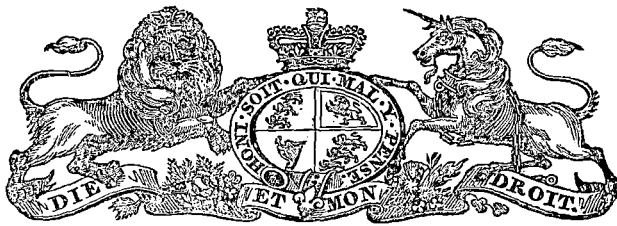


(No. 35.)



1859.

T A S M A N I A.

**SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
INSPECTOR OF POLICE.**

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
22 September, 1859.



Office of Inspector of Police, 21st September, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, in conformity with the provisions of the Act of Parliament 21 Vict. No. 13, to lay before you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, my second Annual Report on the state of the Police maintained by the Municipalities of Hobart Town and Launceston, whose efficiency, I am gratified to observe, justifies me in recommending them respectively to the favourable consideration of the Government.

CITY OF HOBART.

Population (estimated at)	18,000
Area in Acres	1270
Population to one Constable	346
Area to one Constable	25
Strength of Force	52

Date of Inspection, 13th September.

This Force since my last inspection has been increased by one Constable, but remains the same in classification. It has been maintained in good order and efficiency in all its parts, and the men composing it appeared active and well disciplined.

The clothing, which had been recently received, is of good quality and according to Regulation, but in some cases, by the default of the Contractor, ill fitted to the men, thereby detracting considerably from their appearance. The issue of a second pair of trowsers annually to the Force has been authorised. The books and returns prescribed by Regulations are neatly and clearly kept.

No alterations have been made in the Station House in consequence of the new buildings now in course of erection adjoining the Penitentiary being about to be placed at the disposal of the Municipal Authorities. The wards and cells were clean, and the existing arrangements for the reception and detention of Prisoners in it satisfactory.

A Fire-alarum Bell has been erected in Bathurst-street, which will be placed in charge of a member of the Force.

During the year ending the 31st August last 22 Constables have left the Force, of whom 14 resigned, 6 were dismissed for drunkenness, and 2 for other offences. In the same period, 232 indictable offences had been reported to the Police, 15 of which were so in error; and for these offences 163 persons were apprehended, and 145 committed. This proves a fair average of detection, and speaks favourably of the Detective branch.

The Detective and Patrol Sergeants perform the duties of Inspectors of Lodging-houses.

I took the opportunity of drawing the attention of the Mayor and Members of the Council who were present at the inspection to the fact that the salary of the Superintendent was still below the sum fixed by the Regulation, and recommended that it should be increased. My recommendation, I am glad to say, was favourably received.

TOWN OF LAUNCESTON.

Population (estimated at)	8000
Area in Acres	3340
Population to one Constable	276
Area to one Constable	115
Strength of Force	29

Date of Inspection, 20th September.

In consequence of the extension of the boundaries of this Municipality embracing what might be more properly called the Suburbs, the establishing in this Force of two mounted Patrol for night duty in the outskirts has very judiciously been effected. The men are well mounted and accoutred, and the outlying and thickly populated portions of the Municipality more efficiently and economically protected than they could be by foot Police. The continued night duty performed by these men during the winter months, admitting of no relief, has been unusually severe, and they appeared to have somewhat suffered in health. I suggested to the Mayor the necessity of providing an additional horse (the Superintendent informing me that he could spare a man from the day-duty force for the Patrol Service), and so constitute a relief and increase the efficiency of this portion of the Constabulary. This suggestion I hope to see adopted.

In classification and numbers, with the foregoing exception, the Force remains as it was last year, and I am gratified to report on its not only continued but increased efficiency.

The clothing is of very excellent quality, well fitted, and according to Regulation. Within the twelve months ending 31st August last 6 Constables have left the Force, 1 by dismissal and 5 by resignation; and it is highly creditable to the members thereof that no instance of any of them having been intoxicated during that period has occurred. In the same year 168 indictable offences had been reported to the Police, one of which turned out to have been so in error, for which 126 persons were apprehended and 84 committed, showing a fair average of detection, particularly as I was informed by the Superintendent that for some months he had only the services of one Detective Constable.

The Superintendent, Sub-Inspectors, and Detective Constables are also Inspectors of Lodging Houses.

The pay of the Sub-Inspectors has been reduced to £180 per annum, but they are to be provided with quarters; and a deduction of four-pence a day from the pay of the Constables is now made as a contribution towards the cost of Uniform, the expense of which the amount thus annually deducted does not cover.

For many months the Force has occupied as Barracks and Station-house the buildings formerly used as a Penitentiary, and which are now in process of being adapted to Police purposes. The Constables have been, and are still, sleeping in the cells originally used for the confinement of prisoners under separate treatment. This has been very trying to their health during the winter; but greatly to their credit, however, much less dissatisfaction than could have been anticipated has been expressed, and I would venture to impress on the Government the urgent necessity of proceeding as rapidly as possible with the proposed alterations, as proper accommodation is required as much on sanitary grounds as for the comfort of the men.

The books and returns are as few in number as possible under prescribed Regulations, and are clearly and intelligibly kept. I am glad to find a regulation invariably acted upon in this as well as in the City of Hobart Force, under which any member thereof reported under the influence of liquor whilst on duty is instantly dismissed. This, I consider, will have a very beneficial effect.

In conclusion, I am gratified to report that I have continued to maintain a cordial intercourse with the Municipal Authorities, and have found my observations and suggestions, which I am happy to say have necessarily been few, received with courtesy and attention, and that unmistakeable indications of an earnest determination on the part of the respective Municipalities to carry fully and faithfully into effect the manifest intentions of the Legislature, by providing and maintaining in a state of efficiency such a Force of Constabulary as shall really and truly answer the purposes for which they are intended, are clearly apparent.

I beg to annex, as an Appendix, a Return showing the established Police Force in each Municipality, with the several grades of rank, rates of pay, &c., of officers and men.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

APPENDIX.

ESTABLISHED Police Force in the Municipalities of Tasmania.

MUNICIPALITY.	ESTABLISHMENT.		DETAIL OF RANKS.							ESTIMATE OF POPU- LATION IN 1859.	AREA IN ACRES.	PROPOR- TIONS.		RATES OF ANNUAL PAY.		RATES OF DAILY PAY.					
	1858.	1859.	Superintendent.	Sub-Inspectors.	Acting Sub-Inspectors.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Mounted Patrol.	Population to each Constable.			Acres to each Constable.	Superintendent.	Sub-Inspectors.	Acting Sub-Inspectors.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Mounted Patrol.			
													£	£	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	
Hobart, City - - - -	51	52	1	2	—	9	40	—	18,000	1270	346	25	250	140	—	7	05	6	—	With Uniform.	
Launceston, Town - - -	29	29	1	2	1	3	20	2	8000	3440	276	115	300	180	8	88	86	86	8	With Uniform.	

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*