

Liverpool Mercury, Dec 8th, 1891

The Liverpool Mounted Police

There was placed before the Watch Committee of the Liverpool Corporation yesterday, a report by the Head Constable Captain NOTT-BOWER, regarding the cost of the mounted section of the police force of the city during the year ending the 29th September last. In the report is given an account of the expenditure upon the section in the year named as follows :-

Provender, £420-12s-5d, veterinary attendance, £7-7s, saddlery etc, £18-18s-2d, sundries, £67-1s-5d, purchase of horses, £125, total £639-5s. Thus says the head constable if the mere cost of "horsing" be considered, it is clear that compared with the old system of horsing the fire engines and prison vans by contract, which cost £1100 per annum, there was a gain to the city of no less than £460. So far, therefore, the great economy effected by the mounted police system is undoubted, and the only point remaining for consideration is as to whether it is more to the public interest that the men employed should be trained and utilised as mounted police, or relegated to other duty. In his report of the 24th September 1889 the head constable had already expressed his opinion upon this point, and he still considers that (looked at from the point of

view of "insurance" against future dangers) not only these 14 men, but at least double their number would be of far greater value so employed than if on ordinary duty. The wages and clothing of the 14 mounted police constables amounted during the year ending 29th September 1891, to £1136-7s. If from this amount be the £460 gain on horsing, and the £297 saved on yardmen's wages, the net cost of the mounted police would be £379, for which extremely trifling annual expenditure the committee secure the services of one inspector, one sergeant and twelve police constables upon an average cost of £27 per man and horse over and above what the mere hosing of the vans and engines would cost. It will no doubt also have been noticed by the committee that unless accompanied by a reduction of the total strength of the police force (a course which the head constable feels sure the committee would be reluctant to sanction) a reverting to the old system of "horsing" the vans and engines would mean an increased expenditure of £460 per annum.

Source: <http://www.old-merseytimes.co.uk/index.html>