

1938.
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, 30th June, 1938.

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 1,239, being an increase of forty during the year. The total is made up as follows:—

Superintendents	..	..	..	..	..	4
Inspectors	..	..	..	..	..	16
Sub-Inspectors	..	..	..	..	..	6
Senior Sergeants	..	..	..	..	..	35
Sergeants	..	..	..	..	..	110
Constables	..	..	..	..	..	975
Senior Detectives	..	..	..	..	..	3
Detective-sergeants	..	..	..	..	..	29
Detectives	..	..	..	..	..	61
In addition to the above there were—						
Police surgeons	..	..	..	..	..	15
Matrons	..	..	..	..	..	6
District constables	..	..	..	..	..	3
Native constable	..	..	..	..	..	1

There were also one hundred and eighty-nine 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 Kopuawhara, Kaco, National Park, and Bruce Bay, and the station at Whangaroa was closed.

CASUALTIES.

The following are the casualties for the year ended 31st March last: Retired on pension under the Public Service Superannuation Act, 5; retired as medically unfit, 6; died, 5; resigned voluntarily, 14; resigned compulsorily, 1; dismissed, 4; total, 35.

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 3,181 on the figures of 1936. The proportion of offences to the population was 2.41 per cent., as against 2.23 the previous year.

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

Breach of the peace or behaviour with intent	106	Maintenance offences	..	..	414
Breaches of prohibition orders	..	88	Mischief	..	266
Drunkenness	..	363	Being intoxicated in charge of a motor-		
False pretences	..	215	vehicle	..	125
False statements and declarations	..	468	Minor breaches of Motor-vehicles Act	..	979
Forgery	..	54	Unlawfully using horses, motor-cars, &c.	..	92
Found on licensed premises after closing-	91	Ship-desertion	..	..	51
hours	..	91	Stealing postal packets, mail-bags, &c.	..	23
Selling or exposing liquor for sale without a			Unlawfully on premises at night without		
license, and offences against provisions in			criminal intent	..	34
force in no-license districts	..	64	Using profane, indecent, or obscene language		32
Illegally supplying liquor to Natives	..	165			

The principal decreases were—

Assault, indecent	21	Theft of animals	38
Breaches of Arms Act	42	Theft by clerks or servants	31
Damaging telegraph equipment	61	Theft from dwellings	38
Offences by husbands whilst separation orders are in force	65	Theft (petty)	255
Receiving property dishonestly obtained	44	Trespass on racecourse	26

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	1,477	1,388	89
Auckland	7,739	6,800	939
Hamilton	2,925	2,815	110
Gisborne	1,560	1,511	49
Napier	1,699	1,591	108
New Plymouth	1,329	1,263	66
Wanganui	1,120	1,061	59
Palmerston North	1,761	1,692	69
Wellington	7,616	7,384	232
Nelson	886	847	39
Greymouth	1,112	1,030	82
Christchurch	4,666	4,266	400
Timaru	733	607	126
Dunedin	2,892	2,774	118
Invercargill	1,114	1,049	65
Totals	38,629	36,078	2,551

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from offences reported during the year 1937 was 93·39, the figures of the preceding year being 93·24.

SERIOUS CRIMES.

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

Crimes.	1936.		1937.	
	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.	Number of Offences reported.	Number of Offences in which Arrests resulted.
Arson	15	14	12	8
Robbery and aggravated robbery	9	8	8	8
Burglary, breaking into shops, dwellings, &c.	1,063	774	1,116	819
Forgery and uttering	104	92	173	159
Murder	8	4	4	4
Murder, attempted	5	4	5	4
Rape	..	..	5	5
Receiving stolen property	166	166	122	123
Wounding with intent	2	2	3	3
Totals	1,372	1,064	1,448	1,133

Indecent and sexual offences were as under :—

Offences.	1936.	1937.
Unnatural offence	16	16
Unnatural offence, attempted	8	12
Indecently assaulting a male	66	73
Incest	13	20
Indecent acts	11	19
Concealment of birth	3	4
Assault, indecent	133	112
Rape	..	5
Rape, attempted	5	15
Carnally knowing girls	74	92
Carnally knowing girls, attempted	17	9
Abortion, procuring, &c.	11	18
Exposure of person and grossly indecent acts	202	222
Totals	559	617

DRUNKENNESS.

There has been an increase of 363 in the number of prosecutions for drunkenness during the year as compared with the previous year.

The number charged with drunkenness in 1937 was 4,549 (4,399 males and 150 females), whereas in 1936 the number was 4,186 (4,043 males and 143 females).

From the following table it will be observed that 37·87 per cent. of the males and 59·33 per cent. of the females had previous convictions recorded against them, and 2·84 per cent. of the males were not permanent residents of the Dominion.

Return showing the Number of Persons charged with Drunkenness during the Year 1937, and the Number of Previous Convictions against them, so far as is known.

—				Males.	Females.	Total.
Not previously convicted	..	..	..	2,733	61	2,794
One previous conviction	..	..	..	434	6	440
Two previous convictions	..	..	..	260	10	270
Three previous convictions	..	..	..	192	7	199
Four previous convictions	..	..	..	136	10	146
Five previous convictions	..	..	..	117	7	124
Over five previous convictions	..	..	..	527	49	576
Totals	..	..	..	4,399	150	4,549

Number of foregoing who were members of the crews of vessels in port, 125.

The following table shows the convictions for drunkenness per ten thousand of the population for each year from 1932 to 1936 in Australia and New Zealand:—

		1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
Commonwealth	..	60·7	67·6	68·9	76·3	83·7
New Zealand	..	26·7	23·3	22·3	21·6	28·8

PROSECUTIONS AGAINST HOTELKEEPERS.

The number of prosecutions against hotelkeepers during the year shows a decrease of 49 as compared with the preceding year. There were 618 prosecutions, resulting in 419 convictions during 1937, as against 667 prosecutions and 421 convictions in 1936.

SLY-GROG SELLING.

There were 167 prosecutions during the year for selling liquor without a license, resulting in 133 convictions, and there were also 110 prosecutions, resulting in 95 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 1937 amounted to £2,020 10s.

GAMING OFFENCES.

There were 681 prosecutions, resulting in 662 convictions, during the year under the Gaming Act, against 670 prosecutions and 635 convictions in 1936.

Prosecutions of Bookmakers.

The following return shows the result of prosecutions in connection with bookmaking during the year ended 31st March, 1938:—

Offence.				Number of Prosecutions.	Number of Convictions.	Amount of Fines imposed.		
						£	s.	d.
Carrying on business of bookmaker	..	..	..	88	87	2,166	0	0
Keeping common gaming-house	..	..	..	83	80	2,762	1	0
Found in common gaming-house	..	..	..	42	42	81	0	0
Laying totalizator odds	..	..	..	2	2	22	0	0
Publishing betting-charts	..	..	..	3	3	12	10	0
Street betting	..	..	..	1	1	20	0	0
Betting with bookmaker	..	..	..	1	1	0	10	0
Totals	..	..	..	220	216	5,064	1	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-commissioned Officers.	Detectives.	Constables.	Total.	Police to Population.	Cost per Inhabitant.	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 obtainable.	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	3/3	540,753	18,775	17,727	7,572
1884	13	70	17	365	465	1 to 1,263		587,295	18,263	17,322	7,151
1885	20	65	17	372	474	1 to 1,293	3/0 $\frac{3}{4}$	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 $\frac{1}{2}$	635,215	17,752	16,500	5,226
1888	13	69	17	388	487	1 to 1,328	3/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	646,913	12,897	11,851	5,387
1889	13	65	17	389	484	1 to 1,347	2/10 $\frac{3}{4}$	652,125	12,945	11,885	5,444
1890	12	66	13	403	494	1 to 1,346	2/10 $\frac{3}{4}$	664,855	13,115	12,177	5,866
1891	7	61	14	404	486	1 to 1,375	2/11 $\frac{1}{2}$	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 $\frac{1}{2}$	692,426	13,165	12,100	5,251
1894	7	55	13	410	485	1 to 1,472	2/7 $\frac{1}{4}$	714,258	13,530	12,500	4,594
1895	7	51	13	416	487	1 to 1,495	2/6 $\frac{3}{4}$	728,121	14,010	12,435	4,636
1896	6	51	13	414	484	1 to 1,530	2/7 $\frac{1}{2}$	740,699	14,673	13,171	5,005
1897	7	45	12	453	517	1 to 1,461	2/7 $\frac{1}{2}$	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 $\frac{1}{4}$	783,317	16,865	15,561	6,289
1900	11	56	20	499	586	1 to 1,359	2/10 $\frac{3}{4}$	796,359	18,358	17,131	7,299
1901	11	56	20	504	591	1 to 1,381	2/10 $\frac{1}{4}$	816,290	19,909	18,742	8,057
1902	12	58	20	514	604	1 to 1,375	2/10 $\frac{1}{2}$	830,800	19,771	18,802	8,269
1903	12	59	20	522	613	1 to 1,388	2/10 $\frac{1}{2}$	851,068	20,736	19,867	8,815
1904	12	59	21	534	626	1 to 1,398	2/10 $\frac{1}{4}$	875,648	21,066	20,118	9,615
1905	12	65	25	553	655	1 to 1,375	2/10 $\frac{1}{4}$	900,682	20,249	19,251	8,707
1906	14	71	25	557	667	1 to 1,387	2/10 $\frac{1}{2}$	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 $\frac{1}{4}$	977,215	23,510	22,484	10,343
1909	16	87	35	633	771	1 to 1,308	3/4 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,008,373	23,930	22,880	10,657
1910	16	86	34	639	775	1 to 1,330	3/3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,030,657	25,106	23,949	11,718
1911	15	87	38	648	788	1 to 1,333	3/4 $\frac{1}{2}$	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 $\frac{3}{4}$	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 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,147,391	19,067	18,043	7,228
1919	20	112	41	705*	878	1 to 1,319	5/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,158,156	24,278	23,312	8,216
1920	21	114	38	743*	916	1 to 1,325	4/11 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,214,184	26,106	24,718	8,979
1921	23	112	47	768*	950	1 to 1,310	6/4 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,244,620	26,551	25,054	8,671
1922	22	118	43	826*	1,009	1 to 1,289	6/3 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,300,967	24,699	22,843	6,409
1923	23	118	44	818*	1,003	1 to 1,321	5/8 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,325,301	26,119	24,356	7,035
1924	23	120	47	837*	1,027	1 to 1,312	5/8 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,347,853	27,025	25,048	7,470
1925	23	121	51	831*	1,026	1 to 1,344	5/9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,379,487	30,470	28,668	8,277
1926	24	121	52	888*	1,085	1 to 1,299	5/9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,409,692	31,615	29,199	7,854
1927	22	123	56	895*	1,096	1 to 1,312	5/8 $\frac{1}{2}$	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 $\frac{1}{4}$	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 $\frac{1}{2}$	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 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,536,964	33,302	30,133	3,499
1934	23	124	72	922*	1,211	1 to 1,279	5/6 $\frac{1}{4}$	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 $\frac{1}{4}$	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	38,629	36,078	4,549
1938	26	145	93	1,164*	1,428	1 to 1,123	7/6	1,604,479	..	..	..

