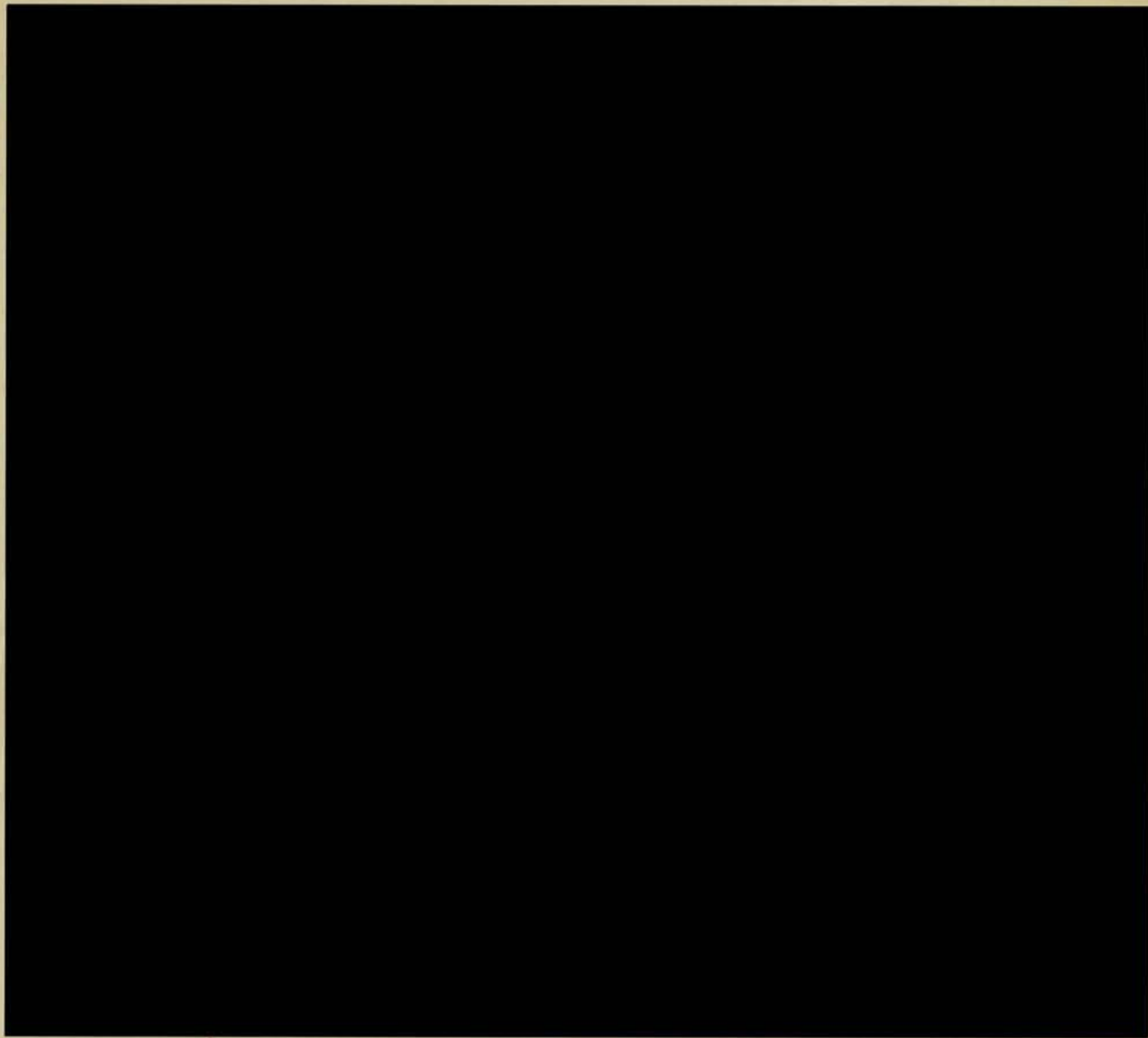


To David and Vera,  
With Love and best wishes,

Dad

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4



F R A G M E N T S

FROM THE

OFFICIAL CAREER OF

JOHN DWYER

SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE

1878 to 1921.

-----oO-----

F O R E W O R D.

I have written these notes at the solicitation of some of my family, and having in view the dropping of the curtain.

The incidents are written from memory, with the aid of a few newspaper extracts. I never kept a diary. I was a fairly quick observer in my time, and had the knack of storing away incidents in my memory which others thought unworthy of remembering.

Although I have passed my 76th year, I can still remember things that happened 50 years ago, better even than things that happened only 10 years ago.

The morning of my Police career was rough and exacting, but as the evening drew near, and as I advanced in the Service, I had a good and interesting time of it. I retired from the Police with a satisfied conscience. I always tried to be fair, and if I could not do a man a good turn, I never went out of my way to do him a bad one.

Whatever little popularity I may have attained during my 43 years' service, I put down to the fact that I always mingled with the people.

Born in the townland of Shrone, in the parish of Listowel, County Kerry, on the 1st January, 1857 - educated at Coolard National School. This school was a quarter of a mile from Gunsborough Villa, where Lord Kitchener was born. I left home in 1878, and came to New Zealand in the Sailing Ship "City of Auckland". On reaching New Zealand, I had the misfortune to be wrecked on the Otaki Coast. There were no lives lost, but the passengers lost most of their belongings. I had the good fortune to have a generous aunt living at Patea, and she wired me £20. to the scene of the wreck. This sum, with what I had on me, made me quite independent. I was the fifth member of my family to leave Home and seek a living in a foreign land. Driven from the land of our birth, like thousands of others, by its unjust and tyrannical laws.

I went from the scene of the wreck to Napier, and after a few days there I got work on a station at Waipukarau, at 25/- week and found. In those days, the workers had to put up with any old thing. After making a few pounds, I went to Napier, and, coming from church on a Sunday night, I was introduced to Major Skully, then Inspector of Police. He invited my friend and myself to his house, and we put in an hour there. A few days after this, I met the Inspector again, and he invited me to his office, and after some talk, he put the matter to me of joining the Police, and pointed out the prospects there were in the Force for a steady, level-headed young man, and he thought, by what he saw of me, that I should fill the bill. I wrote out an application there and then, and three days thereafter, I was wired for to proceed to Wellington. I entered "Mount Cook" Barracks, after passing the medical and other examinations. After putting in a couple of months' training, I was drafted to Dunedin, and on the 19th December, 1878, I made my debut as a policeman in that city. Dunedin was then the leading city in New Zealand. Sir

Julius Vogel (Prime Minister ) had spent almost all of a £10,000,000 loan in Otago, and things were then booming. There were 85 licensed hotels, besides six bottle license stores, within the city, and at this time, there were over a thousand emigrants arriving in Port Chalmers monthly.

Dunedin was a hot shop then. There was a part of the city called the "Devil's Half Acre " (The Chinese and Assyrian quarters) and there were two constables stationed there night and day to preserve order. There was more life to be seen in the streets at 2 a.m. then, than there is at 11 p.m. today. In the early hours of any morning, the wail of "German Charley" could be heard as he expounded on the merits of his condiments "Saveloys hot, all hot, steaming hot - four legs of mutton for sixpence, all meat and no bones (Sheep Trotters)."

New Year's Eve was the most disorderly night of the year, and New Year's Eve of '78 was the rowdiest on record. The Corporation put out its lamps at 2 a.m. leaving the city in darkness. The rough element came to light, and for two hours, or more, made things hum, pulling down fences, gates and shutters, and smashing windows. A companion and I were sent to protect a trio of houses in Stuart Street. My companion was knocked out with a blow of a stone, and had to be taken to hospital. I was well baptized but escaped serious injury. There were 25 arrests made during the night.

#### My First Important Arrest.

A young man, named Jim White, a member of a well-known criminal family, was wanted for breaking and entering and theft. The detectives reported that he had gone to Auckland, but instead, he was in hiding in Dunedin. At 1 a.m. on a Sunday morning, an arrest was made by the police, and on the way to the lock-up, they were beset by over one hundred hooligans. The police had to take the prisoner through the Royal Arcade to Maclaggan Street, where the Police Station then was. I joined in, but kept behind the crowd to see if any stones were thrown, or damage committed. The police delivered their prisoner safely, and the crowd hung round the mouth of the Arcade within view of the Police Station. I mixed with the crowd, and I spotted a man well muffled up.

I got a glimpse of his face in the light, and I saw a resemblance to his well-known sister "Sal White". I thought for a while, and then, seeing a cabman whom I knew, I spoke to him, and asked him who the man across the way, well muffled up, was, and he said "Jim White" - "I was only speaking to him a few minutes ago." Just to suit my purpose, White moved closer to the footpath. I watched my opportunity, and grabbed him by his shoulders and pushed him on to the middle of the street before he knew where he was. The crowd realised the position and then they pushed at me to rescue White, but, before they reached me, the police appeared at the door of the Police Station, and a yell from me brought them flying to my assistance. The crowd was kept at bay, enabling me to deliver my prisoner safely. I made a report of the affair, colouring the facts as well as I could, and that night my report was read on parade by the Inspector, who commented and praised the action of the young constable, and pointed out what could be done when the man had the will and the way. Three days after this I was promoted a second class Constable. This gave me my first step on the ladder. There were classes in all branches of the Service then.

#### The Result of a Dream.

My next case occurred very soon after the one related above.

One morning, when on duty in Princes Street, I was hailed by the proprietor of the "Old Times" Restaurant, and told that a theft had been committed in the Restaurant during the night. I investigated the complaint. It was this; two boarders occupied the same room. One had £9. in his possession when he retired to his bed, but when he got up to dress he found his money was gone. The other occupant of the room denied all knowledge of the matter, and there the affair stood. Next morning, when passing the Restaurant, the proprietor accosted me and said his housemaid wished to see me, and she would not tell him what she wanted me for. I saw the housemaid, and she whispered me aside, and said she wanted to tell me about a dream she had the previous night. She said she dreamt that the money was

planted by the suspect, Lambert, (an ex-jockey with a record) in some part of his bed. She would not tell the proprietor in case the dream would not come true. I went with her to the room, and examined every part of the bed and bed-clothes. I noticed a newly made slit in the mattress, sewn over with coarse black thread. I undid a portion of the sewing so that I could put in my hand and feel about for the plant. I found it in my first attempt. The £9. was intact. In looking round the room, I noticed a skein of black thread hanging on a nail near suspect's bed. I compared this with that used in the mattress, and they were exactly the same. I got the girl to make up the bed in the usual way, and then told her to bring the proprietor. I told him what the girl wanted me for, and told him to bring the suspect from the billiard room, where he was employed. When he arrived in the room, I was having a look round, and when I came to the skein of thread I took it in my hand, and was examining it, when he said "That is mine." I then took the bed to pieces, and when I came to the mattress, I opened up the slit with my knife, and took out the money, and then compared the used thread with the skein, and found them to be exactly the same. I then turned to the accused, and said, "You are under arrest." He said, "I took the money, and I'll plead guilty."

Offender was committed for trial at the Supreme Court, and received 18 months' imprisonment.

A few months after this, I was transferred (temporarily) to Port Chalmers, and the Sergeant (Hanlon) kept me there for over six months, and then I had to battle to get away. The principal work there was arresting and separating drunken sailors. I have seen, at one time, as many as 24 prisoners in the cells. That number would not be arrested in one year now. It was a common thing then to see ten sailing ships in the harbour at one time.

The following incident happened while I was at Port Chalmers:-



A Chinaman's Hoard.

One afternoon as I was on duty, a man rode up to the Police Station. Both horse and man seemed all but exhausted. The man asked for the Sergeant, and I told him that he was away at Portobello. He said he had ridden from St. Bathans, and this his mount was the third horse used in the journey. He was after three Chinamen, who left St. Bathans some days previously, without paying him large sums of money which they owed him for store supplies and rent of his water race, and that he suspected that they would be leaving for Sydney by the S.S. "Wakatipu" about to sail. He begged of me to go with him to the ship, and said if he could see them he might be able to get some of his money. I had compassion for the man, and I went with him to the ship. I knew the officers, and as we got on board I met the Second Officer, and asked him if there were any Chinamen on board. He said there were a few, and took us down to an apartment in the Steerage, where there were about thirty returning shearers, as rough a crowd as one could see. A number of them were playing cards. There were no Chinamen about. In the room was a wide bench, and a number of swags were piled on top of each other. I spotted a leg sticking out beneath one of the swags, and on investigating I found two Chinamen hiding there. I got them out, and they were two of Mr. McConachie's debtors. One of the men playing cards spoke out and told the Chinamen not to be afraid as the policeman could not touch him. I told the fellow not to interfere, as he might find himself in trouble for obstructing the police in the execution of their duty. The Ship's Officer showed us into a room upstairs. One of the Chinamen said he would pay the store-keeper what he owed him, £180. He took off a belt that went four times round his waist, and took out 180 sovereigns, and the lot was contained in half one round of the belt. The second chinaman, who owed £40., had nothing on him, and the third Chinaman, who owed £80., could not be found. Mr. McConachie was profuse in his thanks to me, as, without my presence, he would not have recovered a farthing. When he went to Dunedin he gave an account of the affair to a reporter, and stressed the influence the presence of the uniform

had on Chinamen.

I was transferred back to Dunedin and, after putting in about six months plain clothes work, I was transferred to North Dunedin Station. At that time the City was divided into two sections. North Dunedin had its quota of police, a Sergeant in charge, two sectional Sergeants, and nine Constables.

The Cumberland Street Fire.

On the 1st July, 1882, the disastrous fire, known as the Cumberland Street fire, occurred. I was on duty at the corner of St. David and Great King Streets, when I noticed a small jet of smoke that I watched for a few seconds, and, as it increased in volume, I thought it might be a fire, so I ran across the old Caledonian Grounds to Dundas Street, when I saw clearly that it was a fire. The police were then provided with rattles and when these were sprung they almost caused the dead to rise. I sprang my rattle, and made for the burning building - a large two-storey one. The iron gate leading to the house was barred, and I had to use all my strength to force it. I ran, and with the full force of my strength and weight sent the heavy caken door sprawling. The passages were then full of smoke, and, when going up the stairs, I had to stuff my handkerchief in my mouth. At the landing at the top of the stairs I found Mrs. Kitchener, and a child in her arms, both on fire. I took one on each arm, and rushed downstairs to the lawn, and rolled them in the damp grass, and put out the fire, and then handed them over to a Miss Robinson who had just arrived on the scene. I again entered the burning building and made upstairs, but a sudden rush of flame sent me back. I got my hair singed, and my coat caught fire. I became stupefied with smoke, and was rescued just in time by a fellow constable who had then arrived, and who was told by Miss Robinson that I was in the burning building. My comrade helped me out, and in the fresh air I soon revived. At that moment there was a scream from one of the top windows. My companion and I took off our great-coats, held them together and told the three young men at the window to jump on to the coats, one by one, and their fall would be broken, and this they did, and all landed without a

scratch. They were the two young Kitcheners and a Mr. Ash, a University student. While adjusting the young fellows, Captain Kitchener, without warning, threw himself out of one of the top windows, and came a terrible thud on the asphalt below. I have never forgotten that sight, the poor fellow's night clothes were burnt about him. He was removed to the nearest hotel for medical attention, but died there four days after, a raving maniac. Two lovely girls and a child of four perished in the flames. The child I rescued died 21 days after the fire from its burns. Mrs. Kitchener recovered, but always bore marks of the burns. On the occasion, the Fire Brigade was very slow in getting to the fire. At that time, the fire alarm system was crude to a degree. An old tower in Dowling Street, where a night watchman took up his post, and when he saw a fire he rang the bell, and the Brigade turned out. Sometimes the fire was half through before the watchman saw it.

After the fire, the Department promoted me to 1st Class Constable, and gave me a monetary reward of £10. At this time, there were classes in all branches of the Service, but these were abolished in 1898 by the "Tunbridge Police Commission."

