

1919.
NEW ZEALAND.

PRISONS

(REPORT ON) FOR THE YEAR 1918-19.

ALSO

OPERATIONS OF THE FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT, 1908

(REPORT ON), FOR THE YEAR 1918-19.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

The Hon. the MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT to His Excellency the GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

MY LORD,—

Wellington, 15th August, 1919.

I have the honour to submit to Your Excellency the report of the Prisons Department for the year 1918.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS M. WILFORD,
Minister in Charge of Prisons Department.

The PERMANENT HEAD OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT to the MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

SIR,—

Prisons Department, 1st August, 1919.

I have the honour to submit the thirty-eighth annual report on the prisons and prison institutions of the Dominion, together with the criminal statistics, the report of the Acting-Inspector of Prisons, and extracts from the reports of the Superintendents, Gaolers, and honorary Probation Officers. The statistics and Gaolers' reports are for the calendar year ended 31st December, 1918, while the Probation Officers' reports and the tables of expenditure and revenue cover the financial year terminating on the 31st March, 1919.

The Government Statistician's figures for 1918 show that the daily average number of prisoners in the whole of the prisons of the Dominion was 981·95, compared with 914·26 in 1917, an increase of 7·4 per cent. As pointed out elsewhere, however, the 1918 total included 222·928 military court-martialled prisoners, reducing the daily average of criminal prisoners to 759·022, against 860·149 prisoners of the same class in 1917. The past year is the first of the war years in which there has been any marked decrease in the number of persons sentenced to civil imprisonment in New Zealand. The diminution in our criminal population as a result of the war is still far less, proportionately, than has been the case in Great Britain, but it is satisfactory to note that our experience in this direction is at last approximating to that of the older countries.

PRISON POPULATION.

Comparative Figures.

The criminal statistics appearing as an appendix to this report show that the number of distinct persons received into the prisons and prison institutions of the Dominion during the year ended 31st December, 1918, was 3,150, compared with 4,112 in 1917 and 4,256 in 1916. It will thus be seen that there were 962 less persons sentenced to imprisonment in the past year than in 1917, and 1,106 less than in 1916. The daily average number of prisoners in 1918 was, however, 981·95, compared with 914·26 in 1917 and 942·77 in 1916. The increase in the daily average and the decrease in the receptions appears to be somewhat anomalous, but is probably accounted for by the fact that there was a considerable reduction in the number of short sentences imposed, while there was a substantial increase in the number of persons sentenced to twelve months and upwards. Offenders

sentenced by military courts-martial to terms of hard labour exceeding twelve months no doubt provided the bulk of the longer sentences. Without this class of prisoner the daily average and reception figures would have more nearly approximated.

The table published under the heading "Prisoners sentenced by Military Courts-martial" shows that while the daily average of military prisoners was 222·928 in 1918, it was only 54·117 in 1917 and 3·017 in 1916. If these figures are deducted from the totals it will be seen that the daily average number of criminal prisoners was 939·753 in 1916, 860·149 in 1917, and only 759·022 in 1918.

From these figures it is satisfactory to note that the criminal population in our prisons during the year 1918 was less by 134·218 in the daily average than in 1913, the last statistical year before the commencement of the war. Recent returns indicate, however, that the current year is likely to end with a higher daily average of sentenced criminal prisoners than was the case in the year under review, the total daily average of all classes of prisoners for the year ended 31st March last being 1,003·43, as against 941·11 for the previous twelve months.

The fluctuations in the prison population from 1881 to 1918 inclusive are shown in the table below :—

Daily Average, 1881 to 1918.

Year.	Daily Average of Prisoners in Dominion Prisons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1881	631·66	94·37	726·03
1891	459·22	58·39	517·61
1911	799·08	64·18	863·26
1912	855·28	64·07	919·35
1913	826·69	66·55	893·24
1914	916·09	63·72	979·81
1915	931·33	76·79	1,008·12
1916	895·99	82·78	942·77
1917	817·27	96·99	914·26
1918	896·98	84·97	981·95

Prisoners sentenced by Military Courts-martial.

During the past year the number of military offenders serving terms of imprisonment in the civil prisons reached the highest total recorded during the war period, there being 293 prisoners of this class in the different prisons of the Dominion in the month of March, 1918. The policy of separating this class of prisoner from the criminal class, and employing them on useful reproductive work, has been continued. The larger proportion of the military prisoners worked and conducted themselves satisfactorily while in confinement, but there were certain grave exceptions to this rule. As under conditions existing in the outside world, the presence of a few agitators in two of our institutions led on more than one occasion to a policy of passive resistance on the part of a section of the military offenders that caused our officers considerable trouble. Firmness in dealing with the ringleaders and the rank and file of those who rebelled against authority had, however, the usual effect, and for some time past there has been no recrudescence of the trouble. The period that has elapsed since the signing of the Armistice has naturally enough proved to be our time of greatest stress in controlling this class of prisoner. As pointed out in my last year's report, the Department was faced with an entirely new problem when it had to make provision for such a comparatively large influx of non-criminal prisoners. The position has been met as satisfactorily as possible, but the effect on the discipline and control of the general body of the prisoners has not been altogether satisfactory; and if it should unfortunately happen that a similar situation should again arise I sincerely trust that an endeavour will be made to confine military offenders in camps or other places entirely outside the jurisdiction of the Prisons Department.

The distribution of the military court-martialled prisoners confined in the prisons and prison institutions of the Dominion during the war period is clearly shown in the table given below :—

Military Court-martialled Prisoners in Civil Prisons.— Daily Average Number in Custody in the Principal Prisons of the Dominion during Four Years ended 31st December, 1918.

Prison.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Auckland	0·756	0·557	0·600	4·717
Invercargill .. .. .	..	..	3·500	39·030
Kaingaroa .. .. .	..	..	2·010	32·040
Lyttelton	0·016	0·016	0·032	0·065
Paparua .. .. .	..	1·980	2·229	44·256
Roto-aira	0·410	0·104	20·700	22·250
Waikeria .. .. .	..	..	10·400	58·300
Wellington	0·512	0·360	14·640	22·270
Totals	1·694	3·017	54·111	222·928

EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS.

The gross expenditure of the Department under all heads for the financial year ended 31st March amounted to £95,324, compared with £81,363 for the previous year, an increase of £13,961. The heaviest items of increase were—Salaries, £8,645; farms, £2,726; rations, £1,224; clothing, £856.

The large additional vote for salaries is accounted for partly by the usual scale increases, but more particularly by the fact that a general increment of £20 per annum was granted to Prison officers. The increase in expenditure on the farms is due to the purchase of stock, implements, and the cost of development generally, but this increase is more than counterbalanced by the added revenue obtained from our different properties during the year. The higher daily average number of prisoners in 1918 compared with 1917, together with the increased cost of the staple articles of diet, explains the added cost of rations. Clothing, too, has continued to advance in price, but as a set-off against our apparent large expenditure under this head we are at present holding comparatively large stocks of soft-goods and other items in our general store. Our stock-sheets as at 31st March last show a total value of goods, most of which have been bought through the High Commissioner, amounting to £5,458.

While for the reasons stated our expenditure increased considerably, our receipts advanced by a greater percentage, credits for the year amounting to £21,654, against £15,083 for 1917-18. Our net expenditure was therefore £73,670, or £7,390 in excess of the net total for the previous year, an amount that is more than covered by the additional vote for salaries, without taking into account the inevitable increases under different heads that were caused by the increased cost of living.

To illustrate the higher charges we have had to meet for items included in the prison dietary scale during the war period, I have had the following table prepared to show the average cost per head of prisoners' rations from 1909 to 1919:—

Average Cost per Head of Prisoners' Rations from 1909 to Date.

Year.	Total Expenditure on Rations.	Number of Prisoners.	Cost per Head.
	£		£
1909	8,544	809·84	10·55
1910	9,322	901·73	10·33
1911	8,494	836·26	10·15
1912	9,405	917·89	10·24
1913	9,754	893·24	10·91
1914	11,555	979·81	11·79
1915	15,099	1,008·12	14·97
1916-17	15,092	920·15	16·41
1918	15,522	941·11	16·64
1919	16,473	1,003·43	16·41

Receipts.

The receipts for the financial year 1917-18 (£15,083) were stated in my last report to constitute a record for the Department, but I am pleased to say that the figures for the year under review show a further substantial growth in our revenue-earning capacity. It is true that the increase is partly accounted for by the fact that owing to urgent representations in that direction financial credits are now being received from other Departments for a certain amount of work that was formerly carried out without monetary compensation; but from Table 1 given below it will be seen that farming and other industries have materially assisted us in earning the handsome total of £21,654 for our year's work, exclusive of the large amount of labour shown in Tables 2 and 3, for which no financial credit is yet received.

TABLE 1.—Cash received and Amounts credited to the Prisons Vote for the Year ended 31st March, 1919.

Prison.	Metal, Gravel, &c.	Farm-produce.	Farm Stock.	Bricks.	Telegraph-poles.	Tree-planting, &c.	Roots.	Salaries of Officers employed on Public Buildings.	Roto-aira Roads.	Prison Labour, New Rifle Range.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Auckland ..	1,697	..	..	..	..	..	399	..	..	..	2,096
Invercargill ..	..	361	..	..	..	..	..	814	..	3,670	4,845
Kaingaroa ..	..	..	..	..	..	2,914	..	..	..	..	2,914
Lyttelton ..	165	..	..	..	..	..	361	..	..	..	526
Napier ..	127	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	127
New Plymouth	717	44	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	761
Paparua ..	..	988	455	..	330	..	372	580	..	..	2,725
Roto-aira ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,609	..	1,609
Waikeria ..	..	1,197	435	..	..	..	..	565	..	..	2,197
Wellington ..	100	..	110	1,410	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,620
Miscellaneous credits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,234
Totals ..	2,806	2,590	1,000	1,410	330	2,914	1,132	1,959	1,609	3,670	21,654

Value of Prison Labour for which Financial Credits are not received.

Owing to the fact that the Department obtained financial credits from the Public Works Fund on account of the work carried out on the Roto-aira Road, and in certain other directions during the past year, the total value of the labour employed on works, buildings, &c., during the past year is shown as amounting to less than it did in 1917-18, but the total remains sufficiently substantial to indicate that our policy of finding reproductive employment for all able-bodied prisoners is still being vigorously pursued.

As in previous years, the estimates of the value of prison labour employed on buildings, roads, &c., have been made by the Public Works Engineer for the different districts, and are all based on free-labour standards.

TABLE 2.—Total Value of Prison Labour employed on Roads, Buildings, Reclamation, Wall-building, and other Public Works, for which no Financial Credit has been received, for the Year ended 31st March, 1919.

Prison.	Buildings and Walls.	Construction and Maintenance of Roads.	Excavating for Buildings.	Block-making.	Reclamation Works.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Auckland	1,682	..	..	..	..	1,682
Invercargill .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	2,860
Paparua	3,942	..	..	1,115	..	5,057
Waikeria	870	568	540	..	..	1,978
Wellington .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	6,494	568	540	1,115	..	11,577

In addition to the large amount of developmental work that has been carried out on the different areas now under our control, which, while adding materially to the capital value of our properties, cannot be shown in balance-sheet form, the various prison industries have been carried on as heretofore. The estimated value of this part of our work, calculated on the basis of the saving to the State by the employment of prison labour in different directions, is shown in the accompanying table, No. 3.

TABLE 3.—Value of Prison Labour employed on Prison Works and Industries, for which Cash Credits are not obtained, for Year ended 31st March, 1919.

Prison.	Boot-making for Officers and Prisoners.	Tailoring (including Repairs) and Red Cross work.	Gardening and Farming.	Building-work.	Quarrying and other Work.	Domestic Employment.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Addington .. ..	..	617	437	..	..	325	1,379
Auckland	330	207	333	552	1,949	1,179	4,550
Invercargill .. ..	..	..	1,098	567	..	628	2,293
Kaingaroa	18	..	324	3	150	247	742
Lyttelton	171	..	..	..	279	486	936
Napier	16	11	35	..	57	121	240
New Plymouth	3	41	239	..	..	285	568
Paparua	457	..	1,561	..	..	420	2,438
Roto-aira	16	..	76	218	..	250	560
Waikeria	41	..	2,270	534	..	571	3,416
Wellington	77	807	783	135	..	738	2,540
Minor gaols	5	6	50	..	..	100	161
Totals	1,134	1,689	7,206	2,009	2,435	5,350	19,823

Summary.

	£
Cash and financial credits earned by the Department, 1918-19	21,654
Estimated value of prison labour on public works, 1918-19	11,577
Estimated value of prison labour employed on prison industries, domestic work, &c., 1918-19	19,823

Total value of prison labour 1918-19 £53,054

The gross expenditure of the Department for the year was £95,324. If from this is deducted our total earnings as shown above (£53,054), the net cost of the Prisons Department to the State for 1918-19 was £42,270.

TREE-PLANTING.

Kaingaroa, situated on the pumice plains, thirty-three miles from Rotorua, in the thermal-springs district, still remains our only afforestation camp. Military court-martialled prisoners formed the bulk of the inmates for the whole of the last calendar year, but with the advent of peace the numbers have diminished until at the present time criminal prisoners are again in the ascendant.

The work of clearing, pitting, and planting has proceeded without intermission, there being no trouble of any kind, except the usual amount of winter rain, to impede the successful carrying-out of the afforestation programme for the year.

In addition to the ordinary planting-work, the officer in charge at Kaingaroa has succeeded in growing a satisfactory oat crop on the pumice lands, as well as an excellent crop of potatoes and vegetables of all kinds. Fifty pigs were also bred on the area under his control.

The returns furnished by the Forestry Department show that 1,423,575 trees, covering an area of 1,085 acres, were planted during the year ended 31st March last, the sum paid by that Department for the labour of the prisoners employed being £2,793 2s. 1d.

