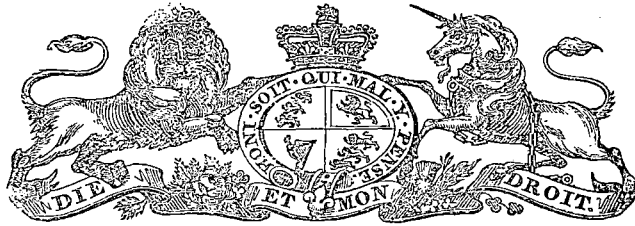


(No. 58.)



1891.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TERRITORIAL POLICE :

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1890.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



*Police Department,
Commissioner's Office, Hobart, 2nd July, 1891.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit my Annual Report upon the Territorial Police for the year 1890.

During the year I made the following visits of inspection:—To the District of Selby six, to George Town two, to Ringarooma four, to Portland one, to Mersey and Latrobe two, to Emu Bay two, to Russell one, to Franklin two, and to Kingborough two. I was unable to visit Carnarvon and South Longford, and I visited Macquarie in January last.

The head stations of the several Districts were all found in good order, and very much care is exhibited by the Superintendents in keeping the buildings in as good condition as is practicable, but in many instances they still exhibit the want of a more liberal provision for maintenance and repair. I also visited most of the out-stations, but could not accomplish the inspection of all. They were generally in very good order, although the same want of an adequate provision for maintenance was apparent in respect of many of them.

New and commodious stations have been erected at Pattersonia, in the Selby District, where the constable and his family previously had very inadequate accommodation, and at Strahan and Zeehan, in the Macquarie District. Arrangements have been made for the erection of a residence and office for a Sub-Inspector at Zeehan, where it has now become necessary to station such an officer, and also for the erection of a watch-house with quarters for the watch-house keeper at the same place. A suitable site for the whole of the buildings has been secured through the instrumentality of the Engineer-in-Chief, at and alongside of the terminal station of the Railway,—a position which, for obvious reasons, will be a very advantageous one. Preparations are also being made for the erection of stations with cells at Dundas, in the Macquarie District, at the Whyte River, in the neighbourhood of the Heazlewood and Godkin Silver Mines, in the Emu Bay District, at which places it is necessary to station constables, and at West Devonport, in the Mersey District, where quarters are now rented.

It was found necessary to increase the number of constables at the West Coast silver-fields, District of Macquarie. During the year an additional one was stationed at Strahan, and two at Zeehan; and, since the close of the year, two additional constables have been appointed at Zeehan, making the total strength of the District one Sub-Inspector in charge and eight constables. The Sub-Inspector has been appointed Acting Superintendent,—a step necessary to enable effect to be given to some provisions in the Licensing and other Acts, as well as one in recognition of the importance the District has now attained.

A police station was established at Railton, in the Mersey and Latrobe District, in November, which did not render necessary any increase in the strength of the District, owing to the reduction of one man effected at East Devonport.

Since the close of the year it has been found necessary to appoint an additional constable at Mount Stuart, a suburb of Hobart, and another at Ulverstone. The increase of population in both places rendered increased police protection a necessity.

A reduction of one Sub-Inspector was effected at Franklin, and a constable appointed in his place.

The appointments made during the year were as follows:—To fill vacancies caused by

Transfers to other departments	2
Resignations	5
Discharges	2
Dismissals	0
Superannuations	1
Deaths	2
To fill stations required by increase of staff	4

Of these appointments one was that of a Sub-Inspector, and a Constable was selected for promotion who had served eight years in the Department, during seven years of which he had acted as Bench Clerk and Registrar of the Court; seven were men who had had previous police training and experience, principally in the home country; three were men who had served in volunteer corps, and five were young men who had had no previous training or experience in any similar or kindred establishment, four being natives of the Colony, two of whom were sons of police officers.

The great disadvantage under which the Department labours, and to which I have referred in previous reports, in being unable to afford any systematic instruction and training to recruits, is felt more keenly every year. So essential is such experience considered, that in the other Colonies, where the head stations in the capitals afford the requisite facilities, constables serve several years, in some cases fixed by regulation at ten, before they are allowed to take charge of a country station. The possibility of such teaching is denied us in Tasmania, the largest number of men stationed in any one place being three.