The City Council took the matter up, as the Royal Humane Society was not then in existence. I was presented with a Silver Medal for valour. The presentation was made in the Town Hall, and the following is a copy of the newspaper report:-

"At the fortnightly meeting of the City Council last night, a letter was read from Mr. T. K. Weldon, Inspector of Police, stating that the Commissioner of Constabulary had approved of Constable John Dwyer receiving the medal which the City Council desired to present to him for his services connected with the fire at the late Captain Kitchener's residence.

The Mayor said the Council would remember it had been unanimously decided to present a medal to Constable Dwyer for the bravery he displayed at the late fire in Cumberland Street, but before making the presentation, it was necessary to obtain the sanction of the Commissioner of Police, which had now been given.

Constable Dwyer, who had been invited to attend the Council meeting, was then presented with the medal by His Worship, who, in doing so, said - Constable Dwyer, I have very much pleasure on behalf of the City Council, representing the citizens of Dunedin, in presenting you

"this medal for valour you displayed in the disastrous fire which occurred in Cumberland Street in July last. Though a very handsome testimonial, its money value is not very great. I trust you will receive it in the spirit in which it is given, not as a pecuniary reward for the very great services you rendered in saving lives, but as a mark of esteem and respect for the brave deeds you performed in risking your own life in order to save those of others. I believe I am but speaking the hope of every resident of the community when I express the wish that you may live long to wear it, and to enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you have earned the respect and admiration of your fellow citizens.(Applause).

Constable Dwyer, in responding, said he felt highly honoured in being the recipient of the handsome present as a mark of appreciation of the services he had given at the fire referred to. The only matter he regretted in connection with the occurrence was that he had not arrived earlier at the scene of the fire, as he might then have been able to have saved some who perished in the flames. There was no necessity for him to go into the circumstances, which he knew must be fresh in the memory of everyone in the city. He thanked the Council for having considered his services of such a nature as to be deserving of the medal. (Applause.)

The medal is of silver, and is in the form of a Máltese Cross, with five bars. A circle surrounding the cross has the words "The Mayor and City Council of Dunedin, New Zealand." On one of the bars are the words, "For Valour", and in the centre of the cross is the name of the recipient, with the date."

Captain Kitchener mentioned herein was an uncle of Lord Kitchener.

The following is a copy of a letter which I received & from Mr. Ash (mentioned herein) accompanying the letter was a Diamond Scarf Pin. Mr. Ash is now a clergyman in Hobart.

I received other letters at the time, but I did not hang on to them.

Dunedin, Sept.30th, 1882.

My Dear Sir,

I have always intended to convey to you in some tangible manner my thanks for the service you rendered me on the occasion of the recent fire at Captain Kitchener's. Had it not been for you, I am satisfied I should in all probability have sustained serious injury. Permit me, therefore, to hand you the accompanying breast-pin, not a valuable one, I must say, for my means are limited, as a memento of the occasion. The recollection of the fire will always be attended with feelings of sadness, but, as far as you are concerned, you have the great satisfaction of knowing that you were the means of doing much good, and probably of saving life, and that you did all that was in your power to prevent the misfortune - than which no man could have done more.

With best wishes for your success in life, and in your profession.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. H. Ash.

About a fortnight after the fire the Inspector of Police sent for me. Mr. Hackworth, Collector of Customs, was in his office. The latter said to me, "There is a vacancy in my department, and I offer it to you if you care to accept it." I thanked him, and said my intentions were to leave the Police at the end of the year, and go to America, and join my friends. Very soon after this, something happened that completely quenched my intentions of going to America.

In January, 1885, a new Police District was created, with headquarters at Camaru, under the charge of Inspector Andrew Thompson. The Inspector (Weldon) sent for me and asked me if I would take the clerkship to Thompson, and, as he was a hard man to get on with, he would give me a week to consider the matter. I accepted, and on February 19th I took up my new duties. Nothing worthy of note happened until the 4th May, 1886, when I lost my status of bachelorhood.

#### The Smoked Fish Case.

A year passed, and the first case worth noting that I was concerned in occurred.

On a Saturday afternoon, I received a telephone message from the Railway Station from the Detective (O'Brien), telling me that there was a pile of stuff dumped off the express train, now on the platform. It was labelled "Smoked Fish" and was addressed to "Christison", barber - that he dared not go near it, but he thought it was smuggled stuff. An expressman named Bree, he said, was starting to load it, and that I should go and see what became of it. I went to Christison's shop, and sat down for a hair-cut and shave. Christison was by himself, and, before he was finished with me, Bree arrived with the first load of the stuff, and Christison directed him where to put it. I tarried, until I thought Bree would be returning with the second load. I then went and had a look at the stuff. I said to Christison "And what is all this stuff?" He said, "Canary Seed - you know I own a lot of canaries, and I share with the Grants." I said, "I'll have a look at it," and I cut the string of one of the bags, and out fell a box of Juno Tobacco, three-quarters of a cwt. I said, "This is smuggled tobacco, and I'll take possession of it." He received such a shock that he fell into one of

the chairs, and when he recovered he said "I am ruined". Bree, with the Detective following, arrived with the second load. I told the Detective that everything was in order and that Christison admitted ownership, the important point in the case. All the stuff was then removed to the Police Station.

Christison, De Witt (Steward of the S.S. "Ruapehu") and a boatman named McCormack, of Port Chalmers, were duly charged with a breach of the Customs Laws etc. and all pleaded guilty. Christison and De Witt were each fined £100. and McCormack £25. The tobacco was sold by public auction at Dunedin, and realized £500. The Customs Department awarded Detective O'Brien £100., the Inspector of Police £20. and £20. to me.

On the 7th July, 1887, I was promoted to 3rd class Sergeant.

#### The Footprint Case.

The next case of importance that I had to do with was known as the "Footprint Case."

On the 19th April, 1887, a band of notorious criminals visited Camaru, and that night broke into several places, besides committing several petty thefts. Shortly after 8 o'clock the following morning, Mr. Familton's (Grocer and Wine & Spirit Merchant) shopman, came to the Station and reported that the shop was broken into during the night, and a lot of stuff taken. I went with him to investigate and the first thing that caught my eye was the clear impression of a bare right foot on a new blotting pad on the office table. I also found half a candle that was broken in two, also a piece of rope with a noose in it. I took possession of these things, and brought them to my office, and locked them up there, and returned to the store. It was found that 4 bottles of brandy, 4 hams, about 24 lbs. of tobacco and some dozen tins of salmon were taken. Access to the shop was gained through a sky-light. The thief was barefooted, and his foot would be moist from the damp roof, and when let down from the sky-light, he stepped on a shelf with an accumulation of dust thereon, and then on to the blotting pad, leaving

a clear impression of the right foot. Now to find the offenders.

I took a Constable with me and had a look round the town. As we were going along the Main Street we saw a man rounding the corner of a side street, and, as he saw us, he doubled back, and we could see him over the fence running for his life. We followed, but he had disappeared. A man working at the Gas Works pointed to the adjacent timber yard, and we made search and found our man hiding under some timber, and as he could give no account of himself we arrested him, and conveyed him to the Police Station. On searching him, he was wearing no socks, I found on him half a candle that fitted exactly with the half I had found in Familton's shop. We decided to have another look about the town so we separated, I going North and the Constable going South. After looking into several of the hotels, I looked into the bar of the Imperial. There were three men in the bar, one by himself, and two together. As soon as one of the two saw me, and without a word being said, he threw his empty glass at my head. I ducked, and it went through the glass panelled door. I closed with the pair, and rushed them out on to the street, and, as they started to resist, I threw them, and at that moment Mr. Jack Sewell (Chemist) riding his trotting pony "Safe Cure", came to my assistance. He took hold of one, and we took them to the station, and they proved to be the first prisoner's companions. This Mr. Sewell was in his element when helping the police in a row.

During the course of the morning, I had the dust print photographed, and then obtained a printer's rolling pin, and some printer's ink, also large sheets of white paper. I stripped the prisoners and rolled the soles of their bare feet, and then got them to walk on the sheets of white paper, each prisoner leaving a clear impression of his right foot. The prisoners' names were

John McGuire, alias Baker.  
James Scott, alias Smith.  
John Cooney, alias Conner.

When the impressions were compared that of McGuire was the exact facsimile of the dust print. On searching the timber yard, we found the whole of Familton's property, and other property

stolen from other places. We found 37 pairs of boots in one plant. The prisoners were duly charged, and when the prints were exhibited in Court, McGuire pleaded guilty, and tried to show that he broke into Familton's alone. Expert evidence showed that it was impossible for one to commit this crime without assistance. The three prisoners were committed for trial in Familton's case, and were each sentenced to three years' Penal Servitude. They received several lesser sentences for minor offences committed at Oamaru.

The Judge, and the Crown Prosecutor, complimented me on the way that I got up the cases and laid them before the Court.

The prisoners took out their sentences in Lyttelton Prison, and, while serving his sentence, McGuire committed an act of bravery, by saving a fellow prisoner from drowning, and for this act the balance of his sentence was remitted. He knocked about New Zealand and became a notorious offender. He went to Sydney and was hanged there in 1903 for the murder of Constable Long.

It was years after this case that the Finger-print System was introduced into Scotland Yard (1892) and into New Zealand in 1904.

The next incident that I was mixed up in was the

Oamaru Drowning Fatality.

On the night of the 25th September, 1891, one of the coldest and darkest nights that could be, I went for a walk to warm myself, and, as I was going down Wansbeck Street, I heard screams coming from the Harbour. At first, I imagined it was larrikins who were playing up, but when I arrived at the Railway Station I was told there was a man drowning in the harbour. I ran to the beach, and while running, I threw my coat here, and my vest there etc. I was undressed in a minute, and I told a man who arrived with a lantern to follow me out with a boat. At that moment a fresh cry for help came. I answered, "Hold on, and I'll be with you in a moment."

It was full tide, and I plunged in, striking my breast against a mole boulder. It was so dark that I could not see my hand. I had to swim to the direction that the voice came from.

When I got to the spot, the drowning man's head was under the water.



Mr. Nightingale who went to the drowning man's aid from the wharf, a shorter way, was trying to hold the drowning man's head out of the water, but was exhausted. Mr. Nightingale stated that his struggle with the drowning man knocked him almost out. I lifted the drowning man's head out of the water and placed it on my left arm - he was still alive - and I told Nightingale to take hold of my hips and we would make for the shore. As we got about half-way to the shore we were met by the boat. Nightingale went into the boat, but I would not wait to put the drowning man into it, but swam with the boat to the shore. The man was still living. There was no place near hand, and I had to work at him on the open beach in a shower of hail. I got all the water out of him, and for twenty minutes I worked at him to restore animation, but the cold and exposure settled him. A Doctor arrived, and I handed the man over to him, picked up my clothes, got a cab and went home. My breast was still bleeding, and when I arrived at home I called Mrs. Dwyer and asked her for some underclothing. When she saw my plight she fainted. There were some lady visitors in the house who attended to her, and, after I had had a good wash and some strong refreshment, the bleeding stopped, and I was myself once more.

I have often pondered over the events of that night, and shuddered at the thought of what might have happened if I had become exhausted like Nightingale. It might have gone very hard with us both. A human being in peril and crying out for help appeals to one's nobler instincts to the exclusion of every other consideration.

The man's name was Hickson, and, while in drink, he walked down the mole, and when he got to the end he walked into the Harbour. He swam for about 40 yards and, when he found himself becoming exhausted, cried out for help.

Opportunity was taken at a Public Meeting to present Mr. Nightingale of the Railway Department, and Sergeant Dwyer of the Police Force with the Royal Humane Society of Australasia Awards for Bravery. His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Harry Aitken) made the presentation, and in doing so commended both men for the presence of mind and nerve they had displayed in boldly venturing on a dark,

cold, rainy night to plunge into the Harbour and swim out to the assistance of a fellow creature whose cries for help had aroused them.

The following are copies of extracts from the Otago Daily Times, September 28th, 1891, and the Oamaru Mail, May 20th, 1893:-

"An Oamaru Telegram states that the man drowned in the harbour on Friday night did not belong to the Waihora. Up to the present the body has not been identified. His death is a mystery as the place where he was drowned is an out of the way corner of the harbour, where he could not have been on business. Referring to the attempted rescue, the North Otago Times states that the bravery of Mr. Nightingale and Sergeant Dwyer is worthy of every acknowledgment. The night was dark, rainy and cold, and it required stout hearts to brave the dangers that presented themselves on such a night in venturing to swim out to the rescue of a drowning man. It may be mentioned that when Sergeant (then Constable) Dwyer was stationed in Dunedin, he was presented with a medal for his gallant conduct in rescuing the inmates of a building which took fire in Cumberland Street."

"His Worship the Mayor took the opportunity of the public gathering to hear Mr. Duncan last night, to present Mr. Nightingale of the Railway Department, and Sergeant Dwyer, of the Police Force, with the medal and certificates awarded to them for bravery under circumstances already detailed. His Worship commended the men for the presence of mind and nerve they had displayed in boldly venturing on a dark, cold, rainy night, to plunge into the harbour, and swim out to the assistance of a fellow creature, whose cries for help had aroused them. It was an instance of that British pluck which had made our Colony what it was. The awards he had to make them were of small intrinsic value, but they were valuable as a tangible souvenir of the appreciation of the nation of their heroism. He then presented Mr. Nightingale with a bronze medal, and Sergeant Dwyer with a certificate. Both men said a few words in reply, expressing their satisfaction at the awards, and hoping that their nerve would not fail them if it were necessary ever to go to the rescue of a fellow-being again. They had only done their duty, and their one regret was that their efforts to save the man's life had been unsuccessful. They then left the stage amid loud applause."

I also received £10. reward from the Police Department.

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#### Youthful Criminals.

I am recording this case, just to show the part an infinitely small thing will play in criminal investigation. In 1896, some thirteen business places in Oamaru were broken into in less time than two months. Letters and leaders were appearing in the papers, giving the Police fits for their ineptitude and laxity in not bringing the offenders to justice. I was then Acting Gaoler, and had nothing

to do with outside police work. Still, I felt the slur cast on the police, and offered to give a hand to catch the offenders. One night, I decided to watch the North side of Thames Street, (the main street) and a Constable was told off to watch the South side. Nothing happened, and, as day dawn set in, I went to have a look round and see that the doors and windows were secure. I was trying the third door, when the handle in the inside turned at the same time. My heart flew to my mouth, and my hand to my hip pocket. The door was opened by a young fellow named Sutherland who worked in the shop. He was quite cool, and, notwithstanding my present<sup>and</sup> his guilt, behaved unconcerned. He said, "I read a lot, and as I could not sleep I came down for some books that I forgot to take home with me last night." He had some things under his coat which I thought were the books. He went into the shop, and I remained outside. (I afterwards ascertained that it was housebreaking implements that he had under his coat). He went one way to his home, and I went the opposite way. As he was rounding the corner of the street, I just caught the look he gave me. There was something in the look that took hold of me, and I decided to look further into the matter. That evening, Sunday, I went and saw the owner of the shop (Mr. Gimmell). He was my tailor and I knew him well. I asked him how many keys of his shop were in use. He said, "Only one, and I keep that myself. Young Sutherland comes to my house every morning and gets the key to open up the shop for the workmen, and then cleans and dusts the office, and has everything ready for me at 9 o'clock." A duplicate key held by Sutherland without the knowledge of his employer added to my suspicion. I told everything to the Detective that I have stated herein. He pooh-poohed the idea, and said that Sutherland was a very decent young fellow. A week passed over without any breaking into happening, and this fact further increased my suspicion. On the following Saturday, I saw Sargood's (whose sample room was broken into, and a good

deal of stuff taken ) traveller in town. I told the detective, and suggested that he should see the traveller, and arrange with him to go to Gimmell's shop at closing time, and say to young Sutherland that he had lost the key of his sample room, that he had a customer waiting, and ask if there were any loose keys about. Sutherland went to the back of the shop, brought a bunch of keys and sorted out one, and gave it to him. The traveller took it and it opened his door first attempt. The Detective was waiting and, when he saw this, he went and, as Sutherland was leaving the shop, he took him in hand, and after a battle of wits he admitted breaking into the sample room. He said he gave gloves and some jewellery to a "Miss Sidey", a little girl he was keeping company with, and the rest he threw into the Oamaru Creek. He was locked up and word sent to his father and mother. The father, an engine-driver, was away, and the mother was away too. Word was left at the house, and early next morning, the mother came to see her boy. There was a fond embrace, then a swoon (Mick McQuaid would call this "a strong weakness") then a sermon on restitution. I watched my chance, and it came. "Now", I said, "tell your mother how you broke into the Railway Station and four or five other places that I named." He confessed everything, after a few more swoons. The mother went away, and sent a Solicitor to see him. The Solicitor, Mr. Newton, came and after his interview with the prisoner, he said to me "Why - you have extracted everything from the young fellow after his arrest." I said, "He told his mother everything, and I was a silent listener."

