

(No. 28.)



1861.

TASMANIA.

A N N U A L R E P O R T
OF THE INSPECTOR OF POLICE.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
17 September, 1861.



Office of Inspector of Police, 12th September, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, in accordance with the provisions of the 36th Section of *The Municipal Police Act*, to forward herewith, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, my Annual Report on the state and efficiency of the Police in the several Municipalities of Tasmania.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Office of Inspector of Police, 11th September, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, my Fourth Annual Report on the state and efficiency of the Police Forces severally maintained by the Municipalities of Tasmania.

Since the date of my last Report, the Rural Municipalities of Spring Bay, Clarence, and Richmond have been established. The feeling in favour of the adoption of Municipal action is gradually gaining ground, and other Districts are about to avail themselves of the provisions of the Rural Municipality Act.

The suggestions I last year offered to the Municipal Councils of the Metropolitan towns, with the view of establishing a Superannuation and Reward Fund, have not, I regret to say, yet led to any satisfactory result. The Municipal Council of Hobart Town being of opinion that the time had not yet arrived at which such a fund could be established on a firm and secure basis, have declined to entertain them; that of Launceston, however, viewing them favourably, and appreciating with myself the importance of securing pensions and gratuities to Constables becoming physically unfit for further duty, and thus imparting an efficiency and permanence of service to the force, has still the subject under consideration, and will, I trust, shortly carry out the object in view under liberal rules and regulations.

While in my intercourse with the Authorities of the Metropolitan Municipalities I have been most cordially met, I regret that in one of the newly-erected Rural Municipalities a harmonious working has been interrupted by the Council refusing to adopt my suggestions in reference to the maintenance of an Escort Station; and in this instance, failing to carry conviction of their soundness and expediency, I have been compelled to appeal to the Supreme Court.

In the first constitution of a new order of things differences must necessarily arise, which, however, I have no doubt will gradually subside, as the Authorities see the necessity, in order to secure fully the advantages of Local Government, of co-operating cordially with other Municipalities and the General Government. I may here observe, that an amended Municipal Police Act, by which my authority is more accurately defined, and the escorting of Prisoners made compulsory, has been submitted to Parliament.

CITY OF HOBART TOWN.

Population	19,449
Area in Acres	1,270
Population to one Constable	422
Area in Acres to one Constable.....	30
Strength of Force	46

In this Force, which is an efficient one, no change whatever, either numerically or in classification, has taken place since my inspection last year.

The period for the supply of clothing having been altered in order that the issue should date from the 1st January in each year, the uniform, at the time of my inspection, had been worn for eight months. It was, however, in good order, and of excellent quality.

During the year ending 31st August last, one Officer (viz., the Superintendent) and 13 Constables left the Force; of the latter, 4 resigned and 9 were dismissed for various breaches of discipline, exhibiting (the vacancies accruing being in excess of one-fourth of the whole Force) a want of permanency of service so necessary to secure continued efficiency.

During a corresponding period 196 indictable offences had been reported to the Police, for which 198 persons had been apprehended, of whom 161 were committed, showing satisfactory results from the Detective branch of the Force.

The Police Buildings, which in December 1859 were first occupied by the Municipal authorities, remain unimproved, and the same defective ventilation I remarked upon in my last Report, still exists. Further accommodation in the form of a good Day-room or Ward is required, the Building intended to have been appropriated as such still remaining in an unfinished state. The dampness and imperfect ventilation of the Buildings generally require the attention of the authorities.

The Books and Returns are all kept intelligibly and in prescribed order, and every attention continues to be paid to the approved Regulations for the discipline of the Force.

TOWN OF LAUNCESTON.

Population.....	10,354
Area in Acres.....	3,340
Population to one Constable.....	357
Area in Acres to one Constable.....	115
Strength of Force.....	29

This Force fully maintains its efficiency and is adequate to the wants of the Municipality. It remains the same in numbers and classification.

The uniform clothing for the current year had not been issued at the time of my inspection, but some suits were submitted for my opinion and approval. The cloth having been obtained specially from England is of a quality well adapted for the purpose. The Arms and Accoutrements of the Mounted Patrol were in good order, and their Horses in excellent condition.