* 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, 1938 :—

Fines payable to	Number of Convictions.	Total Amount of Fines imposed.		
		£	s.	d.
Consolidated Fund	14,556	29,633	0	8
Main Highways Revenue Account (section 24, Motor-vehicles Act, 1924)	7,651	13,690	9	11
Local authorities (by-law offences)	240	180	9	0
Total	22,447	£43,503	19	7

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION BRANCH.

At Headquarters the finger impressions of 3,046 persons were received, classified, indexed, and filed during the year: 260 persons were identified as previous offenders who, had it not been for the finger-print system, would have passed as first offenders: 2,063 photographs were taken by the photographers attached to the Branch: the photographs of 1,737 prisoners (3,400 photographs) were dealt with: 560 photographs were reproduced in the *Police Gazette* and 14 wanted persons located. Finger-prints left by the offenders when committing 35 crimes were identified as belonging to 24 persons, who were prosecuted. All pleaded guilty.

Three unknown deceased persons were identified by their finger-prints. During the year 4,860 prints were added to the single finger-print system, and steady progress was made in the further subdivision of the groups in the main collection. The finger-impressions of 3,590 persons over the age of seventy-five years were removed from the main collection and filed separately, together with the index cards relating thereto.

Recently it has been noticed that a greater number of finger-prints has been received for inquiry from outside New Zealand, denoting closer co-operation between the various Police Forces. During the past twelve months 285 sets of finger-prints were received from other countries, of which 25 were identified as those of persons previously convicted in New Zealand.

It is interesting to note that in New Zealand the finger-print system has, to date, been responsible for the identification of 6,940 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	1922 ..	28,408	1,758	255
1905 ..	4,200	700	72	1923 ..	30,284	1,876	292
1906 ..	5,000	800	88	1924 ..	31,929	1,645	289
1907 ..	6,151	1,151	104	1925 ..	33,802	1,873	267
1908 ..	7,622	1,471	123	1926 ..	35,844	2,042	292
1909 ..	8,718	1,096	138	1927 ..	37,808	1,964	255
1910 ..	9,919	1,201	140	1928 ..	39,409	1,601	276
1911 ..	10,905	986	148	1929 ..	40,852	1,443	208
1912 ..	12,097	1,192	178	1930 ..	42,371	1,519	239
1913 ..	13,552	1,455	183	1931 ..	43,973	1,602	257
1914 ..	15,302	1,750	230	1932 ..	45,692	1,719	215
1915 ..	16,682	1,380	270	1933 ..	47,306	1,614	213
1916 ..	18,134	1,452	218	1934 ..	48,545	1,239	183
1917 ..	19,508	1,374	166	1935 ..	49,796	1,251	200
1918 ..	20,982	1,474	132	1936 ..	51,053	1,257	207
1919 ..	22,332	1,350	153	1937 ..	52,461	1,408	164
1920 ..	23,686	1,354	176	1938 ..	54,062	1,601	260
1921 ..	26,650	2,964	232				

On 31st March, 1938, the finger-print collection in Auckland totalled 5,970 sets.

During the year 880 sets of finger-prints were received or taken, and were duly classified, searched, and filed.

The photographs of 192 prisoners were taken, and 1,152 prints were made from the negatives; also a large number of photographs of scenes of crimes and motor accidents, &c., were taken. The total number of photographs produced by the Branch during the year was 1,987.

The remanded-prisoner forms, together with the results of the cases inserted, for 359 prisoners were dealt with and returned to Headquarters.

In twenty-five cases offenders who would not otherwise have been known as having been previously convicted were traced by their finger-prints.

An addition of a constable to the staff has taken place during the year. A large amount of additional work has been allotted to the Branch in the form of a *modus operandi*, or "classification of crime," bureau; this will undoubtedly be of great assistance to the Detective Branch in the near future.

ARMS BUREAU.

The Arms Bureau, which was established three years ago for the purpose of advising the Department in respect of firearms for which applications for import licenses were received and to which investigating officers could refer inquiries as to the identification of firearms used in connection with crimes or accidents, has made steady progress during the year. A large number of sample firearms has been submitted for examination. Some of these, which before 1935 would have been admitted without question, have been condemned as unsafe, while others have been referred back to the makers with recommendations as to alteration in design which would improve their safety in the hands of an average user. The result is that a better class of sporting firearm is being imported, particularly with regard to small-game rifles such as the .22 in. calibre, which has always been a heavy contributor to the accident rate. An increased number of arms-makers have been persuaded to improve the designs of their shot-guns and rifles, as well as make the wearing components of the locks of more durable steel.

Unfortunately, in spite of all that is being done to improve matters, the shooting-accident rate is still very high. Twenty-six deaths from accidental shootings occurred during the year, and in two other cases Coroners were unable to decide accident or suicide. Thirty-one other persons were injured through accidental discharges, some very seriously. The average age of persons killed or injured in these cases was twenty-four years.

Attention is again drawn to the double-barrelled hammer shot-gun, which during the year caused 14 fatal and 7 non-fatal accidents, or a total of 21 out of the 57 accidents recorded, while the hammerless shot-gun was concerned in only two cases, one of which was fatal. Last year's report included a recommendation that the double-barrelled hammer gun be excluded from importation, and this is again suggested.

Rifles of .22 in. calibre were responsible for 5 fatal and 22 non-fatal accidents. This is rather higher than in the two preceding years. Many of the models which are causing trouble are old ones, and 11 out of the 27 types of weapon which caused this year's accidents are now excluded from importation.

Lectures and demonstrations have been given to police in all the main centres of the Dominion. Recently a balopticon lecture lantern has been added to the equipment of the Bureau, and this will be most useful for lecturers in the future.

A high-grade ballistic comparison microscope, which will facilitate the identification of firearms and projectiles, has also been procured.

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 Kaeo, Te Whaite, and Manunui, and new offices at Newmarket and Tauranga. Houses and sections were purchased for police-stations at Matawai, Ruatoria, Papatoetoe, Manurewa, National Park, and Millerton, and a site for a new police-station at Hamilton was acquired.

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

Whangarei District.—Dargaville, Kaikohe, Kaitia, Kawakawa, Ruawai, and Russell.

Auckland District.—Auckland Central, Avondale, Balmoral, Birkenhead, Coromandel, Devonport, Grey Lynn, Helensville, Huntly, Mercer, Mount Albert, Mount Eden, Newmarket, Otahuhu, Parnell, Point Chevalier, Pukekohe, Remuera, Takapuna, Thames, Waiuku, and Warkworth.

Hamilton District.—Frankton Junction, Hamilton, Hamilton East, Kawhia, Kihikihi, Ngaruawahia, Otorohanga, Paeroa, Rotorua, Taupo, Tauranga, Tokaanu, and Waihi.

Gisborne District.—Gisborne, Patutahi, Waipiro Bay, and Whataupoko (res.).

Napier District.—Carlyle Street, Hastings, Havelock North, Mohaka, Napier, and Waipawa.

New Plymouth District.—Fitzroy, Kaponga, Mokau, New Plymouth, Opunake, Rahotu, Stratford, and Whangamomona.

Wanganui District.—Ohakune, Ongarue, Taihape, Taumarunui (Rangaroa), and Wanganui.

Palmerston North District.—Eketahuna and Feilding.

Wellington District.—Carterton, Greytown, Karori, Lyall Bay, Martinborough, Masterton, Mount Cook, Petone, Tinakori Road, Tinui, Wellington Central, and Wellington South.

Nelson District.—Blenheim, Collingwood, Motueka, and Nelson.

Greymouth District.—Blackball, Denniston, Hokitika, Kumara, Otira, Reefton, Ross, and Seddonville (res.).

Christchurch District.—Akaroa, Amberley, Ashburton, Belfast, Bugisland, Chatham Islands, Christchurch Central, Coalgate, Culverden, Fendalton, Leeston, Lincoln, Lyttelton, Oxford, Phillipstown, St. Albans, Southbridge, and Waikari.

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

Dunedin District.—Anderson's Bay, Clyde, Dunedin Central, Green Island, Lawrence, Mataura, Milton, North-east Valley, Ranfurly, St. Kilda, and Waikouaiti.

Invercargill District.—Bluff, Gore, Invercargill Central, Invercargill North, Nightcaps, Queenstown, Riverton, Tapanui, Tuatapere, and Wyndham.

GENERAL.

Efficiency.—During the year an additional Sub-Inspector was appointed at Auckland in order to cope with the work of that district.

Lectures on practical police and detective duties have been introduced in all police districts. These lectures are given by officers to all grades once a fortnight in the centres—the probationary constables receive a lecture weekly—and at least monthly in the smaller districts. These lectures are very popular, and I am hopeful they will improve the standard and efficiency of the Service.

I have made tentative arrangements for a series of lectures being given in chemistry and on criminal law and medical jurisprudence. I hope to be able to fix dates before very long for the lectures, which will be given by specialists.

Special lectures have been given by our finger-print expert on the value of finger-prints, how to preserve prints when found, and on photography and its value to the Department.

Our expert in firearms also gave a number of lectures in all police districts on firearms—how to use them, and how to handle firearms that were in any way connected with an accident or crime.

A comparison microscope for ballistic work, cameras and microscopes for micro-photography, improved lighting-apparatus and exposure-meter for the photographic room, and a balopticon projector for reproducing objects and lantern-slides on a screen for lecture purposes have been procured. These appliances will greatly facilitate the work of the Department in the Arms Bureau and the Finger-print and Photographic Branches.