It was impossible for the young fellow to break into some of the places without assistance and my trouble now was to get out of him who his confederates were. I put it to him, but he denied point blank that he had anyone with him. I gave him time to think and approached him later. I said to him, "Do you want it to go forth that you committed all these offences alone? What will that nice little girl, Miss Sidey, and her friends, think of you? Why, they'll say that you are a regular "Jack Shepherd." This little suggestion did the trick. He said, "Young Anderson was with me

every time. Anderson delivered the papers in the early morning, and suggested the places that could most easily be broken into. On the shelves behind the books in the book-stall at the Railway Station you'll find a lot of the stolen stuff."

Anderson's father was a bookseller and owned the book-stall at the Railway Station. I sent for the Detective and we arrested young Anderson, and took him to the book-stall, and behind the books we found a barrow load of stolen stuff. We also found a barrow load of stolen stuff beneath the flooring of Gimmell's shop.

Both young fellows pleaded guilty to the several charges, and were admitted to Probation.

#### Struggle with a Criminal Lunatic.

The lunatic was brought to Oamaru from beyond Kurow. He was a man of 34 years, powerfully built, and was not long out of gaol after completing a sentence of 10 years. He behaved very well after his arrival, and showed no signs of violence. I allowed him to exercise in the corridor, and, as it became dark, he asked for a drink of water, and this was given him in the regulation pannikin. Soon after, he asked for another drink, and I gave it to him in the same vessel, and as I did so he threw the contents in my eyes, rushed the iron gate - the pannikin struck me on the head and for a moment stunned me. He got out in the Watch House, and as I closed with him he kicked me on the shin with his iron toe-plated boot, and left a mark that I still carry with me. A struggle for life, or death, followed, and I used all my strength to subdue him. I succeeded in throwing him and pinning his head in a step of the stairs. He tried biting and kicking with all his fury. Mrs. Dwyer heard the struggle and she ran to the Police Station for assistance, and, as luck would have it, there were four men in the Station at the time playing a quiet game of Euchre, and all four came in haste to my assistance, and relieved me from my perilous position. Assistance came none too soon, as I felt that my strength was giving out, and in ten seconds more the lunatic would

have worked himself free and might then have been able to kick me to death. The lunatic was then put in a straight-jacket, and next day it took three men to take him to the Asylum. There was this peculiarity about me that on occasions like this I had treble my usual strength.

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On the 1st February, 1897, I was promoted to Second Class Sergeant and transferred to charge of the Otago Goldfields, with headquarters at Clyde. Before leaving, Mrs. Dwyer was presented with a gold watch and chain by her Oamaru friends, and the Police presented me with a diamond locket and gold pencil case, both inscribed. The Mayor of Oamaru made the presentation to Mrs. Dwyer, and in doing so, said, he expressed the mingled regret and pleasure which were felt by her friends, regret at her severing many pleasant ties and associations and pleasure that she should be participating in her husband's promotion. The following is a copy of the newspaper report:-

"At the Police Camp last night a number of friends gathered for the purpose of saying goodbye to Sergt. Dwyer and Mrs. Dwyer who leave for Clyde today, the popular gaoler having been recently promoted, and also to make a small presentation to each as a token of the esteem in which they are held. His Worship the Mayor presided and amongst those present were Messrs. W. Williamson, O.R. Wise, Cagney, Corcoran, Clarke, and Curran, while apologies were received from others who were unavoidably absent.

The first business was a presentation to Mrs. Dwyer, a number of friends having subscribed and purchased for her a really beautiful lady's gold lever watch, with an ornamental gold albert and trinket attached, the watch bearing the following inscription -  
'Presented to Mrs. J. Dwyer by a few friends, on her departure from Oamaru, February, 1897'.

The Mayor made the presentation in a few happy sentences, expressing the mingled regret and pleasure which were felt by her friends, regret at her severing many pleasant ties and associations, and pleasure that she should be participating in her husband's promotion. He wished both Mr. and Mrs. Dwyer success in their new home, and begged her acceptance of the Watch as a memento of her many friends and a token of the high esteem in which she was held in the town.

Mrs. Dwyer feelingly responded, expressing her regret at leaving the town where the happiest part of her life

"had been spent. She would always bear in mind the kindness of the many friends she had made. She could not do full justice to her gratitude and her feelings, and hoped that they would take the will for the deed.

On behalf of the fellow members of the Force, Sergeant O'Grady then presented Sergeant Dwyer with a handsome gold locket in which a diamond was set, and a gold pencil case inscribed, "Presented to John Dwyer by his comrades on his departure from Oamaru, February, 1897." Sergeant O'Grady expressed regret at Sergeant Dwyer's departure, although he was glad to see his merit recognised by his promotion to a district where he would have the responsibility of the charge of seven or eight stations. He hoped that he would gather round him in his new home as staunch a circle of friends as he was leaving behind him.

Mr. O. R. Wise endorsed this, remarking that Sergeant Dwyer had nothing when he came here 12 ~~years~~ ago, but that he was taking away from the town a good wife and a fairly substantial family.

Sergeant Dwyer replied, also expressing his regret at parting from so many friends. The best and happiest years of his life had been spent in Oamaru and he could never forget them. He thoroughly appreciated the kindness of his many friends, and it would long linger in his memory as the crowning act of many previous favours.

A social hour or two were then spent in "farewelling", friends dropping in to say goodbye. Mr. and Mrs. Dwyer leave by the south express tonight."

When leaving by the train a number of anglers and sportsmen collected at the Railway Station and made the air resound with their singing and cheering. They even placed detonators on the line.

I have often been asked why I remained so long in Oamaru, and replied that I could not help it. There were no promotions and no opening. I was wearing a stripe for ten years before I got a mate for it.

I had a good time in Oamaru, plenty of fishing, shooting and coursing. The Acclimatization Society ( of which I was a member ) promoted a fishing competition in the season of 1895 and gave a gold medal as First Prize. I competed and won the medal from 26 other competitors.

#### The Goldfields.

When I arrived in Clyde I found things very dead, and a start had just been made to dredge the Molyneaux River for its

hidden treasure, and dredges were being erected right along the river. In six months after my arrival a boom had set in and, with thousands of others, I was dragged into the vortex. Alexander, the dredging centre, became a very busy township. People from Dunedin and other parts rushed here and there, pegging off claims, and in six months there was not a spot in the river from Beaumont to the Shotover that was not pegged off. I sank everything I had in the venture. I held some good stuff as a Promoter, and as a Shareholder, and if I only took the tide at its flood I'd be independent all my days. I hung on too long, thinking that everything I held would turn out a "Hartley and Reilly". Shares that I could have sold for £5. a share disappeared altogether, and so on with the lot, and I was not the only one that was left financially stranded.

After putting in eighteen months in the Goldfields, I found it was not a good place to bring up a family, and I moved for a change and got it, to the streets of Christchurch as Sectional Sergeant. I did not mind as I felt I would not be long in that position. I found nothing wrong with the Goldfields but what I have stated. The climate was glorious and I could live there for ever by myself. I worked my way into the good graces of the miners and residents, and when leaving, they tendered me a farewell banquet and also presented me with a pair of Field Glasses. There were so many speeches made and so much said that it would fill six pages of this little book.

The following is a copy of the newspaper extract:-

"Quite a large gathering of representative residents assembled in the commodious dining room of the Dunstan Hotel on Saturday evening last to say farewell to Sergeant Dwyer prior to his departure from Clyde, where he has been stationed for some fifteen months. Mr. Robert Gilkison occupied the chair.

After the usual loyal toasts were duly honoured, the Chairman rose to propose that of the "Guest of the Evening" and, in doing so, referred in very flattering terms to Sergeant Dwyer's efficiency and courtesy as a police officer. It was with feelings of regret that the people of Clyde heard of Sergt. Dwyer's transference from Clyde, but the feeling was mingled with pleasure since it was known that the change meant considerable promotion to him. Only recently, when giving evidence before the Commission, he had clearly shown that less deserving officers



"were appointed to positions over his head, positions which he honestly merited by efficiency, intelligence and length of service. But the Department might have very well raised the status of Sergt. Dwyer and left him at Clyde. (Hear, Hear.) This district required the services of just such an efficient and intelligent officer as he had proved himself to be, and he, the speaker, was of opinion that the Department could have very well given Sergt. Dwyer the promotion he so richly merited, and allowed him to remain here where the responsibilities of a Sergeant were greater than they could possibly be in a city. This was the second time Clyde had been drawn on for an efficient officer to fill the position in Christchurch for, as they were all aware, the genial Sergeant McLeod was also transferred from Clyde to the city of the plains. Christchurch was unpleasantly far away from Clyde but it afforded many opportunities to a man with a family, not the least of them being the advantage of a residence in proximity to some of the best schools in the colony. He was sure they would rejoice with Sergt. Dwyer since his removal from their midst meant promotion to himself, but when the dry bones of officialism were shaken up, the Sergt. would be raised to a still higher position, and sent back to reside amongst them. (Applause.)

Mr. B. Naylor senr. said it could scarcely be doubted that, during his short stay in Clyde, Sergeant Dwyer had succeeded in making for himself many sincere friends. As an officer, he had always been studiously courteous and obliging. He spoke with experience for he had had to work with him in his capacity as a Justice of the Peace. His efficiency again had been the means of bringing many evildoers to justice throughout the wide district which had been under his care. He was confident that the people of Clyde and residents generally would wish him all prosperity and happiness in his new sphere of duty. (Applause.)

Mr. Scott, Cromwell, who was present, also spoke in a commendatory manner of Sergeant Dwyer. He said that, as a casual visitor to Clyde, he would assume the right to say that he was proud to see that the people of Clyde knew how to appreciate an officer who did his duty intelligently and conscientiously. As a very early resident upon the goldfields, he had had opportunity of studying the characters of a few of their police officers, and he had come to the conclusion that they were a fine set of fellows on the whole, notwithstanding that, even they, had their clique to work against. He had much pleasure in complimenting Sergt. Dwyer upon having such sincere friends as those whom he saw gathered there that evening to give expression to their friendship. (Hear, Hear.)

Mr. R. S. Gilkison said that but little remained for him to say other than that he desired to testify to the un-failing courtesy and kindness with which Sergeant Dwyer had given him any little items for the Press. As a Justice of the Peace, he had also had a little legal business with him, and he could confidently say that in every instance he had found him intelligent, painstaking and efficient. He might say that he very much regretted his leaving the district, and only recently Mr. McCarthy, S.M. had told him personally that he regretted Sergeant Dwyer's leaving, as he was a most efficient officer. He sincerely hoped that they might see him back as an Inspector (Hear, Hear.)

"The toast was drunk with musical honours.

Sergeant Dwyer, who, in rising to respond, was greeted with prolonged applause, said he could assure them that the gathering that night to do him honour had quite taken him by surprise as it was quite unexpected on his part. His stay amongst them had been so brief that he did not think he had made many friends during that time. Looking around him and seeing the representative faces, he must conclude that he had got on much better than he had hoped to. He had received, he said, every kindness and consideration, not only from the people of Clyde but from residents throughout the district, so that his duties were made light and easy to perform, and for this he had to thank them, one and all. He had found the people of this district most peaceable and law-abiding. Though he was now severing his short connection with the district he could assure them that he would always entertain a warm interest in its welfare. Ever since he came to the district he had taken an interest in the dredging industry, and when he settled down in Christchurch he would miss no opportunity of bringing the resources of the district under the notice of those with whom he came in contact. Before sitting down, he would like to make a few remarks of a personal nature. He wished to take this opportunity to publicly thank their worthy Magistrate (Mr. McCarthy) for the consideration and valuable advice he had always given him when he required it. Though some might differ with his method of doing things, he could, without hesitation, say that they had one of the best Magistrates who occupied a position on the Magisterial Bench of the colony. It was to the way in which he administered the law that he (the speaker) attributed the fact that the police had so little to do in this district. He had also to thank Mr. Jeffery, Clerk of the Court, for the kindness and courtesy he had always shown him. (Applause.) He concluded by again thanking them for the kind wishes they had expressed towards himself and family.

Mr. Scott, Cromwell, proposed the toast of the "Dredging Industry" coupled with the names of Mr. Hewitt and Mr. H. W. Gye. Both gentlemen briefly responded. Mr. Gye in responding, said that for the past few years dredging had made rapid strides in the district. He was pleased to say that the guest of the evening had always taken a keen interest in the industry and had been the means of recommending several of his friends to invest largely in dredging. He felt certain that Mr. Dwyer would always remember his stay in Clyde, and perhaps he might induce more of his friends to take an interest in the district.

Songs were rendered during the evening by the following gentlemen:- Messrs. Robt. Gilkison, Jeffery, Beveridge, McSwan, Burnaby, Robertson, Gye and Waddell.

A very pleasant function was brought to a close by all present joining hands and singing "Auld Lang Syne."

After leaving the Goldfields, I had to leave Mrs. Dwyer and family in Dunedin as she could not travel any further, and I had to go on to Christchurch by myself, and was two months there before Mrs.

Dwyer was able to join me. About the middle of July I went to Oamaru to meet her with her two newly born infants and five other children. I am stating these irrelevant facts so as to bring in an incident that happened to the train on the journey from Oamaru to Christchurch. The day was a very stormy one, but everything went on all right until we got close to the Makakihi Station, when one of the engine steam-pipes burst and blew the Stoker and the Driver off the engine. Both were scalded, the former seriously so. The train careered on by itself, and came to a standstill, by Farmer Quinn's homestead, for loss of steam. The Guard (Tom Fouke) and the passengers were not aware of the mishap until the train stopped. If the grade of the line had been downward there might have been a terrible tragedy. Such a mishap never happened before, or since, on that line. We had to wait three hours before an engine could be brought from Timaru to take us on to Christchurch. The female passengers and poor children were famished with the cold as the weather had changed to frost. The Quinn family showed the hospitality of the "St. Bernard Monk". They brought cans of tea, bread and butter, scones, biscuits and everything in the way of eatables that they could lay their hands on. Mrs. Dwyer says, up to this day, that that cup of tea was the nicest she has ever tasted. Before the train left, the passengers gave three rousing cheers for the Quinn family. Instead of arriving at Christchurch at 9 p.m. we did not get there until after midnight.

As I expected, I was not long in Christchurch, as, on Christmas Eve, I received word that I was transferred to Wanganui as Sergeant in Charge of that station. I arrived in Wanganui early in February. Things were commencing to look up and the town showed signs of recent advancement. Townships were being formed in every direction. The people of Wanganui I found to be very law-abiding, and during my three years stationed there I had a fairly easy time of it.

