

1938-39-40.

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT

OF THE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

FOR 1939

Ordered to be printed, 4 April, 1940.



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POLICE DEPARTMENT.

(ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1939.)

Police Department,
Commissioner's Office,
Sydney, N.S.W.,
22 February, 1940.

The Commissioner of Police to the Honourable the Chief Secretary.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the requirements of the Police Rules the Annual Report on the New South Wales Police Force, and on the general activities of the Police Department, for the year 1939, has been compiled and is submitted for your information. Owing to war conditions and the necessity for strict economy the Report has been reduced to the merest essentials.

POLICE ESTABLISHMENT.

I.—PERSONNEL OF THE POLICE SERVICE.

The actual strength of the New South Wales Police Force on the 31st December, 1939, was 3,765, distributed in the various ranks as indicated hereunder:—

<i>General Police.</i>		<i>Traffic Police.</i>	
Commissioner	1	Superintendent, 3rd Class ...	1
*Superintendents, 1st Class ...	4	Inspectors, 1st Class .....	...
Superintendents, 2nd Class ...	3	Inspectors, 2nd Class	1
Superintendents, 3rd Class ...	6	Inspectors, 3rd Class	1
Acting Superintendents.....	2	Sergeants, 1st Class	2
Inspectors, 1st Class	8	Sergeants, 2nd Class.....	7
†Inspectors, 2nd Class.....	18	Sergeants, 3rd Class ..	18
Inspectors, 3rd Class.....	36	Constables, 1st Class.....	177
Acting Inspectors .....	...	Constables, Ordinary	154
Sergeants, 1st Class	106	Total.....	361
Sergeants, 2nd Class	189		
Sergeants, 3rd Class	442	<i>Water Police.</i>	
Constables, 1st Class	1,288	Sergeants, 1st Class.....	...
Constables, Ordinary	740	Sergeants, 2nd Class	2
Constables, Probationary..	193	Sergeants, 3rd Class	3
Trainees .....	...	Constables, 1st Class.....	13
		Constables, Ordinary.....	5
Total.....	3,036	Total.....	23

* Includes Deputy Commissioner. † Includes Licensing Inspector.

<i>Criminal Investigation Branch.</i>				<i>Other Detective and Plain Clothes Police Employed on Detective Work.</i>			
Inspectors, 2nd Class	..	..	1	Sergeants, 1st Class	..	..	4
Inspectors, 3rd Class	..	..	5	Sergeants, 2nd Class	..	..	14
Sergeants, 1st Class	..	..	5	Sergeants, 3rd Class	..	..	36
Sergeants, 2nd Class	..	..	9	Constables, 1st Class	..	..	130
Sergeants, 3rd Class	..	..	20	Constables, Ordinary	..	..	40
Constables, 1st Class	..	..	57				
Constables, Ordinary	..	..	24				
<hr/>				<hr/>			
Total	..	..	121	Total	..	..	224
TOTAL STRENGTH 3,765.							

On the same date there were in the employ of the Police Department, 204 Public Service Officers, 128 Police Cadets, 12 Trackers, 8 Women Special Constables and 6 Matrons (4 permanent and 2 relieving), 1 Special Constable 1st Class, 5 Special Constables and 1 Bandmaster, the full strength of the personnel of the Department being 4,130.

Nationalities of members of the Force: An examination of their personnel Records show that 90 per cent. of the Police in this State were born in Australasia.

Organisation of the Service: A chart showing the organisation of the Police Service, matters attended to by Police, functions of the Police Service staff, and the co-ordination of the Police activities and the duties of the Public Service Officers was published in this Department's Report of 1938. It is therefore not necessary to include the chart this year.

II. DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS.

There was a heavy increase in the business of this Department during 1939, and this increase was caused by expansion in the usual activities of the Police Service as well as by special duties devolving upon the Police through the outbreak of war.

(a) General Activities.

The number of files dealt with in the Commissioner's Office during 1939, was 312,641, as against 304,229 in 1938.

Action with a view to the establishment of a Police Reserve was taken with the approval of the Government; this Reserve will act as an auxiliary to the regular Police Force in times of national emergency such as during bushfires, floods, war, epidemics, or other occasions of a disastrous nature.

In the Traffic Branch of this Department there was a tremendous increase in the volume of work, mainly as the result of the special arrangements for State-wide attention to be given by the Police to traffic on the public thoroughfares. The Annual Return of cases dealt with by the Courts shows that the total number of prosecutions for offences against the various Traffic Laws was 45,742, as compared with 23,571 in 1938. Under the scheme carried out in 1939 to provide a greater measure of effective supervision on the roads, 21 motor trucks were obtained by this Department, and these vehicles were manned by 50 Police, who give special attention to control of traffic, particularly on the main roads throughout the State.

Reports on the activities of the special Truck Patrols put into operation on the various main highways throughout the State are regularly furnished and checked.

A Central Warrant Bureau was established at Police Headquarters.

Further particulars regarding the Police Reserve, Patrol Trucks for supervision of traffic, and the Central Warrant Bureau will be found under the heading "Administrative Charges or Reforms, New Legislation, etc."

There has been a further increase of close on 20,000 in the population of the State, and such increase in population, as well as the brisk development of various suburbs involving the formation of many new streets and the erection of thousands of new homes, has meant increased work for the Police in regard to the provision of Police protection and supervision of the various localities concerned.

(b) War Activities.

It has been necessary to thoroughly instruct the Police in regard to protection of the public against possible air raids and gas attacks associated with such raids. To enable such instruction to be given, selected members of the Police Force attended lectures and received the instruction in the first place, and in turn delivered appropriate lectures to other members of the Police Force, especially in the coastal districts.

Pamphlets issued by the Director, National Emergency Services, dealing with protection of the civilian population against gas attacks have been distributed throughout the State to be closely studied by the Police for future guidance.

The work of registration of aliens throughout the State has devolved upon the Police, and a Central Registration Bureau has been established at Police Headquarters where all registration forms, and correspondence arising therefrom, are recorded. General supervision of enemy subjects throughout the State is also being exercised by Police.

On the outbreak of War the task of guarding numerous vulnerable points and works of a vital character against possible sabotage was undertaken by the Police in many localities until such time as immediate danger had passed and other arrangements could be made by the Military Authorities or other Government Departments concerned.

Police have been detailed for duty in the vicinity of the various Military Camps to attend to Police matters and to suppress sly grog selling near the camps and to prevent persons of ill repute from frequenting the neighbourhood of the camps.

III. MAINTENANCE OF STRENGTH OF THE FORCE.

Even in normal times it is only possible for the maximum of efficient Police Service to be rendered to the State when the Force is at its full strength. As stated in the Annual Report for 1938, a critical survey of the Police Personnel in the Metropolitan District was made toward the end of that year; and proposals were submitted by the Commissioner of Police to the Chief Secretary which, if they could have been given full effect, would have relieved 88 members of the Force from work not strictly of a Police nature, such as clerical work, fatigue-duty, cleaning of Stations, etc. It would then have been possible to satisfy urgent requirements in regard to the Criminal Investigation Branch, Traffic Branch and General Police. To cope with the heavy demands on the services of the Detective Police in respect of the investigation of crime, the addition of 22 men to the staff of Detective Police is urgently needed; in the Traffic Branch, to deal with urgent requirements in respect of traffic in the city area only, another 11 men are urgently required, and the allocation of 55 men to perform General Duties in uniform is a pressing necessity in order to enable ordinary police work in the Metropolitan Area to be adequately attended to. Part of the scheme submitted to the Minister involved the replacing of 8 Police on duty at Government buildings by nightwatchmen, who could be sworn in as Special Constables; this was not approved, and the number of Police which the proposals would have made available for general Police duty was thus reduced to 80. Approval was, however, obtained for the appointment of 18 Junior Public Service Officers, 23 Police Cadets, 16 cleaners, 2 storemen and packers for the Depot Store, and 5 civilian Testers of applicants for drivers' licenses. This has enabled the proposals to be partly carried out, but with the adoption of another scheme which was under consideration at the end of 1938 to provide more effective traffic supervision on the roads of the State, 50 trained Policemen had immediately to be made available from the general strength of the Force; thus the total of 80 men who would have been made available for general duties was reduced to 30. Then, with the necessity of setting apart experienced Police for the purpose of training Police Reservists in the duties that would be required of them during a state of national emergency, it became quite evident that the full authorised strength of the Force fixed in November, 1937, at 3,700, was seriously inadequate to meet the heavy demands on the services of the Police. Accordingly, approval was given by the Government for the enlistment of an additional 100 recruits to bring the strength of the Police Force temporarily up to 3,800. It was laid down, however, that the ordinary recruiting for the purpose of filling vacancies normally occurring in the Police Force was not to be proceeded with until the strength of the Force had decreased again through the occurrence of vacancies to 3,700. In accordance with the Government's decision, 100 recruits were appointed, and commenced training at the Police Depot on the 1st July, 1939. As the number of "casualties" occurring each year through resignations, discharges, dismissals, deaths, superannuation, etc., is seldom less than 100, it will be seen that the benefit to be derived from the appointment of the 100 recruits can only be short-lived. As a matter of fact, various applications for the establishment of new Police Stations or for the provision of additional Police in several districts had to be refused owing to the strength of the Police Force not being such as to enable the applications to be granted.

IV. VACANCIES IN THE POLICE FORCE.

Vacancies caused by Resignations, Superannuation, Deaths, etc., during the year totalled 116.

INFORMATION RELATING TO CRIME.

I. CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR THE STATE GENERALLY.

The "Annual Return of Cases Dealt with by the Courts" in New South Wales during 1939, shows that there was a heavy increase of 29,327 cases, as compared with the total for 1938. Moreover, with the exception of a slight decrease under the heading "Forgery and Offences against the Currency," there were marked increases in every sub-division of the Return, i.e., there were substantial increases in the volume of serious crime as well as a heavy increase in the number of minor offences. Of the total increase of 29,327, offences against the Traffic Laws accounted for 22,191, the increases in respect of Traffic Offences being:—

General breaches of the Motor Traffic Act and Regulations, 16,138; offences against the Metropolitan Traffic Act and Regulations, 4,906; breaches of the Transport

Act, 622; driving a motor vehicle whilst under the influence of liquor, 209; driving a motor vehicle in a manner dangerous to the public, 237; driving a motor vehicle at a speed dangerous to the public, 79.

The following Table supplies a sectional comparison of the figures for 1938 and 1939:—

Section.	Number of Persons before the Courts.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1938.	1939.		
Offences against the person	3,370	3,831	461	...
Offences against property with violence	4,298	4,720	422	...
Offences against property without violence	14,076	14,934	858	...
Forgery and offences against the currency	294	280	...	14
Offences against good order	43,544	48,192	4,648	...
Breaches of Acts generally	49,939	72,891	22,952	...
Totals	115,521	144,848	29,327	...

Detailed statistics regarding the number of cases brought before the Courts of New South Wales during 1939 are contained in Appendix "A"; the principal increases and decreases in respect of the various offences referred to therein are indicated hereunder:—

PRINCIPAL INCREASES.

PRINCIPAL DECREASES.

Offences Against the Person.

Murder, Attempt to Murder, etc. ..	9	Manslaughter	14
Assault occasioning bodily harm ..	23	Robbery with violence ..	29
Assault with intent to rob	28	Attempting to procure abortion ..	24
Assault a female	231		
Common assault	149		
Indecent assault on women and girls	26		
Indecent assault on male	22		
Sodomy or attempt	18		
Attempted suicide	28		

Offences Against Property With Violence.

Breaking and entering or attempt ..	330
Maliciously injuring property ..	74

Offences Against Property Without Violence.

Simple larceny or attempt	522	Stealing in a dwelling	59
Stealing from the person, or attempt	47	Embezzlement	69
False pretences	102	Larceny as a servant	34
Receiving stolen property	84	Fraudulent appropriation	70
Supposed stolen goods in custody ..	247		
Unlawfully using another's vehicle or boat	101		

Forgery and Offences Against the Currency.

Uttering	72	Forging and uttering	47
Possessing or uttering counterfeit coin	10	Forgery	51

Offences Against Good Order.

Drunkenness	2,844	Idle and disorderly person	131
Riotous, indecent, offensive, threaten- ing, or insulting behaviour ..	251	Playing a game to the annoyance of passengers or residents	51
Negligent or furious riding or driv- ing	615		
Cruelty to animals	37		
Travelling without paying fare ..	326		
Absent from ship without leave ..	142		
Trespass on enclosed lands	109		
Drive a motor vehicle whilst under influence of intoxicating liquor, or of a drug	209		
Drive a motor vehicle in a manner dangerous to the public	237		
Drive a motor vehicle at a speed dangerous to the public	79		

*Breaches of Acts Generally, including Offences Not Provided for under the
Foregoing Headings.*

Business Agents	67	Gaming and Betting	1,031
Deserted Wives and Children ..	141	Industrial Arbitration	107
Dog and Goat	362	Landlord and Tenant	57
Factories and Shops	49	Liquor	44
Government Railways and By-laws	858	Police Offences	343
Immigration Restriction	159	Public Instruction	262
Land and Income Tax	658	Totalizator	69
Lunacy	93	Vagrancy	53
Metropolitan Traffic and Regula- tions	4,906	Weights and Measures	41
*Motor Traffic and Regulations	16,138	Wild Flowers and Native Plants Protection	108
Pistol Licence	51	Wool, Hide and Skin Dealers ..	46
Pure Food	75		
Sydney Corporation	279		
Theatres and Public Halls	61		
Transport Acts	622		
Wireless Telegraphy	287		

* NOTE.—In the "Annual Return of Cases Dealt with by the Courts," the offences "drive a motor vehicle whilst under the influence of intoxicating liquor," "drive a motor vehicle in a manner dangerous to the public," "drive a motor vehicle at a speed dangerous to the public," are now shown under separate headings in that subdivision of the Return entitled "Offences against Good Order." It will be seen that under the three headings referred to, the total number of offences during 1939 was 1,668; allowing for this, the total increase in the number of prosecutions for breaches of the Motor Traffic Act and Regulations was 22,191.

II. POSITION IN REGARD TO CLEARING UP OF SERIOUS CRIME.

The following table shows the results of Police investigations of serious crimes throughout the State during 1939, and similar information for the five previous years:—

Year.	Number of Serious Crimes Reported.	Number of Serious Crimes Cleared Up.	Percentage Accounted for.
1934	26,238	20,848	79
1935	23,897	19,045	80 (almost).
1936	26,726	21,754	80.5
1937	21,913	16,230	74
1938	19,727	13,013	66
1939	20,207	13,886	68.72 (almost).

