

EXPLETIVES DELETED

NAME INC ALIASES:

James M'Guire or
McGuire alias Thompson

NATIVE PLACE:

New Zealand

RELIGION:

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OFFENCE:

Obscene language
(also drunk & disorderly
and resisting arrest)

SENTENCE:

Four months'
imprisonment

James M'Guire was a 22-year-old labourer who'd had a few drinks one evening in April 1897. He was hanging about the corner of Princes Street and Andersons Bay Road with a few friends about half-past ten and behaving badly.

M'Guire in particular 'conducted himself in a very opprobrious manner.' When a policeman tried to arrest him he resisted violently 'and on his way to the police station he made use of very filthy language.' What that language was, though, the newspapers were too discreet to report, so we will have to leave it to your imagination.

M'Guire was convicted of being drunk and disorderly, with making use of obscene language, and with resisting

arrest, for which he got a total of four months in prison. He knew the place well, as he had been previously convicted variously of drunkenness, breach of the peace, threatening language and larceny. He had been convicted of vagrancy the previous August, when the judge advised him to 'go up country and look for work, or else he would be sent to gaol.' M'Guire ignored this advice and, sure enough, he was back on a vagrancy charge in December: he got a month with hard labour.