The library of legal and other reference works at Headquarters has also been brought up to date by the purchase of a number of additional text-books and more recent editions of those already on hand.

Ministerial authority has been given to inaugurate a wireless plant to try out the efficiency and value of wireless communication between a city police-station and patrol-car fitted with wireless equipment. This experiment is of a highly technical nature and a costly undertaking. I am therefore proceeding with it with caution, soliciting the best expert advice procurable. It is very doubtful if good reception can be obtained in a station erected in a city, on account of electrical disturbance and interference from electric-tram lines. It is necessary to try out experiments perhaps from a station on the Tinakori Hills to a patrol car in the city and suburbs to find out the quality of reception obtainable before embarking on a final scheme. If good reception can be obtained from Tinakori Hills, it will be necessary to arrange for the transmission and receipt of messages between a station there and the patrol-car—an office in the Central Police-station being established to communicate with Tinakori Hills station. This scheme is now being tested out by the radio experts of the Post and Telegraph Department, and it is expected that the matter will be finalized at an early date.

Some very fine work of a highly technical nature has been performed by members of the Force in various cases that have come before the Courts during the past year. I hope with lectures, practical demonstrations, and examinations to further increase the efficiency of the Service and bring it up to a high standard.

Since the inauguration of the 48-hour week the men feel the benefit of the one day off during the week, particularly the men on night duty—one night off in a week breaks the monotony of the dreary cold nights, particularly during the winter months, when constables have to patrol their beats consistently throughout the night with but a half-hour break for supper. The break during the week is greatly appreciated and makes the men more happy and contented—this tends to greater efficiency. It is only when men are happy in their job you get the best out of them. I can say with confidence the men are happy in their job.

Transport.—During the year four additional new motor-cars of high power, seating five persons each, were purchased and are in commission, one at each of the four centres. Two more new cars were purchased to replace two cars at Auckland that had outlived their usefulness for police service. Four more new cars are required, one for each centre, to replace four that are practically worn out—two of them have travelled over 100,000 miles each; the other two close up to 100,000 miles. Three new vans for the conveyance of prisoners are also required to replace ones now becoming unserviceable—they are constantly going to the repair-shop. I am having inquiries made for a lighter and more modern type of van, in keeping with the present-day outlook—one that will give better service and be less costly. The old vehicles are too heavy and clumsy and heavy on benzine-consumption.

During the year the cost of benzine advanced 2d. per gallon, consequently an increase in the allowance to members of the Force who use their own cars in country districts on police duty was granted to meet the increased cost of benzine and the additional travelling. During the last eighteen months an increase in allowances to the extent of over £3,000 has been granted members of the Force who use their own cars on police duty. In return, the men must provide good cars capable of performing efficient service. Our transport to-day can be said to be fairly efficient. At the present rate of progress we should be able to claim in a few years' time an efficient transport service. To-day it is 100 per cent. more efficient than it was two years ago.

Additions to Staff.—To enable the 48-hour week to be inaugurated the strength of the Force throughout the Dominion was increased by 11 sergeants, 99 constables, 4 detective-sergeants, and 11 detectives, a total of 125. During the year further increases to the authorized strength to the number of forty-seven were made to meet the normal increase of work and to facilitate the working of the 48-hour week. An additional constable was posted to Kaitaia, Pukekohe, Henderson, Balmoral, Tauranga, Te Kuiti, Ruatoria, Whakatane, Opotiki, Waipukurau, Moturoa, Hawera, Stratford, Patea, Taumarunui, Lower Hutt, Petone, Kilbirnie, Wellington South, and Rangiora. Additional men were also posted to Auckland City, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Wanganui, Palmerston North, Nelson, Blenheim, Timaru, and Dunedin.

The status of the following stations has been raised and a senior sergeant placed in charge: Devonport, Mount Eden, Queen Street Wharf (Auckland), Masterton, Blenheim, Lyttelton, and Oamaru. This necessitated several promotions from the rank of sergeant to senior sergeant.

During the year the following promotions were made to fill vacancies and to provide for increases in strength: three to commissioned rank, nine to grade of senior sergeant, twenty-two to rank of sergeant, and eleven to rank of detective-sergeant. This number of promotions for a year constitutes a record in the Service.

Police Buildings.—During the year a good deal of work has been done in renovating and improving police dwellings throughout the Dominion, the sum of £18,000 having been spent in that direction. A great deal has to be done yet, but it will take time; the work is being pushed on expeditiously.

Land has been acquired at Whangarei, Hamilton, Mount Cook (Wellington), and Levin for the purpose of building offices and providing accommodation for single men at headquarters stations. Negotiations are proceeding for acquiring additional land at Auckland, Wellington, and New Plymouth. Two sites have also been acquired at Mission Bay and St. Heliers Bay, Auckland, for the erection of police-stations at an early date.

Properties with good dwellings on them were purchased at Papatoetoe, Matawai, Millerton, National Park, and Manurewa.

Erection of new stations has been authorized at Ellerslie, Rotorua, Mauaia, Linwood, Matanui, Balclutha, Mosgiel, St. Clair, and Pleasant Point.

Plans are in course of preparation for additions to Auckland Central, Christchurch Central, and Dunedin Central Stations, providing increased office accommodation and quarters for single men and matrons. Plans are also being prepared for the erection of new headquarters stations at Whangarei, Wanganui, Nelson, Greymouth, and Timaru to replace old dilapidated buildings in those towns.

The erection of a new headquarters station at Palmerston North has been started, and in the course of a few weeks' time it is expected the foundation-stone will be ready to be laid.

New Buildings are also to be erected at Omakau, Otarehua, Whakatane, Katikati, Port Chalmers, and Roslyn as soon as the plans can be finalized.

New offices have just been completed at Newmarket, Auckland. They are excellent in layout, and provide every modern convenience, including a surgeon's room.

New stations have been built at Kaeo, Manunui, Te Whaiti, and Meeea (near Lower Hutt).

The police quarters in Waring Taylor Street, Wellington, have been remodelled, at a cost of £4,000. The old barn-type of sleeping-quarters has been removed, and two flats in the building have been turned into very comfortable sleeping-quarters, each man being given a single room with plenty of ventilation, natural light, central heating, floor covered with lino, and furniture to the extent of a duchess and wardrobe provided in each room. The dining-room, kitchen, and staff quarters have all been remodelled, giving comfort and convenience. A small electric lift has also been installed to convey stores and goods to the kitchen flat.

Police Regulations.—The regulations governing the police examinations have been revised.

Provision has been made in the new regulations for setting up an Examination Board (although a Board existed in the past, it never had any legal status—the new Regulation puts this matter in order), and the raising of the standard of the examinations to be passed by members of the Force qualifying for promotion. A partial pass has also been provided for.

The consolidation of the general regulations is now in hand.

Training-school.—No recruits have been trained since November last, as our actual strength has been maintained fairly well. Owing to retirements, resignations, and the discharge of some men found unsuitable, they not measuring up to the standard required by the Department, it will be necessary to reopen the training-school immediately for the training of a batch of recruits to fill existing vacancies.

A good type of recruit is still offering, and no difficulty is being experienced in obtaining the necessary recruits required. The conditions in the Service to-day are better than they ever were, and a young energetic man has good prospects of advancement.

Recreation.—Members of the Service are encouraged to take part in all healthy sport. Wherever possible, provision is made for tennis-courts for the recreation of the men when off duty. In at least one centre, Invercargill, the police have their own bowling-green.

In many centres the police have their own orchestra to play at their social evenings.

In Wellington the police have their own Highland Pipe Band, whose services are frequently requested at public functions in aid of deserving causes. The band is very pleased to be able to assist in such cases.

Women Police.—The Government recently decided to inaugurate women police. Provision is being made for an amendment to the Police Force Act so as to put this policy measure into operation.

Police Association.—The association, which was formed some eighteen months ago, has been functioning satisfactorily, and gives the members of the Force an opportunity of discussing in a legal way matters concerning their welfare.

General Conduct of the Police.—I am very pleased to be able to report that the general conduct of the police has been very good. All branches of the Force have co-operated whole-heartedly, and the utmost harmony prevails throughout the Service. Many members of the detective and uniform branches of the Service have been called upon to perform long hours of duty in the detection of serious crime—in some instances the round of the clock without any relaxation. These duties were keenly undertaken and followed up until brought to a conclusion. This is typical of the Service generally. In cases of detection of crime, hours of duty are not considered—they cannot be—clues must be followed up immediately and offenders brought to justice irrespective of hours of duty. When waves of crime break out, everybody must give of his best, and when the culprits have been captured, then an equivalent of overtime worked is allowed as time permits.

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 the strength of this district has been increased by one detective and two constables at Whangarei, one constable at Dargaville, and one constable at Kaitia.

A sergeant is required at Kaikohe, with a sub-district including Rawene, Ohaeawai, Kawakawa, and Russell Stations. This district is being rapidly developed, and consequently police duties are increasing.

A constable is required on the northern side of the Hokianga Harbour. At present police matters in this locality receive attention from Rawene, which is situated on the southern side of the harbour.

A constable should be stationed at Kamo, a growing suburb of Whangarei.

Whangaroa station has been closed, and a station at Kaeo opened instead.

Of the total offences reported—viz., 1,477—1,388 were dealt with by arrest or summons.

There was no serious crime committed during the year and there is no outstanding feature in the annual offences return. Decreases in offences "found on licensed premises after hours," "breaches of the peace," "forgery," "receiving property dishonestly obtained," and "theft from dwellings" are just the usual fluctuation from year to year.

The increased wages received by workers during the year as compared with previous years has resulted in increased drinking, particularly by members of the Maori race.

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

SUPERINTENDENT TILL, AUCKLAND DISTRICT.

On 31st March, 1938, the strength of the Force in this district was 316.

On the inauguration of the 48-hour week the authorized strength was increased by four sergeants, twenty-seven constables, three detective-sergeants, and three detectives. It is found increasingly difficult to carry on with the present strength, and I recommend an increase of twenty constables.

Senior sergeants have been appointed at Devonport, Mount Eden, and Queen's Wharf Stations, and a second constable has been appointed to each of the following stations: Balmoral, Henderson, and Pukekohe, and to the Criminal Registration Branch.