The Census taken in April last shows that the increase in the population of the Colony, exclusive of the two cities, was, in ten years, approximately 23,200. Of this increase upwards of 19,000 were in the Territorial Police Districts, which is to be attributed to the fact that those Districts have not been so long settled, and are not so fully developed as the others, and, further, almost the whole of the mineral lands and unalienated agricultural lands of the Colony are within their boundaries. The increase naturally led to the demand for the establishment of new police stations, and 15 have been opened, with 18 officers and men, since the close of 1885. There have, however, been opportunities of reducing the number of Constables in some parts, which opportunities have always been taken advantage of, the result being that the total number of officers and men now comprising the establishment of the Territorial Police is only two in excess of that of 1885; the numbers being, in 1885, 115; in 1890, 117.

The absence of any provision for allowing increased pay for length of service has always been a source of considerable dissatisfaction, but has now to some extent been remedied by the introduction into the Estimates for the present year of a sum intended to be appropriated to additions to the pay of Officers and Constables on the following scale—5 to 10 years' service, 5 per cent; 10 to 20 years, 7½ per cent.; and 20 years and upwards, 10 per cent. It is proposed to increase this scale for 1892 by substituting the following—10 to 20 years' service, 10 per cent; 20 years and upwards, 20 per cent. I have no doubt this appreciable increase of pay will have a very beneficial effect in inducing men to regard the service as one offering a premium for good conduct and length of service, and it will remove the anomaly heretofore existing of an exact equality of pay between those of a lifelong service and those appointed yesterday.

The Estimates for 1890 contained, for the first time, provision for the whole of the Constables in one sum. The advantage of this arrangement is found to be very great. A Constable's services no longer required in one District of the Colony can be transferred to another without the necessity for resorting to the authority of a Supplementary Estimate, a course which was previously indispensable, leading to the very erroneous impression that an increased expenditure was being incurred.

In January last I visited the West Coast Districts, and rode from Waratah to Strahan, returning by the same route. I spent nearly three weeks at the several mining centres. There cannot be a doubt but very considerable additions will require to be made to the Police Force, both where already located and at other places where the rapid development of the mining industry will render new stations indispensable. The principal centre of mining activity at present is the country in the neighbourhood of Mounts Zeehan and Dundas. A large population has collected there, consisting of people from all parts of Tasmania and from all the Australian Colonies and New Zealand. It was gratifying to observe the general good order which prevailed, adding further confirmation to the opinion I have frequently expressed of the miners and others engaged in the various legitimate pursuits connected with mining, as a body of men of exceptionally good character. I have no doubt the insular position of Tasmania checks the advent of many but well disposed and provident men, and the exceptionally large number of them who are congregated in the District certainly uphold the reputation which their class has gained at all the mining centres in the Colony. There are of course the usual proportion of vagrants and other objectionable characters and criminals who invariably move from other parts of the Colony to such places, and during the last few months many of the criminal class seem to have found their way to the Colony; and the Acting Superintendent

in charge of the District, and the senior Constable in charge at Zeehan, have had exceptionally severe and onerous duties, enhanced by the difficulties of locomotion throughout the country, thrown upon them, which they have met and discharged with commendable energy and sound discretion, gaining in a marked degree the approbation and confidence of the public.

The new Licensing Act, 53 Victoria, No. 37, has doubtless had a beneficial effect in many directions. The limitation clauses are enforced as far as practicable, but combinations to defeat them, specially aided by the Act 52 Vict. No. 7, giving defendants the power to give evidence on oath, are, I regret to say, only too common. Sunday trading and selling during prohibited hours exist, and will exist, the difficulty of obtaining convictions, enhanced by the operation of the last-named Act, being such as to absolutely prevent prosecution in the majority of cases. I observe the same difficulty in enforcing the law in this respect is specially referred to by the permanent heads of the Police Departments in New South Wales and Queensland in their annual reports, and I have reason to believe is felt more or less in all the colonies. The artificial definition of the term "traveller" as one who slept the previous night at a place three miles distant leads to the transfer of a great deal of Sunday and after-hours' trade from the town houses to those in the suburbs.

