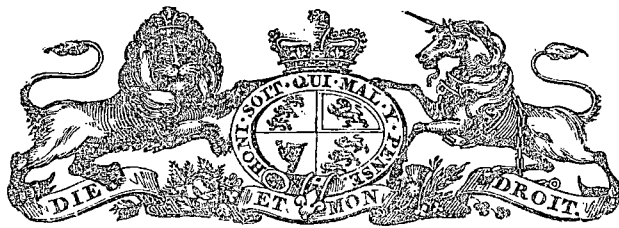


(No. 102.)



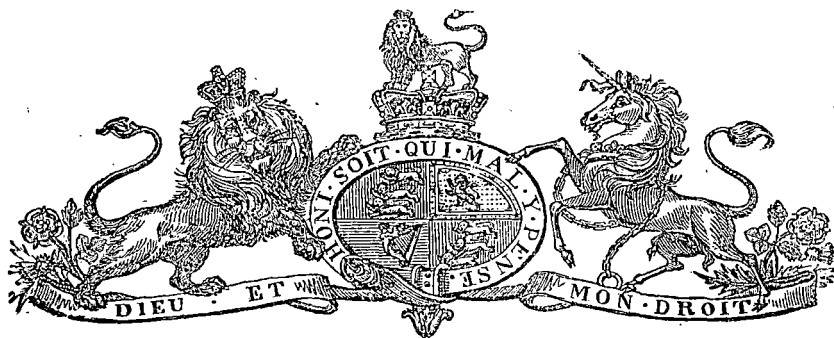
1860.

TASMANIA.

POLICE.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF POLICE, MADE
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE 21ST VICT. No. 13.

Laid on the Table by order of the Governor, by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and
ordered by the House to be printed, 19 September, 1860.



Office of Inspector of Police, 17th September, 1860.

SIR,

In presenting my Third Annual Report on the state of the Police Forces maintained by the Municipalities in Tasmania, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, it affords me pleasure in being able to testify to their continued efficiency.

In my intercourse during the last year with the Local Authorities, the observations and suggestions I have considered it necessary to make have been received with attention and courtesy; and I am gratified to observe a clearly manifested disposition on their part to preserve an efficient organisation of their respective Police Establishments.

The efficiency and discipline of the Police Force, beyond its mere number, are necessarily dependent on various circumstances,—but with nothing can they be more intimately connected than with the nature and degree of the inducements held out to the officers and men to devote themselves to the service. Foremost amongst those inducements must ever stand the absolute certainty of some provision for their subsistence when, by reason of age or infirmity, or on account of injuries sustained in the faithful and fearless discharge of their duties, they shall become unfit for further service.

It is true that by the provisions of the Act of Parliament, 21 Victoria, No. 13, Municipal Councils are empowered, upon the recommendation of any Court of Justice, or of the Superintendent or otherwise, to award and pay to constables out of the Reward and Superannuation Fund, constituted under the provisions of that Act, sums of money for extraordinary diligence or exertion, or as compensation for wounds or injuries received, or on being worn out by length of service; but it cannot be doubted that any reliance on that provision is far too precarious and much too indefinite to be entirely satisfactory to men, who, as the matter now stands, have no other dependence, when worn out by age and long service, than the prospect of such a measure of justice as may chance to be meted out to them under the influence of the momentary and uncertain humour of a fluctuating body, at often critical periods at which their claims may be brought forward for consideration.

I have therefore looked upon it as a most important duty to draw the attention of the Local Authorities to this matter, with a view to the establishment of Rules and Regulations under which certain scales of Allowances and Gratuities may be secured to the Constabulary; and hope to see my suggestions shortly adopted.

CITY OF HOBART TOWN.

Population (estimated at).....	18,000
Area in Acres.....	1270
Population to one Constable.....	429
Area in Acres to one Constable.....	30
Strength of Force.....	46
Date of Inspection, 15th September.	

A reduction of one Sergeant and five men, and a slight alteration in its classification, has been made in this Force since my last inspection.

The reduction of the Sergeant (classed as an ineffective as Superintendent's Clerk) was contingent on a change of designation of his employment, and that of the Constables (one of whom was borne on Municipal Funds), and which was directed as a temporary measure only, on the Report of the Superintendent, concurred in by me, was justified by the apparent decrease of crime within the Municipality, and will, in all probability, be permanently authorised without impairing the efficiency of the Force. The Patrol Sergeant now holds the acting rank of a Sub-Inspector, to enable him to exercise a supervision over the Slaughtering-houses, &c.