The total number of trees and the area planted by prison labour, together with the labour-value of the work involved since the inception of the scheme in 1901, is shown in the table below :—

Area planted by Prison Labour from 1901 to March, 1919.	Number of Trees planted.	Labour-value of Prisoners' Work.
15,274 acres	39,802,075	£62,936

EMPLOYMENT OF PRISON LABOUR.

The section of this report supplied by the Acting Inspector of Prisons and Supervisor of Works illustrates clearly the varied nature of the work carried out on our different properties in the North and South Islands. Much has been done in the past twelve months to improve and develop our farms, to build up our dairy herds, and generally to advance the agricultural policy of the Department on the lines laid down in my first annual report. We are able to say that, while the necessity of sending men to prison is as regrettable as it always has been, the old and well-deserved reproach that their labour while in prison ceased to be an asset to the State is removed. Every able-bodied prisoner is now as fully employed as our system can compel him to be, while the large percentage of unfit men who gravitate to the gaols are disposed of as efficiently as possible. The latter class constitute a problem that neither the Prisons Department nor any outside system or association has been able to solve. For them there should be a special State institution. Gaol is no fit place for the human derelicts that are constantly being committed there by Judges and Magistrates for want of some better and more suitable institution to send them to.

INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOLS, PHYSICAL CULTURE, ETC.

The evening schools at Auckland and Invercargill have been carried on satisfactorily, while physical culture has received due attention in these two institutions as in previous years.

In my last year's report I remarked upon the necessity for raising the standard of education at the Invercargill Borstal Institution, and generally improving the system there to enable the place to be carried on more in conformity with the Borstal institutions in England. I am pleased to say that the improvements then recommended are now being carried out. The appointment of a second schoolmaster has enabled us to make provision for carrying on the education of the boys and young men confined at Invercargill to the limit of the Board-school system, and also to arrange for preparatory classes for more advanced subjects.

Arrangements are now being made for the appointment of a full-time schoolmaster for the Waikeria Reformatory, and I hope to be able to report next year that the younger inmates of that institution are being given an opportunity to improve themselves educationally while they are under our control.

CLASSIFICATION OF PRISONERS.

The improved systems of interclassification at Waikeria and Invercargill referred to in my last report have worked satisfactorily, and arrangements are now in progress for building a superstructure on the foundation thus created. The progress of the buildings in course of erection at both places has given us much-needed facilities in this direction that have hitherto been entirely wanting.

It is hoped that the present year will be the last in which we shall be compelled to provide accommodation for a large number of military offenders. The provision required for this class of prisoner has militated seriously against the advancement we wished to make in the proper separation and classification of the different types of criminal prisoners, and it is only by their final disappearance from the civil prisons that we shall be able to establish and maintain a really satisfactory system in our more recently created institutions. Hitherto our accommodation has been too limited and our buildings too obsolete in their internal arrangements to enable any substantial improvement to be made.

OPERATIONS OF THE CRIMES AMENDMENT ACT, 1910, AND OF SECTION 14 OF THE STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1917.

The operations of the Prisons Board under the Crimes Amendment Act, 1910, and the amendment of that Act in 1917, extending its jurisdiction to certain hard-labour cases, are fully dealt with in the report of the Board that is being presented during the current session of Parliament.

Experience has proved that the question of the release on probation of all prisoners sentenced to imprisonment by the Courts should be dealt with by the Board, in order that the treatment of all classes of criminals may be placed on a uniform basis. It is hoped that at a later period the necessary amendments will be made to existing Acts to enable this to be done. In the meantime the measure of reform provided by section 14 of the Statute Law Amendment Act of 1917 has enabled the Prisons Department to carry out its work with greater equity than was previously possible.

DEPARTMENTAL AND STAFF MATTERS.

In spite of shortage of staff caused by war conditions the Prisons Department has continued to carry on its work as a separate Department with comparative efficiency. Now that we are at peace once more it will perhaps be possible to extend our work in various essential directions by the creation of branches that it has hitherto been impossible to establish. This particularly applies to the establishment of a section to deal more effectively with probation and preventive work. This branch has hitherto been hampered by the absence of a permanent staff, and the consequent lack of a thorough central system of organization. New Zealand has always fallen far short of its obligations in this direction, and it is quite time that this important branch of social-reform work received adequate State attention.

As stated in my last report, the various prison staffs were much reduced in number and quality by the demands of the Army, but the majority of our officers who have survived will soon have resumed duty, and it is hoped that conditions will again be normal when the time arrives to compile next year's report.

The vacancies that have occurred on the staffs of the different prisons and institutions have been filled, as far as possible, by the selection of applicants who have served with the Expeditionary Forces, but it has been our invariable experience that these men have soon left our service, either voluntarily or compulsorily, for other employment. Better results will no doubt be obtained when a longer period has elapsed since the days of their campaigning and the nervous strain engendered thereby.

The individual branch heads and their staffs have worked well and loyally under most adverse conditions, and the thanks of the Department are due to them one and all for their assistance in carrying on their somewhat thankless duties during a period of considerable stress. The influenza epidemic attacked both officers and prisoners severely, and much difficulty was experienced in carrying on the work of supervision and control while the "plague" was at its height. Warders W. W. Goddard, of Wellington, and C. G. Hall, of Paparua, succumbed to the epidemic. Both were valuable officers, and their loss was much felt by their comrades and by the Department.

Mr. H. McMurray, Gaoler at Napier, died in October last, after a lingering illness. He was a competent and conscientious officer of long and honourable service, who could ill be spared.

The opening of a new camp prison at Trentham, proclaimed as Wi Tako Prison, in April last necessitated the appointment of an additional officer in charge in the person of Principal Warder Dineen, who was promoted to the rank of Chief Warder on assuming his new duties.

So far as the prison staffs are concerned, the most important event of the year has undoubtedly been the substantial increase of pay granted to all officers of the General Division in common with other employees of the State. The average increment per man averaged about £45 above the rates paid to the different ranks for the year ended 31st March, 1914. This increase covered the war bonuses previously paid, and an additional sum to compensate officers for the much-enhanced cost of living due to war conditions.

The pay of new entrants to the Prison service is now £180 per annum, with a house allowance of £30 added for married men, compared with £130 per annum in the year 1909.

After the retirement of Lieut.-Colonel Hume from the office of Inspector of Prisons in 1909-10 a table was published in the first report of his successor setting out the names of the different prisons and prison camps then in existence, together with the number and rank of the officers employed, and the number of prisoners in each institution as at 31st March, 1909. Ten years having elapsed since that date, it is an opportune time to publish a similar table for the year ended 31st March last. The figures and particulars are interesting as showing the great change that has taken place in the decennial period in the distribution of the prisoners of the State and in the nature of their employment, as exemplified by the increase in the number of country institutions and the decrease in the number of men now confined in city prisons.

For purposes of comparison the tables for 1909 and 1919 are published together. An analysis of the figures shows that while in 1909 only 72 male prisoners out of a total of 857 were employed in country work—tree-planting—there were 527 out of a total of 983 employed at farming, roadmaking, tree-planting, reclamation work, &c., in our various institutions and camps in the year 1919. The policy of transferring prisoners from the close confinement and unsatisfactory conditions of the old city prisons to the healthier and more beneficial environment now being provided is still being vigorously carried on, and it is hoped that within a very few years our central prisons will be tenanted only by a small percentage of men who cannot be trusted outside the walls of a strong and self-contained institution.

Prisons, Camps, Staffs, and Number of Prisoners on 31st March, 1909.

					Prisons at								Prison Camps at				Totals.	
					Auckland.	Dunedin.	Hokitika.	Invercargill.	Lyttelton.	Napier.	New Plymouth.	Wanganui.	Wellington.	Hannar.	Waioapu.	Waipa.		Police-gaols.
Prisoners —					268	57	14	37	119	57	48	32	153	16	35	21	10	857
Male .. .. .	..	..	..	..	18	8	..	2	11	5	2	6	17	..	..	..	..	69
Female .. .. .	..	..	..	..										
Totals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	286	65	14	39	130	62	50	38	170	16	35	21	10	926
Staff —																		
Gaoler .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	9
Chief Warder .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Principal and acting principal warders .. .. .	..	..	..	..	4	3	1	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	..	21
Warders .. .. .	..	..	..	..	26	10	2	3	15	4	5	2	23	4	6	3	..	103
Surgeons .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	9
Matrons .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	9
Assistant Matrons .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Officers in charge of police-gaols .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	27
Totals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	35	18	6	7	23	8	10	6	30	5	7	4	27	186

Prisons, Camps, Staffs, and Number of Prisoners on 31st March, 1919.

					Prisons and Institutions at										Prison Camps at			Totals.
					Addington Reformatory for Women.	Auckland.	Invercargill Borstal Institution.	Lyttelton.	Napier.	New Plymouth.	Paparua Farm Prison.	Waikeria Reformatory Farm.	Wellington.	Minor Gaols.	Police-gaols, including Dunedin.	Kaikarua Afforestation Camp.	Roto-a-ra Roadmaking Camp.	
Prisoners—																		
Male	..	..	..	..	..	224	157	19	19	45	129	134	132	7	10	56	51	983
Female	..	..	..	..	41	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	59
Totals	..	..	..	..	41	236	157	19	19	45	129	134	138	7	10	56	51	1,042
Staff—																		
Superintendents	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Gaolers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	5	..	..	..	9
Officers in Charge	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Deputy Superintendents	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Chief Warders	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
Principal and acting principal warders	..	..	..	..	1	5	3	..	1	1	3	4	4	..	..	1	1	24
Warders	..	..	..	..	..	29	16	5	2	6	12	8	16	1	..	4	6	105
Temporary Warders	..	..	..	..	..	4	7	..	1	..	7	5	10	..	..	1	1	36
Medical Officers	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	1	11
Matrons	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
Assistant Matrons	..	..	..	..	7	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	11
Officers in charge of police-gaols	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	..	..	30
Totals	..	..	..	..	10	44	28	7	6	9	24	19	35	7	30	7	9	235

HEALTH STATISTICS.

The returns of sickness given in Table A show that the daily average number on the sick-list in all the prisons and prison institutions of the Dominion in 1918 was 24.64, compared with 16.71 in 1917, a difference of 7.93 in favour of the earlier year. The large percentage increase thus shown is accounted for by the influenza epidemic, by which all the larger prisons were attacked with considerable virulence. From our records in November last I find that at Auckland and Invercargill nearly one hundred prisoners were sick at one time in each institution, while half the staff were also attacked. The position was not quite so acute in the other prisons, but all except those situated in country districts suffered to some extent.

Those officers who remained unaffected by the disease had a very strenuous time while the epidemic was at its height, and many of them performed valuable work in caring for the sick and in organizing plans of relief. In both directions they were ably assisted by some of the prisoners, who worked night and day as nurses and assistants, and did not spare themselves in succouring those who were attacked. Some of our best prisoner assistants were men serving long sentences for very serious offences, one having a life sentence.

Deaths: There were nineteen deaths in the prisons during the year 1918. Of those, thirteen were due to influenza and one to suicide, while one died after his transfer to a mental hospital, and two prisoners were executed.

PRISONERS DETENTION ACT, 1915.

One male and two female prisoners were dealt with under the provisions of the Prisoners Detention Act during the year 1918. The total number detained beyond the period of their sentences since the Act was passed, in order that they might be treated for venereal disease, is now nineteen. The period of additional detention under the Act seldom exceeds a few months, but we have one case on our books where a detainee remained in the prison-hospital section, under treatment, for twenty-six months after his period of imprisonment had expired.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND GENERAL PROBATION WORK (FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT, 1908, AND PROBATION SECTION OF CRIMES AMENDMENT ACT, 1910).

Since my last report was written this section of the Department's work has been carried on steadily by the various honorary officers employed. During the year death has claimed two of our oldest and most valued workers—viz., Mr. T. I. Smail, of Christchurch, and Mr. W. Brakenrig, of Auckland. Both these gentlemen had devoted their lives to the great work of social reform, and their loss has been severely felt among those for whom they laboured so long and so earnestly. The number of men and women who are prepared to make the great sacrifices that are necessary to enable this work to be carried on sympathetically and intelligently is indeed limited, and we can ill afford to lose the pioneers who have borne the heat and burden of the day, and who for so many years have been the rallying-points of the forces for good in the communities in which they laboured.

The First Offenders' Probation work at Christchurch is now being carried on by the Rev. Frank Rule, while the Crimes Amendment probationers have been placed under the supervision of the Salvation Army officers, who in recent years have greatly assisted the Department in looking after the interests of those who have been released on probation by the Prisons Board.

Mr. Brakenrig's duties as Crimes Amendment Probation Officer have been taken over by the Rev. F. R. Jeffreys, who for some years past has occupied the position of honorary First Offenders Probation Officer at Auckland. In view of the fact that the probation work of both classes in the northern city district is far heavier than in any other probation district in the Dominion, a departmental officer was assigned to Mr. Jeffreys to enable him to keep pace with the large amount of clerical and other work involved in carrying out the dual duties.

Owing to the limited scope of the First Offenders' Probation Act it has become the practice, during the past two or three years, for Judges and Magistrates to deal with offenders who cannot be legally brought under the provision of that Act by suspending sentence and ordering them to come up for sentence when called upon. Such offenders have been placed under the control and supervision of the Probation Officers with satisfactory results. A system of informal probation has thus grown up that, while serving a useful purpose in the absence of the necessary statutory provision, is uneven in its application, and is outside the general departmental organization. In previous reports I have urged the extension of the provisions of the First Offenders Act to cases where minor previous offences were recorded, and to other cases that might be considered by the Courts to be fully met by the granting of probation. In other words, my suggestion has been that Judges and Magistrates should be given the widest possible discretion to deal with offenders of all classes, as they think fit, either by sentencing them to a term of imprisonment or by granting them probation under strict conditions. In view of the number of persons of both sexes who have been given "informal probation" during the past two years, it is clear that an amendment of the First Offenders' Probation Act in the direction I have recommended is urgently required, and I trust that time will be found during the current session of Parliament to introduce and pass the necessary amending Bill.

