

1940

Annual Report

1940.

P O L I C E D E P A R T M E N T
(Annual Report for the year 1940.)

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

The Commissioner of Police to the Honourable the Chief Secretary.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with 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 1940 has been compiled and is submitted for your information. War conditions continue to render necessary the strictest economy in respect of the publication of the Report and with the concurrence of the Chief Secretary, therefore, this year it is not proposed to print the Report.

P O L I C E E S T A B L I S H M E N T

I. P E R S O N N E L O F T H E P O L I C E S E R V I C E .

The actual strength of the New South Wales Police Force on the 31st December, 1940, was 3,774, distributed in the various ranks as indicated hereunder:—

| <u>General Police</u> | | <u>Traffic Police</u> | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Commissioner..... | 1 ✓ | Superintendents, 2nd Class... | 1 ✓ |
| (c) Superintendents, 1st Class..... | 4 ✓ | Inspectors, 1st Class..... | - ✓ |
| Superintendents, 2nd Class..... | 3 ✓ | Inspectors, 2nd Class..... | 1 ✓ |
| Superintendents, 3rd Class..... | 7 ✓ | Inspectors, 3rd Class..... | - ✓ |
| Acting Superintendents | - ✓ | Sergeants, 1st Class..... | 4 ✓ |
| Inspectors, 1st Class. | 9 ✓ | Sergeants, 2nd Class..... | 5 ✓ |
| Inspectors, 2nd Class. | 18 ✓ | Sergeants, 3rd Class..... | 18 ✓ |
| ø Inspectors, 3rd Class. | 39 ✓ | Constables, 1st Class..... | 159 |
| Acting Inspectors..... | - ✓ | Constables, Ordinary..... | 159 |
| Sergeants, 1st Class.. | 103 ✓ | Total..... | <u>347</u> |
| Sergeants, 2nd Class.. | 187 ✓ | <u>Water Police</u> | |
| Sergeants, 3rd Class.. | 431 ✓ | Sergeants, 1st Class..... | 1 ✓ |
| Constables, 1st Class..... | 1394 | Sergeants, 2nd Class..... | 1 ✓ |
| Constables, Ordinary..... | 669 | Sergeants, 3rd Class..... | 1 ✓ |
| Constables, Probationary..... | 128 | Constables, 1st Class..... | 11 |
| Trainees..... | - | Constables, Ordinary..... | 4 |
| Total..... | <u>2993</u> | Total..... | <u>18</u> |

(c) Includes Deputy Commissioner.

ø Includes Licensing Inspector.

Criminal Investigation Branch

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Inspectors, 1st Class..... | 1✓ |
| Inspectors, 2nd Class..... | 1✓ |
| Inspectors, 3rd Class..... | 3✓ |
| Sergeants, 1st Class..... | 2✓ |
| Sergeants, 2nd Class..... | 13✓ |
| Sergeants, 3rd Class..... | 26✓ |
| Constables, 1st Class..... | 70 |
| Constables, Ordinary..... | 47 |
| Constables, Probationary.. | 1 |
| Total..... | <u>164</u> |

Other Detective and Plain Clothes
Police employed on Detective
work.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Sergeants, 1st Class..... | 3✓ |
| Sergeants, 2nd Class..... | 10✓ |
| Sergeants, 3rd Class..... | 38✓ |
| Constables, 1st Class..... | 157 |
| Constables, Ordinary..... | 44 |
| Total..... | <u>252</u> |

Total strength 3,774. x

On the same date there were in the employ of the Police Department 240 Public Service Officers (including general division and female staff), 118 Police Cadets, 12 Trackers, 8 Women Special Constables and 6 Matrons (4 permanent and 2 relieving), one Special Constable 1st Class, and 63 Special Constables, the full strength of the personnel of the Department being 4,222.

Nationalities of Members of the Force:—The records show that 90% of the Police in this State were born in Australasia. The remainder were all British born subjects.

Organisation of the Service:—No revision of the chart published with the Department's Annual Report for the year 1938 has been considered necessary and, in the interests of economy, the chart has not been reproduced.

II. DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS.

The Department's business continued to increase during last year owing principally to additional duties devolving upon the Service as the result of Military, Naval and Air Force operations and other matters, including the rationing of petrol arising out of war time conditions.

(a) General Activities:—

The number of files dealt with in the Commissioner's Office during 1940 was 315,687 as against 312,641 in 1939.

The Police Reserve, the establishment of which was mentioned in the last Annual Report, was further developed during 1940. In the Country as well as in the Metropolitan District a commencement was made with the practical instruction of Reservists in such Police duties as taking telephone messages, entering of records in Station books, method of taking fingerprints, etc. In the Metropolitan District Reservists were permitted to accompany Police on patrol duties, both on the beat and in motor vehicles.

The volume of work passing through the Police Traffic Branch was maintained during the year under review.

At Broken Hill in January, 1940, a dispute between the Commissioner for Railways and the members of the Australian Railway Union resulted in about 30 members of the permanent-way and traffic staffs engaged between Broken Hill and Menindee ceasing work. The matter was settled in April but in the interim no passenger or goods trains arrived at or departed from Broken Hill.

On the 11th March, 1940, the Miners' Federation called a general strike involving all coalminers in No. 19 (Wollongong) Division, Lithgow, Cullen Bullen, Wallerawang and Newcastle Districts.

/Additional Police.....

Additional Police were sent from Sydney to the areas concerned. Arrangements were made by the Commonwealth Government to work the mines with free labour but before that scheme came into operation the strike was settled. Approximately 20,000 miners were affected by this dispute.

The industrial disturbances mentioned did not give rise to any circumstances beyond the control of the Police.

Police Dogs:—There are ten Police dogs in training at the Police Depot, nine alsatians and one bloodhound. The dogs have proved of immense value, especially assisting in the search for missing persons. They have also been used to assist in raising funds for patriotic and charitable purposes. In two outstanding cases the bloodhound, "Disraeli", was responsible for the discovery of elderly men missing from their homes, one at Shamus Vale, near Goulburn, and the other at Woodford. In the second instance, after being given the scent about 4 p.m. the dog led the search party through extremely rough country to where the man concerned lay injured, taking only one hour to do the journey and that after a very heavy thunderstorm and whilst a second storm was in progress. The Police dog "Tess" which had rendered splendid service to the Department and the Public died on 3rd December, 1940, aged 8½ years.

The special truck patrols have continued to function throughout the State in a very satisfactory manner and the reports thereof are regularly furnished and checked. The success of the mobile Police in the enforcement of the traffic laws is reflected to some extent in the fact that there was an appreciable decrease in the number of deaths and injuries resulting from street accidents.

According to the latest figures available the population of the State has continued to increase, necessitating additional Police facilities for the protection of life and property. The heavy influx of aliens which commenced prior to the outbreak of war has continued and refugees from overseas have tended to congregate in communities, particularly in the congested City and Suburban areas such as Kings Cross and eastwards. Vigilance has therefore been called for in the Police supervision of those districts.

The interchange of Detectives with other States was continued during the year with satisfactory results.

Death of Superintendent Collings:—On the 8th June, 1940, Superintendent Collings, Acting Metropolitan Superintendent, died suddenly at his home. Mr. Collings was entitled to enter upon extended leave of absence prior to retirement a fortnight earlier, but volunteered to carry out his duties during his leave as a contribution to the War effort. He was a very able, conscientious and popular Officer, and I record his passing with considerable regret.

(b) War Activities:—

The instruction of Police in Air Raid Precautions, Decontamination, Fire Drill, and Refresher Courses in Rifle Instruction have continued in the Metropolitan, Newcastle and Maitland Districts. With the advent of Italy into the War early in June last the work of the Police in association with the Military Authorities, as well as the registration of aliens, naturally increased considerably. A large number of shops conducted or controlled by alien subjects, principally Italians, were closed on the morning of the 11th June by the Police as the result of a Proclamation issued by the Commonwealth Government. The work was expeditiously and efficiently carried out. General supervision of enemy subjects throughout the State continues to be exercised by the Police. As a result of the expanded activities of the Department due to the War, 225 additional Police were transferred to the Military Police Intelligence Section to cope with the extra work involved, and as a consequence the Metropolitan Superintendent, his staff and a number of other Police Superintendents and Officers had to be removed temporarily to rented premises at No.

119 Phillip Street, adjoining Police Headquarters.

Police Leave:—On two occasions during the year leave for all members of the Force was suspended consequent upon the coal strike and the advent of Italy into the War.

