

(No. 56.)



1888.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TERRITORIAL POLICE:

REPORT FOR 1887.

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



Police Department, Inspector's Office, Hobart, 30th May, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit my Annual Report upon the state of the Territorial Police for the year 1887.

Since the date of my last Report I have completed the inspection of the Districts, with the exception of Macquarie, West Coast, which contains one station only, that at Strahan, and which is a part of the Colony so difficult of access that I could not find the necessary time to visit it. I have also completed the personal inspection, with the one exception named, of every Territorial Police Station in the Colony. I found the books, principally journals of duty performed and records of offences reported, fully and accurately kept, and the premises, making allowance for the dilapidated condition of some of the buildings, in fairly good order. New stations have been erected at Lilydale (Upper Piper), Hall's Track, Bangor, and Rosevears, in the District of Selby; at Heazlewood (Scottsdale), in the District of Ringarooma; at Castra Road, in the District of Mersey; at Strahan, in the District of Macquarie; and at the Steppes and the Great Lake, in the District of South Longford. All are built upon excellent plans, and afford greatly improved accommodation. Suitable premises for stations have been purchased at Recherche Bay, in the Franklin District, and at Derby, in the District of Ringarooma. Extensive additions have been made to the stations at Gladstone, in the Ringarooma District; at St. Helen's, in the Portland District; George Town and Beaconsfield, in the George Town District, and Penguin, in the Mersey District; whilst repairs have been effected to many of the stations throughout the Colony. The practice of former years of placing the cells and lock-up accommodation within the building has given way to the more convenient one of erecting them detached, to the great increase in the comfort of the constables and their families. In every case, where practicable, when effecting repairs and alterations, the old lock-up has been converted into additional house-room, and cells, &c. erected outside. Station accommodation has been rented at Impression Bay, District of Carnarvon; Gould's Country, District of Portland; and Formby and Don, District of Mersey. The station at Saltwater River, District of Carnarvon, has been abandoned, and the constable removed to Impression Bay, a more convenient position in the same district.

The conduct of the officers and men generally has been very good, and they continue to exhibit an active interest in their work. Two constables were dismissed for misconduct, both of whom had been previously punished on more than one occasion; and one sub-inspector and two constables were reprimanded for first offences. One sub-inspector was promoted to a higher office in another department, and one acting sub-inspector and four constables resigned.

There is no scarcity of applicants for appointment as constables; but the same inconvenience continues to be felt in the inability to afford men newly appointed that instruction and training necessary to qualify them for the charge of a station. There is no practical remedy within our means for this state of things so long as the principal centres, Hobart and Launceston, remain under independent control.

The increased facilities of communication between the office of the Superintendent and the stations at New Town and Sandy Bay have rendered it unnecessary to continue the services of three sub-inspectors. I therefore propose, as opportunity shall arise, to reduce two—those at the stations named—and replace them by constables. A vacancy in another district will almost immediately afford the opportunity of providing for one of them, and the first opportunity will be taken to provide for the other.

The increase of population and extension of mining enterprise in the Macquarie District will probably render it desirable to place a constable somewhere in the neighbourhood of Trial Harbour or Mount Zeehan, and I have included the necessary amount in the proposed expenditure for next year.

I have reason to believe that the maintenance of the constable amongst the Islanders in Bass's Straits has been beneficial to that community.

The serious drawback to the efficiency of the Police in the direction of detective work, arising out of the absence of any men whose duties are exclusively of that nature, continues to be felt.

The anomalous position of the senior constables who have served many years with perhaps the rank of acting-sergeants or sub-inspectors, with no more pay than those quite recently appointed, still affords some grounds for dissatisfaction.

The suggestion made last year to discontinue the payment of fixed travelling allowances to officers whose duties necessitate moving about the districts under their charge at uncertain times, and instead to substitute the repayment of expenses actually incurred, was not carried into effect; but the proposal has again been submitted in a more definite form. I have always looked upon the system of a fixed travelling allowance paid monthly, whether journeys were undertaken or not, as extremely objectionable in any Department, affording as it does a direct premium to neglect of duty.

The Territorial Police Provident Fund, established under the authority of the Act 45 Victoria, No. 21, is divided into two branches, the Superannuation Fund and the Reward Fund. The Superannuation Fund on 31st December, 1887, amounted to £3091 0s. 8d., and the Reward Fund on the same date to £932 18s. 10d. During the year compensation upon resignation, amounting to £72 15s. 5d., was paid, and during the same period rewards amounting to £82.

