

"who, he said, had proved loyal and trustworthy. He further expressed his sense of indebtedness to the Commerce Protection Committee, who had helped him in every way.

The following telegram was received from Mr. P. R. Sargood, who was unable to be present -

"Much regret unable to be present at farewell to Superintendent Dwyer. Convey my congratulations to him upon promotion, and best wishes for a successful career, but free from a repetition of the recent anxiety."

After arriving in Christchurch, my first work was to pay the accounts incurred in connection with the strike, and I was amazed at the amount of money spent in Christchurch in connection therewith, where there was no trouble of any kind, and not one occasion for an arrest. There was eleven times more money spent in Christchurch than was spent in Dunedin (£2,000 in Dunedin - £22,000 in Christchurch). In Christchurch the affair was controlled by a military man instead of by the Police, and hence the money spent like water.

In Auckland the strike cost £38,000 and in Wellington £34,000. For saving thousands for the Government as I did, I got formal thanks only.

The next great thing to happen was the "World War" but it has no part in these notes.

The West Coast Murder.

Since my arrival in Christchurch, this was the first case to happen of any importance that I was mixed up in.

On the morning of the 9th November, 1917, a motor car left Greymouth for "James" Government Coal Mine. The car contained John Coulthard, driver of car, William Hall, Paymaster, and Isaac James, Assistant Paymaster. The Paymaster was carrying the sum of £3,659/16/8, miners' pay. When the car reached Ranunga, some six miles out of Greymouth, there was an obstruction across the road and, while removing this, a man in ambush opened fire, killing Coulthard and fatally wounding Hall, the murderer getting away with the whole of the money. Six days elapsed without the semblance of a clue being obtained by the police.



*This photo was taken, in the then,
Inspectors uniform?*

Superintendent Dwyer, of Canterbury.

Superintendent Dwyer has just been appointed to
succeed Superintendent Kiely in charge of the
Canterbury Police District.

In the meantime, the Government offered a reward of £500 for the arrest of the offender. I sent two Detectives and a posse of police to assist the local men to scour the countryside for the offender. Besides this, I had all outlets from the Coast to Christchurch watched. On the morning of the 15th I received a wire from Inspector Cruickshank of Greymouth saying that the movements of a man giving his name as McMahon were suspicious, and it was supposed that he was making for Christchurch. Later in the day I received another wire from the Inspector saying that McMahon was intimate with a barmaid of that name in Christchurch. I placed the matter in the hands of Detectives Connelly and Abbott to make immediate inquiries. They located the barmaid at the Empire Hotel, then kept by Mr. Morgan O'Brien. That evening an important thing happened. The suspect arrived at the hotel, carrying a large travelling case, and this he took into the office, and placed it up against the safe. Mr. O'Brien, wanting to use the safe, had to remove the case, and finding it rather heavy, remarked to Mrs. O'Brien "This man has come from the Coast where that awful murder took place, and as the case is heavy and suspicious I'll ring up the Superintendent." She said, "What nonsense, isn't he travelling with milking machinery parts, and the case contains these parts."

I have often thought how near Mr. O'Brien went to gaining most part of the £500. reward. The suspect slipped out of the hotel, carrying the case, which, by the way, contained all the stolen money, without being noticed.

The Detectives now got on the scent, and Mr. O'Brien scoured that part of the town. He spotted suspect in Lichfield Street, but did nothing but watch him. Suspect returned to the hotel and had tea with Miss McMahon (barmaid), and Mr. O'Brien watched him all the time. The Detectives remained outside the hotel watching, and when the suspect came out on the street, they accosted him and took him along to the Detective Office in a taxi. The suspect was then carrying a small case, and, when seated in the office, Detective Connelly noticed suspect fumbling with the little

case that he had opened, and as he was withdrawing his hands from the bag, the Detective grabbed him and seized a revolver that he held. The revolver was fully loaded. If the Detective wasn't so quick, suspect might have shot the pair of them. In searching the case, the Detective found it contained a block of 100 new One Pound Notes, numbers identifiable. It was clear that we had the right man. I at once sent a Detective to shepherd the barmaid, and, if she tried to leave the hotel, to bring her to the Station. When the two Detectives had suspect placed in the cell they returned to the Empire Hotel, and took the barmaid to her lodgings in Gloucester Street East, and there found the case with the whole of the stolen money. When the contents of the case was displayed in the Detective Office it was a great sight. Blocks of £5. and £1. notes as when they left the printer. I detained the barmaid as an accomplice but, on full investigation, I let her go, as the evidence did not warrant her detention. There was great jubilation over the arrest of the offender, both in Christchurch and the West Coast, as it was realised that we had secured a dangerous criminal. I came in for many congratulations. The prisoner's name was proved to be "William Eggers." He was sentenced to death for the murder of Coulthard etc. and was hanged in the Lyttelton Gaol.

