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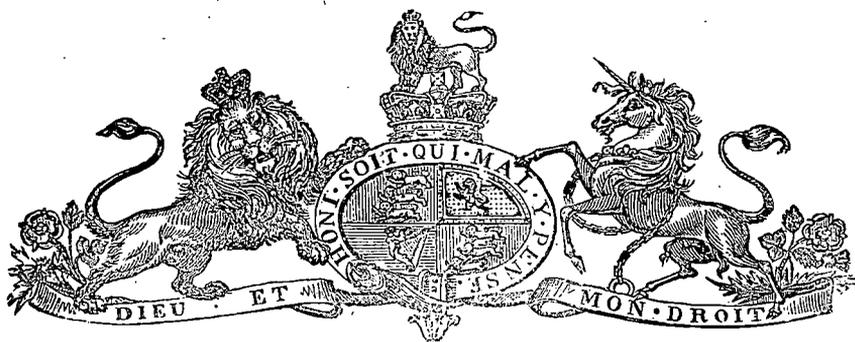
TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

INSPECTOR OF POLICE, MUNICIPAL.

REPORT TO JUNE 30, 1874.

Laid upon the Table by the Attorney-General, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 21, 1874.



SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT of the Inspector of CONSTABULARY FORCES of Municipalities of Tasmania for the Year ending the 30th June, 1874.

Office of Inspector of Police, 16th July, 1874.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to present herewith my Sixteenth Annual Report on the state of the several Police Forces in the Municipalities of Tasmania for the year ending the 30th June, 1874.

The authorised effective strength of Police in the entire Municipal area of the Colony is as follows :—

Superintendents	21
Sub-Inspectors.....	20
Sergeants	22
Constables	102
Special Constables	16

The Special Constables however, 16 in number, not being included as effectives.

In regard to crime, the following Table will show its state throughout the Municipalities, and that of minor offences, as compared with similar classes during the last two years :—

YEARS.	INDICTABLE OFFENCES.			OFFENCES DETERMINED SUMMARILY.			
	<i>Number reported to Police.</i>	<i>Number apprehended.</i>	<i>Number Committed or summarily Convicted.</i>	<i>Drunkenness and Disorderly Conduct.</i>		<i>Offences against Police Act and Bye-laws.</i>	
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1871.....	1057	676	470	748	461	1347	378
1872.....	1123	658	491	745	387	1531	627
1873.....	920	592	354	830	492	1662	575

The Colony, I am gratified to state, has been almost entirely free from capital crimes, and even from offences of a serious character. Sheep and cattle stealing have been most prominent among those of the latter; and, again, several convictions of persons not closely identified with the criminal classes have been obtained. These offences—so easily committed and difficult of detection—are, however, on the decrease.

Vagrancy has decreased,—owing probably to an increased demand for labour both on public works and for agricultural purposes. Whenever it is, however, the object of prosecution, it seems to be too leniently dealt with by the presiding Bench.

The Municipal Authorities generally still seem to encourage an inclination to lessen expense at the cost of efficiency and of a sufficient Police protection and control. Those through which the Main Line of Railway runs have not, in my opinion, kept up a sufficient Force during the construction of the Line to protect property and maintain order among the navvies, who, as the works proceed to completion, are being gradually discharged, and apparently leave the Colony.

In the early part of this year the assistance of the Municipalities outside of the area of the Launceston and Deloraine Railway District was invoked by the Government to aid in the collection of the Railway Rate, to which the majority of the ratepayers were offering an illegal and dangerous

passive resistance. To this request, with one exception—Oatlands—they instantaneously responded, and placed under my orders a considerable body of men who, with the Territorial Police, were concentrated in Launceston. Their services were, however, fortunately not required to suppress any commotion; and it is gratifying to me to have to report that their conduct during the time was very commendable. These men having during this period been disciplined and drilled, returned to their several stations improved in efficiency and in the knowledge of police duty.

The efficiency of the Force is becoming materially affected by the increasing age of the Constables, which on the average amounts to 41 years, a period when physical energy is on the decline. This I have already remarked in former Reports is considerably diminished by the absence of any regulations for their superannuation and the existing system debarring them from any certainty of promotion, the superior officers having very generally been sought for outside of the ranks of the constabulary. The securing and defining a basis for a Superannuation Fund, as well as a uniformity of pay to the Force, should be made the subject of legislative enactment, and enlarged powers granted to the Inspector. Should superannuation not be made certain, and promotion to the higher grades offered, there will be no encouragement for young able-bodied men to give the best of their days to a service of great responsibility and work, through a period of time which they will not be found willing to lose in securing to themselves efficiency.