#### The Dream Case.

The facts in connection with this case are as follows:-

On the morning of the 12th November, 1901, it was reported

to me by the proprietor of the Criterion Boarding House that a robbery had taken place in the house during the night. Two boarders occupied the same room and one boarder named Holmes had £15. on him when he retired to bed, and when he woke next morning the money was gone, and so was the fellow boarder (Thurston). I went to the Boarding House and got the particulars and then returned home. On my way I spoke to the licensee of the Albion Hotel and asked him if he knew a young man named Thurston, and he said "Yes - I saw him yesterday in the hotel for the first time, and I saw him take something out of an Assyrian's pack while the latter's back was turned. One of the things was a pair of braces." When I arrived home I had another ring from the Boarding House saying that Thurston had returned. I went to the Boarding House and saw Thurston. He denied all knowledge of the money, and said that when he got up he went to the Railway Station to enquire the time the train left for Stratford, and sat down on a seat and read the paper, and that he did not go further than the Railway Station. I searched him and found him wearing a new pair of braces, and in his pocket I found a new comb and purse. I found no money on him. I concluded that these things were stolen from the Assyrian and I arrested him. The Assyrian identified the things as his, and I charged Thurston accordingly. I also charged him with the theft of the money, but so far I had no direct evidence. I brought him before the Court and had him remanded for a week. When serving Holmes with a subpoena, he said to me "I had a clear dream last night. I woke up, and went to sleep again, and again dreamt the same thing. I thought I saw Thurston plant my money under the blind eye of the Wanganui Bridge, and so impressed was I with the dream that I went down to the place early this morning, and there was everything before me as it appeared in my dream." Thinking of the Dunedin case, I said to myself "I'll follow this thing up", so when I got back to the Station I rang up the Gaoler. I told him I was coming up to the Gaol and when he saw me coming up the drive to bring Thurston to his office, but not to say anything about my coming. I wanted to see what effect my sudden appearance would have on him.

I said to him, "I have come to the Gaol to say a few words to you. I am not going to take any advantage of you. You'll remember the morning I arrested you, you told me then that you did not go further than the Railway Station. Now, I have reason to say that you went as far as the Wanganui Bridge, and it is thought you planted Holmes's money there, and there is a possibility of it being found where you planted it." He held down his head, and I knew then that I was on the right track. I gave him time to consider, and when he lifted his head he said "I took the money and planted it under the Bridge." I handcuffed him and took him to the Bridge. It was a half-holiday, and there were three young fellows sitting on top of the plant. I shifted them and Thurston pointed out the spot where the money was planted. He had simply made a hole with the heel of his boot and placed the money in the hole, and then covered it over with a tuft of grass. The money was intact with the exception of a few shillings. I took him back to the Gaol. At the preliminary trial he pleaded guilty to the charge, and was committed to the Supreme Court, and there received 18 months' imprisonment. Thurston turned out a gaol-breaker and a hardened criminal.

In giving evidence before the Magistrate I related the particulars of the dream as told me by Holmes, and my former experience with a similar dream at Dunedin.

The particulars of the dream were published in the newspapers and I had letters from Melbourne and Sydney from Curio Collectors asking for particulars of the first dream.

It seems a very curious coincidence that during my career I should strike two dreamers whose dreams came true and were the means of bringing two offenders to justice.

#### Arson Case.

Known to the Legal Fraternity as - "In re Smith".

A man named E. D. Smith kept a Draper's shop in the main street of Wanganui. People thought that he was doing a comfortable business. In the month of March, 1901, about 3 p.m. on a Sunday, a fire was discovered in Smith's shop. I was not far away at the

time and arrived at the fire with the Brigade. The fire had then a good hold and it took the Brigade some time before they had it under control. Smith put in an appearance and joined me, and said he was ruined as the Insurances would not cover his loss. He said he left the shop at 2 p.m. and went for a walk as far as Aramoho, and on his way back heard the fire-bell, and that he was working at his stock sheets all the morning. As the fire was about subdued the Captain of the Brigade called me and told me that, apparently, the place was fired in three separate places. I examined the place and saw that this was so. I spoke to Smith and asked him for the keys of the shop and safe. He gave them to me, and I advised him not to go near the shop until an adjustment of the stock was made. I placed a Constable in charge, and directed him to allow no one to enter the premises. Next morning I sent the Detective to have a look round the place, and later we would commence our enquiries. I told him there was a Constable in charge of the place. As the Detective got to the shop he found Smith coming from the rear of the premises with something hidden under his coat. He accosted him and took from him a book he was carrying, and this turned out to be a ledger, containing records of all the stuff he sent to auctioneers for sale at several of the country towns. It was shown that these auctioneers were selling this stuff cheaper than Smith purchased it at the warehouses. An inquest was held into the cause of the fire and Smith volunteered to give evidence at the inquiry. The Detective and I worked up a very strong case against Smith and, at the preliminary hearing of the charge of Arson preferred against him, I called five country auctioneers who testified to the material they received and sold for Smith. The carrier, who took the goods to the Railway Station proved that Smith directed him to call for the goods about 9 p.m. to take it a back street and not to allow the police to see him. I called also a young girl who lived in a two-storey dwelling at the back of Smith's shop, and she proved that Smith was very busy about the shop until about ten minutes before the firebell rang, also three Sunday School boys whom he hunted away from the front of the shop ten minutes before the bell rang.

The faked stock sheets were found in his bedroom that escaped the fire. The ledger containing an account of the material he sent to country auctioneers was convincing evidence against him. I also put in the evidence he gave before the Coroner and this was torn to shreds. Smith's Solicitor objected to the statement going in. The Magistrate took a note of the objection but admitted the evidence. Smith was committed to the Supreme Court for trial. At the trial before the Chief Justice, Smith's solicitor again objected to the evidence, given before the Coroner, going in. The Chief Justice noted the objection but allowed the evidence to be put in.

Smith was found guilty of Arson, but, before passing sentence, His Honour referred the objection to all the other Judges in New Zealand, and all were unanimous that the evidence given by Smith before the Coroner was rightfully admitted at his trial.

Smith was sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

After the trial I received a letter from the Managers of the Insurance Companies interested, with a Bank Draft for £12/10/-.

The following is a copy of the letter:-

Wellington, N.Z.

10th July, 1901.

Arson Case - E. D. Smith, Wanganui.

Dear Sir,

We had a special report made on the above case and now, having been through the whole of the evidence, beg to compliment you on the manner in which it was got together and placed before the Court. In our opinion, the way the facts were pieced together had a great deal to do with the finding of the jury.

In a small way we wish to show our appreciation of your efforts in so successfully working up the case by asking you to accept the enclosed Bank Draft for £12:10:0 as a slight acknowledgment of the services you have rendered to the public in general, and our offices in particular.

We may add that we have consulted the Commissioner of Police here and have his approval in what we are asking you to do.

By signing and returning to us both the enclosed voucher forms you will oblige.

Yours faithfully,  
For the Guardian, Fire & Life Assurance Co. Ltd.  
(W. & G. Turnbull & Co., Agents.)  
Signed L.U.

For the National Fire & Marine Insurance Co.  
Signed J. Manson,  
Manager.

The Licensing Law.

A widowed lady, hailing from the Emerald Isle, kept a hotel in the town. This hotel was across the way from the Court House and within full view of the Police Station. The local Stipendiary Magistrate had strong Prohibition leanings, and being bereft of home life and comforts, betook himself to the Court House where he put in his Sunday afternoons smoking and reading up his law cases.

One Sunday afternoon I received a telephone call from him, complaining that a number of men were going from a vacant section into the hotel through a hole in the fence, and that he saw over a dozen men go in that way. I told him I would attend to the matter.

I took a Constable in uniform with me, and we quietly went along to the hotel. We entered by the side door and, in the tap room, off the bar, was the licensee kneeling down with her rosary beads devoutly saying her prayers, and in front of her was an open prayer book showing the gospel of the day - her eyes turned heavenwards, and so intent on her prayers that she did not notice us, and we passed on to the back of the hotel without speaking. There was no one to be found, but there were abundant indications that Sunday trading had been extensively carried on that afternoon. On our return to the tap room the licensee was on her feet. She said, "Sergeant Agra, what's the matter?" I said "You know well what's the matter - the evidence in there and the number of men I saw leaving the hotel shows clearly that you are doing a big Sunday trade. She said, "May God forgive you, Sergeant - why, my place all day has been as quiet as a Convent." What could one do, I ask, in the face of such wit and generalship?

After my departure from Wanganui in 1902, this lady shifted to Wellington where she kept a hotel for years, and made a success of the business too. The Commissioner of Police told me that this incident happened during her time as licensee in Wellington, and from my own experience I have no reason to doubt it. The incident took place in Easter Week (Lent). A Sergeant and





Saturday nights and mixed and danced with the crowd, and soon wormed their way into the graces of the Sly-grog sellers, and got as much drink as they wanted. From time to time they furnished me with reports as to their doings. The names of the probationers were Lewis and Paul. The latter was a man over 6 ft. in height and wore No. 11 boots, earning for him the sobriquet of "Tiny".

After completing their work at Taihape, they returned to Wellington. I drew up search warrants under the Licensing Acts and, a few days before Easter, proceeded to Taihape to execute them. I left by the afternoon train, and to my dismay, there was a team of cricketers on board, bound for Taihape, captained by Mr. Francis (Manager, A.M.P.). The train, in those days, only went as far as Ohingaiti and the rest of the journey had to be done by coach. There was generally a delay of half an hour before the coaches started. I remained in the Railway carriage out of sight, and went off to sleep, and it was only the last call "All on board" that roused me. I picked up my bag and rushed to the last coach, and threw myself in as it was moving off, and lighted on Mr. Francis. He wanted to know where I was bound for, and I whispered that I was bound for Mangaweka to arrest the two recently escaped prisoners who were camped near there. I left the coach at the nearest stopping place to Mangaweka and was met by the local Constable (Rutledge) with his horse and trap. I went with him to the Police Station and, after partaking of some refreshments, set sail for Taihape. It turned to frost and was bitterly cold. We arrived at Taihape at dawn and at once set to work to execute the warrants.

We found plants in most inconceivable places. We unearthed several cases of whisky as well as a number of bottles, cases of wine, several dozen of bottled beer, and three 10 gallon kegs of beer. We returned to Mangaweka with a decent trap load of grog.

When I returned to Wanganui, I laid 24 informations against the various offenders. The cases were set down for hearing at the Mangaweka Court before Mr. Greenfield, S.M., a venerable old gentleman

who had passed the allotted span. Tom Wilford (M.P. for the Hutt) now Sir Thomas Wilford, K.C., and New Zealand High Commissioner in London, was brought from Wellington by a man named Chute, to keep him out of gaol, as he was on three occasions previously convicted of sly-grog selling. "Tom" defended and Constables Paul and Lewis were my only witnesses, the former my star witness.

The cases started, and the Court House was packed. "Tom" was in great form and gave "Tiny" the time of his life over some happenings during his visits to Taihape, especially in connection with his friendship for Chute's cook, a woman of amazonian proportions. "Tom" kept addressing me as "Inspector". I objected to being named out of my rank. I was not the Inspector. "If you are not", he said, "then you d....well ought to be."

At the end of the day's proceedings, "Tom" was urgently called to Wellington, and the unheard cases were adjourned to the next Court day. "Tom" attended and the hearing of the adjourned cases was gone on with, and during the day the Court was crowded to hear Mr. Wilford dealing it out to "Tiny", but to the surprise and disappointment of all, "Tom" treated "Tiny" with the greatest consideration during the day, and turned his attention more to the old Magistrate.

When the hearing of the charges was finished, "Tom" addressed me across the table. "Honors divided, old man." I did not quite grasp his remarks, and he repeated them. I then looked at my Charge Sheet, and there it was clear enough. "Tom" had got 12 dismissals and I got 12 convictions. My strongest cases which I relied on most were dismissed, and in my weak cases I got convictions. It then seemed clear that the principle that guided the Magistrate right through was "I'll give this one to the Sergeant, and the next to Wilford."

At the finish of the proceedings I called Paul (Tiny) and asked him what brought about the great change in "Tom's" attitude towards him. He told me that, when he returned to Wellington,

after the first day's hearing, he was put on night duty and one night, during this period, Mr. Wilford was escorting some friends from the Comic Opera, then being performed in Wellington. When they reached their hotel they were unable to gain admission as the hour was so late. The Constable then appeared on the scene, and gained "Tom's" good graces by his handling of the situation in obtaining immediate admission to the hotel for his friends. It was this little obligation that brought about "Tom's" kid glove treatment of the Constable during the Court proceedings on the final day.

Constable Rutledge, who made the raid with me, a shrewd, far-seeing man, had charge of the seized liquor, and gave evidence of such in each case. (All these Constables named herein are now dead.) In going through the various cases of liquor seized Rutledge spotted one case that was slightly different from the others. The case was new and the bottles were encased in straw wrappers freshly labelled D. C.L. and freshly capsuled. He opened a bottle and found that it was far removed from any sort of Whisky, and restored the bottle to its former place, and no one could tell that it was tampered with. "Tom" produced this case at the hearing of the charge, took a bottle out of it and placed it before the Constable. "Tom" said to him "You swear you found this case in Chute's premises?" "Yes!" "You swear that the bottle before you contains whisky?"

"I'll do nothing of the kind."

"Why?"

"Take a swig out of the bottle and you'll see why".

There was an uproar in Court at "Tom's" expense, and to add to the merriment I said "There are no flies on the Police up this way." He said, "Apparently not - they must have been there and left their mark."

On our return next day to Wanganui, and when about four miles from Mangaweka, there were two men shooting in a paddock close to the road. One of them had a pheasant thrown over his shoulder. I knew the man, he was a butcher of Wanganui, named Gray. I got the driver of the coach to pull up and called Gray. I said, "You have no license

to shoot pheasants". He said, "I have." I said, "You have not, I have the list here, published four days ago, and your name does not appear on it. Hand me over the bird", and he did so, and I gave it to "Tom".

When going down the incline to Ohingaiti the front axle broke - Tom on the outside on the box seat was thrown on to the bank, and I in the centre was thrown in between the horses and pinned by the broken shaft. The horses commenced to kick and I had a miraculous escape from serious injury. The driver was able to control the horses, and a number of willing hands soon extricated me from my perilous position. A woman in the coach fainted. "Tom's" heart went up to his mouth until he saw me out of danger, and then he held up the pheasant and said "This is the second time I have been unseated, but I am game to the last. (Tom was unseated for the Hutt seat because of some Election irregularity.)

When I arrived in Wanganui I gave particulars of the incident to a reporter, and he made a nice readable local of it. I sent the paper to Tom and he wrote back and said that the "local" would have a front page in his album.

My injuries in the accident were a few abrasions and a torn pair of trousers.

"Tom" never forgot this incident and, when promoted to Ministerial rank some eighteen years after, I wired him my congratulations. He replied, thanking me, and among other things he said, "I'll be game to the last."

When "Tom" was Minister of Justice he visited Christchurch during Cup Week and I drove him out to the Races each day in a hired taxi. He said to me "And you haven't a motor car for your use in this City on Wheels - you must have one, so apply for a motor car straight away as I may be leaving the Ministry any day now." I was a bit tardy in putting in my application and "Tom" had severed his connection with the Ministry before it reached Wellington, but he left authority for the purchase of a motor car for my own use.

Promoted to Commission Rank.

On the 1st March, 1902, I was promoted to the rank of Sub Inspector and transferred to Dunedin. I was only six months in that City when I was transferred to Christchurch where I remained for over six years, during which time many things occurred, and I will just relate here a few of the most important happenings.

The Opening of the New Zealand International  
Exhibition 1906-7.

This was the biggest undertaking of the kind ever attempted in New Zealand and it proved a great draw and a great success.

I was appointed to the sole control of the Police arrangements during the Exhibition, having 20 Constables, 3 Sergeants, 8 Detectives (one from Sydney and one from Melbourne) and 20 Artillerymen, sworn in as Constables, under me. Everything was done to keep out all undesirables from operating at the Exhibition. At the start, some petty pilfering took place, but after some half dozen arrests were made, we had an immunity from crime thereafter, and, as the Exhibition progressed, the number of Police was considerably lessened.

There were many happenings during the life of the Exhibition, too many to record here. I must, however, record a couple in the nature of tit-bits.

Ned Kelly's Revolver.  
(The notorious Bushranger.)