The total number of offences reported was 7,739, in respect of which arrests or summonses resulted in 6,800 instances.

There was a slight decrease in the number of indecent-assault and carnal-knowledge cases.

There has been a marked increase in breaches of the law involving dishonesty and in the number of breaches of the Destitute Persons Act. There has also been an increase in convictions for drunkenness. The number of the more serious breaches of the Motor-vehicles Act was about the same as last year. There has been an increase in cases of reckless and negligent driving and a decrease in minor breaches of the Act. During the year there were amongst the serious crimes two cases of murder and two of attempted murder, one of rape and two of attempted rape, four cases of procuring abortion, and two cases of arson.

One sergeant and six constables were dealt with for breaches of the Police Regulations. On the whole, the good conduct of the members of the Force in this district has been well maintained.

Section 54 of the Police Offences Act, 1927, is found in many cases to be inoperative on account of the matter of an "enclosed" area. Many private gardens and school-grounds fail to come within that category.

There are now five motor-cars in use at this station. They are extensively used and travel many miles. It is very necessary to keep the full number in commission.

Wireless equipment in night-patrol cars is essential and would greatly enhance the efficiency of that branch of the service.

INSPECTOR LOPDELL, HAMILTON DISTRICT.

On 31st March, 1937, the strength of the district was seventy-three of all ranks. There has been added during the year one detective and ten constables, making a total of eighty-four on 31st March 1938.

The additions were distributed as follows: One detective and seven constables to Hamilton Station, one constable to Rotorua, one to Tauranga, and one to Te Kuiti.

These increases were partly due to the introduction of the 48-hour week and partly to increased work.

For future requirements I recommend that a station be established at The Mount, Tauranga. A large permanent population resides there, and during the summer and autumn months thousands of visitors and campers go there for holidays. A constable is essential during the busier part of the year, and his services can be well employed in that sub-district in the quieter times doing relieving work, &c.

I recommend that a second constable be added to the strength of Putaruru Station. Sawmilling and the opening of farm-lands in the back country have made the work of the station too hard for one man. There were two men there till two years ago, when one who retired was not replaced.

I recommend also an increase in the strength at Te Awamutu. The growing importance of the town and the work of the sub-district would justify its being placed under a sergeant. The town is developing rapidly both in the shopping and residential areas.

I recommend that a third clerk be appointed to the District Office here, where the work is too great for two men.

I further recommend for consideration the appointment of a Sub-Inspector at Hamilton to free the Inspector for closer personal contact with the constables of the district and to assist them.

There are twenty-five stations to visit, some at considerable distance from here and from one another. Efficiency in the preparation of briefs and on busy Court days requires close assistance.

When the Inspector has to be away from the centre the constant calls from an intensely busy community as well as supervision make it desirable that an officer of commissioned rank should be left in charge.

In all 2,925 offences were reported, being fifty-five in excess of last year. A perusal of the report shows grounds for satisfaction, as there were no serious crimes reported, and the usual crop of thefts and false pretences were reduced in number.

The increases are chiefly under the Licensing Act and the Motor-vehicles Act.

I regret to have once more to draw attention to the number of persons convicted for being intoxicated while in charge of motor-vehicles, there being seventy-seven convictions recorded during the year.

The conduct of the police has been of a very high standard. There was one disciplinary breach dealt with.

I again express my opinion that the sale of all wine should be brought under regulation.

Many police properties which during the slump years were neglected have been repaired and renovated at considerable cost, and those requiring attention are being attended to. Many comforts have been added to the homes of constables, which are appreciated.

Land has been acquired at Hamilton for a future Headquarters station in a very suitable locality. The need for the building on the land is recognized and will in due course be provided.

I think land for the building of a permanent station at Mount Maunganui should be acquired without delay and a station building erected.

INSPECTOR EDWARDS, GISBORNE DISTRICT.

The authorized strength of the Force in the Gisborne district on 31st March, 1938, was forty-two.

During the year there has been an increase of six constables—viz., three at Gisborne, one at Opotiki, and one at Whakatane (these additions being necessary to enable the 48-hour week to be brought into operation), and also a second constable at Ruatoria Station, where the duties have increased to such an extent that one constable could not cope with them.

The offences return for the year shows a total of 1,560 offences reported, as compared with 1,171 the previous year, an increase of 389. Arrests or summonses resulted in 1,511 cases being dealt with, leaving 49 undetected.

The most noticeable increases were false statements and declarations (Employment Act), house or shop breaking, forgery and uttering, drunkenness; using profane, indecent, or obscene language; being intoxicated in charge of a motor-vehicle, reckless or negligent driving, and other breaches of Motor-vehicles Act.

The most noticeable decreases were carnally knowing girls under 16 years, theft (petty), theft of animals, damaging telegraph equipment, found on licensed premises after closing-hours, and Arms Act breaches.

The district has been free from crime of a serious nature during the year.

The conduct of the police in this district has been excellent, there being no defaulters.

INSPECTOR CAMERON, NAPIER DISTRICT.

On the 31st March, 1938, the authorized strength for the Force in this district was sixty-six, being an increase of six from the previous year, due to the appointment of two constables at Napier, two constables at Hastings, one constable at Waipukurau, and one constable at Kopuawhara.

The appointments at Napier and Hastings were due to the working of the 48-hour week. At Waipukurau the additional appointment was to cope with the work; and the appointment at Kopuawhara was made necessary through the construction of the East Coast Railway.

I would recommend the increase of one constable at Napier and one constable at Hastings. It would give better police supervision as the result of the introduction of the 48-hour week.

For year ended 31st December, 1937, the total number of offences reported was 1,699, an increase on the previous year of 26. Of the 1,699 offences reported, 1,591 were accounted for by arrest or summons, leaving 108 undetected.

The principal increases were false pretences, breaches of prohibition orders, false statements and declarations (Employment Promotion Act), and breaches of the Motor-vehicles Act.

The principal decreases were theft (petty); house or shop breaking; unlawfully using horses, motor-cars, &c.; selling or supplying liquor at unauthorized times; found on licensed premises after hours; and breaches of Arms Act.

The increases in offences relating to false pretences were due to the activity of a criminal travelling from town to town issuing valueless cheques. The breaches of the Employment Promotion Act were in respect of persons making false declarations of their income. The offences committed under the Motor-vehicles Act were mostly caused by careless driving.

The decrease in offences relating to petty theft is due in a great measure to decreasing juvenile crime over the past twelve months. The other decreases do not call for comment.

There has been no serious crime in the district during the past year.

With the exception of one constable being convicted for breaches of the Police Regulations, the conduct of the members of the Force has been very good, and a high standard of efficiency maintained.

INSPECTOR POWELL, NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT.

The offences return for the past year shows the total of all offences committed to be 1,329, as compared with 1,401 offences for the previous year, a decrease of 72 offences. Of the number reported, 1,263 were accounted for by either arrest or summons.

The most notable decreases in crime are indecent assault, common assault, theft, and reckless and negligent driving. The principal increases are false pretences, mischief, grossly indecent acts, unlawfully using motor-cars, being intoxicated in charge of motor-cars, and breaches of prohibition orders.

The district has been free from crime of a serious nature.

The conduct of the police has been very good during the year, two members of the Force only having to be dealt with for breaches of regulations.

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

The strength of the Force has been increased by six constables—four at New Plymouth, one at Hawera, and one at Stratford. Five of these are for the purpose of carrying into effect the 48-hour week, while the other is to increase the strength in the ordinary way.

The 48-hour week is a decided improvement, and members of the Force appreciate it very much indeed.

I would again draw attention to the necessity of further increasing the staff at New Plymouth. The work is increasing, and, with the amount of escorting, annual leave, and relieving duty to be done, at least two more constables are required. An extra constable is also required at Hawera, as the work at that station is increasing.

INSPECTOR LANDER, WANGANUI DISTRICT.

The authorized strength of the Force in this district on the 31st March, 1938, was fifty-four, being an increase of eight constables during the year. The additional constables were distributed as follows: One to Taumarunui, one to National Park, one to Patea, and five to Wanganui City. The increases at Taumarunui and at Wanganui were necessitated by the working of the 48-hour week. The stationing of a constable at National Park was rendered necessary owing to the increase of police duty in that area. The addition of one constable to the strength at Patea was necessary in view of the progress of that town and district. The increases in strength were welcome, and facilitate the performance of duties in the areas affected.

An additional sergeant is required in the city and an additional constable at both Taihape and Ohakune. An additional sergeant here is required to increase the supervision of beat duty and to relieve the senior sergeant to some extent. The time of the one sergeant here is taken up a great deal in relieving duty in respect of annual leave and sickness. The strength at Taihape was not increased on the coming into operation of the 48-hour week. The incidence of duty there is, however, becoming greater, and an addition to the strength is required. The same remarks apply to the Ohakune-Raetihi sub-districts. Under present conditions the constables there are seldom able to take their weekly days off. An additional constable at Ohakune could be kept fully employed, and much needed additional supervision of the railway-station and that part of the town adjacent thereto could be provided.

The offences return for the year ended 31st December, 1937, shows a total of 1,120 offences reported. This is a decrease of 84 on the total—1,204—for the previous year. Of the total—1,120—reported, 1,061 were accounted for by arrest or summons.

The principal increases were house or shop breaking, selling liquor without a license, and breaches of the Motor-vehicles Act. There was an increase of two only in drunkenness.

The principal decreases were theft (petty), failing to maintain wife or children, selling or supplying liquor at unauthorized times, and reckless or negligent driving of motor-vehicles. I have no comment to make with respect to the increases or decreases. I think that they represent ordinary fluctuations from year to year.

A young married woman was seriously assaulted late at night in Anzac Parade, Wanganui East, on 2nd October last. The assault was violent and unprovoked. An instrument was used. The victim suffered a fractured skull, but fortunately she has made a good recovery. Very intensive inquiries were made by the local police, assisted by detectives from Auckland, Palmerston North, and New Plymouth, but the offender has not been traced, nor has the weapon used to commit the offence been found.

Three alleged attempts to murder were investigated, and the offenders—two males and one female—were dealt with at the Supreme Court. The two males used firearms and the female used a knife. Convictions were entered in each case on minor counts of the indictments.

One offender was dealt with for discharging a firearm with intent at a constable. At the Supreme Court he was found unable to plead, on the ground of insanity, and was dealt with under section 32 of the Mental Defectives Act, 1911.

