a miscarriage in each case. After the fourth trial, in which the jury again failed to agree, the Crown filed a stay of proceedings.

With the exception of two constables who were dismissed and one constable who voluntarily resigned, the conduct of the members of the Force has been excellent, and a high standard of efficiency maintained.

INSPECTOR POWELL, NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT.

The offences return for the year ending 1936 shows a total of all offences committed to be 1,401, compared with 1,295 offences for the previous year, being an increase of 106 offences. Of the number reported, 1,358 were accounted for by arrest or summons, equal to 96.93 per cent.

The principal increases in crime are theft and offences under the Motor-vehicles Act.

The conduct of the police has been very good during the year. It was not necessary to deal with any member of the Force for breaches of the regulations.

The duties have been performed in a satisfactory manner; the uniform and detective branches of the Service have worked harmoniously together.

In my last report I drew attention to the necessity of increasing the strength of the Force by four constables and one detective at New Plymouth, an extra constable at Hawera, and at Waitara. The strength of New Plymouth has been increased by an extra detective sergeant and Waitara by an extra constable.

I would again draw attention to the necessity of the extra help asked for at New Plymouth and at Hawera.

I also have to ask for an increase of staff at Moturoa by an extra constable. The amount of duty performed by the present constable there at the wharf attending to shipping does not give him much time to attend to other matters in his subdistrict.

INSPECTOR LANDER, WANGANUI DISTRICT.

I consider that the time has arrived when the strength should be increased. One additional constable is urgently required at Taumarunui, one at Patea, and two at Wanganui. An additional sergeant and detective at Wanganui could also be kept fully employed. The reason for the suggested increase at Taumarunui and Patea is on account of the increase of population in both towns and general necessity for maintaining a more constant street patrol. In Wanganui City the increase is required to cope with the many extra duties now requiring attention. Owing to the incidence of sickness and the working-off of annual leave I find that the present strength is at times dangerously low. The appointment of an additional motor-patrol constable would, I consider, give much needed relief and would provide a mobile unit that could be fully and effectively employed. It is a vital necessity now to provide a more effective patrol of country roads. The other additional constable asked for would be detailed for beat duty.

The offences return for the year ended 31st December, 1936, shows a total of 1,204 offences reported, as compared with 1,180 for the previous year, an increase of 24. Of the total reported 1,129 were accounted for by arrest or summons.

The principal increases were assault, drunkenness, failing to maintain wives and children, selling or supplying liquor at unauthorized times, found on licensed premises after closing-hours, and reckless or negligent driving.

The principal decreases were indecent assault, theft, false pretences, and house or shop breaking. The increase in drunkenness may be ascribed to one effect of improved conditions, drunkards being in possession of more money. The decreases in offences of acts of dishonesty is a satisfactory feature of the return. This probably is caused also by the improved conditions in the community generally.

One attempted murder was dealt with during the year. The trial of the accused resulted in an acquittal. No injury was done to the person against whom the attempt was made. Other offences of breaking and entering and thefts committed by prisoners confined in prison camps at National Park caused a good deal of inquiry, but they were satisfactorily dealt with.

The conduct of the police in the district during the year was good, one constable only being dealt with for a breach of regulations.

INSPECTOR CUMMINGS, PALMERSTON NORTH DISTRICT.

The authorized strength of the district was increased by one constable in October, 1936, by the appointment of an additional constable at Foxton, this being necessary on account of the revival of the flax-milling and textile industries there.

I submit that the time has arrived when the strength at Palmerston North Station should be increased. One additional sergeant is required for duty at Central Station for adequate supervision and relieving duty. Three additional constables are required for duty at the Central Station, two for night duty and one for day duty, in order to cope with the many duties requiring the attention of the police. A sergeant is also required to take charge at Pahiatua, where at present two constables are stationed. On the eastern side of the Manawatu River there is no non-commissioned officer,[§] and Woodville, Pahiatua, and Eketahuna districts are controlled by constables. The population on this side of the river is increasing and warrants a sergeant being stationed there.

The question of appointing a sergeant at Otaki or Levin will have to be considered, owing to the increased population and business activities in these towns. At present there is no sergeant stationed between Wellington and Palmerston North. There is also to be considered the question of appointing a sergeant at Marton at an early date in view of the increased population and business activities there and the fact that, in the near future, a constable will have to be stationed at Marton Junction, or an extra constable attached to Marton, to attend to the wants of 1,022 residents at the railway junction.

The police continue to do a considerable amount of work for other Departments, the cost of which comes out of the Police vote. I submit that the time has arrived when the police should be relieved of some of this work, as the Departments concerned have their own officers at places where the police are called upon to perform duties that could well be carried out by the officers of the Department concerned.