Among the exhibits in the "Victorian Court" was the revolver with which the above named Highwayman fought his last battle with the police at Glenrowan, Victoria. Detective Fahey (late Inspector) who was doing duty at the Exhibition, when standing at the Main Entrance to the grounds, noticed a woman and two little boys strolling along, and the keen eye of the Detective spotted something that one of the children was carrying and, looking at it closer, saw that it was the "Kelly Revolver". He took it from the child and brought it along to me. I said to him, "Say nothing, and we'll have some fun over it, as it is the most prized exhibit in the Victorian Court." Late that night, as he was closing, the Victorian Commissioner (Mr. Nichols) missed the revolver and came tearing along to my office, and

told me of his loss, and said that he dare not go back to Victoria without it. I sympathised with him, and told him I would do my best to recover it. He was for offering a reward but I would not let him. I kept him in suspense until the following night, when we took it along to him. I never *saw* such delight as was shown in his countenance. After this, we were white-haired boys with Mr. Nichols, and Victoria's best Muscatel was always at our disposal.

"Stand off the Grass."

The Exhibition Managers were very jealous of the lawns and flower beds, and an Exhibition Bye-Law made it an offence for any person to walk on the grass, and refuse or fail to move off when requested to do so by a Constable.

On a beautiful Thursday evening between 8 and 9 o'clock, Lieutenant-Colonel Bauchop, Commander of the Forces in the Canterbury Military District, came sauntering along the lawn, twirling his walking stick and smoking a fat cigar, and looking as if he was well satisfied with himself. An Artilleryman approached him and asked him to please stand off the grass. Bauchop replied "Do you know who I am?" The Artilleryman answered, "I don't, nor do I care, but please stand off - there are the notices for you to see." Bauchop then asked for his name and number, but the Artilleryman refused to give him either. Bauchop then made a grab at his number, and the Artilleryman said "If you put hands on me I will knock you down." This completely ruffled Bauchop's plumage, and there was no restraining him thereafter. He went into the building and met another Artilleryman, and he asked him to go out with him and arrest the man doing duty on the lawn. He said, "I cannot leave my post without the permission of the Sub-Inspector, but if you want his name, it is Gunner Murdock." I heard of the incident that night.

Next morning, I met the Colonel about 10 a.m. in the main passage and, after exchanging greetings (the Colonel and myself were friends for years) he said, "I want you to arrest Gunner Murdock and bring him along to the King Edward Barracks to be Court Martialed

and dealt with." I asked him the charge that was against him. He said, "I'll tell the Gunner down there." I said I was sorry but could not comply with his request. The Gunner was a sworn-in Constable and, while serving as such, was free from Military restraint, and if the charge was in connection with the "grass" incident last night, I would advise him to drop the matter here and now. I said, "The Gunner was only doing his duty, and you were wrong in opposing him." He left me indignant.

As I was going to my lunch, I met a Sergeant-Major taking the Gunner to the Barracks under arrest. I said, "Where are you taking this man to?" He said, "To the Barracks at Captain Walls' orders." I said, "Tell Captain Walls that I must be called as a witness, and tell him further that, if Gunner Murdock is punished for doing his duty, I'll leave no stone unturned to have the punisher punished."

The Gunner was charged, and the Colonel gave his evidence. The Captain asked the Gunner a few questions and then gave the order "Right turn- dismiss."

The incident got abroad, and for days I was besieged with newspaper men trying to get the facts in connection with the matter, but I'd give them nothing as the Colonel and I were good friends for years, and in many ways he was a good fellow. The papers, however, got hold of the matter, and the Colonel got a bad time of it in the Clubs and elsewhere. He was not seen again at the Exhibition. "Stand off the Grass" became a catch-word at the Exhibition thereafter.

After the event I received several letters anent the matter. The following is a fair sample of the others:-

Post Card. (Copy).

Inspect Picture in Art  
Gallery Buildings  
"C'est L'Empereur"  
as an example of military  
greatness compared with  
military narrow-mindedness.  
Glad you downed the Colonel.

Sub Inspector Dwyer,  
Police Office,  
Exhibition Bldgs.,  
Ch.Ch.

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Lieutenant-Colonel Bauchop was a good soldier, and made  
the supreme sacrifice during the Great War.

At the conclusion of the Exhibition, the Oversea Exhibitors



and Commissioners presented me with an illuminated Address and a Gold Watch, and Mrs. Dwyer with a purse of sovereigns with which to purchase a set of Canadian Furs. The presentations were made in the Chamber of Commerce. The Canadian Commissioner (Mr. Burns) made the presentation and, among other things he said that "during the last two days of the St. Louis Exhibition they lost £300 worth of exhibits, while they did not lose one shilling's worth during the New Zealand Exhibition." Other Commissioners spoke in a similar strain.

In his report on the New Zealand International Exhibition to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and to the Right Honourable the President of the Board of Trade, the British Commissioner (Captain P.H. Atkin) said the following:-

"With reference to the surprising freedom from crime in the Exhibition, I must advert to the singular skill and discretion which characterised the police arrangements under Sub-Inspector John Dwyer and to the admirable way in which order and comfort were secured to such large numbers of visitors, both in the buildings and in the grounds, by his industry, tact and geniality."

The following is a copy of a newspaper extract:-

"During the last days of the Exhibition, the Overseas Exhibitors, desirous of making tangible recognition of the efficient services rendered by Sub-Inspector Dwyer, as officer in charge of the Police at the Exhibition, initiated among themselves a movement for making him a suitable presentation. The project was warmly taken up by others, and last night it reached the consummation, when a friendly gathering, which would have been much larger but for some misunderstanding as to the place of meeting, assembled at the Chamber of Commerce to do honour to the Sub-Inspector. Among those present were Mrs. Dwyer and her daughter, and the Deputy Mayor ( Mr. G. Payling.)

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. T.H. Race (Canadian Commissioner) E. Nicholls (Victorian Commissioner) and Arthur Day (British Manufacturers' Representative.)

Mr. W. A. Burns, one of the Canadian Commissioners, expressed the appreciation of the Exhibitors generally, and of the Canadian representatives in particular, of the manner in which Sub-Inspector Dwyer had carried out his duties. There had been some thousands of pounds' worth of goods in the Canadian Court, and none of these had been interfered with in any way. The speaker's colleague, Mr. Race, was sorry he could not be present, but wished heartily to unite in the sentiments expressed. (Applause.)

Mr. John Dixon (Messrs. Boosey & Co. London) added a

"few words expressive of the esteem felt by the English exhibitors for the Sub-Inspector, both personally, and in regard to the manner in which he had discharged his onerous duties during the Exhibition. Mr. Dixon then read the following address:-

"To Sub-Inspector Dwyer"

The subscribers, on behalf of themselves and other contributors to this testimonial, desire in some slight way to recognise the very valuable services you have rendered to the Exhibition and all those connected with it during its lifetime, and to that end they ask you to accept this address. This represents no great value in itself but will be accepted, we hope, as an acknowledgment on our part of the very excellent services you have given, and the uniform courtesy you have shown throughout the performance of your duties. With these acknowledgments we extend also our very best wishes for your future success and welfare, and hope you may have many years of usefulness yet before you, and that these years may bring to you and your family abundant prosperity and happiness."

(Signed) W. A. Burns, Commissioner for Canada.  
Edward Nicholls, Victorian Govt. Rep.  
W. J. Durie, New South Wales Rep.

The address, which was handsomely illuminated and framed, was then handed to Sub-Inspector Dwyer, and a gold watch presented to Mrs. Dwyer. *The watch was for me but the Regulations prevented me from personally taking it.* Sub-Inspector Dwyer said he found it hard to command words to express his heartfelt thanks to those who had honoured him with the presentation of that beautiful Address. In regard to the discharge of his duties at the Exhibition, he wished to acknowledge gratefully the efficiency and willingness of his Staff. He proceeded to allude to the excellent organisation of police matters connected with the Exhibition by Commissioner Dinnie, and referred especially to the arrangements for watching the arrival and movements of undesirable visitors from other shores. The fact that there had not been a single pocket "picked" at the Exhibition, and no crime worth mentioning committed also reflected great credit on the community, and constituted something of a record. He was very grateful to the exhibitors and others for the courtesy that had always been shown him. Finally, on behalf of Mrs. Dwyer, he thanked the contributors for the beautiful present which they had given her.

A short toast list was then honoured in the course of which Mr. Edinger ("Wonderland") and Mr. E. J. Righton, on behalf of the Exhibition Staff, added their tributes to the personal and official worth of the Sub-Inspector. Mr. Harry Kerrigan and Mr. W. E. Low, representing Mr. Tom Pollard, Director of Entertainments, expressed similar sentiments, and, after the singing of the National Anthem, the gathering dispersed with hearty cheers for Sub-Inspector Dwyer and Mrs. Dwyer."

The Exhibition over, I came back to the humdrum life of the City, a big difference to the life and gaiety of the Exhibition.

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On the 12th of August (Grand National Day) I was ordered to proceed to Napier to relieve the Inspector there who was ill. I was kept there for over four months. I visited every part of the district, from Woodville to Port Awanui, twice, and made many acquaintances, both in Hawkes Bay and Poverty Bay.

The end of the following February I was ordered to proceed to Gisborne and hold an inquiry into what was then known as the "Gisborne Police Scandal." I was only a Sub-Inspector and I could never understand why the Department called upon me, when there were Inspectors in Christchurch, Wellington, Wanganui and Napier.

When I arrived in Gisborne I was met with all kinds of opposition by the Police and their immediate friends. I had to wire to Napier for a reliable Sergeant to assist me. The inquiry lasted four clear days, and I must say here that it was the toughest job I ever had to do with in the Police. I had to examine some 28 witnesses, and take down their evidence myself. Some of the evidence was scandalous. It took me a clear day to summarize the evidence and furnish my report.

Instead of the principal offenders being dismissed from the Service, only a Constable was dismissed, the Detective reduced to a Constable, and the Sergeant in charge transferred. The inept way in which these offenders were dealt with did not help the Head of the Police at the 1909 Police Commission.

When I handed my report with the evidence to the Commissioner and the Minister of Justice, both complimented me on the way I performed the work.

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The Saving of two Children from Drowning.

On the 26th December, 1905 (Boxing Day) a Monster Picnic was held in the Canterbury Jockey Club's grounds at Riccarton, about four miles from Christchurch. Over 5,000 people attended. The picnic was organised by the Catholic Community of Christchurch. Some time previously, the Jockey Club had formed a lake in the grounds, and this had only been filled in a few days prior to the picnic. The

Picnic Committee was warned as to the danger of children falling into the lake and men were told off by the Committee to protect it. For some reason, these men were late in taking up their posts. A child 2 years' old (in charge of its sister, a girl of 12) wandered into the lake, and in a second was in trouble. The sister plunged in after the child but, being unable to swim, she too sank with the child in eight feet of water. My son Phil (then 14 years' old) saw the mishap from the grandstand (as well as others) and he rushed to the spot, pulled off his coat and vest and dived into the place where he saw the children disappear, and was lucky enough to get a grip of the girl's hair, and was able to drag her to the surface. She held the child locked in her embrace, and the lad swam with both to the bank. Mrs. Dwyer saw the lad struggling in the water and cried out to me that Phil was drowning in the lake. I ran to the nearest bridge, bounded over the fence and was at the spot in a minute. Both children were then unconscious, the small child in a very bad way, having turned quite black. A Nurse took charge of the girl, and I took over the child, and followed out the Silvester method of restoring respiration, and after working at the child for 20 minutes it commenced to breathe, and I knew then that it was out of danger. When this fact became known to the crowd a wild demonstration was set up in recognition of the boy's bravery - the father coming in for a share. The lad went to a friend's house nearby to change his wet clothing. He kept out of the way of the crowd, and did not want any fuss so he said.

He received the Royal Humane Society of New Zealand's Award for Bravery. The Picnic Committee presented him with a Gold Medal, and the Reverend Dr. Grimes, Roman Catholic Bishop of Christchurch, publicly presented him with a book "The Castles and Abbeys of England." The public presentation of the Royal Humane Society's Award was made in His Majesty's Theatre (now the Civic). The Mayor of Christchurch, (Mr. G. Payling) made the presentation and among other things he said, "He was asked by the Society to make the presentation to Master Dwyer, and he did so with great pleasure, and the more so the recipient being so young." The newspaper report is quoted below:-

"The presentation of the Royal Humane Society's Certificate to Master Dwyer, son of Sub-Inspector Dwyer, of this city, who rescued two children from drowning at Riccarton some time ago, was made by the Mayor of Christchurch (Mr. G. Payling) at the Spanish-Columbian Festival, in His Majesty's Theatre last night. Master Dwyer was also the recipient of a Gold Medal from the committee of the sports which the children were attending when they fell into the water.

In making the presentations, the Mayor said that though the feeling that one had been the means of saving the life of a fellow creature was ample reward, provision had wisely, he thought, been made for publicly honouring those who had risked their lives to save others. This was done here through a most excellent organisation, the Royal Humane Society of New Zealand. That body awarded medals and certificates for saving life or for attempts made to do so. These were always presented in as public a manner as possible, so that due honour should be rendered to bravery. Prior to the establishment of the New Zealand Society, the Humane Society of Australasia dealt with cases brought under its notice, and medals etc. were sent through the Government, who arranged for the presentation. Now, however, they had a society of their own which investigated and decided upon cases brought before it. The Investigation Committee to whom the work of recommending awards was committed were exceedingly careful and searching in their enquiries, and, therefore, it was that the medals and certificates awarded by the Royal Humane Society of New Zealand were so highly valued. It was at the request of the Society that he, as Mayor of the City, was there that night to present their certificate to Master Dwyer. He did so with the greatest pleasure, and the more so that the recipient was so young. It showed great intrepidity on the part of a lad that he should have risked his life to save others in such a courageous way. He congratulated Master Dwyer on having been the means of saving life, and his family on possessing a member who had thus early displayed such pluck and resourcefulness. That courage was the heritage of the Anglo-Saxon race, and the community should feel proud that Master Dwyer had so early exhibited this quality in such a noble manner. He trusted he might live long to possess this honourable distinction which was one of the noblest that anyone could possess.

Sub-Inspector Dwyer replied on behalf of his son.

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Valedictory Conversazione.

"The Alexandra Hall was filled to overflowing last night, on the occasion of the valedictory conversazione to His Lordship Bishop Grimes, prior to his departure today for Rome. In addition to a large and representative gathering of the laity, there were a number of priests present. The chair was occupied by Mr. P. Pender.

At a stage in the programme, Bishop Grimes said they would remember the act of heroism performed by Master Philip Dwyer on the occasion of the picnic on Boxing Day at the Racecourse. At the imminent risk of his life, he had plunged into the water, and had been the means of saving two lives. He (the Bishop) understood the matter of granting a medal to Master Dwyer for his heroic conduct was before the Committee of the New Zealand Humane Society. He wished, however, on his own part, before leaving Christchurch, to mark his sense of the heroism displayed by Master Dwyer by presenting him with a book "The Castles and Abbeys of England."

"This was only a small token of how highly he appreciated the bravery of Master Dwyer on the occasion to which he referred.

His Lordship then presented Master Dwyer with the volume which bears an inscription, stating the reason of the presentation."

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This incident shows that parents should have their children taught to swim early in life. I have always been a strong advocate of this.

The Royal Humane Society's Awards to father and son for bravery, hanging side by side, will not be seen in many homes in New Zealand.

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The Cashel Street Riot.

On Saturday night, the 8th July, 1905, Constable McLellan arrested a drunken man near Strange's in High Street, and when he got to the White Hart Hotel a crowd of hoodlums, including many footballers, surrounded the Constable, mauled him about in the mud and kicked him. A man named Bearne came to the Constable's assistance, but he was also knocked down and kicked. The Constable hung on to his man with the greatest tenacity. Two more Constables arrived on the scene, and they arrested another man who assaulted the Constable, and tried to take the prisoner from him. The Constables were successful in getting their prisoners into the Christchurch Meat Company's shop, and closed the door. At this stage I arrived on the scene. The prisoners were rushed through the right-of-way into Hereford Street and taken to the Police Station in a cab which I ordered. In the meantime, over 3000 people had collected in front of the meat shop. They broke into the shop, thinking that the police and prisoners were still there. The mob destroyed all the meat, and some of the shop's fittings, doing damage to the extent of £20. The disturbance continued between the meat shop and the Police Station until close on 11 o'clock, and before it was completely subdued by the police, seven more arrests were made. Most of the prisoners were bailed out next day.