No Municipalities have been declared since 1866, leaving eight Police Districts at the extreme north and south ends of the Colony under the control of the Territorial Force.

The usual Tabular Returns of the strength and pay of the several Forces is appended for reference.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

MUNICIPALITIES.

CITY OF HOBART TOWN.—(*Established 1st February, 1858.*)

Population.....	20,000
Area in acres.....	1270
Population to one Constable.....	525
Acres to one Constable.....	33
Strength of Force.....	38

The organisation and numerical strength of this Force remains unaltered, and its efficiency is maintained. It is composed of a smart body of men whose conduct was satisfactorily reported upon by the Superintendent. One Sub-Inspector had died, three Constables had resigned, and one Constable had been dismissed. The uniform and arms were in excellent order.

Indictable offences had decreased, but there was no perceptible difference in the number of minor ones.

During the year ending 30th June 257 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 125 persons were apprehended, of whom 80 were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 143 males and 97 females were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 411 males and 247 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. Nine publicans were convicted of breaches of the Licensing Act. The station-house and the wards and cells therein were in good repair and cleanly, and the books, records, and returns correctly kept.

The acting Sub-Inspector has been relieved of the duties of Bailiff of the Small Debts Court, which are now performed by a Territorial Sergeant, but he retains the office of Inspector of Lodging-houses. A medical officer attends the watch-house.

TOWN OF LAUNCESTON.—(*Established 1st January, 1858.*)

Population.....	11,000
Area in acres.....	3340
Population to one Constable.....	598
Acres to one Constable.....	176
Strength of Force.....	19

This Force retains its efficiency, its organisation and authorised strength continuing unaltered. It remains marked by the permanency of service of its members, none of whom had resigned nor been dismissed—a proof of the favourable report made by the Superintendent of their conduct.

The returns showed a decrease in the number of indictable offences, as well in those of a minor character.

During the year ending 30th June 165 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 109 persons were apprehended, of whom 63 were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 78 males and 82 females were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and 123 males and 46 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. One publican was convicted under the Licensing Act. The station-house and temporary cells were in good order, the uniform, arms, and necessaries in good condition, and the books, returns, and records correctly kept. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures. No medical officer is attached to this Force.

GLAMORGAN.—(*Established 28th February, 1860.*)

Strength of Force 3

This Force has been re-organised and reduced below what I consider a standard of efficiency. The office of Superintendent and Council Clerk have been amalgamated, and the Sub-Inspector's position altered, his pay reduced to £50 a year, ranking as a Special Constable, and his efficiency destroyed. A Watch-house keeper and five Special Constables are stationed at several parts of the Municipality, but these I do not include in the effective staff. One Petty Constable had resigned, but there were no dismissals.

Indictable offences as well as those of a minor character had decreased in number.

During the year ending 30th June 17 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 7 persons were apprehended, of whom 5 were summarily convicted or committed for trial. 5 males and 1 female were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and 3 males proceeded against under the provisions of the Police Act and Bye-laws. One publican was convicted of a breach of the Licensing Act. The station-house was in good repair, the wards and cells cleanly, and the books, records, and returns correctly kept. The arms and uniform were in good order. When a medical man is resident in the Municipality he is attached to the Force. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock and Roads, Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions, and an Officer of Customs.

SPRING BAY.—(*Established 19th October, 1860.*)

Strength of Force 4

A Petty Constable has been dispensed with and the pay improperly reduced 20 per cent., bringing this Force, if not below, at least to a minimum state of efficiency, but its organisation remains unaltered. The head station, cells, and wards were in good order, but repairs to the White Hut Station are still required. The uniform was in good condition and the arms serviceable. There had been one resignation, that of a Petty Constable.

Indictable as well as other offences had slightly increased.

During the year ending 30th June 6 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 4 persons were apprehended, all of whom were summarily convicted or committed for trial. 2 females were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and 15 males proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. No publicans were convicted under the provisions of the Licensing Act. The books, returns, and records were correctly kept. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock and Roads, Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions, and an Officer of Customs.