The offences return for the year ended 31st December, 1936, contains a total of 1,464 offences reported, against a total of 1,669 for the previous year, a decrease of 205. Of the total reported, 1,369 were accounted for by arrest or summons. The principal increases were misleading Employment Officer for sustenance, being intoxicated in charge of a motor-vehicle, reckless or negligent driving of motor-vehicles, and other breaches of the Motor-vehicles Act. The principal decreases were simple thefts, false pretences, unlawfully using motor-vehicles, and breaches of Arms Act.

The increases in reckless and negligent driving and other similar offences is no doubt due to the vigilance of the police and their endeavours to prevent the toll of the road that has been so much in evidence. I am pleased to say that there has been a decrease in the number of motor accidents this past few months.

The decrease in the offences mentioned is probably due to the improved conditions in the country.

During the year there was one serious assault and robbery in the district. The offender was arrested, due to efficient police service and the use of the motor patrol, and was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment.

On the 17th April, 1936, a young woman, returning from a dance, was knocked down and killed by a motor-cyclist, who was subsequently charged with causing her death by negligently or recklessly driving a motor-cycle, and convicted and sentenced to six months' reformatory detention.

The night patrol on bicycles in this city has proved very satisfactory and has justified the expense; I attribute the decrease in thefts to its efficiency.

During the year the conduct of the police was quite satisfactory, only one constable having to be dealt with for a breach of the regulations.

A satisfactory standard of efficiency has been maintained. Both branches of the service have performed good work.

The amendments provided in the Statutes Amendment Act, 1936, dealing with section 216 of the Crimes Act, 1908, extending the time for laying informations, persons committed for trial being able to plead guilty before trial at the Supreme Court, and the procedure on charge of offences against corporations will be of considerable assistance.

The repealing of speed-limits at intersections under Regulation 15 of the Motor-vehicle Regulations of 28th February, 1933, has somewhat curtailed the powers of the police in proving speeding at intersections and negligent driving.

Since the Supreme Court decision in the case *Clements v. McGee* the duty of the prosecution under section 28 of the Motor-vehicles Act was a very much lighter one than under the present Act or regulations. It is clear that a good deal more evidence is now required to sustain a charge of negligent driving or speeding at intersections.

SUPERINTENDENT FRASER, WELLINGTON DISTRICT.

Since a new police-station has been opened for the Oriental Bay subdistrict there have been very few complaints of the larrikin type causing annoyance to the residents of this suburb. Unfortunately, up to the present, the Department has not been successful in securing a house in this subdistrict. The Oriental Bay Police Office is in the meantime at the Taranaki Street Station.

An increase in the actual strength of the Wellington Police district is urgently needed. The time has now arrived when a new station should be opened at Northland. This is a large suburban area and cannot be properly supervised from the adjoining suburban stations. A rearrangement of the

boundaries reducing the size of Karori and Tinakori Road districts and the inclusion of the areas so lost to these districts in a newly-formed Northland district would result in all the constables being fully employed. At the present time both Tinakori Road and Karori districts are too large for efficient control by one constable at each station.

An additional constable is required at Kilbirnie. This district has grown during the past few years, and it includes Hataitai and Evans Bay. This bay is a favourite resort for bathing, &c., and in my opinion should receive more police attention. The present staff is not sufficient to cope with the work.

Another constable is required at Wellington South.

I also recommend increasing the strength of Petone and Lower Hutt Stations, one constable to be added to the strength of each station.

Two additional men are required for the detective staff and at least seven more constables are required at the Central Station. On account of relieving duty, escort duty, sickness, and leave of absence we are continually short of men and the regular beats are very seldom fully manned. This shortage of staff does not allow either for the making of any new beats or for the shortening of the present long beats.

I beg to recommend that a new motor-car be added to the present fleet of four vehicles, which number is made up of one Vauxhall car, a Ford V8 car, an old Ford car, and an old converted Austin van. It frequently occurs that all three cars are in use at the one time, and if another car is required urgently one must be hired.

The barracks for single men at the Central Station require a good deal of alteration and reconstruction in order to provide additional bedrooms, offices, lockers, and library. There is insufficient sleeping accommodation for the single men. A number of constables stationed at Central Station are sleeping at Taranaki Street Station, and these men come to Central Station for meals and to do duty. Fifteen additional bedrooms can be provided by making the necessary alterations.

The Taranaki Street Station is urgently in need of renovation.

At Mount Cook Police Station two and three men are sleeping in one room, and the offices are overcrowded. I would suggest a start be made with the new building at the earliest possible date.

During the year the general conduct of the members of the Force has been good and their duties have been satisfactorily performed. The detectives have worked hard and have put in long hours. They have carried out their work efficiently, and both branches of the Service have worked exceedingly well together. During the year lectures were given on the subjects of general police duty and the use of firearms.

The total number of offences reported during the year ended 31st December, 1936, was 6,266, compared with 5,817 for the previous twelve months, the increase being 449.

Of all offences reported, 5,928 were accounted for by arrests or summonses being issued, the undetected offences numbering 338. Of the cases dealt with, 149 males and 12 females were committed for trial or sentence, and of those so committed 104 males and one female were convicted.