It fell to my lot, with the assistance of Inspector Cruickshank, to allot the £500. reward offered by the Government. Detectives Connelly and Abbott each got £105. and the rest was divided amongst those who were entitled to participate in the reward, in accordance with the service they rendered.

Alleged Immorality On the banks of the
River Avon in Christchurch.

For over two years, the Council of Churches wrote and complained about the immoral conduct on the river banks, and kept up an incessant agitation for more lights on the river banks.

The then Mayor (Mr. H. Holland) was in active sympathy with the Council of Churches, in fact, was one of those who acted the part of "Peeping Tom."

The following newspaper extract gives my report in full, and what followed at the Council's meeting. After my report was read, and after the publication of these proceedings, complaints as to immorality on the river banks ceased, and there has not been a complaint since.

(Copy of newspaper extract):-

A Clean City.
Slanders refuted.
The River Banks Question.
Police Superintendent's Report.

"The allegations made at the City Council's meeting a fortnight ago, by the Rev. J. J. North, the Rev. J. Cocker, and Mr. T.W. Reese, as a deputation from the Council of Churches, with regard to the conduct of people on the banks of the Avon, were refuted at the City Council's meeting last evening. The Council had before it a special report furnished, at its request, by Police Superintendent J. Dwyer, who was blunt in his references to the allegations.

Previous Complaints.

Superintendent Dwyer wrote as follows:--
Just two years ago I received the first complaint (an anonymous one) implying that immorality was carried on by couples frequenting the river bank at night. I had the complaint attended to, and for nights the river bank was patrolled by the police, but no acts of indecency were observed. The next complaint on the subject was made verbally to me some twenty months ago by the Rev. Mr. Cocker. That gentleman complained that he had witnessed an act of gross indecency by a man and woman on the river bank, not far from his residence. He also complained at the same time that he had frequently seen a man hanging about the river bank near his house, and he believed this man was acting the part of bully for some of the women who used the river bank for the purpose of prostitution. I had special attention given this complaint and had the river bank patrolled by plain clothes constables, detectives, sergeants and constables in uniform, and by the Senior Sergeant, and only on one occasion was it found necessary to detain a couple, a man and a woman, for alleged indecency on the river bank at night, but, after the case was investigated at the police station, the couple had to be allowed to go free, as the evidence against them was not conclusive enough to justify their detention. I wish to mention too that nothing has since been seen of the alleged bully by either the detectives or the police, although they have made search to find him.

Frequent Patrols.

I next received a letter from you on February 22nd, 1917, informing me that the Reserves Committee had received a complaint of immoral conduct on the river bank, especially near the old fire station in Chester Street, and asking me to give the matter immediate

"attention. This, I might say, I have done ever since, and I have even used the Matrons to patrol the river bank at night, and their reports go to show that they have seen nothing that they could take exception to.

Every sergeant and constable doing night duty in the city have for years past furnished me with a report, at the end of their fortnight's duty, on the state of the city, especially on prostitutes and other undesirables, that they may have seen alone, or consorting with others in any part of the city, especially the river bank. With these reports, and other overwhelming evidence before me, I am compelled to say that the complaint that the river bank was a cesspool of immorality was grossly exaggerated, and a libel on the good name and fame of the city.

"Peeping Toms."

It is quite possible that acts of indecency have been witnessed on the river bank. I also believe it to be possible for a man who adopts the role of "Peeping Tom", and watches from behind a bush every couple who may come along, may be lucky enough to see something to satisfy his morbid mind, and reward him for his pains. There are now no known brothels in the city, and I am justified in saying that Christchurch today is singularly clean in this respect.

The illegitimacy statistics for the four cities of the Dominion in 1917, published some days ago, conclusively show that Christchurch is the most moral city of the lot.

During the past fortnight, I have had the river banks specially patrolled by plain clothes police. Numerous couples were to be seen along the river bank, lying about and sitting under the trees, sometimes in each other's embrace, but nothing was seen that the narrowest-minded person could take exception to. The sight of the white frill of a petticoat is no proof that the wearer was in the act of committing sin."

The Report Endorsed.