The operation of the Act to amend the Law of Evidence above referred to has, there is some reason to fear, been productive of mischief. We now find defendants, sometimes followed by members of their families, employees, or persons who are mixed up in the case, and who appear very ready to follow the example set them, stepping into the witness-box and on oath directly contradicting the sworn testimony of the Police and other witnesses for the prosecution, who may be reasonably credited with honesty of purpose in the performance of a public duty. Many offenders are, I believe, induced to deny on oath the accusations against them under the fear that failing to do so will be regarded as tantamount to an admission of guilt.

The persistent opposition exhibited in some parts of the colony to the law for the protection of fish, especially in those waters where the salmon tribe has been acclimatised, causes a great deal of trouble and irritation to the Police. In the Huon River alone no less than 36 nets have been seized and adjudged confiscated for being illegally used during the last 2½ years.

The duties performed by the Police outside of that which may be considered strictly Police duty are increasing considerably. Many of them are referred to in the Return attached. Where such duties are not sufficient in any one place to justify the appointment of an officer specially to perform them, they can be much more advantageously and economically undertaken by this Department, and I see no objection to a continuation of the practice.

It has been the practice in this colony to furnish a sufficient number of officers and constables to maintain order and render necessary assistance at sports, races, and other amusements where an entrance fee is demanded of the public, but no charge is made for their services. It involves, however, in the aggregate very considerable expense to the Department in the shape of travelling allowances, cost of transit, horse hire, &c. I notice in some of the other colonies such services are now no longer rendered gratuitously.

Although there has been, on the whole, a diminution of crime, especially when compared with the increased population, the work of the Department has largely increased. The greater facilities for communication, the extension of settlement, the development of the mining industry, the construction of extensive public works, the increased intercolonial and coastal steam shipping trade, and the generally increased commercial activity throughout the colony, have all tended to add largely to the work, principally in the direction of correspondence and responsibility devolving upon the officers at head-quarters and those in charge of districts and subdivisions. I have very good reason indeed to be well satisfied with the manner in which they, as well as the men generally, have discharged their various duties, and the devotion to the interests of the service which they have displayed.

It is very much to be regretted that some of the Municipalities still fail to furnish reports of crimes and offences, and it is quite a common thing to read in the newspapers references to occurrences of which we have no official knowledge. The *Police Gazette* is published weekly, and a copy is placed in the hands of every constable in Tasmania. It contains a record of all reports of offences, and all information which can be obtained relating to offenders, stolen property, particulars of and attending the commission of crimes—everything, in fact, which it is possible to furnish to facilitate detection or the recovery of stolen property and the arrest of criminals. The electric telegraph is also available for the dissemination of any such particulars in cases where it is necessary to circulate them without loss of time. Nevertheless, incredible as it may seem, there are some Municipal Councils who will not insist upon their Police Officers furnishing reports, even of the most serious cases, and availing themselves of the facilities thus gratuitously placed at their disposal. The opportunities which are thus lost of aiding in the prevention and detection of crime do not injuriously affect the particular municipality only, but the whole community suffers, for all are equally interested in the prompt arrest of offenders of all descriptions.

An Act was passed during last Session of Parliament by which the official designation of the permanent Head of this Department was changed from "Inspector" to "Commissioner of Police."

The Territorial Police Provident Fund stood as follows on the 31st December, 1890:—

	£	s.	d.
Superannuation Branch.....	4656	17	8
Reward Branch	689	8	2

The amount paid to members of the Force who retired during the year was £169 2s. 7d., and the amount of rewards given for meritorious conduct was £122. A special distribution was made from the Reward Branch, towards the close of the year, by the authority of the Hon. the Chief Secretary, amongst the officers and constables of one year's service and upwards, whose general attention to duty and good conduct were considered to merit such recognition. The sum of £964 was thus distributed; and I am happy to say there were only two men in the Department who were not permitted to participate in it.