The serious crimes committed during the year were one of attempted murder and one of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm by discharging a firearm. In the former case a farmer of Carterton was accosted on his farm by a man who discharged a firearm at him, wounding him in the face and neck; the offender is known, but has not yet been located. In the latter case a youth of seventeen years threatened to shoot his mother, who took shelter in a room. The offender fired at her through the door, wounding his grandfather. He was dealt with at the Children's Court, the charge being amended from one of attempted murder to one of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

INSPECTOR LEWIN, NELSON DISTRICT.

The strength of the Force in this district was increased by three during the year—an additional constable for Motueka, and a detective and one constable for Nelson Station. The additional constable for Nelson Station now permits a day watchhouse-keeper, whereas there was none previously, but two further constables are required for this station to enable a constable to be on duty in the watchhouse for the full twenty-four hours.

An additional constable is required for Blenheim Station; the present staff cannot adequately cope with all the calls made upon them, and, as a consequence, the streets are frequently left without a constable to patrol them.

Regarding the necessity for the opening of a station at Renwicktown, I should be pleased if the matter of having a constable permanently stationed there could now be considered.

For the year ending 31st December, 1936, the total number of offences reported was 788, compared with 931 for the previous twelve months, being a decrease of 143. Of all offences reported, 733 (93 per cent.) were accounted for by arrest or summons, leaving 55 (7 per cent.) undetected.

There were decreases in persons found on licensed premises after hours, selling liquor after hours, indecently assaulting a male, assault, false pretences, burglary, receiving stolen property, default of maintenance, and unlawful conversion of motor-cars. There were increases in drunkenness, negligent driving of motor-cars, theft, and breaches of the peace.

The conduct of the police during the year has been good, and the duties have been performed in a satisfactory manner.

The following suggestions are forwarded for consideration:—

Section 36 (1) (a) of the Animals Protection and Game Act, 1921–22, empowers a Magistrate only to issue a warrant to enter premises for the purpose of detecting an offence. In some towns of a fairly large population—for example, Blenheim—there is no resident Magistrate, and the police are at a disadvantage when a warrant is required urgently. If a Justice of the Peace had the authority to issue the necessary warrant, offenders could be detected with greater celerity, as there is usually in many cases considerable delay in locating the Magistrate when required.

The Stock Amendment Act, 1930, section 2 (1), in its present state provides too many avenues for obtaining permits to remove stock at night. This power should be limited to a Justice, constable,

or Inspector under the Act, with a provision that a duplicate of the permit should be delivered to the nearest police-station where it was issued, and that it be the duty of the person conveying the stock to have the permit with him, and obligatory to report and produce the permit at the nearest police-station to the place of delivery.

Section 20 of the Motor-vehicles Act, 1924, provides a penalty of £5 for any person not the holder of a motor-driver's license found operating a motor-vehicle. An offender, who is deliberately operating a motor-vehicle during the period of disqualification from holding a license, has to be dealt with, at present, under the same section as an offender who has failed to procure or renew his license. In a recent case of the kind in this district the Magistrate remarked that it appeared strange that no provision had been made to deal with more severity with an offender operating a motor-vehicle during the period of disqualification.

The amendment of last year to the Motor-vehicles Act, 1924, permits only trial on indictment of "hit-and-run" motorists. It would be only in exceptionally gross cases that a jury would convict an offending motorist for this offence. I feel sure that if the law were amended in a similar manner to the "unlawful conversion" provisions of the Police Offences Amendment Act, 1935, that substantial justice would be much more likely to result.

Another matter that might be considered is the amending of the Justices of the Peace Act, 1927, by giving the Crown the right to lodge a "general appeal" in cases where a miscarriage of justice has resulted from a Magistrate's erroneous decision on "facts." At present offenders have a much wider right of appeal than the Crown has.

INSPECTOR SCOTT, GREYMOUTH DISTRICT.

I recommend that a detective be appointed to Greymouth to assist the detective sergeant.

I also recommend that a station be opened at Bruce Bay on account of the increase in population in South Westland due to a large programme of public works, including roads and bridges, now in hand, and the development of sawmilling, farming, and mining industries which are increasing in that district. The nearest police-station, Matainui, is sixty-six miles away.

The offences return for the year ended 31st December, 1936, shows a total of 997, against 880 for the previous year, an increase of 117 offences. Of all offences reported, 917 were dealt with by arrest or summons.

The principal increases were in thefts (undescribed), failing to maintain wives and children, persons found illegally on licensed premises, breaches of the Arms Act, and breaches of the Motor-vehicles Act.

The principal decreases were in breaches of the peace, thefts by clerks or servants, and failing to comply with conditions of probation.

No serious crimes were reported during the year.

The general conduct of the police in this district during the year was very good, and their work and general efficiency up to the required standard. There were no defaulters.

SUPERINTENDENT CAMERON, CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT.

