

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

(REPORT FOR 1885.)

Presented to Parliament by Command.

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

Sir, Police Department, Inspector-General's Office, Sydney, 12 January, 1886.

In compliance with the 46th clause of the Police Regulations and special instructions, I now do myself the honor to submit, for the Colonial Secretary's information, my annual Report of the condition and operations of the Department under my control for the year 1885.

A return is appended giving a list of the Police Stations throughout the Colony, numbering 433 in all, together with the strength of the Force at each place.

The number of Police Stations has been increased during the year by eighteen, established at the places undermentioned:—

District.	Station.
Northern	Tumbulgum.
	Guyra.
Southern	Animbo (Jingera).
	Wyndham.
	Colombo.
Eastern	26-mile Camp.
Western	Meranburn.
	Goolagong.
North-eastern	Goorangoola.
	Bowra.
	Adamstown.
	Smithtown.
North-western	Werris Creek.
South-western	Purnamoota.
	Whitton.
	Oxley.
	Ivanhoe.
Murray	Coolaman.

Provision was voted by Parliament for an increase of seventy-six police for the year 1885, but there are still many places at which constables are required, and for which the formation of Stations has been provisionally authorized, awaiting funds for the appointment of men and the erection of the necessary buildings.

Additional police are also still required in the Metropolitan District, especially in the suburbs.

In addition to the fresh appointments, the vacancies, created as under, had to be supplied during the year:—

Resignations	100
Discharges	22
Dismissals	24
Superannuations	36
Deaths	13

Of the latter, two of the men were murdered in the execution of their duty, and five died from typhoid fever, brought on no doubt by bad water and privation, the deceased constables having been stationed in the distant interior during the drought.

The proportion of voluntary retirements from the Service is about the same as the previous year, and large enough to prove that more remunerative employment is still to be found, notwithstanding the increase in the wages of the police.

Nine police pensioners' died, who had been in receipt of pensions varying from £54 to £142 per annum, aggregating in the total to £770 per annum.

Twenty-two members of the Force were superannuated during the year, thirteen upon pensions of from £83 to £142 per annum, amounting in all to £1,577 per annum; besides nine members of the Force who received gratuities upon their discharge, which formed a charge of £1,445 upon the fund.

Six widows of members of the Police Force, and the mother of a deceased constable, were awarded gratuities amounting to £933 in all, and two widows have received pensions of £75 per annum each.

Having in my report dated the 16th December last, No. 85-1,007, laid before the Colonial Secretary full information regarding the condition and prospects of the Police Reward and Superannuation Funds, with suggestions for their more satisfactory administration, it is unnecessary for me to refer at length to the matter in this report; but I would strongly urge upon the Government the desirability of giving the subject early consideration, with the view of placing the funds upon a permanently secure basis.

In that report I mentioned the fact that, at the present time, nearly one half of the men composing the Police Force were under thirty years of age, and above one fifth more between thirty and thirty-five, also that more than one half of the Force had under five years' service, and one fifth more under ten years' service. These figures are important as indicating the physical composition of the Force at present, and the favourable influence it will have upon future administration.

The total income from all sources of the Police Reward and Superannuation Funds combined, for the year 1885, amounted to £16,823, and the expenditure as far as can be ascertained was £12,270, thus exhibiting a balance in favour of the funds of £4,553; but taking into account the large number of members of the Force superannuated of late, such a favourable balance sheet cannot be looked for at the termination of this year.

As regards the condition of the buildings belonging to the Department, also the equipment, horses, and arms, it is only necessary for me to repeat that the provision made to meet requirements leaves but little to be desired, and I feel satisfied that no similar service in the world has been more liberally provided for in these respects.

The necessity for making provision for a central Dépôt has been represented to the Government; and as, apart from administrative necessities, so much depends upon a properly organized Dépôt, for training recruits and maintaining discipline, I trust that the unavoidable expenditure may be sanctioned.

Scarcely anything has been done in the way of improvement to the Dépôt buildings during the last twenty-four years. They will probably have to be shortly vacated, and, moreover, they are now inadequate to the increasing requirements of the Department. Upwards of 4,000 recruits have been drilled and instructed in the establishment during the above-mentioned period.