III. DRUG TRAFFIC.

Very close attention is given to the prevention and suppression in this State of trafficking in opium, cocaine, and other dangerous drugs. The provisions of the Police Offences Amendment (Drugs) Act and Regulations thereunder are enforced in the Metropolitan Area by the Officers of the Drug Bureau of the Criminal Investigation Branch, and in country districts by selected members of the Police Force; the necessary authorities to the Police entrusted with this duty are issued by the Chief Secretary, as provided for in the Act mentioned. The drug-taking habit was again noticeable during 1939. Seven drug addicts were admitted to institutions for treatment, four of them being members of the medical profession and two nurses. Early in the year cocaine addiction, which has been kept well in check for some years, was noticed amongst a number of prostitutes, and it was ascertained that a criminal from Queensland was responsible for its distribution; he was arrested and sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour, and there is no doubt that this sentence acted as a deterrent to other would-be traffickers. The Officers of the Drug Bureau and of the Consorting Squads co-operate to the fullest extent with the Customs Officials in keeping drug trafficking down to a minimum. Opium, however, continues to be smuggled into this country by Chinese members of the crews of vessels trading between Australia and the East.

Establishment of a Central Drug Bureau.—At a conference of the Police Commissioners of the States of the Commonwealth, held in Brisbane in 1939, it was decided to form a Central Drug Bureau at Sydney, so that better co-operation would exist between the States in the exchange of information concerning drug dealers and addicts. The necessary action to establish the Bureau at the Modus Operandi Section of the Criminal Investigation Branch is now being taken, and the task of preparing the necessary records has been commenced.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS.

Danger of Theft of Explosives from Magazines, etc.—In view of reports received from time to time of thefts of explosives from magazines, etc., it was considered advisable, not only on account of the possibility of such explosives coming into the possession of safe-blowers and other criminals, but also having regard for the danger that with the outbreak of War explosives might be obtained by evilly disposed enemy subjects, a review of all explosives magazines throughout the State was made by the Police, and such review disclosed the necessity for prompt attention. The matter was brought under the notice of the Explosives Department and the various Government Departments, Local Government bodies, companies and firms concerned were asked to ensure that all necessary precautions would be taken to provide protection for the magazines and to have substantial locks fitted to them that would make it very difficult for them to be broken into.

Gaming and Betting.—The Special Squad, which deals with the suppression of unlawful gaming and betting, maintained its activities during the year. The Table set out hereunder shows the results obtained in the Metropolitan and Newcastle Areas.

Act.	Arrests.			Convictions.			Discharged.			Pending.		Fines.	Forfeitures.
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.		
Gaming and Betting...	1,868	149	2,017	1,828	142	1,970	15	3	18	25	4	£14,575	£ s. d. 264 16 10

NOTE.—Last year the above table included prosecutions under the Totalizator Act, but there were no prosecutions under that Act by the Squad during 1939.

The Special Squad also took action in 441 cases of sly-grog selling—415 persons were convicted, 9 cases were dismissed and 17 cases were pending at the end of the year. Fines imposed amounted to £7,682.

Other offences in respect of which action was taken by the Special Squad resulted in 168 arrests (116 of which were for “playing an unlawful game”); the fines imposed on the offenders amounted to £322 10s.

Suppression of Prostitution.—A special Consorting Squad gives particular attention to the suppression of prostitution, sex offences, etc.; this Squad finds the consorting provisions of the Vagrancy Act of great assistance in this respect. The members of the Squad instituted proceedings against 1,511 persons for various offences under the Vagrancy Act, Police Offences Act, and other Acts. Action was mainly on account of offensive behaviour, 599; Arrest on commitment warrant, 477; Vagrancy, 72; Indecent language, 62; Stealing, 36; Neglected or Uncontrollable Child, 38; Consorting, 16; Drunkenness, 16; Soliciting, 13; Assault and Robbery, 13.

Of the 1,511 persons prosecuted in 1939, 1,346 were convicted, 118 were discharged, and 47 cases were still pending at the end of the year.

Wife and Child Desertion.—The number of cases of wife and child desertion reported to the Police in 1939 was 1,269, an increase of 78 on the total for 1938. The number of offenders brought before the courts for this offence was 396.

“Shop-lifting” and Stealing from Shops.—The modern arrangement adopted in business emporiums, etc., whereby goods are prominently displayed on counters or tables for inspection, is very convenient to customers, but in many cases it offers temptation to steal. The number of cases in New South Wales during 1939 of stealing from shops and of “shop-lifting” and the value of the property involved in these cases are indicated hereunder:—

Offence.	No. of Cases Reported.	Arrests or Summons Cases.			Convictions.			Juveniles Cautioned.	Value of Property.
		Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.		
Stealing from shops	419	383	20	403	281	15	296	9	£ s. d. 3,775 2 0
“Shop-lifting”	928	379	570	949	350	536	886	3	1,279 19 1

Police Activities Towards the Suppression and Prevention of Stock Stealing.

(a) *Stock Stealing Statistics.*—The total number of stock reported stolen in Country Police Administrative District during 1939 was 10,104, as compared with 15,804 in 1938. The stock reported stolen consisted of:—

Horses, 82; Cattle, 345; Sheep, 9,677. The total estimated value of the stock is £10,448, as against £13,444 for 1938. These figures display a marked improvement for 1939.

Of the total of 10,104 stock reported stolen, 7,473 were accounted for as a result of the Police investigations, and inquiries were still being continued at the end of the year in regard to the remainder. The Police frequently find that a report of alleged theft of stock is groundless, and that the missing animals have either died or strayed.

(b) *Wool and Wheat Stealing*.—Fourteen lots of wool, value £258, were reported stolen, 9 of which were accounted for; 317 bags of wheat, value £107, were reported stolen, 12 bags being accounted for by the arrest of offenders, and 188 by inquiries which showed that they had not been stolen. Inquiries in regard to the remainder are being continued.

(c) *Interchange of Stock Brands Directories*.—Following on a decision of the Conference of Police Commissioners of Australia, held at Brisbane in 1939, a reciprocal arrangement has been put into operation whereby the stock brands directories in use in the States adjoining New South Wales are made available to the respective border Stations in this State. Similarly, New South Wales stock brands directories are being supplied to the respective border Stations in Queensland, South Australia and Victoria. The Police near the borders will thus be afforded greater facilities for checking the brands of stock arriving from a neighbouring State.

(d) *Check of Stock Brands in use in New South Wales*.—As the result of a discussion at the Annual Conference of Police Superintendents in New South Wales, a State-wide canvass of brands in use on large stock has been taken in hand by the Police, and thousands of such brands have been checked. In many instances it was found that the brands being used were not in accordance with the particular brand for which registration had been granted by the Department of Agriculture. In other cases unregistered brands were found in use. Appropriate action has been taken in all cases. The check had not been quite completed by the end of 1939, but thousands of brands had been duly inspected.

(e) *Special Police Patrols*.—For several years past special bush patrols in rough and mountainous country have been carried out by mounted Police from adjoining Stations, and in other areas, where the roads are suitable, similar extended patrols have been carried out by Police in motor trucks equipped as "travelling Police Stations." These special patrols have proved of great value in the direction of preventing and suppressing stock stealing, and with the adoption this year of a scheme whereby Police in motor-trucks patrol the main highways of the State for the particular purpose of controlling traffic, it can be unhesitatingly stated that a greater measure of Police protection is now being afforded to residents and settlers in country districts that has hitherto been the case. Moreover, the personal contact between the Police engaged on these special patrols and settlers residing in lonely or isolated areas and in country localities generally, has brought about a spirit of co-operation between the Police and the men on the land. Many expressions of appreciation of the service rendered by the patrols have reached the Department.

Night Clubs.—The conduct of night clubs in Sydney and suburbs is a matter that has given the Police Authorities much concern. While a number of these clubs are run on satisfactory lines, and are patronised by decent citizens for bona fide social purposes, there are, on the other hand, a number of clubs which are a rendezvous for criminals and undesirables, and where the provisions of the Liquor Act in regard to the sale of intoxicating liquor are deliberately flouted. Moreover, the noise and disorderly behaviour associated with the activities of these clubs constitutes good ground for serious complaint by citizens residing in their vicinity, who find their peace and rest disturbed by the discordant music and noise generally caused by persons assembled in the clubs. It therefore has been brought under the notice of the Chief Secretary and the Minister of Justice, with a view to appropriate amendments being made to the Liquor Act, so as to give the Police ample power to deal with night clubs where the liquor laws are broken and the general conduct of the members of the clubs is unsatisfactory from the point of view of the good order of the community. There can be no doubt that many young people going to night clubs are led into serious temptations, and that their moral welfare is seriously jeopardised.

Operations of Share Hawkers and other Swindlers in Country Districts.—Appropriate action was taken during 1939 to prevent farmers and other residents of country districts from being swindled by share-hawkers and others who, it was found, were making a practice of travelling through the country and calling on country people with plausible tales, whereby they induce them to take up shares or otherwise invest money in worthless ventures. These swindlers have a definite line of "sales talk" which has been carefully thought out, and in which they were coached by the principals behind the swindling schemes before they went out on their "go-getting" expeditions. Suitable pamphlets were prepared by this Department setting out fully examples of this "sales talk," and the pamphlets were distributed to the various Police Stations throughout the State with instructions to the Police that whenever these share-hawkers and similar people visit country towns and commence operations therein the local Police should promptly report the matter and take suitable steps to warn farmers and settlers within their patrols of the danger of being defrauded.

Juvenile Crime.—Statistics concerning offences committed by juvenile offenders (under the age of 21 years) in the Metropolitan District during 1939 are contained in Appendix "B"; the figures disclose an increase of 592 as compared with the total for 1938. There were marked increases in the number of juvenile offenders arrested for offensive or riotous behaviour, illegally using motor-cars, trespassing on enclosed lands, using indecent language and stealing.

On the other hand, there was a substantial decrease in the number of children charged with being neglected or uncontrollable. The activities of the Police Authorities in regard to the question of boys' welfare have been continued, and clubs for boys have been established by the Police in various localities, both in the Metropolitan Area and in country districts, and it is significant that in areas where such clubs have been established there has been a great decrease in the amount of juvenile crime.

Extraditions.—In 1939 there were two extradition cases which resulted in each case in an offender being extradited from New Zealand to New South Wales.

Inquests.—The total number of inquests held in 1939 was 1945, being 142 less than the total number for 1938. The number of inquests on dead bodies was 1,861 (the total number of bodies being 1,900). The number of inquests on fires was 84.

V. CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.

The number of cases dealt with by the Courts in 1939, and similar information for the year 1938, are set out in the following Table:—

	1938.	1939.	Increase or Decrease.	
Offences against the person	2,030	2,395	inc.	365
Offences against property, with violence	3,503	3,765	inc.	262
Offences against property, without violence	10,210	11,109	inc.	899
Forgery and offences against the currency	180	107	dec.	73
Offences against good order	26,231	31,167	inc.	4,936
Offences not included in the preceding	30,911	49,148	inc.	18,237
Totals	73,065	97,691	inc.	24,626

The main increases in offences committed in the Metropolitan Area were as follow:—

Murder, attempt to murder, etc.	7
Assault with intent to rob	21
Assault a female	161
Assault, common	115
Attempted suicide	18
Indecent assault on young girl or woman	14
Indecent assault on a male person	37
Breaking and entering or attempt	154
Maliciously injuring property	91
Simple larceny or attempt	584
Stealing from the person, or attempt	45
Receiving stolen property	108
Fraudulent appropriation	25
Supposed stolen goods in custody	250
Embezzling ship's cargo or stores	25
Unlawfully use another's vehicle or boat	107
Uttering	14
Possessing or uttering counterfeit coin	16
Drunkenness	3,382
Riotous, indecent, offensive, threatening or insulting behaviour	193
Using profane, indecent, or obscene language	62
Negligent or furious riding or driving	573
Playing game to the annoyance of passengers or residents	40
Travel without paying fare, or attempt	219
Absent without leave from ship	141
Trespass on enclosed lands	89
Drive motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicating liquor or of a drug	125
Drive a motor vehicle in a manner dangerous to the public	158
Drive a motor vehicle at a speed dangerous to the public	38

and breaches of the following Acts or Regulations:—

Business Agents	67
Dog and Goat	158
Companies	33
Deserted Wives and Children	41
Immigration Restriction	165
Industrial Arbitration	33

Land and Income Tax	581
Local Government and Ordinances	105
Lunacy	46
Metropolitan Traffic and Regulations	4,728
Motor Traffic and Regulations	13,019
Pistol License	59
Pure Food	143
Sydney Corporation	279
Transport Acts	589
Wireless Telegraphy	296

The Principal decreases were:—

Robbery with violence	38
Attempting to procure abortion	20
Stealing in a dwelling	60
Embezzlement	51
Larceny as a servant	25
Obtaining goods and money by false pretences	139
Forging and uttering	23
Forgery	84
Idle and disorderly person	108

and breaches of the following Acts or Regulations:—

Child Welfare	40
Fisheries and Oyster Farms	65
Gaming and Betting	1,435
Government Railways and By-laws	36
Hawkers and Pedlars	31
Liquor	322
Police Offences	240
Public Instruction	161
Vagrancy	67
Wild Flowers and Native Plants Protection	101

Serious Crime in the Metropolitan District.—The position in the Metropolitan District in respect of serious crime during 1939, the number cleared up and also the total value of property reported stolen, and the total value of property recovered or accounted for is indicated in the Table hereunder:—

Number of Cases Reported.	Number of Cases Cleared Up.	Percentage.	Property Reported Stolen.	Property Accounted for.	Percentage.	Property Recovered.	Percentage.
14,665	10,158	94	£156,774	£115,898	74	£31,304	20

Thefts made possible by Negligence of Owners of Property.—Many thefts would be prevented if articles of property were not carelessly left in unattended vehicles and other places affording easy access to thieves. There are numerous cases of stealing from motor vehicles, and with a view to warning the public of the necessity for taking due care of their property, a supply of suitable cards is kept on hand, and when the Police in the Metropolitan Area find motor vehicles unattended with goods therein, one of these cards is handed to the motorist, or if he be not available, the card is left in a conspicuous place in the vehicle. The card draws attention to the risk involved in leaving valuables in unattended vehicles. Owners of bicycles could minimise thefts of bicycles if they would adopt some safeguard to prevent their machines from being ridden away when temporarily left in the streets.

The total number of cases in the Metropolitan District in 1939 in which negligence on the part of owners of property led to thefts was 2,099 and it is satisfactory to report that this number was 600 less than the total for 1938.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH.

Owing to the serious increase in crime the work of the Criminal Investigation Branch during 1939 was exceptionally heavy and the increase of work was reflected in every Section.