During the year ending 31st August last 4 Constables left the Force, 3 by resignation from ill health and 1 by dismissal for a breach of discipline. This shows an increasing permanency of service.

During a corresponding period 97 indictable offences had been reported to the Police, for which 69 persons had been apprehended, of whom 60 were committed, exhibiting efficiency and a continued good average of detection.

No new buildings having yet been erected for the use and occupation of the Force the inconveniences attendant on a want of proper accommodation, and apparent in my last inspection, still exist.

The necessary Books are kept in a clear intelligible manner, and the General Rules and Regulations for the government and discipline of the Force strictly maintained.

GLAMORGAN.

This Rural Municipality was established on the 1st March, 1860, and the following Police Force authorised on its re-organization, is maintained:—

1 Superintendent, 1 Sub-Inspector, 2 Petty Constables, 13 Special Constables.

These Special Constables receive no fixed Salary but are paid Ten-shillings per diem when employed. They are selected from the resident mechanics and small farmers, and reside in convenient localities, regard being had to protection and communication and the carrying out of Police action generally.

Entire new Police Buildings of a very superior and substantial character have been erected at Swansea, and a new lock-up at Bicheno. The Watch-house is a very convenient building, adjoining the Police Office, providing good accommodation for the safe custody of prisoners. The male and female divisions are separate and distinct, each consisting of a Day-room and 3 cells with separate yard attached. It contains also, quarters for the Watch-house Keeper and a Cook-house, and is surrounded with a high wooden fence.

The Books and Returns are kept in prescribed order, and the Regulations duly adhered to.

During the year ending 31st August, one Constable (special) left the force by resignation; and, during

a corresponding period 8 indictable offences were reported to the Police, for which 10 persons were apprehended, of whom 6 were committed.

Numerically, I consider this force at present, sufficient for the wants of the Municipality, and so long as the Escort Station at the White Hut was maintained by the adjoining Municipality of Spring Bay (referred to hereafter); it was also efficient. The reduction of this, however, rendered the Force inefficient for the purposes of escort and communication, and to enable me to enforce the maintenance of such a Station, I was obliged (not from any default on the part of Glamorgan), to include this Municipality in my proceedings before the Court, and apply for a Mandamus against it also. On the re-establishment of the escort Station in question, under the Mandamus, I shall be able to report the Force of this Municipality to be efficient.

A good understanding has ever existed between the Council and myself, and the Warden has always displayed an anxiety to co-operate cordially with me.

The Superintendent of Police holds the appointments of Summoning Officer to the Court of General Sessions, Inspector of Stock, and Examiner of Weights and Measures.

SPRING BAY.

This Rural Municipality was established on the 20th October, 1860. The existing Police Force authorised by the Municipal Council, consists of—

1 Superintendent, 1 Sub-Inspector, 3 Petty Constables, 5 Special Constables.

This latter class receive a salary of £10 per annum, and in addition 6s. per diem when on duty. They reside within the Municipality in convenient localities, and are employed only on special service.

The Police Buildings at Triabunna are of a very inferior description, and totally unsuitable for the purposes to which they are appropriated. They were occupied by the Government, and transferred to the Municipality, the Council, however, recognising the necessity for new buildings, intend to erect suitable ones, the plan of which has been approved of and tenders invited. There is a Lock-up at Buckland affording quarters also for a constable.

The Books and Returns are kept in proper and prescribed forms.

In April last I was, in consequence of the reduction of an Escort and Police Station at the White Hut contrary to my expressed opinion, compelled to apply to the Supreme Court for a Mandamus against this Municipality, which has been granted, and until this Station is re-established I cannot report this force to be efficient or sufficient. I regret that there should ever have existed any misunderstanding between the Council and myself as to my authority; but I hope, however, as that authority has been endorsed by the Court, that they will co-operate cordially with me in future.

The Superintendent of Police not having forwarded to me the usual Returns, I can afford no information as to permanency of service in the Force or of the commission and detection of indictable offences.

CLARENCE.