One detective and four constables were dealt with for breaches of the regulations during the year. The conduct, otherwise, of the members of the Force in the district has been very good, and in many cases, in the performance of duty, a high degree of efficiency has been shown.

INSPECTOR CUMMINGS, PALMERSTON NORTH DISTRICT.

The authorized strength of the district has been increased by seven constables, three of them to assist the inauguration of the 48-hour week.

Marton Junction Police-station was closed in July, 1933, for reasons of economy. I find that this is now a very busy town, with a population of approximately 1,100 resident at the railway junction,

and as it is a very busy railway junction I recommend that this station should be reopened and a constable stationed there.

Now that a sergeant has taken up duty at Pahiatua, I recommend that a second constable be stationed there in view of the increase of duties, such constable to relieve at the three neighbouring stations when the constables there are on annual leave.

Seeing that 600 men are to be employed in connection with the new aerodrome at Ohakea, near Bulls, and on account of the increase in the population at Sanson, it may be necessary to open a police-station at Sanson, which is on the main north highway between Palmerston North and Bulls.

The extra work placed on the police by other Departments is still increasing. It would appear that the time has arrived for the Departments concerned to carry out many of the inquiries in centres where their own officers are stationed, instead of referring them to this Department for attention. In many cases it is found that the Department concerned has made its own inquiry without, for some unknown reason, reaching finality.

The offences return for the year ended 31st December, 1937, shows a total of 1,761 offences reported, as compared with 1,464 for the previous year, an increase of 297. Of the total reported, 1,692 were accounted for by arrest or summons. The principal increases were in sexual offences, thefts, house-breaking, unlawful conversion of motor-cars, breaches of the peace, publishing betting-charts, maintenance cases, and breaches of the Licensing Act, while decreases were shown in the case of false pretences, attempted suicide, mischief, and negligent driving.

During the year the manager of a local insurance office converted to his own use £3,000. One detective was engaged on this inquiry for some months and was successful in proving the charges against the offender.

On the night of the 21st October, 1937, two young men hired a taxi, and on arrival at a quiet spot in the Esplanade presented a revolver, which they had previously stolen, at the taxi-driver and robbed him of his cash. Through good team-work the offenders were arrested next day, and later convicted and sent to a Borstal Institution for two years by the Supreme Court.

On the 22nd February, 1937, a woman was absent from her home for the day, leaving the milk for her infant child in a vessel standing in water in the bathroom. On returning home she found that apparently something had been placed in the milk during her absence. An analysis disclosed that caustic soda had been placed in the milk. Inquiries were made, and it was found that a woman had visited the house during the occupants' absence and placed caustic soda in the milk, thereby intending to injure the inmates by consumption of the milk. The offender was charged with attempting to cause to be taken by the child a poison—to wit, caustic soda—with intent to injure the child. A conviction was obtained, and the offender was sentenced to eighteen months' reformatory detention.

At 8.45 p.m. on the 15th November, 1937, a tobacconist at Woodville was assaulted in his shop by being struck on the head with an engineer's hammer. He was knocked unconscious, and it was alleged that robbery was the motive. The offender was arrested the same night, and later convicted for causing grievous bodily harm, and sentenced to three years' reformatory detention.

The conduct of members of the Force in this district has been quite satisfactory during the year, a high standard of efficiency being maintained, and both branches of the service performing good work. There were no defaulters during the year.

In my opinion, the words "if required" in the third line of section 5 (2) of the Motor-vehicles Act, 1936, should be repealed, for the reason that, if a person is knocked unconscious by a motor-vehicle, he is not in a condition to require the name and address of the driver of such motor-vehicle.

The repealing of the speed-limits at intersections has not been helpful to the police in controlling traffic at intersections. I prefer the speed-limits to the present white lines at intersections.

Several of the stations in the district have been renovated during the year. Some are at present being renovated, while a few others require it.

The new police-station at Palmerston North is now under way.

SUPERINTENDENT FRASER, WELLINGTON DISTRICT.

The authorized strength of the district on the 31st March last was 238 of all ranks.

Since my last annual report the six-day week has been introduced and is working satisfactorily in both town and country districts. This caused an increase of three sergeants and twenty-five constables.

An extra sergeant was appointed at Central Station to assist in the senior sergeant's office.

A detective-sergeant has been stationed at Masterton, the sergeant in charge has been replaced by a senior sergeant, and an additional constable added to the strength. This district is growing, and I recommend that another constable be stationed there.

An additional constable is recommended for Kilbirmie Station. This district has grown of recent years and includes Hataitai and Evans Bay. Motor traffic in this district has increased considerably.

An increase of one constable at Wellington South Station is recommended, and it will then be possible to have a constable on duty at night in the station.

I also recommend that an additional constable be stationed at both Petone and Lower Hutt Stations, and the strength of Central Station be increased by six additional constables, as the latter station is constantly short-handed owing to relieving duty, escort duty, sickness, leave of absence, &c.

Up to the present date the Department has not been successful in securing a house for the constable stationed at Oriental Bay.

The Department is endeavouring to obtain a suitable house at Northland, with a view to opening a new station there.

Alterations have been carried out and provision made for accommodating extra men at Central Station. There is still insufficient sleeping-accommodation, and since August last thirty constables have been sleeping at the Training Depot.

Conditions will not be satisfactory until the Department can use the extra space at the Central Station now used by other Departments and a new station is built at Mount Cook. I would suggest that a start be made on the new building as soon as possible.

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 carried out their work efficiently, and both branches of the service have worked exceedingly well together. Nine constables were dealt with for minor breaches of the regulations.

The total number of offences reported during the year ended 31st December, 1937, was 7,616, compared with 6,266 for the previous twelve months, being an increase of 1,350.

Of all the offences reported, 7,384 were accounted for by arrests or summonses being issued, the undetected offences numbering 232. Of the cases dealt with, 240 males and 2 females were committed for trial or sentence, and of those committed 221 males and 1 female were convicted.

No serious crimes were committed during the year.

The principal increases in crime were false statements, assault, theft, false pretences, burglary, house and shop breaking, mischief, and motoring offences.

There were decreases in breaches of Licensing Act and "being found in gaming-houses."

INSPECTOR LEWIN, NELSON DISTRICT.

The strength of the Force in this district is thirty-eight, being an increase of five constables during the year—three at Nelson and two at Blenheim—for the purpose of giving effect to the 48-hour week, which seems to be working satisfactorily and appreciated very much by the men.

I wish to suggest the desirability of having a detective permanently stationed at Blenheim. The work there has increased considerably, and the inquiry constable is unable to cope adequately with that work: and, as a consequence, it is necessary to detail beat-duty constables to make minor inquiries in the town, so that the work can be carried out as expeditiously as circumstances permit. As may be deduced, the beats are consequently somewhat neglected and do not receive the attention that they should. I feel sure that, if a detective were appointed, his time would be fully occupied. Blenheim is eighty-one miles from Nelson.

I also recommend that a station be opened at Renwicktown, so that, owing to the increase in population, that part of Blenheim sub-district can be adequately supervised.

For the year ended 31st December, 1937, the total number of offences was 886, compared with 788 for the previous twelve months, an increase of 98. Of all offences reported, 847 were accounted for by arrest or summons, leaving 39 undetected.

There were decreases in theft, burglary, drunkenness, and Sunday trading. There were increases in assault, false pretences, mischief, unlawful conversion of motor-vehicles, breaches of the Licensing Act, and opium-smoking. The most noticeable increase is that of 131 per cent. for breaches of the Motor-vehicles Act and Regulations. This may be due to more prosperous times and to the increasing number of vehicles using the highways.

No serious crimes were reported during the year.

The conduct of members of the Force has been good. The majority of the men show a keen interest in their work, and the duties have been performed in a satisfactory manner.

It is generally admitted that sheep-stealing is an offence which is prevalent in New Zealand, and it is one that is difficult to detect, involving considerable time in investigation: an offender invariably elects to be tried by a jury, which is usually composed of men who have no knowledge of stock, and in numerous instances the accused is acquitted regardless of the Crown's evidence. If power were given to Magistrates to deal with cases of sheep-stealing where the value does not exceed £50, I am of the opinion that it would have a tendency to stop a certain amount of this class of offence and, in addition, save considerable expense.

INSPECTOR SCOTT, GREYMOUTH DISTRICT.

On the 31st March, 1938, the strength of the Force in the district was forty-eight.

During the year a detective was appointed to assist the detective-sergeant at Greymouth. Two extra constables at Greymouth and one at Hokitika were appointed to enable the 48-hour week to be worked, and one constable appointed to the new station opened at Bruce Bay. The Force in this district is now up to its authorized strength.

The offences return for the year ended the 31st December, 1937, shows a total of 1,112, against 997 for the previous year, an increase of 115 offences. Of all the offences reported, 1,030 were dealt with by arrest or summons. The principal increases were in thefts from dwellings, house and shop breaking, persons found illegally on licensed premises, persons intoxicated in charge of motor-vehicles, and general breaches of the Motor-vehicles Act.

The principal decreases were simple thefts, false pretences, and mischief.

The only serious crimes reported during the year were one of destroying a dwellinghouse by explosives and one of negligently driving a motor-vehicle and thereby causing death. In each case the offender was apprehended and convicted of the offence. There was also one case of arson, to which the offender pleaded guilty, and was committed for sentence.

During the year two constables were dealt with for breaches of the Police Regulations, but with these exceptions the conduct of the police throughout the district has been excellent and their work and general efficiency up to the required standard.

The provisions of section 41 of the Statutes Amendment Act, 1936, giving accused persons the right to change their plea to one of "guilty" after being committed for trial, have proved an advantage,

and two persons committed for trial in this district during the year pleaded guilty after being committed. One, however, again changed his plea to one of "Not Guilty" when brought up for sentence, and was later tried and acquitted by the jury.

SUPERINTENDENT CAMERON, CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT.

On the 31st March, 1938, the authorized strength of the Police Force in this district was 168, being an increase of eighteen on the previous year. The distribution of the increase is as follows:—Christchurch Station: two sergeants, nine constables, and three detectives; Ashburton Station: one constable; Lyttelton Station: one constable; Rangiora Station: one constable; Sydenham Station: one constable.