Although the First Offenders' Probation Act was passed in 1886, and New Zealand was thus in the van of progress so far as the institution of a probation system was concerned, little or no advance has been made in the past thirty-three years, either in the method of administering the Act, in building up reformatory agencies in connection therewith, or in extending the scope of the Act itself to cover a wider field.

Now that the war is over and the work of reconstruction can be resumed, it behoves all those who are conscious of the necessity of social reform to press forward every agency that will assist in preventing the "scrapping" of lives that are yet young and vigorous, and that under a more enlightened system can be profitably used as part of the economic fabric. Under existing conditions there is a shameful wastage that must not be allowed to continue.

New Zealand, unlike other countries, has no Department or central organization established for the purpose of attacking the root causes of crime, of checking anti-social tendencies in the rising generation, or of dealing intelligently with the large and growing class of juvenile delinquents we have among our population. I refer advisedly to our "growing class of juvenile delinquents" for the reason that our latest returns show that at the present time we have a larger number of young offenders under twenty-five years of age in our prisons and prison institutions than has been the case for many years past.

What is wanted in New Zealand in regard to crime-prevention and probation, as in other matters, is a concentration of effort. At the present time we have two or three Departments of State and certain private organizations controlling, more or less ineffectively, different phases of probation work, social-reform work, prisons, reformatories, special institutions for juvenile delinquents, inebriates' institutions, &c., with inevitable overlapping and lack of efficiency. Much better results would be obtained if we were to emulate the State of Illinois, U.S.A., where a Department known as "The Public Welfare Department" has been established to co-ordinate all the services in connection with what might be called the social-reform work of the State. All the various branches I have referred to have been placed under the control of this Department, and it would appear from the reports on the subject that the system is working satisfactorily.

As I have pointed out in previous reports, the State over a long period of years has only expended a few hundred pounds on definite preventive work, while the upkeep of the prisons, reformatories, institutions for juvenile delinquents, &c., costs many thousands per annum. From this it would appear that the State prefers to let the criminal increase and multiply, to incur all the expense of housing and feeding him, and of providing the required staffs to guard him, rather than to take the necessary steps to check the trouble at its source. All those who have studied the question will agree with me in saying that a reasonable outlay on intelligent preventive work would soon be recouped by a reduction in the expenditure on the unprofitable task of housing and guarding the sentenced prisoner.

With the means at hand we are carrying on the work of probation and prevention of crime as satisfactorily as is possible, but were it not for the self-sacrificing efforts of our honorary Probation Officers, of the private organization I have already referred to, and of the police Probation Officers, all of whom are working practically without fee or reward, I am afraid this class of social-reform work in New Zealand would be largely a dead-letter.

FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT, 1908.

In accordance with the practice followed in the past few years, the five honorary Probation Officers have forwarded reports on the working of the First Offenders' Probation Act in their respective districts for the year ended 31st March last. All the reports are interesting and informative, and illustrate clearly the beneficial effects of the Act when administered capably and sympathetically by men who understand the work. Reference is made by the Probation Officers to the number of cases of informal probation now placed under their charge. This constitutes a further argument for the widening of the scope of the existing Act to enable all cases deemed suitable for probation by the Courts to be dealt with under the statute.

A compilation of the monthly reports received from First Offender Probation Officers throughout the Dominion, the detail of which is given in Table J, shows that 192 persons were placed on probation in 1918, compared with 127 in 1917.

The increase of sixty-five in the number of probationers indicates that the Judges and Magistrates are taking fuller advantage of this method of dealing with offenders than has been the case heretofore.

The total sum ordered by the Courts to be paid by probationers towards the cost of prosecution, and collected by the Probation Officers, amounted to £342 7s. 6d., compared with £323 18s. 6d. in 1917. If the probationers had been sentenced to imprisonment the amount thus recovered would have been lost to the State.

In addition to the costs of prosecution the Courts in some instances ordered offenders granted probation to restore to injured parties moneys, or the value of goods, of which they had been deprived. Payments under this head amounting to £198 6s. were collected by the different Probation Officers. This represents a further sum that would not have been made good if the provisions of the First Offenders' Probation Act had not enabled restitution to be enforced.

I am, &c.,

C. E. MATTHEWS,
Permanent Head of the Prisons Department.

The ACTING INSPECTOR OF PRISONS to the PERMANENT HEAD OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT.

SIR,—

Wellington, 31st July, 1919.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1918, dealing with the work of inspection of the prisons and institutions under the control of the Department, and the supervision of the various works and industries carried on by prison labour.

During the year the whole of the prisons have been frequently visited and carefully inspected. The result of such inspection, although on the whole fairly satisfactory, yet leaves something to be desired. In common with all large Government Departments, the Prisons Department has felt the effects of the recent war, more particularly in the matter of maintaining an efficient staff. As you are aware, during the earlier stages of the struggle many of our younger officers answered the call for volunteers, and with the consent of the Department offered their services and went to the front. Owing to the shortage of eligible applicants those officers could only be replaced by casuals who were unsuitable for prison work. This condition of affairs has naturally reacted on the discipline and control of the majority of the prisons, and somewhat reduced our general efficiency. Latterly, however, owing to the return from overseas of quite a number of our permanent officers and their resumption of duty, matters have considerably improved. There is also the fact that from amongst the returned soldiers a few suitable men are applying for employment in the Prison service. Taken altogether I have every reason to hope that our troubles in this respect are nearly at an end, and that during the coming year it will be possible to so improve matters as to permit of the establishing of a higher degree of discipline and efficiency amongst both officers and prisoners alike.

The cleanliness of all the buildings has been well maintained, and in this respect I found no ground for complaint.

PROGRESS DURING THE YEAR.

Buildings, &c.

In my capacity as Supervisor of Prison Works I have frequently visited the various places at which works of every description are being carried out, and although the staffing difficulty has here again interfered with efficiency, yet generally speaking fair progress has been made in connection with the various works in hand. The following is a brief summary of such works and the progress made since last year's report was written :—

Auckland.—Owing to the difficulty of obtaining the necessary materials, and the increased cost thereof, the work of lifting the concrete covering the cell-floors and the relaying of the same in wood has been discontinued for the present. The same remark applies to the proposed extension of the electric-wiring system for cell-lighting purposes. It is hoped, however, that it will now become possible to proceed with both of those necessary works.

The new workshops mentioned in last year's report as being under construction have been completed, and the necessary bootmaking machinery installed. An electric motor for driving the machinery, together with the necessary shafting, belting, &c., has also been placed in position. The whole of the bootmaking and clothing-repair staffs have been moved into this building, and owing to the added facilities and increased accommodation provided it will now be possible to employ an increased number of prisoners in both directions. On the first floor of this building an area of 2,000 square feet of floor-space is still available, and this area can be used for the purpose of establishing additional industries now in contemplation. Four additional yards, each furnished with up-to-date sanitary appliances and conveniences, have been provided, thus enabling a proper system of classification for the workshop employees to be brought into operation.

As further residences for Prison officers have become an urgent necessity a start has been made in the direction of clearing a space at the back of the Mount Eden Prison Reserve for the locating of three additional residences. The houses to be erected are intended for the Chief and Principal Warders, and will therefore be above the standard usually provided.

Waikeria.—The administrative wing at Waikeria has now been completed and the premises occupied. An additional officer's residence has also been built and occupied. A concrete reservoir holding 29,000 gallons of water has been constructed, and an up-to-date septic tank is now well under way. A temporary camp has been established in the vicinity of the dairy buildings, with kitchen, bathrooms, &c., complete. Arrangements are also being made in the direction of providing quarters for the single officers, and it is hoped to make a start with the putting-in of the foundations within the next week or two.

Wellington.—Necessary alterations at Point Halswell are being put in hand to enable the buildings there to be utilized for the accommodation of the female prisoners now housed in the old Terrace Prison, which is rapidly becoming unfit for human habitation. The Point Halswell site has proved itself to be one of the most healthy in the Dominion; and the transfer of the women prisoners to their new location will undoubtedly improve existing conditions, and enable the Department to carry out a much-needed scheme of classification that will be beneficial alike to the prisoners and the State.

Wi Tako.—Work is being rapidly pushed on in connection with the erection of the necessary buildings at Trentham to enable a class of short-sentenced and well-conducted prisoners to be employed on the drainage and other improvements that are in contemplation.

Paparu Prison.—The building of No. 1 cell range of the permanent concrete structure has been practically completed and the cells on the ground floor occupied. The erection of the kitchen block is also well in hand. This building has been roofed in, and the finishing of the interior is at present being pushed on. Two additional cell houses, each capable of providing accommodation for thirty prisoners, referred to in last year's report, have also been finished, and are now fully occupied. Two officers' cottages have been completed and occupied, while a Gaoler's residence and another officer's cottage are well under way.

Invercargill Borstal Institution.—The building of the necessary enclosing-walls has been completed, and the work of subdividing the area so enclosed is being proceeded with. The provision of a range of buildings comprising an up-to-date kitchen, workshops, baths, &c., has been commenced. A special division capable of accommodating the inmates, also a modern dairy and buildings, have been erected on the institution farm area, while a cottage for the use of the farm-manager is now being erected. Other necessary buildings are in contemplation, and now that the main building is completed it should be possible to make more rapid progress with the interclassification that was initiated last year.

The whole of the works referred to are being carried out by institutional labour under the direction of our officers. When this fact is taken into consideration it should tend to dispel the somewhat prevalent opinion that the labour of prisoners is of very little value and not worth taking into account. The fact that the Prisons Department at the present time is able to undertake and successfully carry out the work of erecting buildings, both large and small, to the entire satisfaction of the Public Works Engineers, who periodically make an inspection of all works so carried out, is, I submit, a matter upon which the Department has a right to congratulate itself. The consequent saving to the public exchequer should not be lost sight of, while the effect upon the inmates themselves, taking into consideration the experience which they are enabled to obtain, has been found to be of great benefit in enabling many of them to rehabilitate themselves on their release.

Other Works.

At Auckland the building of a stone wall along the Grammar School boundary facing the Prison has been completed. The making and repairing of boots for officers and prisoners and for the Mental Hospitals Department has been proceeded with during the year. The making of concrete blocks, dressing of building-stone, quarrying and crushing metal for roadmaking purposes, is the principal industry. In view of the fact that there is a practically unlimited demand for road-metal, it has been decided to go into the question of a thorough reorganization of the quarrying and crushing methods at present in use. With this object in view the Public Works Department has been approached, and the Engineers are now preparing a thoroughly up-to-date scheme that should enable the Department to increase its output very considerably when it is brought into operation.

The cash received, chiefly from local bodies, for the metal-output for the year amounted to £1,697.

At New Plymouth the prisoners were employed in the Prison quarry, the product of which is sold to the Borough Council. The revenue derived from this source amounted to £717.

At Kaingaroa the prisoners were employed by the Forestry Department tree-planting, &c. The revenue from this source amounted to £2,914.

The work of constructing a road from Waimarino to Tokaanu has been continued during the year. Owing to the abnormal rainfall obtaining in this district work on this road has to be carried out under great difficulties. Nevertheless fair progress, taking the prevailing conditions into consideration, has been made.

For several months of the year the Postal Department's mail-service contractor has been carrying mails and passengers over the whole length of the road from Waimarino to Tokaanu by motor-car thrice weekly. Three private firms are also running cars between the points referred to, and the Internal Affairs Department's motor-lorries make daily trips during the fishing season, carrying the proceeds of the Lake Taupo fisheries. The traffic on the road is rapidly increasing. Not only has it partly supplanted the old Waiouru Road as a tourist route, but it is being largely used by settlers in the Rotorua-Taupo districts, who are able to obtain more convenient access to their holdings from the Waimarino Railway-station than from Rotorua and Auckland.

In view of the shortage of coal in Wellington, use has been made of the camps at Waimarino, where there are ample supplies of felled timber, to augment the firewood-supply in the capital city. A number of truck-loads have been railed to Wellington and distributed to consumers through the agencies of the State Coal and State Firewood Department.

Apart from the returns received from the sale of the large quantity of firewood and kindling-wood supplied from Waimarino during the past three or four months, the total amount received from the Public Works Department for road-construction work for the financial year ended 31st March last was £1,609.

At Waikeria considerable progress has been made during the year. The work of forming and metalling the road connecting the Reformatory with the main road leading to Te Awamutu has been completed. This road, which is about five miles in length, passes right through the centre of the Reformatory and Mental Hospital farms, providing ready means of access to both properties. Farming in all its branches is the staple industry at this institution. The illustrations appearing in this year's report give a general indication of the variety of the work that is being carried on. At Waikeria, as at Invercargill, the policy of the Department is to employ the inmates at a class of work that is not only reproductive so far as the State is concerned, but will enable those employed to fight the battle of life successfully on their release. The experimental stage has long been passed, and the Department's efforts in this direction have borne good fruit. During the past season the officer in charge at Waikeria has undertaken by departmental instruction the growing and curing of tobacco, and has met with some success in his initial efforts. It is too soon yet to offer any opinion as to whether the Waikeria soil is suitable for tobacco-culture, but a further trial will be made during the coming season.

During the past year the number of prisoners at Point Halswell Prison was considerably reduced, and with the exception of looking after the trees planted a few years ago, and carrying out several small works at Shelly Bay for the Public Works Department, very little has been done. The raising of pigs and growing feed for them has been started on a small scale, with gratifying financial results. The milk-supply for the Wellington prisons has also been obtained from the Point Halswell Prison.

Brickmaking at Mount Cook Prison has now ceased, the stocks on hand being sufficient for the purpose of completing all existing contracts. The work of levelling and otherwise preparing the Mount Cook site for other purposes is now being proceeded with. The cutting into suitable lengths of firewood received from Waimarino, and the preparation of kindling-wood for the various Government buildings, is also being carried out here. The revenue derived from the sale of bricks for the year amounted to £1,410.

Work at the Terrace Prison consisted of gardening, boot-repairing, and the manufacturing in the Prison workshop of all officers' uniforms and prisoners' clothing.