On Monday morning all the prisoners appeared before the Court. I asked for three days' remand, and this was granted. That evening,

a flaming article appeared in "Truth" (not Norton's Truth) a paper published then in conjunction with the "Press", when it had its headquarters in Cashel Street. The article cried down the action of the police and lied in several particulars in connection with the riot. Not satisfied with this, word for word was wired that day to the Wellington "Evening Post."

The Editor of this paper "Truth" was a Mr. Poulson, now Member of Parliament for Stratford, and Chairman of the Dairy Board. This Mr. Poulson had a terrible grudge against one or two of the detectives, and a more bitter grudge against the "Seddon" Government, and never missed an opportunity of showing his bitter feelings. When the cases were on, Charles Denham, the prisoner whose actions caused all the trouble, was the first case called. He was charged (1) with drunkenness (2) with making use of obscene language and (3) with assaulting the Police. Mr. Donnelly defended, and put in a plea of Not Guilty.

In describing the conduct of the prisoner, the bad language he used, and the resistance to his arrest that led to the subsequent disturbance and damage to property, I asked the Magistrate, if the cases were proved to his satisfaction, to impose a substantial penalty. I then referred to the unwarranted attack made on the police by "Truth" newspaper. The remarks I made are fairly fully given in the following copy of newspaper cutting:-

"Shortly after the first case arising out of last Saturday night's disturbance was opened in the Magistrate's Court this morning, Sub-Inspector Dwyer stated that he desired to call attention to an article which appeared in "Truth" on Monday evening last, the evening of the day on which accused first came before the Court. The article commented on the action of the police in regard to the riot, and also commented in a monstrous manner on the case which was still before the Court. That, he submitted, was a gross contempt of the privileges of the Court. Continuing, the Sub-Inspector said he believed there was no other Journal in the colony that would have resorted to such a contemptible method of crying down the police, who were attempting to restore law and order. Not content with publishing the slanderous statements themselves in "Truth" they also, that very evening, wired them word for word to the Wellington "Evening Post", a strong party paper. This had been done, he thought, from some motive, either personal or political, he could not say which, but it was one or the other. The police were not afraid of such comments, because they were quite sure they had the confidence of the law-abiding section of the community. But the

"comments that were constantly being made by this newspaper had had the effect of inciting the criminal portion of the community to the acts of violence that had been recently witnessed here. The Sub-Inspector stated that he had been assured by an old officer from the Sydney police that it was journalism of this kind that led to such a state of affairs in Sydney some years ago, when respectable people and the police had to go about armed with revolvers to protect them from the hoodlums.

The Magistrate said the Court could only express an opinion, and he must say that the article complained of was altogether uncalled for. There was a certain procedure which could be taken against the newspaper.

Continuing, the Sub-Inspector said the newspaper in question was owned by some of the most respectable and influential members of the community. He could not for a moment understand that they could encourage or be a party to such incitements, which tended to throw the law-abiding and once sober city into a bear garden. Instead of the police being cried down in this fashion, they should be supported for doing their duty.

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We have decided to make no comment in reply to the above attack until the cases involved have been dealt with by the Magistrate, except to say that this journal is in no way responsible for any article which has appeared in any other newspaper, and to regret that anyone should have interpreted its remarks as showing any contempt of Court. - Ed. "Truth".

(The above was all that "Truth" ever said about the matter.)

To prove the charges against Denham as well as the others, I called outside evidence. I called a Mr. Jamieson, A J.F., who gave very strong evidence as he saw the whole thing. Mr. Donnelly called several witnesses for the defence. The prisoner was found guilty on the three charges, was fined 10/- on the first charge, and £5. on each of the other two charges. The other prisoners were found guilty, but only nominal fines were imposed.

G. G. Stead was Chairman of Directors of the "Press" which controlled the "Truth". Two days after the Court cases referred to he called a meeting of the Directors. I could never find out what took place at that meeting, but fourteen days thereafter, Poulson severed his connection with "Truth" newspaper. He went from here to Taranaki, and apparently got on well. If he remained a journalist he would hardly ever attain the position of Member of Parliament. I hope he sometimes remembers me.

Some time after these proceedings, another case of assaulting the Police took place, and a few days after, the "Press" came out with



the following article:-

The Public and the Police.

"The statement made yesterday by Sub-Inspector Dwyer as to the attitude of the public towards the police indicates a condition of affairs that, unless checked, might easily become a serious menace to the good order of the city. The feeling displayed towards the police of late was, he said, very bad, and he was afraid this hostility was growing. He believed some men would stand complacently by and see a policeman kicked to death. Such an indictment of a section of the public deserves the more attention because it comes from an officer of long and varied experience, whose intimate acquaintance with human nature is not likely to lead him to exaggerate any temporary ebullition of feeling on the part of a crowd. Christchurch has for long years borne a good reputation for the law-abiding character of its residents, but in every community, even the most peaceable, there is a proportion whose unruly instincts array them against constituted authority, especially when it takes the form of a policeman. It may be that, from some cause or another, this feeling has spread in Christchurch latterly. It is a symptom of misrule, which all reputable citizens, both for their own sakes, and for the credit of the city, should discountenance by all means in their power. For if it once became a general article of faith that a policeman was always in the wrong, and the man he was trying to arrest was the unfortunate victim of a brutal official, to be rescued if possible, and in any case to receive such sympathy as is expressed by hustling and "boosing", we should be within measurable distance of mob law and all that it implies. There was not the faintest excuse for the conduct of the crowd on Thursday evening. The men with whom such unnecessary sympathy was expressed had been acting in a manner calculated to endanger the limbs, if not the lives, of other people, and the police very properly took them in charge. The fact that it needed five constables to deal with two offenders was due partly to the disgraceful conduct of the crowd and partly to the advantageous position occupied by the men who were being arrested. The police have often difficult duties to perform, and it will be admitted that in the great majority of instances they carry them out with tact and forbearance. But their task will become much more difficult if they cannot reckon on the moral, if not the active, support of the public. We trust, for the reputation of Christchurch, that the warning by the Bench yesterday will have its desired effect, and that we shall have no more public exhibitions of uncalled for hostility towards the police."

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It can be said that, in many instances, indiscreet and hasty action on the part of some policemen bring on trouble that could be avoided with a little tact and forbearance.

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Tussle with the Heavyweight Boxing Champion,  
of New Zealand, Jack Lloyd.

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At about 10 p.m. on Saturday night, the 25th January, 1908, as the hotels and shops were closing, I was standing talking to another person by G.G. Stead's Grain and Seed Store (now Hallenstein's ) when

Lloyd and three or four companions came out of the Cafe de Paris Hotel. Lloyd had a bottle of beer, and this he was brandishing about. As he passed me, he gave me a poke with the bottle in the neck. I told him to mind what he was doing, and not to be acting the blackguard. He came back and pointed the bottle at my face and said "I'll poke you in b.....y eye with it." I thought he was going to do so, and I struck it out of his hand with a blackthorn stick that I was carrying, and made smithereens of it on the footpath. This enraged him and he said "Is this your B.....game? I said, "You know who I am, and if you dare lift a hand to me you'll suffer for it." Scarcely were the words out of my mouth when he struck me a swinging blow right on the mouth. The blow sent a thousand stars into my eyes, but I did not fall. I could have cut him with the stick, but I dare not use it as I might seriously injure him. I threw my stick away, and, as he was making another swinging blow at me I side-stepped it, and I caught him with a real catch-as-catch-can hold. I pulled him out into the middle of the street, and with three times my usual strength I lifted him bodily off the ground and threw him on his face, and put the grip on him, and with my whole weight on his back held him safe. By this time, a large crowd had collected and some of Lloyd's friends wanted to interfere, but others who saw the whole thing would not allow them to interfere. There was one man in the crowd (whose name I was never able to find out) who made a ring, and said to the crowd that I should have fair play. I spotted a cabman in the crowd named Drury, and I told him to go and fetch his cab, and he did so. At this stage, Lloyd started to cry out that I was hurting him, and said he would go with me quietly if I allowed him on his feet. The crowd too asked me to allow him on his feet, and I did so. No sooner was he released and on his feet when he made a wild swinging blow at me. I ducked from it, and I seized him in the same way as on the first occasion, lifted him off his feet and threw him on his face and put the same grip on him - and my action was approved of by the crowd. At this time, two of my men arrived, and we had great difficulty in putting him into the cab. To some, it may appear impossible that I could do what I have stated, as Lloyd's weight in his boxing engagements was 13 st. 2 lbs. and my weight then was 14 st. 8 lbs.

There are two men living in Christchurch today who witnessed the whole affair. They are Jim Wallace, of the Grand Hotel, and D.P. Mahoney (Horse Trainer - a boxer himself, in his day.)

I sent the prisoner to the lock-up with the two Constables. After recovering my hat and stick (safely kept for me) I went and saw a doctor. The blow on my mouth that I received from Lloyd loosened all my front teeth and sent a tooth through my upper lip. When I arrived at the Station I was greatly surprised to find my gold watch chain and diamond locket, which were torn from my watch in the struggle, awaiting me. I must say here that the crowd treated me exceptionally well.

Next morning, Sunday, Lloyd sent for me to the cell, and he was then bathing his swollen leg in hot water. This was sprained in the struggle. When he saw me, he commenced to cry and said "I'll be gaoled for this." I said, "You ought to be". He said, "I would not mind for myself, but I am the only support of my poor old mother." I said, "You should have thought of that last night. You were not drunk by any means. You knew well what you were doing, you knew me. If you didn't, I told you."

The case came on next morning, Mr. J. Cassidy appearing for accused. I did a thing that morning that I'd never think of doing, if the case was not my own. I went and saw the Magistrate (Mr. Day) and he saw my mouth, and after he had congratulated me on my escape from more serious injury, I said to him "I am doing a thing now that I'd never think of doing if it was a matter between the prisoner and any of my men, but as it is a matter between myself and the prisoner I would ask you not to send him to gaol. He is in steady employment and is the only support of his old mother."

The case was called on, and the prisoner pleaded guilty to the charge (through his Solicitor). Instead of stating the facts from my place in Court, I stepped into the witness box, and asked to be sworn so that I'd give all the facts on oath.

When I got back to my place, I had a dissatisfied look from Mr. Day. I could see that he thought it was a clear case for gaol.

The Magistrate fined Lloyd £10. and damages.

It was not generally known that this Jack Lloyd was a nephew of the notorious Bushranger, Ned Kelly. Mrs. Lloyd (nee Mary Kelly) lived for years, as an old age pensioner on the South Belt, Christchurch, and died there about four years ago, at an advanced age.

Jack Lloyd went to the Great War, and returned here a broken man - and died here about 10 years ago.

After his conviction, he was disqualified for twelve months by the Boxing Association. When he tried to come back, his leg always came against him.

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On the 14th of the following August (National Day again) I was ordered to proceed to Napier at once, and take over the district, the Inspector there being suspended from duty. I remained in Napier until the beginning of January when I was promoted Inspector, and appointed to the permanent charge of the district. I returned to Christchurch for the family, and our belongings.

On the eve of our departure, Mrs. Dwyer was presented by her friends with a "Silver Caddy" inscribed, containing One Hundred and Thirty Sovereigns. The presentation took place in the Chamber of Commerce, and was made by R. C. Bishop Esqr. who said that Mr. and Mrs. Dwyer's friends could not allow the opportunity to pass without showing in a small way the high esteem that they were held in by their Christchurch friends. He congratulated Mr. Dwyer on his well-earned promotion and wished them both every happiness and success in their new home. (Applause.)

Mr. Bishop then presented Mrs. Dwyer with a Silver Tea Caddy filled with what he termed "Golden Tips." The Caddy bore the following inscription:-

"Presented to Mrs. John Dwyer by a few Christchurch friends on the occasion of the departure of Inspector Dwyer and herself from Christchurch to Napier, February, 1909."

Mr. W. Hayward briefly responded on behalf of Mrs. Dwyer.

For disciplinary reasons, I took no part in the proceedings.

The following is a copy of newspaper extract:-

"A number of friends of Inspector Dwyer and Mrs. Dwyer assembled in the Chamber of Commerce Hall, Christchurch, on Monday morning, for the purpose of making a presentation to the latter (states

"the Evening News). Mr. R. C. Bishop, who presided, said that those present desired to extend their heartiest congratulations to Inspector Dwyer on his recent promotion. Inspector Dwyer himself could not attend that day, for the police regulations were of a very stringent character, and perhaps it was as well that that was so. That, however, did not make the fact any the less, that in honouring Mrs. Dwyer they were honouring the Inspector Dwyer as well. (Applause). They wished Inspector and Mrs. Dwyer happiness and success in the new city to which they were going, and they could not allow the opportunity to pass without giving some little souvenir of Mr. and Mrs. Dwyer's residence in Christchurch. They desired to express, through Mrs. Dwyer, the high esteem in which her husband was held by his Christchurch friends, and their heartiest congratulations upon his promotion. (Applause.) Mr. Bishop then presented Mrs. Dwyer with a small silver tea caddy, filled with what he termed "golden tips." (The caddy bore the inscription described above. ).

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I got on very well with the people of Hawkes Bay during the four years I was stationed there. I liked the climate of Hawkes Bay immensely.

There were many happenings during my time in Hawkes Bay, but one in particular I must give a place to here. It was known as the

The Woodville Baby Murder Case.

The facts of the case are as follows:-

A man and a woman worked for a farmer at Akatea, a country district between Dannevirke and the Coast. The proprietor of the farm and his wife knew the relationship that existed between the two. They left the district on the same day, with the ostensible object of getting married. They journeyed to Woodville and put up there at a boarding-house. They only stopped there two days, and the woman shifted to a small hotel in the township. She was only two days in the hotel, and about 6 o'clock on the second morning the landlady heard the cry of (apparently) a new-born baby, and about five minutes after she saw a man (whom she identified) leave the room, carrying a green parcel under his coat. Three days after this, a green game bag containing the body of a newly-born child was found, a cord tightly tied round the child's neck, giving

the indication that the child was strangled. An Inquest was opened, and the Doctor who held the post-mortem, testified that the child was born **alive**, and was strangled with a cord tightly tied around its neck. I put Detective Butler on the job of working up the evidence, and he put together one of the strongest cases I have had to do with. The green game bag that the body was found in was identified by a saddler in Woodville who made the bag himself and sold it to the accused man, whom he fully identified. It was also shown that the accused tried to purchase a hold-all in two other saddlers' shops in Woodville, but such articles were not stocked. In depositing the bag containing the infant child in a culvert in the Railway line, the person had to climb over a seven strand barbed wire fence, a feat only an active person could perform.

The preliminary hearing, which I conducted, of the charge of murder preferred against both accused was taken in the Woodville Magistrate's Court, and, as I have said before, the evidence was complete. Both were committed for trial to the Napier Supreme Court, and at the hearing of the charges at that Court, the prisoners were jointly indicted for murder. Judge Chapman was the Judge presiding. The foreman of the Jury was a Shipping Agent, a German by birth. When the prisoners were called on to plead to the charge, the female pleaded guilty, and through her, Counsel tried to show that she committed the deed and that the male prisoner had nothing to do with it. The Crown would not accept the woman's plea, and went on with the charge. The evidence was as clear as noon-day and the Judge summed up dead against the male prisoner. The Jury retired to consider their verdict, and, after two hours' deliberation, returned to Court to announce their verdict. His Honour took his seat on the Bench to receive it (and I know he brought his "Black Cap" with him in his pocket). After the usual question was put by the Sheriff to the Foreman, "Gentlemen, have you agreed on your verdict?" The Foreman answered "Yes". "How say you, have you found the prisoners guilty, or not guilty?" The Foreman answered, "Not Guilty."

The Judge was so taken aback that he could not speak for two

minutes, then he said, "I must accept the verdict in accordance with law, but I must express my surprise that twelve intelligent men could bring in such a verdict in the face of the evidence." He did not thank the Jury for their services.