I append the usual Return showing the strength and distribution of the Police during the year, together with particulars of other offices held and duties performed by them. I also append the usual tabulated Comparative Statement of Offences.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

BERNARD SHAW, *Commissioner of Police.*

The Hon. the Attorney-General.

RETURN showing the Strength and Distribution of the Territorial Police Force during the Year 1890.

District.	Station.	Superintendent.	Sub-Inspector.	Sergeant.	Constable.	Special Constable.	Remarks.
NEW TOWN AND QUEENBOROUGH.	Head Station.....	1	1	1	1	..	The Superintendent is Inspector of Weights and Measures, Inspector under Fisheries Act, Secretary Sandy Bay Local Board of Health, Town Surveyor, Crown Lands Bailiff, Sanitary Inspector of Health Glebe Town, New Town, and Queenborough, Collector of Stock and Crop, Reviser of Jury List and Valuation Roll, and Bailiff Court of Requests, and has forage for one horse. The Sub-Inspector is Coroner's Clerk and Summoning Officer, Supreme Court.
	New Town.....	..	..	1	3	..	The Sergeant is Assistant Bailiff Court of Requests, and Sub-Collector of Rates.
	Sandy Bay.....	..	..	1	2	..	The Sergeant is Assistant Bailiff Court of Requests and Inspector of Stock.
	Glebe Town & Domain ..	..	..	..	4	..	
	Cascade Road .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Fern Tree .....	..	..	..	1	..	
KINGBOROUGH.	Kingston	1	..	..	2	..	The Superintendent is Bailiff of Crown Lands, Bailiff Court of Requests, Deputy Registrar of Births, &c., Inspector of Stock, Examiner of Weights and Measures, Collector of Hospital Fees, Collector of Stock and Crop, Compiler of Valuation Roll and Jury List, and Inspector Local Boards of Health, and has forage allowance for one horse. One Constable is Bench Clerk, Registrar of Court of Requests, and Clerk to Board of Advice.
	Gordon .....	..	1	..	..	..	The Sub-Inspector is Bailiff of Crown Lands, Bailiff Court of Requests, and Clearing Officer of Customs, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Margate .....	..	..	..	..	1	
	Leslie .....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable has forage for one horse.
	Woodbridge .....	..	..	..	1	..	Ditto.
	Bruny Island (North) ..	..	..	..	..	1	
	Bruny Island (South) ..	..	..	..	1		
FRANKLIN.	Franklin	1	..	..	2	..	The Superintendent is Bailiff of Crown Lands, Inspector of Stock, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Deputy Registrar of Births, &c., Collector of Hospital Fees, Inspector under Fisheries Act, Inspector Board of Health, and has forage allowance for one horse. A Constable is Bailiff Court of Requests.
	Port Cygnet .....	..	1	..	1	..	The Sub-Inspector is Registrar and Bailiff of the Court of Requests and Bailiff of Crown Lands, and Inspector Board of Health, and has forage for one horse.
	Port Esperance.....	..	..	1	..	..	The Sergeant is Bailiff of Court of Requests and of Crown Lands and Tidewater, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Southport .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Honeywood .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Huonville .....	..	..	..	2	..	
	Recherche .....	..	..	..	1	..	
CARNARVON.	Carnarvon .....	..	1	..	..	..	The Sub-Inspector is Bench Clerk, Deputy Clerk of the Peace, Bailiff and Registrar Court of General Sessions, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Impression Bay.....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable has forage allowance for one horse.
MACQUARIE.	Strahan	1	..	..	2	..	The Superintendent is Crown Lands Bailiff, Bailiff Court of Requests, Inspector of Stocks, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Inspector Local Board of Health, Collector of Timber Licences, and Tidewater. A Constable is Assistant Bailiff of Crown Lands.
	Reminé .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Zeehan.....	..	..	..	3	..	A Constable is Inspector Local Board of Health and Crown Lands Bailiff.
SOUTH LONGFORD.	The Steppes	1	..	..	..	..	The Chief Constable is Bailiff of Crown Lands and Inspector of Sheep, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Great Lake .....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable has forage allowance for one horse.
SELBY.	Invermay	1	..	..	1	..	The Superintendent is Collector of Timber Licences, Inspector of Stock, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Inspector under Fisheries Act, Bailiff of Crown Lands, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Hobart Road.....	..	1	..	..	..
	St. Leonard's.....	..	1	..	..	..	The Sub-Inspector has forage allowance for one horse, and is Inspector Local Board of Health.
	Pattersonia .....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable has forage allowance for one horse.
	Lisle .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Lilydale .....	..	..	..	1	..	Ditto, and is Inspector Local Board of Health.
	Turner's Marsh .....	..	..	..	1	..	Ditto.
	Dilston .....	..	..	..	1	..	Ditto.
	Rosevears .....	..	..	..	1	..	Ditto.
	Trevallyn .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Hadspen .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Young Town .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Lebrina (Hall's Track) ..	..	..	..	1	..	