Much valuable and useful work is being successfully carried out at Paparua Prison, near Christchurch. The manufacture of building-blocks and concrete roofing-tiles for use in the erection of prison buildings, as well as the making of concrete fencing-posts for the farm, is, apart from farming operations, the principal industry carried on. The manufacture of concrete flags has also been recently started, and a considerable revenue from the sale of concrete products is now being obtained. The work of roading and fencing the Prison property, and the gradual improvement of the whole area, is being proceeded with as rapidly as circumstances permit. Pig-raising is receiving a permanent place here, and the establishing of an up-to-date poultry-farm is being undertaken. A small area is also being planted with fruit-trees. The whole of the boots required for the use of both officers and

prisoners in the South Island prisons, besides a considerable number of boots and shoes for use in mental hospitals, are being manufactured in the boot and shoe factory attached to this Prison. The growing of lucerne for feeding the stock kept on the property, as well as the raising of potatoes, horse-feed, &c., all provide useful and profitable work for the inmates of this institution, and at the same time lessens the cost of maintenance to the general taxpayer.

Now that the main buildings connected with the Invercargill Borstal Institution have been completed, also the building of the necessary embankments required under the agreement with the Invercargill Borough Council in connection with the reclamation scheme, it has been found possible to devote more time to the prison farm. During the year much valuable work has been done in the way of improving this property, and the results up to the present have been such as to fully justify the large expenditure of labour involved. Much yet remains to be done before this valuable property becomes fully developed, but the results so far obtained are distinctly encouraging. During the year work has consisted chiefly of grassing, draining, fencing, and roading operations, and the erection of necessary buildings. Up till the end of last season an area of no less than 900 acres had been burnt off and laid down in grass, and many miles of fencing erected. During the coming season it is expected that the dairy herd will be increased to fully a hundred cows; while a considerable number of store cattle have been purchased for fattening and ultimate sale. This property is of great potential value, and, providing it is properly managed, should ultimately return a substantial revenue to the State. No doubt the work connected with the bringing into profitable use of this property has been, and still is, of a somewhat unpleasant and arduous character, yet as time goes on these unfavourable conditions will disappear, and the whole of the inmates of the institution will be employed at general farming and agriculture. Apart from the farming operations and the developmental work in connection therewith, the inmates have been employed during the year in the construction of an extensive embankment to provide a new rifle range for the Defence Department. Very good progress has been made with this work, the main embankment having been completed for half the required length. The Department is carrying out this undertaking on a daily-wage basis, and the value of the work performed as per Public Works Engineer's certificate amounted to £3,670 for the financial year.

From the foregoing it will be seen that much valuable and useful work is being carried on by the inmates of our prisons, and that the old system of employing prisoners in many instances on useless and unproductive work has entirely disappeared. To even the most casual observer it must become apparent that this must have an uplifting effect upon the prisoner, as it enables him to feel that although in prison he is yet of some use to the world at large, and that the experience he is gaining will be of some value to him when the day for his release arrives.

I have, &c.,

M. HAWKINS,

Acting Inspector of Prisons.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF SUPERINTENDENTS, GAOLERS, AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF INSTITUTIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1918.

ADDINGTON REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN.

The conduct of inmates has been good with few exceptions; their health also has been satisfactory.

The work consists of vegetable and flower gardening, sewing, knitting, darning, laundry, cleaning, and cooking. The Red Cross work carried on in previous war years was continued, the list of articles made by the inmates during the year being as follows: 462 pairs socks, 432 pairs pyjamas, 435 flannels, 360 pillow-slips, 360 slings, 5,784 handkerchiefs, 136 face-cloths, 54 dressing-gowns, 11 pairs knee-caps, 12 towels, 48 treasure-bags.

Supplies of rations—meat, bread, milk, fish, &c.—have all been of excellent quality.

The usual concerts and lectures have been held at intervals throughout the year. Official Visitors have visited the inmates and advised them respecting future work and effort to live good and useful lives. In the regrettable death of Mr. T. I. Smail, who represented the Prison Gate Mission, and for many years had been associated with important humanitarian work, a loss is experienced that we can scarcely hope to quite replace.

Divine service has been held by Canon Bean, Father Long, Mr. Smail, and the Salvation Army, to whom our sincere gratitude is due.

The usual extras in the form of sweets, cakes, &c., were amply supplied for Christmas, and much appreciated by the inmates. The staff gave every help in work and time, decorating and making the necessary arrangements to brighten Christmas for them. Mr. Scanlon, Gaoler, H.M. Prison, Lyttelton, has visited weekly in his usual capacity.

Material for building a drying-room and the erection of a glasshouse for flowers and seedlings has been obtained, but the demands on the working staff engaged at present on extensive work at Templeton and elsewhere have so far necessitated our local requirements being held in abeyance. Plans for conserving storm and waste water are also under consideration, which if carried out will materially reduce the expenditure per annum.

It is pleasing to be able to report the genuine efforts made by the public towards employment and rehabilitation for inmates discharged on probation, and the helping hand extended in the direction of reformation. This cannot but have the desired effect in some instances, although it is regrettable to realize that so many return to us after short periods of liberty.

Our total includes a number of very young offenders—their crime theft. They are absolutely untaught in domestic work, with meagre education and an inordinate craving for fine clothes and jewellery. This condition points directly to the lack of proper home training and influence. To meet and improve the conditions, arrangement is being made to employ a portion of each week in primary-school training—domestic duties, cooking, &c. Also, it is hoped in the near future to extend the educational side and introduce healthful recreation and exercises for the young inmates sentenced to reformatory detention in the institution.

AUCKLAND PRISONS.

There were five deaths during the year, all males. Two were on remand for alcoholism; the other three died of influenza during the epidemic—one was awaiting trial, the other two were serving long sentences. The two received on remand for alcoholism, on different dates, were so ill on admission that they only lived twenty-four hours. Another prisoner serving a long sentence committed suicide in his cell by hanging. An inquest was held in each case.

Owing to the influenza epidemic the daily average number on the sick-list (seven) was higher than in former years, there being as many as ninety laid up at one time when the epidemic was on. Apart from this the health of the prisoners generally was good, and there were only three admissions to the District Hospital, as compared with eight the previous year.

There were two escapes, one from the District Hospital and one from the Prison quarry. The escapee from the Hospital gave himself up at the Prison two days later. The other was caught almost immediately by the Prison officials before he got clear of the Prison Reserve.

The conduct of the prisoners on the whole has been good; there were only forty-five punishments by the Visiting Justices against thirty-four individuals. Those few out of a daily average of 230 is, I consider, very satisfactory. Prisoners can invariably see that good conduct carries certain privileges, and only a few “kick over the traces” occasionally; most of them recognize that strict discipline is necessary, and nearly all cheerfully conform to it.

Physical drill is daily being carried on for prisoners under a competent instructor, and a marked improvement in those who attend is shown in their general bearing.

School is held on three evenings a week for those who have little or no education, and good progress is made. The teacher takes a keen interest in his pupils, and they show an equal desire to learn. Some, especially Maoris, do not know the alphabet when they come into prison, and it is surprising how quickly they learn. They vie with each other in their efforts for advancement, and this spirit of rivalry spreads among the pupils generally, each endeavouring to do his best.

The conduct and efficiency of the staff has been quite satisfactory with one exception—viz., a probationary warder who was fined by the Magistrate for trafficking, and summarily dismissed.

The new workshops, the erection of which was commenced at the end of last year, are practically completed. Delay was caused by various alterations being made while the work was in progress and the difficulty in obtaining certain materials. The shops are on a fairly large scale, and can be utilized for various industries if required. Exercise-yards attached to the shops have been walled in, and the sanitary arrangements in connection therewith are well in hand.

In the other classification yards, six in number, the sanitary arrangements have been completed, including the fixing of wash-hand basins. A sentry's platform in reinforced concrete, which forms shelter underneath for the prisoners, is also completed, yards properly filled and centre-plots laid out; the only thing remaining to be done being the asphaltting and sowing of grass-seed, which will have to be left till the fall of the year, as the ground has still a tendency to settle. Stone steps leading from the East Wing of the Prison to the yards have been erected, and an area-wall built the full length of the building, with a 4 ft. width of passage, which gives a finish to the grounds. A photographic studio has also been built, and improvements made to the Prison grounds in the vicinity of the quarry by levelling, wall-building, &c. Although the Prison buildings are now completed, stone-cutting is still being carried on, there being various improvements yet to be made, including the heightening of the outer wall facing the railway, as from certain points prisoners while at exercise can be seen by the public. It is also proposed to make additions at the main entrance, for which dressed stone will be required. This provides work for the longer-sentence and dangerous class of prisoners whom it would be unsafe to employ outside the walls.

Quarry-work has again utilized the largest working-party, who get out stone for building purposes and for crushing into road-metal. Improved methods have been adopted for getting stone to the crusher: railway-lines have been laid, an oil-engine and hauling-winch installed, and the stone is being drawn to the crusher in trucks. By this means an increased supply of road-metal is obtained, but much requires yet to be done before the quarry can be made a payable industry.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOLMASTER AT AUCKLAND.

The roll number is twenty-seven. Two pupils are in Standard VI, five in Standard V, two in Standard IV, six in Standard III, five in Standard II, and seven in the primers.

The men in Standards V and VI can read with fluency and intelligence. Most of them are backward in English and composition, but show great eagerness to learn, and study these subjects in the evenings when no school is held. One, who could easily pass a Sixth Standard Proficiency Examination in arithmetic is taking algebra and shorthand. I can afford only one lesson per week in English to Standards III and IV, so that their progress in these subjects is necessarily slow, but the majority can read their particular class-book with ease, and their spelling and arithmetic are fairly good. In Standards V and VI the spelling and arithmetic are quite satisfactory. Standard II is, generally speaking, somewhat disappointing, especially in reading, but as the class is entirely composed of Maoris this is perhaps only to be expected.

The primers, for the most part, are men who have had no previous schooling, and they are greatly handicapped by the limited amount of time that I can give to them; but they show a surprising amount of patience, and do a good deal of work on "off nights," which I think indicates more clearly than anything else a praiseworthy desire for self-improvement.

The most difficult men to deal with are those who have had a little schooling. They are easily discouraged, and find such drudgery as learning tables, &c., particularly irksome.

I am ably assisted by the Prison staff, and the discipline of the class is good.

Despite the fact that the work of the year was considerably interrupted by the closing of the school during the influenza epidemic, satisfactory progress has been made, and most of the men in the standard classes will be ready for promotion within a month or so.

GISBORNE GAOL.

The health and conduct of the prisoners have been good. One prisoner was laid up for a few days with a septic arm. There were a few minor cases of sickness, of those suffering from the effects of alcoholism after being received. This district has just come through a severe epidemic of influenza. Fortunately none of the prisoners were affected with the disease.

The prisoners were employed during the year at keeping the prison clean, attending to the grounds, and building a concrete wall around the prison property, which is now complete except for the coping. The grounds at the back of the prison are now being levelled. The female prisoners were constantly employed at keeping their quarters clean and washing and repairing prisoners' clothes and blankets.

GREYMOUTH GAOL.

The general health of the prisoners has been very good, excepting one prisoner who had a mild form of influenza, and eight male prisoners received for medical treatment and suffering from the effects of drink.

The prisoners were employed during the year keeping the Prison clean, digging and cropping Prison garden, and washing and repairing clothing. The sum of £7 17s. 2d. was received for the sale of vegetables grown in the Prison garden. The garden is again planted with vegetables, and the prospects of a good crop are favourable.

INVERCARGILL BORSTAL INSTITUTION.

The health of the prisoners, other than the epidemic influenza sickness, has been good. Although there were twenty-one admissions to the District Hospital during the year, eleven of these were influenza cases with complications, two of whom died at that institution.

The conduct of the prisoners as a body has been satisfactory, there being fifty-four prisoners punished by the Visiting Magistrates, most of the offences being of a minor nature. There were no escapes or attempted escapes during the year. An initial classification of the inmates of the institution into seven classes was brought into operation early in the year, with an immediate beneficial effect.

Physical drill has been carried out in the gymnasium under the direction of a qualified instructor, with the result that there is a marked improvement in the physique and carriage of every youth within a few weeks after reception. The schoolmaster has conducted the educational classes most satisfactorily, but further educational facilities are required to obtain the best results. Quite a number of the brighter youths could, with opportunity given them, successfully go through the full primary-school course.

An entertainment committee comprising seven local gentlemen has been formed, and fortnightly concerts and lectures of an interesting and instructive nature are held. These are indeed appreciated, and will assist towards mental improvement.

Considerable progress has been made in respect to reclaiming an area to the south of the Otatara Embankment, to be used by the Defence Department as a rifle range. The embankment under construction has been carried out 33 chains.

The development of the Borstal Farm has made good progress; an up-to-date dairy building has been erected in reinforced concrete, and equipped with a six-cow milking plant and separator, electrically driven; also a 4 horse-power boiler has been erected to furnish a hot-water supply, and with an automatic jet to steam milk-cans and utensils. A water bore has been sunk with 3 in. casing to a depth of 124 ft. As a result an artesian supply was obtained which overflows into an underground concrete tank; from there the water is lifted by a centrifugal pump, electrically driven, to an overhead supply tank which circulates water to the various farm buildings. A building has been erected for use as a calf-feeding house and storeroom for fodder. The bath buildings purchased from the Town Council have been conveyed in sections to the farm area, the foundation now being ready for the re-erection of the building as a cell-house to accommodate nineteen prisoners. Temporary piggeries have also been erected, and a number of pigs are being fed and fattened for market. An area of waewae ground, over 100 acres, was burnt off and sown in grass during last autumn, and should on appearance produce a large quantity of hay very shortly. Several miles of fencing have been erected. All the posts required were got from the old tramway and old jetty timbers. Numerous temporary ditches have been dug for surface drainage of the grass areas, and now the excavating of the permanent farm drains and formation of farm roads has been taken in hand. Shelter-belts have been planted along the southern, western, and part of northern boundaries, but the trees have grown only on the higher ground.