Cr. E. J. Howard moved that the report be received, and the Police thanked for it. He believed the report to be absolutely true. It had come as a surprise to him to find that the Mayor had permitted the city to be slandered at the last meeting. As a man who had "knocked about the world some", he declared unhesitatingly that Christchurch was one of the cleanest cities in the world. Cr. Howard also chided public men who defamed the city in which they lived, and paid a tribute to the fairness of the Police.

Cr. P. R. Climie seconded the motion. He thought the statements made at the preceding meeting were grossly exaggerated. He had lived in most cities in New Zealand, and considered Christchurch the cleanest. An unnecessary slur had been cast on the good name of the city, and it behoved every public man to combat the false statements which had been made.

The Mayor said he stood by what he had said before. He had seen acts of immorality. On leaving the Council Chambers after the previous meeting the deputation had patrolled the river bank, and in the

"very places indicated by it had seen acts of immorality.

Cr. Howard's motion was carried."

Visit of the Prince of Wales to Christchurch.

For days before the Prince's visit to Christchurch extensive preparations for according him a royal reception were carried on, bunting and flags flying everywhere. People flocked to the city from all parts, days before the event. Hotels and accomodation houses were packed, and never before, or since, were so many people gathered together in Christchurch.

On the evening of his arrival the streets from the Railway Station to the Christchurch Club (where the Prince was billeted) were crowded with people, and so was every position of vantage.

The Police car, containing the Commissioner of Police and myself, led the van, and the best of order prevailed. The people of Christchurch did everything to make the Prince's stay in Christchurch a pleasant one. A Race Meeting was promoted for his pleasure, and he fully enjoyed the racing - in fact, he started two races.

I made friends with the Prince's chief body-guard, Detective Inspector Clarkson, and on Race Day we had a few investments together, and at the end of the day we showed a profit.

The morning that the Prince left Christchurch the same crowds were present. The Railway Station was crowded, notwithstanding the fact that only privileged people were allowed on. About ten minutes after the Prince's arrival at the Railway Station, he sent for me, and warmly shook my hand, and congratulated me on the police arrangements, and the order and comfort prevailing during his stay. He said he would have liked to have remained a few days longer in Christchurch as it reminded him more of the Home Land than any place he had seen. As the Royal Train was about to depart, the Prince again sent for me, and, while standing on the carriage platform, he handed me a small bluish case and said, "Take this as a memento of my visit to Christchurch." He again warmly shook my hand and said, "I wish you every luck." The people around were astounded at the honour he showed me.

Mr. Andrew Burns, then reporter, was all the time an eye witness, and was the first person to see the Pin after it was presented to me, and it was he who wrote the following "local":-

18th May, 1920:

"The happiest man in Christchurch as the Royal train steamed out was Superintendent Dwyer, of the Christchurch Police. He was left standing with a little narrow case which the Prince pressed into his hand with a hearty handshake as the train was actually moving. Mr. Dwyer hastened to open the case and found that it contained a gold tie pin. The head was oval and the edge of milled gold, while the centre was of red semi-transparent enamel with white Prince of Wales feathers let into the enamel and the scroll with the motto in green enamel. The gift was a beautiful memento, and it was rendered in recognition of the excellent work of the police in Christchurch. Previously, on the railway platform, the Prince had shaken hands with Mr. Dwyer and congratulated him on the traffic and other arrangements. On entering his carriage the Prince sent for Mr. Dwyer, who was actually the last man to say goodbye."

Now comes the near approach of my retirement, and the crowning event in my police career.

The 30th of June was the day when I was to retire on six months' leave on full pay, and return to private life on the 1st January, 1922, after 43 years' service.

My Final Parade of the Canterbury Police.

The following copy of newspaper cutting gives a fair account of that event:--

"After forty-three years' service in the Police Force of the Dominion, Superintendent John Dwyer relinquished his office yesterday as head of the Canterbury Police Division. He enters today on six months' leave of absence, at the end of which he will retire, at the age of sixty-five, in accordance with the regulations. He intends to reside in Christchurch, but he will probably go abroad for a holiday in the springtime. It is intended to mark his sixteen years' service in Christchurch by a public testimonial and presentation.

Final Parade.

Superintendent Dwyer attended his last Parade yesterday afternoon, when officers and men from all parts of the city and suburbs assembled in the police yard, and were addressed by their chief. 'This will be the last occasion,' said Superintendent Dwyer, 'on which it will be my privilege to supervise your monthly parade. I would like to say a few words before handing over the control of the division to Superintendent