RINGAROOMA.	Scottsdale	1	..	..	2	..	The Superintendent is Bailiff Court of Requests, of Crown Lands, and Inspector Local Board of Health, Inspector of Stock, Inspector of Weights and Measures, and has forage allowance for two horses. One Constable has forage allowance for one horse.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Station.</i>	<i>Superintendent.</i>	<i>Sub-Inspector.</i>	<i>Sergeant.</i>	<i>Constable.</i>	<i>Special Constable.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
RINGAROOMA— <i>continued.</i>	Moorina.....	..	1	..	1	..	The Sub-Inspector is Registrar and Bailiff Court of Requests and of Crown Lands, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Ringarooma, Upper..	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable is Bailiff Court of Requests and of Crown Lands, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Brånxholm .....	..	..	..	1	..	Ditto.
	Bridport.....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable has forage allowance for one horse.
	Gladstone .....	..	..	..	1	..	Ditto, and is Bailiff Court of Requests.
	Derby .....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable is Bailiff of Crown Lands.
	Boobyalla .....	..	..	..	1	..	
PORTLAND.	St. Helen's.....	1	..	..	2	..	The Superintendent is Bailiff of Crown Lands, Inspector of Stock, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Nuisances, Compiler of Valuation Roll and Statistics, and has forage allowance for one horse. One Constable is Bailiff of the Court of Requests. One Constable has forage allowance for one horse.
	Gould's Country.....	..	1	..	..	..	The Sub-Inspector is Bailiff of Crown Lands and Inspector of Nuisances, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Weldborough .....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable is Bailiff of Crown Lands, and has forage allowance for one horse.
GEORGE TOWN.	George Town.....	1	..	..	2	..	The Superintendent is Bailiff Court of General Sessions, Bailiff of Crown Lands, Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, Inspector Local Board of Health, and has forage allowance for one horse. One Constable is Deputy Clerk of the Peace and Registrar Court of General Sessions, and Bench Clerk.
	Beaconsfield .....	..	1	..	2	..	The Sub-Inspector is Bailiff Court of Requests, Bailiff of Crown Lands, Inspector Local Board of Health, Inspector of Stock, and has forage allowance for one horse. One Constable is Registrar Court of Requests and Bench Clerk.
	Lefroy .....	..	..	1	..	..	The Sergeant is Bailiff Court of Requests.
	Piper's River.....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable has forage allowance for one horse.
MERSEY AND LATROBE.	East Devonport	1	..	..	2	..	The Superintendent is Inspector of Stock, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Bailiff Court of Requests, Bailiff of Crown Lands, Poundkeeper, Collector of Charitable Grants, and Inspector Local Board of Health, and has forage allowance for two horses. One Constable is Registrar Court of Requests and Bench Clerk.
	West Devonport.....	..	1	..	1	..	
	Ulverstone.....	..	1	..	1	..	The Sub-Inspector is Bailiff Court of Requests and Assistant Inspector Local Board of Health, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Latrobe .....	..	1	..	2	..	The Sub-Inspector is Inspector of Stock, Bailiff Court of General Sessions, and Assistant Inspector Local Board of Health, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Penguin.....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable is Bailiff Court of Requests and Harbour Master, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Forth .....	..	..	1	..	..	The Sergeant has forage allowance for one horse.
	Don .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Sheffield.....	..	..	..	2	..	One Constable is Registrar Court of Requests and Assistant Inspector Board of Health. One Constable is Bailiff Court of Requests and Assistant Inspector Board of Health, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Railton .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Sassafras .....	..	..	..	1	..	
Moriarty Road .....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable is Tidewater, and has forage allowance for one horse.	
Castra .....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable has forage allowance for one horse.	
EMU BAY AND RUSSELL.	Emu Bay	1	..	..	3	..	The Superintendent is Bailiff Court of Requests and of General Sessions, Bailiff of Crown Lands, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Inspector Local Board of Health and Inspector of Stock, and has forage allowance for one horse. One Constable is Bench Clerk, Registrar Court of Requests, and Deputy Clerk of the Peace.
	Wynyard .....	..	1	..	1	..	The Sub-Inspector is Registrar Court of Requests, Bailiff of Crown Lands, and has forage allowance for one horse. The Constable is Bailiff of Court of Requests, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Waratah .....	..	1	..	1	..	The Sub-Inspector is Registrar Court of Requests and of Mines, and Bailiff of Crown Lands.
	Stanley .....	..	1	..	1	..	The Sub-Inspector is Registrar Court of Requests, Tidewater, and Bailiff of Crown Lands and Inspector of Stock, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Cam .....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable is Tidewater and Harbour Master, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Duck River.....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable is Tidewater and Harbour Master, and has forage allowance for one horse.
ISLANDS, BASS STRAITS.	Cape Barren Island..	..	..	..	1	..	
	TOTAL.....	11	15	5	83	3	

