

Queensland attained separation from
New South Wales on 1859.
On 1st January 1864, Mr. D.T.Seymour
was appointed Acting Commissioner
coincidental with the coming into force
of the Police Act of 1863.
He was appointed Commissioner on 1st
July, 1864.

449

1865.

QUEENSLAND.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

FIRST REPORT.

[covers 1863-64]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Excellency the Governor.

THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE TO THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, TRANSMITTING
THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT ON THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Police Department,
Brisbane, 21st January, 1865.

Sir,

In submitting my First Annual Report on the general condition of the Police Force, I have the honor to state that the time that has elapsed since the new Police Act came into operation has not been sufficient to enable me to carry out all the changes from the old to the new system, to do which would have involved considerable expense, and occasioned a great deal of inconvenience. The necessary changes are, however, being gradually effected, and I hope in a very short time to have the new regulations in full work.

The first thing that I found it requisite to do on assuming charge of the department, was to obtain from the different districts returns of the strength of the Police Force, and of the names, characters, length of service, &c., &c., of the men of whom it was composed. I may here remark that in this, as in any other matter connected with the change of system, I have received the cordial support of the different Benches throughout the Colony.

Annexed is a statement, marked A, of the strength and distribution of the Force on the 31st December, 1863, and also on the 31st December 1864, from which you will perceive that several changes and additions have been found necessary.

I found that no written instructions had ever been issued for the guidance of the Police, who considered themselves as solely under the orders of the Bench by which they were employed, and quite independent of all other control. I therefore, with the least possible delay, submitted a code of regulations compiled chiefly from those in force in the Colony of Victoria, which, having been approved by His Excellency the Governor in Council, were published for the guidance of the Force, a copy being supplied to every member. Forms were also supplied to the different districts, and returns are now regularly received at this office from all parts of the Colony.

Several members of the Force having continued for many years at the stations to which they were first appointed had acquired property in, and formed connections with the people of the district, and it soon became evident that some changes were necessary. The order to remove was, however, in most cases received with dissatisfaction, and in some, resignations were tendered, which were immediately accepted, and, I am happy to be able to add, without in any way decreasing the efficiency of the service.

Every

Every post brings applications from all parts of the Colony for additional police protection; and there are few cases in which good reason is not shown.

It will be seen on reference to the comparative statement attached, marked B, of the strength and cost of the police, and of the population and extent of occupied country for the years 1860-63 and 64, that the increase to the former is far from sufficient to meet the ever increasing demands of the latter.

The sum required to maintain the Police Force in this Colony may, at first sight, appear very large in proportion to the population, when compared with the police and population of other colonies, or of those at home; but were the great extent of country, and difficulty of communicating between stations so far distant, as they are here, from each other, taken into account, it would at once be seen that this comparison is not a fair one.

A very large item in the expense is the conveyance of prisoners from the interior to the gaols. The judicial salaries of the police courts, amounting to about nine thousand pounds per annum, are also included in the Police Vote. Were these sums deducted, the actual expenditure for the executive police would only amount to about eleven shillings and fourpence per head of the population; and, further, if from this we deduct the cost of the Native Police Force, the charge for the ordinary constabulary will amount to very little more than half the above rate.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1863, was sixty-one thousand four hundred and sixty-seven, and the number of constables one hundred and fifty, thus allowing one police officer to every four hundred and nine (409) persons. This average would no doubt be a high one were all those persons collected in towns, or even in moderately sized districts; but when it is considered that those 61,467 individuals are here scattered over an extent of country of fully four hundred thousand square miles, the proportion does not seem a high one. Since December, 1863, the population has been increased by about thirteen thousand five hundred souls, and the number of constables is only one hundred and seventy-six.

The escorting of prisoners from distant country districts forms a very heavy portion of the duty of the police, which, however, cannot be avoided, but which might be very much lessened by proclaiming the lock-ups in remote districts gaols for minor offenders, such as men under magistrates' sentences for three or six months for petty crimes.