The erection of the new Central Watch-house in Sydney, so long in contemplation, is a matter of extreme urgency. The present building has been for many years in every respect unsuited for the purposes required. Although from the condition and habits of many of the confines it is impossible to avoid constant fouling of the cells, they should be so constructed as to admit of being readily cleansed, and the accommodation should be adequate to provide for a proper classification of inmates, with clean and decent cells for accused persons (who may be innocent). The present building is far from fulfilling such requirements.

Fortunately of late years several new watch-houses have been built in the Metropolitan District, which afford suitable accommodation in the localities in which they are situated.

It is my intention shortly to recommend the erection of a new and commodious Lock-up near the Railway Station, to replace the building at the intersection of George and Pitt Streets, which is in a most undesirably conspicuous situation, and in other respects not equal to modern requirements. The sale of the site would pay for a new one and also for the building.

Though some months must necessarily elapse before the Criminal Statistics for the year can be compiled, the records of the Department are sufficient to show that there is a decrease in the commission of the more serious crimes throughout the country, notwithstanding the increase of the population.

There has, however, been no marked improvement as regards the misbehaviour and petty offences committed in Sydney and its suburbs by the disorderly class of youths who idle away their time and are a constant nuisance to the community. Their punishment by fine or short term of imprisonment appears to have no deterrent effect. The only effective means of repression within the power of the Government to apply seems to be increased police supervision.

With regard to the all-important subject of intemperance, it is much to be deplored that the records are not more favourable. Subjoined will be found a table showing the number of apprehensions in the Metropolitan District during the year prior to the passing of the (principal) Licensing Act, 1881, and each year since:—

Year.	Total apprehensions.	Ditto for drunkenness or forming part of charge.
1881	22,657	13,949
1882	19,639	11,842
1883	21,831	13,312
1884	23,458	13,925
1885	24,714	14,946

Even taking into account the increase of the population, the number of apprehensions does not exhibit any improvement, notwithstanding the advantage obtained by the decrease in the number of licensed houses and the suppression of many low drinking shops; the number of licensed public-houses in the Metropolitan District before the passing of the Act in 1881 being 851, against 822 now in existence.

The law prohibiting Sunday trading is extensively and systematically evaded, and such precautions are taken as render detection and prosecution by ordinary methods a matter of extreme difficulty. The police officers in charge of the various divisions have supplied me with information—which I believe to be thoroughly reliable—from which I learn that out of the 822 holders of publicans' licenses in the Metropolitan District, only 193 observe the law by closing their houses for the sale of liquor to customers, other than lodgers, on Sundays.

That

That the respectable temperate citizen should be debarred from obtaining liquor at all on the Sabbath is generally considered a grievance ; but it is impossible to disregard the fact that the opportunity of Sunday leisure, following immediately upon the receipt of wages on the Saturday, induces a large number of the working classes, who are without sufficient self-control to withstand the enticements of unscrupulous vendors of liquor, to dissipate their earnings in drink, whereby numerous families are deprived of their means of support, and the bread-winner is himself demoralized, if not ruined.

The hundreds of letters I receive from wives thus miserably situated bear melancholy testimony to the prevalence of such a state of affairs—my inability to afford relief being a constant cause of anxiety and regret.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the gradual extinction of the licenses now held by men who systematically evade the law, and to whom the ruin of fellow-creatures is a matter of no moment compared with satisfying their greed for gain, may in time effect some improvement.

The efforts of total abstinence and temperance organizations, no doubt, attain a considerable measure of success, and such means for the public good are entitled to the earnest sympathy and support of the community. A paper recently prepared by the Howard Association in England contains the following statement :—

“ Our prisons, of recent years, show a marked and satisfactory decrease in the daily average of prisoners, and especially in the number of serious crimes committed. This diminution is freely acknowledged by experienced authorities to be the result mainly of the efforts of the temperance, or rather, ‘teetotal’ reformers, and of the collateral labours of the Blue Ribbon movement, the Salvation Army, the School Boards, and our numerous City Missionaries and Home Mission efforts by the various churches and religious denominations.”

The aspect of this grave social question is not encouraging. The vice is deplorably prevalent, and, I regret to say, it is increasing amongst the young. Mere boys and girls are commonly seen in the public streets, at all hours of the day, more or less under the influence of liquor ; and as many of them earn good wages, and are dead to a sense of shame, their incarceration in a watch-house and the infliction of a fine in Court have no terror for them.