The total number of offences reported during the year is 4,177, compared with 3,616 reported during the previous year. Increases appear in the following cases: False statements, theft, house and shop breaking, mischief, and drunkenness.

The increase in the number of persons charged with drunkenness is, no doubt, due to the improved financial condition of the country, and the same conditions probably account for the decrease in the number of persons charged with failing to pay on maintenance orders. The only offences involving death were the negligent driving of motor-cars and abortion.

The conduct of members of the Force generally has been good. One constable was dismissed, and in seven other cases constables were convicted of breaches of the Police Regulations and fined. Good feeling exists between the members of the uniform and detective branches of the Service. The majority of the men show a very keen interest in their work, also ability. The work of several of the detectives is deserving of the highest praise. The restoration of full salary and wages and authority to form a police association are much appreciated.

I respectfully suggest that an amendment to the Justices of the Peace Act, 1927, giving power to search for evidence where an offence has been committed, would be of advantage. Under section 365 (1) (a) and (b) of the Crimes Act, 1908, provision is made for such a warrant where a crime has been committed.

INSPECTOR SHANAHAN, TIMARU DISTRICT.

I again recommend that the establishment of a police-station in the south end of the town, at Salt-water Creek, receive consideration. I consider that, owing to the founding of a commercial aerodrome and the increase of population in that area, a station is warranted there.

The general conduct of the members of the Force in the Timaru District during the year ended 31st March, 1937, has been good, and no breaches of Police Regulations were dealt with. Police duties have been efficiently and satisfactorily carried out.

The total number of offences reported for the year ended 31st December, 1936, was 678, being one less than the preceding year. The principal increases were in respect of offences relating to indecent and unnatural acts by males, thefts from dwellings, false pretences and obtaining credit by fraud, unlawful conversion of motor-vehicles, and persons being intoxicated while in charge of motor-vehicles.

The principal decreases are in respect of offences relating to theft, house and shop breaking, and vagrancy.

During the year under review three offenders were successfully prosecuted for thefts of wool. For some considerable time past systematic thefts of wool were being perpetrated throughout the district, and the apprehension and conviction of the offenders were very satisfactory.

SUPERINTENDENT RAWLE, DUNEDIN DISTRICT.

An increase of one sergeant and five constables above the authorized strength is required—viz., the sergeant for relieving in cases of sickness, annual leave, and inquiries; one constable for Mosgiel; one for North Dunedin; and three for Central Station to man an additional proposed beat in the reclaimed area where warehouses, oil-tanks, and various businesses are at present without protection, and to keep the night-duty beats fully manned, which cannot be done under the present strength due to sickness, leave, and relieving duties.

One new station was opened at Maori Hill, but no stations were closed during the year. Proposals to remove Ophir Station to Omakau and St. Bathans to Oturua have been made. In each case this course is necessary on account of shifting populations.

The annual offences return for the year ending 31st December, 1936, discloses that 2,951 offences were reported, as against 2,882 for the previous year, being an increase of 69 offences. Of the number of offences reported, 2,836 persons were arrested or brought up on summons, leaving 115 undetected offences, being approximately 96·1 per cent. detected and 3·9 per cent. undetected.

Of those charged, 73 males were committed for trial, &c., and of these 61 were convicted of the offences with which they were charged.

Male persons numbering 2,601 and females numbering 56 were summarily convicted, while cases against 102 males and 4 females were dismissed.

The principal increases were thefts from dwellings, mischief, reckless driving, and other breaches of Motor-vehicles Act.

The decreases were in assault, thefts, breaches of Destitute Persons Act, and the Licensing Act.

There were two persons charged with murder, both of whom were acquitted, one being found insane.

A man and his wife were murdered at Ravensbourne by their son aged twenty-two years, who was acquitted on the grounds of insanity and committed to the mental hospital.

A man was charged with murdering another at Balclutha, and after a trial lasting one week was acquitted by the jury. The facts were that accused and his two brothers tried to force their way through the victim's property, when the latter, his wife, and son tried to stop them. In the fracas which followed deceased was struck over the head, his skull was fractured, and he later died.

There was one case of manslaughter at Palmerston South. A man fatally kicked another on the head during a drunken brawl, and was convicted at Dunedin in October last.

The increase in reckless driving and in other breaches of the Motor-vehicles Act is no doubt caused by the increased number of vehicles using the highways due to more prosperous times, whilst the principal decreases—thief and offences under Destitute Persons Act—are due to more work being available and sustenance being provided to those in want.

The general conduct of the police during the year has been good, all members taking a keen interest in their duties, which have been satisfactorily performed.

Six constables were dealt with during the year for minor breaches of the regulations, fines being inflicted in each case.

During the year there has been inaugurated a class on criminal investigation in all its aspects, the presentation of criminal cases in Court, criminal law, and evidence. These are conducted by the Chief Detective twice weekly for the detective staff, and a number of the uniform branch have also taken advantage of these lectures when room and time permits.