On the 10th January, 1940, a rally of approximately 1,000 members of the Service was held at the Police Depot with a view to devising ways and means for a Police drive in the interests of the War effort. On that occasion the Police present unanimously agreed to voluntarily forego one day's rest per fortnight for the duration of the War in order that members of the Police Band, the Police Choir and the Police Orchestra could be made available to tour the Country and play at functions to raise money for patriotic funds and also to offset the decrease of Divisional strengths consequent upon the temporary transfer of ordinary Police to the M.P.I. Section for special duty and inquiries respecting aliens.

Since July, 1940, 55 Special Constables were sworn in and placed on duty guarding vulnerable points on Sydney Harbour Bridge, power houses, and gas works. These men were supplied with Police uniform and work under the supervision of Police. The cost of wages, etc., is met by the Authorities controlling the particular points.

The establishment of Military Camps at a number of Country centres, and the movement of troops from Ingleburn to Bathurst, as well as ceremonial military marches in Sydney, resulted in additional Police activity in the matter of supervision and Police control of crowds, etc.

In the early part of the year the danger of clashes between soldiers and Communists in the Sydney Domain rendered necessary the provision of additional Police for duty. Nothing of a very serious nature occurred, however, and the Communist Party, together with the Communist League of Australia, was subsequently declared an illegal organisation by the Commonwealth Government. Although following the establishment of Camps in the Country, members of the Military Forces were at times somewhat boisterous, it should be recorded that the relationships between the Police and soldiers generally was and is most satisfactory and the conduct of the latter must be said generally to have been very good.

III. MAINTENANCE OF STRENGTH OF THE FORCE.

The position with regard to the strength of the Force is fully set out in the Annual Report for 1939 under the above heading.

In June, 1940, the Premier advised that Cabinet had approved of the total strength of the Police Force being increased to 3,800, involving 70 additional appointments. A proposal by me for the replacement of certain members of the Force performing clerical and other non active Police work by civilian appointments was also approved. During the year 13 junior clerks, 16 cleaners, 6 grooms and 1 motor mechanic were appointed, a total of 36, of which appointments 27 were made to release Police for ordinary Police duties. The Cabinet's approval provided for a review of the position if and when it was considered necessary to have 3,800 available for active Police duty.

IV. VACANCIES IN THE POLICE FORCE.

Vacancies caused by Resignations, Superannuation, Deaths, etc., during the year totalled 96.

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.....

South Wales during 1940 shows an increase of 4,573 as compared with the total for 1939. However, it is satisfactory to note that there were notable decreases in the more serious classes of offences both in respect of offences against the person and offences against property with violence. Against the total increase of 4,573 must be set the increase of 4,494 in respect of offences against the traffic laws generally, the increases being: General breaches of the Motor Traffic Act and Regulations, 305; offences against the Metropolitan Traffic Act and Regulations, 3,306; and breaches of the Transport Acts, 883. Decreases are noticeable in respect of driving a motor vehicle whilst under the influence of liquor, 34; driving a motor vehicle in a manner dangerous to the public, 94; and driving a motor vehicle at a speed dangerous to the public, 122.

The following table supplies a sectional comparison of the figures for 1939 and 1940:—

| Section | No. of Persons before the Courts | | Increase | Decrease |
|--|--|---------|----------|----------|
| | 1939 | 1940 | | |
| Offences against the person..... | 3,831 | 3,424 | - | 407 |
| Offences against property with violence. | 4,720 | 4,541 | - | 179 |
| Offences against property without violence..... | 14,934 | 15,304 | 370 | - |
| Forgery and offences against the currency..... | 280 | 312 | 32 | - |
| Offences against good order..... | 48,192 | 50,789 | 2,597 | - |
| Breaches of Acts generally..... | 72,891 | 75,051 | 2,160 | - |
| | 144,848 | 149,421 | 4,573 | - |

Detailed statistics regarding the number of cases brought before the Courts of New South Wales during 1940 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

Manslaughter..... 2
Assault officer in
execution of his
duty..... 39
Abduction..... 10
Indecent assault on
male..... 11
Attempt to procure
abortion..... 6

Murder, attempt to murder,
etc..... 10
Robbery with violence..... 33
Inflict grievous bodily harm,
and attempts..... 3
Assault occasioning actual
bodily harm..... 27
Assault with intent to rob. 25
Common assault..... 145
Assault female..... 90
Demand property with
menace or threat..... 10
Robbery being armed..... 21
Assault in company..... 22
Indecent assault on women
and girls..... 37
Sodomy or attempt..... 11
Attempted suicide..... 28

Offences against property with violence.

Maliciously injur-
ing property..... 82

Breaking and entering or
attempt..... 232

PRINCIPAL INCREASES.PRINCIPAL DECREASES.Offences Against Property Without Violence

| | | | |
|--|-----|--|-----|
| Obtaining goods or money by false pretence... | 758 | Simple larceny or attempt... | 628 |
| Stealing or destroying a valuable security... | 83 | Stealing from the person, or attempt..... | 92 |
| Larceny as a servant.... | 81 | Supposed stolen goods in custody..... | 41 |
| Stealing in a dwelling.. | 64 | Larceny as a bailee..... | 29 |
| Fraudulent appropriation | 71 | Embezzling ship's cargo or stores..... | 25 |
| Embezzlement..... | 43 | | |
| Careless Use of Fire.... | 40 | | |
| Sheep stealing..... | 28 | | |

Forgery and Offences against the Currency.

| | | | |
|---|----|---|----|
| Purchasing or having forged bank notes in possession..... | 58 | Forging and Uttering..... | 15 |
| Uttering..... | 8 | Possessing or uttering counterfeit coin..... | 10 |

Offences against Good Order.

| | | | |
|--|------|--|-----|
| Drunkenness..... | 2284 | Travel by train or tram with- out paying fare, or attempt..... | 223 |
| Negligent or furious riding or driving... | 553 | Drive a motor vehicle at a speed dangerous to the public..... | 122 |
| Riotous, indecent, offensive, threaten- ing or insulting behaviour..... | 218 | Drive a motor vehicle in a manner dangerous to the public..... | 94 |
| Consorting..... | 75 | Drive a motor vehicle under influence of liquor, or of a drug..... | 34 |
| Sly grog selling..... | 77 | Trespass on enclosed lands... | 116 |
| Idle and disorderly person..... | 94 | Absent without leave from ship..... | 61 |
| Playing a game to the annoyance of passen- gers or residents... | 47 | Rogue and vagabond..... | 49 |
| Conspiracy..... | 27 | Drunkenness with disorderly conduct..... | 48 |
| Escaping from custody... | 23 | Cruelty to animals..... | 35 |
| Wilful disobedience on board ship..... | 18 | Travel by steamer without paying fare, or attempt. | 47 |

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

| | | | |
|--|------|---|------|
| Metropolitan Traffic Act and Regulations..... | 3306 | Government Railways & By Laws..... | 2606 |
| Motor Traffic Act and Regulations, general breaches..... | 305 | Liquor..... | 1789 |
| Land and Income Tax..... | 1369 | Dog & Goat..... | 143 |
| National Security (Aliens Control and other offences)..... | 479 | Immigration Restriction..... | 64 |
| Industrial Arbitration.. | 321 | Factories and Shops..... | 55 |
| Child Welfare..... | 153 | Local Government Ordinances.. | 55 |
| Fair Rents..... | 60 | Business Agents..... | 54 |
| Aborigines Protection... | 49 | Inebriates..... | 24 |
| Defence (Commonwealth).. | 57 | Dairies Supervision..... | 23 |
| Crimes..... | 38 | Pistol license..... | 29 |
| Fisheries & Oyster Farms | 36 | Post & Telegraph (Commonwealth) | 53 |
| Commonwealth Crimes.... | 33 | Public Health..... | 32 |
| Landlord & Tenant..... | 29 | Public Instruction..... | 200 |
| Excise (Commonwealth)... | 25 | Second-hand Dealers & Collectors..... | 147 |
| Birds and Animals... | | Sydney Corporation..... | 55 |
| Protection..... | 23 | Theatres & Public Halls..... | 28 |
| | | Vagrancy..... | 40 |
| | | Wild Flowers & Native Plants Protection..... | 30 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Gaming and Betting..... | 23 |
| Inflammable Liquid..... | 20 |
| Sydney Water Supply..... | 55 |
| Wireless Telegraphy..... | 127 |
| Police Offences (Drugs)... | 21 |
| Police Offences..... | 119 |
| Metn. W.S. & D. By Laws.. | 190 |
| Merchant Shipping..... | 45 |
| Motor Tax Management..... | 108 |