Any very material increase to the force might for some time be dispensed with, were the police relieved from some services hitherto performed by them, which are not at all police duties, but which occupy a considerable portion of their time. I allude to such services as summons-serving, acting as Clerks of Petty Sessions, rangers of Crown lands, inspectors of slaughter-houses, district registrars of births, deaths, and marriages, and bailiffs of Courts of Requests—none of which duties are legitimately those of constables.

In consequence of the number of persons continually arriving from the neighboring colonies, amongst whom are many of a most undesirable class, the formation of a detective branch became necessary, and although this occasions some little extra expense, it will, I feel confident, be found to be of very great advantage.

The Police Force of Queensland labors under one very great disadvantage as compared with the police of the other colonies, viz., the want of barracks. Even in Brisbane the want of accommodation is so great that many of the men are compelled to live in lodgings, and, in some cases, at such a distance from the lock-up as renders them unavailable when required on sudden emergencies; while in country districts the most objectionable practice exists of constables living in public-houses.

Constables, without proper lock-ups and barracks, are almost useless.

I would suggest that in the country districts, where Courts of Petty Sessions are neither regularly nor frequently held, instead of erecting buildings exclusively as court-houses, barracks should be built with a good-sized day-room, which could be used by the magistrates as a court-house when required. And as the lock-up keepers in country districts, though necessary, have not much work, they would have plenty of time to attend to a post-office, were such an arrangement considered advisable.

It is also indispensably necessary that where there is a police station there should be a secure paddock.

A considerable saving would be effected by a change from the system of providing clothing adopted here to the Victorian plan. The police here being supplied with clothing by the Government, considerable inconvenience frequently arises when a transfer is necessary or a vacancy has to be filled, on the death, dismissal, or resignation of a constable.

In Victoria, the men supply themselves with uniform—this could easily be done here too, a small increase being made to the pay to meet the expense. The men would, then, be likely to take more care of their clothes, and the inconvenience above alluded to would be done away with.

The authorized pay of a constable here is five shillings and sixpence (5s. 6d.) per diem, but all who have joined under the new Police Act receive one shilling per diem less for the first year, unless under special circumstances, when they are allowed the full rate. A very small addition—say sixpence per diem—would be sufficient to enable them to provide their uniform, as will be seen on reference to Appendix C. This would not involve any additional expense, being merely a change in the manner of applying the vote for clothing.

The question of providing for a Mounted Police Force is one deserving of a great deal of consideration.

There being no gaols or circuit courts in the interior, all prisoners have to be escorted very long distances for trial, and this service, it is, for many reasons, impossible to perform otherwise than on horseback. Again, the police stations are few and scattered, and it would, I think, be found preferable to increase the number of mounted men rather than to appoint additional constables. In fact it would be better if all the constables in country districts, with the exception of the lock-up keepers, were mounted.

The plan that has hitherto been adopted, of making an annual allowance of twenty pounds (£20) to a constable, for which he is expected to provide and maintain in serviceable condition a horse and equipments, is open to many objections. The sum allowed is barely sufficient for the purchase of the horse and appointments, and the constable must support the horse the first year from his own pay. The consequence has been that the men are badly mounted, and a system of horse-jobbing most prejudicial to the public service has been indulged in.

The number of horses required, including those for the Native Police, is about six hundred (600), and the annual re-mounts would be about one hundred (100).

There are now on hand upwards of three hundred (300) horses.

The plan I would suggest is, that a large paddock be selected, and young horses be purchased and broken in. From this stud those not adapted to the service could from time to time be drafted and sold; while from those approved, members joining could be supplied at a fixed, moderate price, to be deducted from their pay, in the same manner as it is proposed to supply the clothing. On the death, dismissal, or resignation of a constable, the Government to have the option of re-purchasing the horse and equipments so supplied at the original price. In case of loss or injury, such loss to be made good at market price, and the cost deducted from the constable's pay.

If the above arrangement be sanctioned, the allowance to mounted constables might be reduced to one-half the present sum.