This should prove of benefit both to the Department and to members of the Force.

I recommend that Motor Regulation 14 (5), 1933, now repealed, be included in the regulations, 1936, as it is necessary to control parking in hilly streets surrounding the city.

Recently an accident which ended fatally was due to a cyclist colliding with a motor-car door opened on the right-hand side.

I recommend a regulation prohibiting the opening of right-hand doors in main thoroughfares.

INSPECTOR GIBSON, INVERCARGILL DISTRICT.

I would strongly recommend that an extra constable be stationed at Gore for beat duty and to assist in relieving men on annual leave. At present there are for many months only two men for beat duty, due to one man having to relieve at country stations.

The offences return for the year shows a total of 1,133 offences reported, a decrease of 23 on the previous year's figures; arrests or summonses resulted in 1,051 cases. The principal decrease was in thefts, this no doubt being due to better times. An increase of drunkenness, also an increase of persons found illegally on licensed premises, are no doubt due to the same reason.

During the year a young man was killed by shooting. The offender, a bank clerk, was charged with murder and manslaughter, but was acquitted. The deceased with three others were invited into bank premises by two clerks, and while there drinking was indulged in. About 4 a.m. some altercation took place, and one of the clerks fired three shots, killing the young man referred to. The accused was only seventeen years of age, and with another youth of twenty years was left in charge of the bank with a revolver each. These youths were too young and inexperienced to be left in charge of revolvers.

There has been no noticeable increase in crime during the year.

The conduct of the members of the Force during the year was good. One constable was fined for breaches of the regulations and transferred.

I again recommend that section 80 of the Stock Act be amended to give power to the police to lay informations. This is essential, particularly where persons are found unlawfully driving or carrying stock during the night.

APPENDIX A.

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES REPORTED, THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES FOR WHICH PERSONS WERE APPREHENDED OR SUMMONED, AND COMPARISON OF CRIME DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1935, AND YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1936.

Offences.	1935.	1936.										Increase or Decrease in Number of Offences reported.	
	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests or Sum- monses resulted.	Results of Cases in which Persons were apprehended or summoned. (Charges against Males and Females separately.)						Number of Convictions amongst those committed for Trial.		Increase.	Decrease.
				Committed for Trial.		Summarily convicted.		Dismissed.					
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
CRIMES AND JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ACTS, ETC.													
<i>Misleading Justice.</i>													
Perjury and false oaths	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
False statements and declarations ..	31	94	94	5	1	76	2	10	..	4	1	63	..
<i>Escapes and Rescues.</i>													
Breaking prison	1	3	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Escaping from prison or lawful custody	10	19	14	3	..	11	..	..	..	3	..	9	..
Assisting or aiding escape from prison or lawful custody	1	4	4	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	3	..
<i>Offences against Religion.</i>													
Disturbing public worship	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Offences against Morality.</i>													
Unnatural offence	7	16	16	12	..	4	..	..	..	11	..	9	..
Unnatural offence, attempted ..	1	8	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	7	..
Unnatural offence, assault with intent to commit	7	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	5
Indecently assaulting a male ..	47	66	65	59	..	3	..	3	..	51	..	19	..
Incest	21	13	12	10	..	1	..	1	..	6	..	..	8
Indecent acts	32	11	10	1	..	9	..	..	..	1	..	..	21
Publishing obscene matter	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
<i>Offences against the Person, &c.</i>													
Murder	11	8	4	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
Murder, attempted	6	5	4	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	1
Manslaughter	5	3	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2
Suicide, attempted	73	94	94	2	1	58	29	2	2	2	1	21	..
Suicide, aiding and abetting ..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Concealment of birth	1	3	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..
Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..
Endangering safety of persons on rail- ways or tramways	2	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Putting explosive substances in places with intent to do bodily harm	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Administering poison or other noxious things with intent to injure or annoy	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..
Assault causing actual bodily harm ..	16	20	18	12	1	1	1	3	..	7	1	4	..
Causing actual bodily harm under circumstances that, if death had been caused, would be manslaughter	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Assault, indecent	130	133	118	64	..	44	..	10	..	54	..	3	..
Assault with intent to commit a crime	2	20	15	11	..	3	..	1	..	10	..	18	..
Assault	490	600	577	5	..	507	15	44	6	3	..	110	..
Rape	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Rape, attempted	7	5	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	2
Carnally knowing girls under sixteen years	86	74	73	54	..	15	..	4	..	47	..	..	12
Carnally know girls under sixteen years, attempts to	14	17	17	9	..	7	..	1	..	7	..	3	..
Carnally knowing idiots or imbecile women	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Abortion, procuring	5	6	6	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..
Abortion, supplying means of procuring	13	5	5	3	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	8
Bigamy	13	10	10	8	2	..	..	..	..	7	1	..	3
Abduction	2	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Stealing children under fourteen years	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

APPENDIX A—continued.