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 1940, and similar information for the five previous years:-

| Year. | No. of Serious Crimes reported. | No. of Serious Crimes Cleared Up. | Percentage Accounted for. |
|-------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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) |
| 1940 | 18,070 | 13,882 | 76.82 |

III. DRUG TRAFFIC.

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 at 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. Every co-operation possible exists between the Customs Authorities and the Police in this State in dealing with the drug traffic. Drug trafficking in general has been kept well in check as a result of the efforts of the Customs Authorities and the Police. As the result of the activities of the Police engaged on this work, six persons were treated in institutions for their addiction. No charge was preferred during 1940 in respect of the addiction of any person to cocaine and there were no cases of peddling morphia or heroin. There were, however, a number of prosecutions in connection with the unlawful possession or use of morphia. Opium smoking is fairly prevalent and is practically confined to Chinese, four of whom were convicted and fined for smoking opium, six for having opium in their possession, 14 for frequenting a place used for smoking, and four for having pipes in possession. There were also a number of prosecutions for various other breaches of the Act. The establishment of the Central Drug Bureau, a reference to which is made elsewhere in this Report, is expected to improve co-operation with the Police in other States in regard to the drug traffic.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Gaming and Betting:—The following table shows the results obtained by the Special Squad in dealing with the suppression of unlawful gaming and betting under the Gaming and Betting Act 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.... | 2691 | 298 | 2989 | 2648 | 291 | 2939 | 12 | 2 | 14 | 31 | 5 | 18,307/16/- | 771/3/10 |

The Special Squad also took action in 304 cases of sly grog selling, 271 persons were convicted, cases against 14 persons were dismissed, and 11 cases were pending at the end of the year. Fines imposed amounted to £10,760. 203 seizures of liquor were made under Section 161 of the Liquor Act, resulting in the forfeiture of nearly 10,000 bottles and a number of kegs of liquor.

Other offences in respect of which action was taken by the Special Squad resulted in convictions against 631 persons for breaches of the Police Offences and Vagrancy Act, Lotteries and Art Unions Act, and the Liquor Act, with fines totalling £895/15/-.

Betting on Ferry Steamers:—Attention by the Special Squad to betting on ferry steamers following sailing races on Sydney Harbour resulted in a number of arrests and this class of offence has now been considerably reduced. The Special Squad also visited a number of country towns in respect of the suppression of starting price betting and sly grog selling and their efforts met with marked success.

The Special Vice Squad—a part of the Special Squad, and whose activities are directed against the suppression of sexual offences, prostitution, and other street offences—was responsible for the arrest of 1,674 persons, 1,485 of whom were convicted, 33 males and 133 females being discharged and 23 cases pending.

The Company and Business Agents Squad was responsible for bringing to a successful conclusion a number of cases of considerable public importance during the year. Notable amongst these were:
 (a) The investigation of the Scottish Loan and Finance Company which resulted in the arrest and committal for trial of four offenders on numerous charges of conspiracy, falsification of books, etc. The subscribed capital of this Company was approximately £240,000.
 (b) The arrest and conviction of a City Solicitor on fourteen charges of misappropriation involving a total in defalcations of over £9,000.
 (c) The arrest and conviction of three offenders on charges of conspiracy, false pretences and forgery in respect of valueless cheques forged with the signature of Country residents and passed on City and Country business houses. A fourth offender in this case has not yet appeared before the Court. (d) The arrest of six offenders on charges of conspiracy on the shareholders of a big Corporation. The defalcations in this case are stated to be about £250,000.

The Arson Squad investigated 120 fires and 17 arrests were effected for various offences. There has been a marked decrease in the number of fires of a suspicious nature in warehouses, factories, shops, etc., and none of the fires reported during the year, it is considered, could be attributed to hostile acts on the part of enemy aliens. One explosion and five fires involving deaths were the subject of Inquests and the presiding Coroner in each case returned a verdict of accidental death.

The Squad dealing with the enforcement of the provisions of the Wool, Hide and Skin Dealers Act also afforded general supervision to matters under the Birds and Animals Protection Act with a view to the suppression of illicit tradingⁱⁿ and destruction of protected birds and animals.

The Motor Squad inquired into the thefts of motor vehicles and accessories, matters relating to the illegal disposal of same, and accidents in which the drivers of vehicles had failed to stop. During the year 2,462 motor vehicles and 548 motor cycles were reported stolen; 34 vehicles and 78 cycles remained not recovered at the end of the year.

Detectives attached to the Criminal Investigation Branch co-operated during the year with Railway Detectives as a consequence of which 239 convictions were obtained on various charges of stealing from trucks, embezzling railway property, etc. There was a notable increase during the year in the number of convictions against employees of the Railway Department, but on the other hand there was a marked decrease in the number of operative train thieves, probably due to the number of men of the itinerant unemployed type enlisting in the armed forces.

"Shop-lifting" and Stealing from Shops:—The totals of cases of stealing from shops and "shop-lifting" reported during 1940 were both slightly less than the corresponding figures for the previous year; the value of the property stolen in respect of each class of offence was substantially less than in the previous year. The following table shows the position in relation to this type of theft for the year 1940:—

| Offence | No. of Cases Reported. | Arrest or Summons Cases. | | | Convictions | | | Juveniles Cautio ⁿ ed | Value of Property. | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----|-------|-------------|-----|-------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----|---|
| | | M | F | Total | M | F | Total | | £ | s | d |
| Stealing from shops..... | 341 | 248 | 53 | 301 | 196 | 29 | 225 | 12 | 2676. | 16. | 5 |
| "shop-lifting".. | 918 | 350 | 601 | 951 | 343 | 594 | 937 | 6 31 | 1023. | 1 | 2 |

6 4 boys not yet dealt with.

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 Districts during 1940 was 9,945 as against 10,104 in 1939. The stock reported stolen consisted of:—

Horses, 50; Cattle, 189; Sheep, 9,706. The total estimated value of the stock is £9,893 as against £10,448 in 1939. The figures show a substantial improvement for 1940.

Of the total of 9,945 stock reported stolen, 6,743 were accounted for as a result of Police investigations and inquiries were being continued at the end of the year in regard to the remainder. It is frequently found that a report of alleged theft of

/stock.....

stock is groundless and that the missing animals have either died or strayed.

(b) Wool and Wheat Stealing:--23 lots of wool, value £328, were reported stolen, 9 of which were accounted for; 175 bags of wheat, value £138, were reported stolen, 10 bags being accounted for by the arrest of offender, 40 bags traced not stolen as reported and 125 bags not traced or inquiries incomplete.

(c) Check of Stock Brands In Use in New South Wales:--The check of stock brands has been completed in most Country Districts and there is every indication that the work has been productive of very satisfactory results.

The special training of selected Police in relation to stock matters is dealt with under the heading of "Administrative Changes or Reforms, Etc." in this report.

Special Police Patrols:--The nature of these patrols was referred to in the previous Annual Report. The patrols were continued during 1940 with marked success; reports of each patrol during the year showed that, apart from assisting to keep stock stealing at a minimum, they have been responsible for developing a friendly understanding between the Police and the country people generally, particularly the folk in the lonely and isolated areas. Utility trucks on the special patrols, also referred to in the last Annual Report, are now fitted with fire fighting equipment, a fact which has been greeted by the country people with considerable satisfaction.

"Introduction" or "Friendship Clubs":--Investigations were conducted during the year in regard to the operations of a number of these Clubs which advertise freely and arrange social gatherings by means of which they claim friendships between persons, either males or females, are made. The legitimacy of the methods of several of these organisations is considered to be doubtful, but Police have experienced great difficulty in effectively dealing with them under existing conditions. The matter is continuing to receive attention.

Juvenile Crime:--Particulars relating to offences committed by juveniles (under the age of 21 years) in the Metropolitan District during 1940 are set out in Appendix "B"; the figures show an increase of 715 as compared with the total for 1939. There were marked increases in the number of cases of breaking, entering and stealing, stealing, neglected or uncontrollable child, malicious damage to property, idle and disorderly person, drunkenness, false pretences, stealing in company, and using indecent language. At the same time there were decreases in the number of cases of trespassing on enclosed lands, stealing from the person, offensive behaviour and receiving.