I. FINGER PRINT SECTION.

The total number of finger prints received during 1939 in this section was 25,456 as compared with 23,525 in 1938. The number of finger prints identified as those of persons previously convicted was 15,801 as against 14,411 the previous year. In 29 criminal cases finger print identification constituted the principal evidence before the Court; in 70 other instances offenders charged admitted their guilt, making it unnecessary for any finger-print evidence to be given. The number of exhibits examined by the section in 1939 was 858 as against 918 in 1938. Visits by members of the Finger Print Staff to scenes of crime totalled 2,928, the number of such visits during 1938 being 2,493. In 145 instances finger prints found at the places where crimes

were committed were identified after examination. The finger prints of 51 unknown deceased persons were taken and 15 identifications were made in this way, the finger prints being the only means of establishing identity. The number of additional prints filed in the Single Finger Print Collection under the Battley System, as referred to in previous Reports, was 950 and the number of dockets prepared for the finger print cabinets was 2,900. For some years past it has been the practice to check the finger prints of various applicants for licenses, and the work in this respect was practically doubled in 1939. The total number of finger prints checked in that respect being 7,494 as against 3,982 in 1938.

II. PHOTOGRAPHIC, BALLISTICS AND MODUS OPERANDI SECTION.

The operations of these Sections have been fully maintained during the year, and development has been made in certain directions.

III. DRUG BUREAU, COMPANY AND BUSINESS AGENTS SQUAD, CONSORTING SQUAD IN RESPECT OF CRIMINALS, ARSON SQUAD, MOTOR SQUAD, WOOL, HIDE AND SKIN SQUAD.

The activities of the Police engaged in the above Squads have been reported upon from time to time, and their effectiveness has been continued and expanded throughout the year 1939.

IV. WIRELESS SECTION.

There was further development in this Department's Wireless Section during 1939 and a high standard of efficiency in that Section has been maintained. In some of the Police patrol vehicles wireless equipment previously in use has been replaced by improved equipment. The number of remote centres receivers in elevated suburbs of Sydney is now such as to ensure a satisfactory area of communication with various Police patrol vehicles.

The constant increase in the work of the Police Department is naturally reflected in the Wireless Section and the accommodation available for that Section is now inadequate. The question of erecting a suitable additional building is under consideration.

V. SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION BUREAU.

The Scientific Investigation Bureau which was established in the Criminal Investigation Branch in May, 1938, has made very satisfactory progress. In connection with the work of the Bureau a comprehensive Index is being maintained of all Police publications received by this Department from time to time, such as Police journals, Reviews, Magazines, Reports of Royal Commissions, etc., on the organisation of Police forces, volumes dealing with application of scientific methods of investigation, for instance forensic medicine, etc.

Routine activities, visits to scenes of crime and of fatal accidents, appearances at Court, Research work, and development have received close attention throughout the year.

At the Chemical Industries Exposition at the Town Hall, Sydney, during August, 1939, a comprehensive exhibit was supplied by the Police Department which clearly indicated to the public the manner in which the Police Authorities were using chemistry aids in the detection and investigation of crime. The whole exhibit was subsequently removed and re-erected at the Police Depot, where, with certain essential additions, it will be utilised in connection with the instructions of Police recruits.

VI. OUTSTANDING CRIMINAL CASES.

There were a number of criminal cases of an outstanding nature and hereunder are particulars of a case calling for special mention:—

The "Narromine Murders":—

Police investigations which commenced on the 11th April, 1939, brought to light a series of diabolical and gruesome murders committed on reserves located on the banks of or in the vicinity of the Macquarie River at Narromine. The investigations resulted in the arrest of a man named Moss alias Sterling alias Clancie alias Brown alias Hill alias Barker alias Clarke, who gave his age as 61. He had a long Police history commencing with his conviction in January, 1902, at the age of 17 on a charge of forgery and uttering. From that time up till 1939 he was constantly in trouble, and was dealt with for stealing, stealing from the person, larceny, having stolen goods

in custody, being found in an enclosed yard for an unlawful purpose, and various other charges. He was also on various occasions an inmate of mental hospitals. In January, 1938, he was arrested at Broken Hill on charges of stealing and having stolen goods in custody, but was then certified insane and admitted to the Orange Mental Hospital, whence he was discharged on the 15th September, 1938. Having regard, however, to opinions expressed by doctors who examined him on various occasions, there is every reason to believe that Moss made it a practice to simulate insanity, particularly when he was arrested for any serious offence; in fact, when questioned by the detectives in regard to the murders at Narromine, he said, "I have put over the 'madman' stunt many times before . . . I put it over the doctors and they sent me to an asylum . . . I am not mad, call the doctors off . . . and I will make a full confession."

Moss used to camp on reserves and riversides and make the acquaintance of other campers or drovers who usually were in possession of horses or vehicles, camping equipment, etc.

The story of the Narromine murders may be said to commence on 13th December, 1938. On that date William Henry Bartley, a bush worker and a plaiter of leather goods, arrived at Narromine and camped on a reserve on the river-bank. About this time Moss arrived and camped on the opposite bank of the river, near an old-aged pensioner named Neville. On the date just mentioned Moss was observed sitting under a tree a short distance away from Bartley. The latter had a bicycle, leather goods and various items of personal property. On the 16th December, Bartley disappeared from his camp. The next day Moss was seen at Narromine selling Bartley's plaited goods and in possession of the bicycle. When questioned by Neville, Moss had a plausible excuse to account for his possession of the property.

On the 17th December, Moss was arrested and dealt with by the Court at Narromine for being drunk. On the same day Timothy O'Shea, a bush worker and prospector, arrived at Narromine and camped on Mack's reserve. On or about 21st December, Moss came to Neville's camp with two horses and a sulky and other property belonging to O'Shea. He explained to Neville that he had obtained this property from a man who had been camped on Mack's reserve, but who had drawn third prize in the State lottery, and had gone away to Sydney. Shortly afterwards Moss made a savage attack on Neville, who, however, managed to defend himself with a bottle and get away.

On the 23rd December, an old-aged pensioner named Warren camped on Mack's reserve and Moss followed him about so closely that he became alarmed and left Moss at the first opportunity. Warren had a fast trotting mare in his possession and was thus able to leave Moss behind.

About the end of the first week in January, 1939, Thomas Robinson, a prospector and old-aged pensioner, arrived at Narromine and, followed by Moss, drove on to the Timbrebongie Reserve, where they both camped. Robinson had a horse and sulky and was very friendly with a drover named George Carpenter. On the 11th January, Robinson drove to Mack's reserve and was followed there next day by Moss. On the 16th January, Robinson left Mack's reserve and was seen driving through Narromine, followed by Moss. On the 21st they were seen camped at Brummagem Bridge. That night the blaze of a large fire was seen near the spot where Robinson and Moss were camped. On the 25th Moss called on another old-aged pensioner and sold him the sulky belonging to Robinson, a chestnut mare belonging to O'Shea, and the bicycle belonging to Bartley.

During the month of January, 1939, George Carpenter noticed that his friend, Robinson, was missing from his usual camping places and began to make inquiries. Later he found that Robinson had not drawn his pension since 12th January. On the 31st March, Carpenter was at Dubbo and saw Moss camped on a reserve and in possession of Robinson's horse. When Moss was challenged in regard to the horse he maintained that it was his own property. Carpenter was not satisfied and continued his inquiries and on the 11th April he went to the Police Station at Narromine and confided his fears concerning Robinson's safety to the Police. The Narromine Police immediately got into touch with the District Superintendent's headquarters, and Detective-Sergeant Frankish, Constable 1st Class Turner and Tracker Riley were at once sent to make inquiries. Moss was questioned and arrested on a charge of having goods in custody suspected of having been stolen. The whole of the property found with Moss was taken to the Dubbo Police Station and thorough investigations were commenced. Amongst the property was a small writing-pad with the name "T. O'Shea" reversed on the blotting-paper, and this was the first indication to the Police of a man named O'Shea having owned some of the property. An examination of the writing-pad at the Scientific Investigation Bureau established the fact that the handwriting in the signature "T. O'Shea" on a receipt given to a man named Hackney at Baradine in connection with an exchange of horses was identical with that of the reversed signature "T. O'Shea" on the blotting-paper.

When interrogated by Detectives on the 17th April, Moss simulated insanity by plucking a leaf from a thistle, placing it in his mouth and saying "Lettuce, good lettuce."

On the 22nd April, a body of Police engaged in searching on Mack's reserve found the remains of a large fire and about 12 yards away towards the river two small pieces of human vertebrae were found with a substance adhering to them similar to burnt blood and tissue. When being questioned at Timbreebongie as to Bartley's whereabouts Moss said, "They won't find his body here. He is dead all right, but I did not kill him here." On the 23rd April Moss sent for the detectives and said he would tell what he had done with Robinson's body. He alleged that he had placed Robinson's body in a broken tree on a reserve near Bulgandramine. An extensive search was made without finding a body, but on the 10th June, 1939, a drover reported that he had noticed a burnt stump near the Brummagem Bridge. An examination of the ashes and debris of the fire at this stump was at once made and resulted in the finding of a quantity of burnt pieces of bone together with a number of teeth. Scientific examination of the teeth indicated that they were human and the teeth of an aged person. On the 31st May, Moss appeared before the Police Court at Dubbo charged with the murder of Thomas Robinson and he was committed for trial at the Dubbo Circuit Court commencing on the 19th September, 1939.

The Magistrate made the following comment:—

"Usually my addresses from the Bench are short, but (1) because the accused has not been represented by Counsel to watch his interests, to advise him or to make submissions to the Court on questions of law, and (2) because the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the old man Robinson are so extraordinary and have aroused such widespread public interest, I feel it incumbent to make some comment. During the past three days we have had unfolded to us a wonderful story, what might be termed a "thriller"; a story not unique perhaps but certainly extraordinary in criminal history from which the inferences to be drawn are most gruesome. No body has been found, the evidence is almost entirely circumstantial, but we have the alleged confession of the accused to the Police, 'I killed him all right, but I don't remember what I did with the body.' By the law of England (of Australia, too), no one is permitted to plead 'guilty' to a charge of murder. The Crown must prove the charge. This does not mean that a confession is inadmissible. A confession forms part of the evidence but the value thereof is governed by the circumstances. So few cases are decided on circumstantial evidence alone that it is small wonder many laymen are under the impression that a charge of murder cannot be sustained in the absence of the body (the *corpus delicti*). There have been several cases throughout the world, not very many, true, and very few in Australia. Probably the most important case in Australia decided on purely circumstantial evidence is that of Rex versus Ryan, decided in Queensland in 1906. (S.R.Q., 1906, page 17). Briefly, what are the facts?" (Magistrate here briefly cited the evidence). "What is the proper inference to draw from the disappearance of Robinson between the time he was last seen in Moss's company near Brummagem Bridge on the 21st January, 1939? Men do not vanish in air. We remember that Moss told many falsehoods, both as regards the ownership of property in his possession and of the whereabouts of Robinson, and we do not forget his attempts to make himself known by some other name than his correct one. It seems to me that the only reasonable conclusion is that Thomas Robinson met with his death by violence that night. I find that a *prima facie* case has been established."

On the 3rd July, Moss came before the Dubbo Police Court charged with the murder of Timothy O'Shea and was committed for trial at the Dubbo Circuit Court. At the conclusion of the O'Shea case the Magistrate said:—

"On the 2nd June last I committed Moss to stand his trial on a charge of murdering one Thomas Robinson. To-day this wretched man—I use the term 'wretched' in a sense of being miserable or woeful, a person sunk in anxiety—I say this 'wretched' man is before me again charged with murder—the murder of one Timothy O'Shea. He is shunned by his fellow creatures. Apparently none of his family will aid him. He is not represented by Counsel. It is to be regretted, I think, that the law does not permit of legal assistance being granted to an indigent defendant in a Court of Petty Sessions. So far as the fairness of the prosecution in this particular case is concerned, however, Moss can have no complaint. One is not blind to the fact that Sergeant Magnay is a Police Prosecutor. As such he is in duty bound to present his case with all the cogency at his command—some might say ruthlessly. Only one versed in law can fully appreciate the difficulty he has experienced in presenting the facts so clearly, strand by strand, without having recourse to what we call hearsay evidence. He has exercised meticulous care in preventing any inadmissible evidence from seeping through. There were times when he got close to the borderline, and one must admire the way in which he stopped the witness who, not appreciating, or, should I say, not understanding the rules of evidence, attempted to get in little extras. Sergeant Magnay possesses a well-developed legal mind, but above and beyond that is the fact that he is a man of honour and could not stoop to take a cheap advantage of even the meanest accused. Police Magistrates, no less than Judges, have unpleasant tasks to perform, but we take oath to administer Justice without fear, favour, or ill-will, and we do it unflinchingly—no, not unflinchingly, for that means without wincing—rather, should I say, unhesitatingly. Immediately preceding this inquiry we witnessed a most deplorable exhibition of rage by the accused. None of us can fully realise what must be the mental and nervous strain and the anxiety of a man in a dock charged with a capital offence. I called two medical practitioners,

Doctors Fitzhill and Cameron, to examine Moss to testify regarding his sanity. Doctor Fitzhill has had the good fortune of seeing and conversing with Moss on several occasions, and he told us he could not certify him insane. Dr. Cameron, who has seen Moss on two occasions, was satisfied that the insanity was feigned. Fortified by these opinions, I ordered the inquiry to proceed. When Moss was previously before me, on the 2nd June, I discoursed at some length on the law relating to circumstantial evidence and on the meaning of "prima facie," and as no good purpose can be served in repeating what I said then, I pass to a consideration of the facts as disclosed by the evidence on the case. Who could have imagined from such a small beginning such an extraordinary story could be woven? A story which is almost grotesque and certainly gruesome. Many factors have played their part in the compilation of the story to which we have listened during the four days, and chief among them are (1) the perspicacity and tenacity of purpose of the Police officers engaged in the case and (2) the application of science in the discovery of crime. It were invidious perhaps to select any particular individual of the Police Force on whom to shower congratulations—all have done the job allotted to them uncomplainingly and with that thoroughness for which our Force is becoming famed—but I cannot continue without, however inadequately, expressing my admiration of the work done by Detective-Sergeants Sherringham, Frankish and Calman. From them came the inspirations and their's were the brains that conducted the operations leading to this inquiry—an inquiry that must be regarded as unique in the history of crime in this State of New South Wales. Few people realise what wonderful work is being done in the Scientific Investigation Bureau of our Criminal Investigation Branch. Seldom does the opportunity arise in the country towns for the utilisation of the services of the officers attached thereto, and what Sergeant Rogers—no, Constable Rogers—he ought to be a Sergeant though—has told and shown to the Court came as a revelation. Now, what are the facts? (Magistrate here briefly traverses the evidence). Leaving out altogether the matter of the confession, not that I consider it poor evidence—on the contrary it is good direct evidence as opposed to circumstantial—but leaving it out I say what is the proper inference to draw from the disappearance of O'Shea, from the remains of what must have been, a huge fire on Mack's reserve where O'Shea was last seen, from the human teeth found therein, and the portions of human vertebrae found nearby, and from the possession by the accused of O'Shea's belongings? It seems to me that the only reasonable conclusion is that Timothy O'Shea met with his death by violence and that his body was burnt. I find that a prima facie case has been established."