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES REPORTED, THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES FOR WHICH PERSONS WERE APPREHENDED OR SUMMONED, AND COMPARISON OF CRIME DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1935, AND YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1936—continued.

Offences.	1935.	1936.										Increase or Decrease in Number of Offences reported.	
	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of all Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests or Summonses resulted.	Results of Cases in which Persons were apprehended or summoned. (Charges against Males and Females separately.)						Number of Convictions amongst those committed for Trial.			
				Committed for Trial.		Summarily convicted.		Dismissed.					
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Increase.	Decrease.
Offences against Rights of Property.													
Theft (undescribed)	6,289	6,120	4,665	85	2	4,023	310	222	23	77	2	..	169
Theft, attempted	42	20	18	..	..	15	..	3	..	..	..	..	22
Theft from the person	10	12	7	3	..	3	..	1	..	2	..	2	..
Theft from dwellings	349	289	149	49	10	78	2	9	1	33	9	..	60
Theft from dwellings, attempted	17	14	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Theft by clerks or servants	67	106	104	29	..	69	2	4	..	27	..	39	..
Theft of animals (specified)	87	84	76	14	..	50	1	11	..	7	..	..	3
Theft of animals, attempted	2	3	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
False pretences	915	696	656	68	2	501	44	37	4	56	2	..	219
False pretences, attempted	24	23	21	2	..	13	4	2	..	1	..	..	1
Obtaining credit by fraud	159	120	116	2	..	88	12	13	1	2	..	..	39
False accounting by officials or clerks	6	14	14	2	..	12	..	..	..	1	..	8	..
Conspiracy to defraud	41	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Fortune-telling or practising witchcraft	17	19	19	8	..	8	2	..	1	8	..	2	..
Robbery and aggravated robbery	7	9	8	7	..	1	..	..	..	7	..	2	..
Assault with intent to rob	14	7	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	7
Demanding with intent to steal	6	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	5
Burglary	123	92	64	26	1	32	..	5	..	22	1	..	31
Burglary, attempted	3	5	4	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
House or shop breaking, &c.	1,136	904	672	342	..	309	2	19	..	304	..	..	232
House or shop breaking, &c., attempted	63	62	34	22	..	8	..	3	1	18	..	..	1
Being found in dwellinghouse by night	4	2	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Being disguised or in possession of housebreaking implements	..	4	4	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
Receiving property dishonestly obtained	215	166	166	24	2	100	7	32	1	11	1	..	49
Forgery	134	89	82	68	2	7	1	3	1	62	1	..	45
Uttering forged documents or false certificates	56	15	10	7	..	2	..	..	1	7	..	..	41
Sending false telegram	1	4	4	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	3	..
Procuring execution of document by false pretences	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Counterfeiting stamps	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Personation	1	3	3	1	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	2	..
Arson	25	15	14	13	..	..	..	1	..	13	..	..	10
Arson, attempted	5	4	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1
Setting fire to crops, attempted	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wilfully placing obstruction on railways	12	5	5	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Placing explosive with intent to destroy buildings, ships, &c.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Mischief	606	613	594	2	..	553	10	27	2	2	..	7	..
Mischief on railways and tramways	24	15	15	..	..	12	..	3	..	..	..	..	9
Possessing or making explosive substance, &c., with intent thereby to commit a crime	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Threatening acts with intent to intimidate	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
POLICE OFFENCES ACT.													
Breach of the peace or behaviour with intent	497	480	483	..	..	418	11	53	1	..	..	..	17
Cruelty to animals	82	79	77	..	..	58	..	17	2	..	..	..	3
Drunkenness	2,995	3,980	3,980	..	..	3,836	136	7	1	..	..	985	..
Drunk while in charge of horses, &c., or loaded firearms	16	22	22	..	..	21	..	1	..	..	..	6	..
Drunk and disorderly	159	184	184	..	..	172	6	6	..	..	..	25	..
Soliciting prostitution	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Exposure of person and grossly indecent acts	166	202	166	1	..	158	1	6	..	1	..	36	..
Using profane, indecent, or obscene language	426	436	429	..	..	384	23	18	4	..	..	10	..
Vagrancy (idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, and incorrigible rogues)	321	207	207	..	..	134	40	25	8	..	..	..	114
Assaulting, obstructing, or resisting constables, &c.	105	107	107	..	..	97	2	7	1	..	..	2	..
Intimidation to restrict lawful acts	2	28	28	..	..	8	..	20	..	..	..	26	..
Inciting violence, disorder, or lawlessness	4	6	6	..	..	4	2	..	..	..	..	2	..

APPENDIX B.

RETURN SHOWING THE STRENGTH AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEW ZEALAND POLICE FORCE ON THE
31ST MARCH, 1937.