Every effort is being made to further the Police Boys' Club movement to which reference is made elsewhere in this Report. The endeavours of the Police Authorities in developing public interest in the problem of youth through this channel is being co-ordinated by the establishment of a Juvenile Aid Bureau, a brief outline of the purpose of which is also contained in another section of this Report.

Extraditions:--There were no extraditions outside the Commonwealth of Australia from New South Wales during the year.

Inquests:--The total number of Inquests held in 1940 was 1,856 being 89 less than the total number for 1939. The number of Inquest on dead bodies was 1787 (the total number of bodies being 1848). The number of inquests on fires was 69.

V. CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.

The number of cases dealt with by the Courts in 1940, and

/similar.....

similar information for the year 1939, is set out in the following table:-

| | 1939 | 1940 | Increase or Decrease |
|---|--------|---------|-------------------------|
| Offences against the person..... | 2,395 | 2,162 | Dec. 233 |
| Offences against property, with violence..... | 3,765 | 3,615 | Dec. 150 |
| Offences against property, without violence..... | 11,109 | 11,238 | Inc. 129 |
| Forgery and offences against the currency..... | 107 | 225 | Inc. 118 |
| Offences against good order..... | 31,167 | 33,994 | Inc. 2,827 |
| Offences not included in the preceding..... | 49,148 | 55,766 | Inc. 6,618 |
| | 97,691 | 107,000 | Inc. 9,309 |

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

| | | | |
|---|-----|---|------|
| Manslaughter..... | 3 | Purchasing or having forged bank notes in possession | 51 |
| Maliciously injuring property..... | 62 | Idle and disorderly..... | 127 |
| Stealing in a dwelling | 35 | Drunkenness..... | 2005 |
| Larceny as a servant.. | 65 | Riotous, indecent, offensive, threatening or insult- ing behaviour..... | 244 |
| Obtaining goods or money by false pretences..... | 793 | Negligent or furious riding or driving..... | 541 |
| Fraudulent approp- riation..... | 27 | Playing a game to the annoy- ance of passengers or residents..... | 65 |
| Stealing or destroying a valuable secur- ity..... | 75 | Sly grog selling..... | 70 |
| Forgery..... | 42 | Consorting..... | 75 |
| Uttering..... | 50 | | |

and breaches of the following Acts or Regulations:-

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|---|------|
| Child Welfare..... | 134 | National Security Regulations (Aliens Control)..... | 321 |
| Commonwealth Crimes... | 30 | National Security Regulations (other offences)..... | 56 |
| Crimes..... | 66 | Merchant shipping..... | 45 |
| Defence (C'wealth).... | 50 | Metropolitan Traffic, & Regulations..... | 2551 |
| Deserted Wives and Children..... | 73 | Metropolitan Water, Sewerage & Drainage Board, & By Laws..... | 190 |
| Excise (C'wealth)..... | 23 | Motor Tax Management..... | 34 |
| Factories & Shops..... | 27 | Motor Traffic & Regulations.. | 1886 |
| Fair Rents..... | 38 | Police Offences..... | 124 |
| Fisheries & Oyster Farms..... | 66 | Transport Acts..... | 883 |
| Gaming & Betting..... | 208 | Vagrancy..... | 59 |
| Industrial Arbitration | 443 | | |
| Land & Income Tax..... | 1045 | | |

The principal decreases were:-

| | | | |
|--|----|--|----|
| Murder, attempt to mur- der, etc..... | 6 | Larceny as a bailee..... | 22 |
| Robbery with violence.. | 25 | supposed stolen goods in custody..... | 68 |
| Assault with intent to rob..... | 23 | Embezzling ship's cargo or stores..... | 25 |
| Robbery being armed.... | 14 | Unlawfully use another's vehicle or boat..... | 43 |
| Assault in company..... | 11 | Rogue and vagabond..... | 24 |
| Assault a female..... | 57 | Cruelty to animals..... | 22 |
| Common assault..... | 73 | | |

| | | | |
|---|-----|---|-----|
| Indecent assaults on women and girls... | 26 | Absent without leave from ship..... | 67 |
| Sodomy, or attempts... | 15 | Trespass on enclosed lands... | 74 |
| Breaking and entering, or attempt..... | 189 | Drive motor vehicle under the influence or intoxicating liquor or drug..... | 45 |
| Sacrilege..... | 13 | Drive motor vehicle in manner dangerous to the public. | 36 |
| Simple larceny, or attempt..... | 608 | Drive motor vehicle at speed dangerous to the public. | 136 |
| Stealing from the person, or attempt... | 87 | | |

and breaches of the following Acts or Regulations:—

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|--|-----|
| Dog and Goat..... | 100 | Public Instruction..... | 116 |
| Immigration Restriction | 67 | Stamp Duties..... | 115 |
| Liquor..... | 661 | Wild Flowers & Native Plants Protection..... | 33 |
| Local Government & Ordinances..... | 64 | Wireless Telegraphy..... | 62 |
| Public Health..... | 43 | | |

Serious Crime in the Metropolitan District:—The figures with regard to serious crime reported during 1940, the number of cases cleared up and also the total value of the property reported stolen as well as the total value of property recovered or accounted for, are set out in the table hereunder:—

| No. of Cases Reported. | No. of Cases Cleared Up. | Percentage. | Property Reported Stolen. | Property Account- ed For. | Percentage. | Property Recover- ed. | Percentage. |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 12,951 | 10,059 | 78 | £184,610 | £159,200 | 86 | £35,781 | 19 |

Thefts made possible by Negligence of Owners of Property:—During 1940 there were 1,611 cases in the Metropolitan Area of thefts reported which it is considered could have been prevented if more care had been exercised by the owners. In the previous year there were 2,099 of such cases. The reduction in this type of offence during 1940 is even more gratifying than the decrease noted in the figures for the previous year. Of the 1,611 cases mentioned, 1,082 were instances of bicycles reported stolen.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH.

The work of the Criminal Investigation Branch during 1940 was exceptionally heavy.

1. FINGER PRINT SECTION.

The total number of finger prints received during 1940 in this Section was 24,439 as compared with 25,456 in 1939. The number of finger prints identified as those of persons previously convicted was 14,365 as against 15,801 in the previous year. The criminal cases in which finger print identification constituted the principal evidence before the Court was the same (29) as the previous year; in 60 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 1940 was 661 as against 858 in 1939. Visits by members of the Finger Print staff to scenes of crime totalled 2,052, the number of such visits during 1939 being 2,928. In 127 instances finger prints found at the places where crimes were committed were identified after examination. The finger prints of 47 unknown deceased persons were taken and 19 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 1,044 and the number of dockets prepared for the finger print cabinets was 2,900, similar to the previous

/year.....

year. For some time past it has been the practice to check the finger prints of various applicants for licenses; the extraordinary increase in the work noted during 1939 was still more remarkable in 1940 when the total number of finger prints checked was 28,532 as against 7,494 in 1939.

II. PHOTOGRAPHIC, BALLISTICS AND MODUS OPERANDI SECTIONS

The operations of the Photographic and Ballistics Sections were maintained during the year. Notable increases occurred in the number of photographs of suspects printed and circulated and in the number of surrendered and confiscated firearms received. The photographing of aliens, and documents relating to aliens, also represented additional work in the Section. In the Modus Operandi Section, of 14,300 forms received, where offences appeared thereon, 4,139 were submitted by Police who had likely suspects under arrest, and 2,051 were definitely connected with the offenders who were charged. A total of 1,712 cards are filed in the Section relating to the Central Drug Bureau. The jewellers' repair marks were revised during the year and expanded to include country jewellers, and several watches were identified which might otherwise not have been traced.

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

The operations of these Sections are dealt with under the heading "Information Relating to Crime", Sections III and IV, pages 7-9, of this Report.

IV. WIRELESS SECTION.

The development in this Section continued both at Sydney and Newcastle during 1940 and the high standard of efficiency previously noted was 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.

During the year a large number of arrests were effected by means of radio broadcasts and the speedy concentration of patrols in certain areas. Radio communication with Police vehicles is considered to be most essential in any part of the State during emergencies. Approval has been given for the provision of funds to enable additional equipment to be installed at the Police Depot.

V. SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION BUREAU.

The Scientific Investigation Bureau, established in the Criminal Investigation Branch in May, 1938, has continued to make 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 the Police Forces, volumes dealing with application of scientific methods of investigation, for instance forensic medicine, etc.

Routine activities, such as visits to scenes of crimes and of fatal accidents, appearances at Court, and research work and development have received close attention throughout the year. During the year expert evidence was given by officers from this Bureau in 38 cases. The scenes of 141 crimes were visited and 434 plans prepared in respect of such scenes. In the treatment of metals and wooden articles to restore obliterated numbers or prints, successful results were obtained in 46 out of 50 cases. The work of the examination of documents, clothing or textiles, boot and shoe impressions, glass fractures, etc., as well as the preparation of handwriting exhibits, was also conducted with most gratifying results.

VI. OUTSTANDING CRIMINAL CASES.

A number of serious crimes occurred during 1940, the more important of which are as follow:-

(a) On the 25th January, 1940, information was received that an attempt would be made to utter counterfeit Commonwealth £5 notes in Sydney and Melbourne during the Anniversary weekend. Information was circulated to Police throughout New South Wales and in other States and the co-operation of banking officials was sought. By the afternoon of the 27th January, 15 well-known criminals had been arrested and a large number of counterfeit notes seized. Numerous arrests were subsequently made in connection with this matter but the source of the notes has not yet been ascertained.

(b) Early in January shortage in Bullion from the Port Kembla works of the Electrolytic Refining and Smelting Company of Australia Limited was reported. The Company had been investigating the shortage for some time but had failed to trace the leakage. Police inquiries resulted in the arrest of three men against whom were preferred charges of stealing bullion to the value of approximately £3,000. One of the offenders was subsequently sentenced to four years hard labour, another bound over, and a third acquitted. It appears the bullion was removed by the offenders when the smelting furnaces were being pulled down and rebuilt at intervals of about six weeks. Portion of the furnace bottoms, high in gold value, were stolen together with the slime from the tank house. These were removed in kit bags and the whole later smelted into bullion with the aid of an improvised furnace and sold to bullion merchants.

(c) On the 8th March, 1940, an elderly woman was found murdered in a hut at Heddon Greta. Plaster casts were made of foot prints found by Detectives in the vicinity of the crime and later proved positive identification of a man who had been charged with the murder and who was subsequently convicted and sentenced.

(d) On the 25th April, 1940, a demented man at Wollongong locked himself in a house and defied all attempts to induce him to surrender. The local Police were reinforced by squads from Sydney and during the siege Constable 1st Class John Edward Dunn was fatally shot. The offender finally committed suicide by shooting himself. This case was notable for the fact that for the first time in the history of the Police Service in this State tear gas bombs were used by Police in the execution of their duty.

(e) On the 19th July, a Greek, 38 years of age, the owner of considerable property, was found on a lonely part of Roseville Road, Brookvale; he died in hospital some hours later. Distinct fractures and extensive lacerations to the skull indicated that the injuries had been caused by a blunt instrument. No other marks were found on the body and the deceased's clothing had not been torn or disarranged and he had not been robbed. A reward of £1,000 is at present offered in connection with this matter but the person or persons responsible for the crime have not yet been apprehended.

(f) On the morning of the 26th July, a taxi driver was found unconscious in Lauriston Park, Old Botany Road, Mascot; he was suffering extensive head injuries and appeared to have been battered with a heavy instrument. He died in the South Sydney Hospital the following day. A reward of £1,000 is also in existence in respect of this matter but the offender or offenders have not yet been arrested.

(g) A case which created a good deal of public interest was the finding of the body of a 23 year old female, a native of South Africa, at the base of a rock on Chowder Head Reserve, Mosman. The body was fully clothed except for the left shoe and stocking. The stocking was wound tightly around the deceased's throat and although some of the press accounts suggested that the deceased had

/been murdered.....

been murdered, the Police opinion was that she had committed suicide. The City Coroner recorded an open verdict.

(h) The death of a hotel waitress at Glen Innes in June, 1940, resulted in the arrest and conviction of a woman at Newcastle on a charge of abortion. The offender was sentenced to four years imprisonment. This case evoked favourable comment in respect of Police investigations both from the Presiding Judge and the Crown Prosecutor.

A number of other cases occurred during the year involving charges of murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, etc., and were brought to successful conclusions by the Police, but there were others in which the Police investigations did not meet with the desired result. Other important criminal cases investigated by the Company and Business Agents Squad are referred to elsewhere in this Report in respect of the operations of that Squad.

TRAFFIC BRANCH.

Notwithstanding the petrol rationing restrictions which came into force on the 1st October, 1940, the general volume of traffic did not decrease to any appreciable extent for the year.

I. BREACH REPORTS.

The feature of the year was the increase in the number of traffic cases heard at the Water Police Court, and although the breach reports showed a reduction (130,488 for 1940 as against 173,349 for the previous year) 25,995 cases were heard during 1940 as against 22,652 during 1939. This increase was due to the attention given by the Police to the more serious offences, particularly where accidents occurred, and the insistence that such offences be determined by the Court. A gratifying aspect was the reduction of the number of accidents over the Christmas and New Year holiday period, the number of fatal accidents being 15 as against 27 for the corresponding period in the previous year.

The number of persons reported for the more serious classes of traffic offences, i.e. those involving public safety, were as follow:

| | |
|---|------|
| Exceed speed limit..... | 9216 |
| Drive in a manner dangerous..... | 208 |
| Drive at a speed dangerous..... | 164 |
| Negligent driving..... | 1652 |
| Fail to stop after accident..... | 209 |
| Cut corner..... | 1798 |
| Not keep to left..... | 952 |
| Pass stationary tram..... | 207 |
| Pass off side of tram..... | 751 |
| Drive across centre of road on grade or curve..... | 1089 |
| Cross double lines..... | 592 |
| Unlicensed driver..... | 1074 |
| Vehicles causing undue noise..... | 1357 |
| Defective brakes..... | 1093 |
| No lights..... | 7185 |
| Defective lights..... | 1267 |

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

Altogether 640 offenders were convicted for driving whilst under the influence of liquor. Such action resulted in 580 drivers being automatically disqualified for periods of from one to three years from holding a license, 10 being disqualified for periods up to five years, and 50 were released under Section 556A of the Crimes Act, thereby obviating disqualification.

Enforcement of the Metropolitan Traffic Act and Regulations, including those in relation to pedestrian traffic, has continued to

/receive.....

receive attention. Special attention was also given to public vehicles and during a period of 3½ months 2,566 breach reports were submitted against the drivers of those vehicles. The result of the action taken was very noticeable and it is hoped that a permanent reduction will be effected in respect of the sharp practices indulged in by some of the drivers of public vehicles.

II. PUBLIC SAFETY BUREAU.

Of the total number of breach reports furnished throughout the State during the year 25,075, or approximately 20%, were submitted by members of the Public Safety Bureau. The members of this Bureau effected 419 arrests, which in addition to motoring offences included charges of manslaughter, stealing, breaking, entering and stealing, unlicensed pistol, etc. The outer suburban truck patrols were also active in the enforcement of the Wild Flowers and Native Plants Protection Act. Rides attached to country truck patrols furnished an aggregate of 9,642 reports for breaches of the traffic laws and were responsible for the arrest of 616 persons. These truck patrols are playing a most important part not only in the policing of the main highways, but in the controlling of traffic at Shows, race meetings and other large gatherings, and are undoubtedly a contribution to road safety.

III. CHILDREN'S SAFETY PATROLS.

There were at the 31st December, 1940, 300 safety patrols operating at schools in the Metropolitan Traffic Area. Competitions of various kinds have stimulated interest in the work of educating children in the need for the exercise of caution in the public streets.

IV. POLICE LECTURES AT SCHOOLS.

As in previous years, members of the Police Force attended during 1940 at various schools, both public and denominational, and gave 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 1940:-

| Total Number of Schools Visited. | | | Number of Lectures Delivered. | | | Number of Broadcast Talks Delivered. | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------|-------------------------------|---------|-------|--------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Metropolitan | Country | Total | Metropolitan | Country | Total | Metropolitan | Country | Total |
| 586 | 1,300 | 1,886 | 3,894 | 1,395 | 5,289 | 78 | 30 | 108 |

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

V. TRAINING OF MILITARY PERSONNEL IN TRAFFIC CONTROL.

A number of military personnel were trained in traffic control in the course of which they were afforded opportunities of practical experience at a number of intersections in the City. The instructions given should materially assist the Military Authorities in the control of traffic within the Forces.