On the 31st July, Moss was again before the Dubbo Police Court charged with the murder of William Henry Bartley and was committed to stand his trial at the Dubbo Circuit Court. At the end of the Bartley case the Magistrate remarked:—

"And so concludes, so far as proceedings before me are concerned the final act in a drama—perhaps I should say three dramas—grim and stark and altogether horrible. Greed and envy it would appear to me, are the principal motive forces actuating the individual to commit crime, but who could imagine that a human being could be so impelled by those forces to commit, for such paltry prizes—a few pounds, a bicycle and a couple of horses—three murders within the space of four or five weeks. The stories related to this Court in connection with these matters are almost unprecedented in the history of crime in New South Wales. One's mind goes back about forty years for a parallel to that time when one Butler murdered several men and disposed of their bodies in the bush. In arriving at a conclusion in this particular case I must not be influenced by the evidence given in the two previous cases. I must apply my mind only to the evidence insofar as it relates to the disappearance of William Henry Bartley. Now, very briefly, what are the facts? William Henry Bartley left the home of Mrs. Redshaw at Lidcombe in November, 1938. Later, namely on December 10th, 1938, he is seen by Mr. Bowden Fletcher and a Mr. Stiles at Narromine. On the 13th or 14th December, 1938, Mr. Carpenter saw him on a reserve and nearby he also saw the accused Moss. Mr. Carpenter has told us that on the Friday following—that would be the 16th December—he went again to the reserve to obtain from Bartley a plaited rope which he had commissioned Bartley to make for him. On the 17th December, 1938, two men, King and Hawley, have said that they saw Moss under the influence of liquor at Narromine attempting to sell plaited belts. On that date Constable Jenkins arrested Moss and he has told us that Moss had in his possession some plaited belts. Bartley was a gifted leather plaiter. Mr. Redshaw and others have told us of the wonderful work he did in this connection and have identified several articles which were in the possession of Moss. Other articles identified as being the property of Bartley were also found in Moss's possession.

Now acting on the principle of "recent possession," there is ample prima facie evidence of stealing, but we are concerned with the charge of murder and it is necessary to search the evidence more thoroughly. What do we find? Bartley was a man of regular habits who wrote regularly over a period of years to friends in Sydney, particularly Mr. Redshaw and Mrs. Batten. They heard nothing of him after he left Sydney in November, 1938, until they were questioned by the Police in about May of this year. Men do not vanish into thin air. Searching inquiries have been made throughout the State for Bartley, without result. I can come to one conclusion only and that is that Bartley met his death by violence on or about the 14th December, 1938. I find that a prima facie case has been established.

On the 25th September, 1939, at the Dubbo Circuit Court, Moss was found guilty of the murder of Timothy O'Shea and sentenced to death.

At the conclusion of the case, the presiding Judge, Mr. Justice Owen, made the following remarks:—

"In my opinion the Police officers in charge of these investigations are deserving of the highest praise; their efforts have been responsible for having a daring criminal brought to justice. I hope that what I have said will be represented in the proper quarter."

In view of the result of the trial in this case, the charges in respect of the murders of Robinson and Bartley were not proceeded with. Moss appealed to the Court of Criminal Appeal at the Central Criminal Court on the 27th October, 1939, but the appeal was dismissed.

The manner in which these murders were committed and the circumstantial nature of the evidence submitted to the Court, no bodies having been recovered, constitute a story practically unique in criminal history in New South Wales. Noteworthy features of the Police investigations were (1) the completeness of the identification of all the property of the murdered men, and (2) the scope of the Police inquiries which included the tracing of other men reported as missing.

Scope of Police Investigations.

The investigations concerning these murders extended over a period of four months. During that time the Detectives in charge of the inquiries travelled over twenty thousand miles in the prosecution of such inquiries in connection with the three murdered men and others who were reported missing during that period. In addition to the mileage covered by Police vehicles, a number of citizens of Narromine placed their motor vehicles at the disposal of the Police daily for many weeks without cost to the Police Department. These men travelled about five thousand miles carrying Police and civilian searchers to different parts of the Narromine district. Hundreds of people throughout the western parts of the State were interviewed regarding the identity of the missing men and the movements of Moss during the time he was believed to have committed the murders. Inquiries also extended to other parts of the State. The Queensland Criminal Investigation Branch gave every assistance in the inquiries concerning the identity of O'Shea, and the dapple grey mare which he had in his possession when he met his death. This mare, it was established, was bred by Mr. Wade, of Adavale, Queensland, and sold by him at the Charleville Saleyards and after passing through the hands of a number of different people came into the hands of O'Shea. Three different dapple grey mares bred by the same man, which it was at first believed may have been identical with the dapple grey mare found in the possession of Moss, were traced after being sold to different persons: one at Walgett, another at the Native Dog watering place near Bourke, and one at Collie. Inquiries were also made by the Criminal Investigation Branch at Melbourne concerning Moss, who claimed to have been at Dumosa in Victoria after being discharged from the mental hospital at Orange. At this place the body of an unknown man was found murdered early in 1939 and it was thought possible that Moss may have been responsible for the crime. It has been ascertained, however, that when the murder is believed to have been committed, Moss was in the Dubbo district.

TRAFFIC BRANCH.

I. BREACH REPORTS.

There was a very heavy increase in the work of the Traffic Branch during 1939. Early in the year special action was taken with a view to providing more effective control of traffic on the principal roads throughout the State and reducing the alarming number of road accidents; twenty-one motor utility trucks equipped specially for the purpose of enabling the Police crews thereof to be constantly on the roads, were put into service, seventeen for selected country localities and four for the Metropolitan Area. Towards the end of 1939 it became evident that special attention to riders of bicycles on the public streets in the Metropolitan Area was also necessary and a staff of Police was detailed for this duty; the thoroughness with which this duty was performed resulted in over 8,000 reports of offences by cyclists in addition to the fact that over 10,000 cyclists were verbally cautioned on the spot by the Police for minor offences. There was a big reduction in the number of accidents involving cycles during the Christmas holidays and it is evident that the Police action has been of great value in this respect.

As a result of the special Police attention to road traffic the total number of "Breach Reports" received at the Traffic Branch during 1939, was 173,345 as compared with 104,006 in 1938. This huge increase obviously caused a tremendous amount of extra work in the Branch. The more serious offences are, of course, those involving the question of public safety and the number of persons reported for offences of that nature in 1939 is indicated hereunder:—

Exceed speed limit	10,972
Drive in a manner dangerous	444
Drive at speed dangerous	336

Negligent driving	1,844
Fail to stop after accident	234
Cut corner	2,660
Not keep to left	2,018
Pass stationary tram	447
Pass offside of tram	1,080
Drive across centre of road on grade or curve	1,154
Unlicensed driver	1,669
Vehicles causing undue noise	1,974
Defective brakes	2,062
No lights	6,863
Defective lights	2,774

The foregoing figures do not include cases where the offenders were *arrested*.

Altogether 698 offenders were dealt with for driving whilst under the influence of liquor. Such action resulted in 556 drivers being disqualified for a period of twelve months from holding a license, 83 being disqualified for three years, and 23 having the period of disqualification extended; 6 cases were dismissed and in 31 cases offenders were given the benefit of section 556A of the Crimes Act, thereby obviating disqualification.

Other traffic matters in respect of which special Police action was taken in 1939 were (a) the manner in which taxi-cabs were being driven and (b) motor vehicles passing stationary trams; excellent results were obtained by the Police in both those matters.

II. PUBLIC SAFETY BUREAU.

The Public Safety Bureau renders excellent service in the direction of detecting serious breaches of the traffic laws, and in preventive work by systematic patrols of the main arterial roads of the Metropolitan Area. In addition to furnishing thousands of Breach Reports in respect of failure to observe the speed restrictions, the members of the Bureau effected 338 arrests during 1939 including 76 for driving whilst under the influence of intoxicating liquor, 62 for driving in a manner dangerous to the public, 23 for driving without a license, 55 for illegally using motor vehicles, 34 for stealing and 16 for breaking and entering.

III. CHILDREN'S SAFETY PATROLS.

At the 31st December, 1939, there were 290 school safety patrols operating at schools in the Metropolitan Traffic Area. This system was inaugurated in 1933, and it has been extended not only to the Metropolitan Area, but to schools at the various large towns throughout the State.

IV. POLICE LECTURES AT SCHOOLS.

Members of the Police Force attend at various schools, both public and denominational, and give very beneficial lectures to school children on "safety first" principles.

The following table indicates the activities of the Police in this respect within the State during 1939:—

Total Number of Schools Visited.			Number of Lectures Delivered.			Number of Broadcast Talks Delivered.		
Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
560	1,002	1,562	4,900	2,016	6,916	78	811	889

Lectures were also given to drivers employed by various large business organisations possessing fleets of motor vehicles on the requirements of the traffic laws, courtesy and care in driving.

V. PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC.

Every endeavour is made by the Police Authorities to obtain the willing co-operation of the public in observing the regulations for pedestrian traffic and the Police broadcasting car is of good service in this direction.

VI. UNILATERAL PARKING.

The unilateral system of parking of motor vehicles in operation in York, Clarence, King and Market streets and part of Pitt-street has proved beneficial and consideration is being given to the question of extending the system to other streets.

WATER POLICE.

I. SYDNEY.

The work of patrolling the waters of Sydney Harbour keeps the Water Police constantly engaged. During 1939 they were active in detecting offences under the Fisheries and Oyster Farms Act; they also dealt with a number of stowaways on ships and assisted the Customs Authorities in connection with deportees. On 33 occasions sailing boats which had capsized were towed to safety by the Water Police launches, and in all 166 persons were rescued from the Harbour. The number of bodies recovered from the Harbour after drowning, etc., was 16; 16 persons were injured in accidents on ships and wharves, and in four cases the accidents had fatal results. The number of boats reported stolen was 124 and 114 were recovered and restored to the owners. The Water Police attended the arrival of 279 passenger vessels and the departure of 484. The total number of vessels, exclusive of naval vessels, which entered Sydney Harbour during 1939, was 7,524, the gross tonnage thereof being 20,250,018. The total number of passengers carried by the ferries was 22,522,850.

II. NEWCASTLE.

The necessary Police supervision over the waters of Port Hunter was provided. During the last four months of the year increased patrol work was necessary on account of the International situation. The total number of vessels which entered the port during 1939 was 4,340 with a nett tonnage of 5,119,415.

INSPECTION OF LICENSED PREMISES.

I. METROPOLITAN LICENSING INSPECTION.

(a) *Premises Licensed under the Liquor Act.*

Hotels.—The number of hotels in the Metropolitan Licensing District at 31st December, 1939, was the same as at the end of 1938, viz. 533. There was further improvement in the condition of licensed premises, and during the year 1939, 62 applications by licensees and owners for approval to make material alterations or to repair premises were granted by the Licensing Court; the approximate cost of the work involved was £180,638. Further, 53 applications were made by the Police under Section 40A of the Liquor Act for Orders of Court to compel owners of hotels to rebuild or bring their premises up to a proper standard; 47 orders were made involving work to cost £33,022; two applications were withdrawn unconditionally, and in two cases fresh applications were made to the Court. Four applications for conditional removal of publicans' licenses were made and granted; the cost involved in building new premises was £60,000. Various extensions of permits to supply liquor with bona fide meals after closing hours (Section 57A of the Liquor Act) were granted by the Court and no complaint was received of any abuse of the privilege so granted to licensees.

Samples of Liquor.—The Department of Justice provided funds for the purpose of taking samples of unbranded liquor for analysis. The number of such samples taken in the Metropolitan Licensing District during 1939 was 144; ten of the samples were found to be adulterated with water, and the offending licensees were prosecuted under the Pure Food Act, with the result that fines and costs amounting to £30 8s. 3d. were imposed. Although the Police have taken 8,153 samples of liquor in the Metropolitan Licensing District since the required standard of strength was laid down in November, 1901, in no instance has liquor been found to contain anything deleterious or dangerous to health.

Betting in Hotels.—In connection with the suppression of starting price betting in hotels, it was found necessary in 1939 to have two hotels declared "common gaming houses"; those declarations were rescinded in the following month on favourable reports being submitted. In 1938 similar action was taken against five hotels. The position in regard to illegal betting in hotels has apparently improved as a result of Police activities.

Convictions of licensees.—The number of convictions against licensed publicans in the Metropolitan District during 1939 was 169 mainly in connection with the sale of liquor during prohibited hours; fines and costs imposed amounted to £915 1s. 5d.; there were also 9 convictions against holders of Australian Wine licenses (fines and costs in these cases amounting to £37 12s.) and 5 convictions against spirit merchants (fines and costs totalling £222).

(b) *Theatres and Public Halls.*

The Metropolitan Licensing Inspector and his assistant pay regular attention to the various city theatres and public halls. A few minor breaches of the Theatres and Public Halls Act and Regulations were noticed during the year, but the necessary action to rectify these matters was promptly taken by the responsible persons when their attention was drawn thereto. There were two cases in which prosecution was necessary for having exit doors padlocked during a performance; a £10 fine (with 8s. costs) was imposed in each case. At some of the theatres it was found necessary to question certain features of the items on the programme, and these were eliminated by the

management when the Police objections were pointed out. Six picture films rejected by the Commonwealth Film Censor Board and subsequently passed by the Appeal Board were viewed by the Licensing Inspector and an officer of the Chief Secretary's Department, who considered one film unsatisfactory until certain cuts were made; the other five films were considered fit for immediate public exhibition. Eight locally produced films were also viewed and passed for public exhibition.

II. LICENSING INSPECTION IN THE STATE GENERALLY.

At the request of the Licensing Magistrates, the Metropolitan Licensing Inspector visited various country towns during 1939 where, in company with the District Licensing Inspectors, he inspected local hotels. The towns concerned were Graffon, Ulmarra, South Gate, Carr's Creek Junction, Woolgoolga, Murwillumbah, Mullumbimby, Tweed Heads, Brunswick Heads, Billinudgel, Chinderah, Tumbulgum, Jerilderie, Boorowa, Cessnock, Gulgong. At the end of the year the Court had ordered improvements to be carried out at 42 of the hotels at those towns; the approximate total cost of such work is £37,526.

WOMEN POLICE.

The eight Women Police employed by this Department who give particular attention to the welfare of women and young girls who frequent the streets and places of public resort in this city, continued their excellent work during 1939. Of the 653 girls reported missing in the Metropolitan Area, 555 were located. The Women Special Constables also carried out two interstate escorts and 60 escorts within the State, were present at 108 medical examinations of women and girls in cases of criminal offences against females, and made inquiries concerning various so-called "Social" and "Matrimonial" clubs.

GENERAL MATTERS.

I. STATIONS CLOSED.

The following Police Stations were closed during 1939:—

Burringbar (permanently).
Galong (temporarily).
Nelligen (temporarily).
O'Connell (permanently).
Uranquinty (permanently).

The temporary Station at Maude was also closed.