Stations.	Superin- tendents.	Inspectors.	Sub- Inspectors.	Senior Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Temporary Constables.	Senior Detectives.	Detective- sergeants.	Detectives.	Total.	District Constables.	Native Constables.
Whangarei District—													
Whangarei ..	1			1	1	11			1		15		
Dargaville ..					1	2					3		
Hikurangi ..						1					1		
Houhora ..						1					1		
Kaikohe ..						2					2		
Kaitaia ..					1	1					2		
Kawakawa ..						1					1		
Mangonui ..						1					1		
Maungaturoto ..						1					1		
Ohaeawai ..						2					2		
Rawene ..						1					1		
Ruawai ..						1					1		
Russell ..						1					1		
Waipu ..						1					1		
Whangaroa ..						1					1		
Totals ..	1			1	3	27	1		1		34		
Auckland District—													
Auckland ..	1	2	1	2	8	80	16	1	2	24	137		
Avondale ..						1					1		
Balmoral ..						1					1		
Birkenhead ..						1					1		
Coromandel ..						1					1		
Devonport ..					1	4					5		
Ellerslie ..					1	3					4		
Epsom ..						1					1		
Freeman's Bay ..					1	5					6		
Grey Lynn ..						1					1		
Helensville ..						1					1		
Henderson ..						1					1		
Howick ..						1					1		
Huntly ..					1	2					3		
Kingsland ..						1					1		
Kohimarama ..						1					1		
Manurewa ..						1					1		
Mercer ..						1					1		
Mount Albert ..						2					2		
Mount Eden ..					1	9					10		
Mt. Eden (South) ..						1					1		
Mount Roskill ..						1					1		
New Lynn ..						1					1		
Newmarket ..				1	2	13					16		
Newton ..				1	3	17	1				22		
Northcote ..						1					1		
Onehunga ..					1	6					7		
Otahuhu ..					1	3	1				5		
Papakura ..						2					2		
Papatoetoe ..						1					1		
Parnell ..					1	2					3		
Point Chevalier ..						1					1		
Ponsonby ..						1	4				5		
Port Fitzroy (Great Barrier) ..											2		
Pukekohe ..					1	2					3		
Queen St. Wharf (A) ..					1	10					11		
Remuera ..						2					2		
Surfdale ..						1					1		
Takapuna ..						2					2		
Thames ..					1	4					5		
Thames South ..						1					1		
Tuakau ..						1					1		
Waiuku ..						1					1		
Warkworth ..						1					1		
Wellsford ..						1					1		
Whitianga ..						1					1		
Totals ..	1	2	1	4	25	198	18	1	2	24	276	2	
Hamilton District—													
Hamilton ..	1			1	2	18			1	1	24		
Cambridge ..						2					2		
Frankton Junction ..					1	3					4		
Hamilton East ..						1					1		
Katikati ..						1					1		
Kawhia ..						1					1		
Kerepehi ..						1					1		
Kihikihi ..						1					1		
Matamata ..						1					1		
Morrinsville ..						2					2		
Hamilton District— continued.													
Ngaruawahia ..						2					2		
Otorohanga ..						1					1		
Paeroa ..						2					2		
Putaruru ..						1					1		
Raglan ..						1					1		
Rotorua ..				1	1	8					10		
Taupo ..						1					1		
Tauranga ..					1	2					3		
Te Aroha ..						2					2		
Te Awamutu ..						2					2		
Te Kuiti ..					1	3					4		
Te Puke ..						1					1		
Te Whaiti ..												1	
Tokaanu ..						1					1		
Waihi ..					1	4					5		
Totals ..	1			3	6	62				1	74	1	
Gisborne District—													
Gisborne ..	1			1	1	14				2	19		
Bartletts ..						1					1		
Kaiti ..						1					1		
Makaraka ..						1					1		
Matawai ..						1					1		
Opotiki ..					1	1					2		1
Patutahi ..						1					1		
Ruatorea ..						1					1		
Taneatua ..						1					1		
Te Araroa ..						1					1		
Te Karaka ..						1					1		
Tikitiki ..						1					1		
Tokomaru Bay ..						1					1		
Tolaga Bay ..						1					1		
Waipiro Bay ..						1					1		
Whakatane ..						2					2		
Totals ..	1			1	2	30				2	36		1
Napier District—													
Napier ..	1			1	1	15				1	20		
Bay View ..						1					1		
Carlyle Street ..						1					1		
Clive ..						1					1		
Dannevirke ..						1					5		
Hastings ..					1	10				1	14		
Havelock North ..						1					1		
Mohaka ..						1					1		
Nuhaka ..						1					1		
Ongaonga ..						1					1		
Ormondville ..						1					1		
Porangahau ..						1					1		
Port Ahuriri ..					1	3					4		
Takapau ..						1					1		
Taradale ..						1					1		
Waipawa ..						1					1		
Waipukurau ..						1					1		
Wairoa ..					1	3					4		
Totals ..	1			2	5	48				2	60		
New Plymouth Dis- trict—													
New Plymouth ..	1			1	2	10				2	17		
Eltham ..						2					2		
Fitzroy ..						1					1		
Hawera ..					1	4					5		
Inglewood ..						1					1		
Kaponga ..						1					1		
Manaia ..						1					1		
Mokau ..						1					1		
Moturoa ..						1					1		
Normanby ..						1					1		
Opunake ..						1					1		
Rahotu ..						1					1		
Stratford ..					1	4					5		
Waitara ..						2					2		
Whangamomona ..						1					1		
Totals ..	1			1	4	32				2	41		

APPENDIX B—continued.
RETURN SHOWING THE STRENGTH, ETC., OF THE NEW ZEALAND POLICE FORCE—continued.