CLARENCE.—(*Established 13th November, 1860.*)

Strength of Force 4

This Force remains unaltered in organisation, but is reduced in numerical strength, one Constable having been dispensed with. The Sorell Causeway is now opened and considerably increases the traffic through the Municipality, requiring extended vigilance on the part of the Police. The station-houses were in good repair, and the arms and uniform in very serviceable condition. There had been no resignations nor dismissals from the Force.

The returns showed a considerable decrease in the number of indictable offences, but none in minor ones.

During the year ending 30th June 6 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 3 persons were apprehended, all of whom were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 2 males and 2 females were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and 22 males and 2 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. No publicans were subjected to informations. The Superintendent performs the duties of Council Clerk, Inspector of Stock and Roads, Examiner of Weights and Measures, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions.

RICHMOND.—(*Established 1st August, 1861.*)

Strength of Force 7

The numerical strength and organisation of this Force remains unaltered, though its duties have been considerably increased by the employment of a large body of railway navvies within the Municipality. A forage allowance of £15 a year had been granted to the officer in charge of the Jerusalem station. Nothing had been done with respect to the erection of an escort station at the White Marsh, though the matter has been under consideration for years. The station-houses were in good repair, and the cells and wards cleanly. There had been two Constables allowed to resign in lieu of having informations laid against them for misconduct.

The returns showed a considerable increase in both indictable and minor offences, owing to the increase in the number of persons employed in the construction of railway works.

During the year ending the 30th June 61 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 62 persons were apprehended, of whom 44 were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 78 males and 19 females were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and 143 males and 14 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. No convictions had been laid against publicans. The uniform, arms, and accoutrements were in good condition, and the books, records, and returns correctly kept. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions.

OATLANDS.—(*Established 9th January, 1862.*)

Strength of Force 6

A temporary change was made in the organisation and numerical strength of this Force by the amalgamation of the offices of Superintendent with that of Council Clerk. After a short trial however it was found desirable to separate the duties, which has been done, and an additional Constable appointed. The Force has not been sufficiently strong to deal with the large body of navvies employed on the railway works, and the camp at the Flat-topped Hill has been the scene of considerable disorder. A public-house has lately been licensed, which may tend to decrease the prevalence of sly grog selling. A new Superintendent, who has had no prior Police experience, has been appointed to the charge of the Force. There had been three resignations during the year.

Indictable offences had decreased, but the number of minor offences had increased.

During the year ending 30th June 38 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 18 persons were apprehended, of whom 15 were summarily convicted or committed for trial. 83 males and 33 females were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and 77 males and 18 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. Four publicans had been convicted and fined under the Licensing Act. The station-houses were in good repair, the arms and uniform in very serviceable condition, and the books, records, and returns correctly kept. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions.

LONGFORD.—(*Established 28th February, 1862.*)

Strength of Force 8

This Force retains its numerical strength and organisation in a state of efficiency. A slight addition had been made to the pay of the Superintendent, which is however still too low. The station-houses were in good repair, and it is the intention of the Council to alter the site of that at Cressy if it can be effected. The arms, uniform, and accoutrements were in good condition. There had been two resignations of Petty Constables whose vacancies had been applied for and filled up by Constables serving in the Forces of Campbell Town and Oatlands respectively.

Indictable offences had slightly decreased, but there was no perceptible change in the number of minor ones.

During the year ending 30th June 46 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 46 persons were apprehended, all of whom were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 100 males and 61 females were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and 78 males and 25 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. Three publicans were convicted and fined under the Licensing Act. The books, returns, and records were correctly kept. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions.

GREEN PONDS.—(*Established 15th April, 1862.*)

Strength of Force 7

This Force maintains its standard of efficiency, and remains unaltered in organisation or numerical strength. The station at Spring Hill is maintained equally by Oatlands Municipality and Green Ponds, and ought to be continued on the same terms, though the former proposes a diminution in its contribution. There had been no dismissals, but one resignation.

The returns showed no apparent numerical change in the number of indictable and minor offences.

During the year ending 30th June 45 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 35 persons were apprehended, of whom 32 were committed or summarily convicted. 8 males and 3 females were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and 50 males and 24 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. No publican had been convicted under the Licensing Act. The uniform, arms, and accoutrements were in very serviceable order, and the books, records, and returns correctly kept. The Superintendent also performs the duties of Council Clerk, Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions.

SORELL.—(*Established 30th June, 1862.*)

Strength of Force 5

The organisation of this Force has been somewhat altered, and its numerical strength increased, the Sergeant and a Petty Constable being mounted men. The Semaphore at East Bay Neck is now maintained by the Government, and increased vigilance is necessary on the coast of the mainland in consequence of the recent changes at Port Arthur. Its present standard of efficiency is a satisfactory one. The head station-house requires considerable repairs, the cells being untenable during wet weather. No resignations nor dismissals had taken place.

