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 Frince 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 Folice 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 "Hendrey, who succeeds me. First of all, I have to congratulate Mr. Hendrey on his promotion, and secondly, I have to thank him for the able assistance he has given me since he came to Christchurch. He has relieved me of most of my regular work, thereby giving me the opportunity to wean myself from the cares and attachments of office. I have to thank the men of all ranks in the district for the loyal support and help they have always given me, enabling me to carry out my duties - the senior sergeant, the sergeants of the city and suburbs, and the men under them. I have also to thank the senior-sergeant at Lyttelton and his staff for the work they are doing in suppressing pilfering of all kinds on the waterfront. I have also to thank the chief-detective and his staff for the able support that he and his men have always given me, and I congratulate him on the success that has attended his work, as of late years not a single crime has been committed in the city that has not been brought to light. The great success of the detective branch, combined with the efforts of the uniformed men, enables me to declare that Christchurch today is one of the cleanest and most law-abiding of any city of its size and population this side of the line. I must also thank the Press of the city for the many considerations and favours it has always shown me during my years in charge of the Canterbury district, and its fairness to the police as a body.

In handing over the charge of the division to your new Superintendent, Mr. Dwyer added, I feel that I need hardly ask you to extend to him the same loyalty that you have always extended to me. I go on six months' leave tomorrow before retiring from the force on January 1st next. In retiring from the position I have held so long I have nothing on my conscience to trouble me. I have always tried to be fair and just with the men under me and to be fair and just to the public. I never tried to please everyone, as I long since learned by experience that that was impossible, and that the men who had tried the experiment in this position had proved a failure."

Superintendent Hendrey thanked Mr. Dwyer for the reference to himself, and said that on another occasion he and others would be able to say something more about his retirement.

At the conclusion of the parade, which was one of the largest on record, three very hearty cheers were given for the retiring Superintendent."

Fublic Meeting Called.

This meeting was held in the Council Chambers, the Mayor, Dr. Thacker, presiding. The following citizens were elected an Executive Committee :--Dr. Thacker, Mayor & M.P. - Chairman. Alex Boyle, Esqr. - Treasurer. W. E. Simes, Esqr. - Secretary. H. Holland, Esqr. Ex Mayor. Geo. Witty, Esqr., M.P. R. C. Bishop, Esqr. T. Kincaid, Esqr. H. J. Otley, Esqr. R. Ballin, Esqr. W. Mitchell, Esqr. H. R. Smith, Town Clerk W. Hayward, Esgr.

public recognition of the good work done by Superintendent Dwyer.

The Public Farewell.

The following copy of newspaper cutting gives a description of the public farewell tendered to me.

> Mr. John Dwyer Police Force Service recognised.

> > A Public Farewell.

"The lot of a police officer is not an enviable one, and the officer who can retire after nearly half a century's eservice with the knowledge that he has nothing but the goodwill of all with whom he has come in contact must indeed have been an officer who has combined duty with tact. Such, however, is the position of Mr. John Dwyer, who recently relinquished the office of Superintendent of the Canterbury police, and retired on superannuation, and last night the ex-Superintendent was farewelled by a thoroughly representative body of citizens. The gathering, a very large one, assembled in the City Council Chamber, and it included many of the best known citizens of Canterbury. The Mayer, Dr. Thacker, M.P., presided. Ex-Superintendent Dwyer, who was accompanied by Mrs. Dwyer, was loudly applauded as he accompanied the Mayor into the chamber. The citizens, some little time ago, decided to make some tangible recognition of Ex-Superintendent Dwyer's services to the public, and an executive committee was elected which has worked so heartily in its enterprise that it was able to make a very substantial presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Dwyer last evening.

