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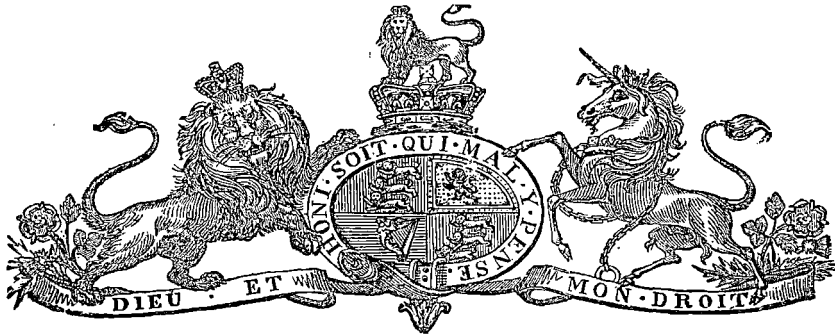
1858.

T A S M A N I A.

R E P O R T

O F I N S P E C T O R O F P O L I C E.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
1 October, 1858.



Office of Inspector of Police, 27th September, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to transmit, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, a Report of my first official inspection of the Police Force of the City of Hobart Town, and of that of the Town of Launceston, constituted under the provisions of the Act of Parliament, 21st Victoria, No. 13.

The transfer of the Police from the Government to the Municipality of Hobart Town was made on the 1st February, 1858; that to the Municipality of Launceston having been effected on the 1st of January preceding. Some months consequently elapsed before the arrangements for any re-organisation contemplated by the authorities, the supplying of uniform clothing, &c. according to regulations, and the carrying out of other measures connected with the maintenance and control of the respective Forces, were effected. The slight changes that have been since made in their constitution have met with my entire approval; and though the Municipal Authorities in Hobart Town have deviated in one or two instances from the rules framed under the provisions of the Act, for the pay, clothing, &c., of the Force, these deviations are not, however, of such consequence as to militate against efficiency or discipline, and I will willingly concur in them when brought officially under my notice.

At the time of my inspection each Force was complete according to its authorised strength, and by judicious arrangements of the respective Superintendents the whole of the effective men were present and inspected at one time.

In order to bring clearly under His Excellency's notice the constitution, numerical strength, &c. of the Police Force of each Municipality, I beg to submit for his information the following detail :—

CITY OF HOBART TOWN.

CONSTITUTION OF FORCE.

The entire Force of the City within its existing boundaries, which have been considerably enlarged since the Municipality assumed the control of the Police, consists of—

- One Superintendent, at a salary of £250 per annum.
- Two Sub-Inspectors, at a salary of £140 per annum each.
- Six Sergeants, at 7s. per diem each.
- Three Detectives (with rank of Sergeants), at 7s. per diem each.
- Thirty-nine Petty Constables, at 5s. 6d. per diem each.
- One Female Searcher, at £35 per annum.

The only ineffective member being a Sergeant employed as Clerk in the Superintendent's Office.

Its duties are confined solely to the protection of the City; the necessary attendance on the Supreme Court, Police Office, and Coroner devolving on the Reserve Force maintained by the Government at Head Quarters, and the District Constabulary stationed in the Suburbs.

The numerical strength as thus shown allows of the following distribution for Day and Night Duty; the City being divided into sections and beats, placed specially under the charge of Sergeants and Petty Constables.

DAY DUTY.

One Sub-Inspector.
 One Station Sergeant.
 Two Section Sergeants (one a Petty Constable with acting rank).
 Eleven Petty Constables.

NIGHT DUTY.

One Sub-Inspector.
 One Station Sergeant.
 Two Section Sergeants (one a Petty Constable with acting rank).
 One Patrol Sergeant.
 Twenty-six Petty Constables.

The duties at the Station House and in the Streets are regulated by instructions contained in a Manual compiled by me for the use of the Municipalities, which are strictly adhered to: a copy of this Manual each man attached to the Force has in his possession, with the contents of which he is expected to be familiar.

The uniform which had been recently issued to the Force, slightly differing from that prescribed by Regulation, is of good quality, and is supplied on the following scale:—

SUB-INSPECTORS.

One Uniform Coat	} Annually.
One pair of Trowsers	
One Cap	

SERGEANTS AND PETTY CONSTABLES.

One Uniform Coat with badge	} Annually.
One pair of Trowsers	
One Cap	

One Uniform Great Coat with badge and cape	} Every second
One Belt	

The Chief Station House, (there being no receiving houses within the City) and the Barrack for the single men, are those formerly in the occupation of the Government under the old constitution of the Force. The former is occupied jointly with the Rural Constabulary, and contains a Station, receiving or charge room, and sufficient separate ward accommodation for male and female prisoners; and attached to the Police Office are cells for the confinement of felons and refractory drunkards. This building is ill adapted to its purpose, and the provisions for cleanliness and ventilation very inadequate; but its temporary occupation necessarily prevents the Municipality incurring any expense in its improvement. At the time of inspection, the wards and cells were as cleanly, neat, and in as good order, as the arrangements of the buildings would admit of.

The Barrack consists of a long mess-room and separate sleeping apartments, and is occupied by single men only, who are supplied with bedding, fuel, and light; married Constables live in lodgings, &c. in the City.

The office of the Superintendent is conveniently situated, adjoining the Station House and Police Office; and I found his books and records, and those in use in the Station House, satisfactorily and correctly kept according to the prescribed regulations.