Both indictable offences and others of a minor nature had increased.

During the year ending 30th June 25 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 17 persons were apprehended, of whom 9 were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 23 males and 19 females were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and 95 males and 5 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. One publican had been proceeded against under the Licensing Act. The arms and uniform were in good serviceable order, and the books, records, and returns correctly kept. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions.

BOTHWELL.—(*Established 31st January, 1863.*)

Strength of Force 4

This Force remains unaltered in numerical strength or organisation. The uniform, arms, and accoutrements were in good condition. The station-houses and lock-up were in good repair. There had been one resignation but no dismissals from the Force. A horse is kept at head quarters for the general use of the constabulary.

Indictable offences, as well as those of a minor character, had decreased.

During the year ending the 30th June 8 indictable offences had been reported to the Police, for which 5 persons were apprehended, all of whom were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 14 males and 18 females were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 30 males and 6 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. Two publicans had been proceeded against and fined. The cells and wards were clean, and the books, records, and returns correctly kept. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions.

ROSS.—(*Established 17th February, 1862.*)

Strength of Force 3

No change has been made in the numerical strength or organisation of this Force. The uniform, arms, and accoutrements were in good order. There had been no resignations nor dismissals during the year.

The returns show an increase in the number of indictable offences as well as of minor offences, but this was owing to the presence of navvies in the Municipality employed on the Main Line of Railway.

During the year ending the 30th June 16 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 13 persons were apprehended, of whom 11 were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 20 males and 8 females were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and 70 males and 16 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. No publican had been proceeded against. The station-house was in good repair, the wards and cells clean, and the books, records, and returns correctly kept. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions.

FINGAL.—(*Established 27th February, 1863.*)

Strength of Force 8

This Force remains unaltered in organisation, but two Petty Constables have been reduced, lowering it to a minimum standard of efficiency. No resignations nor dismissals from the Force had taken place.

Indictable as well as minor offences had decreased.

During the year ending the 30th June 25 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 8 persons were apprehended, of whom 5 were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 19 males and 4 females were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 32 males and 9 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. One publican had been proceeded against and fined. The station-houses were in good repair. That at Mathinna requires enlarging, but it would be better to erect a new one on a more eligible site. The wards and cells were clean, and the uniform, arms, and accoutrements in good serviceable order. The books, records, and returns were kept correctly. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions.

NEW NORFOLK.—(*Established 17th March, 1863.*)

Strength of Force 7

This Force maintains its numerical strength and efficiency, and no change has been made in its organisation. The uniform, arms, and accoutrements were in good order. There had been neither resignations nor dismissals from the service during the year.

The returns showed a decrease in both indictable and minor offences.

During the year ending 30th June 22 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 15 persons were apprehended, of whom 14 were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 26 males and 73 females were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 69 males and 29 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. No publicans had been fined for breaches of the Licensing Act. The station-houses were in good repair, wards and cells all cleanly, and the books, records, and returns kept correctly. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions.

HAMILTON.—(*Established 13th September, 1863.*)

Strength of Force 6

This Force retains its efficiency in numerical strength and organisation. A new Superintendent had been appointed. The head station-house had been added to and repaired, and a new station was in course of erection at Victoria Valley. There had been neither dismissals nor resignations from the Force.

There had been a slight decrease in the number of indictable offences, but very little variation in that of minor ones.

During the year ending 30th June 24 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 17 persons were arrested, of whom 14 were convicted summarily or committed for trial. 15 males and 2 females were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct; and 12 males and 2 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. No informations had been laid against publicans. The wards and cells were cleanly, the uniform, arms, and accoutrements in good order, and the books, returns, and records correctly kept. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions.

BRIGHTON.—(*Established 19th November, 1863.*)

Strength of Force 4

This Force is increased in numerical strength by the addition of one Constable, but its organisation remains unaltered. The Tea Tree Station is still unoccupied. The uniform, arms, and accoutrements were in good serviceable order. Neither resignations nor dismissals from the Force had taken place.

The returns showed a decrease both in indictable and other offences.

