

1939.

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, 13th July, 1939.

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 members of the Force of all ranks was 1,439, being an increase of eleven during the year. The total is made up as follows:

Superintendents	6
Inspectors	15
Sub-Inspectors	6
Senior sergeants	34
Sergeants	114
Constables	1,107
Temporary constables	66
Senior detectives	4
Detective-sergeants	31
Detectives	56

In addition to the above there were

Police surgeons	15
Matrons	8
District constables	3
Native constable	1

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

The following are the losses in personnel for the year ended 31st March last: Retired under section 26, Police Force Act, 1919, 1; retired on pension under the Public Service Superannuation Act, 8; retired as medically unfit, 5; died, 11; resigned voluntarily, 16; dismissed, 1; total, 42.

STATIONS.

New stations were established during the year at Wataroa and Northland, and the station at Matainui was closed.

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 5,679 on the figures of 1937. The proportion of offences to the population was 2.73 per cent., as against 2.44 the previous year.

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

Assault (common)	99	Unlawfully using horses, motor-cars, &c. ..	130
Theft (petty)	144	Following the occupation of bookmaker ..	44
Theft by clerks or servants	34	Maintenance offences	515
Theft of animals	25	Ship-desertion	66
House or shop breaking, &c.	120	Breaches of prohibition orders	124
Breach of the peace or behaviour with intent ..	126	Causing death or bodily injury through reckless driving	14
Drunkenness	842	Being intoxicated in charge of motor-vehicle	176
Drunk and disorderly	55	Minor breaches of Motor-vehicles Act ..	4,199
Using profane, indecent, or obscene language ..	74		
Vagrancy	78		
Assaulting, obstructing, or resisting constables, &c.	75		

The principal decreases were

False statements and declarations	165	Stealing postal packets, mail-bags, &c. ...	39
Carnally knowing girls under sixteen years ..	63	Found on licensed premises after closing hours	185
False pretences	182	Selling or exposing liquor for sale without a license, and offences against provisions in force in no-license districts	172
Burglary	34	Opium-smoking	30
Receiving property dishonestly obtained	24	Reckless or negligent driving	192
Forgery	58		
Mischief	41		
Sunday trading	107		
Found in common gaming-house	125		