The practice of voting in the Estimates a fixed number of officers and men for each district, and, in many instances, fixing their exact locality, is productive of some degree of inconvenience. If the total sum authorised to be expended in Police were voted, leaving it to the Executive to determine the distribution in detail, as is done in the case of the Education, Defence, and other Departments, it would enable the services of the men to be utilised in different places as required, and would obviate the necessity of bringing up Supplementary Estimates, which lead to the erroneous inference that the expenditure exceeds the amount appropriated by Parliament.

The unexpected appearance of smallpox in Launceston in the month of September, and subsequently in the Mersey District, threw upon some of the police an arduous duty of which they had had no previous experience. Quarantine Hospitals were established at Mowbray in the Selby District, and at the Don. Unmarried constables were called in from the several districts, and for some time were employed as guards. Their conduct was, under somewhat trying conditions, most commendable.

The completion of the fiftieth year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria was an occasion which called forth the same exhibition of loyalty in this Colony as was shown in all parts of the British dominions. There was no place, however remote or secluded in Tasmania, which failed to celebrate the jubilee with enthusiastic rejoicings; and no stronger evidence could exist of the general intelligence and the high character and public spirit which mark our people than was found in the complete absence of disorder or offence of any kind during the continuance of the display and in connection with it. It is worthy of note, as evidencing the deep attachment to our form of government which pervades the community generally, that not one report was made to me of any attempt at a counter demonstration, or expression of dissent from the prevailing sentiment.

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 the officers and men, is appended. I also append the usual tabulated comparative Return of offences, which exhibits a great increase in the number of indictable offences and drunkenness, and a slight decrease in minor offences against the Police Act.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

BERNARD SHAW, *Inspector of Police.*

The Hon. the Attorney-General.

RETURN showing the Strength and Distribution of the Territorial Police Force during the Year 1887.

<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>
NEW TOWN AND QUEENBOROUGH.	Head Station.....	1	1	1	..	..	The Superintendent is Inspector of Weights and Measures, Town Surveyor, Crown Lands Bailiff, Sanitary Inspector of Health Glebe Town, New Town, and Queenborough, Collector of Stock and Crop, and Reviser of Jury List. The Sub-Inspector is Coroner's Clerk and Summoning Officer, Supreme Court.
	New Town.....	..	1	..	2	..	The Sub-Inspector is Inspector of Stock.
	Sandy Bay.....	..	1	..	2	..	The Sub-Inspector is Poundkeeper and Inspector of Stock.
	Domain .....	..	..	..	2	..	
	Cascade Road .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Fern Tree .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Magazine Guard .....	..	..	..	2	..	
	Government House ..	..	..	..	1	..	
KINGBOROUGH.	Bridgewater .....	..	..	..	1	..	Escort Constable to and from Launceston.
	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, and Compiler of Valuation Roll and Jury List, 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	..	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	..	
	Woodbridge .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Bruny Island .....	..	..	..	..	1	
FRANKLIN.	Franklin	1	1	..	2	..	The Superintendent is Bailiff of Crown Lands, Inspector of Stock, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Deputy Registrar of Births, &c., and Tidewater, and has forage allowance for one horse. The Sub-Inspector is Bailiff Court of Requests.
	Port Cygnet .....	..	1	..	1	..	The Sub-Inspector is Bailiff of the Court of Requests and Inspector of Stock.
	Port Esperance.....	..	..	1	..	..	The Sergeant is Bailiff of Court of Requests, Deputy Registrar of Births, &c., and Tidewater, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Southport .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Honeywood .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Victoria .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Recherche .....	..	..	..	1	..	
CARNARVON.	Carnarvon .....	..	1	..	..	..	The Sub-Inspector is Deputy Clerk of the Peace and Bailiff and Registrar Court of General Sessions.
	Impression Bay.....	..	..	..	1	..	
MACQUARIE.	Strahan .....	..	1	..	1	..	The Sub-Inspector is Crown Bailiff, Collector of Timber Licences, and Tidewater. The Constable is Assistant Bailiff of Crown Lands.
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, Bailiff Court of Requests, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Westbury Road ....	..	1	..	..	..	The Sub-Inspector has forage allowance for one horse.
	St. Leonard's.....	..	1	..	..	..	The Constable has forage allowance for one horse.
	Pattersonia .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Lisle .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Upper Piper .....	..	..	..	1	..	Ditto.
	Turner's Marsh .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Dilston .....	..	..	..	1	..	Ditto.
	Muddy Creek .....	..	..	..	1	..	Ditto.
	Trevallyn .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Hadsphen .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Young Town .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Hall's Track .....	..	..	..	1	..	
RINGAROOMA.	Scottsdale	1	..	..	3	..	The Superintendent is Bailiff Court of Requests, and has forage allowance for two horses. One Constable has forage allowance for one horse.
	Moorina.....	..	1	..	1	..	The Sub-Inspector is Bailiff Court of Requests, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Ringarooma, Upper..	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable is Bailiff Court of Requests, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Branxholm .....	..	..	..	1	..	Ditto.
	Bridport.....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable has forage allowance for one horse.
	Gladstone .....	..	..	..	1	..	Ditto.
	Derby .....	..	..	..	1	..	Ditto.
	Boobyalla .....	..	..	..	1	..	Ditto.