The total number of offences reported during the year is 4,666, compared with 4,177 reported during the previous year, being an increase of 489.

The principal increases are in the following: Assaults, false pretences, breaches of the peace, drunkenness, Sunday trading, found in gaming-house, failing to pay maintenance-moneys, selling and exposing liquor for sale during closing-hours, breaches of prohibition orders, found on licensed premises, and breaches under Motor-vehicles Act.

The principal decreases are in theft (undescribed), theft from dwellings, house and shop breaking, mischief, failing to maintain wife and family, and reckless driving.

As far as I can judge, the reasons for the increases mentioned are as follows—False pretences: The increase is mainly due to persons making false representations under the Employment Act. Drunkenness: I think this is due to the increased spending-power of the people. Found in gaming-houses: A police raid on a gaming-house in which a large number of persons were found is responsible for the increase. Offences under the Licensing Act by licensees and servants: The increase is probably due to unsuitable persons obtaining licenses, and the difficulty of such persons to refuse during closing-hours persons who are good customers during opening-hours, and also by the attention given by the police to the conduct of hotels. Offences under the Motor-vehicles Act and Regulations: To some extent this is due to the increased number of vehicles on the roads, every week the number being increased.

As to the decreases in theft from dwellings and thefts of various kinds, I think this is due to the fact that the increase in the detective staff does not give the offender such a long run before he is detected.

The conduct of the members of the Force has been good. Only three constables were dealt with for minor breaches of Police Regulations. Good feeling exists between the members of the uniform and detective branches of the service. During the year a number of young constables were placed on the strength in the district. They are taking a keen interest in their duties and are eager to gain further knowledge. The uniform branch have carried out their duties in a satisfactory manner, and the detective branch have been responsible for some highly efficient work. The reduced working-hours have been appreciated by all ranks.

INSPECTOR SHANAHAN, TIMARU DISTRICT.

The strength of the Force in the district on the 31st March, 1938, was forty-eight.

The authorized strength has been increased by four constables since last annual report—three constables at Timaru Station and one at Oamaru. The increase was brought about owing to the inauguration of the 48-hour week.

A further increase of one constable at Timaru and one at Oamaru is required in order to satisfactorily carry out ordinary beat duty, relieving duty, &c. The appointment of a detective-sergeant is also recommended for duty at Oamaru.

The total number of offences reported for the year ended 31st December, 1937, was 733, as compared with 678 for the previous year, an increase of 55. Arrests or summonses resulted in 607 cases. The principal increases were in respect of offences relating to assaults causing actual bodily harm, assault with intent to commit a crime, mischief, drunkenness, default of maintenance, offences against provisions in force in no-license districts, being intoxicated in charge of motor-vehicles, and reckless or negligent driving. The most notable decreases were indecent assaults on males, receiving stolen property, and being found on premises where liquor was seized under warrant.

Apart from one case of murder, the district has been free from crime of a serious nature during the year. On 11th September, 1937, an elderly storekeeper was found murdered at Arundel. Meritorious work on the part of the Timaru, Christchurch, and Dunedin police resulted in the arrest and subsequent conviction of the murderer.

The general conduct of the police in this district during the year has been very good and their duties have been performed in a satisfactory manner. There were no defaulters.

SUPERINTENDENT RAWLE, DUNEDIN DISTRICT.

On the 31st March, 1938, the actual strength of the Force was 123, being an increase of thirteen over the year 1937.

The increase was due to the introduction of the 48-hour week, which necessitated an additional two sergeants at the Central Station, one extra constable at Mosgiel, one at South Dunedin, one at North Dunedin, one in District Office, one at Port Chalmers, one in detective branch, and five men for the extra duty entailed at Central Station.

The actual further requirements for the district are two constables to man a new beat, and one additional man for local and district relieving and for the work entailed in the keeping and servicing of three motor-cars.

The annual offences return for the year discloses that 2,892 offences were reported, as against 2,951 for the previous year, being a decrease of 59 offences.

Of the number of offences reported, 2,774 persons were arrested or summoned, leaving 118 undetected offences.

Of those charged, 68 persons were committed for trial or sentence, and, of these, 53 persons were convicted of the offences with which they were charged.

Male persons numbering 2,496 and females numbering 73 were summarily convicted, while cases against 132 males and 5 females were dismissed.

Increases were included in the following offences: False statements and declarations, false pretences, receiving property dishonestly obtained, selling or exposing liquor at unauthorized times, found on licensed premises after closing-hours, selling liquor without a license, and intoxicated while in charge of a motor-vehicle.

Decreases were included in the following: Theft, theft from dwellings, house or shop breaking, mischief, drunkenness, vagrancy, unlawfully using horses, motor-cars, &c., failing to maintain wives or children, reckless or negligent driving, and other breaches of the Motor-vehicles Act.

One person was charged with murder, and was acquitted on the ground of insanity. He shot his wife at Otokia, and then attempted suicide by shooting himself. He was subsequently committed to the Seacliff Mental Hospital. Two persons were charged with offences in connection with procuring abortion. Both were convicted.

The increase of cases of false statements and declarations is due to prosecutions in connection with persons obtaining excess of sustenance and relief money through the Employment Promotion Act.

The increase in the number of cases for false pretences is due, in part, to offences under the Employment Promotion Act being dealt with as false pretences under the Justices of the Peace Act.

In reference to breaches of the Licensing Act, these increases are no doubt due to more prosperous times, when people apparently have more money to spend on liquor.

The increases in the number of cases of persons for being found intoxicated while in charge of motor-vehicles is the result of more prosperous times, when there is probably an increase in the number of motor-vehicles in use, and also to more stringent action being exercised in order to curb this type of offender.

In connection with the decreases in the number of offences of thefts, thefts from dwellings, and house and shop breaking, it would be reasonable to assume that the lessening of this type of offence can also be attributed to more prosperous times, and, with the provision of more employment, there are less persons of the vagrant class in the district; also, the smaller class of theft is not reported as is the case when times are bad.

The decrease of the motor-vehicle prosecutions is no doubt due to the general tightening of the regulations, providing for stricter supervision of motor-vehicles generally.

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, the duties of the Detective Branch being particularly well carried out.

Three constables were dealt with during the year for breaches of the regulations—one constable was dismissed and fines inflicted in the other two cases.

During the year arrangements were made in the District Office for the introduction of a loose-leaf recording-system for many of the individual records pertaining to routine matter, with a view of reducing the number of books that had previously been kept for that purpose. A system has also been introduced whereby at the expiration of every six months the staff change duties in rotation, in order that each will gain an all-round knowledge of the requirements to fit him for clerical duty in any capacity should he be required.

The result has been an all-round improvement and makes for higher efficiency in that branch.

During the year the Chief Detective had a copy of an index of criminal and licensing law reports which he has compiled during the past fifteen years run off on the cyclostyle and issued to members of the police at Dunedin. It was later brought under the notice of the Commissioner of Police, who approved of it being circulated to any member of the Force desiring a copy. The publication is now complete, and the copies have been forwarded to the applicants.

On the 15th July, 1937, Doctor William Evans tendered his resignation as Police Surgeon, a post he had held for the past twenty-four years, and in doing so handed the Superintendent a cheque for £200 for the purpose of establishing a library at the Central Police Station. The doctor expressed a wish that the library should be stocked with works on law, which would be useful to the men in furthering their professional knowledge. The selection of suitable books for the library was vested in a committee consisting of the Superintendent, Inspector, and Chief Detective. The library is now well established.

INSPECTOR GIBSON, INVERCARGILL DISTRICT.

The strength of the Force in this district on 31st March, 1938, totalled fifty-two, an increase of three constables, caused by the introduction of the 48-hour week now being worked at this station.

I again recommend an increase of one constable at Gore Station to efficiently provide for the working of the 48-hour week and also for relieving duty during annual leave, &c., of constables at country stations attached to the Gore sub-district.

The offences return for the year ended 31st December, 1937, discloses a total of 1,114 offences reported, this being a decrease of nineteen compared with the previous year. The principal decrease was in respect of persons found unlawfully on licensed premises. There was an increase in theft and assaults. Of the total of 1,114 offences reported, 1,049 were dealt with by arrest or summons.

No serious crime occurred during the year.

The general conduct of members of the Force during the year has been good. Two constables were fined for breaches of the regulations.

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, 1936, AND YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1937.

Offences.	1936.	1937										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.			
				Committed for Trial.		Summarily convicted.		Dismissed.					
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Increase.	Decrease.
CRIMES AND JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ACTS, ETC.													
<i>Misleading Justice.</i>													
Perjury and false oaths	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
False statements and declarations ..	94	562	562	5	1	511	..	45	..	5	1	468	..
<i>Escapes and Rescues.</i>													
Breaking prison	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Escaping from prison or lawful custody	19	18	16	8	..	8	..	..	..	8	..	..	1
Assisting or aiding escape from prison or lawful custody	4	4	4	1	..	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..
<i>Offences against Religion.</i>													
Disturbing public worship	1	3	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
<i>Offences against Morality.</i>													
Unnatural offence	16	16	15	12	..	3	..	..	..	11	..	..	..
Unnatural offence, attempted ..	8	12	12	8	..	4	..	..	..	6	..	4	..
Unnatural offence, assault with intent to commit	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Indecently assaulting a male	66	73	67	61	..	6	..	..	..	50	..	7	..
Incest	13	20	20	20	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	7	..
Indecent acts	11	19	19	1	..	15	..	3	..	1	..	8	..
Publishing obscene matter	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Offences against the Person, &c.</i>													
Murder	8	4	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	4
Murder, attempted	5	5	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Manslaughter	3	3	3	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Suicide, attempted	94	94	94	..	..	59	27	7	1	..	..	..	..
Suicide, aiding and abetting	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Concealment of birth	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm	2	3	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..
Endangering safety of persons on rail- ways or tramways	2	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Administering poison or other noxious things with intent to injure or annoy	2	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Assault causing actual bodily harm ..	20	30	29	12	1	..	1	15	..	10	1	10	..
Causing actual bodily harm under circumstances that, if death had been caused, would be manslaughter	1	4	4	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	3	..
Assault, indecent	133	112	106	52	..	37	..	17	..	42	..	..	21
Assault with intent to commit a crime	20	11	11	7	..	4	..	..	..	7	..	..	9
Assault	600	629	612	11	..	522	15	63	1	11	..	29	..
Rape	..	5	5	4	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	5	..
Rape, attempted	5	15	15	12	..	2	..	1	..	9	..	10	..
Carnally knowing girls under sixteen years	74	92	92	64	1	11	..	16	..	52	1	18	..
Carnally know girls under sixteen years, attempts to	17	9	9	8	..	..	..	1	..	8	..	..	8
Carnally knowing idiots or imbecile women	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Carnally knowing idiots or imbecile women, attempts to	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Defilement of women or girls, procuring, permitting, or conspiring to induce, &c.	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Abortion, procuring	6	13	13	2	11	..	..	..	..	..	5	7	..
Abortion, supplying means of procuring	5	4	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1
Abortion, procuring own	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Bigamy	10	12	11	9	2	..	..	..	..	8	2	2	..
Abduction	1	6	6	..	..	3	..	3	..	..	..	5	..
Stealing children under fourteen years	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..