This method would, I feel convinced, be found far more economical and beneficial to the public service than the present one.

With regard to the Native Police, the constantly increasing occupation of hitherto waste country renders it necessary that this force should be considerably augmented.

As far back as the year 1857, a select committee of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales recommended as "absolutely necessary" that the force in the Northern Districts should consist of *not less* than one hundred and ten (110) troopers; and I am constantly in receipt of applications for native police protection from districts which, it is hardly necessary for me to say, were then unknown; while there are but thirty (30) additional troopers on the strength of the force.

It has been found inexpedient to recruit within the Colony, and I therefore recommended that an experienced officer should be dispatched for this purpose to New South Wales. Mr. John Murray, a native police officer of very great experience, was selected for this duty and in a short time succeeded, although having to contend with many unforeseen difficulties in obtaining a draft of twenty (20) smart valuable recruits.

Desertion from this force might be much lessened if some fine could be imposed upon persons harboring deserters or inducing troopers to desert.

It would, I think, be found very advantageous, that one of the senior and more experienced officers should be appointed a travelling Inspector, whose duty it would be to keep constantly on the move, and who would have authority to shift detachments from time to time as occasion might require, and through whom all returns would be forwarded to this office. He could also act as Inspector of the ordinary police, over whom some such check is much needed, as the force being scattered over such a wide extent of country, a constant supervision is necessary to maintain it in a state of efficiency.

I have, &c.,

D. T. SEYMOUR,

Commissioner.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary,

&c., &c., &c.

APPENDIX.

A.

DISTRIBUTION of the FORCE on the 31st DECEMBER, 1863.

District or Station.	Plenarians Native Mounted Police.	Second Lieutenants Native Mounted Police.	Chief Constables.	Serjeants and District Constables.	Camp Serjeants Native Mounted Police.	Ordinary Constables.	Proopers Native Mounted Police.	Total.
Barana				1		8		3
Bowen			1			1		2
Brisbane			1	3		26		30
Condamine			1			3		4
Dalby			1			3		4
Drayton			1			7		8
Gayndah			1			3		4
Gladstone			1	1		2		4
Goondiwindi			1			8		4
Inglewood				1		1		3
Ipswich			1	3		16		20
Leyburn			1			2		8
Mackay						2		2
Maranoon	1					3		4
Maryborough			1	1		4		6
Nanango				1		2		3
Peak Downs			1	1		7		9
Franchester				1		2		3
Rockhampton			1	2		8		11
Roma			1			2		3
Springboro				1		2		3
Sturt			1			2		3
Teroon			1			3		4
Warwick			1			5		6
Waxley				1		2		3
Westwood						1		1
Yamba						2		2
NATIVE MOUNTED POLICE.								
<i>First division.</i>								
Rockhampton	1	1			1		6	9
Lower Dawson		1			1		5	7
Mackenzie River		1			1		6	8
Upper Dawson		1			1		6	8
Broad Sound		1			1		6	7
<i>Second division.</i>								
Comet and Nogoa	1	2			1		15	19
North Creek		1			1		6	8
Belyando		1			1		9	11
<i>Third division.</i>								
Bungil Creek	1	1 cadet			1		10	13
Maranoon River		1			1		8	10
Warrego River		1			1		8	10
<i>Fourth division.</i>								
Sandgate		1			1		7	9
<i>Fifth division.</i>								
Bowen	1				2		7	10
Bowen River		1 cadet			1		6	7
Total	6	2 cadets	17	17	15	110	103	287

DISTRIBUTION

A.—Continued.

DISTRIBUTION of the POLICE on the 31st December, 1864.