Dr. Thacker said that ex-Superintendent Dwyer was one of whom all citizens of Christchurch and of the whole Dominion could say. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Mr. Dwyer, during his long police experience, had gained the goodwill of everyone, and he had been greatly helped by his good wife. (Applause). Mr. Dwyer had always proved fair to the fallen, and a help to the helpless, and he had always been a prominent figure in "every scrap and bit of sport" that had taken place in any centre in which he had been stationed. For 43 years, he had served New Zealand faithfully and well, and during the whole of that time he had proved himself a good and an active citizen. The greatest tribute ever paid to a Christchurch citizen had been paid to ex-Superintendent Dwyer by the Frince of Wales who, on leaving Christchurch, had complimented him on the efficiency of the Canterbury Force, and had given him a Pin decordted with the Frince of Wales' feathers. Dr. Thacker went on to describe the ex-Superintendent as a man with a "silent, eagle eye, a sentinel of peace and goodwill." In conclusion,

"he expressed the hope that Mr. and Mrs. Dwyer would spend many happy years in their retirement.

A Substantial Cheque.

"Mr. W. E. Simes, who acted as secretary of the executive, thanked the executive and the public for the support that had been given to the movement to make Mr. Dwyer a suitable presentation. All contributions, he said, had been voluntary, and had ranged from 5/- upwards, yet they were in the happy position of being able to hand over to Mr. Dwyer a cheque for 2700. (Loud Applause.) The occasion was both a sad and a happy one, sad because they were losing an old friend in office, and a happy one because Mr. Dwyer was about to enjoy a well-earned retirement. Mr. Dwyer had always been the personification of fairness and impartiality. (Applause.) He had been no "kid glove man", but had always been seen leading his men when occasion demanded, while, on the other hand, he was kindness itself when occasion demanded. Under his supervision the Canterbury Police Force had risen to a very high standard, and in the Detective Force, for instance, Christchurch had men who were equal to the men of Scotland Yard(Applause.) Mr. Dwyer's devotion to his work, and his unfailing courtesy, kindness, and fairness would never be forgotten.(Applause). Mr. Simes read a telegram from the Police Commissioner, Mr. J. O'Donovan, in which Mr. O'Donovan re-gretted his absence, and stated that Mr. Dwyer had proved himself a man of the highest character, and his services of the greatest value, and Mr. O'Donovan wished him and Mrs. Dwyer many years of happiness and success.

Mr. Simes then stated that, in addition to the cheque for 2700. an illuminated address had been prepared for Mr. Dwyer, with a piece of plate for Mrs. Dwyer, to be attached to an oak suite of bedroom furniture, which would later be provided. (Applause.)

Mr. A. Boyle endorsed all that had been said of the good qualities of Mr. Dwyer and added that in a position requiring great tact Mr. Dwyer had never failed, but had always been "true, nice and earnest."

Mr. G. Witty, M.P., said that Mr. and Mrs. Dwyer had done great work in the interests of New Zealand. Mr. Dwyer had carried out his duty without fear, but on the other hand, people in suffering or trouble had always met with unfailing kindness at his hands. He had always been approachable, and he had always been respected, and he was a man who had won the respect of all with whom he had come in contact. Had he wished, he might have attained a position even higher than that of Superintendent.

Mr. H. J. Otley added his tribute to ex-Superintendent Dwyer's services, and Mr. H. Holland said that for seven years it had been his great privilege to come in close contact with Mr. Dwyer, whom he had always found a wise concillor and a great tactician. His policy had ever been to prevent rather than to detect and punish crime, but when the time came to track down the evil-doer, he had always been there. He had been unfailing in his kindness and courtesy, and had been of the greatest assistance during the speaker's term as Mayor. The police force would be much the poorer by the loss of such an efficient officer, who would always have a cosy corner in the hearts of the people of Christchurch.

Mr. R. C. Bishop said that Mr. Dwyer had always proved himself

"a particularly good, kind, humane and human man.