This Rural Municipality was established on the 14th November, 1860. Its Police force consists of—

1 Superintendent, 1 Sergeant, 2 Petty Constables, 3 Special Constables.

The Special Constables are appointed in a similar way to those of this class in the other Municipalities, receiving a salary of £10 per annum, and 7s. 6d. a day when employed on special duty. Between the 20th October, 1860, and the 31st August last, five indictable offences only were reported to the Police, for which four persons were apprehended, of whom three were committed. No Constables left the force during the corresponding period.

The Municipality occupies the Police Buildings formerly in the occupation of the Government at Kangaroo Point and Rokeby, which, at the time of my visit, required considerable repairs. The Watch-house at Kangaroo Point contains a room used as a Police-office, quarters for a Constable, two day-rooms, and four cells, which were all cleanly when I visited them. That at Rokeby consists of a similar room, intended for a Magistrate's Office, and day ward, and cells.

The usual prescribed Books and Returns are intelligibly kept, and the regulations for the government of the Police generally adopted.

This I consider an efficient force, in the present state of crime within the Municipality, for the protection of life and property.

The Superintendent of Police also holds the appointments of Summoning Officer to the Court of General Sessions and Inspector of Roads.

RICHMOND.

This Rural Municipality having only been established on the 1st August last I have not made any official inspection. At the meeting of the Council on the 7th September instant I was invited to attend and offer my suggestions on the re-organization of the Force. The numerical strength and classification then proposed to be authorized was,—

1 Superintendent, 1 Sub-Inspector, 3 Petty Constables, 4 Special Constables.

Should any increase be considered necessary the Council are prepared to sanction it. All the Police Buildings, including the Gaol, which have hitherto been in the occupation of the Government, affording every requisite accommodation, have been handed over to the Municipality for their use.

The Council have expressed a desire to co-operate cordially with the Government and the adjoining Municipalities, and to maintain a sufficient force for the wants of the Municipality, having a due regard to the carrying out of a general Police action.

In conclusion, I would observe, that although on the first establishment of Municipalities some slight difference of opinion between the authorities and myself may probably arise, yet I feel confident, the wider Municipal action spreads throughout the Colony, the more the Municipal Councils will be found to acknowledge the beneficial tendency of a mutual and harmonious co-operation in carrying out a general system of Police working and communication, without which, no general efficiency of the Police Force can be secured. I beg to annex the usual appendix to this Report.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. FORSTER, *Inspector.*

The Honorable 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 1861.	AREA IN ACRES.	PROPOR- TIONS.		RATES OF ANNUAL PAY.				RATES OF DAILY PAY.					
	1860.	1861.	Superintendent.	Sub-Inspector.	Acting Sub-Inspector.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Mounted Patrol.	Special Constables.			Population to each Constable.	Acres to each Constable.	Superintendent.	Sub-Inspector, Hobart and Launceston.	Special Constables.	Sub-Inspectors, Rural Municipalities.	Acting Sub-Inspector.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Mounted Patrol.		
Hobart	46	46	1	2	1	7	35	—	—	19,449	1,270	422	30	£ 250	£ 140	£ —	s. d. —	s. d. 7 0	s. d. 7 0	s. d. 5 6	s. d. —	With Uniform.	
Launceston	29	29	1	2	1	2	20	3*	—	10,354	3,340	357	115	300	180	—	—	8 8	8 6	8 6	8 8	With Uniform.	
Clarence	—	7	1	—	—	1	2	—	3	1,552	85,000	221	12,143	165	—	10	—	—	5 6	5 0	—	Without Uniform. Special Constables receive 7s. 6d. per diem extra when on duty.	
Glamorgan	—	17	1	1	—	—	2	—	13	1,168	360,000	69	20,000	219	—	—	6 0	—	—	5 6	—	Without Uniform. Special Constables receive 10s. per diem when on duty.	
Spring Bay	—	10	1	1	—	—	3	—	5	730	250,000	73	25,000	219	—	10	5 9	—	—	5 0	—	Without Uniform. Special Constables receive 6s. per diem extra when on duty.	

* One of these is a Sergeant.

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*

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