The work carried out at the institution has been—Completion of the western boundary-wall, with large double-gateway entrance giving access to the proposed kitchen and store buildings; completion of northern boundary-wall; lowering and otherwise completing eastern boundary-wall, with a new front entrance built in; two of the new exercise-yards have had walls and shelters constructed; a new storm-water drain system has been laid along the area between the boundary and inner-yard walls. Concrete-block making and gardening have been carried on as usual. The Prison lighter has been fully employed conveying grit and gravel for building purposes and farm roading.

In conclusion I desire to state that the conduct of the staff on the whole has been satisfactory, and in most instances keen interest has been shown in carrying out the various works and the development of the farm area.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOLMASTER AT INVERCARGILL.

On resuming my duties at the Institute after spending two years with the Expeditionary Forces I found the following conditions existent:—

The roll number was fifty-three, and this number has been maintained throughout the term.

Mr. Menzies, who relieved me during my absence, found the same difficulties as I experienced—viz., the absence of a thorough grounding in any subject, even among the better-educated men who attend the school. A great many of these profess to have passed Standard VI, but a Fourth Standard test is usually too difficult for them. There are exceptions, of course, and on satisfactorily passing such a test they are exempt from attendance at school. Of the fifty-three men attending, over thirty are in Standard IV. Shortly after my return, by successive tests in English and arithmetic I divided this class into senior and junior sections in arithmetic. Reading, English, dictation, and spelling are taken collectively by the class, but better results in arithmetic have been obtained by the aforesaid subdivision. As soon as men of the junior section justify promotion they are placed in the senior division. Standard III is a small class, and the members of it, without exception, are good workers, anxious, at least, to improve their knowledge of the more elementary subjects. The work presented by this class is fairly uniform in quality. Standard II consists of twelve men of very unequal attainments, with the consequent result that the work presented by them is very uneven in quality. However, on the whole good progress has been made. In Standard I there are two men only, and progress on their part is painfully tedious. They both try honestly, so I look forward to being able to report more favourably anon.

Speaking of the work generally, I find that arithmetic is fairly well done after a short period in the school. English is weak—that is, the formal parts of it—but the matter contained in essays is much above the requirements of the standards in which the men are placed. This is, of course, easy of solution when we consider that these are young men who have had a fair amount of intercourse with the world—at any rate, much more than the average public-school pupil. There is one persistent enemy to good written English, however, and that is the very frequent use of slang terms and phrases. This is, no doubt, due to the previous social environment of the men, but it is ever manifesting itself. I have begun a crusade against it, and hope in some measure to reduce its use.

In reading the same might be said—that is, it is rather above the standard requirements so far as the actual recognition of words is concerned, but pronunciation, enunciation, and comprehension are seriously at fault. The men also read much too quickly, and this, coupled with the faults already named, render the reading at times unintelligible. I have done a good deal in minimizing these faults, especially in the matter of speed, and the result has been rather gratifying.

Spelling is, beyond doubt, the most distressing problem to be encountered, as of the fifty-odd men not more than three would be able to satisfy Fourth Standard requirements in the subject. In some cases it is simply vile. However, as spelling is a matter for the eye alone, I am doing my best to encourage the men in the reading of books, thus hoping that frequent acquaintance with words may lead to the assimilation and retention of the spelling of them.

Writing is generally good, in some cases very good. Maoris seem to excel in this direction.

Geography, history, and civics have been the subjects of various lessons delivered collectively to the whole school. The men pay marked attention to these lessons, and have no doubt improved their mental store in some small degree.

There is one serious handicap to rapid progress—or perhaps I should say, reasonably rapid progress—and that is the limited time at a teacher's disposal. This, coupled with the number of men, their very varied educational qualifications, and the number of subjects actually requiring to be taught, tends greatly to nullify the effectiveness of my work. The Principal Warder, who assists me, however, renders valuable assistance in supervising classes doing written work, thus freeing me to engage in the actual teaching of other classes. The time-table is so arranged that each class receives instruction in all the subjects at least once a week. On the whole the men evidence a distinct desire to improve, and although a new-comer sometimes resents attendance at school, he soon settles down to good solid work.

Although I am of opinion that if the men might be carried through to Standard VI requirements far-reaching results would ensue, still I am sure that habits of study have been implanted in the minds of many who have gained Standard IV, and in this the work of the school has been more than justified. I have ample corroboration of this, as during my service with the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces I had ample opportunity of observing the work of many men whom I had previously taught in the Institute.

To conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the staff of the Institute for their ready assistance and the courtesy extended to me at all times; to the Officer in Charge for untiring efforts to further education within the Institute and plans to improve the physical conditions under which the school labours.

KAINGAROA AFFORESTATION CAMP.

The general conduct of the prisoners has been exemplary.

The industry of the prisoners employed on the plantation has been entirely satisfactory, the following being a summary of the work done by prisoners for the Forestry Department during the year: Pits dug, 1,264,400; trees planted, 1,418,975; lining-out, weeding, ploughing, fire-breaks, roadmaking, fencing, clearing for tree-planting, stable work, and general upkeep.

The amount earned by the prisoners employed by the Forestry Department represents the sum of £2,872 3s. 7d.

The general health of the prisoners has been excellent; there were no cases of sickness in the Prison during the year. Special precautions were taken during the influenza epidemic, and I am pleased to say no cases occurred within the Prison.

The officers carried out their duties in a most efficient manner. More than sufficient vegetables for the use of the Prison were grown in the Prison garden. The oat crop was harvested in February, and provided sufficient chaff for the Prison horses. Surplus chaff to the value of £25 12s. was exchanged for grass-seed and seed-oats, which were sown on the Prison farm. An excellent stack of hay was taken off a 12-acre paddock, and provided winter feed for the Prison horses, cattle, and sheep. The area of the Prison farm has been increased from 50 to 100 acres. An area of 30 acres has been laid down in oats and grass for the coming year and gives promise of a good crop. An area of 2 acres was planted with potatoes and yielded 110 sacks of excellent potatoes, which is a record for this Prison. About fifty pigs were bred during the year; eleven were slaughtered for the use of the Prison, the market value at 6d. per pound being £32 10s. Pigs to the value of £16 17s. were sold and the proceeds paid into the Public Account.

Divine service was conducted periodically throughout the year.

The Medical Officer paid regular visits, saw all prisoners, and made a general inspection of the Prison.

The Prisons Board held a meeting on one occasion here during the year, examined and interviewed all prisoners sentenced to reformatory detention, and all hard-labour prisoners who had completed half their maximum sentence in terms of section 14 of the Statute Law Amendment Act, 1917, and subsequently recommended the release on probationary license of four prisoners, two under the Statutes Law Amendment Act, 1917, and two under the Reformatory Detention Act, 1910.

Three prisoners were brought before the Visiting Justice and dealt with for minor prison offences, one being transferred to the Prison at Auckland.

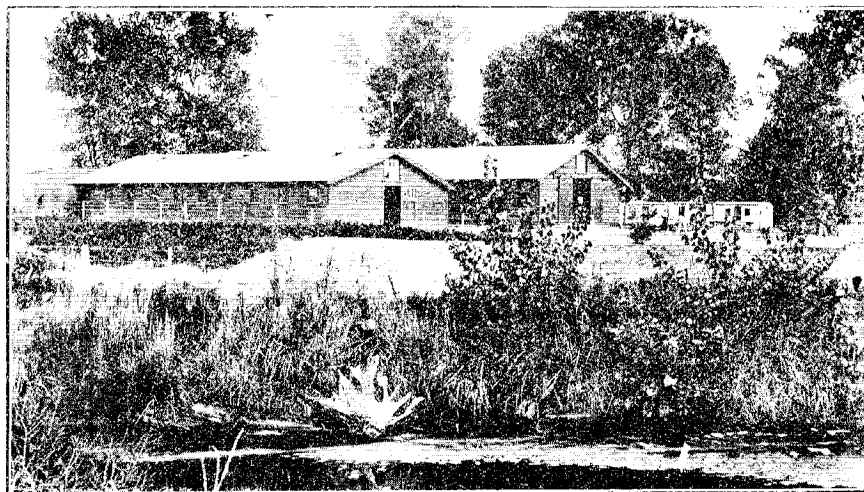
LYTTELTON PRISON.

The health of the prisoners has been good, and with the exception of the cases arising from the influenza epidemic in November last no sickness of a serious nature occurred. Two cases requiring surgical treatment were sent to the Christchurch Hospital, where they were successfully dealt with. One case, a man on remand from Police Court for drunkenness, had to be sent to the Hospital, as he was suffering from the effects of alcoholic poisoning when brought to the Prison. One prisoner died of pneumonia following an attack of influenza; that was the only casualty due to the epidemic, and, as stated at the time in my report, I consider the favourable results as being due to the careful nursing of the patients by the prisoner who volunteered his services for the hospital work.

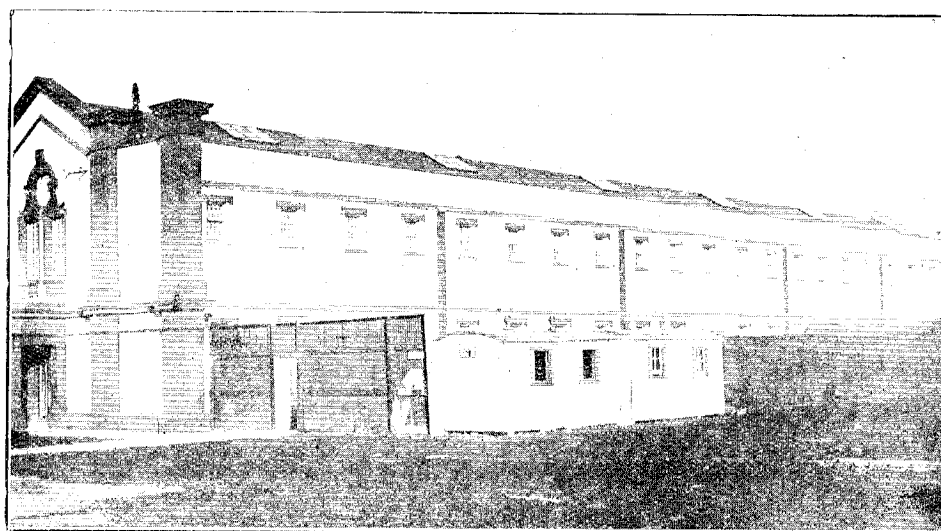
On the 5th March the death penalty passed on Frederick W. Eggers for the murder of John Coulthard was carried out in the presence of the Sheriff, the Deputy Inspector of Prisons, the Prison Chaplain, the Prison Medical Officer, representatives of the Press, and Prison staff.

The conduct and industry of the prisoners has been good; there were no charges of a serious nature, and the few minor cases were dealt with by the local Visiting Justices.

WAIKARIA REFORMATORY



ORIGINAL TEMPORARY CELL BUILDINGS, 1913-14.



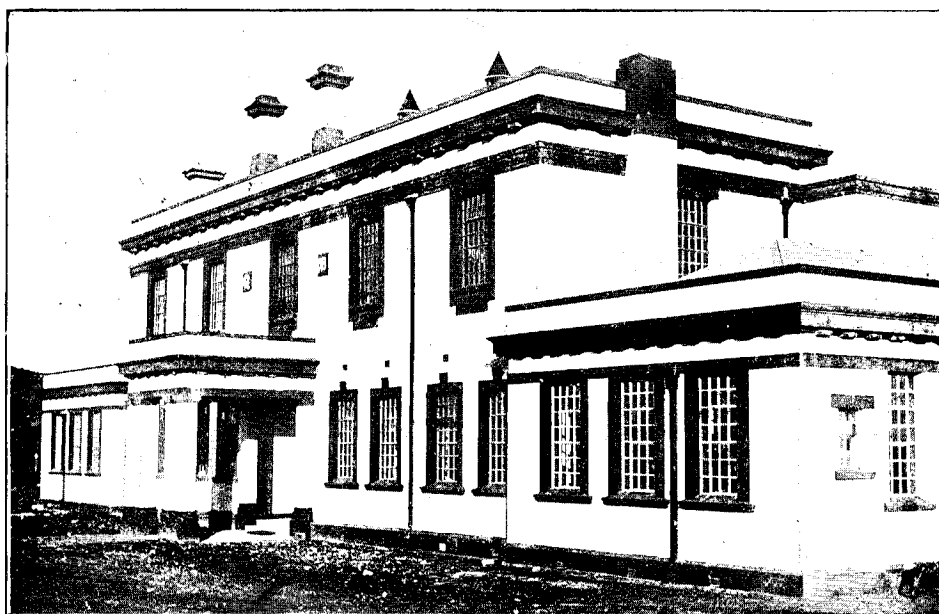
PERMANENT REFORMATORY BUILDING.

Built by prison labour. Material used, concrete blocks manufactured on the site.
Old tree-planting-camp huts on right.

WAIKERIA.



REFORMATORY INTERIOR VIEW.

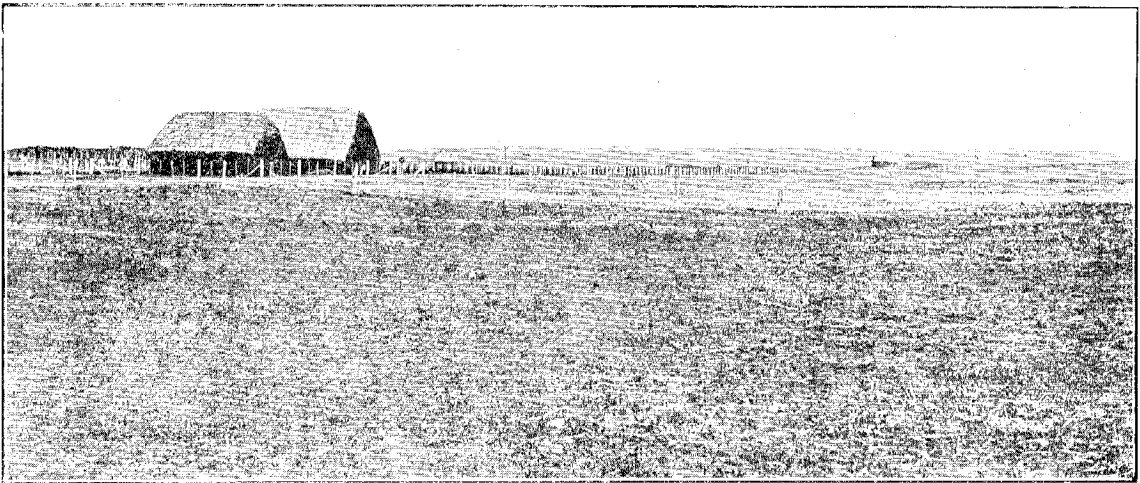


REFORMATORY BUILDINGS- ADMINISTRATION BLOCK.
Built throughout by prison labour.

