NEW SOUTH WALES.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

(REPORT FOR 1896.)

The Inspector-General of Police to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir, Police Department, Inspector-General's Office, Sydney, 7 January, 1897.

In compliance with instructions, and as required by the Police Regulations, I have the honor to submit, for the Chief Secretary's information, the following Report of the operations of the Department under my control for the past year, together with the particulars usually laid before Parliament of the strength and distribution of the Establishment.

During the year new stations have been established at the under-mentioned places:-

| Bimbi | | | ••• | ••• | ••• | Western District. |
|---------------|--------|-----------------|---------|-----|-----|------------------------|
| Coramba | | | | | | Northern District. |
| Daviesville | ••• | | | ••• | | Western District. |
| Dural | | | | | | Eastern District. |
| Geurie | | | | ••• | | Western District. |
| Girilambone | | | | | | Bourke District. |
| Marshall M'M | ahon's | \mathbf{Reef} | | | | Southern District. |
| Naremburn | | | | | | Metropolitan District. |
| Nowendoc | | | | | | Northern District. |
| Rugby | | | ••• | | | Southern District. |
| Tooma | | | | | | Murray District. |
| Wiseman's Fer | rry | | | | | Eastern District. |
| Yalgogrin | | | | | | Southern District. |
| | | | | | | |

Police camps have been formed on the Parkes-Condobolin Railway Works, and at Locksley, Dargan's Creek, and Lawson during the progress of deviation works in connection with the Western Railway Line in those localities; a constable has also been forwarded to Finlay, in the South-western District, for duty during harvesting.

The strength of the Force in the Metropolitan District has been slightly increased, and additional police have been forwarded to Ballina in the Northern District, Marsden and Bega in the Southern District, Parramatta and Liverpool in the Eastern District, and Garah and Bingara in the North-western District, Nyngan in the Bourke District, and Jerilderie and Berrigan in the South-western District.

The stations at Garangula in the Southern District and Welaregang in the Murray District have been broken up, that formed at Tooma being in lieu of the last named, the two places being 8 miles distant.

122 appointments were made during the year to provide for the increases shown, and to fill up vacancies occasioned as under:—

| | Resignation | ns | | | ••• | | | ••• | 52 | | |
|-----|-------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| | Discharges | | | | ••• | | | | 13 | | |
| | Dismissals | | | | ••• | | ••• | | 5 | | |
| | Superannu | ations | ••• | ••• | | | ••• | | 24 | | |
| | Deaths | | | | ••• | ••• | ••• | ••• | 8 | | The |
| 15- | -A | | | | | | | | | 4.7 | |

The area of country under the control of the Superintendent of Police in charge of the Southern District has been slightly increased by transferring thereto the Police Stations at Wollongough, Marsden, and Yalgogrin, previously within the boundaries of the Western District. The station at Mungindi has also been transferred from the Bourke to the North-western District. Otherwise there has been no alteration in the ten Departmental Police Districts into which the Colony is divided.

Thirteen Police pensioners died in 1896 who had been in receipt of pensions amounting in the aggregate to £1,625 10s. per annum. One widow of a member of the Force died who had been in receipt of a pension of £36 10s. per annum.

Twenty-four members of the Force were superannuated during the year, 18 receiving pensions at rates varying from £63 17s. 6d. to £470 per annum, amounting in all to £3,129 per annum, and 6 being granted gratuities upon their discharge, which entailed a further charge of £815 5s. upon the Fund.

Eight widows of members of the Force were awarded gratuities from the Police Reward Fund, amounting in all to £1,474 10s.

The pension of £245 per annum awarded Sub-inspector Cornett in 1895, with the understanding that the case would be reconsidered at the end of twelve months, ceased on the 5th April last, when it was decided that the Sub-inspector should resume duty.

With regard to the Police Reward and Superannuation Funds, I regret to state that it has been found necessary to dispose of all the invested stock, which was a considerable source of income, to provide funds for the payment of police pensions and gratuities to date. The condition of these funds being the subject of special reports to the Chief Secretary, under whose consideration the matter now is, it is unnecessary to refer to it further in this communication.

The following figures taken from the station watch-house records in the Metropolitan District show an increase of 229 in the total number of apprehensions within that district during 1896 as compared with the previous year:—

Total number of arrests during 1895 22,337

Do do 1896 22,566

There were 317 more apprehensions for drunkenness, simple or accompanied by disorderly conduct, than during the previous year.