It would be useless, as well as unwise, to attempt to disguise these facts from the public, as it is only by awakening interest in the magnitude of the evil that increased efforts may be evoked to stem it—means which may probably prove more effectual than legislation.

On examination of the causes which led to deaths which have been the subject of Coroner’s Inquests during the past twelve months, it is found that, out of 1,420 cases of death from all causes, the large number of 232 were the immediate result of excessive drinking.

167 inquests on fires were held during the year, of which number the verdicts in seventy-three cases were either incendiarism, or the circumstances justified strong suspicion that the fires were wilfully caused.

As a matter of course such malicious deeds are sometimes designed to bring loss or ruin upon a neighbour, to gratify enmity, when the owner of the property is unprotected by insurance ; but there are, in my opinion, a still larger number of cases in which incendiarism is committed with a view of defrauding Insurance Companies.

It is noticeable that in some cases such properties are found to have been insured far above their value. For example, old wooden buildings erected for public-houses no longer required for the public accommodation, and unlicensed, remain insured for an amount in excess of value even when there was a remunerative trade carried on on the premises.

Until Insurance Companies carry on their business with greater caution and prudence such crimes must be expected. Unfortunately, however, it happens that the losses thus entailed are not limited to the Insurance Companies. Persons who have neglected to protect themselves by insurance are involved in ruin by their properties being destroyed by the criminal act of a neighbour.

The remedies might be found in property-owners more generally availing themselves of the advantages of fire insurance, and by the Companies taking the risks guarding carefully against accepting the same beyond a reasonable percentage of value, which would induce the owners to exercise a watchful care to prevent loss to themselves by fire.

Complaints are frequent of the numerous duties the police are called upon to perform interfering materially with their more legitimate work in the suppression and detection of crime.

Economy and the public convenience have been the paramount considerations in making the arrangements hitherto, but I venture to hope that some relief may be found practicable by transferring some of the duties to officers of other branches of the Public Service.

Hereunder are enumerated some of the extra departmental offices the police are called upon to fill :—

Acting Clerks of Petty Sessions.
Crown Lands Bailiffs.
Inspectors of Slaughter-houses.
Inspectors of Weights and Measures.
Collectors of the Electoral Lists.
Collectors of Stock and Crop Returns, Mills, Manufactories, Schools, &c.
Collectors of Jury Lists.
Inquiry Agents for the Lunacy Department.
Inquiry Agents for State Children.
Agents for the Curator of Intestate Estates.
Agents for the Collector of Customs.
Acting Gaolers.
Mining Bailiffs and Registrars.
Bailiffs for the Small Debts Courts.
Inspectors under Licensing Act.
Inspectors of Distilleries.
Inspectors under Explosive Act.
Inspectors under Fisheries Act.

Notice-servers.

The conduct of the Police Force generally has been admirable during the year. Judging from the representations of the Magistracy and others, the men have been efficient and well conducted. Punishments for misconduct are decreasing; as a gratifying incident in proof of which I mention the fact that, during the recent holiday season in Sydney, when the men were worked over hours and on trying duties, not a single constable was reported for intoxication.

I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient servant,

EDMUND FOSBERY,
Inspector-General of Police.

[illegible]

DISTRICT.	STATION.	MOUNTED.							FOOT.			
		Super-intendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Senior Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Senior Constables.	Constables.	Senior Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Senior Constables.	Constables.
Metropolitan —continued.	Hurstville .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Redmyre .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Birkenhead .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Annandale .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Northern	Armidale	1	...	...	1	...	...	4	1	...	...	4
	Do West .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Uralla .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Bendemeer .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Walcha .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Inverell .....	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	3
	Tingha .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Guyra .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Bundarra .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Glen Innes .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	3
	Tenterfield .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	3
	Wilson's Downfall .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Drake .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Ashford .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Emmaville .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Bolivia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Grafton .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	5
	Do. South .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Ulmarra .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Brushgrove .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Lawrence .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Rocky Mouth (Maclean) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Chatsworth Island .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Palmer's Island .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Clarence Heads (Yamba) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Iluka .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Copmanhurst .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Dalmorton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Blick's River .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Mirwellumbah .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Cudgen .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Casino .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Lismore .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Coraki .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Woodburn .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Broadwater .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Wardell .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Ballina .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Tumbulgum .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Southern	Goulburn	1	...	1	1	...	1	2	...	1	1	13
	Marulan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Bungendore .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Tarago .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Crookwell .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Binda .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Tuena .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Wheco .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Taralga .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Cootamundra .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	3
	Bethungra .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Gunning .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Dalton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Gundaroo .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Ginninderra .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Queanbeyan .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
	Naas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Bungonia .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Collector .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Yass .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3
	Bowning .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Binalong .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Burrowa .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Dryburgh .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Frogmore .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Pudman Creek .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Murrumburrah .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Harden .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Wombat .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Young .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	3
	Marengo .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Morangarell .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Temora .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Barmedman .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Braidwood .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
	Mongarlowe .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Major's Creek .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Emu Flat .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Araluen .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Moruya .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Bateman's Bay .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Nelligen .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...

