

(No. 19.)



1873.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

POLICE, TERRITORIAL.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1872.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Scott, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
June 17, 1873.



SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT of the Inspector of Police on the State of the Territorial Police of Tasmania, for the Year ending the 31st December, 1872.

Office of Inspector of Police, 1st May, 1873.

SIR,

IN submitting my Sixth Annual Report on the state of the Territorial Police Force (embracing a similar period with that on the Municipal Police) for the information of His Excellency the Governor, it affords me great satisfaction to state that it continues to maintain its character for efficiency. A few complaints of a trivial character have been preferred against it, but these have been confined to its subordinate members.

Its total effective strength is 83, compared with 87 in 1871. It maintains its character for permanence of service.

In respect to crime, the returns show, as compared with those of the previous year, a slight increase in indictable offences. Very few of a serious nature, however, have been committed; and the increase can be traced to the prevalence of vagrancy throughout the Colony among the old convict class.

The reduction of the Forage Allowance from £40 to £25 a year has inflicted, in my opinion, on several of the officers who are obliged to provide their own horses, a pecuniary loss. This ought not to be the case, and may naturally tend to a relaxing of energy in the performance of duties involving the wear and tear of horse-flesh.

The annual Tabular Return is annexed.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

DISTRICT OF HOBART.

Strength of Force 21.

The organisation of this Force remains unaltered, but its numerical strength has been decreased. The two Sergeants through whom the out-door relief of Paupers, &c. was effected have been transferred to the Charitable Grants Department; and two Petty Constables, one of whom was stationed at Government House, and the other doing duty on the Wharves in aid of the Customs, have been reduced. The Magazine in the Domain now being solely a Colonial charge, three Petty Constables are detached as its guard. Without an increase to the Force it is impossible to extend sufficient protection to the portions of the District adjacent to the City boundaries.

The Detective Force still assists the officers connected with the relief of Paupers, and takes charge of all matters connected with the Shipping requiring Police interference. Two Petty Constables had resigned during the year. The Uniform was of excellent quality, and the Arms and Appointments were in very serviceable order.

The number of indictable offences reported considerably exceeded that in the preceding year, but the returns of minor offences showed very little variation.

During the year ending 31st December 80 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 49 persons were arrested, of whom 36 were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 37 persons—17 males and 20 females—were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 40 persons proceeded against under the Police Act. One publican was convicted of a breach of the Licensing Act.

The Station-houses were in good repair, the Wards and Cells cleanly, and the Books, Records, and Returns correctly kept. The duties of Coroner's Clerk and Summoning Officer are discharged by a Sergeant. The Chief District Constable is Town Surveyor of New Town, Examiner of Weights and Measures, and Inspector of Stock. A Medical Man is attached to the Force.

KINGBOROUGH.

Strength of Force 8

No alteration has been made in the organisation or numerical strength of this Force. There had been no dismissals or resignations during the year. The Uniform was in good order, and the Arms and Appointments were in serviceable condition.

Indictable offences had decreased, as well as the number of charges of drunkenness.

During the year ending 31st December 26 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 11 persons were arrested, of whom 9 were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 23 persons—13 males and 10 females—were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 13 persons—8 males and 5 females—proceeded against under the Police Act. No proceedings had been taken against Publicans. The Station-houses were in good repair, the Wards and Cells clean, and the Books, Records, and Returns correctly kept. The Chief District Constable at Kingston performs the duties of Police Clerk and Registrar of the Small Debts Court, Examiner of Weights and Measures, and Inspector of Stock. An officer of the same grade at Three Hut Point is a Tide-waiter in the Customs Department. No Medical Man is attached to the Force.

HUON.

Strength of Force 12

Since my last Report there has been a reduction of one Petty Constable in this Force, but its organisation remains unchanged. The communication between the Channel Stations and Head Quarters is now well maintained, and the services of the boat and crew are not much missed. Two Constables had been dismissed, and one had resigned during the year. The Uniform was of good quality, and the Arms and Appointments were in serviceable order.