During the year ending the 30th June 34 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 25 persons were arrested, of whom 21 were summarily convicted or committed for trial. 17 males and 12 females were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 98 males and 17 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. No informations were laid against publicans under the Licensing Act. The station-house was in good repair, the uniform and arms in serviceable condition, and the books, records, and returns correctly kept. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the General Court of Sessions.

WESTBURY.—(*Established 15th December, 1863.*)

Strength of Force 9

In organisation and numerical strength this Force remains unaltered, and it maintains an efficient standard. No dismissals nor resignations have occurred. The uniform, arms, and accoutrements were in good and serviceable order.

Indictable offences had very much decreased. There was no change numerically in minor ones.

During the year ending the 30th June 35 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 17 persons were apprehended, of whom 13 were summarily convicted or committed for trial. 78 males and 13 females were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 94 males and 26 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. No publicans had been proceeded against under the Licensing Act. The outlying station-houses were in good repair. The wards and cells were cleanly, and the books, records, and returns correctly kept. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions.

DELORAIN.—(*Established 18th December, 1863.*)

Strength of Force 5

The organisation of this Force remains unchanged, but a Petty Constable had been reduced. No resignations nor dismissals had occurred since my last inspection, and permanency of service was a satisfactory one.

Indictable offences had decreased, as had also those of a minor character.

During the year ending the 30th June 28 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 15 persons were arrested, of whom 11 were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 35 males and 17 females were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 18 males and 10 females proceeded

against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. No publicans had been proceeded against for breaches of the provisions of the Licensing Act. The station-houses were in a good state of repair, the wards and cells clean, the uniform, arms, and accoutrements in serviceable order, and the books, records, and returns kept correctly. The Superintendent is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions.

GLENORCHY.—(*Established 30th June, 1864.*)

Strength of Force 6

This Force remains unaltered in organisation and numerical strength, but will, on the withdrawal of the navvies from the Railway works, admit of a reduction. One Petty Constable had died from the result of an accident. A new Superintendent had been placed in charge on the decease of the late Council Clerk. There had been neither dismissals nor resignations.

Indictable offences had decreased. No variation in the number of minor ones was apparent.

During the year ending 30th June 15 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 5 persons were apprehended, all of whom were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 16 males and 7 females were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 73 males and 17 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. No informations had been laid against publicans. The station-house was in good repair, but the surrounding wall requires rebuilding. The uniform, arms, and accoutrements were in good order, the wards and cells cleanly, and the books, records, and returns correctly kept. The Superintendent is Council Clerk, Registrar of the Court of General Sessions, Examiner of Weights and Measures, and Inspector of Stock. A Sub-Inspector is Bailiff of the Court.

EVANDALE.—(*Established 29th December, 1865.*)

Strength of Force 7

The numerical strength of this Force has undergone no alteration, but its organisation has been detrimentally affected by the consolidation of the offices of Superintendent and Council Clerk, and its efficiency decreased. One Sub-Inspector and two Constables had resigned.

A slight increase had taken place in both indictable and other offences.

During the year ending the 30th June 19 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 15 persons were arrested, all of whom were summarily convicted or committed for trial; 25 males and 5 females were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 37 males and 12 females were proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. Two informations had been laid against publicans and fines inflicted. The station-houses were in good repair, the uniform, arms, and ammunition in serviceable order, the wards and cells cleanly, and the books, records, and returns kept correctly. The Superintendent is Council Clerk, Registrar of the Court of General Sessions, Examiner of Weights and Measures, and Inspector of Stock.

CAMPBELL TOWN.—(*Established 18th September, 1866.*)

Strength of Force 6

This Force has undergone a change of organisation in a most undesirable amalgamation of the offices of Superintendent and Council Clerk, and a further reduction of one Petty Constable, and the out-station at Stony Creek has decreased its efficiency. The pay has been slightly increased. No Constables had resigned nor been dismissed.

The returns show a decrease in the number of indictable offences reported. Minor offences had slightly increased.

During the year ending the 30th June 28 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 21 persons were apprehended, of whom 19 were summarily convicted or committed for trial. 45 males and 14 females were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 112 males and 24 females proceeded against under the Police Act and Bye-laws. One publican had been charged with a breach of the Licensing Act. The vacant station-house requires additions, but was in good repair, as well as the out-station ones. The wards and cells were cleanly, the uniform, arms, and ammunition in serviceable order, and the books, returns, and records correctly kept. The Superintendent is Council Clerk, Registrar of the Court of General Sessions, Examiner of Weights and Measures, and Inspector of Stock.

