

(No. 45.)



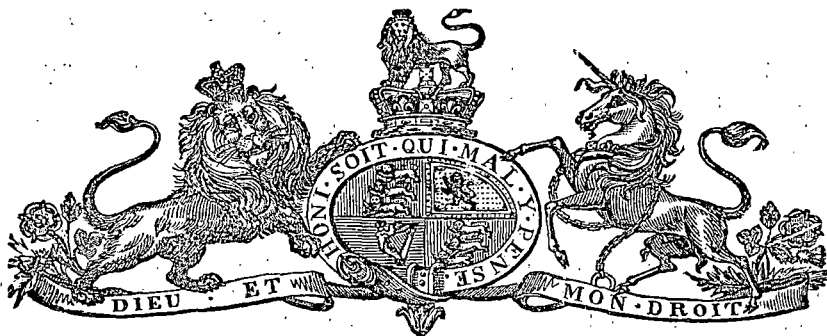
1867.

T A S M A N I A.

R U R A L P O L I C E.

Copies of Communications addressed by the Inspector of Police to
Wardens of Municipalities on the Efficiency of the Country Police.
(*Mr. John Meredith.*)

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be
printed, 13 September, 1867.



Inspector's Office, 27th January, 1862.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE not hitherto drawn your attention to the inconvenience, and indeed to a want of efficient Police protection, existing at Risdon Ferry, consequent upon the suggestion I offered to the Council (and which I think you concurred in) that a Constable should be appointed to the charge of the Lock-up at that Station not having been carried out; but the facts disclosed in the enclosed report show the necessity of one being stationed there. It is on your side of the river that the majority of cases requiring Police interference arise; and though I am desirous of affording you every assistance in my power, I do not, nor do I think you would, consider it advisable for my Force to act within the Municipality except in aid of, or occasionally in the temporary absence of, your own Police.

Constable Armstrong acted very properly in the matter, every apprehension involving a report to his immediate superior officer.

I have, &c.,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

The Worshipful the Warden, Richmond.

Inspector's Office, 31st January, 1862.

MY DEAR SIR,

PERCEIVING by your Superintendent's Report of the distribution of the Police in your Municipality on the 31st December last that the character of the Escort Station and Lock-up at Swanston is changed, and its efficiency impaired by the substitution of a special for a permanent resident Constable in charge, may I be allowed to enquire if this arrangement is intended by the Council to be definite, or whether I am to view it in the light of a temporary one?

The Council is so fully aware of my opinion as to the necessity of maintaining the Station in charge of a resident permanent Constable—an opinion endorsed by that of the Supreme Court on the late application for a *mandamus* in the case of the White Hut,—that I trust they will offer no opposition to its re-establishment on its former basis.

I have, &c.,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

The Worshipful the Warden, Spring Bay.

Inspector's Office, 22nd June, 1863.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 18th instant, intimating that the Municipal Council of New Norfolk are desirous of removing the Constable at present stationed at Bridgewater.

The Council are in possession of my opinion as to the necessity of this Station being, for the present, maintained by the Government and your Municipality; and I regret that so soon after the recent organization of the Police Force unanimously agreed to by the Council, and approved of by myself, such a proposition should have come under discussion. That opinion remains unchanged; and I therefore trust the Council will not determine on any step which will compel me, however reluctantly, to apply to the Supreme Court to enforce my views.

I have, &c.,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

The Worshipful the Warden, New Norfolk.

Inspector's Office, 3rd March, 1865.

SIR,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, intimating that you were desirous of reducing your Police Force by one Constable, and requesting my opinion thereon, I have the honor to inform you that I regret I cannot concur in the view taken by the Sorell Municipal Council.

It appears to me that the numerical strength of the Force is small enough for the wants and protection of the Municipality; but should the Superintendent be able to dispense with a Constable on the Township, I would recommend a change in the distribution of the Force, and the stationing of this man on the Prosser's Plains Road somewhere near Wattle Hill, or between that and Mr. Hayton's, where his services, I think, would be found beneficial.

It must not be lost sight of, however, that on a renewal of the Sorell Causeway works the services of this man will be required again on the Township.

I would also observe that as the Grant in aid for 1865 was based on an estimate of expenditure founded upon, and considered necessary in, my Annual Report, it may fairly be submitted that no reduction in the Force was anticipated during the payment of the sum voted by Parliament.

I have, &c.,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

The Worshipful the Warden, Sorell.

Inspector's Office, 28th February, 1866.

MY DEAR SIR,

I CANNOT, with any propriety, approve of any suggestion tending to a reduction of the effective strength of your Police Force, especially as it points to the substitution of a special for an effective Petty Constable at the White Hut,—a Station at which I consider it necessary, for many reasons, the services of a Petty Constable should be retained.