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

During the year ending 31st December 42 indictable offences had been reported to the Police, for which 32 persons were apprehended, of whom 20 were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 30 persons—17 males and 13 females—were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 22 persons—18 males and 4 females—proceeded against under the Police Act. One Publican was fined for a breach of the Licensing Act. The Station-houses were all in good repair, the Cells and Wards cleanly, and the Books, Records, and Returns correctly kept. The Chief District Constable is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions. No Medical Man is attached to the Force.

The Uniform was in good condition, and the Arms and Accoutrements were in serviceable order.

SELBY.

Strength of Force 10

The numerical strength and organisation of this Force remains unaltered. It exercises an occasional supervision over a portion of the Western Railway. The duties of Javelin-men at the Sittings of the Supreme Court also devolve upon it. There had been no dismissals or resignations during the year.

Indictable offences had considerably decreased, and fewer offences of a minor character had been committed.

During the year ending 31 December 16 indictable offences had been reported to the Police, for which 9 persons were arrested, all of whom were committed or summarily convicted. 14 persons—10 males and 4 females—were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 9 persons—8 males and 1 female—proceeded against under the Police Act. No informations had been laid against Publicans. The Station-houses were in good repair, the Wards and Cells clean, and the Books, Returns, and Records correctly kept. The Chief District Constable is Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and discharges the duties connected with the Government Charitable Institutions. A Medical Man is attached to the Force.

PORT SORELL.

Strength of Force 15

The efficiency of this Force has been increased by the appointment of one additional Petty Constable,—its organisation remaining unchanged. Considerable difficulties still exist in keeping up an efficient communication with the out-stations in winter on account of the bad state of the roads. Two Petty Constables had resigned during the year. The Uniform was of good quality, and the Arms and Appointments in serviceable order.

Indictable offences still continue to increase, which may be attributed to the impoverished state of population, owing to a failure of crops generally. On the other hand, those of a minor character had decreased.

During the year ending 31st December 118 indictable offences had been reported to the Police, for which 53 persons were apprehended, of whom 31 were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 62 persons—50 males and 12 females—were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 15 persons—14 males and 1 female—proceeded against under the Police Act. No proceedings were taken against Publicans. The Station-houses were in good repair, the Cells and Wards cleanly, and the Books, Records, and Returns correctly kept. The Chief District Constable is a Tide Waiter of Customs, Examiner of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Stock, and Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions. No Medical Man is attached to the Force.

HORTON.

Strength of Force 8

The numerical strength and organisation of this Force remains unchanged. The Station which was much required at the Cam has been built on a very eligible site, and a Constable who acts in aid of the Customs stationed there. The Station at the Montagu River has been removed to a more convenient locality. The Uniform was in good condition, and the Arms and Accoutrements were in serviceable order. There had been no resignations nor dismissals from the Force.

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

During the year ending 31st December 16 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 10 persons were apprehended, of whom 8 were summarily convicted or committed for trial. 23 persons—16 males and 7 females—were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 17 persons—12 males and 5 females—proceeded against under the Police Act. Two Publicans had been convicted and fined for breaches of the Licensing Act. The Station-houses were in good repair, the Wards and Cells clean, and the Books, Records, and Returns correctly kept. The Chief District Constable performs the duties of Police Clerk, Deputy Clerk of the Peace, Examiner of Weights and Measures, and Inspector of Stock. A Medical Man is attached to the Force, at Table Cape.

GEORGE TOWN (INCLUDING GOLD FIELDS).

Strength of Force 7

The amalgamation of this with that of the Gold Fields Force, in consequence of the desertion of the mining portions of the District by the miners, involving a reduction of 4 Petty Constables, has altered both its numerical strength and organisation. It now consists of one first-class and one second-class District Constable, and five Petty Constables. Of these the latter officer and two Petty Constables are retained for duty on the Gold Fields, and at present they afford efficient protection. The uniform was in good condition, and the Arms and Appointments were in serviceable order.

