

returns from each district where public works were in hand have now been received, and the result is given below :—

*Value of Prison Labour on Public Works as estimated by Engineers.*

	£	£
Waikeria: Building and road-construction ... ..	2,605	
Roto Aira: Waimarino Road ... ..	2,785	
Point Halswell, Wellington: Various works... ..	1,659	
Paparua: Blockmaking and buildings ... ..	1,137	
Invercargill: Blockmaking, buildings, and reclamation-works ... ..	3,216	
Total value of prison labour on public works ... ..	—	11,402

*Value of Prison Labour employed on other Works and Industries for which Cash Credits not obtained.*

Auckland Prison: Tailor's shop ... ..	44	
Boot-shop ... ..	316	
Dressed stone ... ..	634	
Grammar School wall ... ..	624	
Lyttelton Prison: Boot-shop ... ..	200	
Quarrying, &c. ... ..	300	
Wellington Prison: Tailor's shop ... ..	611	
Alterations ... ..	60	
Kaingaroa Prison: Building ... ..	150	
Roto Aira Prison: Building ... ..	100	
Addington Prison: Building, &c. ... ..	150	
Invercargill, Paparua, and Waikeria: Work on reinforced-concrete telegraph-poles and fencing-posts and other concrete products ... ..	200	
	—	3,409

14,811

Cash credits for tree-planting, bricks, farm-produce, gardens, road-metal, &c. ...

9,867

Total value of prison labour, excluding all labour employed for domestic and administrative purposes ... ..

£24,678

From the foregoing table it will be seen that the labour of the physically fit prisoners employed on works and industries has resulted in a saving to the State of nearly £25,000. This result must be looked upon as eminently satisfactory, more especially as a considerable number of the fit prisoners are employed on domestic work, cooking, cleaning, &c., within the prisons. The value of their labour is not shown, nor is that of the men employed on farming, development-work, &c. There is also a percentage of men who are mere derelicts and who are unfit for work of any description.

PROGRESS DURING THE YEAR.

*Buildings.*

Since the last report was written the south-wing extension has been finished and occupied, thus completing the whole of the original building scheme for Auckland. As stated in previous reports, the internal arrangements have been much altered from the design first prepared. Instead of dividing up the whole available space into cells, provision was made for a schoolroom, officers' quarters with reading-room, dining-room, recreation-room, baths, &c., store-rooms, and a prison infirmary. The infirmary was designed on the usual hospital lines, and is a marked improvement on the former hospital division, which was located in an old wooden building and was insanitary and inconvenient.

The completion of the new wing has also made it possible to demolish the old wooden divisions that had been an eyesore and a menace for so many years. Their removal has also enabled the Department to commence erecting subdivisinal exercise-yards, six in number, to provide for a better system of classification than it was possible to carry out under former conditions. The whole of the work is being executed by prison labour under the direction of our own officers.

A start has also been made to replace the concrete floors of many of the cells with kauri flooring. The floors were in a very bad condition, and as they required relaying advantage is being taken of the opportunity to make the cells more fit for human habitation. In order to ensure economy an arrangement has been made with the Public Works Department by which all work at Auckland is now carried on without the assistance of free labour and without any charges for supervision. Our own officers are quite competent to control and direct the labour. The works in hand are thus being prosecuted at the lowest possible cost to the State.

The first wing of the new Waikeria reformatory prison, with kitchen block, including bath-rooms, washhouse, laundry, &c., is now in occupation, and is by far the best-equipped and most satisfactory prison building we have. To supplement the accommodation in the new building, where there are eighty cells, one of the temporary cell-houses was removed to a position adjoining the new structure, and has been converted into a very satisfactory auxiliary cell range containing twenty cells. Temporary exercise-yards have also been provided, and the whole of the arrangements reflect the greatest credit on the Supervisor of Prison Works and the other officers who were responsible for them. A small part of the new administration block, containing a Board-room, Gaolers' and clerks' offices, has also been completed and occupied during the