In reference to the escort of prisoners between Buckland and Richmond, the establishing of a Station near the boundary of the two Municipalities is very essential, and the matter was brought by me before the Sorell and Richmond Councils prior to the re-definition of the Municipality. Of course this would have to be maintained at the joint expense of Richmond and yourselves,—and here a smart Special Constable will answer, I should think, all purposes, as there is but a small population requiring protection.

I have, &c.,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

The Worshipful the Warden, Spring Bay.

Inspector's Office, 12th June, 1867.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, notifying to me the resolution of your Municipal Council to reduce the Constable stationed at the Windfalls, together with a Constable on the Township of Campbell Town, substituting for the latter a Special Constable at a salary of £10 a year, with allowances.

Taking into consideration the large area of country that will, by the reduction of the Windfalls Station, be left totally without Police supervision, I think it very undesirable to remove all local protection; and without some good reasons, other than simply the present financial ones, are adduced in support of such a course, I must respectfully remonstrate against it.

In reference to the reduction of the Constable on the Township, though I do not consider such a step advisable, yet should the Superintendent of Police be in a position to say that, in the event of his being so, the day, night, special, and escort duties can be efficiently performed, I shall offer no objection.

I have, &c.,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

The Worshipful the Warden, Campbell Town.

Inspector's Office, 21st June, 1867.

MEMO.

HAVING made my annual inspection of the Brighton Police Force, I would bring under the consideration of the Municipal Council the necessity of the appointment of a Special Constable on the Township for the performance of escort and special duties, as without such aid to the existing staff at the Head Station I do not consider the Force efficient.

It must, I think, be apparent to the Warden and Council that the Watch-house Keeper cannot at all times (as is now the case, he having persons charged with felony in his custody) afford that protection to the Township which is due to the Public, nor can the Superintendent give it the necessary supervision in connection with his other duties.

I would also respectfully record my disapprobation of the reduction of the salary of the Superintendent to a sum which, after paying the keep of a horse, rent, and expenses incidental to his office which cannot be consistently brought under the notice of the Council, places him in a little better position, pecuniarily, than a Petty Constable.

I consider the minimum salary of this officer should be £175, being the standard adopted by the Legislature, and the sum contributed hitherto to all Municipalities by the Government.

I have, &c.,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

The Worshipful the Warden, Brighton.

Inspector's Office, 27th June, 1867.

MY DEAR SIR,

I BEG to enclose you a Memorandum with the view of your laying it before your Municipal Council at its next meeting.

I have, &c.,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

The Worshipful the Warden, Clarence.

[Memorandum referred to.]

I FOUND on my annual inspection of the Clarence Police Force that, by a resolution of the Municipal Council, its sufficiency and efficiency have both been affected by the withdrawal altogether of the salaries of the Special Constables, resulting in their resignation, and in a reduction in the pay of the Superintendent and Constables to a wage which I do not consider an adequate remuneration for their services.

The standard fixed by the Legislature, after due consideration, as the salary of Superintendents was £175 per annum,—the minimum sum for which an intelligent and respectable man could be secured; and this amount has been hitherto contributed by the Government to Municipal Funds.

Concurring, as I do, in such opinion, I would respectfully remonstrate against the large reduction of salary this officer has been subjected to, as well as against that of the pay of the Constables. It must be apparent that when the cost of horse feed, farriery, house-rent, &c., together with expenses incidental to his office which cannot consistently be brought under the notice of the Council, are deducted from the Superintendent's salary, he is placed, pecuniarily, in a very little better position than his subordinates,—a status incompatible with an efficient performance of his duties.

In reference to the large area of the Municipality which is now entirely left without Police protection, I would suggest to the Council the necessity of at once appointing a Special Constable at a small salary at South Arm.

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

Inspector's Office, 27th June, 1867.

MY DEAR SIR,

I BEG to enclose you a Memorandum with the view of your laying it before your Municipal Council at its next meeting.

I have, &c.,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

The Worshipful the Warden, Ross.

[Memorandum referred to.]

On my annual inspection of the Ross Police Force I found that by a late resolution of the Municipal Council the salary of the Superintendent of Police is to be reduced to £62 10s. for the ensuing half-year, or to the sum of £125 annually.

The standard fixed by the Legislature, after due consideration, for the salary of the Superintendent was £175 per annum, the minimum sum for which, in its opinion, the services of an intelligent and respectable man could be secured; and this amount has been hitherto contributed by the Government to Municipal Funds. Concurring, as I do, in this opinion, I would respectfully remonstrate against the reduction of this officer's salary to so low a sum.

It must be apparent that when the cost of horse feed, farriery, &c., together with expenses incidental to his office which cannot be brought consistently under the notice of the Council, are deducted from the salary proposed to be allowed him, the Superintendent will be placed pecuniarily in a position little better than a Petty Constable,—a status incompatible with an efficient performance of his duties.

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