WATER POLICE.

I. SYDNEY.

Assistance was rendered to 27 capsized boats and 118 persons were rescued by the Water Police. 25 boats were recovered from the waters of Port Jackson, and of a total of 86 boats reported stolen 82 were recovered. On the 28th March, 1940, the Police launch "Cub" collided with a speed launch off Woollahra Point and the Police vessel was so badly damaged that it sank immediately. A marine inquiry disclosed that the Police were not to blame for the occurrence. The "Cub" was later salvaged and a new hull built.

Early in June, just prior to the entry of Italy into the war, an organisation known as the Volunteer Coastal Patrol offered its services to the Police Authorities as an auxiliary to the Water Police Section. The offer was accepted and the members of the organisation were sworn in as Special Constables. There are now 21 launches and a personnel of 220 men performing duty on the Harbour guarding vulnerable points under the supervision of the Water Police. The very effective and highly important duty performed in a voluntary capacity by these public spirited men is deserving of great praise.

The bodies of 36 persons were recovered from the waters of Port Jackson after drowning, etc.

II. NEWCASTLE.

The waters of Port Hunter continued to receive constant supervision by Police in the two Departmental launches attached to Newcastle. The total number of vessels which entered the port during 1940 was 3,755 with a total tonnage of 4,007,113.

INSPECTION OF LICENSED PREMISES.

I. METROPOLITAN LICENSING INSPECTION.

(a) Premises licensed under the Liquor Act.

Hotels:- A similar number (533) of hotels existed in the Metropolitan Licensing District on the 31st December last as at the end of the previous year. Marked improvement continued to be made during the year in the condition of hotel buildings in the District, and in the period under review 75 applications by licensees and owners to make material alterations, etc., were granted, the approximate cost of the work approved by the Court being £218,764. In addition, the Court granted requests by the Police in 24 out of 33 applications for orders to the owners of licensed premises to rebuild or bring their premises up to the standard required by the Liquor Act. These latter orders involved a total expenditure of £98,019. In 2 of the 33 cases the plans have not yet been submitted for approval and the approximate costs are therefore not available, whilst in the remaining 9 applications, which were withdrawn, action satisfactory to the Metropolitan Licensing Inspector has been taken. Three applications for the conditional removal of publicans' licenses were made to the Court and granted, the cost of the new buildings approved in connection therewith being £58,000. A number of permits for the supply of liquor with bona fide meals (Section 57A of the Liquor Act) were also granted. At the commencement of the principal Act in January, 1882, there was one hotel for every 293 persons of the population in the Metropolitan Licensing District; at the end of 1940 the number of hotels was one for every 1768 persons.

During the year 115 samples of unbranded liquor were procured in the Metropolitan District for the purpose of analysis; of this number 9 were found to be adulterated with water below the standard required by the regulations under the Pure Food Act. The offending licensees were subsequently convicted and fined, the total fines and costs imposed being £43/2/-. Since the standard of strength of liquor was fixed in November, 1901, 8,267 samples of liquor have been taken from licensed premises in the Metropolitan Licensing District, but in no case has the liquor been found to contain anything deleterious or dangerous to health.

Betting in Hotels:- The improved position in regard to betting in hotel premises noted in the Annual Report for 1939 has continued and no action was required to be taken during 1940 to have hotel premises declared common gaming houses.

Convictions of Licensees:- 119 convictions, entailing fines and costs amounting to £558/17/5, were obtained against licenses during the year in the Metropolitan Licensing District for breaches of the Liquor Act, mainly for the sale or delivery of liquor during prohibited hours. During the year five licensees were prohibited from holding a license of any description under the Liquor Act on account of having three convictions during the preceding three years. The total number of wine licenses in the Metropolitan Licensing District (159) was the same as at the end of 1939. Seven convictions were obtained against the holders of wine licenses for breaches of the Liquor Act, the total of fines and costs imposed being £74/4/-. The number of spirit merchants licenses (116) at the end of 1940 represented an increase of two over the previous year. Five convictions were obtained against holders of this type of license, fines and costs totalling £231/4/- being imposed.

A remarkable drop in the number of billiard licenses throughout the State is accounted for by the fact that many of the former holders of such licenses are using their premises as "clubs", thus avoiding the payment of the prescribed annual fee, securing greater latitude in respect of the hours which the premises may be kept open and resulting in less Police supervision. The Metropolitan Licensing Inspector also has supervision over registered clubs as well as the holders of Packet and Brewers licenses.

(b) Theatres and Public Halls.

Nightly visits were paid to City theatres by the Metropolitan Licensing Inspector and his Assistant. With the approval of the Chief Secretary, proceedings were instituted in respect of three cases for breaches of the Act in two suburban theatres, the defendants being convicted and fined. It is pleasing to record that as a rule managers of City and suburban theatres co-operated with the Police in the deletion from programmes of any matter of an unwholesome or objectionable nature, and the theatrical houses generally were conducted during 1940 in a very satisfactory manner.

Visits were paid to City stores in respect of Christmas pantomimes, etc., to ensure that all precautions would be taken for the safety of children attending those shows. Certain films were seen in company with an officer of the Chief Secretary's Department, and of these seven which had been rejected by the Commonwealth Film Censorship Board were passed as fit for public exhibition in this State. Four locally produced films were also passed for exhibition in New South Wales.

II. LICENSING INSPECTION IN THE STATE GENERALLY.

As in the previous year, at the request of the Licensing Magistrates, towns outside the Metropolitan Licensing District were visited by the Metropolitan Licensing Inspector who, in company with the District Licensing Inspectors, inspected local hotels. As a result of the visit, work has been ordered by the Licensing Court at Gosford, Wyong, Woy Woy, Ettalong, The Entrance, Evans Head, Woodburn, and Penrith, the total cost of such work involved being £22,050.

WOMEN POLICE.

The activities of the Women Police have again proved of great value in dealing with cases in which females were directly concerned, such as taking statements in respect of offences against women and girls, dying depositions, aliens, and refugee dentists. Of the 340 girls reported missing during the year, 286 were located. 500 persons

/were interviewed....

were interviewed during 1940 by the Women Police and 400 statements taken in relation to various offences. 200 girls were cautioned in regard to their mode of living, and matrimonial advertisements in the newspapers were the subject of continuous scrutiny throughout the year. 80 escorts in the City, Suburbs and Country districts were carried out.

GENERAL MATTERS.

I. STATIONS ESTABLISHED OR CLOSED.

Established during 1940:-

Glen Davis,
Dapto (re-opened),
Greta Military Camp,
Rutherford " " .

Closed:-

Nelligen,
Perthville,
Wilson's Downfall,
Louth,
Eumungerie,
Hargraves,
Ford's Bridge,
Pleasant Hills,
Booligal (temporarily),
Yerranderie (transferred to Central Burraborang).

II. POLICE CALL BOXES.

A list of Police Call Boxes is appended to the Annual Report for 1939. Only one additional Call Box was established during 1940, viz. at Coogee Beach. The value of the Boxes has been amply demonstrated and the provision of a number of new Boxes is in abeyance pending the availability of funds at the disposal of the Department of Works and Local Government.

III. POLICE BUILDINGS, SITES, RESERVES, ETC.

The position with regard to Police buildings remains substantially the same as at the end of 1939. The only new buildings provided were at Liverpool, by the purchase of a residence for occupation by the Sergeant in charge. The Department's "new building" programme has been virtually at a standstill during the past twelve months, primarily owing to the fact that no money has been available to the Works Department. Many Police buildings are in a dilapidated condition and it has been necessary in some instances to obtain rented premises or to approve of Police obtaining private accommodation and to pay them lodging allowance owing to the fact that the Government quarters provided are unfit for habitation. Oberon is an example and in this instance the local Council condemned the premises and indicated their intention of demolishing same. In view of the unsatisfactory condition of the Government premises and the attitude adopted by the Council, it was necessary to lease private premises at Oberon for Police purposes. However, repairs of an imperative and minor character have been effected to a number of premises during the year. No new sites were purchased and the policy of handing over to the Resumed Properties Department or Lands Department, as the case may be, of property no longer required has been strictly followed.

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, 1940, was as follows:-

/Departmental.....