Since December last the new buildings erected adjoining the Penitentiary have been occupied by the Force. They are too circumscribed in space and present inconveniences which I should have wished to have seen avoided. The Constables' quarters are too small to accommodate the number of single men I recommend to be lodged in barracks, and the ventilation is defective.

The Wards are sufficient for the accommodation and temporary confinement of prisoners, but here also ventilation is equally defective. Two or three additional strong cells are requisite for the confinement of turbulent drunkards or violent prisoners. An additional building, intended to have been appropriated as a day-room, and enclosed within a strong substantial fence, has been recently given up to the Municipality, but has been left in an unfinished state and is unfit for occupation. I must, however, observe that these buildings were erected by the Government, and the Municipal authorities are not answerable for their defects. All the cells and wards I found clean and in good repair. The clothing which had been just issued is of excellent quality, but the ill fitting of the uniform coats is rather discreditable to the contractor.

During the year ending 31st August last, one Officer and ten Constables have left the Force; a Sub-Inspector and five Constables by resignation, and five by dismissal. This in comparison with the preceding year shows greater permanency of service in it.

Within a similar period 197 indictable offences were reported to the Police, 13 of which proved to have been so in error, for which 151 persons were apprehended and 141 committed, demonstrating the efficiency of the detective branch of the Force.

TOWN OF LAUNCESTON.

Population, estimated at.....	8000
Area in Acres.....	3340
Population to one Constable.....	276
Area in Acres to one Constable.....	115
Strength of Force.....	29
Date of inspection, 31st August.	

This, a strong Force, fully retains its character for efficiency, and remains in classification and number the same as on last inspection, with the exception of the transfer of one Constable to the Mounted Patrol.

Comfortable quarters have been provided for the Sub-Inspectors and Barrack-rooms for the men; the latter, however, owing to intended alterations not having been effected by the Government, are ill suited for the purpose; and I hope to see their comfort better attended to during the course of the current year by the erection of new buildings or alterations in the present ones.

The separate cells are still appropriated to the temporary confinement of prisoners of all classes; and the inconveniences attendant on the want of the usual felony wards, and a day-room, continue to be much felt. I found them cleanly.

The uniform clothing is of excellent quality, and well fitted. The horses of the mounted men are strong, active animals, and in good condition, and the arms and accoutrements served to the Patrol well adapted for the service.

During the 12 months ending 31st August last 8 Constables have left the Force, 4 by resignation, and 4 by dismissal for breaches of discipline. 133 indictable offences had been reported to the Police, for which 96 persons had been apprehended, of whom 80 were committed, showing a good average of detection. The books belonging to the respective Forces are kept according to prescribed regulation, in a clear and intelligible manner. No cases of drunkenness had been recorded against any member of either Constabulary Force, a fact highly creditable to their character.

GLAMORGAN.

This Municipality having been but recently established, I have not yet considered it necessary to make any official Inspection, but this I shall do at an early date. I must, however, observe that I have been in communication with the Warden, who has furnished me with Returns of the numerical strength, &c., of the Police Force authorised by the Council, which, although I am not yet prepared to offer any opinion as to its efficient organisation, is, I am assured, amply sufficient for the protection of person and property and for the general wants of the Municipality.

I beg to annex an Appendix showing the numerical strength of the Police Forces maintained by the Municipalities of Hobart Town and Launceston, with the grades of rank, and 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 Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

A P P E N D I X.

ESTABLISHED POLICE FORCE in Municipalities of Tasmania.

MUNICIPALITY.	ESTABLISHMENT.			DETAIL OF RANKS.						ESTIMATE OF POPULA- TION IN 1859.	AREA IN ACRES.	PROPOR- TIONS.		RATES OF ANNUAL PAY		RATES OF DAILY PAY.				
	1858.	1859.	1860.	Superintendent.	Sub-Inspector.	Acting Sub-Inspector.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Mounted Patrol.			Population to each Constable.	Acres to each Constable.	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Hobart, City	51	52	46	1	2	1	7	35	—	18,000	1270	429	30	250	140	7 0	7 0	5 6	—	With Uniform.
Launceston, Town	29	29	29	1	2	1	3*	20	2	8000	3340	276	115	300	180	8 8	8 8	6 8	6 8	With Uniform.

* One of these a Sergeant of the Mounted Patrol.

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.

5