Mr. W. Gardiner added his tribute to what had been said, and Mr. Wm. Hamilton, on behalf of Mr. A. T. Donnelly, Crown Prosedutor, who was unable to be present owing to illness, spoke of Mr. Dwyer's great assistance to the Crown Law office. Mr. A. Ferguson paid a tribute to Mr. Dwyer's predecessors, who, he said, had proved themselves really "fine specimens of the good old Irish breed", and Mr. S. F. McCarthy, S.M., said that in the retirement of Mr. Dwyer, the public was losing a good police afficer and a good friend. Sir James Carroll, in a characteristic speech, spoke very highly of Mr. and Mrs. Dwyer, after which the Mayor made the presentation."

Mr. Dwyer's reply.

"In the course of a brief reply, Mr. Dwyer, who was received with loud cheers, thanked all and sundry for their good wishes and their presentation. Having gone through his record, he could find nothing to merit such kindness. He had been fortunate in having associated with him an efficient and loyal staff, and to them more than to him were due the success of the police administration in Canterbury. Also, he had a true and devoted helpmeet, who had helped him through many trying and intricate ordeals. (Applause.) He would always look upon that evening as the crowning episode of his career.

The singing of "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow" and the National Anthem, with cheers for Superintendent Hendrey, Mr. Dwyer's successor, brought the function to a close.

The illuminated address was a beautifully decorative piece of work, and was executed by the Christchurch Press Company, on whose staff of artists it reflected the greatest credit. Its wording, artistically inscribed, was as follows:--

"Christchurch, 8th August, 1921. John Dwyer on his retirement from the office of Superintendent of the Canterbury Police Division. Dear Sir - On behalf of the subscribers and residents of Christchurch and neighbourhood, who represent all classes of the community, we the undersigned, desire to express their appreciation of your lengthy and faithful service in the Police Force of the Dominion of New Zealand. In the course of your 43 years' connigtion with the Force you have ever shown yourself a zealous, conscientious, and an efficient officer, and by your tact and consideration you have won the esteem and respect of the public in the centres in which you have been stationed. You have spent many years in Christchurch, and it is largely due to your faultless discharge of your duties that the city and district can rightly claim to be of all the large cities in the Dominion the most law-abiding and the freest from serious crime. In wishing you many years of health and happiness in which to enjoy your well-earned release from the Public Service we ask you to accept the accompanying cheque as a slight but tangible token of the high esteem in which you are held, and of the

- 78 -

mate, and we wish you to accept on her behalf a cheque wherewith the may obtain an appropriate mamento of our appreciation and good wishes. Yours faithfully (signed) on behalf of the Executive Committee. R. C. Bishop, H. J. Otley, A. Boyle (Hon. Treasurer), and W. E. Simes, (Hon. Secretary)."

The Following are copies of further newspaper extracts :-

Presentation from Folice Force.

"Superintendent J. Dwyer, who recently retired from the Police Force after forty years' service, was officially farewelled by the members of the Canterbury-West Coast Division at a largely attended gathering held in the police library last evening, those present including members of the detective force branch and officers from suburban and country stations.

Superintendent Hendrey, who presided, referred to Superintendent Dwyer's very fine qualities as an officer and the fair and just manner in which he treated the men under his command. Moreover, he had always carried out his duties fearlessly, yet to the satisfaction of the public whom he served. Superintendent Hendrey also referred to the remarks made at the citizens' presentation to Superintendent Dwyer the previous night, stating that such appreciation should be an incentive to every man in the service to so live and carry out his duties in order that when his time came to leave the service the public would have the same high regard of him. On behalf of the members of the service in the district, Superintendent Hendrey then presented Superintendent Dwyer with a wallet and cheque for 250.

Chief Detective M'Ilveney, Dr. Crooke (Folice Surgeon) Senior Sergeant Ryan (Ashburton) Sergeant Brien and Constables Hannafin (Upper Riccarton), Smythe (Court Orderly) and Hammond (Timaru) also expressed their appreciation of Superintendent Dwyer.