Departmental Motor Vehicles:- The number of motor vehicles under the control of this Department on the 31st December, 1940, was 369, comprising (a) in the Metropolitan District, 33 motor cars, 31 Divisional patrol cars, 6 area cars, 9 motor lorries, 1 panel van, 6 patrol vans, 151 motor cycles; (b) in the Country Districts, 23 motor cars, 4 patrol vans, 32 motor lorries, 73 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 follow:- 14 motor cars, 18 motor cycles, and 6 motor lorries. These vehicles are included in the total of 369.

Bicycles:- Ordinary bicycles are utilised in various localities throughout the State in carrying out Police patrols; the number available at the end of the year 1940 was 352.

Police Horses:- Horses are still required for patrol work in places where the country is unsuitable for motor vehicles. The total number of troop horses located at Police Stations in this State on the 31st December, 1940, was 324; of these 39 were at the Police Depot

V. LICENSING OF PISTOLS.

The following table shows particulars of pistol licenses issued in New South Wales from 1931 to the end of the year 1940:-

| Year. | Ordinary. | Dealers. | Exempt from Fee. | Total. |
|-------|-----------|----------|------------------|----------|
| 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 |
| 1940 | 12,242 | 48 | 532 | 12,844 = |

() Includes 11 Visitors' Permits,

o Includes 6 Visitors' Permits and 14 Duplicate Licenses.

// Includes 7 Visitors' Permits and 4 Duplicate Licenses.

= Includes 19 Visitors' Permits and 3 Duplicate Licenses.

The total revenue received in respect of the issue of the above licenses was £6,173/18/-.

Importation of Pistols:- 36 applications were made during the year for permission to import pistols. In 25 instances approval was given for the importation, but in 11 instances such applications were refused.

Official files dealt with:- 3,660 files of official correspondence were handled during the year.

Pistols found, confiscated and surrendered:- The number of fire-arms received at the Criminal Investigation Branch for destruction, or to be otherwise dealt with as seen fit, totalled 1,822, of which 14 were rifles confiscated under the provisions of the Firearms Act. The remaining 1,808 weapons were pistols and revolvers, and of these 1,015 were surrendered, 406 found, and 389 confiscated.

Pistols destroyed:- No pistols were destroyed by the Department during the year.

On the 14th June, 1940, the Commonwealth Government promulgated the National Security (Firearms and Explosives) Regulations which

/have been.....

have been responsible for the increase in the number of pistols coming into the possession of the Department.

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

(a) Central Drug Bureau:- The establishment of this Bureau at the Criminal Investigation Branch will facilitate the interchange of information between the Police Departments of the various States of the Commonwealth in regard to drug addicts, peddlers, and other offenders engaged in the illicit dissemination of drugs.

(b) Central Finger Print Bureau:- During the year arrangements were completed for the establishment of a Bureau at the Finger Print Section which will in the course of time permit of the centralisation of the finger print records of all States of the Commonwealth and will facilitate enormously reference to the records of offenders convicted in any part of the Commonwealth.

(c) New Legislation:- The Aborigines Protection (Amendment) Act, 1940, dissolved the Aborigines Protection Board, relieved the Commissioner of Police of the Chairmanship, and constituted a new body, the Aborigines Welfare Board. Similar powers by the Act were given to the Police to those under the Child Welfare Act, 1939, in respect of uncontrollable and neglected aboriginal juveniles and provided for other extensions of Police authority in matters touching the administration of aboriginal affairs. The Police Department retains representation on the Board by a member of or above the rank of Inspector.

The Justices (Amendment) Act, 1940, also considerably widened the powers of Police in respect of bailment.

(d) Police Cadets - Training in C.P.S. Offices:- Approval has been given for a scheme for the training of Police Cadets in the Offices of Clerks of Petty Sessions. This innovation must prove of inestimable value in the training of Cadets and render them even more efficient in the course of time, particularly at Country Stations where Police Act as Clerks of Petty Sessions.

(e) Juvenile Aid Bureau:- In the course of my tours abroad some years ago I was impressed with the attention paid by the authorities, especially the Police Departments in the United States and various parts of Europe, to the solution of the child delinquent. Juvenile Aid Bureaux are established in many places, and approval has been given for the setting up of a similar Bureau within the Police Department of this State, to act as an official "godfather" so to speak in respect of juvenile offenders. Inspector Schumacher, who is President of the Police Boys' Club Federation, has been appointed as the Officer-in-Charge of the New Bureau and will have a Constable to assist him who has already done excellent work in the organisation of a Police Boys' Club in Sydney. Arrangements towards the actual organisation of the Bureau are now in hand. The Bureau should prove a means of considerably minimising juvenile crime as time goes by.

(f) Training of Police in Stock Matters:- During the year a system was inaugurated by which selected Police from amongst the Mounted Probationary Constables at the Police Depot will in future be given a course of instruction at the sale-yards at Flemington and at the Depot in respect of stock matters in so far as Police are concerned. This scheme has already met with considerable success, the members of the Force concerned being subsequently stationed at Country centres where their special knowledge may be availed of to best advantage.

(g) Selection of Police for Training as Prosecutors, etc:- A Departmental Committee has carefully selected applicants for training as Police Prosecutors and Assistant Instructors at the Police Depot. The work of this Committee has produced an excellent

/scheme of.....

scheme of training which, in conjunction with the establishment of Discussion or Debating Groups at Divisional Head-Stations in the Metropolitan Area, should provide against all future demands for highly competent and well trained members of the Force to act as Prosecutors at the various Courts throughout the State who will also be available for work as Assistant Instructors at the Police Depot.

VII. POLICE TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION.

Candidates for the Police Service, whether trainees or Police Cadets, upon enlisting are required to enter upon a comprehensive course of training covering the duties required of Police by the more important statutes, responsibilities in connection with criminal law and procedure, physical culture, and instruction in first-aid and life-saving methods. Cadets are also given experience in Office training and are required to write a practical speed in shorthand.

During the year 1,845 applications were received for Police employment and 457 applications for appointment as Police Cadets. 527 candidates were examined by the Government Medical Officer who certified 165 as fit, 195 being certified as permanently unfit, and the remainder as temporarily unfit. In addition, 727 applicants called at the Police Depot but were rejected for a variety of reasons. 108 men were appointed to the Police Force, including 29 who were Police Cadets. 34 appointments were made to the Police Cadet strength. The number of applications received showed a decrease in the figures for the previous year, due probably to the incidence of the war. At the 31st December, 1940, the number of Police in New South Wales possessing Ambulance Certificates was 3,420 and 1,597 held Certificates, Medallions, etc., awarded by the Royal Life Saving Society.

VIII. POLICE SPORTS, RECREATIONS, ETC.

Owing to the extra calls made upon Police by reason of the war situation, it was impossible for members of the Service in the Metropolitan District to give as much attention to sport and athletics as during ordinary times but, with the exception of the Police Wrestling Club, the various Police sporting groups have continued to function, and sport generally in the Service is of a high standard.

At the New South Wales Rowing Association's regatta, the Police Club won the Maiden Fours, and, at the North Shore regatta, the Maiden Eights. At the St. Ignatius' regatta the Police crew carried off the Maiden Fours. The Texteth Cup was again won by the Police Club. A number of other successes in various regattas were achieved by Police crews.

Constable Bassingthwaite, to whom reference was made in last year's Annual Report, gained places in all events in the Australian Swimming Championships. The Police Swimming Club was represented in the State Water Polo Competitions by Constables Walsh and Johnson. Many Club members belong to Surf Clubs and during the course of the year acquitted themselves creditably.

At the Showground on the 24th February, the Annual Police Carnival for 1940 was held, including a night performance. The function was privileged in the attendance of His Excellency the Governor, and was a distinct social and financial success. The sum of £2,100 has been paid to the Federation of the Police Boys' Clubs. A feature of the occasion was the participation of Mr. Peter Dawson, world famed baritone, who gave his services gratis in association with the Police Band and Choir.

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

The New South Wales Police Choir and the Orchestra were very much in public demand during 1940 and were responsible for contrib-

/uting several....

uting several thousands of pounds towards charitable and patriotic purposes. In the course of the year the Police Band attended 52 public functions in addition to giving 65 mid-day recitals in various City parks which had to be dis-continued in June owing to the entry of Italy into the war.