Stations.	Superin- tendents.	Inspectors.	Sub- inspectors.	Senior Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Temporary Constables.	Senior Detectives.	Detective- sergeants.	Detectives.	Total.	District Constables.	Native Constables.	Stations.	Superin- tendents.	Inspectors.	Sub- inspectors.	Senior Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Temporary Constables.	Senior Detectives.	Detective- sergeants.	Detectives.	Total.	District Constables.	Native Constables.	
Timaru District—														Dunedin District—														
Timaru ..	1			1	1	14				2	19			continued.														
Duntroon ..						1					1			St. Kilda ..						1					1			
Fairlie ..						1					1			South Dunedin ..					1	6					7			
Geraldine ..						1					1			Waikouaiti ..						1					1			
Glenavy ..						1					1			Waitahuna ..						1					1			
Hampden ..						1					1			Waitati ..						1					1			
Kurow ..						1					1			Woodhaugh ..						1					1			
Oamaru ..					1	7					8			Totals ..	1	1			2	7	84	3	1	2	5	106		
Pleasant Point ..						1					1			Invercargill Dis- trict—														
St. Andrew's ..						1	2				3			Invercargill ..	1				1	1	17			1	2	23		
Temuka ..					1						1			Arrowtown ..						1					1			
Waimataitai ..						1					1			Bluff ..						2					2			
Waimate ..					1	3					4			Clinton ..						1					1			
Totals ..	1			1	4	35				2	43			Gore ..					1	4					5			
Dunedin District—														Half-moon Bay ..														
Dunedin ..	1	1		1	5	36	3	1	2	5	55			Lumsden ..						1					1			
Alexandra ..						1					1			Mataura ..						1					1			
Anderson's Bay ..						1					1			Nightcaps ..						1					1			
Balclutha ..						2					2			North Invercargill ..						1					1			
Caversham ..						1					1			Otautau ..						1					1			
Clyde ..						1					1			Pembroke ..						1					1			
Cromwell ..						1					1			Queenstown ..						1					1			
Green Island ..						1					1			Riverton ..						1					1			
Kaitangata ..						1					1			South Invercargill ..						1					1			
Lawrence ..						1					1			Tapanni ..						1					1			
Maori Hill ..						1					1			Tokanui ..						1					1			
Middlemarch ..						1					1			Tuatapere ..						1					1			
Milton ..						1					1			Waikaia ..						1					1			
Mornington ..						1					1			Waikiwi ..						1					1			
Mosgiel ..						1					1			Winton ..						1					1			
Naseby ..						1					1			Wyndham ..						1					1			
North Dunedin ..					1	5					6			Totals ..	1	1			1	2	42			1	2	49		
North-east Valley ..						1					1			Attached to head- quarters staff ..					2	2	4				1	9		
Ophir ..						1					1			Lent to Cook Islands Administration ..						1					1			
Outram ..						1					1			Lent to Samoan Administration ..						2					2			
Owaka ..						1					1			On leave prior to retirement ..						3					3			
Palmerston South ..						1					1			Grand totals ..	4	16	5	28	99	956	56	3	17	71	1255	3	1	
Port Chalmers ..						1					1																	
Portobello ..						1					1																	
Ranfurly ..						1					1																	
Ravensbourne ..						1					1																	
Roslyn ..						1					1																	
Roxburgh ..						1					1																	
St. Bathans ..						1					1																	
St. Clair ..						1					1																	

APPENDIX C.
RETURN SHOWING THE PROPORTION OF POLICE TO POPULATION AND COST OF POLICE PER INHABITANT
IN EACH OF THE UNDERMENTIONED PLACES.

Place.	Number of Police.	Estimated Population.	Proportion of Police to Population.	Cost of Police per Inhabitant.
New Zealand ..	1,255	1,587,211	1 to 1,265	s. d. 6 3
Victoria ..	2,287	1,851,862	1 to 810	7 6
New South Wales ..	3,654	2,681,736	1 to 734	9 3½
Queensland ..	1,323	982,134	1 to 742	10 7¼
South Australia ..	824	589,312	1 to 715	9 5¼
Western Australia ..	586	451,557	1 to 771	10 1½
Tasmania ..	281	235,059	1 to 837	9 9¾

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (890 copies), £35.