In responding, Superintendent Dwyer spoke feelingly of his association with the men under his command. He wished to compliment them on their loyalty to him and also on the fact that his successor, Superintendent Hendrey, was a very able and just man. The monetary value of the presentation was nothing beside the expressions of goodwill which had been given by the men in the service on his retirement."(Applause).

The gathering concluded with the singing of "ForeHe's a Jolly Good Fellow."

(The Wellington Post - 10th August, 1921.)

"Referring yesterday to recent police staff changes, the Minister of Justice (the Hon. E. P. Lee) expressed his recognition of the valuable services of Superintendent Dwyer, Christchurch, who has retired after 43 years' membership of the force. Mr. Lee said it was with much regret he was not able to attend the presentation Christchurch citizens made to Superintendent Dwyer, as the gathering took place just prior to his return to New Zealand from Samoa. Superintendent Dwyer had had a long and honourable career in the police force of the Dominion, and in the different capacities in which he had served he had had to deal with many important police matters, and from a knowledge of his work, he could say that Superintendent Dwyer had rendered loyal and valuable service to the Police Department and the Dominion. Mr. Lee expressed the hope that the Superintendent would live long and happily in his well-earned retirement."

(Copy of letter received from the Hon. the Minister of Justice.)

Office of the Minister of Justice. Wellington, 11th August,1921.

Dear Mr. Dwyer,

I desire to express to you my regret at not being able to attend the presentation to you from the citizens of Christchurch on your retirement from the Police Force after 43 years' continuous service.

It unfortunately happened that only in the evening of the day the ceremony took place I returned to New Zealand from Samoa and Australia, and it would have given me pleasure to attend the function had it been possible for me to do so. You have had a long and honourable connection with the Police Force of the Dominion during which time you have had to deal with, in the different capacities in which you have served, very many important Police matters, and I can express to you the recognition of the Department and, I think, the public, for the efficient manner in which you discharged your onerous duties.

I very much regret that I had not an opportunity of attending the gathering in your honour to personally testify to your work and service to the country, and at the same time express to you my best wishes for your happiness and prosperity in your retirement. I trust that in the circumstances which caused my absence from the gathering you will receive this letter in the spirit in which it is intended.

I am,

Yours faithfully, (Signed) E. P. Lee.

(Copy of latter received from the Canterbury Rugby Football League.)

> Christchurch, July 23rd, 1921

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have been requested to convey to you the appreciation of all of our members and supporters for the courtesy and assistance we have received from the police department during "the term whilst you had charge, and on your retirement the Executive place on record the favours you have always so willingly granted to this Association.

In thanking you for your support, we wish you health and prosperity for your future years, and trust you long enjoy the superannuation benefits you deserve.

Please accept the thanks of all members.

Faithfully yours, (Signed) W.S.E. Moyle. Secretary.

(Leading Article clipped from the Timaru "Post".)

"After service in the police extending over forty-three years, during which time he advanced, as a result of sterling merit, to the position of Superintendent of Canterbury, Mr. John Dwyer severed his connection with the Police Service last week. During the lengthy period of service he won the esteem and confidence, not only of those serving under him, but of the general public, in a quite uncommon degree, and we believe we are well within the mark when we say that there was no more popular officer in the Fublic Service than the gentleman who now retires to enjoy a well-earned rest, after years of service conscientiously performed. The duties of a police officer are not always enviable; much of the work to be performed is uncongenial. But in the interests of the general weal the work has to be done, and it is only a man of uncommon tact and judgment, and withal endowed with no small portion of the milk of human kindness, who can perform his multitudinous duties without falling foul of some section of the community, and yet perform the service to the state without deviating to the right or to the left. But although much is expected of a police of ficer we believe Superintendent Dwyer came up to that high standard. At times, many bricks are thrown at the police in the Dominion. The members of the Force are not in a position to relatiate "theirs not to make reply", and consequently many slanders go un-answered. We believe the Police Force of this Dominion is highly efficient, that it compares with that of any other country under the British flag; that the officers and rank and file are of a very high class. Although we are a young country, the crimes which it has been the duty of the police to unravel have been many and complicated, some demanding Sherlock Holmeslike qualities, supposedly to be found nowhere but at Scotland Yard. But they have proved themselves equal to the task; the number of malefactors brought to justice whol although they left little trace of their crimes, is a sufficient answer to the jibes sometimes heard regarding the inefficiency of the police . As we said before, we believe the police of this Dominion have ever maintained a very high standard of efficiency and integrity. Superintendent Dwyer, during his long services, proved instrumental in unearthing many crimes and invvindicating the law, the case of Eggers being still fresh in the public mind. A polished gentleman, a zealous officer, and a highly efficient public servant, Mr. John Dwyer has richly earned the retirement which is now his, and into which we are sure he will carry the