I was told that the Foreman was indignant at being summoned as a Common Juror, instead of a Grand Juror.

I never spoke to the Judge afterwards that he did not refer to this case.

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On the 20th May, 1912, I received word to transfer to Dunedin. The shift meant a substantial increase in my salary. When it became known that I was under orders to transfer to Dunedin, my friends in Hastings held a meeting to make arrangements to give me a public farewell, and Mr. A.L.D. Fraser, Ex M.P. for Hawkes Bay, was appointed to manage the affair, and right well he succeeded. The farewell function took the form of a Banquet, got up on a lavish scale. Everything of the best was provided; in fact, there were four male waiters in livery. There were over 80 representative citizens of Hastings and surrounding districts present.

They sent a motor car to my home in Napier for Mrs. Dwyer, Miss Dwyer and myself, and after the function was over brought us back to our home in Napier.

The following is a copy of the letter of invitation I received from Mr. Fraser:-

Hastings Club,  
Hawkes Bay, N.Z.  
May 26th, 1912.

Dear Dwyer,

With pleasure and regret your Hastings friends learn that you have been given well-earned promotion. It is pleasing to us to know that your services are appreciated, but at the same time it is with regret that we part with you.

To evidence this, we would like to say farewell in a unison of voices. Will you, therefore, meet us on Thursday evening next at the Grand Hotel, Hastings, at 8 o'clock and give us an opportunity of saying how little or how much the citizens here appreciate you.

Yours faithfully,  
(signed) Alfred L.D. Fraser.

J. Dwyer, Esq.,  
Napier.

The following is a copy of the newspaper extract:-

"Eloquent tribute to the success which has attended the administration of Police Inspector Dwyer in the Hawkes Bay district, and to the high position he occupies in the public estimation was testified at Hastings last evening, when the Inspector was entertained at the Grand Hotel by his Hastings friends. The attendance, numbering over seventy persons, was fully representative of all sections of the community. Mr. A. L. D. Fraser presided, and with him occupying the seats of honour were the guest of the evening, Inspector Dwyer, and Mr. Judge Gilfedder. Apologies for their unavoidable absence were received from Mr. H. M. Campbell, M.P., and Messrs. G. P. Donnelly, Stewart Waddell and Val. Hoadley, all of whom regretted the Inspector's departure, and wished him all success and happiness in his new sphere of labour.

In the course of a eulogistic speech, the Chairman said they had the honour to have associated with them that evening one who held one of the most important positions in public life, and he could say that on no previous occasion in the history of Hastings had he seen such a representative gathering as was assembled that night. It was a compliment to Inspector Dwyer that was well deserved, (Applause.) and would bear good fruit to others in the same department as himself, inasmuch as it would prove to them that, when a man faithfully and honourably carries out his duties, he was appreciated by the public, who were prepared to acknowledge his worth. They had met Inspector Dwyer in the position of an Officer of the Crown, which was second to none in its importance and in its delicacy of manipulation, and they had known him as a citizen. He could look back over 36 years when a little band of men were driven from their native land by its tyrannical laws, and had to do what so many had done since, and carve out their destinations elsewhere. They had come to New Zealand, he was proud to say, to better themselves, and had also bettered New Zealand, and in this regard he was pleased to see present Mr. Daniel O'Reilly, who was a shipmate of Inspector Dwyer's when they were thrown upon the welcome shores of New Zealand without a penny, but full of that energy and bull-dog pertinacity which had carried them through with honours. New Zealand had seen all classes of pioneers, and Inspector Dwyer was one of those who, by his integrity, was in a proud position today, honoured and respected in the community. (Applause.) In Gilbertian words, "a policeman's lot was not a happy one", but he was justified in saying that the men who were now placed in the position of preserving law and order were men of much higher ideals than those of many years ago. Today the Dominion was policed with a class of men who joined hand in hand with the Community and said, "If you will help us we will help you", and the consequence was that law and order were upheld. (Applause.) Inspector Dwyer had been an example to those under him by his honourable methods of discharging his duties, methods which had won admiration wherever he went.

In asking the Inspector to accept on behalf of his wife a silver tea service, bearing an inscription "From your Hastings friends, 1912" and a pair of opera glasses, Mr. Fraser said he felt he was voicing the sentiments of everyone in the community when he said that they parted with the Inspector with pleasurable regret, pleased that his services were being recognised by his promotion, regret at the departure of an able officer and sterling citizen. (Applause).



"Mr. Fraser also asked Mr. Dwyer to accept an autograph book bearing the fingerprints (laughter) or rather, the signatures of those present, and proposed the health of "Our Guest" which was toasted with musical honours.

Judge Gilfedder said a policeman had often to perform disagreeable and irksome duties, and when it was seen that he endeavoured to carry out those duties and give the satisfaction to the Department that Inspector Dwyer had given it was a source of gratification. Inspector Dwyer was born, not with a spoon in his mouth but a ladder, and he had climbed to the top rung. (Applause.) On this he desired to compliment him. They had been intimate friends for eleven years, and he was pleased to hear of his promotion. He believed that throughout the Dominion the police discharged their duties with a thoroughness that did them credit. He knew Inspector Dwyer's successor (Inspector O'Donovan) well and he felt sure that the latter was a man who would win the appreciation of the people of Hawkes Bay.

Mr. E. H. Williams heartily congratulated the Inspector on his promotion, and although they were sorry he was leaving Hawkes Bay it had to be borne in mind that it was the Inspector's own fault. He was such an able officer, and his ideals of his public duties were so high as to warrant the promotion. (Applause.) He hoped he would rise still higher in the service, and reach the top of the tree. He had been brought into close contact with Inspector Dwyer on one occasion when Mr. Cornford (The Crown Prosecutor of Napier) was laid aside with illness and had been good enough to ask the speaker to conduct the criminal prosecutions at the Supreme Court. On that occasion, he found that, as far as experience went, the Inspector was a man of marked ability, and helped the Crown Prosecutor in a considerable degree. He was always fair and that was one of the best qualities that a man, holding his particular position, could have (Applause.) A remark had been made that in years gone by the desire of the police was to persecute and not to prosecute, but it had to be remembered that, in conducting a prosecution, the police had not only the individual, but the whole community, to consider. Inspector Dwyer would be able to look back with pleasure to his career in Hawkes Bay and, although he (Mr. Williams) had no brief to speak for the legal profession, he was sure he was interpreting their feelings when he wished Inspector Dwyer and his wife all future happiness and prosperity. (Applause.)

Mr. W. P. Archibald (The Hon. J. D. Ormond's Manager) speaking on behalf of the racing community, apropos of a remark which had been made by a previous speaker, said that the generosity of the racing men in New Zealand was unexcelled. Referring to Inspector Dwyer, Mr. Archibald said that a man who was not a good sport was not a good man, and it was because Inspector Dwyer was a thorough sport that he was such an able man. (Applause.)

Mr. W. J. White also added a tribute to the encomiums paid to the Inspector for his sterling qualities. He had met Inspector Dwyer on many occasions in the practice of his profession, and had always known him to show the greatest consideration for opposing counsel, and to hold the scales of justice evenly balanced between the prisoner on the one hand and the Crown on the other. (Applause.)

Mr. Charles Hughes, senior Justice of the Peace, Mr. T. M. Lawlor (Hastings Courthouse Staff) Mr. C. L. Mackersey (representing the Boxing Assn.) Mr. J. T. Blake (on behalf of the Native Race) and Mr. A. A. George also added their meed of praise to the Inspector's work.

"In reply, Inspector Dwyer, who was received with loud applause, thanked the various speakers for their kind remarks, also the people of Hastings for their handsome presents which he assured them his wife would cherish. The promotion he had received was a substantial one. His removal was not of his own seeking, and he could have happily remained in Hawkes Bay. However, the Department thought otherwise, and he had to leave where he had been so well treated. Continuing, Mr. Dwyer said great power rested with a police Inspector, and if he used that power tactfully and judiciously he became a useful member of the community, whilst on the other hand if he acted with severity and indiscretion his usefulness was impaired. Hawkes Bay was a crimeless district, and possessed a sober community, and the result was that his sojourn here had been one long holiday and a path of roses. He again thanked the speakers for their very flattering remarks and said that if he had such a competent and loyal staff of constables, sergeants and detectives as he had had at Napier his work in Dunedin would be a great pleasure.

Inspector Dwyer then proposed the health of the Chairman in felicitous terms, and Mr. Fraser replied.

During the evening recitations were contributed by Messrs. J. A. Gallagher and T. West, and songs by Mr. Vickers, Mr. Brownhill presiding at the piano."

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At this time, the borough of Hastings was advancing rapidly, and a certain amount of rivalry existed between itself and Napier. Hastings was in the better position, as it had all the wealthy stations of Hawkes Bay behind it. Everyone was then happy and prosperous.

The day before I left Napier was a busy day for me. In the morning of the 11th June I was farewelled by the "Justices" and later by the Law Society. In the afternoon I was farewelled by the public, and Mrs. Dwyer was presented with a purse of 75 sovereigns. In the evening I was farewelled by the Police of the district.

The following are copies of the newspaper extracts dealing with the various functions:-

"Farewell from Justices:

"A number of Justices of the Peace together with Mr. S. E. McCarthy, S.M., assembled at the Napier Courthouse yesterday morning to bid farewell to Inspector Dwyer who leaves tomorrow to take up his duties as Inspector of Police at Dunedin.

Mr. S. E. McCarthy, S.M., said they had met to say goodbye to Inspector Dwyer. The Justices of this town thought that, on his promotion to a more important centre, it was fitting that they should tender him their congratulations and express their regret at his leaving the district. Inspector Dwyer had always met all classes of people with tact and impartiality. In conclusion, Mr. McCarthy expressed his regret at Inspector Dwyer's departure, and congratulated him on the fact that the authorities had decided to give him a better position.

"Messrs. J. S. Large, J.P. Thomson, S. McLernon and J. H. Sheath also referred in flattering terms to the good qualities of Inspector Dwyer, stating that he had always been the friend of the people and had done his work zealously as an officer of the department.

Inspector Dwyer thanked the speakers for their very kind remarks. During the four years he had been stationed in Napier he had striven to do his best. He had always had the support of the Magistrate and the Justices of the Peace when conducting business in the Court. Inspector Dwyer concluded by again thanking the Justices for their kind words of farewell.

Mr. McCarthy said that he forgot to mention that during the last three years there had been a great decrease in crime due to the energies of the police.

Inspector Dwyer replied that the decisions of the Justices had always been satisfactory, and he had never known of a judgment to be questioned."

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Presentation to Mrs. Dwyer:-

"A pleasant little function took place later in the morning at the Mayor's room when a number of Napier's leading citizens gathered to honour Inspector Dwyer and make a presentation to Mrs. Dwyer. Mrs. J. Higgins attended with Mrs. Dwyer.

Mr. John Higgins, who presided, said it gave him great pleasure to see so many present. The population of Napier had increased, but crime had decreased, a fact which was largely due to the tact and sincerity of Inspector Dwyer. He knew how to control the men under him. Inspector Dwyer was "out on his own." Mr. Higgins then called on His Worship the Mayor, Mr. J. Vigor Brown, M.P. to speak on behalf of the citizens of Napier.

The Mayor said that all present knew that Inspector Dwyer had been called away to one of the most important appointments in the police service in New Zealand. Mr. Brown regretted the departure, but he was pleased to know that Inspector Dwyer was the man chosen by the Government for the position. He had always been careful and judicious in carrying out his duties irrespective of the people he came in contact with. The speaker then stated that he had been asked to present to Mrs. Dwyer a purse of sovereigns as a token of the esteem of the residents of Napier. The Mayor wished Inspector and Mrs. Dwyer a pleasant and prosperous time in Dunedin, and expressed the hope that the Inspector would enjoy the best of health to enable him to carry out his onerous duties.

Messrs. W. Flouman and J. McVay endorsed the sentiments expressed by the Mayor, and wished Inspector Dwyer success in his new sphere.

The Chairman proposed the toast of the guests, which was duly honoured and received with cheers.

Inspector Dwyer, who was greeted with applause on rising, said he had to thank those present for the kind remarks made about him. It was very consoling to know that he

"had the good wishes of the people of Napier. He heartily thanked the citizens for their generous gifts to Mrs. Dwyer which she would greatly appreciate. His promotion was not of his own seeking, and he would have been quite content had the Department passed him over. In six years' time, Inspector Dwyer said, he would be entitled to his full pension, and he was certain that he would then return to Hawkes Bay to spend the remainder of his days. He would never forget the kindness of His Worship the Mayor, and he expressed the hope that Mr. Brown would long be spared to carry out his work for the advancement of the district.

Mrs. Dwyer also briefly thanked the citizens for their gift.

The healths of the Mayor and the Chairman were also drunk with musical honours."

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Solicitors' Farewell:-

"Before the ordinary business of the Court commenced in the afternoon, Mr. H. A. Cornford, on behalf of the Napier Bar, of which he was proud to be the senior member, and in accordance with His Worship's permission, stated that he wished to say farewell to their esteemed friend, Inspector Dwyer. He complimented the Inspector on his promotion while he expressed the deepest regret at his removal from Napier. He considered Inspector Dwyer had always been and always would be a satisfactory and fit and proper person to fill the eminently high position of Inspector of Police. Inspector Dwyer had had his training under Inspector Scully, which should be a sufficient guarantee of his ability. It was a pity that the Inspector was leaving Napier, but the Service had higher rewards, and he was sure Inspector Dwyer would meet with his share. Mr. Cornford trusted that Inspector Dwyer would carry with him remembrances which would be cheering to him all through his life. On behalf of the Bar, Mr. Cornford wished Inspector Dwyer health, wealth and happiness.

His Worship stated that it was not 15 years since he first met Inspector Dwyer, then a Sergeant while he was a Magistrate in Central Otago. He had had opportunities to watch the Inspector's work, and when he left Central Otago it was predicted that he would become an Inspector. The prediction had come true. His Worship joined with the members of the Bar in congratulating Inspector Dwyer, and expressed the hope that he would be as happy in Dunedin as he had been in Napier, and that he would enjoy many years of useful office, and thereafter many years of comfortable retirement."

Inspector Dwyer, in returning thanks, said that since he came to Napier he had received nothing but kindness from His Worship and the members of the Bar. His stay had been one long holiday. He had never met kinder people in his career. He was grateful to His Worship for the assistance he had always rendered. He had also to thank the local Police Force. They had always supported him and made his stay in Napier a very pleasant one indeed."

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Farewell from the Police Force:

"A large number of representatives of the police force in this district assembled at the Napier Police Station last

"evening to say farewell to their chief, Inspector Dwyer, and to make a presentation to Mrs. Dwyer as a mark of their esteem for her, and appreciation of her husband.

Sergeant Hogan of Hastings said it had been <sup>the</sup> spontaneous desire on the part of all members of the police force in this district to make a presentation to Mrs. Dwyer on the occasion of her husband's promotion to the Inspectorship of the Dunedin district. They were all very sorry to lose both her and the Inspector, but were glad to know that he had been called to a higher position in the service. The Inspector had ever been ready and willing to give advice when asked to those under him, and had always been very easy to approach. The men, one and all, regretted that they were losing Inspector Dwyer and Mrs. Dwyer, and trusted that they would meet with success and happiness in the south. Sergeant Hogan then asked Mrs. Dwyer to accept a gold necklet chain to which was attached an artistically designed brooch set with amethysts and pearls, also a beautiful travelling rug and a leather brief bag.

Mrs. Dwyer briefly thanked the donors for their valuable gifts and assured them that she and Inspector Dwyer would be very sorry to leave them.

Sergeant Cummings said he came to Napier  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years ago, and had always got on well with the Inspector. He was very sorry that Inspector Dwyer was leaving them, and was sure that their loss would be Dunedin's gain. If the Inspector met with the same loyal support in Dunedin that he had received in this district he would have nothing to regret in going there. He wished Inspector Dwyer and Mrs. Dwyer every happiness in the future.

