

The health of the prisoners has been good, and the rations supplied were of good quality.

The daily average employed was 27.24. Two men were transferred to Auckland Prison during the year, not being suitable for the work.

With the exception of two or three cases, the conduct of the prisoners has been good.

The following is a summary of work carried out for the year: Clearing 320 acres for tree-planting and 28 acres for paddock—total, 348 acres; digging 14,375 pits; forming 142½ chains dray-road 14 ft. wide, and 32 chains of sledge-track; 63 chains of material was laid along fence-line for free labour; 17 chains of drain was dug. A considerable amount of work has been done in repairs to fences and roads, clearing growth around trees, hoeing and weeding borders, and gravelling around huts. The garden has received considerable attention, the whole having been dug over and levelled during the winter. Substantial breakwinds were erected, and the yield of vegetables was largely increased. The cook-house, officers' quarters, and prisoners' huts were repaired generally and received two coats of paint, greatly improving the appearance of the camp. Permanent wash-tubs were also placed in wash-house and cook-house.

The following trees were planted during the year: *Aesculus hippocastanum*, 107; *Robinia*, 100; *Acacia baileyana*, 150; ornamental shrubs, 200, *Eucalyptus caribacea*, 28,720; *gunnii*, 3,400; *stuartiana*, 9,350; *gigantea*, 3,740; *obliqua*, 25,840; *Pinus muricata*, 3,770; *Larix europea*, 567,100; blanks planted, 77,925. Total number of trees planted for the year, 720,402.

The conduct of the officers has been good.

E. BYRNE,  
Principal Warder and Acting Gaoler.

#### WANGANUI PRISON.

H.M. Prison, Wanganui, 8th January, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to present my annual report for the year just closed.

The numbers received were 229 males and 18 females, a decrease as compared with last year of 107 males and 17 females. There were discharged during the year 226 males and 23 females, leaving 23 males and 1 female in custody at the close of the year.

The conduct of the prisoners has been good, only 13 having been punished, though some of them two or three times; but there was only one serious offence—viz., striking an officer, for which the prisoner received fourteen days' bread and water in the open Court. Two or three were punished for idleness; but on the whole they have worked well throughout the year.

Their health has been excellent, there having been no sickness except what was imported into the prison by drunks and vagrants, many of whom would long since have been dead if it had not been for their oft-recurring visits to prison to recuperate.

The rations have been excellent, except the potatoes, which, on a few occasions, owing to the blight, had to be replaced with bread.

The conduct of the officers has been good, with one exception already reported, and at the present time I have no fault to find with the efficiency of the staff.

We are badly in want of a cottage on the ground for the Acting Principal Warder, who is a married man and cannot get a decent house for a reasonable rent anywhere near the Prison.

#### *First Offenders' Probation Act.*

The First Offenders' Probation Act still works well, all moneys due having been paid, and all the probationers save one have faithfully complied with the conditions of their release. This one has been brought before the Court for non-compliance, and will be again if we can catch him.

R. T. NOBLE BEASLEY,  
Gaoler and Probation Officer.

#### WELLINGTON PRISON.

H.M. Prison, Wellington, 16th March, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to report that during the year 1905 the conduct and industry of the prisoners has been on the whole good.

There were 5 prisoners placed on bread and water during the year. Two prisoners escaped—1 from the Mount Cook works, and the other, a boy, by getting over the roof of this Prison. Both prisoners were recaptured and brought before the Court and dealt with.

The prisoners were employed at brick and tile making and at Point Halswell and Shelly Bay fortification works, and levelling and laying-out grounds at the Alexandra Barracks, Mount Cook.

The health of the prisoners has been generally good. Three male and 1 female prisoners were sent to the District Hospital for treatment during the year. One prisoner received for medical treatment died. An inquest was held, and a verdict returned of "Death from natural causes."

Two prisoners were sentenced to death during the year—one was executed and the other had his sentence commuted to hard labour for life.

Two officers were punished, one for insubordination, and the other in connection with the escape of the boy prisoner.

The prisoners' food has been ample and good.

Quarters for single officers are badly required at this Prison.

#### *First Offenders' Probation Act.*

The Probation Act is giving every satisfaction. Fourteen males and three females have received the benefit of the Act during the year.

P. S. GARVEY,  
Gaoler.