"very best wishes of the public whom he has served faithfully and well."

In a letter from the Commissioner of Police (Mr. J.O'Donovan) thanking me for my loyal service to the Department, and wishing me all kinds of good luck, in my retirement, said that I established a record in the service that would stand for a long time.

-----000------

Horember 1934

4

- 81 -

An Amusing Speech.

(Copy of newspaper cutting).

"A Wellington man known as "The Whiffler" addressed a public meeting at Blenheim recently, and is thus reported. The Whiffler came forward, and was greeted with uproarious applause, and cries of "Where's your hair? (A voice - he's had it blown off at Wellington.) He said he felt the honor conferred upon him in having been invited to address the electors of Blenheim, a place for which together with its floating population (Laughter) he had a great regard. (At about this time there was a big flood in Blenheim, and people had to be removed from their homes in boats.) He hoped that with the allusions that had been made as to his sparsity of locks, all further references on that head would cease. (Laughter). He would add, however, that the insinuation thrown out as to the stormy character of Wellington was unjust. It was about the calmest city he knew of, and to its excessive calm was traceable its slow rate of progress. (More laughter). There were only two things that would rouse a Wellington citizen, namely, a dog fight and a hint that the seat of Government was going to be shifted. (Roars of laughter). However, to come to political matters; they had, he understood, read his address to the Berhampore and Wellington South electors. (Cries of "Rather!" "Give us another, old man'." and "They say you had nothing to do with it!" (Laughter and applause). Well, if he didn't actually speak it, it expressed his sentiments, that was the same thing. (Hear, hear). A man who hadn't sentiments in an important crisis like the present was an ass. (Rears of laughter.) Every elector in the colony should have an intelligent conception of the position, and he should boldly declare, whatever that might be, "Them's my sentiments." (Loud applause). It wasn't grammatical, but it was undoubtedly the straight tip. The fault in this country was that every mother wanted her Mary Jane to know how to play the pi-anny, and every father wanted to make his Bill a quill-driver. (Applause, hisses, and laughter.) Some of the geese who were to supply the quills were evidently present in the hall. (Loud laughter). While on the subject of geese, he might remark that the Roman Fathers worshipped their geese because they saved their Capital; modern fathers cursed their geese for squandering it. (Applause and laughter.) The people of New Zealand were typical modern geese. (A voice: "At any rate, you're an ancient Rum'un!") (roars of laughter). That was so, and he was proud of his descent. The gentleman meant it as a joke, but it was the truth spoken in jest. He was of Roman extraction, and the shape of his nose vouched for that fact. (Laughter). They would also find in his case the truth of the quotation, "A Roman Nose, no fear." (Prolonged laughter and applause, and a voice"Go home, you're the many for us; we're only plain men here"). Well, having scanned his audience, he had reluctantly come to the same opinion. They were only very plain men indeed. (Renewed laughter). He wouldn't have alluded to the ugly fact if he could have helped it. (Hysterical laughter). What he wanted to convey to them was that the bone and sinew of this country - the working men - must begin to see the necessity of bringing up their children to the sphere of life in which they found themselves, and drop these quill-driving and piano-playing aspirations. Their policy for 10 years must be an all round