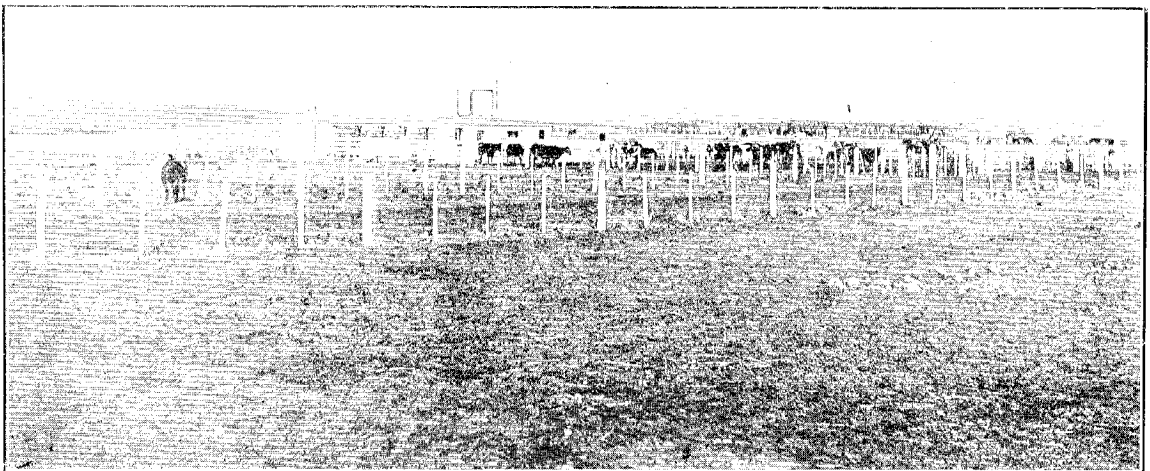
WAIKERIA.



WAIKERIA PROPERTY IN ITS ORIGINAL STATE, 1912.

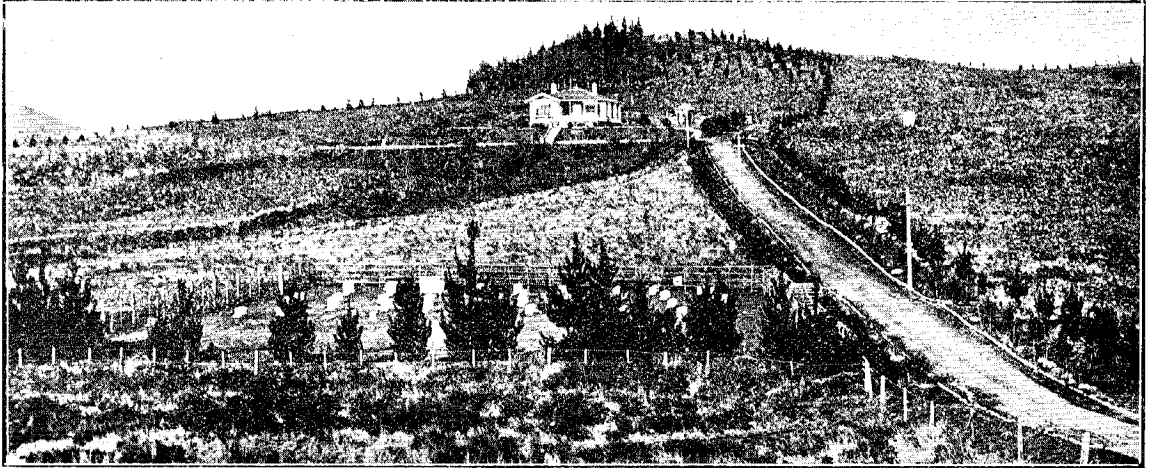


PROPERTY AFTER DEVELOPMENT.

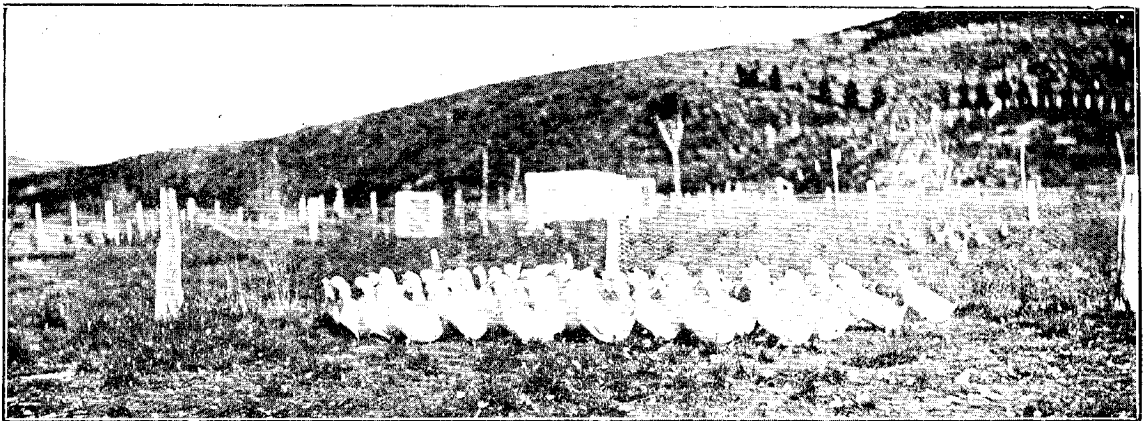


DAIRY, MILKING-SHED, AND DAIRY HERD.

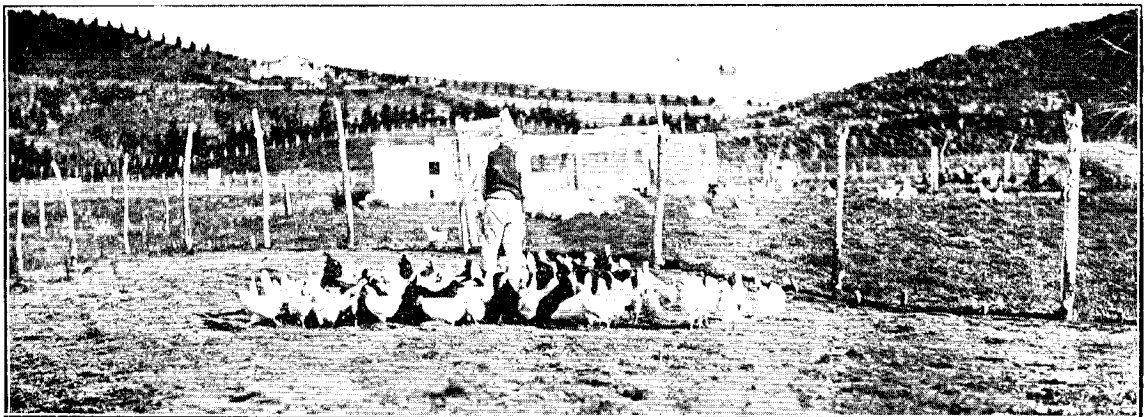
WAIKERIA.



RESIDENCE OF OFFICER IN CHARGE, WITH APIARY IN FOREGROUND, AVENUE OF TREES, AND GROUNDS.

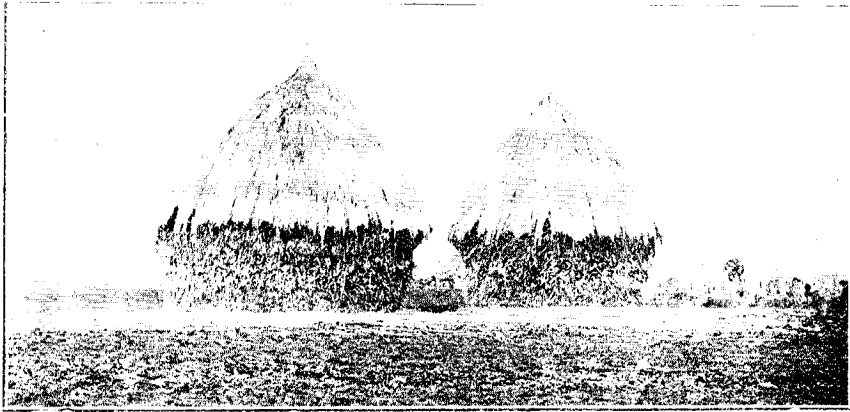


POULTRY-YARDS.



POULTRY.

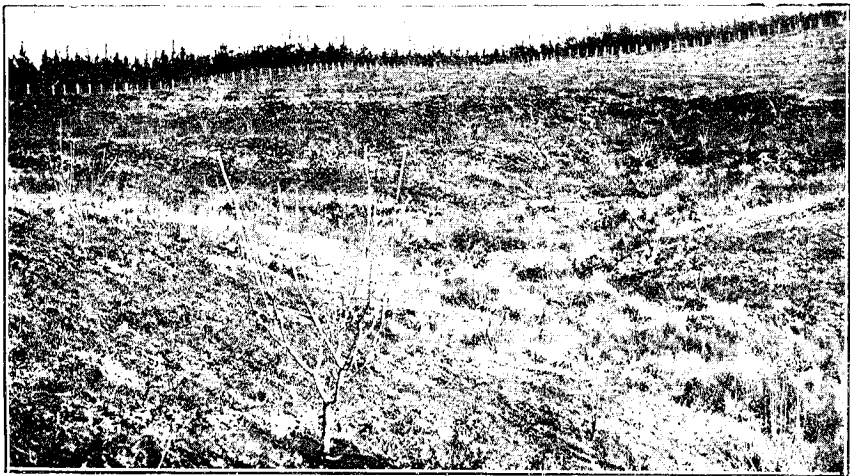
WAIKERIA.



OAT-STACKS.



SOME OF THE TEAMS.



A PART OF THE FIRST ORCHARD.

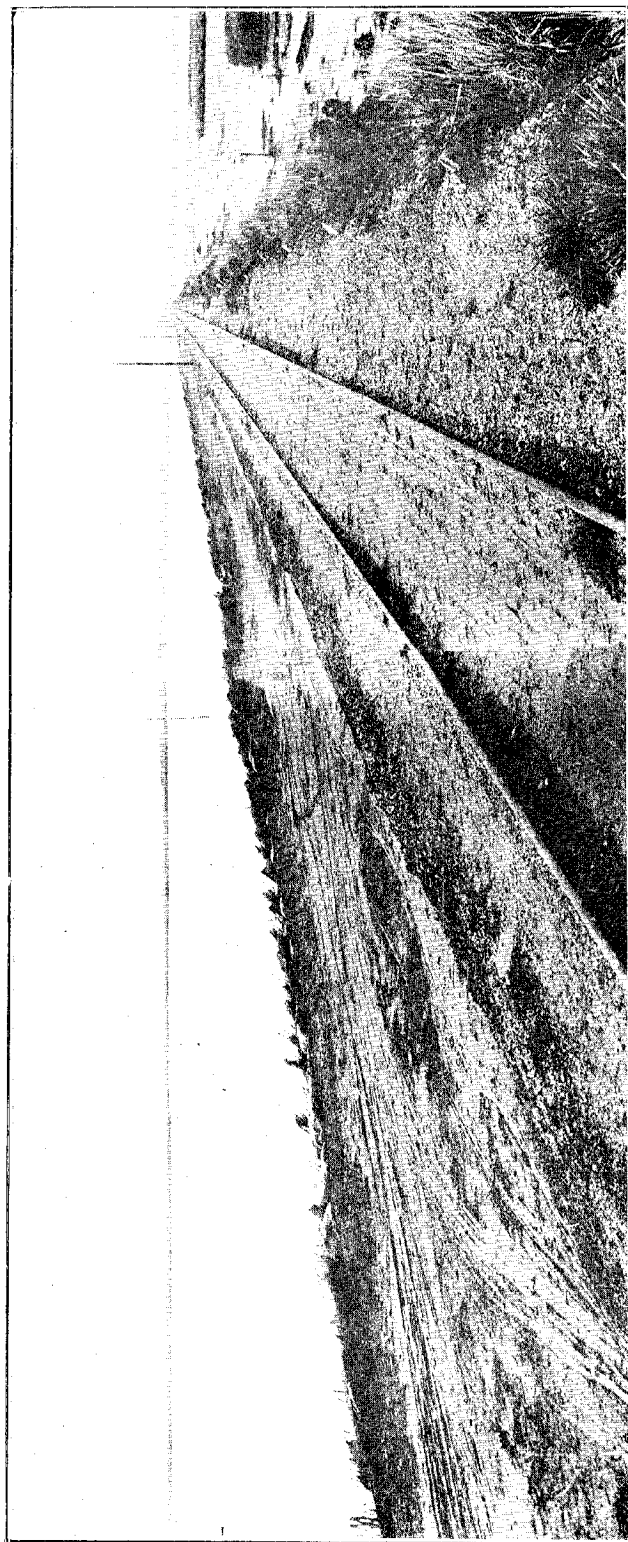
WAIKERIA.



SOME OF THE COWS.