DISTRICT.	STATION.	MOUNTED.							FOOT.			
		Super-intendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Senior Ser-geants.	Ser-geants.	Senior Con-stables.	Con-stables.	Senior Ser-geants.	Ser-geants.	Senior Con-stables.	Con-stables.
Southern—continued.	Eurobodalla .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Cobargo .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Michelago .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Cooma .....	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	3
	Nimitybelle .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Buckley's Crossing..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Jindabyne .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Seymour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Kiandra .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Bombala .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Delegate .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Panbula .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Merimbula .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Eden .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Bega .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	3
	Animbo .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Wyndham .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Wolumla.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Candelo .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Wee Jasper.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Eastern.....	Depôt	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	Parramatta.....	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	10
	Rookwood .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Granville.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Prospect .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Ryde .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Peat's Ferry .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Windsor .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
	Richmond .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Rouse Hill .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Wilberforce .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	St. Alban's .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Penrith .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	St. Mary's .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Emu Plains .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Springwood.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Katoomba .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Liverpool.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Smithfield .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Campbelltown .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
	Appin .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Camden .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Pieton .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Berrima .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Bowral.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Mittagong .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Moss Vale .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Robertson .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Wollongong .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
	Dapto .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Bulli .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Clifton.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Kiama .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Shellharbour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Jamberoo .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Gerrington .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Albion Park .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Nowra .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Terrara .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Broughton Creek ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Milton.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Kangaroo Valley ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Hunter's Hill.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	26-mile Camp (Illawarra Railway Line)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Western	Bathurst.....	1	...	...	1	...	2	4	1	...	2	8
	Kelso .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Milltown .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Oberon.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Hartley .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Hartley Vale.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Rockley .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Burruga .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Wyagdon .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	O'Connell .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Lithgow .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Wallerawang .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Sofala .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Hill End .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Tambaroora .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Mitchell's Creek (Sunny Corner)...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Mount Victoria.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
	Forbes .....	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	3
	Condobolin.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Eugowra .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Parkes.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2

DISTRICT.	STATION.	MOUNTED.							FOOT.			
		Super-intendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Senior Ser-geants.	Ser-geants.	Senior Con-stables.	Con-stables.	Senior Ser-geants.	Ser-geants.	Senior Con-stables.	Con-stables.
Western—continued.	Grenfell .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Marsden .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Wollongough .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Orange .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	6
	Stuart Town .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Molong .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Toogong .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Cowra .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Blayney .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Carcoar .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Canowindra .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Cudal .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Mount McDonald .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Goolagong .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Trunkay .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Dubbo .....	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	5
	Wellington .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Obley .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Tomingley .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Meranburn .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Rydal .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Dandaloo .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Nymagee .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Nyngan .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
	Girilambone .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Cannonbar .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Warren .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Timbreebongie .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Gilgandra .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Coonamble .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	3
	Quambone .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Bourke .....	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	4
	Brewarrina .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Gongolgan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Cobar .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
	Louth .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Barringun .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Wanaaring .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Currinyulpah .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Byerock .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Mudgee .....	...	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	...	1	3
	Gulgong .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1
	Coolah .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Mundooran .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Rylstone .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Ilford .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Hargraves .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Windeyer .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Cobborah .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Wollar .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Talbragar .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Namoi	Narrabri	1	...	...	...	1	...	3	1	...	...	3
	Boggabri .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Tambar Springs .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Wee Waa .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Pilliga .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Meroe .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Bingera .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Warialda .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Yetman .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Coonabarabran .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Baradine .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Eulowrie .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Moree .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Millie (Kerramangby) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Boggabilla .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Walgett .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	2
	Goodooga .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Mogil Mogil .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Angledool .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Collarendabri .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
North-eastern	Mungindi .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Grawin .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Tatalla .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	West Maitland	1	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	1	1	11
	Branxton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Lochinvar .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Greta .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Cessnock .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	East Maitland .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	3
	Mulbring .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Cooranbong .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Largs .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Morpeth .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
	Hinton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Paterson .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Gresford .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...