retrenchment, a Land and Income Tax, judicious fostering of local industries yet in the incipient stage, social thrift, non-political management of their railways, and the placing of the accounts of the colony on the simple but efficient basis adopted by every large business firm. There was the whole position for them in one act. (Great applause, and a voice "You're the sort of man we want.") Yes, he thoroughly agreed with that elector. He was just the kind of man wanted in the House, but there should be a majority there like That's where the difficulty came in (Laughter). There him. weren't many of his sort knocking about. (Renewed Laughter) and a voice, "How do you hatch whifflers?") The whiffler, like the Poet was born, not made. (Great laughter). Hatching didn't seem to be necessary. There were an awful lot of bad eggs about. (Great laughter, and a voice - "You knew all about that at Berhampore, didn't you?"). Unfortunately, that was so. It was the only yoke, however, he had ever bowed under, and that was a strange fact, because it was high enough in all conscience. (Roars of laughter.) If any of those present had brought a supply of sick eggs, he begged them to remember that he was not yet a sitting member. (Loud laughter). One other thing he had to tell them. He was strongly in favour of local option. He was as sound as a drum on this point. If any of his hearers doubted him, he would be glad to meet them at the hotel after his speech, when he would give it a name with any of them. (Some one in the gallery here threw a dead cat on the stage amid uproar and shrieks of laughter). If anyone repeated that conduct he would regard it as a pussonal affair. (Renewed Laughter.) It was decidedly rude behaviour though he could not call it unfeline. (Hysterics.) Did they know why Lord Tennyson resembled that defunct cat? (A voice - "What's that got to do with politics?) and cries of "No, we give it up." - Because its "In Memoriam") Well, he would tell them. Because its Muse had left it. (Roars of laughter). And that was apropos of his own case. He had now given them the political straight tip, and he thought they had better adjourn. At this juncture the gas was turned off, and a scene of indescribable confusion ensued in the efforts of the audience to find their way out of the hall, the "Whiffler" being called to throw some light on the position. Finally, when the gas was re-lit, it was found that the occupants of the stage, together with the reporters, had made their escape by a side door. The meeting then terminated with three cheers for the Whiffler."

The Whiffler was a well-known character in Wellington in the late 80's and early 90's. He dressed in a most eccentric fashion, swallow tail coat, red vest, plaid trousers, white cravat, bell-topper, and usually carried an umbrella. He had a witty, sharp tongue.

The man who crossed him, especially if there were a number of people about, would wish he was never born.

Few Verdicts recorded in the far-off days A of long ago - by Coroners' Jurors.

In Waihi, (noted for its mining disputes) a certain Denis Hogan was engaged in blasting, and by some mishap the blast went off and blew poor Denis's body into smithereens. The Police picked up a leg here and an arm there, and the summoned Jury viewed the remains, and recorded their verdict that "This bit of Denis Hogan died through parting company with the rest of him."

In Hokitika, a Jury found that "John Smith died of a wound inflicted just below the heart - and a little behind the school.

At an inquest at Lawrence, the Jury found that the deceased met his death by the visitation of God under suspicious circumstances.

At Mauriceville, a Jury inquiring into the death of an infant, found dead in bed, returned the following verdict. "We find that the child was bern suddenly and by surprise, and that it was smothered, but not by any vielence, or injury received."

I was a keen fisherman in my day, and had many a good day's fun at this sport. I had the honour of sending the first Quinnat Salmon from New Zealand to London. The Fishing Gazette published a photo of this salmon, and the following is a copy of extract from that paper:- (March 23rd, 1918.)

> "This salmon (weight 262 lb.) was caught in the Waitaki River, New Zealand, in March last by Mr. John Dwyer, Expects Christchurch, who, on the same day, took four other salmon weighing 19 lb., 172 lb., 17 lb. and 14 lb. respectively." (It was sent to Captain T. D. Donne, London, in a frozen condition, and was mounted by the Army and Navy Stores.)