II. POLICE CALL BOXES ESTABLISHED.

The value of the Police Call Box system has been amply demonstrated since the system was introduced in 1931. By means of the Call Boxes the public can get into immediate communication with the nearest Police Station, and this ensures prompt Police attention to any matter brought under notice. Particulars of Police Call Boxes in use in this State as at 31st December, 1939, are set out in Appendix "C."

III. POLICE BUILDINGS, SITES, RESERVES, ETC.

No new Police premises were erected or substantial additions to existing buildings effected during 1939. Structural work was completed on the additional floor over the work shop and stable building at the Police Depot, Redfern, towards the end of 1938, however, and this portion of the establishment is equipped and furnished to provide modern and spacious lecture rooms and offices for the Instructional Staff. Minor improvements were carried out and repairs and renovations effected at numerous Police buildings through the State. There are, however, a large number of places chiefly in the country districts, where new Police buildings are necessary, either to replace existing unsuitable premises or rented premises, thus reducing expenditure in rents and Police allowances. (An amount of over £6,100 is at present expended annually in the payment of rent for premises occupied for Police purposes.) At several important country towns, work involving an expenditure of a considerable amount of money is in abeyance, pending the provision of funds for additions, alterations, etc.

IV. TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT.

The transport facilities utilised in the Police Service vary according to the requirements of the particular locality concerned. The equipment available in this respect on the 31st December, 1939, is as follows:—

Departmental motor vehicles: The number of motor vehicles under the control of this Department on the 31st December, 1939, was 364, comprising:—In the Metropolitan District, 31 motor cars, 31 Divisional patrol cars, 6 Area cars, 12 motor lorries, 6 patrol vans, 2 omnibuses, 156 motor cycles. In the Country Districts: 24 motor cars, 4 patrol vans, 24 motor lorries and 68 motor cycles. To replace worn out vehicles and to meet urgent requirements in the direction of additional transport facilities where urgently needed, new vehicles were purchased during the year as follows: 31 motor cars, 57 motor cycles and sidecars, 24 lorries and 3 patrol vans. These vehicles are included in the total of 364.

Bicycles: In various localities throughout the State ordinary bicycles are also used in carrying out Police patrol duties; the number available at the end of 1939 was 332.

Police horses: It is still necessary to utilise horses for patrol work in places where the roads are unsuitable for motor vehicles, or the country is otherwise inaccessible or other circumstances make the use of a horse preferable. The total number of troop horses located at Police Stations in this State on the 31st December, 1939, was 334; of these 31 were at the Police Depot, Redfern.

V. LICENSING OF PISTOLS.

Particulars as to classes of licences issued, pistols held by Government departments, and confiscated pistols, are available in the Pistol Licence Register maintained at Police Headquarters. The following table gives particulars of pistol licences issued from 1930 onwards:—

Year.	Ordinary.	Dealers.	Exempt from Fee.	Total.
1930	13,148	89	192	13,429
1931	16,360	85	240	16,685
1932	16,559	95	411	17,065
1933	15,888	94	316	16,298
1934	15,232	72	287	15,591
1935	14,561	67	282	14,910
1936	14,532	57	270	14,859
1937	12,475	57	433	12,976*
1938	11,704	50	448	12,222†
1939	12,163	49	471	12,694‡

* Includes eleven Visitors' permits.

† Includes six Visitors' permits and 14 duplicate licences.

‡ Includes seven Visitors' permits and four duplicate licences.

The total revenue derived from these licences in 1939 was £6,132 9s. 0d.

Importation of Pistols.—Fifty-five applications were made during 1939 for permission to import pistols. In forty-two instances approval was given for the importation of the weapons, but in thirteen cases permission was not given.

Official files dealt with.—2,680 files of official correspondence were handled during the year in respect of pistol licences.

Pistols found, confiscated and surrendered.—The number of firearms received at the Criminal Investigation Branch for destruction, or to be otherwise dealt with as seen fit, totalled 870, of which 24 were rifles confiscated under the provisions of the Firearms Act, 1936. The remaining 846 weapons were pistols and revolvers, and of these 624 had been unconditionally surrendered to the Police, 178 had been found, and 144 had been confiscated.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES OR REFORMS, NEW LEGISLATION, ETC.

Establishment of a Police Reserve.—For some years past occurrences of a disastrous nature such as widespread bush fires, serious floods, etc., have clearly indicated the necessity of having some ready means of supplementing Police organisation in times of emergency with the services of a suitable body of men possessing qualifications which would enable them to be of assistance to the Police in protecting and saving life on such occasions. The serious international situation which developed toward the end of 1938 and in the early part of 1939 made this necessity more pressing and the Government accordingly approved of action being taken to establish a Police Reserve, to be utilised in times of National emergency. In accordance with that approval this Department made special arrangements to prepare a list of civilians ready to join the Police Reserve and over 5,000 names have been listed and arrangements completed preparatory to swearing-in these reservists upon the necessary legislation being passed by Parliament.

Special Motor Truck Patrols for the effective Police Supervision of Traffic on the Principal Roads throughout the State.—Following a careful review of traffic conditions on the principal roads throughout the State, a scheme has been put into operation which will undoubtedly provide a far greater measure of effective Police supervision of traffic. Seventeen motor trucks equipped with wireless have been distributed to country centres, where they will operate on a zone system and the Police performing duty in the trucks will, by moving from place to place as circumstances warrant, give close attention to traffic points where such attention is most needed. Four trucks were also provided for duty on the main roads out of Sydney as far as Gosford, Penrith, Wollongong and Picton. Although the main purpose of the scheme is to improve road traffic conditions, the Police selected for the duty also attend to other matters which may come under their notice in the course of their duties and thus additional Police protection in the localities affected is provided apart from the question of bringing about a better observation of traffic laws.

Transfer of Police to General Duties not strictly of a Police nature.—Following a careful survey by Police Department Officers of the Police personnel in the Metropolitan District towards the end of 1938 a number of Police engaged on duties mainly of a clerical nature, fatigue work, packing stores, etc., were, on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Police, replaced by Public Service Officers, cleaners, etc., and five civilians were appointed to act as testers of applicants for motor drivers' licences, etc., in lieu of Police previously carrying out such work. It has not, however, been practicable to put this scheme of reorganisation fully into operation.

Central Warrant Bureau.—A Central Warrant Bureau has been established at Police Headquarters wherein a complete record of the "movements" and location of warrants received by the Police for attention and transmitted to various Stations from time to time can be readily traced. The necessary particulars are recorded on cards and the operation of the Bureau has already produced results in saving time in locating warrants when they are required.

New Legislation affecting Police responsibilities in the direction of law enforcement was passed during 1939 as follows:—

The Child Welfare Act, 1939, which amended and consolidated previous legislation on the subject, and introduced various improvements in regard to the bringing of children before the Courts, the Police Regulation (Amendment) Act, 1939, which provided for the re-appointment of several ex-members of the Police Force, following upon the findings of a Royal Commission, and the Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Act of 1939, which amended the Medical Practitioners Act of 1938. The last mentioned Act came into operation in 1939, and provision is made therein to deal with medical practitioners guilty of addiction to drugs.

VII. POLICE TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION.

Every recruit who joins the New South Wales Police is carefully trained in accordance with a comprehensive curriculum which covers the duties required of Police by important statutes, responsibilities in connection with criminal law and procedure, physical culture, instruction in first-aid and life-saving methods. On the 31st December, 1939, the number of Police in New South Wales possessing ambulance certificates was 3,282 and 1,473 held certificates, medallions, etc., awarded by the Royal Life Saving Society.

VIII. POLICE SPORTS, RECREATIONS, ETC.

The maintenance of physical fitness and good health of the Police is essential for the efficient performance of duty and the Police Authorities, therefore, encourage members of the Force to participate in athletic games. The activities of the various Police sports clubs were well maintained during 1939, but the outbreak of War towards the end of the year has necessarily resulted in those activities being hindered to a certain extent.

The wide scope of the Police athletic activities is indicated by the fact that the various Police sports clubs include: A Harcourt Tennis Association, Wrestling Club, Cricket Association, Rowing Club, Swimming Club, Soccer-Football Club, Rugby Union Football Club, Golf Club, Rifle Club and Athletic Club.

The Police Rowing Club was successful in winning events in the Toxteth Cup Competition, the Walker and Hall Cup Competition, the Mosman Regatta, the Club Regatta and Sydney Regatta.

A team from the Police Swimming Club visited Glen Innes and Tingha by arrangement with the Royal Life Saving Society and gave excellent instruction and demonstrations in the methods of life saving. Members of the club also won important events at carnivals conducted in the Metropolitan Area under the auspices of the Society referred to. At Melbourne Constable Bassingthwaite won the Australian 110 yards backstroke and the 330 yards Medley race.

In the 1939 State Championship events in the Dunn Shield, members of the Police Athletic Club won the discus and shot putt events and were second in the javelin throw and 120 yards and 220 yards hurdle races, and two new records for the junior discus and javelin events were made by Cadet Campbell.

The Annual Police Carnival for 1939 was held at the Showground on the 25th February and an excellent programme was provided. There was a Grand Parade at which the salute was taken by the Rt. Honourable W. M. Hughes, P.C., K.C., M.P., Minister for External Affairs. A guard of honour was provided by a special squad of Police who were all returned soldiers and the squad was inspected by Mr. Hughes (Prime Minister of Australia during the Great War) and Mr. James Mitchell who was the Commissioner of Police in New South Wales when the Great War broke out in 1914. A night Carnival was also held at the Sydney Sports Ground on the 18th March.

IX. NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE BAND, POLICE ORCHESTRA AND POLICE CHOIR.

The high standard of the Band, Orchestra and Choir has been maintained, a large number of performances at Public, Charitable and Police functions being given.

X. POLICE CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES AND WELFARE WORK.

(a) *Functions in Aid of Hospitals and Other Charitable Causes.*

In various localities throughout the State the Police conducted functions in aid of hospitals, ambulances and other worthy causes. The total amount raised in this way during 1939 was approximately £3,830.

(b) *Boys' Clubs.*

Particulars of the Police Boys' Clubs established in New South Wales and the objects of the Police Boys' Club movement are set out in the Annual Report for the year 1938. No new clubs were opened in 1939 but two are in the process of formation, viz., at Newcastle, and at Glebe, Sydney. Efforts have also been made to obtain funds with a view to the establishment of Clubs in North Sydney and Surry Hills. A very gratifying feature in connection with the work of the Clubs is that in those localities where they have been established reports of juvenile crime show a marked decrease which becomes more evident as time passes. In the Metropolitan district approximately £730 was raised in aid of the Boys' Clubs; in the Southern District £250 9s. 9d. was raised; at Orange in the Western District £38 5s. 3d. was raised; in the Dubbo District £26 8s. 7d. and in the North Eastern District £213 towards the Boys' Club for Newcastle, £108 12s. 8d. for the Boy Scouts at Kurri Kurri.

XI. POLICE SERVICES IN CASE OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY—BUSH FIRES.

There were very serious bush fires in various parts of the State during the summer months, particularly in the coastal districts, and great damage was done. The Police in the affected localities rendered excellent service. There were disastrous fires at Wyndham and Bateman's Bay and the Constables stationed there were commended for their meritorious work in fighting the fires. In the Cronulla Police patrol damage estimated at £12,000 was caused by bush fires. In connection with a fire at Sylvania a man was convicted for a breach of the Careless Use of Fire Act. Another bush fire near Kellyville (on the road to Windsor) swept miles of country and destroyed a number of homes, vineyards and orchards and resulted in two men being burned to death in a house at Box Hill. The fire originated on the property of a farmer who had been burning stumps; he was charged with manslaughter but was acquitted. At Milton, Kangaroo Valley and Nowra, thousands of pounds worth of property was destroyed and a man was burned to death at Yalwal near Nowra.

The Police Department is co-operating closely with the Bush Fires Advisory Council (Department of Works and Local Government) in taking measures for the prevention of bush fires and to deal with such fires in the most effective manner when they break out. The Police throughout the State have been specially instructed as to the action to be taken in dealing with bush fires and they are assisting in the formation of bush fire brigades all over the State. Fire beaters have been prepared and are kept ready at Police Stations, and the Police patrol trucks in the country districts have also been equipped with fire-fighting appliances.

XII. ACTS OF BRAVERY.

Brief particulars of acts of bravery brought under notice during 1939 are set out hereunder:—

On the 23rd March, 1939, on receipt of a message at 9.50 p.m. that burglars were believed to be in the office of Lane's Fibrous Works, Hurstville, Constable B. Phin promptly proceeded to the premises accompanied by Mr. Lane. On entering the main office the Constable found three men crouched near the safe. He arrested them at the point of the revolver and it was found that gelignite had been placed in the keyhole of the safe and a detonator and fuse were in position. A further 50 plugs of gelignite, detonators, etc., were discovered outside the building. At the trial of the offenders the Constable was complimented by the Judge for his courage.

On the 12th April, 1939, Constable G. J. Bottomley jumped from the Iron Cove Bridge into the waters of Iron Cove and rescued a mental patient who had escaped from Callan Park Mental Hospital. There was risk of sharks in that locality and the Constable was awarded a Certificate of commendation by the Royal Life Saving Society and a silver medal by the Royal Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society of New South Wales.

On the 11th August, 1939, a fire broke out in certain flats in Darlinghurst. The flames had spread to the first floor landing but Constable R. E. Lendrum succeeded in carrying three women through the flames to the ground floor prior to the arrival of the Fire Brigade. The Royal Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society has awarded the Constable a Certificate and a bronze medallion.

On the 24th September, 1939, Sergeant 3rd Class J. K. McKenzie of Lismore attempted to rescue a boy from drowning and was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Royal Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society.

Constable 1st Class C. H. Handcock of the Public Safety Bureau and Constable T. A. Fogarty each succeeded in stopping bolting horses, for which they were commended.

On the 2nd December, 1939, Sergeant 3rd Class S. H. Selwyn and Probationary Constable B. K. Doyle descended the cliffs at "Jacob's Ladder," Watsons Bay, to recover the body of a man who had fallen over the cliffs at Gap Park on to the rocks about 300 feet below. It was necessary for the Police to descend a rope hand over hand and then clamber over rough rocks for a distance of about 150 yards whilst a strong wind was blowing and a strong sea running. The task of recovering the body was thus a very hazardous one.

On the 6th December, 1939, Sergeant 3rd Class A. McFarlane, Constable 1st Class J. Cary and Constable H. T. J. Pierce displayed courage in rescuing a woman from a narrow ledge about 25 feet from the top of the cliffs at the Gap, Watsons Bay. The ledge was only wide enough for one person at a time to approach the woman, and there was a sheer drop of about 250 feet below. A struggle took place between the woman and Constable Cary and it was necessary for a rope to be fastened to the safety fence and then fastened around Constable Pearce to enable the latter to lean over and assist Constable Cary to drag the woman to safety. She was subsequently removed to the Reception House. The actions of the Police concerned have been brought under the notice of the Royal Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society.