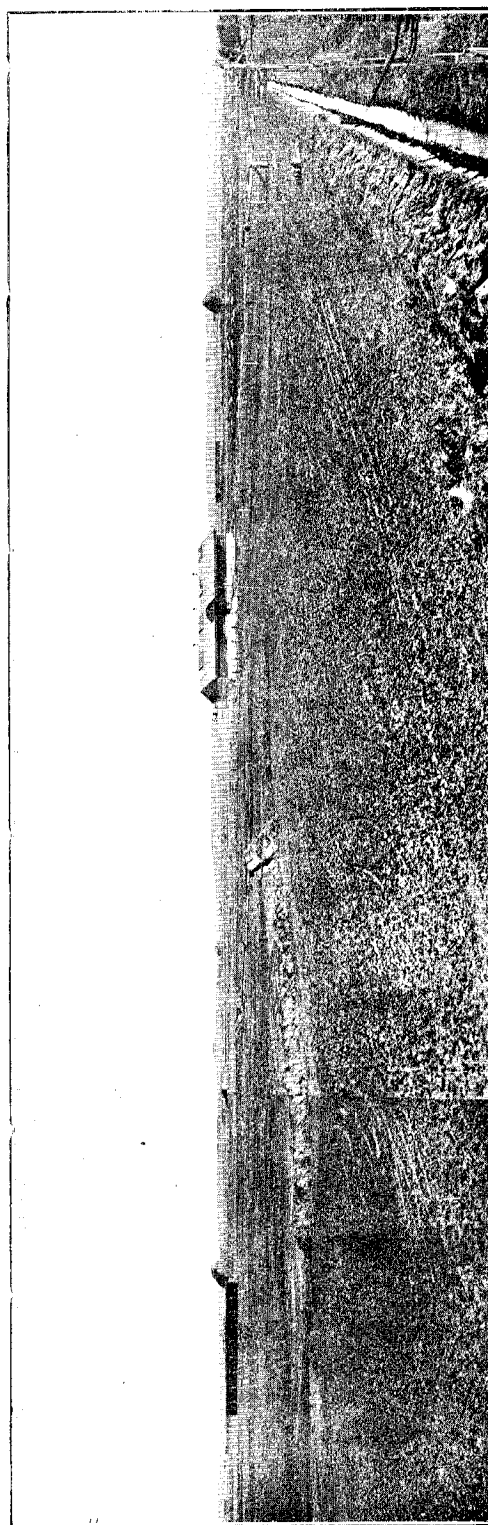


PRIZEWINNERS AT A RECENT SHOW.



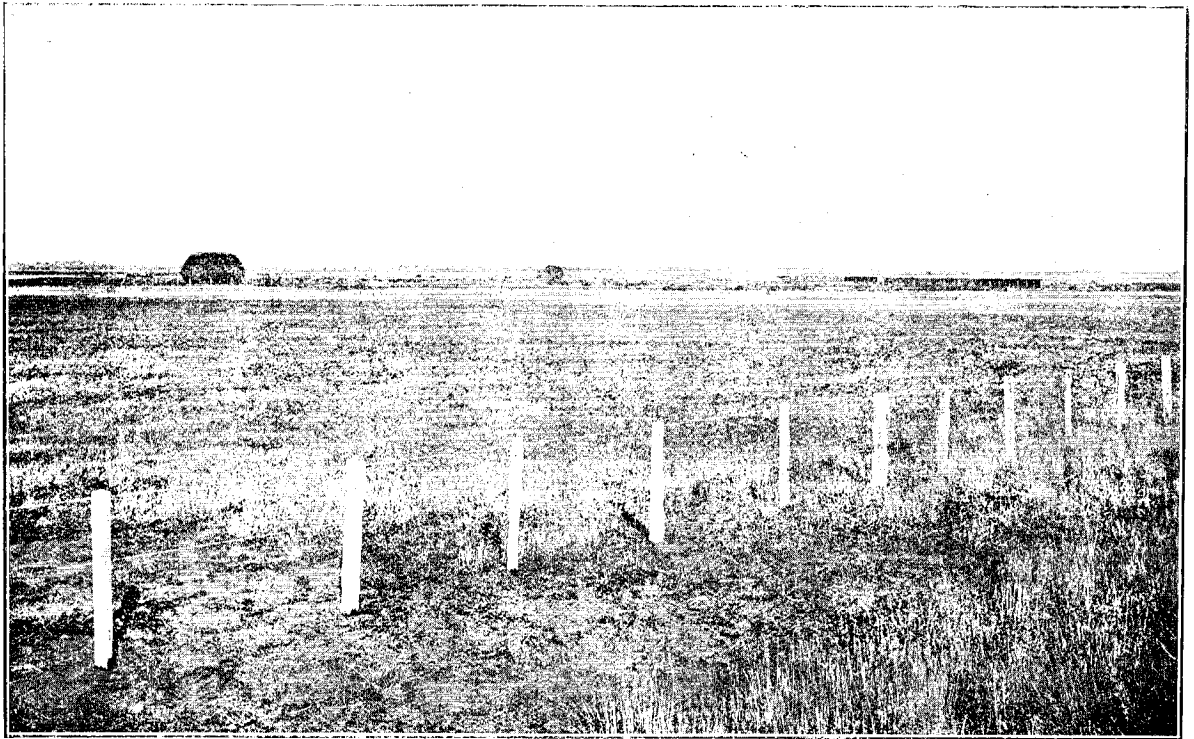
MAIN OTATARA EMBANKMENT.

Constructed by prison labour. Waihopai Estuary (area covered by water on left) is the area the banks were designed to reclaim.



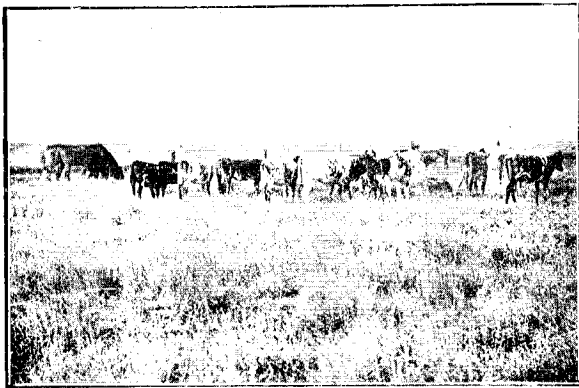
AREA PREVIOUSLY COVERED BY WATER AS IT APPEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF BANKS AND SHUTTING-OFF OF RIVER AND TIDAL WATERS.

INVERCARGILL BOBSTAL INSTITUTION.

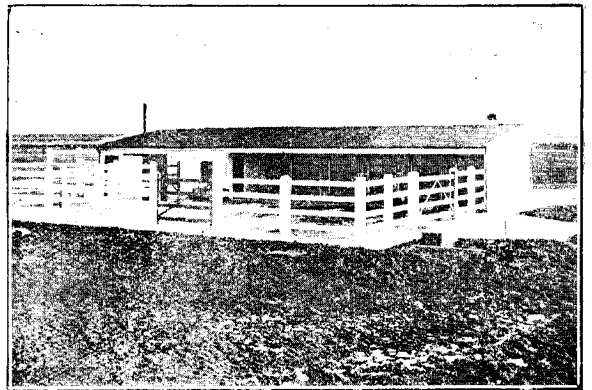


ANOTHER SECTION OF THE WAIHOPAI ESTUARY.

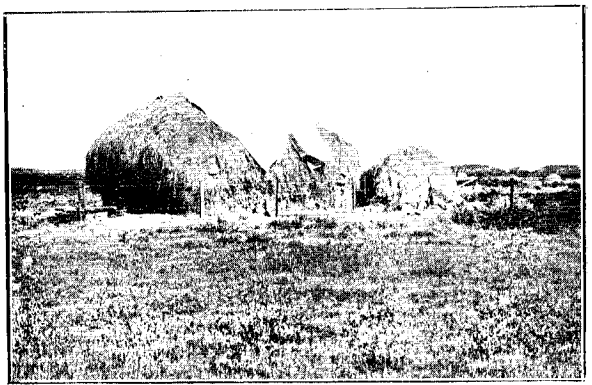
Brought into cultivation since the embankments have been completed and the water shut off.



PART OF THE DAIRY HERD.



CONCRETE MILKING-SHED, DAIRY BUILDINGS, AND YARDS.



FIRST HAY CROP ON FIRST SECTION, UNWATERED.
(Ten months after surface-sowing on burnt waewae banks.)

The rations supplied were of good quality, and no complaint was made as to the quantity or quality of the food issued according to the amended ration scale.

On the 18th August last the bootmakers' shop at this Prison was closed down, and the tradesmen and plant transferred to Paparua Prison. The dismantling of the unoccupied parts of the Prison has been proceeded with, and the material secured sent to Paparua and other prisons in the Dominion.

A party is still being provided for work at the Borough Council's quarry, and the balance of the prisoners are employed on work inside the Prison, chiefly cleaning and domestic.

As usual, Divine service has been conducted on Sundays in the Prison during the year.

NAPIER PRISON.

On the 1st January, 1918, there were in custody eleven males and two females, while during the year 134 males and seven females were received.

The greatest number of cases of sickness at any one time during the year was ten males: eight cases were sent to District Hospital. The majority of the cases of sickness occurred during the time of the influenza epidemic, five of the hospital cases were from this cause and two of the deaths. Rather a strenuous time was experienced during above period by both officers and prisoners.

There have been thirteen minor prison offences against eight prisoners.

The prisoners have been employed in the Borough Council's quarry, Coote Road, and in gardening, &c. The sum of £158 19s. 4d. has been placed to the credit of the Public Account for mortar, sand, stone, and other material from the quarry, maintenance for prisoners while under medical treatment, and other items.

The conduct of the officers, both permanent and temporary, I am pleased to state has been very satisfactory.

Mr. Holdsworth, Official Visitor, has visited the Prison once, and expressed himself as generally satisfied with the appearance of the Prison and the manner in which it was conducted. Mrs. Richmond, Official Visitor, has paid a number of visits to the Female Prison.

I have to thank the Prison Surgeon for his attention to prisoners during the trying time experienced when so many were sick with the epidemic of influenza.

Religious services have been held on every Sunday throughout the year.

NEW PLYMOUTH PRISON.

The prisoners have been employed mostly at quarry and gardening work, but with the class of prisoners we have it is difficult to carry on the work to advantage, as direct supervision is absolutely necessary. Considering, however, the obstacles we have to contend with I may state on the whole the prisoners employed in the quarry have worked satisfactorily. The prisoners employed in the garden are more trustworthy as far as safe custody is concerned. Better results would be obtained if we had more ground to cultivate, so as to relieve the quarry of some who are not altogether suitable for quarry-work. The men who are employed in the garden appear to take some interest in their work and give very little trouble.

We have commenced excavating a site for a piggery in a suitable position about 5 chains from any road or dwelling.

The cash received for metal and gravel amounts to £683 14s., and for the sale of vegetables £44 3s.

The conduct of the prisoners on the whole has been good, although we had twenty-four offences dealt with by the Visiting Justices against seven prisoners. By punishing these prisoners as they have been punished for their gaol "heroism" we have saved a number of good men from punishment who are desirous of doing their best for the Department and for themselves if protected by the officers against the agitators and would-be gaol "heroes," who are up against authority in their endeavours to get other prisoners to commit themselves against the regulations. My experience is that the majority of prisoners prefer discipline to slackness, as it gives them a chance to make good under the protection of the officers instead of being dominated by the gaol bully.

There was only one attempt to escape during the year, by a prisoner who made a bold dash for liberty. He was recaptured almost immediately. I feel well pleased with the combination of the officers on this occasion, as every one must have been at his post and acted promptly; also, one officer must have displayed great activity in outflanking or cutting the prisoner off so readily.

The health of the prisoners on the whole has been very good with the exception of the epidemic of influenza, which struck us very suddenly, but not severely. I am pleased to report that under the medical officer's direction the staff did all that was possible for the care of the prisoners, and the manner the prisoners accepted the discomfort of fumigations and other exacting precautionary measures was very gratifying to the staff.

Ministers of the various religious denominations under a set plan conducted services every Sunday, and I can safely say that all the ministers expressed themselves as well pleased with the respect and attention they have received from the prisoners. I have not received a report against any prisoner for misconduct at any of the services.

Mr. Bligh, of the White Cross League, of Sydney, lectured to the prisoners, also had a quiet talk to several of the prisoners separately.

PAPARUA PRISON.

With the exception of the sickness caused by the prevailing influenza epidemic the health of the prisoners has been good. One prisoner died during the year of bronchial pneumonia. He was removed to the Christchurch Hospital for treatment, and died three days later.

There was one escape in the year, during heavy fog. The escapee was recaptured a few days later, and sentenced at the Supreme Court to an additional term of hard labour.

The conduct of the prisoners has been good, very few punishments being found necessary. I attribute this to their healthy surroundings, the open-air life on the Prison farm having a distinctly beneficial and reformatory effect, which result cannot be looked for within the four walls of a city prison.

The spiritual welfare of the prisoners has been well looked after by the Rev. P. Revell, Rev. Father Leen, the members of the Brethren faith, and Staff Captain Barnes, of the Salvation Army; frequent services being held forenoon and afternoon on Sundays.

The bootmakers' shop has been transferred here from the Lyttelton Prison, and a large number of boots and slippers manufactured and supplied to other prisons and mental hospitals.