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, 1936, AND YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1937—continued.

Offences.	1936.	1937.										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- mons 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.
CRIMES AND JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ACTS, ETC.—continued.													
Offences against Rights of Property.													
Theft (undescribed)	6,120	5,865	4,379	97	4	3,618	426	223	11	76	4	..	255
Theft, attempted	20	25	23	1	..	20	..	2	..	1	..	5	..
Theft from the person	12	8	7	1	..	4	1	1	..	1	..	..	4
Theft from the person, attempted	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..
Theft from dwellings	289	251	100	31	..	61	4	4	..	29	..	..	38
Theft from dwellings, attempted	14	11	8	1	..	7	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
Theft by clerks or servants	106	75	75	19	..	52	..	4	..	17	..	..	31
Theft of animals (specified)	84	46	33	6	..	16	..	10	1	4	..	..	38
Theft of animals, attempted	3	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
False pretences	696	911	851	97	2	684	36	30	2	93	2	215	..
False pretences, attempted	23	31	31	2	1	28	..	..	..	1	..	8	..
Obtaining credit by fraud	120	117	110	4	..	100	..	6	..	4	..	..	3
False accounting by officials or clerks	14	12	12	7	..	5	..	..	..	7	..	..	2
False statements by officials or public officers	..	12	12	11	..	1	..	..	..	11	..	12	..
Fortune-telling or practising witchcraft	19	2	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	17
Robbery and aggravated robbery	9	8	8	7	..	..	..	1	..	7	..	..	1
Assault with intent to rob	7	3	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4
Demanding with intent to steal	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Extortion by threats	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..
Burglary	92	110	79	56	1	18	..	4	..	54	1	18	..
Burglary, attempted	5	11	9	4	..	3	..	2	..	4	..	6	..
House or shop breaking, &c.	904	913	678	280	11	365	2	20	..	261	7	9	..
House or shop breaking, &c., attempted	62	82	53	28	..	22	..	3	..	28	..	20	..
Being found in dwellinghouse by night	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Being armed with intent to break or enter	..	6	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	6	..
Being disguised or in possession of housebreaking implements	4	7	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	3	..
Receiving property dishonestly obtained	166	122	123	22	..	73	14	10	4	20	..	..	44
Forgery	89	143	130	91	1	18	3	17	..	83	1	54	..
Uttering forged documents of false certificates	15	30	29	22	..	4	1	2	..	21	..	15	..
Sending false telegram	4	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Possessing forged bank-notes	..	5	5	4	..	..	..	1	..	4	..	5	..
Using or possessing machinery, &c., for making revenue or bank-note paper	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..
Personation	3	3	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Arson	15	12	8	6	..	1	1	..	..	6	..	..	3
Arson, attempted	4	9	8	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	5	..
Setting fire to crops, attempted	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Wilfully placing obstruction on railways	5	3	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Mischief	613	879	843	3	..	755	16	68	1	3	..	266	..
Mischief on railways and tramways	15	7	7	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Possessing or making explosive sub- stance, &c., with intent thereby to commit a crime	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sending threatening letters	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Threatening acts with intent to intimi- date	..	4	4	1	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	4	..
POLICE OFFENCES ACT.													
Breach of the peace or behaviour with intent	480	586	585	..	..	529	17	38	1	..	..	106	..
Cruelty to animals	79	72	70	1	..	54	4	11	..	1	..	..	7
Drunkenness	3,980	4,360	4,360	..	..	4,207	149	4	..	..	..	380	..
Drunk while in charge of horses, &c., or loaded firearms	22	18	18	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Drunk and disorderly	184	171	171	..	..	167	3	1	..	..	..	..	13
Exposure of person and grossly indecent acts	202	222	209	1	..	192	2	13	1	..	..	20	..
Using profane, indecent, or obscene lan- guage	436	468	466	2	..	409	25	21	9	1	..	32	..
Vagrancy (idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, and incor- rigible rogues)	207	231	231	1	..	167	38	24	1	..	..	24	..
Assaulting, obstructing, or resisting con- stables, &c.	107	88	88	..	..	82	1	5	..	..	..	..	19
Intimidation to restrict lawful acts	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Inciting violence, disorder, or lawless- ness	6	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	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, 1936, AND YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1937—continued.

Offences.	1936	1937.										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.		
POLICE OFFENCES ACT—continued.													
Unlawfully using horses, motor-cars, &c.	694	786	718	34	..	633	3	48	..	32	..	92	..
Unlawfully on premises at night with- out criminal intent	124	158	156	..	..	136	8	11	1	..	..	34	..
Sunday trading	266	270	270	..	..	175	89	4	2	..	..	4	..
False allegation <i>re</i> commission of offence	9	6	6	..	..	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
GAMING ACT.													
Common gaming-house, keeping or managing, &c.	135	112	112	..	..	101	3	8	..	..	..	..	23
Found in a common gaming-house ..	347	332	332	..	..	313	14	5	..	..	..	..	15
Gaming with instruments	8	50	50	..	..	50	..	..	..	..	..	42	..
Publishing advertisements relating to betting on horse-races	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Lotteries, unlawfully establishing or conducting, &c.	13	24	24	..	..	21	..	3	..	..	..	11	..
Betting, unlawful	39	23	23	..	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Following the occupation of bookmaker	68	76	73	..	..	69	2	2	..	..	..	8	..
Publishing betting charts	4	36	36	..	..	35	..	1	..	..	..	32	..
Trespass on racecourse	56	30	30	..	..	29	1	..	..	..	..	..	26
POST AND TELEGRAPH ACT.													
Illegally opening or delaying postal packets	11	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Stealing postal packets, mail-bags, &c.	30	53	53	27	..	26	..	..	..	27	..	23	..
Stealing money, &c., from postal- packets	4	8	8	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
Unlawfully opening mail-bags ..	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Injuring post-office pillars or boxes ..	31	11	7	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Damaging telegraph equipment ..	134	73	54	..	..	48	1	5	..	..	..	..	61
Posting indecent post-cards or letters	3	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
False statement <i>re</i> posting postal packet	2	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
DESTITUTE PERSONS ACT.													
Failing to maintain wife or children ..	1,759	1,895	1,802	..	..	1,495	26	277	4	..	..	136	..
Failing for fourteen days to pay main- tenance moneys	1,963	2,241	2,130	..	..	1,903	8	218	1	..	..	278	..
Offences by husbands while separation orders are in force	90	25	25	..	..	22	..	3	..	..	..	..	65
Offences prescribed in sections 52 to 58 of Destitute Persons Act	11	6	5	..	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	5
SHIPPING AND SEAMEN ACT.													
Ship-desertion	61	112	77	..	..	73	..	4	..	..	..	51	..
Absent without leave	17	13	11	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Offences against discipline	1	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Embezzling cargo	4	2	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Stowing away	22	30	30	..	..	29	1	..	..	..	..	8	..
LICENSING ACT.													
Permitting drunkenness or violent con- duct	4	7	7	..	..	3	..	4	..	..	..	3	..
Selling or supplying liquor to intoxicated persons	8	6	6	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Permitting gaming, gambling, &c. ..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Selling or supplying liquor, or exposing for sale, or opening or keeping open premises at unauthorized times	687	661	661	..	..	439	36	167	19	..	..	..	26
Supplying liquor to persons under twenty-one years	27	54	54	..	..	38	2	14	..	..	..	27	..
Selling or supplying liquor to pro- hibited persons	9	12	12	..	..	10	..	2	..	..	..	3	..
Permitting prohibited persons to be on premises	..	4	4	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
Unlawfully employing females in or about a bar	2	2	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Employing minors in bars	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Illegally supplying liquor to Natives	60	153	153	..	..	140	1	11	1	..	..	93	..
Obstructing Inspectors or refusing entrance to Inspectors or constables	4	5	5	..	..	2	..	3	..	..	..	1	..

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, 1936, AND YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1937—*continued*.