On the 12th December, 1939, Constable 1st Class J. T. Wedlock saw a motor car moving down a steep incline in Ocean-street, Edgecliff, with no driver at the wheel and fast gathering speed. He succeeded in jumping on the running-board and bringing the vehicle to a standstill, thus obviating what may have been a very serious accident. There was a lady passenger in the back of the car.

During disastrous bushfires which occurred in January, 1939, there were many instances of plucky conduct by Police and civilians who proceeded through bush fires to help persons isolated by the fires and assist them to safety.

XIII. POLICE STRENGTH, POPULATION, AND PROSECUTIONS.

The following table shows the strength of the New South Wales Police Force, the population of the State at the end of the year, and the number of persons proceeded against for the years 1920 to 1939, inclusive: —

Year.	*Strength of Force.		. Persons Proceeded Against.		
	Number.	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 1,000 of Population.	General Population.
1920	2,663	1.27	89,871	43	2,093,217
1921	2,768	1.30	94,870	45	2,129,693
1922	2,829	1.31	96,989	44	2,174,688
1923	2,852	1.29	104,519	47	2,211,106
1924	2,923	1.23	98,101	43	2,256,649
1925	2,968	1.29	102,377	44	2,300,081
1926	2,997	1.26	116,675	49	2,349,401
1927	3,136	1.30	124,030	51	2,401,884
1928	3,467	1.41	137,079	56	2,446,874
1929	3,646	1.47	132,439	53	2,479,160
1930	3,723	1.49	124,538	49	2,502,039
1931	3,667	1.45	121,743	48	2,519,300
1932	3,602	1.42	116,341	46	2,542,034
1933†	3,608	1.38	126,134	48	2,613,776
1934†	3,606	1.37	127,960	49	2,636,460
1935†	3,599	1.35	134,900	51	2,657,666
1936†	3,727	1.39	144,707	54	2,681,736
1937†	3,818	1.4	125,791	47	2,710,738
1938†	3,803	1.4	115,521	42	2,735,695
1939†	3,905	1.42	144,848	52	2,770,348

* Including Trackers.

† Including Police Cadets.

XIV. APPENDICES, ETC.

The Appendices mentioned below have been compiled for the year 1939 and will be found at the back of this Report. For reasons of economy, other Appendices have this year been omitted.

Appendix "A"—Return of cases dealt with by the Courts in the State of New South Wales.

Appendix "B"—Return of crime committed by juveniles (persons under the age of 21 years) in the Metropolitan Police Administrative District.

Appendix "C"—Particulars of Police Call Boxes in use in New South Wales as at 31st December, 1939.

XV. CONCLUSION.

I take this opportunity of expressing my hearty appreciation of the loyal and highly satisfactory service rendered by the Police Force generally during the year under review, and of the excellent co-operation of the Public Service Staff of this Department.

Yours faithfully,

W. J. MACKAY,

Commissioner of Police.

APPENDIX A.

RETURN of cases dealt with by Courts in New South Wales for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

Offences.	Arrests.		Summons Cases.		How dealt with.										Total.	Total for previous year.	Increase.	Decrease.
					Committed for trial.	Summarily Convicted.						Withdrawn or Discharged.						
						Fined.		Imprisoned.		Otherwise dealt with.								
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Offences against the Person—																		
Murder	24	5	..	..	15	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	8	2	29	24	5	..
Attempt to murder	22	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	7	..	22	19	3	..
Inciting to murder	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Setting fire to dwelling knowing person to be therein.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	5	..	4
Manslaughter ..	26	2	..	..	13	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	28	42	..	14
Inflicting grievous bodily harm	72	2	1	2	43	3	..	..	1	..	6	..	23	1	77	82	..	5
Attempt to inflict grievous bodily harm ..	11	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	11	13	..	2
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm ..	117	5	5	2	48	1	..	..	1	..	5	..	68	6	129	106	23	..
Robbery with violence	109	5	1	..	72	1	..	..	3	..	7	..	28	4	115	144	..	29
Demanding property with menace or threat ..	20	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	7	..	20	19	1	..
Assault with intent to rob	52	2	..	..	37	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	14	..	54	26	28	..
Robbery, being armed	32	2	..	..	26	2	..	..	..	..	4	..	2	..	34	31	..	..
Assault an officer in the execution of his duty.	226	15	6	..	3	..	139	5	60	7	15	1	15	2	247	250	..	3
Assault special constable in the execution of his office.	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	1	..
Assault with intent to prevent lawful apprehension.	4	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	5	..	1
Assault in company	28	1	33	7	2	..	24	1	2	..	5	..	28	7	69	54	15	..
Assault a female	382	8	396	98	10	..	108	23	57	2	233	22	370	59	884	653	231	..
Assault, common	593	16	836	92	..	..	454	25	78	..	187	21	710	62	1,537	1,388	149	..
Obstructing workmen by violence, or threat of violence.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	6
Not providing wife, child, or other dependent with necessaries—endangering life.	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..
Deserting wife or child—indictable	3	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	1	..	8	10	..	2
Abandoning or exposing child under 2 years of age.	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	1	1	..
Endangering railway passengers	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	..	3
Causing bodily harm by furious or negligent driving or riding.	15	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	15	20	..	5
Rape	17	..	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	17	12	5	..
Attempt to commit rape	10	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	10	3	7	..
Carnally knowing girl under 10 years, or attempt.	8	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	8	9	..	1
Carnally knowing girl over 10 years and under 16 years, or attempt.	64	..	2	..	43	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	16	..	66	74	..	8
Carnally knowing pupil or daughter, or attempt.	5	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	6	12	..	6
Indecent assault on girl under 16 years of age.	99	..	2	..	54	..	..	..	..	..	26	..	21	..	101	88	13	..
Indecent assault on a female	24	..	2	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	11	..	26	13	13	..
Indecent assault on a male person	57	2	..	..	41	..	..	..	..	..	8	1	8	1	59	37	22	..
Sodomy, or attempt	24	..	..	..	22	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	24	6	18	..
Bestiality, or attempt	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	1	1	..
Abduction	6	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	7	20	..	13
Bigamy	15	1	..	..	14	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	4	..	16	19	..	3
Attempting to procure abortion .....	..	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	4	28	..	24
Supplying or procuring drug or instrument to procure miscarriage.	2	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	4	5	..	1
Attempted suicide	72	28	2	1	..	..	..	21	9	26	7	27	13	103	75	28	..	..
Any other offences against the person ..	46	4	23	2	15	..	6	1	9	1	19	1	20	3	75	60	15	..
Accessory before or after the fact to any of the above felonies	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..
Aid and abet the commission of any of the above offences punishable summarily.	2	1	6	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	6	..	9	..	9	..
Total	2,196	108	1,322	205	539	18	737	55	232	19	572	56	1,438	165	3,881	3,370	461	..
Offences against Property with Violence—																		
Sacrilege	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	..	..	13	5	8	..
Burglary	5	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	5	11	..	6
Breaking and entering, or attempt	3,690	131	45	..	1,004	25	..	5	..	42	..	920	6	1,764	100	3,866	3,536	330
Malicious acts with intent to obstruct or injure railway engine or carriage.	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Malicious damage to telegraph post, wire, or insulator, or attempt.	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	3	4	..	1
Injuries to manufactures or machinery ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	6
Injuring property in museums and certain other public places.	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	3	2	1	..
Maliciously injuring property	623	20	136	15	10	1	404	21	17	1	150	4	178	8	794	720	74	..
Killing cattle with intent to steal carcase, skin, or other part.	5	..	5	..	..	..	4	..	3	..	1	..	2	..	10	3	7	..
Maliciously killing, maiming, or wounding cattle.	2	..	3	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	5	5	..	..
Maliciously killing, maiming, or wounding other animals or birds.	3	..	6	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	5	..	9	..	9	..
Any other offence against property with violence.	9	1	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	..	10	5	5	..
Accessory before or after the fact to any of the above felonies	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Total	4,353	152	200	15	1,022	27	418	21	63	1	1,092	10	1,958	108	4,720	4,298	422	..

APPENDIX A—continued.

Offences.	Arrests.		Summons Cases.		How dealt with.												Total.	Total for previous year.	Increase.	Decrease.
					Committed for Trial.	Summarily Convicted.						Withdrawn or Discharged.								
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.	M.					F.
Offences against Property without Violence—																				
Simple Larceny, or attempt	8,341	920	262	22	208	14	1,562	409	1,667	101	2,514	251	2,652	167	9,545	9,023	522	..		
Stealing from the person, or attempt	149	14	1	..	4	3	13	6	32	1	23	2	78	2	164	117	47	..		
Stealing in a dwelling	272	19	..	..	16	1	3	1	58	6	42	4	153	7	291	350	..	59
Larceny as a bailee	98	2	8	2	14	..	14	2	12	..	18	..	48	2	110	114	..	4		
Embezzlement	96	4	14	..	20	..	2	..	11	..	36	2	41	2	114	183	..	69		
Larceny as a servant	84	5	2	..	10	..	3	..	28	..	16	5	29	..	91	125	..	34		
Obtaining goods or money by false pretence	1,328	209	87	15	79	1	151	7	322	2	275	34	588	180	1,639	1,537	102	..		
Receiving stolen property	205	17	7	1	38	5	27	1	31	1	65	7	51	4	230	146	84	..		
Fraudulent appropriation	129	3	33	2	51	2	4	..	2	..	30	1	75	2	167	237	..	70		
Larceny by finding	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Larceny by trick	15	2	..	..	1	..	3	1	1	..	3	..	7	1	17	29	..	12
Larceny from public library	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Stealing or destroying a valuable security	13	1	..	1	1	..	2	..	3	..	3	1	4	1	15	15	..	..
Cattle stealing	19	..	5	..	2	..	7	..	4	..	4	..	7	..	24	43	..	19		
Horse stealing	21	..	2	..	..	..	4	..	13	..	4	..	2	..	23	30	..	7
Sheep stealing	24	..	..	..	2	..	7	..	3	..	5	..	7	..	24	30	..	6
Dog stealing	16	..	2	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	3	..	8	..	18	7	11	..
Stealing animals or birds ordinarily kept in confinement.	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	5	3	2	..
Larceny of things attached to land	8	..	4	..	1	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	12	12	..	..
Illegally using cattle or horses	5	..	2	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	7	14	..	7
Fraudulently branding or altering brands on cattle.	1	..	5	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	6	5	1	..
Possession of skin or carcase of stolen cattle.	..	..	7	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	7	14	..	7
Supposed stolen goods in custody	1,101	56	31	2	1	..	254	9	191	3	144	12	542	34	1,190	943	247	..		
Stealing from vessel in port	5	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	7	..	..
Embezzling ship's cargo or stores	27	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	17	..	2	..	27	25	..	2
Stealing from Wharf	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	2	1	..
Stealing letters or articles sent by post	15	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	6	..	15	5	10	..
Found at night with intent to commit felony.	54	1	..	..	14	..	..	..	8	1	21	..	11	..	55	55	..	..
Enter dwelling-house with intent to steal at night.	9	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	3	..	1	..	3	..	10	5	5	..		
Careless use of fire	5	..	14	..	..	..	11	..	5	..	2	..	1	..	19	13	6	..
Setting fire to crops	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Do grass	1	..	9	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	10	1	9	..
Do house	6	1	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	7	3	4	..
Do ship	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do dwelling, person being therein.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Do certain other buildings, or attempts.	5	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	5	5	..	..
Demanding money by written menace or threat.	11	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	11	9	2	..
Unlawfully use another's vehicle or boat.	965	3	17	..	11	..	168	..	230	..	300	2	264	1	985	884	101	..		
Any other offence against property without violence.	73	..	4	..	5	..	3	..	18	..	8	..	43	..	77	96	..	19		
Accessory before or after the fact to any of the above felonies.	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	1
Aid and abet the commission of any of the above offences punishable summarily.	1	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	3	5	..	2
Total	13,112	1,257	520	45	505	26	2,290	436	2,647	115	3,550	321	4,040	404	14,934	14,076	858	..		
Forgery and Offences against the Currency—																				
Forging and uttering	42	2	..	..	18	1	2	..	15	1	2	..	5	..	44	91	..	47
Forgery	91	5	11	4	31	3	1	1	21	..	11	2	33	3	111	162	..	51		
Uttering	85	5	1	3	21	2	2	..	3	..	22	4	38	2	94	22	72	..		
Making counterfeit coin	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	3
Possessing or uttering counterfeit coin.	21	1	..	..	12	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	7	..	22	12	10	..
Making or having in possession coin; tools	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	..	1
*Any other offences against the currency..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	6	..	6	..
Total	247	14	12	7	84	8	5	1	41	1	35	6	94	5	280	294	..	14		
Offences against Good Order—																				
Idle and disorderly person	489	90	..	..	..	..	1	1	301	22	35	16	152	51	579	710	..	131
Rogue and vagabond	144	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	65	..	51	..	31	..	147	129	18	..
Incorrigible rogue	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Drunkenness	29,914	2,341	26	..	..	..	16,198	796	107	4	13,573	1,536	62	5	32,281	29,437	2,844	..
Drunkenness, with disorderly conduct	178	3	10	..	..	..	185	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	191	173	18	..
Riotous, indecent, offensive, threatening, or insulting behaviour.	2,635	847	582	18	..	..	2,857	799	9	..	161	45	190	21	4,082	3,831	251	..
Using threatening, abusive, or insulting words.	335	20	422	129	..	..	394	33	7	..	91	31	265	85	906	902	4	..
Using profane, indecent, or obscene language.	3,009	179	408	12	..	..	3,257	175	25	..	77	9	58	7	3,608	3,599	9	..
Singing obscene songs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	5
Writing or drawing indecent or obscene word, figure, or representation.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Throw or discharge stone or missile	6	..	11	1	..	..	7	1	..	..	6	..	4	..	18	10	8	..
Negligent or furious riding or driving	41	..	930	21	..	..	732	12	2	..	52	3	185	6	992	377	615	..
Cruelty to animals	22	..	119	1	..	..	103	1	2	..	13	..	23	..	142	105	37	..
Playing a game to the annoyance of passengers or residents.	291	..	23	..	..	..	298	..	5	..	8	..	3	..	314	365	..	51
Lewdness	12	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	5	..	12	18	..	6

APPENDIX A—continued.