Detective Kemp, Detective Butler, Constable O'Halloran and Constable Rosanoski also expressed their regret that Inspector Dwyer and Mrs. Dwyer were leaving the district.

Inspector Dwyer, in replying, said that if credit had been awarded to him it had been brought about by the loyalty of the men. He thanked the speakers for their kind remarks, and for their handsome gifts to Mrs. Dwyer. He urged the men to extend the same loyal support to his successor, Inspector O'Donovan, that they had always given to him."

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On the 12th June, 1912, I transferred to Dunedin, and nothing to note happened until the 1st February, 1913, when the rank of Superintendent was created, and on the 1st March, 1913, I, with three other Inspectors, was promoted to that rank.

The next event of any importance to occur was the Industrial Strike of 1913-14.

This Strike was the biggest thing of the kind that has happened in New Zealand since the big Maritime Strike of 1890-91.

From the time the strike was declared, it could be seen that a great deal of bitter feeling and riotous conduct would follow. This is always to be expected when "special police" are used.

In Wellington and Auckland, it was the signal for disorder and bloodshed when the Special Constables appeared in the street. It was not possible for the Police themselves to maintain law and order in Wellington and Auckland without the aid of Special Police. When some "specials" are provided with batons, they fancy they are empowered to do a lot of things, and sometimes their actions lead to trouble that could be avoided by the use of a little forbearance and reason.

Although Dunedin was the headquarters of the Seamen's Union I was able to manage to keep order with my own men without the aid of Foot or Mounted Specials.

In those days the watersiders and seamen were not a vicious combination and, when properly handled, were amenable to reason. Today, the Police have different elements to cope with, Communists and Red Feds who have no respect for the laws of God or man.

For a few days after the declaration of the strike I was kept busy with Mr. Bartholomew, S.M., enrolling and swearing in Special Constables. We enrolled 600 Foot Specials, and 400 Mounted Specials. The Mounted Specials were billeted in "Tahuna Park", an ideal place for a military camp. The Foot Specials were sworn in, paraded, their names and addresses taken, and they were then dismissed until called upon, if required. I had then a good man with me in Senior Sergeant Dart (now a law practitioner at Methven). The Senior Sergeant was an excellent drill and was

well skilled in handling men. The Mounted Specials were capably commanded by Mr. Lu Hazlett and Mr. Crosbie Morris. We got on splendidly, and not a thing would be done without consulting me. I had great luck in the handling of this strike right through. The owner of the premises where the "Strike Committee" and the "Executive of the Seamen's Union" met was a namesake and an old friend of mine, and she kept me posted in everything that took place at these meetings. Also, I had a friend in the "Commerce Protection Committee" who kept me informed of what went on at their meetings.

At the Strike Committee's second meeting, a well-known Labour agitator named Steve Boreham, when addressing the meeting, mentioned my name in connection with a matter that occurred in Oamaru, after the Maritime Strike already referred to. At the close of his remarks, he said "How can we cross a man with a heart like that?" This is what Boreham referred to.

The winter following the Great Maritime Strike, there was real distress in all seaport towns, and the distress I saw in Oamaru that winter reminds me in a smaller way of the distress and want that I see around me today.

One night I was sent for to go to the Queen's Hotel and when I got there I found seven residents deliberating as to the best way of rendering assistance to those in dire want. There was a Mr. Gatfield present, the owner of a boiling down and fellmongery works at Evaline, outside Oamaru, who stated that he had a line of 200 of the finest sheep that ever passed through his hands, and these were at the disposal of the poor, but he did not know how they could be doled out to those in need of them. I said I had more time at my disposal than any of those present, and could undertake the job. I knew those in distress, and I had a good man in view who would assist me. I said to Mr. Gatfield, "If you send in 120 sheep on Thursday morning to start with, I'll make all arrangements." I went straight away and had "locals" inserted in both newspapers, giving all particulars. I had a gallows erected in the gaol grounds, placed two large tables in position, borrowed the necessary tools and aprons from a local butcher, and when the sheep arrived I was well set. They were a splendid lot and not one

of them under 65 lbs. To those with over three of a family I gave a whole sheep, and those under three half a sheep. At 6 o'clock the 120 sheep were disposed of. I rang up Mr. Gatfield and asked for 60 more and these were also disposed of. At the time, the weather was bitterly cold, and the meat would easily last a week.

The donor of those sheep was as good-hearted a fellow as ever lived. He came to Oamaru with a large sum of money and spent it in Oamaru, and eight years after this event I saw him breaking stones on the roadside at Aramoho, a suburb of Wanganui.

Steve Boreham, previously referred to, lived in Oamaru then and so did his two brothers, and old Mrs. Boreham, the mother, lived in a little cottage on the roadside at Pukeuri. In this dole of sheep the three Borehams participated, and I sent half a sheep out with the Mounted Constable to the old mother. This little action on my part gained the favour of this noted Labour agitator, Steve Boreham.

One Saturday night, while the strike was on, the Mayor, Mr. Downie Stewart (Late Minister of Finance) rang me up at my Office and stated that some of the strikers were addressing a meeting at the "Cargill Monument", that the streets were blocked with people, and the trams could not run and were held up by the crowd. I told him I'd be at the scene in five minutes. When I arrived at the Monument, things were as the Mayor had described. It was just 9 o'clock and Constables and Sergeants in charge were then going on, and coming off, duty. I had them halted in case of trouble. I took a Sergeant with me and approached the speaker, a Victorian, named McGuire, a regular "firebrand." I said, "I hope you won't put me to the trouble of bringing you before the Court. You see how the street traffic is blocked, and a serious accident may happen any moment. You have any amount of room at Victoria Square, and you can speak there until you are tired without interruption." He said he would speak on where he was. At this moment, Steve Boreham mounted the steps of the Monument and said "We must obey the Superintendent, and those of you who are out for law and order will follow



me to Victoria Square." In three minutes there were not 50 persons left at the Monument. The Mayor and a friend of his watched the proceedings and, after the crowd had dispersed, came and spoke to me, and asked me how I managed to disperse the crowd without trouble. I said, "A little 'mesmerism' did the business."

All preparations were now being made for the opening of the Port. I had two telephone connections with "Tahuna" Park", and a few days before the Port was opened I gave a "false alarm" to the Camp officers in order to test the efficiency of the arrangements, and in 12½ minutes I had 200 Mounted Specials beside me at the wharf, and this I considered highly satisfactory. The Specials were loth to return to Camp empty-handed.

On the Saturday night before the opening of the Port I was invited to attend a meeting of the "Commerce Protection Committee." I took my Sub-Inspector (Fouhy) with me. The Committee announced that it had promises from 300 free labourers to work the boats. A member of the Committee (a Mr. Ritchie) was, I was told, opposed to me for some reason right through the piece. He addressed me by saying "Have you plans of the Harbour and wharves prepared and barricades erected?" I said, "I have no plans prepared. I am not a "Sunday Soldier"; only a policeman, and I am quite sure I am not going to engage in battle. The flimsy barricades erected by the Harbour Board on its own account were swept away like matchwood this morning. Before coming to this meeting tonight I seriously thought out my intentions in this matter. I intend to use my own men only in protecting the free workers and keeping order. I have 40 men at my disposal, and I pledge my position to pick up all the free labourers that may turn up in any part of the city, at any time, day or night, and safely escort them to the ships they are to work on, and safely protect them there. I have two telephone connections with the Mounted Camp at "Tahuna Park" and in response to a false alarm on Thursday morning I had 200 Mounted Specials beside me at the wharf in 12½ minutes, and this was most satisfactory." This seemed to satisfy the Committee.

The Railway Station was the rendezvous, and 3 a.m. was the time fixed. At 2.45 p.m. I marched 40 men out of the Police Station

and when we got to the Railway Station there were only 70 free labourers to pick up, instead of 300. Every street in the City was patrolled by Strike Pickets, and these were successful in prevailing on the balance of the free labourers to return to their homes.

The Meeting place of the free labourers was supposed to be kept quiet; yet the streets from the Railway Station to the wharves at that early hour were lined with people. A few incidents happened on the way to the wharves, but it would take too long to give particulars of them here.

That evening the free labourers started unloading two ships, and from time to time more free labourers were arriving, and work went on without any interruption.

Next day, the carrying away commenced, and at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, as I was walking along the wharf, rounding one of the Goods Sheds, I was astounded to see the street strewn with bags of flour and sugar and other things, and four strikers on top of a lorry, emptying out the stuff with all their might. I bounded off the wharf (I had no Arthritis then) and collared one, one ran away, and two ran into the Railway Goods Shed, and the door was closed after them by two Railway Officials. There were a Sergeant and three Constables within twenty yards of the lorry taking no action. When they saw me arresting one of the offenders they came to my aid, but I waved them off and said I would see them later. I took my <sup>man</sup> ~~man~~ along to the Police Station through a crowded street, and there wasn't a "boo" nor a "hoot". When I got near the Police Station I was stopped by three members of the Strike Committee who wanted to bail the prisoner. I said there was no bail for the prisoner, nor for any prisoner found offending as this one was. He must remain in the lock-up until brought before the Court. I delivered myself to the men very strongly. The usual "spy" was present and conveyed every act and word of mine to the Commerce Protection Committee at their meeting that night. If I had not appeared on

the scene at the moment I did, my reputation was shattered to smithereens.

Straight away I put the matter in the hands of the Detectives, and that night they rounded up the three other offenders, and the four were brought before the Court next morning and dealt with. It was a bad time to come to loggerheads with so many of my men, so I accepted their explanations. I reported the two Railway Officials, and they were adequately punished.

A few days after this the whole of the Strike Committee were arrested on warrant by orders from Wellington, and to make the arrests I took two Detectives with me. It was Saturday morning and was strike pay-day of the watersiders and seamen out on strike. The paying out took place at the Watersiders' Offices, Rattray Street Wharf. When we arrived the paying out was not quite finished, and we waited. When finished paying, some 300 men all told, the Chairman of the Committee sang out to me that they were now ready. We marched them along to the Police Station without a murmur from the crowd. On arriving at the Station, the prisoners were charged, and then admitted to bail. On Monday morning they came before the Court and were bound over to keep the peace.

Every day, signs were increasing that the strike was broken and all that remained for a complete collapse was the turning to of the seamen.

A deputation, headed by Mr. Percy Sargood, waited on me at my office, and asked if I knew anything about the intentions of the seamen. "We have come to you," he said, "as we think you know everything that's going on in connection with the strike." I said, "I am afraid, gentlemen, you are giving me too much credit, but if you retire to the next office for three minutes, I may be able to find out the information you are looking for". I rang up my female friend, and she told me that the seamen had just risen from a meeting, and that two delegates were appointed to go to Wellington that night, where a meeting of seamen would take place at 10 a.m. next day, when the intentions of the seamen would be decided. The moment that

took place a wire would be sent her, and she would at once let me know. I told Mr. Sargood and his friends this, and they went away quite satisfied. Before 11 o'clock next morning I had a ring telling me that the seamen had decided to resume work. I conveyed the news to Mr. Sargood. He thanked me and said "I'll tell you later what I think of you."

And so ended the Great Industrial Strike of 1913-14, without a single conflict so far as Dunedin was concerned.

I received word to transfer to Christchurch as soon as I had everything squared up in connection with the strike.

The first thing was to disband and pay off the Mounted Specials, and pay all other accounts incurred in connection with the strike.

As soon as it became known that I was transferred to Christchurch the Commerce Protection Committee invited me to meet them at the Town Hall in order that the members could personally say good-bye to me. Many things were said that are not included in the under-mentioned extract. My friend, Mr. Ritchie, said that in the early stages of the strike he did not understand me, but, now if there was a similar trouble he would follow me before any other man in Dunedin. I was told by one of the gentlemen present that the members of the Commerce Protection Committee attending the function represented £6,000,000 of capital.

At the conclusion of the function, a small parcel was given me by the Chairman as a slight token of the C.P.C.'s regards. On opening the parcel, horror of horrors, I found it was a flash case of pipes and I wasn't a smoker.

Mr. Holdsworth, Manager of the Union Steam Shipping Company, offered me a free passage round New Zealand and the Australian Colonies, if I'd like to take it. I thanked him but had to decline the generous offer.

The following is a copy of the newspaper extract dealing with the above mentioned:-

"At the conclusion of the City Council's meeting on Wednesday night, Councillor Clark congratulated

"the Mayor and the Superintendent of Police (Mr. J. Dwyer) upon the fact that the port of Dunedin had been opened without the active use of special constables. The Mayor (Mr. W. D. Stewart) in reply, said that Dunedin had been fortunate, since in the three other main centres specials had been used. He wished to say that what had been done here had been done under the advice or with the concurrence of the Police Superintendent, upon whom the responsibility mainly rested. Mr. Dwyer had made the experiment, and it turned out all right. The credit was substantially due to him."

The following is a copy of a letter received from an old resident of Hampden, and one time a Police Officer:-

Hampden,

12th January, 1914.

My Dear Friend,

I see you are about to leave us once more. However glad I am to know it means promotion, still I shall miss your ever genial appearance.

It is pleasing to know you are leaving in honour crowned with the fruits of common sense, and ability, so highly earned all through, and none the less in your recent most excellent triumph in the labour troubles, the solitary saviour of peace among all the police in the Dominion.

It may well be said of you that by your conspicuous ability you have proved yourself highly fitting for the high honours conferred on you, a beacon of honour all through the piece.

Wishing you and family every temporal and social blessing is the great desire of

Yours sincerely,

(signed) M. Joyce. *J.P.*

The following is a copy of newspaper extract referring to the meeting of the Commerce Protection Committee to bid farewell to me:-

"Yesterday morning His Worship the Mayor (Mr. W. D. Stewart) and the Executive of the Commerce Protection Committee of Dunedin met Police Superintendent Dwyer at the Town Hall for the purpose of conveying their appreciation of the services he had rendered to the Committee, and to the public at large, by his tactful handling of the recent strike from beginning to end. Various speakers referred in highly complimentary though sincere terms to the manner in which he had carried out his duties in a time of stress. The Committee also congratulated the Superintendent upon having received charge of the Christchurch district, and wished him every success.

Superintendent Dwyer, in the course of a modest reply, gave every credit to his subordinate officers and the men of the Force

"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."

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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.

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

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#### 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.

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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.

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

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"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."

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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."

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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

"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."

Public 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.	
W. Hayward, Esqr.	

H. R. Smith, Town Clerk.

The Chairman said the meeting was called to arrange for some 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.  
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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 service 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 Mayor, 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 Prince of Wales who, on leaving Christchurch, had complimented him on the efficiency of the Canterbury Force, and had given him a Pin decorated with the Prince 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 £700. (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 unflinching 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 regretted 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 £700, 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 unflinching 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 conciliator 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 unflinching 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 Prosecutor, 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 officer 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.

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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' connexion 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

"appreciation of your services to the public of the Dominion. Your good wife has proved a true help-mate, and we wish you to accept on her behalf a cheque wherewith she may obtain an appropriate memento 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)."

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The Following are copies of further newspaper extracts:-

Presentation from Police 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 £50.

Chief Detective M'Elveney, Dr. Crooke (Police 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 letter 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 Public 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 officer 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 retaliate "theirs not to make reply", and consequently many slanders go unanswered. 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 Holmes-like 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 who, 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 invindicating 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."

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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.

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*Wm. Dwyer*  
*1<sup>st</sup> November 1934*

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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. (Roars 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 too 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 him. That's where the difficulty came in (Laughter). There 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 personal 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.

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

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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 born suddenly and by surprise, and that it was smothered, but not by any violence, or injury received."

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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  $26\frac{1}{2}$  lb.) was caught in the Waitaki River, New Zealand, in March last by Mr. John Dwyer, <sup>Supdt</sup>~~Inspector~~ of Police, Christchurch, who, on the same day, took four other salmon weighing 19 lb.,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  lb., 17 lb. and 14 lb. respectively."

(It was sent to Captain T. E. Donne, London, in a frozen condition, and was mounted by the Army and Navy Stores.)

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