<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>
PORTLAND.	St. Helen's.....	1	..	..	2	..	The Superintendent is Bailiff of Crown Lands and Inspector of Stock, 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 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, and Inspector of Stock, 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, and Inspector of Stock, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Lefroy .....	..	..	1	..	..	The Sergeant is Bailiff Court of Requests and Inspector of Stock.
	Piper's River .....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable has forage allowance for one horse.
MERSEY.	Torquay.....	1	..	..	3	..	The Superintendent is Inspector of Stock, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Bailiff Court of Requests, Bailiff of Crown Lands, Poundkeeper and Collector of Charitable Grants, and has forage allowance for two horses. One Constable is Registrar Court of Requests and Bench Clerk.
	Formby .....	..	1	..	..	..	The Sub-Inspector is Bailiff Court of Requests and Tidewater.
	Ulverstone.....	..	1	..	1	..	The Sub-Inspector is Inspector of Stock and Bailiff Court of General Sessions.
	Latribe .....	..	1	..	2	..	The Constable is Bailiff Court of Requests, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Penguin.....	..	..	..	1	..	The Sergeant has forage allowance for one horse.
	Forth .....	..	..	1	..	..	The Constable is Tidewater.
	Don .....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable is Bailiff Court of Requests, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Sheffield.....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable is Tidewater.
	Sassafras .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Green's Creek .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Northdown .....	..	..	..	1	..	
EMU BAY AND RUSSELL.	Castra .....	..	..	..	1	..	
	Emu Bay	1	1	..	2	..	The Superintendent is Bailiff Court of Requests, Bailiff of Crown Lands, Inspector of Weights and Measures and Tidewater, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Wynyard .....	..	1	..	1	..	The Sub-Inspector is Registrar Court of Requests, Bailiff of Crown Lands and Tidewater, 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 Bailiff Court of Requests and Bailiff Crown Lands.
	Stanley .....	..	1	..	1	..	The Sub-Inspector is Registrar Court of Requests, Tidewater and Bailiff Crown Lands, and has forage allowance for one horse.
	Cam .....	..	..	..	1	..	The Constable is Tidewater, 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.

RETURN of Offences reported to the Territorial Police in the several Districts during the Year 1887, 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.....	1885...	16	9	7	8	—	65	9
	1886...	32	27	17	28	22	76	4
	1887...	48	18	17	8	5	88	8
Kingborough.....	1885...	30	3	3	5	—	12	—
	1886...	5	2	2	1	—	13	1
	1887...	21	4	3	1	1	11	1
Franklin.....	1885...	14	14	12	18	4	65	8
	1886...	22	22	17	23	4	75	4
	1887...	130	32	106	14	2	71	6
Carnarvon.....	1885...	6	2	1	—	—	6	—
	1886...	14	3	4	—	—	4	—
	1887...	5	3	1	—	—	8	1
Selby.....	1885...	22	13	13	3	—	65	5
	1886...	34	13	10	5	1	124	6
	1887...	66	33	29	6	3	67	4
Ringarooma.....	1885...	25	13	13	21	3	13	4
	1886...	28	9	7	24	1	29	4
	1887...	34	16	15	61	2	44	2
Portland.....	1885...	33	8	6	3	—	19	1
	1886...	20	6	6	3	—	23	4
	1887...	18	5	3	4	—	33	—
George Town.....	1885...	15	10	10	—	1	29	3
	1886...	20	2	6	—	—	52	2
	1887...	17	3	8	1	—	79	3
Mersey.....	1885	72	36	23	118	16	77	10
	1886	76	56	43	137	21	149	5
	1887	83	54	39	179	23	130	18
Emu Bay and Russell.....	1885...	24	20	16	40	—	153	4
	1886...	15	20	15	23	—	114	5
	1887...	33	17	13	50	4	76	4

TOTALS.

Year.	Indictable Offences.			Offences determined Summarily.			
	Cases reported.	Number apprehended.	Committed or summarily Convicted.	Drunkenness.		Offences against Police Act.	
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1885.....	257	128	104	216	24	504	44
1886.....	266	160	127	249	49	659	35
1887.....	455	185	294	324	40	607	47