Offences.	Arrests.		Summons Cases.		How dealt with.										Total.	Total for previous year.	Increase.	Decrease.
					Committed for trial.	Summarily Convicted.						Withdrawn or Discharged.						
						Fined.		Imprisoned.		Otherwise dealt with.								
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Offences against Good Order—continued.																		
Inciting person to resist constable	39	1	4	..	..	..	37	1	..	..	1	..	5	..	44	49	..	5
Disorderly behaviour at public political meeting (Commonwealth) .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Carrying firearms on Sunday	12	..	109	..	..	..	104	..	..	..	8	..	9	..	121	151	..	30
Shooting for pleasure or profit on Sunday .....	..	..	46	..	..	..	38	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	46	16	30	..
Owner, occupier, or agent of house permitting prostitution therein	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	3	..
Assuming designation of member of Police Force	13	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	3	..	3	..	12	15	..	2
Perjury	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	7	..	4
False swearing not being perjury	3	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	5	3	2	..
Making a false declaration	1	..	7	4	1	..	5	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	12	9	3	..
Tampering with a witness .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2
Conspiracy	28	7	3	2	11	7	..	..	..	..	11	..	9	2	40	29	11	..
Travel by steamer without paying fare, or attempt	86	1	2	..	..	..	80	1	1	..	5	..	2	..	89	5	84	..
Travel by train or tram without paying fare, or attempt	578	3	999	175	..	..	1,413	153	..	..	95	8	69	17	1,755	1,513	242	..
Naval deserter	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Military Deserter	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Absent without leave from ship	145	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	130	..	11	..	4	..	145	3	142	..
Wilful disobedience on board ship .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	9
Riotous or disorderly on board ship .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Sly-grog selling	192	16	5	..	..	..	185	16	..	..	5	..	7	..	213	227	..	14
Trespass on enclosed lands	233	..	66	10	..	..	247	..	4	..	14	1	34	9	309	200	109	..
Wilfully causing animals to trespass	3	..	15	3	..	..	17	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	21	22	..	1
Contempt of Court	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Escaping from custody	64	6	..	..	7	..	..	..	10	..	31	2	16	4	70	64	6	..
Absconding from bail	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	1	..
Consorting	64	14	..	..	..	..	..	1	31	9	28	4	5	..	78	55	23	..
Unauthorised procession	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	4	..	11	..	11	..
Drive a motor vehicle under influence of intoxicating liquor, or of a drug	777	5	29	1	..	..	647	5	4	..	45	1	110	..	812	603	209	..
Drive motor vehicle in manner dangerous to the public	333	1	237	4	..	..	219	4	..	..	47	..	274	1	575	338	237	..
Drive motor vehicle at speed dangerous to the public	12	..	266	3	..	..	236	1	..	..	22	1	20	1	281	202	79	..
Any other offences against good order	220	24	16	1	6	..	134	2	49	12	18	5	29	6	261	341	..	80
Aid and abet the commission of any of the above offences punishable summarily	3	2	..	1	..	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	6	13	..	7
Total	39,906	3,561	4,338	387	36	8	27,434	2,010	768	47	14,432	1,665	1,590	218	48,192	43,544	4,648	..
Breaches of Acts generally, including offences not provided for under the foregoing headings—																		
Aborigines Protection	87	1	23	6	..	..	89	5	2	..	2	2	17	..	117	112	5	..
Apprentices .....	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	2	..
Auctioneers Licensing .....	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	2	..
Billiards and Bagatelle	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	1	..
Bankruptcy .....	..	..	22	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	3	1	23	19	4	..
Birds and Animals Protection	22	..	69	..	..	..	74	..	..	..	2	..	15	..	91	104	..	13
Bread Act .....	..	..	15	..	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	38	..	23
Business Agents	1	..	66	3	..	..	17	..	1	..	18	2	31	1	70	3	67	..
Business Names .....	..	..	4	1	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	5	4	1	..
Careless Use of Fire	6	..	24	..	..	..	34	..	..	..	4	..	2	..	40	19	21	..
Cattle Slaughtering and Diseased Animals and Meat .....	..	..	65	2	..	..	49	2	..	..	8	..	8	..	67	68	..	1
Charitable Collections	7	4	1	1	..	..	3	..	1	..	2	3	2	2	13	5	8	..
Child Welfare	107	17	116	21	..	..	33	4	9	..	134	18	47	16	261	304	..	43
Coal Mines Regulation .....	..	..	19	..	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	19	26	..	7
Commons Regulation .....	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	2	1	..
Commonwealth Crimes	13	..	6	2	4	..	1	..	..	..	6	2	8	..	21	27	..	6
Commonwealth Electoral	1	..	12	1	..	..	9	1	..	..	2	..	2	..	14	9	15	..
Crown Lands	1	..	23	..	..	..	19	..	3	..	1	..	1	..	24	13	32	..
Companies .....	..	..	45	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	1	..	35	..	45	13	32	..
Crimes	87	3	30	..	11	..	12	..	23	1	19	..	47	2	120	147	..	27
Crimes Prevention .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Customs .....	..	..	19	..	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	19	24	..	5
Dairy Industry .....	..	..	8	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	8	9	..	1
Dairies Supervision .....	..	..	37	12	..	..	34	11	..	..	..	..	3	1	49	28	21	..
Defence (Commonwealth)	9	1	5	..	..	..	3	1	2	..	1	..	8	..	15	1	14	..
Dentists .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deserted Wives and Children	80	..	307	1	..	..	..	..	15	..	231	..	141	1	388	247	141	..
Distillation (Commonwealth) .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Dog and Goat .....	..	..	1,228	407	..	..	1,143	384	..	..	32	3	53	20	1,635	1,273	362	..
Excise (Commonwealth)	1	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	4	..	..
Explosives .....	..	..	5	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	4	..
Factories and Shops .....	..	..	89	9	..	..	59	5	..	..	29	3	1	1	98	49	49	..
Fair Rents .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Fire Brigades	1	..	2	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	..
Fisheries and Oyster Farms	23	..	234	..	..	..	196	..	..	..	5	..	56	..	257	235	..	38
Forestry .....	..	..	73	..	..	..	52	..	..	..	7	..	14	..	73	92	..	19
Gaming and Betting	3,432	196	69	6	..	..	3,260	178	15	..	75	17	151	7	3,703	4,734	..	1,031
Gas .....	..	..	6	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	6	9	..	3
Government Railways and By-laws	3,940	10	420	38	..	..	4,216	43	32	..	56	2	56	3	4,408	3,550	858	..
Hawkers and Pedlars	80	..	7	2	..	..	81	2	..	..	2	..	4	..	89	114	..	25
Immigration Restriction	181	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	160	..	2	..	19	..	190	31	159	..
Impounding .....	..	..	36	7	..	..	29	3	..	..	1	7	3	..	43	39	4	..
Inebriates	22	..	20	..	..	..	1	..	19	..	19	..	3	..	42	26	16	..
Industrial Arbitration	1	..	880	70	..	..	653	55	..	..	60	4	168	11	951	1,058	..	107
Inflammable Liquid .....	..	..	5	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	6	..	1
Invalid and Old Age Pensions (Commonwealth)	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	3	..	..	5	1	4	..
Irrigation	2	..	8	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	1	..	5	..	10	2	8	..
Jury	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..

APPENDIX A—continued.

Offences.	Arrests.		Summons Cases.		How dealt with.										Total.	Total for previous year.	Increase.	Decrease.
					Committed for Trial.	Summarily Convicted.				Withdrawn or Discharged.								
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.	M.	F.			
Breaches of Acts generally, including offences not provided for under the foregoing headings—continued.																		
Land and Income Tax	11	..	1,137	55	..	..	736	10	..	..	14	1	398	44	1,503	545	658	..
Landlord and Tenant .....	..	..	135	27	..	..	7	1	..	..	76	16	52	10	162	219	..	57
Liquor	670	31	4,298	182	..	..	4,190	154	15	..	236	14	527	45	5,181	5,225	..	44
Local Government and Ordinances	23	..	1,829	110	..	..	1,626	68	..	..	47	7	179	35	1,962	1,986	..	24
Lotteries and Art Unions	11	2	14	2	..	..	21	4	..	..	..	..	4	..	29	28	1	..
Lunacy	129	49	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	84	31	45	15	181	88	93	..
Marriage .....	..	..	11	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	6	4	17	22	..	5
Masters and Servants .....	..	..	45	1	..	..	13	..	..	..	11	..	21	1	46	67	..	21
Meat Industry .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7	..	6
Medical Practitioners	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	3	..	..
Merchant Shipping	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	11	..	14	20	..	6
Metropolitan Traffic and Regulations	652	1	6,169	127	..	..	6,570	114	..	..	111	3	140	11	6,949	2,043	4,906	..
Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage and By-laws .....	..	..	6	1	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	7	8	..	1
Mining .....	..	..	4	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	4	..	4	..
Motor Tax Management	15	..	189	..	..	..	195	..	..	..	2	..	7	..	204	224	..	20
Motor Traffic and Regulations	622	5	33,524	935	..	..	32,488	853	2	..	369	18	1,287	69	35,086	18,948	16,138	..
Navigation	5	..	4	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	9	5	..	4
Noxious Trades	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	..	4
Obscene and Indecent Publications	3	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	6	2	..	..
Parliamentary Electorates and Elections	1	..	8	1	..	..	5	..	..	..	2	..	2	1	10	9	1	..
Pastures Protection	13	..	831	24	..	..	703	18	..	..	17	..	124	6	868	825	43	..
Pawnbrokers .....	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	7	..	5
Pistol License	165	2	43	..	..	..	123	..	2	..	41	2	42	..	210	159	51	..
Poisons	1	..	8	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	9	7	..	2
Police Offences	282	5	78	2	..	..	299	5	5	..	22	2	34	..	367	710	..	343
Police Offences (Drugs)	14	6	15	..	..	..	24	..	5	..	..	3	..	3	35	36	..	1
Police Regulation	5	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	5	6	..	1
Post and Telegraph (Commonwealth)	19	..	40	7	2	..	39	5	2	..	12	2	4	..	66	22	44	..
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	2	..	41	3	..	..	36	3	..	..	..	..	7	..	46	53	..	7
Printing	34	..	25	..	..	..	51	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	59	15	44	..
Prisons .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	13
Private Hospitals .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	1
Public Health .....	..	..	71	18	..	..	63	12	..	..	1	3	7	3	89	52	37	..
Public Instruction .....	..	..	615	101	..	..	156	24	..	..	51	12	408	65	716	978	..	262
Public Roads .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Pure Food .....	..	..	714	70	..	..	619	64	..	..	29	1	66	5	784	709	75	..
Quarantine .....	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	2	..
Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Rural Workers' Accommodation	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Seamen	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	2
Second-hand Dealers and Collectors	17	..	43	3	..	..	50	3	..	..	6	..	4	..	63	34	29	..
Stamp Duties .....	..	..	220	9	..	..	108	4	..	..	4	..	108	5	229	196	33	..
Stock .....	..	..	11	..	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	38	..	27
Sunday Trading (Refreshment Rooms) .....	..	..	21	..	..	..	19	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	21	19	2	..
Sydney Corporation	2	..	449	2	..	..	439	1	..	..	7	1	5	..	453	174	279	..
Sydney Water Supply .....	..	..	6	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	5	..
Theatres and Public Halls	11	..	170	..	..	..	170	..	..	..	1	..	10	..	181	120	61	..
Totalizator	5	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	74	..	69
Transport Acts	107	16	1,703	9	..	..	1,603	16	1	..	32	1	174	8	1,835	1,213	622	..
Vagrancy	542	32	34	1	..	..	63	1	334	11	51	10	123	11	609	662	..	53
Venerical Diseases .....	..	..	10	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	8	..	1	..	10	9	1	..
Veterinary Surgeons .....	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..
Weights and Measures	2	..	108	8	..	..	105	8	..	..	2	..	3	..	118	150	..	41
Wild Flowers and Native Plants Protection	2	..	45	7	..	..	36	3	..	..	1	..	10	4	54	162	..	108
Wine Adulteration .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Wireless Telegraphy .....	..	..	902	80	..	..	894	79	..	..	1	..	7	1	982	695	287	..
Wool, Hide and Skin Dealers	3	..	17	..	..	..	14	..	..	..	3	..	3	..	20	66	..	46
Any other Acts	51	3	793	77	..	..	420	34	14	..	53	14	357	52	924	680	244	..
Aid and abet commission of any offence under the above Acts, punishable summarily, where the same is not provided for under other headings.	39	..	24	2	..	..	53	1	..	..	1	1	9	..	65	53	12	..
Total	11,586	385	58,455	2,465	21	..	62,148	2,184	684	15	2,048	204	5,140	447	72,891	49,939	22,952	..
RECAPITULATION.																		
Offences against the person	2,196	108	1,322	205	539	18	737	55	232	19	572	56	1,438	165	3,831	3,370	461	..
Offences against property with violence	4,353	152	200	15	1,022	27	418	21	63	1	1,092	10	1,958	108	4,720	4,298	422	..
Offences against property without violence	13,112	1,257	520	45	505	26	2,290	436	2,647	115	3,550	321	4,640	404	14,934	14,076	858	..
Forgery and offences against the currency	247	14	12	7	84	8	5	1	41	1	35	6	94	5	280	294	..	14
Offences against good order	39,906	3,561	4,338	387	30	8	27,434	2,010	758	47	14,432	1,665	1,590	218	48,192	43,544	4,648	..
Breaches of Acts generally, including offences not otherwise provided for.	11,586	385	58,455	2,465	21	..	62,148	2,184	684	15	2,048	204	5,140	447	72,891	49,939	22,952	..
Total	71,400	5,477	64,847	3,124	2,201	87	93,032	4,707	4,425	198	21,729	2,262	14,860	1,347	144,848	115,521	29,327	..

NETT INCREASE 29,327.

APPENDIX A—continued.

APPLICATIONS for Orders, 1939, State of New South Wales.

Classification.	Orders made.		No orders made (after evidence).		Cases withdrawn, &c.		Total cases.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
For maintenance—									
Wife	1,384	...	386	...	591	...	2,361	...	2,361
Child	595	3	63	1	102	3	760	7	767
Under Lunacy Act	11	5	1	...	10	2	22	7	29
Varying order for maintenance	1,954	221	345	15	154	28	2,453	264	2,717
Preliminary expenses	129	...	15	...	16	...	160	...	160
Uncontrollable child	203	90	26	10	106	33	335	133	468
Neglected child	81	104	21	13	42	46	144	163	307
Breach conditions of release	60	9	8	...	16	2	84	11	95
Detention of property	183	118	61	25	140	89	384	232	616
Fraudulent removal (Landlord and Tenant)	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Prohibition (Liquor Act)	312	14	13	...	69	2	394	16	410
Sureties (threats, &c., and apprehended injuries to property)	18	2	7	...	18	1	43	3	46
Lunacy Act (orders for detention in institutions) ..	904	742	447	225	124	40	1,475	1,007	2,482
Under—									
Forestry Act	10	...	...	...	...	1	10	1	11
Landlord and Tenant (other than fraudulent removal)	3,249	736	170	45	1,067	229	4,486	1,070	5,556
Local Government Act	1	...	16	...	8	...	25	...	25
Masters and Servants Act	1,323	44	206	12	582	72	2,111	128	2,239
Public Health Act	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Fair Rents Act	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Child Welfare Act	194	2	20	...	21	2	245	4	249
Industrial Arbitration Act (Trade Union levies) ..	255	8	5	2	18	3	278	13	291
Other Acts	297	55	16	2	64	15	377	72	449
Total	11,166	2,214	1,823	350	3,158	568	16,150	3,132	19,282

Total for 1938 19,235.