A Fire Engine is maintained at the Head Station, in good order. It is not, however, worked by the Police, but is lent in cases of fire to any responsible party applying for it. An Alarum Bell is also about to be erected in a central part of the City, which will be in charge of a member of the Force.

Prisoners in custody at the Station are only detained until they are brought before the Sitting Magistrate, and, after remand or committal, forwarded to the Gaol. Destitute persons, prior to remand, are supplied with a ration of bread; and those who can afford to pay for their victuals, or who have friends, are allowed to be supplied with cold meat, broth, tea, and bread, either by such friends or on payment of a moderate charge; wine, malt, or spirituous liquors being strictly forbidden.

A Superannuation and Reward Fund is constituted by the provisions of the 33rd Section of the Act of Parliament, 21st Victoria, No. 13, and for the purposes therein defined; but at the time of my inspection no payments had been made therefrom. There is no Relief or Sick Fund, however, in existence. This is to be regretted, as the Force is not entitled to any gratuitous Medical attendance.

TOWN OF LAUNCESTON.

CONSTITUTION OF FORCE.

The boundaries of this Municipality have also been extended since the control of the Police was transferred to it. The Force consists of,—

One Superintendent, at a salary of £300 per annum,
 Two Sub-Inspectors, at a salary of £200 per annum each,
 One Acting Sub-Inspector, at 9s. per diem,
 Three Sergeants, at 9s. per diem each,
 Two Detectives, at 7s. per diem each,
 Twenty Petty Constables, at 7s. each per diem,—

all effectives.

This Force is composed of very intelligent men; and the duties performed by it comprise, by mutual arrangement with the Government, in addition to those for the protection of the Town, those in connection also with the Courts of Justice and the Coroner, which, in Hobart Town, devolve on the General Reserve Force.

The Town being divided into sections and beats, specially under the charge of Sergeants and Petty Constables, the distribution of it for day and night duty is,—

BY DAY.

One Sub-Inspector.
 One Sergeant.
 Seven Petty Constables.

BY NIGHT.

One Sub-Inspector.
 Two Sergeants.
 Thirteen Petty Constables.

The instructions issued by me, prescribing the duties in the Station House and streets, are strictly carried out, and a copy of the Manual is supplied to each member of the Force.

The uniform and accoutrements issued, according to regulation, to the Force are of good quality, and supplied on the following scale:—

SUB-INSPECTORS.

One Uniform Coat.....	} Annually.
Two pairs of Trowsers.....	
One Cap.....	

SERGEANTS AND CONSTABLES.

First Year.

One Uniform Great Coat with badge and cape.
 One Uniform Coat and badge.
 Two pairs of Trowsers.
 One Cap.

Second Year.

One Uniform Coat with badge.
 One pair of Trowsers.
 One Cap.

There is no receiving house within the Town except the Chief Station House, used jointly with the Rural Constabulary, which has been temporarily transferred to the Municipality, together with the offices for the Superintendent and Detectives. This includes also the Barrack for the single men, consisting of a mess-room and dormitory.

It contains male and female wards and cells, in which cleanliness and order at the time of inspection prevailed. It is, however, ill-adapted for the purposes to which it is appropriated; and the Municipality intend, when they can complete their arrangements, to erect a more commodious and convenient building.

The Superintendent's Office adjoins the Police Office, and the Books prescribed by the Regulations are carefully and correctly kept.

Single men only are accommodated in Barracks; and a Mess has been established under the supervision of the Superintendent, by whom the Mess accounts are audited weekly, fuel and light being supplied by the Municipality.

A Fire Alarm Bell has been erected at the Chief Station, in charge of the Constabulary.

Prisoners in custody are only detained at the Station House prior to examination, remand, or committal, and are dieted on a similar scale to that adopted in Hobart Town.

The Superannuation and Reward Fund is constituted under the provisions of the 33rd Section of the 21st Victoria, No. 13, from which a reward has been paid to meritorious members of the Force in a case of conviction for Murder. There is no relief or sick fund in existence, but the Members of the Force are entitled to gratuitous Medical attendance.

The Municipality propose an augmentation to their force of mounted men to patrol the outlying portions of the Town. This patrol I should desire to see established, as it will afford increased protection where common Constables cannot effectually work prescribed beats.

The liberal pay awarded to the members of this Force will, it is assumed, always secure to it the services of efficient and intelligent men; and it is gratifying to find that the Policeman is here placed in his proper position, and receiving wages to which his requisite qualifications justly entitle him.

The men comprising the respective Forces are reported to be well behaved, efficient in the performance of their duties, and proficient in the regulated drill.

In proportion to the population of the respective Municipalities, taken in connection with the extent of ground to be covered and the amount of property to be protected, the numerical strength of the respective Forces may appear inadequate. Experience of their working, and an acquaintance with the amount of protection of life and property afforded, prove, however, their sufficiency for the present wants of the Community; and I was gratified with the evident disposition evinced by the authorities to maintain them on the most efficient footing consistent with economy.

The few suggestions tendered by me were promptly acceded to; and the earnest desire expressed by these Municipalities to co-operate with the Government in the constitution and organisation of their respective Forces may justly claim for them the favorable consideration of His Excellency.

As an Addendum to this Report, I beg to attach, for His Excellency's perusal, a copy of the Manual of Regulations herein referred to.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police,*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.