DISTRICT.	STATION.	MOUNTED.							FOOT.			
		Super-intendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Senior Ser-geants.	Ser-geants.	Senior Con-stables.	Con-stables.	Senior Ser-geants.	Ser-geants.	Senior Con-stables.	Con-stables.
North-eastern —continued.	Raymond Terrace...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Clarence Town .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Dungog .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Stroud .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Gloucester .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Copeland .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Bullah Delah .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Bungwall Flat .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Tea Gardens .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Forster .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Newcastle	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	3	18
	Charlestown .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Hamilton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Waratah .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Bullock Island .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Lambton .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
	New Lambton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Wallsend .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
	Stockton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Wickham .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Tighe's Hill .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Minni .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Goorangoola .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Bowraville .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Adamstown .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Smithtown .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Gosford .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Woy Woy .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Wollombi .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Ellalong .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Howe's Valley .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Singleton .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	3
	Broke .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Jerry's Plains .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Muswellbrook .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Denman .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Merriwa .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Kerrabee .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Cassilis .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
	Scone .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Kempsey	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Gladstone .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Frederickton .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Arakoon .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Nambuccra .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Taree .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Cundletown .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Wingham .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Tinonee .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Cooperbrook .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Port Macquarie .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
	Camden Haven .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Boat Harbour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Fernmount .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
North-western	Tamworth .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	1	4
	Do West .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Murrumbidgee .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Blackville .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Gunnedah .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Barraba .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Manilla .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Wallabadah .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Nundle .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Quirindi .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Somerton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Moonbi .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Carroll .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
South-western	Werris Creek .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Deniliquin	1	...	...	...	1	...	3	1	...	...	5
	Mathoura .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Moama .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Jerilderie .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Tocumwal .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Hay .....	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	4
	Carathool .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Darlington Point .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Maude .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Booligal .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Mossgiel .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Hillston .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Euabalong .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Gilgunnia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Mount Hope .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Lake Cudgellico .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Moulamein .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Balranald .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Ivanhoe .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...

DISTRICT.	STATION.	MOUNTED.							Foot.			
		Super-intendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Senior Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Senior Constables.	Constables.	Senior Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Senior Constables.	Constables.
South-western —continued.	Clare .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Euston .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Wentworth .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Whitton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Salt Creek .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Pooncarie .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Menindie .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Oxley .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Silverton .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Wilcannia .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	2
	Milperinka and Ti-booburra .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Purnamoota .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Murray	Albury	1	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	2	1	7
	Bowna .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Germanton .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Walbundrie .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Corowa .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Howlong .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Mulwala .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Tumberumba .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Ournie .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Gerogery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Gundagai .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	1
	Tumut .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1
	Adelong .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Shepherds' Town .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Reedy Flat .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Coolaman .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Jugiong .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Coolac .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Wagga Wagga .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	1	2	6
	Junee .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Urana .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Narrandera .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
	Tarcutta .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Kyamba .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Hanging Rock .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
DEPÔT, BELMORE BARRACKS.												
Constables in course of instruction, under orders for transfer .....		...	...	1	...	1	2	37	...	1	...	10
Gold Escort Conductor .....		...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orderlies to His Excellency the Governor .....		...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
Armourer .....		...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
DETECTIVE BRANCH.												
Inspector in charge of Detectives .....		...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
First-class Detectives		7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Second-class do.		1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Third-class do.		6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL		14	9	7	30	28	46	127	364	26	35	98
												659

Total of all grades..... 1,443.

Police Department, Inspector-General's Office,
Sydney, 12 January, 1886.

EDMUND FOSBERY,
Inspector-General of Police.