As regards crime in the Colony generally, the numbers of cases of attempted murder and of manslaughter were considerably below the average, there having been only 8 of the first-named offence as compared with 29 the previous year, and 10 of manslaughter as against 24. Other serious offences reported all maintain the usual average.

Burglaries and house robberies were less by 48 than during 1895. Many of these thefts resulted from householders leaving their premises and property unprotected. The value of goods stolen is almost invariably very considerably over-estimated, which is proved in many instances when the whole of the stolen goods are recovered.

The District Licensing Inspector for the Metropolitan District, in his report regarding licensing business transacted within that district during the year, states as follows:—

- "In 1882, when the present Licensing Act first came into operation, the population of the Metropolitan District was 248,231, and there were then in that area 848 public-houses, or one to every 293 inhabitants.
- "The ratio of population to each public-house in the district steadily increased year by year until in 1894, when the total population was 421,030, and the number of hotels 797, or one to every 528 inhabitants. Since then a slight decrease has taken place, and on the 31st December last, when the estimated total population of the district was 410,000, the number of hotels was 789, or one to every 519 inhabitants."

There were 1,163 inquests held during the year on the bodies of deceased persons, or 13 more than during 1895. In 80 cases death was attributable either directly or indirectly to intemperance.

134 inquests were held on fires, or 27 less than during the previous year. 54 were returned as "wilful," 38 as "accidental," and 42 not specified.

512 missing friends inquiries have been instituted during the year, 242 successfully. These inquiries, which include 80 cases reported from Great Britain and elsewhere beyond Australasia, involved considerable correspondence and research.

Proceedings have been taken by the Police on behalf of the Public Instruction Department, under the compulsory clauses of the Education Act, for neglect to send children to school, and recovery of fees, &c., in 1,598 cases, and cautions issued by them in 209 cases.

Inquiries have also been conducted in 1,034 cases for the Master-in-Lunacy, 712 for the State Children's Relief Department and Government Asylums, and 167 cases on behalf of the Superintendent of the N.S.S. "Sobraon." 816 notices were also served on behalf of the Land Board.

Complaints constantly reach me, not only from the Superintendents of Police, but from Magistrates and other country residents, of the interference with the performance of ordinary police duties occasioned by members of the Force holding so many offices outside their proper functions. I have already, in a former report—that for the year 1894—enumerated some of these offices, which have been increased of late by the retrenchment of Clerks of Petty Sessions at important places, such as Murrumburrah, Crookwell, Nundle, Nymagee, Richmond, Berrima, Moama, Camden, &c. The duty devolving on the Police, the most efficient men are thereby confined to their offices for a great part of their time instead of working about their districts and thief-taking. I venture to think that these arrangements will not prove economical in the end, and the results may be serious. However, this matter is to form the subject of special inquiry and report.

The under-mentioned works in connection with buildings have been completed during the year on behalf of the Department:—

| Cooloon | | | | Erection of police station. |
|-------------|-----|---------|-----|--|
| Daviesville | ••• | | | », », |
| Drake | | | | Erection of court-house and lockup. |
| Fernmount | | | | Erection of court-house and police quarters. |
| Gloucester | | | | Erection of police station. |
| Guy Fawkes | | | ••• | ,, ,, |
| Jindera | | | | Erection of police station. |
| Junee | | | | Erection of lock-up. |
| Maclean | | ••• | | " |
| Marsden | | | | Erection of court-house and lock-up. |
| Nowendoc | ••• | | | Erection of police station. |
| Singleton | | | | Erection of lock-up. |
| Sydney | | | | Watch-house, Bourke-street. |
| ,, | | | | Police Officers' quarters, Darlinghurst. |
| Tarcutta | | ••• | | Erection of police station. |

It is very desirable that more commodious and suitable premises should be provided on the site purchased for the purpose for Head Offices and the Detective Branch. When the buildings already designed have been erected, for which provision has been voted, I shall be in a position to introduce a more useful and comprehensive system of criminal record, also to provide suitable accommodation for the plain-clothes Police, for photographic purposes, and the safe custody of exhibits and valuable property; and further, to have sufficient office accommodation, which is now sadly deficient. When such premises are built I propose to make them a Police Central Head Office, where work can be carried on by day and night.

During the year a trial has been made of providing some of the Police and stations with bicycles. In some respects they have been found extremely useful in enabling the Police to cover a long route in the suburbs and country towns, for rapidity in the pursuit of offenders, and for non-commissioned officers inspecting beats. I am not able at present to pronounce a very decided opinion. Under no circumstances, however, can bicycles replace horses to any considerable extent in the performance of police duties in the country.