X. POLICE CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES. PATRIOTIC AND WELFARE WORK.

(a) During the year an amount of over £40,000 was raised directly from Police efforts in aid of patriotic and war funds. Of this total nearly £27,000 comprised money invested in War Saving Certificates, whilst the balance represented free gifts and loans to the Government (£9,000) and amounts raised for patriotic funds, Red Cross, etc. Functions conducted by the Police in aid of hospitals, ambulances and other worthy causes brought in about another £3,000. These amounts are independent of moneys raised by or contributed through Police efforts towards the Police Boys' Club movement.

(b) Boys' Clubs:- Considerable activity took place in the Police Boys' Club movement during the year 1940. The appeal for funds launched in the latter part of 1939 produced a total net result of £4,061. Apart from the direct financial benefit, the appeal and Art Union gave the movement a great deal of excellent publicity. The proceeds of the Annual Police Carnival totalled £2,100 and were devoted also to the Boys' Club Federation. The Police Museum exhibit at the Royal Agricultural Show at Easter was responsible for a further addition to the funds of the Boys' Clubs to the extent of £2,088. These amounts, together with other sundry donations received from public spirited citizens, have placed the Federation's finances in a healthy condition. With the programme of expansion which the Committee of the Federation has in mind, however, the funds subscribed to date will all be required.

A club was established at Newcastle during the year and further progress was made in connection with the transfer of the Police Club House at Glebe from the Police Sports' Federation to the Federation of Police Boys' Clubs. The establishment of a Boys' Camp at Kurrajong by the Balmain Boys' Club became so important in its activity that at the close of the year it was taken over by the Federation. Regular weekend camps will take place which will be available to the members of all Police Boys' Clubs.

All existing Clubs in the Metropolitan Area are reported to be functioning satisfactorily, and membership thereof continues to increase.

Clubs, all progressing satisfactorily, are also in existence at Tamworth, Goulburn, Murrumburrah-Harden, Yass, Young and a number of other Country centres.

XI. POLICE SERVICE IN CASE OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY - BUSH FIRES.

The co-operation of the Police Authorities with the Bush Fires Advisory Council was further consolidated during 1940 and volunteer bush fire brigades were formed in many centres throughout the State as the result of Police efforts. The position generally in regard to bush fires during the year showed a marked improvement on the previous twelve months. There is no doubt that the equipment of the special patrol trucks with fire fighting apparatus, together with the formation of local fire brigades, has brought about a greater sense of responsibility amongst the people in the Country districts in relation to the bush fire menace. Decreases in the number of bush fires during 1940 as against those occurring

/during 1939.....

during 1939 are reported generally and in the Southern District, although the total fires during the year under review were actually greater than those in 1939, the amount of damage was substantially less and no lives were lost.

XII. ACTS OF BRAVERY.

Sergeant 2nd Class Kemp and Constables 1st Class McIntosh, Maher and Collins were highly commended for bravery and initiative displayed in connection with the salvage of £600 worth of petrol and kerosene from the burning bulk petrol store of Messrs. Permewan Wright at Walgett in August, 1940.

Constable 1st Class E.V. Ireland displayed bravery in June, 1939, when endeavouring to effect the arrest of two very strong offenders who resisted violently and attacked the Constable. As a result of being struck on the head with an iron stool the Constable received a wound necessitating six stitches. He was commended by Judge Hill at the Sydney Quarter Sessions in October, 1939, for his bravery of this occasion.

Constables 1st Class A.J. Holmes, C.W. Tupper and A.G. Truskett were commended for their courage and resourcefulness in connection with the arrest of an armed offender in a shed at Campsie in April, 1940, on charges of stealing and attempting to shoot a Constable.

Constable F.A. Maizey received the Royal Shipwreck and Humane Society's Certificate of Merit for his prompt action in rescuing a boy aged 6 from a duck pond in MacHattie Park, Bathurst, in November, 1940.

Sergeant 2nd Class Caldwell received high commendation from the Royal Shipwreck and Humane Society and was advanced in seniority in his rank as the result of outstanding organising ability, bravery and meritorious services in fighting bush fires in the Bega district in March, 1940.

Constable D. MacAskill was commended for his bravery in descending the cliffs at Little Bay in December, 1939, and effecting the rescue of a boy who had been trapped by the tide on the rocks below. The Constable was commended by the Royal Shipwreck and Humane Society in connection with this matter.

Constable 1st Class W.C. Plummer and Constable W.J. Hudson were highly commended for their promptitude and courage in connection with the rescue of a soldier from the rails at the Town Hall Railway Station on the 1st January, 1940. Constable Plummer, at personal risk, remained on the track and held the soldier down until a train had passed and had pulled up about half a carriage length further on. Constables Plummer and Hudson were awarded the Silver Medal and Certificate of Merit respectively by the Royal Shipwreck and Humane Society.

Sergeant 1st Class E. Conrick, Detective Sergeant 3rd Class A.W. Burns, Sergeant 3rd Class C.C. Hall, Detective Constable 1st Class R.A. Debney and Constables 1st Class J.H. Smith, C.S. Charker, and C.E. Bradley and Constable J.E. Begley were concerned in a tragic episode at Wollongong on the 25th April, 1940. Early on the morning of the date in question the Police were informed that a man armed with a gun was acting in a violent manner at a house in Ocean Street, Wollongong. Subsequent events proved that the man had murdered his wife. Police laid siege to the dwelling and notwithstanding the exercise of caution Constable 1st Class J.E. Dunn was shot dead. All Police concerned in the tragic happening both before and after the shooting of the Constable acted with commendable courage, particularly those whose names are mentioned above.

Constables W.M. Jupp and K.M. Core entered a burning building in Riley Street, Easy Sydney, in July, 1940, and rescued an eight

/year old.....

year old boy. Both Constables were highly commended for their actions on this occasion.

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 (a) | | Persons proceeded against. | | |
|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| | Number. | Per 1,000 of population. | Number. | Per 1,000 of population | General population. |
| 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 | 1.36 | 116,676 | 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 x | 3,608 | 1.38 | 126,134 | 48 | 2,613,776 |
| 1934 x | 3,606 | 1.37 | 127,960 | 49 | 2,636,460 |
| 1935 x | 3,599 | 1.35 | 134,900 | 51 | 2,657,666 |
| 1936 x | 3,727 | 1.39 | 144,707 | 54 | 2,681,736 |
| 1937 x | 3,818 | 1.4 | 125,791 | 47 | 2,710,738 |
| 1938 x | 3,803 | 1.4 | 115,521 | 42 | 2,735,695 |
| 1939 x | 3,905 | 1.42 | 144,348 | 52 | 2,770,348 |
| 1940 x | 3,904 | 1.42 | 149,421 | 53 | 2,793,321 ^b |

(a) Including trackers. ^b As at 30.9.40.
x Including Police Cadets.

XIV. POLICE ON SICK REPORT DURING 1940.

1,773 men, representing 46.9% of the total strength of the Force, were on sick report during the year for a total of 30,205 days, being an average of 17.03 days for each man on sick report, and 7.9 days for each member of the Force. The average daily number of Police on sick report throughout the State was 82.6.

The above figures do not include 3 Women Police who were off duty on sick report for 83 days, 1 Matron who was off duty for 12 days, 1 Special Constable off for 17 days, and 51 Police Cadets who were off duty for 549 days.

Police on sick report as a result of injuries sustained in the execution of their duty totalled 216 for 6,462 days. 2 Women Police for 76 days, 1 Special Constable for 25 days and 3 Cadets for 43 days, were on sick report during 1940 also as a result of injuries similarly received.

XV. APPENDICES, ETC.

The Appendices referred to hereunder will be found at the end of this Report. For reasons of economy other Appendices have been omitted this year.

Appendix "A":- Return of cases dealt with by the Courts in the State of New South Wales during 1940.

/Appendix "B".....

Appendix "B":-- Return of crime committed by juveniles (persons under the age of 21 years) in the Metropolitan Police Administrative District during 1940.

XVI. ADMINISTRATION AND CONCLUSION.

The close of 1940 marked the end of 16 months of war, and with all its additional duties and responsibilities the Police Service has responded splendidly with loyalty and satisfactory service, a fact which I take this opportunity of noting with deep gratification.

Once again I desire to place on record my appreciation of the excellent co-operation of the Public Service Staff of this Department. Notwithstanding severe depletion through enlistments in the Armed Forces (13% of the male clerical staff, mostly experienced Officers, having enlisted) the staff has continued to attend the multifarious and important duties of administration to my entire satisfaction.

Yours faithfully,

Commissioner of Police.

SUBJECT:- Monthly Crime Returns from Country Districts