The Returns showed a reduction in the number of indictable offences, as well as in charges of a lighter character.

During the year ending 31 December 15 indictable offences had been reported to the Police, for which 10 persons had been arrested, of whom 8 were committed for trial or summarily convicted. 10 persons—9 males and 1 female—were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and 5 persons—2 males and 3 females—proceeded against under the Police Act. No publicans had been proceeded against. The Station-houses were in good repair (that of the Back Creek is no longer occupied), the Wards and Cells cleanly, and the Books, Records, and Returns correctly kept. The first-class District Constable is in charge at George Town, and discharges the duties of Police Clerk, Deputy Clerk of the Peace, Examiner of Weights and Measures, and Inspector of Stock. The second-class District Constable has charge of the Waterhouse portion of the District, and resides at the Station at Lyndhurst. A Medical Officer is attached to the Force, who resides at George Town.

SOUTH LONGFORD OR GREAT LAKE DISTRICT.

Strength of Force 2

The favourable results which have accrued from the working of this Force since its establishment has enabled me to make a further reduction of one Petty Constable since my last Report without affecting its efficiency; and the absence of reports of the drifting of sheep, and even of sheep-stealing of any character, is proof of the protection afforded by it. Trafficking by Hawkers and Tanners I may say is entirely suppressed, and its usefulness is generally acknowledged.

Its supervision exists over 92,000 sheep and 2300 cattle depastured in summer, and 51,500 sheep and 1340 cattle depastured in winter, in addition to which it is extended into adjacent Municipalities. The Police Rates and Licences levied in the District cover more than two-thirds its expenditure.

Many runs, which a few years ago were useless from the prevalence of fluke, have now, from draining and other causes, become healthy; and there is every probability of the quantity of stock depastured being very materially increased. The Chief Constable is an Inspector of Stock.

TERRITORIAL POLICE FORCE OF TASMANIA.

1872.

DISTRICTS.	Establishment.	DETAIL OF RANKS.						Area in Acres.	Acres to each Constable.	ANNUAL PAY INCLUDING FORAGE AND TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES.			DAILY PAY.			REMARKS.
		Chief District Constable.	2nd Class District Constable.	Sergeants.	Acting Sergeants.	Petty Constables.	Special Constables.			Chief District Constable.	2nd Class District Constable.	Special Constable.	Sergeants.	Acting Sergeants.	Petty Constables.	
Hobart	21	1	2	1	—	17	—	686,690	32,700	£	£ s. d.	£	s. d.	s. d.	s.	C. D. Constable has quarters. One C. D. Constable has quarters. One D. Constable has £10 travelling allowance. One C. D. Constable has quarters. A Sergeant has £25 for clerical duties. The Acting Sergeant has £25 forage allowance, and one Constable has £10 forage allowance. 2nd Class District Constables have quarters. C. D. Constable has quarters. 2nd Class District Constables have quarters. With quarters.
Kingborough	8	2	2	—	—	3	1	463,000	58,000	175	104 18 9	25	—	—	5	
Huon	12	1	2	1	—	7	1	2,507,000	208,916	175	{ 129 18 9 } { 129 18 9 }	50	5 9	—	5	
Selby	10	1	1	—	1	7	—	—	—	200	104 18 9	—	—	5 0	5	
George Town, including Gold Fields	7	—	2	—	—	5	—	792,320	113,188	—	{ 170 0 0 } { 144 1 3 }	—	—	—	5s 6d	
Port Sorell	15	1	1	—	3	10	—	561,920	37,461	200	129 18 9	—	—	5 0	5	
Horton	8	1	2	—	—	5	—	2,574,000	321,750	175	{ 129 18 9 } { 104 18 9 }	—	—	—	5	
Great Lake	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	175	—	—	5 0	—	—	

J. FORSTER, Inspector of Police.