District or Station.	Inspectors.		Sub-Inspectors.		Sergeants.		Acting Sergeants.	Ordinary Constables.	Troopers N. M. P.	TOTAL.
	N. M. P.	Ordinary.	N. M. P.	Ordinary.	N. M. P.	Ordinary.				
Allora	1	1	...	2
Banana	1	...	2	...	3
Bowen	1 P.M.	...	1	...	...	1	3	...	6
Brisbane	1	...	1	...	3	6	21	...	37
Condamine	1	...	...	3	5 supers	...	4
Dalby	1 P.M.	...	1	...	...	...	4	...	6
Drayton	1 P.M.	...	1	...	...	1	6	...	9
Gayndah	1 P.M.	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	5
Gladstone	1	...	3	...	4
Goondiwindi	1	...	...	...	3	...	4
Inglewood	1	...	1	...	2
Ipswich	1 P.M.	...	1	...	1	2	17	...	22
Leyburn	1	...	...	...	2	...	3
Mackay	1	1	...	2
Maranoa	1	...	...	...	...	3	5	2	11
Maryborough	1 P.M.	1	...	1	1	...	6	3	13
Nanango	1	...	2	...	3
Peak Downs	1 P.M.	...	1	...	1	...	9	...	12
Princhester	1	...	1	...	2
Rockhampton	1 P.M.	...	1	...	2	1	8	...	13
Roma	1	...	...	...	3	...	4
Springsure	1	...	2	...	3
Surat	1 P.M.	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	4
Taroom	1	...	...	...	4	...	5
Warwick	1 P.M.	...	1	...	...	...	5	...	7
Waverley	1	...	2	...	3
Westwood	2	...	2
Yaamba	1	1	...	2
NATIVE MOUNTED POLICE.										
Rockhampton ...	2	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	22	27
Lower Dawson	1	1	...	...	...	6	8
Mackenzie River	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	5
Upper Dawson...	1 acting	...	1	...	...	...	5	7
Broad Sound	2	...	1	...	...	...	13	16
Comet & Nogoa	1	...	1	...	...	...	5	8
North Creek	1 acting	...	1	...	...	...	11	13
Belyando	1	...	1	...	...	...	6	9
Bungil Creek ...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	7	9
Maranoa River	1	...	1	...	...	...	8	10
Yo Yo Creek	1	...	1	...	...	...	4	6
Sandgate	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	14	17
Bowen	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	8	10
Bowen River	1	...	1	...	...	...	9	11
Burdekin River
Rockingham Bay	1	...	1	...	...	...	9	11
TOTAL	5	*12	13 2 acting	15	17	15	17	127	126	349

* 10 P.M.'s.
2 paid Inspectors.

APPENDIX TO REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

B.

RETURN of the STRENGTH and COST of the POLICE FORCE, and of the Population and Extent of Occupied Country, in the Years 1860, 1863, and 1864.

Year.	Strength, all ranks, excepting Police Magistrates acting as Inspectors.			Cost, including conveyance of Prisoners, &c.	Population Estimated.	Extent of Occupied Country Estimated.
	Ordinary.	N. M. P.	Total.			
1860. 31 December 1863.	91	122	213	£22,827	29,074	195,500
31 December 1864.	150	137	287	34,680	61,467	379,100
31 December	176	163	339	40,680	75,000	400,000

* The area of Queensland is 679,000 square miles.

C.

STATEMENT showing the COST of POLICE CLOTHING per Annum.

	£	s.	d.	Per Annum.
	£	d.	s.	
<i>Annually.</i>				
1 tunic	1	5	0	
1 pair undress trowsers	0	15	0	
1 pair dress trowsers	0	16	6	
2 pair duck trowsers, at 6s.	0	12	0	
2 caps and covers, at 6s.	0	12	0	
2 pairs boots, at 15s.	1	10	0	
4 Scotch twill shirts, at 4s. 4d.	0	17	4	
				6 7 10
<i>Biennially.</i>				
1 great coat	1	10	0	0 15 0
<i>Triennially.</i>				
1 oilskin cape	0	6	9	0 2 3
TOTAL (purchased in England)	7	5	1	
Add twenty-five per cent. if manufactured in the Colony	1	16	3	
Estimate if manufactured in Colony	£9	1	4	

ON THE MANAGEMENT AND WORKING OF THE POLICE FORCE.