Offences.	1936.	1937.										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.			
				Committed for Trial.		Summarily convicted.		Dismissed.					
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Increase.	Decrease.
LICENSING ACT—continued.													
Using bottles with labels more than once	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Breaches of prohibition orders ..	429	517	516	..	..	486	14	14	2	..	..	88	..
Found on licenses premises after closing-hours	1,957	2,048	2,048	..	..	1,916	15	114	3	..	..	91	..
Refusing to quit licensed premises ..	9	15	15	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	6	..
Selling or exposing liquor for sale without a license	134	167	167	..	..	113	20	30	4	..	..	33	..
Found on premises where liquor was seized under a warrant	137	122	122	..	..	94	24	3	1	..	..	..	15
Offences against provisions in force in no-license districts	79	110	110	..	..	94	1	14	1	..	..	31	..
Selling, supplying, or giving liquor to Maoris in Native licensing districts	5	39	39	..	..	36	..	3	..	..	..	34	..
Offences against provisions of no-license in Native proclaimed areas	52	55	51	1	..	47	..	3	..	..	..	3	..
Supplying liquor to Natives in proclaimed districts	60	98	98	..	..	93	..	5	..	..	..	38	..
Permitting consumption of liquor in restaurants after hours	12	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	11
MISCELLANEOUS.													
Absconding from industrial schools ..	30	9	9	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Bankruptcy offences	4	7	7	2	..	1	..	4	..	2	..	3	..
Brothels or houses of ill fame, keeping, &c.	3	6	6	..	..	..	4	..	2	..	..	3	..
Children, wilfully ill-treating, neglecting, abandoning, or exposing	4	2	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Deserting or absenting from His Majesty's ships	14	33	15	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	19	..
Drunk or behaving in a violent or offen- sive manner, &c., on a railway, &c.	16	16	15	..	..	14	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Failing to comply with conditions of release under First Offenders Pro- bation Acts	104	135	123	..	..	106	14	3	..	..	..	31	..
Habitual criminals or offenders, breach of conditions of probationary license	7	15	11	2	..	9	..	..	..	2	..	8	..
Indecent Publications Act, offences under	6	5	5	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	1
Opium-smoking, &c.	91	96	96	..	..	88	..	8	..	..	..	5	..
Smuggling	6	6	6	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trespassing on railway and refusing to leave, &c.	34	24	24	..	..	22	1	..	1	..	..	..	10
Arms Act, breaches of	339	297	297	..	..	285	1	11	..	..	..	..	42
Second-hand Dealers Act, breaches of	10	7	7	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
MOTOR-VEHICLES ACT.													
Causing death or bodily injury through reckless driving	67	59	58	35	3	1	..	16	3	14	1	..	8
Being intoxicated in charge of a motor- vehicle	509	634	633	..	..	586	3	43	1	..	..	125	..
Reckless or negligent driving ..	2,107	2,099	2,088	1	..	1,813	40	217	17	1	..	..	8
Other breaches of Act	5,996	6,975	6,949	3	..	6,405	204	320	17	1	..	979	..
Totals	35,448	38,629	36,078	1,254	41	31,032	1,331	2,304	116	1,096	28	4,170	989
Increase	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,181	..

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.
Wanganui District—														Nelson District—													
Wanganui ..	1			1	1	21				2	27			Nelson ..	1			1	1	13				2	18		
Aramoho ..						1					1			Blenheim ..				1		7					8		
Castlecliff ..						1					1			Collingwood ..						1					1		
Gonville ..						1					1			Havelock ..						1					1		
Hunterville ..						1					1			Motueka ..						2					2		
Mangaweka ..						1					1			Murchison ..						1					1		
Manunui ..						1					1			Picton ..						1					1		
National Park ..						1					1			Port Nelson ..						1					1		
Ohakune ..						1					1			Richmond ..						1					1		
Ohura ..						1					1			Seddon ..						1					1		
Ongarue ..						1					1			Takaka ..						1					1		
Patea ..						2					2			Wakefield ..						1					1		
Raetihi ..						1					1			Totals ..	1			2	1	30				2	36		
Raurimu ..						1					1			Greymouth Dis-													
St. John's (Wa- nganui) ..						1					1			trict—													
Taihape ..					1	3					4			Greymouth ..	1			1	1	11	1		1	1	17		
Taumarunui ..					1	4					5			Ahaura ..						1					1		
Waitotara ..						1					1			Blackball ..						1					1		
Wanganui East ..						1					1			Bruce Bay ..						1					1		
Waverley ..						1					1			Brunnerton ..						1					1		
Totals ..	1			1	3	46				1	2	54		Charleston ..						1					1		
Palmerston North														Cobden ..						1					1		
District—														Denniston ..						1					1		
Palmerston North ..	1			1	1	22	2			1	2	30		Granity ..						1					1		
Ashhurst ..						1					1			Hokitika ..					1	4					5		
Bulls ..						1					1			Kanieri ..						1					1		
Cuba Street (Palmerston N.)						1					1			Karamea ..						1					1		
Eketahuna ..						1					1			Kumara ..						1					1		
Feilding ..					1	4					5			Matainui ..						1					1		
Foxton ..						2					2			Millerton ..						1					1		
Kimbolton ..						1					1			Otira ..						1					1		
Levin ..						2					2			Reefton ..					1	2					3		
Marton ..						2					2			Ross ..						1					1		
Otaki ..						2					2			Runanga ..						1					1		
Pahiatua ..						2					2			Waiuta ..						1					1		
Pongaroa ..						1					1			Westport ..					1	5					6		
Rongotea ..						1					1			Totals ..	1			1	4	39	1		1	1	48		
Shannon ..						1					1			Christchurch Dis-													
Terrace End (Palmerston N.)						1					1			trict—													
Woodville ..						1					1			Christchurch ..	1	1	1	2	7	44	28	1	5	8	98		
Totals ..	1			1	2	46	2			1	2	55		Addington ..						1	2	1			4		
Wellington District—														Akaroa ..						1					1		
Wellington ..	1	1	3	1	6	58	23			4	8	105		Amberley ..						1					1		
Brooklyn ..						1					1			Ashburton ..						1	6				7		
Carterton ..						2					2			Beckenham ..						1					1		
Eastbourne ..						1					1			Belfast ..						1					1		
Featherston ..						2					2			Bingsland ..						1					1		
Greytown ..						1					1			Chatham Islands						1					1		
Island Bay ..						1					1			Cheviot ..						1					1		
Johnsonville ..						1					1			Coalgate ..						1					1		
Karori ..						1					1			Culverden ..						1					1		
Kelburn ..						1					1			Darfield ..						1					1		
Khandallah ..						1					1			Fendalton ..						1					1		
Kilbirnie ..					1	4					5			Islington ..						1					1		
Lower Hutt ..					1	8					9			Kaiapoi ..						2					2		
Lyall Bay ..						1					1			Kaikoura ..						2					2		
Martinborough ..						6				1	8			Leeston ..						1					1		
Masterton ..				1		6				1	8			Lincoln ..						1					1		
Miramar ..						1					1			Linwood ..						1					1		
Mount Cook ..					1	3	9	19			32			Little River ..						1					1		
Moera ..						1					1			Lower Riccarton						1					1		
Packakariki ..						1					1			Lyttelton ..				1		8	1				10		
Petone ..					1	8				1	10			Methven ..						1					1		
Seatoun ..						1					1			New Brighton ..					1	2					3		
Taranaki Street ..					1	3	10	22			36			North New Brigh-						1					1		
Thorndon Quay ..						1					1			ton						1					1		
Tinui ..						1					1			Oxford ..						1					1		
Tinakori Road ..						1					1			Papanui ..						1					1		
Upper Hutt ..						2					2			Phillipstown ..						1					1		
Wadestown ..						1					1			Rakaia ..						1					1		
Wellington South						1	4				5			Rangiora ..					1	2					3		
Wharf (Wellington)						1	4				5			Riccarton (Upper)						1	2				3		
Totals ..	1	1	3	5	16	134	64			6	8	238		Southbridge ..						1					1		
														Sumner ..						1					1		
														Sydenham ..					1	5					6		
														Waikari ..						1					1		
														Woolston ..						1					1		
														Totals ..	1	1	1	3	13	103	30	1	5	8	166		

APPENDIX B—continued.

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

Stations.	Superin- tendents.	Sub- inspectors.	Senior Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Temporary Constables.	Senior Detectives.	Detective- sergeants.	Detectives.	Total.	District Constables.	Native Constables.	Stations.	Superin- tendents.	Sub- inspectors.	Senior Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Temporary Constables.	Senior Detectives.	Detective- sergeants.	Detectives.	Total.	District Constables.	Native Constables.	
Timaru District—													Dunedin District— <i>continued.</i>													
Timaru ..	1		1	1	16	1		1	1	22			St. Kilda ..					1					1			
Dunroon ..					1					1			South Dunedin ..				1	6	1				8			
Fairlie ..					1					1			Waikouaiti ..					1					1			
Geraldine ..					1					1			Waitahuna ..					1					1			
Glenavy ..					1					1			Waitati ..					1					1			
Hampden ..					1					1			Woodhaugh ..					1					1			
Kurow ..					1					1			Totals ..	1	1		1	12	77	21	1	3	5	122		
Oamaru ..			1		8					9			Invercargill Dis- trict—													
Pleasant Point ..					1					1			Invercargill ..		1		1	1	18	2		1	2	26		
St. Andrew's ..					1					1			Arrowtown ..					1					1			
Temuka ..			1		2					3			Bluff ..					2					2			
Waimataitai ..					1					1			Clinton ..					1					1			
Waimate ..				1	3					4			Gore ..				1	4					5			
Totals ..	1		2	3	38	1		1	1	47			Half-moon Bay ..					1					1			
Dunedin District—													Lumsden ..					1					1			
Dunedin ..	1	1		1	9	26	19	1	3	5	66		Mataura ..					1					1			
Alexandra ..					1					1			Nightcaps ..					1					1			
Anderson's Bay ..					1					1			North Invercargill ..					1					1			
Balclutha ..					2					2			Otautau ..					1					1			
Caversham ..					1					1			Pembroke ..					1					1			
Clyde ..					1					1			Queenstown ..					1					1			
Cromwell ..					1					1			Riverton ..					1					1			
Green Island ..					1					1			South Invercargill ..					1					1			
Kaitangata ..					1					1			Tapanui ..					1					1			
Lawrence ..					1					1			Tokanui ..					1					1			
Maori Hill ..					1					1			Tuatapere ..					1					1			
Middlemarch ..					1					1			Waikaia ..					1					1			
Milton ..					1					1			Waikiwi ..					1					1			
Mornington ..					1					1			Winton ..					1					1			
Mosgiel ..					2					2			Wyndham ..					1					1			
Naseby ..					1					1			Totals ..	1		1	2	43	2		1	2	52			
North Dunedin ..				1	6	1				8			Attached to head- quarters staff ..			2	2	4				1	9			
North-east Valley ..					1					1			Lent to Cook Islands Administration ..					1					1			
Ophir ..					1					1			Lent to Samoan Administration ..					2					2			
Outram ..					1					1			On leave prior to retirement ..				2						2			
Owaka ..					1					1			Grand totals ..	4	16	6	35	110	975	189	3	29	61	1428	3	1
Palmerston South ..					1					1																
Port Chalmers ..				1	5					6																
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 ..	1,428	1,604,479	1 to 1,123	s. d. 7 6
Victoria ..	2,290	1,859,487	1 to 812	8 10½
New South Wales ..	3,678	2,710,738	1 to 737	9 5
Queensland ..	1,338	993,461	1 to 742	10 8¼
South Australia ..	864	591,201	1 to 684	9 1
Western Australia ..	580	457,111	1 to 788	10 8¾
Tasmania ..	281	238,990	1 to 850	9 11¾

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