

state cannot be attributed to any difficulty in obtaining suitable employment on leaving school. The nature of the offences, a matter which will be referred to in another section of this report, would indicate that the cause is more likely to be a lack of discipline and parental control and training.

Age Group.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Under 20	131	96	115	123	178	203
20-25	350	185	303	362	424	348
25-30	321	254	282	321	413	322
30-40	545	437	456	555	612	492
40 and upwards ..	809	715	831	861	875	833
Not stated	2	3	4	2	3	3
Totals	2,158	1,790	1,991	2,224	2,505	2,201

MISCELLANEOUS.

Deaths.—There was one death recorded during the year, that of a prisoner who died at the Waikeria Reformatory as the result of a fatal dive while bathing in the river.

Executions.—Nil.

Floggings.—Floggings were ordered by the Court in respect of four prisoners who brutally assaulted a prison officer in an attempt to escape. No floggings have yet been administered.

Escapes.—During the year twenty prisoners and sixteen Borstal detainees escaped. With one exception all were recaptured.

Borstal Receptions and General Results.—A total of 155 lads and 9 young women were received in direct committals to Borstal, and 4 males and 1 female were admitted by transfer from other institutions.

Of the aggregate number dealt with at Borstal over the past twenty years, just under 15 per cent. have again been convicted after release.

Mental Defectives.—Twenty-three persons certified as mentally deficient were transferred to mental hospitals during the year.

HEALTH OF PRISONERS.

The general health of prisoners throughout the year has been very good. The daily average number on the sick-list was fifteen, representing 1·6 of the daily average number of prisoners in custody. It is noteworthy that prisoners almost invariably improve in physical condition and put on weight under the regular living-conditions and the wholesome diet in prison.

In addition to the care of the general health of prisoners by Prison Medical Officers, this Department has a close working arrangement with the Mental Hospitals Department whereby its psychiatrists are always at call to examine and advise on the treatment of any inmate of impaired mentality. A mental specialist from the Seacliff Mental Hospital attends regularly at a clinic at Invercargill, and full advantage is taken of this for the mental examination of lads from the Borstal. The Medical Officer at the New Plymouth Prison is a qualified psychiatrist. At this institution are segregated all sexual perverts, and the Medical Officer is indefatigable in his efforts to help the prisoners psychologically as well as attending to their physical ailments. He also pays tribute to the local hospital in the following terms :—

“ I would be grateful if, in your annual report, you would make mention of the very great assistance the local hospital staff are to the institution in treating the many obscure disorders with which our inmates become afflicted. Without exception I have found them willing to undertake plans of treatment which are well beyond the scope of their bare duties.”

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure covering a period of ten years is given hereunder :—

Year.	Daily Average Number of Inmates.	Gross Expenditure.		Credits.		Net Expenditure.	
		Total.	Per Head.	Total.	Per Head.	Total.	Per Head.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
1931-32	1,641	152,581	92·93	55,867	34·03	96,714	58·90
1932-33	1,661	142,940	86·04	52,412	31·84	90,528	54·49
1933-34	1,488	138,193	92·88	54,823	36·77	83,370	56·11
1934-35	1,306	137,484	105·25	60,242	46·12	77,242	59·13
1935-36	1,170	144,460	123·47	69,933	59·77	74,527	63·70
1936-37	985	146,314	148·54	68,661	69·70	77,653	78·83
1937-38	852	164,132	192·64	69,075	81·07	95,057	111·56
1938-39	855	152,093	177·89	64,910	75·92	87,183	101·97
1939-40	907	155,333	170·16	74,348	81·97	80,985	88·19
1940-41	905	162,426	179·47	77,908	86·08	84,518	93·39