Increase 47.

NON-COMPLIANCE with Orders, 1939.

Classification	Cases withdrawn or discharged.		Cases in which orders were subsequently obeyed.		Cases in which defendants were imprisoned.		Total persons brought before the Court.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
For maintenance—									
Wife	851	...	1,692	...	233	...	2,776	...	2,776
Child	352	...	758	...	109	...	1,219	...	1,219
Under Lunacy Act	4	...	6	...	...	...	10	...	10
Preliminary expenses	10	...	30	...	3	...	43	...	43
Detention of property	4	1	3	...	...	...	7	1	8
Sureties—Threats, &c., any apprehended injuries to property	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
Under—									
Landlord and Tenant Act	4	...	10	4	...	...	14	4	18
Local Government Act .....	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Child Welfare Act	202	1	621	...	44	...	867	1	868
Industrial Arbitration Act (Trade Union levies)	3	...	3	...	1	...	7	...	7
Other Acts	17	1	222	1	9	...	248	2	250
Total	1,451	5	3,345	5	399	...	5,195	10	5,205

Total, 1938 4,644.

Increase .. 561.

APPENDIX B.

RETURN of Crime committed by Juveniles (persons under the age of 21 years) in the Metropolitan Police Administrative District for the Year 1939.

Offence.	Males.	Females.	Number of Cases.	Released on Probation.	Fined.	Sent to Prison.	Committed to a Home.	Committed for Trial.	Awaiting Trial.	Discharged.	Bound Over.	Admonished.	Fined Surety.	Withdrawn.	Bail Estreated.	Pay Compensation.	Remanded.	No evidence offered.	Totals.	Totals for 1938.	Increase.	Decrease.
Arson	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	...
Assault (including assault in company).	73	...	73	16	25	8	1	1	2	7	6	...	1	1	...	...	...	5	73	49	24	...
Assault and resist Police	22	6	28	...	20	4	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	28	15	13	...
Assault and robbery (including assault and robbery in company).	27	...	27	4	...	...	...	13	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	27	32	...	5
Assault, indecent on female (including rape and attempts, and assaults with intent to rape).	40	...	40	24	...	...	5	3	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	40	18	22	...
Assault, indecent, on male	11	1	12	4	4	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	12	4	8	...
Behaviour, offensive, riotous, &c.	222	56	278	3	242	...	...	...	...	10	16	1	...	...	...	...	1	5	278	151	127	...
Bodily harm, inflict or occasion grievous or actual.	15	1	16	2	...	...	...	5	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	16	11	5	...
Buggery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Burglary .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cattle (including horses) stealing or illegally using.	5	...	5	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	5	...	...
Child, neglected or uncontrollable.	116	56	172	43	...	...	87	...	...	8	...	...	...	15	...	...	9	10	172	239	...	67
Child desertion .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Cruelty to animals	4	...	4	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	...
Drunkenness	233	3	236	3	62	...	...	...	...	5	...	64	1	1	100	...	...	...	236	177	59	...
Dwelling—found in, etc.	9	...	9	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	9	7	2	...
Embezzlement	2	1	3	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	12	...	9
Enclosed lands, trespass on	107	4	111	2	103	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	111	32	79	...
Enclosed yard, found in	18	...	18	5	2	...	...	...	...	9	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	14	4	...
False pretences	11	33	44	5	1	21	1	...	...	1	5	...	...	8	...	...	1	1	44	68	...	24
Forgery, uttering, or forgery and uttering.	1	2	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	27	...	24
Gaming and betting	57	1	58	...	57	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58	86	...	28
Idle and disorderly person	9	26	35	...	...	14	1	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	35	48	...	13
Language, indecent, insulting, etc.	122	9	131	4	111	...	3	...	...	4	6	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	131	85	46	...
Larceny as a bailee	10	...	10	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	2	8	...
Manslaughter	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...
Murder and attempts .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Misappropriation—fraudulent ..	3	...	3	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	2	...
Missile-throwing, etc.	7	...	7	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	...	7	...
Money demanded by menaces, etc.	5	2	7	...	...	...	1	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	4	3	...
Motor-car, illegally use	494	...	494	86	70	100	17	5	5	11	38	48	11	5	...	2	7	89	494	378	116	...
Maintenance order, disobey .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Obscenely expose person	17	...	17	8	...	6	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	17	12	5	...
Property, possession of stolen ..	129	3	132	5	15	16	10	...	...	25	12	...	...	6	...	...	1	42	132	99	33	...
Property, receiving stolen	39	2	41	15	3	2	1	...	...	3	6	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	41	26	15	...
Property, malicious injury	93	3	96	32	34	4	...	...	1	...	9	4	...	2	...	1	1	8	96	80	16	...
Possession of housebreaking implements.	6	...	6	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	12	...	6
Robbery under arms	16	...	16	2	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	7	9	...
Representations, false	2	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...
Release, break conditions of	31	2	33	1	...	25	1	...	...	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	33	9	24	...
Recognisance, breach of	25	6	31	...	...	23	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	31	15	16	...
Stealing	2,043	93	2,136	535	228	196	235	33	...	93	175	42	30	43	...	43	28	455	2,136	2,054	82	...
Stealing, attempts	14	1	15	6	...	...	3	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	3	12	...
Stealing in a dwelling	67	7	74	15	6	4	10	2	...	7	7	...	...	1	...	2	1	19	74	71	3	...
Stealing in company	28	...	28	14	2	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	30	...	2
Stealing from the person	72	...	72	10	1	1	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72	15	57	...
Stealing, break, enter, and steal	1,161	10	1,171	291	2	21	173	262	3	77	19	1	...	40	...	6	27	249	1,171	1,233	...	62
Stealing, found at night with intent.	5	...	5	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	5	3	2	...
Stealing, all other classes	36	...	36	2	11	10	...	...	...	9	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	36	9	27	...
Stealing with intent	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Suspected person	26	...	26	2	...	9	3	...	...	3	5	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	26	27	...	1
Sly grog selling	11	...	11	...	10	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	2	9	...
Travel on train or tram without paying fare.	68	8	76	3	70	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	76	53	23	...
Two-up playing	13	...	13	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	3	10	...
Wounding, maliciously	3	...	3	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	...
Police Offences (Drugs) Act, 1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other offences not included in foregoing.	336	14	350	26	181	18	16	4	...	28	25	...	2	22	...	...	1	2	350	384	...	34
Totals	5,871	350	6,221	1,174	1,284	486	580	360	16	346	355	163	47	164	101	54	90	1,001	6,221	5,629	592	...

Nett increase—592.

APPENDIX C.

PARTICULARS of Police Call Boxes in use in New South Wales as at 31st December, 1939.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.

Division.	Location of Box.	Remarks.
No. 1	King and Sussex streets, City.	
	Pymont Police Station	11-30 p.m.-7-30 a.m.
No. 2	Cleveland and Elizabeth streets, City.	
	Broadway and City-road, City.	
	Macarthur and Wattle streets, City.	
	Entrance to Electric Railway, off Eddy-avenue, City.	
	City Markets, Lackey-street, Sydney.	
	Collins and Annandale streets, Annandale.	
	Camperdown Police Station	12 midnight-8 a.m.
	Bourke-street, near Cleveland-street, Surry Hills.	
No. 3	Foveaux-street, near Belmore-street, Surry Hills.	
	Fitzroy and Bourke streets, Surry Hills.	
	Campbell and Riley streets, Surry Hills.	
	Stanley and Riley streets, East Sydney.	
	Cathedral-street, at Riley-street, East Sydney.	
	Victoria-street, Kings Cross.	
	Bayswater-road, opposite Sydney Stadium.	
	Elizabeth-street, at Cleveland-street, Sydney.	
	Campbell-street, near Wentworth-avenue, Sydney.	
	Glenmore-road and Brown-street, Paddington.	
	Beare Park, Elizabeth Bay.	
No. 4	Town's-place, opposite No. 10 Wharf, Walsh Bay.	
	George-street North Police Station	12 midnight-8 a.m.
	Erskine and Clarence streets, City.	
	Southern approach to Harbour Bridge, City.	
	Sydney Domain, at rear of Sydney Hospital.	
No. 5	Cook's River Lockup—Call Box when resident Constable not on duty.	
	St. Peter's Railway Bridge, King-street, Newtown.	
	Swanson-street, Erskineville, at Railway Station.	
	Enmore and Edgeware roads, Newtown, at Enmore Tram Terminus.	
No. 6	Mosman Police Station	12 midnight-6 a.m.
	Neutral Bay Police Station	12 midnight-6 a.m.
	Sailor Bay-road and Bellambi-street, Northbridge.	
	Miller and Abbott streets, Cammeray.	
	Shirley-road and Pacific Highway, Crow's Nest.	
	Greenwich-road and Wardrop-street, Greenwich.	
	Bridge Pylon, Olympic-parade, Milson's Point.	
	Bridge Viaduct, Fitzroy-street, Milson's Point.	
	St. Leonard's Park, North Sydney.	
No. 7	Mascot Police Station	12 midnight-8 a.m.
	Botany Police Station	11-30 p.m.-7-30 a.m.
	Cleveland and Abercrombie-streets, Redfern.	
	City-road and Codrington-street, Darlington.	
No. 8	Rozelle Lockup	10 p.m.-6 a.m.
	Drummoyne Police Station	10 p.m.-6 a.m.
	Balmain-road and Perry-street, Lilyfield.	
	Five Dock Police Station	10 p.m.-6 a.m.
No. 9	Concord Police Station	12 midnight-8 a.m.
	Granville Police Station	12 midnight-8 a.m.
	Lidcombe Police Station	12 midnight-8 a.m.
	Haberfield Police Station	12 midnight-8 a.m.
	Burwood and Liverpool roads, Enfield.	
	Liverpool-road, near Enfield Post Office.	
	Liverpool-road and Jersey-street, Enfield.	
	George's River-road, Croydon Park.	
	Church-street (west side), near intersection of Sydney and Woodville roads, Granville.	
	Parramatta-road, Flemington, near stock route.	
	Everton-road, near Moseley-street, Strathfield.	
No. 10	Ocean-avenue, Edgecliff, near New South Head-road.	
	Knox-street, Double Bay, near New South Head-road.	
	Newcastle-street, Rose Bay, near New South Head-road.	
	Bellevue Hill Public School grounds, Victoria-road, Bellevue Hill.	
	Edgecliff-road, near Attunga-street, Woollahra.	
	Old South Head-road, near Town's-road, Rose Bay Heights.	
	MacPherson-street, near Arden-street, Waverley.	
No. 11	New Canterbury-road and Marrickville-road, Dulwich Hill.	
	Marrickville Police Station	12 midnight-8 a.m.
No. 12	Wickham-street (north side), near Prince's Highway, Arncliffe.	
	Wollongong and Forest roads, Arncliffe.	
	Forest-road and Albyn-street, Bexley.	
	Grand-parade and Bay-street, Brighton-le-Sands.	
	Carlton Railway Station, at foot of steps.	
	Sans Souci Public School grounds, Rocky Point-road.	
	George-street, Mortdale.	
	Southern end of George's River Bridge.	
	Croydon-road and Kookaburra-street, Kingsgrove, at Railway Station.	
No. 13	South-parade, at intersection of Beamish-street, Campsie.	
	Canterbury-road and Nicholas-avenue, Campsie.	
	Homer-street, opposite William-street, Earlwood.	

APPENDIX C—*continued.*

Division.	Location of Box.	Remarks.
No. 13— <i>continued</i>	Wardell-road, at corner of Permanent-avenue, Earlwood. Burwood-road, opposite Bridge-road, Belmore, at Railway Station. The Boulevard, near Haldon-street, Lakemba, at Railway Station. The Boulevard, Punchbowl, near Punchbowl Railway Station. Liverpool-road, corner of Chapel-road, Bankstown. Sydney and French's Forest roads, Balgowlah. Albert and Lawrence streets, Harbord. Pittwater-road, near Pacific-parade, Dee Why.	
No. 14	Anzac-parade, Kensington. Anzac-parade, Maroubra Junction. Marine-parade, Maroubra Bay. Clovelly-road, Clovelly. Clovelly-road and Beach-street, Clovelly. Florence-avenue, East Lakes. Peter's corner, Alison-road, Randwick.	
No. 15	Alexander-street, Hunter's Hill. Church and Durham streets, Hunter's Hill. Victoria-road, Gladesville. Pacific Highway, Pymble. Redleaf-avenue, Wahroonga. St. John's-avenue, Gordon. Rohini-street, Turramurra. Greengate-road, Killara. Tyron-road, Lindfield. Penshurst-street, Willoughby. Julian-street, Willoughby. Public School grounds, Longueville. Pacific Highway, near Palmer-street, Artarmon. Gale-street and Woolwich-road, Woolwich. Rowe-street, Eastwood. Beecroft-road, Epping. Hannah-street, Beecroft. Yarrara-road, Pennant Hills. Pacific Highway, Asquith. Hill-street, Roseville. Roseville East, at Municipal Baths. Uhr's Point Bridge, Ryde (north end). Victoria-road and Station-street, West Ryde.	
No. 16	Church-street, North Parramatta. Windsor-road, Northmead. Windsor-road, Model Farms. Windsor-road, Baulkham Hills, near Bull and Bush Inn. Western-road, Prospect, near Prospect Hotel. Targo-road, Girraween. Railway property, Wentworthville. Railway property, Westmead. Junction-street, Parramatta. Railway property, Harris Park. Railway property, Guildford. Railway property, Merrylands. Mobb's Hill, Pennant Hills-road, Carlingford.	
No. 18 (also includes No. 17).	Railway property, Railway-parade, Cabramatta. Hume Highway and Hoxton Park-road, Collingwood.	
Liverpool Sub-division ...	Railway property, The Crescent, Fairfield.	
Penrith Sub-division	High-street, near Castlereagh-road, Penrith.	

NORTH-EASTERN DISTRICT.

Town.	Location of Box.	Remarks.
Newcastle (and Sub-district).	Telford-street and Newcastle Beach, Newcastle. Anzac-parade and Bingle-street, Newcastle. Marine Drive and Bar Beach-avenue, Newcastle. Ridge and Frederick streets, Merewether. Corlette and Kenrick streets, Junction. Tourle and Maitland roads, Mayfield. Ingall and Crebert streets, Mayfield. Turton-road and Station-street, Waratah. Elizabeth-street and Maitland-road, Tighe's Hill. Fullerton and Roxburgh streets, North Stockton. Maitland-road and Fenwick-street, Hexham. Young-street, Carrington, near Tramway waiting shed. Lambton-road, New Lambton. Howe and Moorehead streets, Lambton. June-street, Merewether West. Newcastle West. Darby-street, Cook's Hill. Islington. Tighe's Hill. Wickham. Waratah. Broadmeadow. Merewether.	

WESTERN DISTRICT.

Orange	Summer-street, Orange. Bathurst-road, Orange.	
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