During the year I have found it impracticable to inspect other than the following districts:—

Western (Bathurst and Dubbo),

Bourke,

North-Western (Tamworth, Murrurundi, and Narrabri),

North-Eastern (Maitland),

and then only to make flying visits, but I found the books, records, buildings, and equipments in a thoroughly satisfactory condition.

The horses of the Mounted Force especially were of an excellent class, notwithstanding the great reduction in the price paid of late for remounts.

The conduct of the Police generally has been good, only five men having been dismissed from the Service during the year.

I have, &c.,

EDMUND FOSBERY,

Inspector-General of Police.

RETURN of the Strength and Distribution of the Police Force on the 31st December, 1896.

| | | | | | MOUNTED | | | | Foot. | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------|--|
| DISTRICT. | STATION. | Super- inten- dents. | Inspectors. | Sub- inspec- tors. | Senior- ser- geants. | Ser- geants. | Senior- con- stables. | Con- stables. | Senior- ser- geants. | Ser- geants. | Senior con- stables. | Con- stable | |
| Metropolitan | No. 1 Hard Station | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | 7 | 1.5 | F0 | |
| metropontan | No. 1 Head Station Central Station | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | 7 2 | 15 | 58 | |
| , | Pyrmont General Post Office | | | | *.** | | | | 1 | 1 | | 3 3 | |
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| | Glebe Island | | | 2 | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | No. 2 Head Station Glebe | | | | | | | | 2 | 5 | 10 5 | 57 | |
| | Redfern and Darling- | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| - | ton Waterloo and Alex- | | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | 7 | 22 | |
| | andria | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 10 | |
| | Beaconsfield Estate Mitchell Road | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| | Irish Town | .,. | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | No. 3 Head Station Watson's Bay | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 4 | 4 | 6 | 62 | |
| | Waverley and Bondi | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 13 | |
| | Paddington and | | | | | | | | ١. | 1 | | 1 | |
| | Woollahra Botany | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14 | |
| | Double Bay | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | Rose Bay Rushcutters' Bay | | | | • • • • | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | Randwick & Coogee | | | | | | | | | ï | ï | 7 | |
| | No. 4 Head Station | | | 1 | | | | , | 2 | 5 | 6 | 29 | |
| | Chief Secretary's Office | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | |
| | Lands Office | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | |
| | Treasury Balmain | | | *1 | | ••• | | | ï | 1 | 4 | 11 | |
| | Manly | | | | | | | | î | | | 4 | |
| 8 | Government House No. 5 Head Station | | | 1 | | | | | i i | 5 | 5 | 24 | |
| | Cook's River | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 29 | |
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| | Ashfield Enfield | | | | | ••• | ••• | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | |
| | Canterbury | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | Marrickville Burwood | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 2 | 12 | |
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| | Kogarah | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 3 | |
| | Five Dock Stanmore | | | | | | | | | | i | 1 | |
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| | Homebush | | | ••• | | | ••• | | | | | | |
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| | Annandale | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | |
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| | Willoughby | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 3 | |
| | Neutral Bay Lane Cove | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | |
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| | Greenwich | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | Narremburn Water Police | | 1 | | | | | | ï | | 9 | 116 | |
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| District. | Station. | Super- inten- dents. | Inspec- tors. | Sub- inspec- tors. | Senior- ser- geants. | Ser- geants. | Senior- con- stables. | Con- stables. | Senior- ser- geants. | Ser- geants. | Senior- con- stables. | Con- stable |
| Northern— | Wilson's Downfall | | | | | , | | , | | | | |
| continued. | Bundarra | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 1 | | | | |
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| | Guy Fawkes | • • • • | | ; | | : | | 1 | | | | |
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| | Shellharbour | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
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| | Berry | | | | | | 1 | | | | *** | 1 |
| | Milton | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
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| DISTRICT, | STATION. | Super- inten- dents. | Inspectors. | Sub- inspec- tors. | Senior- ser- geants. | Ser- geants. | Senior- con- stables. | Con- stables. | Senior- ser- geants. | Ser- geants. | Senior- con- stables. | Con |
| Western | Bathurst | 1 | | | | | | 9 | 0 | | | 1000 |
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| DISTRICT. | STATION. | Super- inten- dents. | Inspectors. | Sub- inspec- tors, | Senior- ser- geants. | Ser- geants. | Senior- con- stables. | Con- stables. | Senior- ser- geants. | Ser- geants. | Senior- con- stables. | Con- stables |
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Police Department, Inspector-General's Office, 7th January, 1897.

Sydney: William Applegate Gullick, Government Printer.—1897.