APPENDIX B.

RETURN showing the STRENGTH and DISPOSITION of the QUEENSLAND POLICE FORCE, 1st May, 1869.

David Thompson
Seymour,
Esquire.

13 May, 1869.

Number of Persons.	District.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Acting Sub-Inspectors.	Sergeants.	Acting Sergeants.	Constables.	Supernumeraries.	Horses.	Horse Allowance.	Native Troopers.	Stations without Native Troopers.	Stations with Mixed Force.	Stations with Native Police only.
2	Allora					1	1			2		1		
14	Burketown		1	1		2	5		19		5		1	
2	Banana					1	1			2		1		
9	Barcoo River, Tambo		1	1	1		3		8		3		1	
5	Blackall			1		1	1		8		2		1	
10	Belyando River		1				3		24		6		1	
4	Bowen				1		3					1		
6	Bloomsbury			1					9		5			1
23	Brisbano	1			2	3	17		7			1		
2	Brown River					1	1			2		1		
11	Charleville	1			1	2	3		36		4		1	
5	Clermont		1		1		3			5		1		
2	Carrawal					1	1			1		1		
1	Cleveland					1				1		1		
3	Government House Guard						3					1		
3	Condamine					1	2			2		1		
2	Crocodile					1	1			2		1		
4	Curriwillingham					1	2		2	2	1		1	
9	Cape River		1		1		7		14			1		
5	Dalby				1		4			3		1		
20	Dalrymple	1		2	1	1	1		40		14		1	
9	Drayton and Toowoomba		1		1	1	6		4			1		
2	Gatton						2			2		1		
4	Gayndah				1		3			3		1		
2	Gainsford					1	1			2		1		
3	Gladstone				1		2			2		1		
17	Gympie	1			1	3	10		24		2		1	
4	Goondiwindi				1		3			3		1		
2	Goochie						2				1		1	
8	Isaacs River			1					16		7			1
8	Ipswich				1		7		6			1		
1	Moroochie					1						1		
4	Kilkivan					1	3		4			1		
2	Laidley						2			1		1		
2	Lillyvale					1	1			2		1		
2	Leyburn				1		1			1		1		
2	Logan River					1	1			1		1		
13	Lynd River and Cardwell	1		2			1		36		9		1	
2	MacKay				1		1			1		1		
1	Morinish					1				1		1		
6	Mackenzie Crossing		1			1	2		20		2		1	
13	Maranoa		1		1		1		67		10		1	
2	Treasury Guard						2					1		
6	Maryborough Gold Escort		1			1	4		14			1		
7	Maryborough				1	1	5		6	2	2		1	
1	Nebo						1			1		1		
3	Nanango					1	2			2		1		
13	Paroo		1	1			2		17		9		1	
3	Prisoners' Guard, Government House					1	2					1		
12	Rockhampton		1		2	1	8		16	3		1		
5	Roma			1	1	1	3			4		1		
1	Ridgeland					1				1		1		
3	St. George				1		2		4	2	2		1	
2	Sandgate					1	1			1		1		
10	St. Helena				1		9					1		
13	Springsure			1	1		4		38	3	7		1	
4	Surat				1		2			2		1		
8	Suttor River		1	1					21		6			1
3	Taroom				1		2			2		1		
3	Townsville				1		2			2		1		
5	Warwick				1	1	3			2		1		
2	Warraba				1	1	1		2			1		
11	St. Lawrence	1		1	1		1		31	2	7		1	
1	Woogaroo					1				1		1		
3	Yabber				1		2		4			1		
2	Yaamba					1	1			1		1		
10	Yo Yo Creek		1	1			1		39		7		1	
3	Humpty Dong				1								1	
6	Detective Branch				3		3					1		
395														
2	Chief Inspectors.													
398		6	13	14	35	40	174		556	71	114	46	20	3

One Chief Inspector commanding both Ordinary and Native Police in the Northern Districts.
One " " " " in the Southern and Western Districts.