RETURN of Offences reported to the Territorial Police in the several Districts during the Year 1890, compared with similar Returns for preceding years.

	Year.	Indictable Offences.			Offences determined Summarily.			
		Cases reported.	Apprehended.	Committed or summarily Convicted.	Drunkenness.		Offences against Police Act.	
					Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
New Town and Queenborough.....	1888...	79	25	28	8	3	86	10
	1889...	72	22	25	15	11	175	27
	1890...	38	17	22	20	3	104	12
Kingborough.....	1888...	23	2	1	1	—	8	—
	1889...	34	6	5	—	—	7	1
	1890...	22	3	1	1	—	7	—
Franklin.....	1888...	16	7	13	16	2	46	2
	1889...	18	16	16	11	2	52	2
	1890...	16	9	9	6	3	32	3
Carnarvon.....	1888...	6	2	2	—	—	14	—
	1889...	6	1	1	—	—	12	—
	1890...	5	3	4	1	1	12	1
Selby.....	1888...	41	20	15	3	4	91	10
	1889...	39	25	24	3	2	44	9
	1890...	39	28	27	5	3	132	9
Ringarooma.....	1888...	38	21	20	62	8	47	2
	1889...	31	26	23	45	8	38	—
	1890...	15	9	8	3	2	47	7
Portland.....	1888...	37	13	13	4	—	15	4
	1889...	5	3	5	—	—	11	—
	1890...	35	2	2	—	—	33	—
George Town.....	1888...	27	13	9	6	1	49	—
	1889...	22	12	9	4	1	61	6
	1890...	15	4	5	1	2	40	3
Mersey and Latrobe.....	1888...	49	39	32	180	25	143	10
	1889...	64	41	42	142	46	141	22
	1890...	81	65	62	128	20	141	9
Emu Bay and Russell.....	1888...	24	18	16	15	—	90	4
	1889...	21	19	19	33	2	91	1
	1890...	30	18	12	39	3	53	1
Macquarie	1888...	12	6	5	5	—	14	—
	1889...	15	2	7	—	—	22	2
	1890...	38	16	12	46	—	109	—

TOTALS.

Year.	Indictable Offences.			Offences determined Summarily.			
	Cases reported.	Number apprehended.	Committed or summarily Convicted.	Drunkenness.		Offences against Police Act.	
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1888.....	352	166	154	300	43	603	42
1889.....	327	173	176	253	72	654	70
1890.....	334	174	164	250	37	710	45