Work on the west cell-range of the permanent Prison building has proceeded vigorously throughout the year, the actual building work being now practically completed. The pitched portion of the roof has been covered with concrete roofing-tiles, made at the Prison. The cells situated on the ground floor have been finished, and now all that remains to be done to complete this wing of the building is the finishing of the cells on the first floor and the usual work on the exterior of the building. The concrete foundations of east cell-range have been laid down, and one course of blocks laid all round. The walls of the kitchen block have been built to the required height, and the roof is ready for placing in position. This building contains, in addition to the basement, kitchen, bathroom, laundry, bakehouse, and two storerooms. In the basement are two compartments, one for coal and the other for coal storage. The iron grille doors for the kitchen block have been made in the Prison blacksmith's shop. Concrete foundations have been placed under the four wooden buildings of the original temporary-cell block, and the yard has been divided into two by means of a concrete-block wall. Lavatory basins and sanitary conveniences have been built. These will be drained to a septic tank, which is being built in the rear of the buildings. A second temporary-cell block of buildings containing two cell-houses, with accommodation for fifty-eight prisoners, also kitchen with bathroom and officers' quarters attached, and the administrative block, containing offices, storeroom, visiting-rooms, and bootmaking-shop, has been completed. The yard has been divided into four by concrete-block walls. Lavatory basins and sanitary conveniences have been provided. The sewerage from the latter is disposed of by means of a septic tank, while the lavatory basins have been drained into soakage sumps. All the buildings in this block have been electrically lighted, the energy being obtained from the Lake Coleridge system. Three new officers' cottages have been completed, a fourth is built roof-high, and the foundations of a fifth have been laid. The Gaoler's residence has also been built to the height of window-sills. The old wooden cottage previously occupied by the farm-manager has been moved back 75 yards and placed on a concrete foundation; a concrete-block washhouse and bathroom have been added to this cottage, a hot-water system has been installed, and the cottage completely renovated. All new cottages on the property are being built of concrete blocks, and the roofs are covered with concrete tiles, the whole of the blocks and tiles being made in the Prison workshops by our own labour. A septic tank has been built to dispose of the sewerage from cottages. Nos. 1, 3, 4, and 5 cottages are now connected, and the tank is giving complete satisfaction. The five completed cottages now on the farm have been fitted throughout with electric light, the energy for which is carried across the farm on a line of reinforced-concrete poles, leading from the transformer station near the temporary Prison. A concrete cylinder well has been sunk 52 ft., and will shortly be finished. The shed used for making concrete blocks has been duplicated; it now covers twice the area previously occupied, thus greatly increasing the output of blocks.

In connection with building-work at the Prison 20,000 concrete blocks have been made, and 27,300 concrete roofing-tiles.

The farm has been supplied with a large number of concrete fencing-posts of different patterns; concrete droppers have also been made, and fences erected.

The new road on the boundary of the Prison property is being pushed on, and fenced in as the work proceeds.

There are in all 400 acres of the farm area under cultivation, 48 acres being lucerne, 15 acres barley, 24 acres potatoes, 23 acres mangolds, 33 acres silver-beet, 75 acres oats, 25 acres wheat: the remainder has been laid down in various grasses. 655 lambs and forty-three pigs were bred on the farm, their sale adding considerably to the year's revenue.

Cash credits amounting to £2,013 10s. 9d. were received and paid into the Public Account.

Fire practice has taken place weekly with the manual engine.

I regret having to record the death during the influenza epidemic of Motor-driver Warder C. G. Hall; he was a bright, intelligent, and efficient officer, and his loss is much regretted.

The conduct of the staff, which has been largely increased during the year, has been very satisfactory.

Mr. Macpherson, Fields Supervisor, has visited frequently and given advice on farming matters generally.

ROTO-AIRA ROAD-MAKING PRISON CAMP.

There were forty-five prisoners in custody at the beginning of the year, twenty-four prisoners have been received during the year. twelve hard-labour prisoners were discharged, and three reformatory detention prisoners were released by the Prisons Board.

The work of forming and metalling the road and bridging the various streams still continues to progress favourably, although to a large extent the work has been delayed through bad weather, more especially during the winter, when work was practically at a standstill owing to heavy snowfalls. Four bridges have been erected during the year, and the road is now metalled for a distance of about six miles and a half. A very fine metal-pit has been discovered on the road-line near the Whakapapanui Stream. It is found that this metal makes a much better road than the crushed metal. Tenders for a three-days-per-week motor mail-service from Waimarino to Tokaanu have been called, and it is expected that this will be the means of attracting a great deal of tourist traffic over the Waimarino-Tokaanu Road.

The conduct of the officers has been good.

Rations have been of good quality and regularly supplied.

Divine service has been held on several occasions.

WAIKERIA REFORMATORY FOR MEN.

The conduct of the prisoners on the whole has been satisfactory. There were no escapes throughout the year.

The health of the prisoners has been good. There was one admission to Hamilton Hospital through an accident. While in Hospital the patient contracted influenza, and is still unable to return to the Reformatory. Other cases of illness were of a mild nature and were treated in the Reformatory. While the influenza epidemic was raging in this district every precaution was taken under the direction of the Medical Officer to prevent it getting a strong hold. Thanks to these precautions there was only one case, which was of a mild nature.

A new camp has been established on the north end of the farm to accommodate a number of prisoners and the necessary officers. The prisoners in this camp will be employed clearing and burning scrub and bringing in new land ready for the plough. A second camp under canvas five miles from the main building was also established to enable the metalling of the Tokanui Mental Hospital Road to be carried out. The conduct of the men in both camps is excellent.

Good progress was made with the building of the administrative division of the institution. The fences in one of the exercise-yards have been shifted, and the sanitary arrangements have been so arranged as to allow the prisoners more room to exercise. A large amount of excavating on the site has been carried on, and it is hoped to have the hill levelled off on the west side of the building shortly, also the permanent levels taken and portion of the ground laid out. The electricians have fixed the wires from the power-house to No. 1 camp and dairy: it is certainly a great improvement. A wire was also taken over to the temporary stables, and three lights were fixed. A four-roomed cottage is in course of erection, and should be finished early in the New Year. An addition has been made to No. 4 cottage, and several minor repairs to other cottages. The grounds round the cottages have all been laid out, and the officers appear to be taking a good deal of pride in keeping them in order. Two rooms at the end of the cell-range have been turned into a temporary hospital for sick prisoners.

Two gangs of prisoners have been forming the road through the Tokanui Mental Hospital ground. The formation of the road is now finished. Seven culverts were laid, ranging from 12 in. to 3 ft. The metalling is almost finished; there now remain only 10 chains to do. The procuring of the metal was very difficult, not altogether on account of the long distance we had to cart it, but in one instance a tram-line had to be laid down a steep bank (1 in 1) and a small engine used to haul it up 80 ft. before the metal could be carted on to the road.

Good progress has been made on the farm. The ground is being systematically fenced so that each paddock will have a gate leading on to the roads which are running north and south. Three miles of fencing have been completed. 300 acres have been cleared of fern and manuka and ploughed, and 500 acres burned. A large area has also had the tutu and manuka stumps grubbed out. A considerable amount of farm draining has been done, bringing in valuable land that was covered with water most of the year. This work can only be carried out with any satisfaction in the summer months, on account of the stream rising and backing the water up the drains.

The most important industry on the farm is dairying, and under the present management it is showing very satisfactory results. This year in the month of December our cheque for milk and cream was over £60 for forty cows. A number of cows were purchased early in the year, also a pedigree bull. All these animals are of the Shorthorn breed. The bull and most of the cows have been registered in the Herd-book. In a year or two we should have a very fine herd. The cows are tested monthly, and by this means we will be able to cull out and dispose of all unprofitable animals.

Owing to various causes the pig industry has not yielded as satisfactory returns as in previous years. Provision has been made this year to keep a supply of cereals on hand, and our stock will be increased very rapidly, as there are a number of young pigs coming on.

The amount of crops sown is as follows: 5 acres in barley, 80 acres in oats, 10 acres in potatoes, 3 acres in maize, 50 acres in grass, 1 acre in pumpkins, 2 acres in peas, 5 acres in wheat, 15 acres in mangolds, 10 acres in swedes, 1 acre in linseed, 2 acres in lucerne, 1 acre in carrots, 40 acres reserved for hay. All the crops are showing good growth, though the season was very late. The lucerne and linseed are only experimental crops and appear to be very promising. A large vegetable-garden is also kept in good order.

The orchard of 7 acres has been ploughed and disked, and all the trees have been pruned and sprayed at intervals. A new orchard has been started on the flat land close to the main road, in which 500 trees have been planted. They are showing wonderful growth for the short time they have been planted.

The ground for the new apiary was laid down in grass, and all the hives have since been shifted to their new quarters round the ground. A trellis-work fence has been erected round the apiary and a rose hedge has been planted.

There have been several additions to the poultry-houses. A building comprising four rooms has been provided—one for the brooder, one for the incubators, one as a storeroom, and the last for a boiler-room. There has been a large addition to the poultry in fowls, ducks, and turkeys.

One man has been employed all the year trapping, digging out, and poisoning rabbits. By this means we have very few of these destructive animals on the farm.

Several stacks of oats and barley were cut into chaff early in the year.

The blacksmith's shop is one of the most essential things on the farm. A large amount of horseshoeing, repairing of implements, buggies, wagons, and general repairs are done. Blacksmithing for the Public Works is also carried out.

Cash returns for the year are as follow: Cream and milk, £434 18s.; vegetables, £161 8s.; pigs, £86 7s.; poultry and eggs, £90; stock, £310 14s. 3d.; sheep-skins, £272 15s.; tallow, £44 3s. 4d.; bread and meat to officers, £100; wool, £11 9s. 2d.

Divine service was conducted by the Revs. Shaw and Henderson.

The Visiting Justices, Messrs. Teasdale and Richards, visited the Reformatory at intervals. Both gentlemen take a great interest in the welfare of the inmates.

Unfortunately the Reformatory Aid Society had a severe check on account of the influenza epidemic, and no meetings could be held. With the Christmas holidays following, all meetings have been postponed to early in the New Year. The secretary of this society is to be congratulated on the energy he is exerting to make a success of it.

WELLINGTON PRISONS.

It is gratifying to note that the conduct of the staff during the year was exceptionally good, only two officers having been reported for being absent from duty without permission, one being reprimanded and the other fined and warned. I have to thank the staff generally for the support accorded to me in carrying out the duties and maintaining the discipline of the Prison.

The conduct of the prisoners on the whole has been very satisfactory. Although 1,101 males and 129 females were dealt with, only 133 prisoners were reported for having committed 176 offences against the regulations.

Frank Bennier was executed at the Terrace Prison on the 19th January for the murder of his wife.

The supplies of rations and other articles were up to standard and delivered with promptness.

The health of the prisoners generally was very good, but the influenza epidemic which raged throughout the Dominion during the latter part of the year was responsible for laying up in bed twenty-eight males. Twelve were removed to the Hospital, where I regret to say three died. The others on recovery were returned to the Prison.

I deeply regret to record the death of Warder William Goddard on the 22nd November, 1918, from influenza. He was a fearless, conscientious, and trustworthy officer, and always performed his duties with tact and ability.

Altogether fourteen male officers were affected by the influenza scourge.

Divine services were held each Sunday by the various denominations. By permission of the Inspector of Prisons the Salvation Army band accompanied the captain (who conducted the service) quarterly and played selections of sacred music, which was much appreciated by the prisoners, as was also the entertainment on Christmas Day given to the females, through the kind intercession of Edwin Arnold, Esq., Visiting Justice.

The Visiting Justices and Official Visitors deserve the thanks of the Department for the attention they gave in visiting the Prison. Mr. Arnold, V.J., made forty-five visits, and Mr. Hume, V.J., twenty-four visits. The lady Official Visitors made regular weekly visits to the female prisoners, and Messrs. T. Mills and John Holdsworth, Official Visitors, made several visits and gave interviews to male and female prisoners.

There were forty males and thirteen females committed to the Prison for curative treatment during the year.

The Point Halswell prisoners were employed on the Beach Road widening and crowning it, excavating on Prison site, clearing the fire-breaks, removing cable from the sea, preparing fencing-wire, and making staples (which are disposed of to other prisons), weeding and planting trees, and cutting grass round magazines.

Two cows were purchased, and they have produced three calves and supplied 80 gallons of milk, from the 19th November till the 31st December, to the Terrace and Mount Cook Prisons. Pigs (weaners) have been purchased, and when fattened twenty-six were sold, realizing £106 14s. 2d.

Brickmaking at Mount Cook was continued during the year, 851,000 bricks having been manufactured in nine months of the year, and 517,250, of the value of £1,444 5s. 6d., sold to Government Departments and private institutions.

FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT.

REPORTS OF THE HONORARY PROBATION OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1919.

REV. F. R. JEFFREYS, AUCKLAND.

The year's work has been much the same as in previous years, and the results have in my opinion more than ever emphasized previous statements made by me in annual reports concerning the inestimable value to the community of the benefits of the general principles of probation. Nine months ago I told some of our Judges that I could without exaggeration state that, through the medium of the Probation Act, I had been enabled since assuming office in July, 1915, to save at least one hundred young people from having to face life with the prison brand upon them. From an economic point of view alone it is impossible to realize what this means to the community. From a moral point of view the value is still greater. Regarded from the mere pounds-shillings-and-pence question, one has only to think that imprisonment means a considerable cost to the State for the prisoner alone. Food, clothing, light, and supervision must proportionately increase, even in a large prison, for every additional prisoner; prison gratuities to the prisoner have to be paid, and even in the case of an average good workman the earning-power of his work in gaol cannot recompense the State for the outlay involved. It stands to reason that much prison work is of an unproductive nature for the State. Also, if the prisoner be a married man with a young family it almost always means that the wife and children must be supported by the local Charitable Aid Board, and thus become a burden on the taxpayer. Further, another important factor is that restitution to aggrieved persons becomes practically impossible. On the contrary, probation saves the State from the maintenance, care, and supervision of the delinquent, the Charitable Aid Board is saved from maintaining the man's family, the aggrieved person has his loss made good, and the community has the man's services in some necessary work that makes for its efficiency. From the moral viewpoint I know of nothing better that can humanely be done that will check a young man from a life of crime than to make him work and maintain his family, discharge his social obligations, and out of his own hard-earned money recompense the person he has wronged. Enforced restitution from a young man's own earnings has an infinitely greater moral effect for good than gaoling, feeding, and lodging him without causing him any individual responsibility for his maintenance. It is because of the scores of concrete illustrations of the benefits of probation that I have now before me that I long to see the general principles of probation more widely applied in the administration of Justice in our Dominion.

It has again been a most encouraging year to your officer in that the constant co-operation of Judges, Magistrates, gaol officials, and police has been given to him in every possible way, and his recommendations have almost invariably been acted on. Without this co-operation the work could not be done. One of the most pleasing features of the year has been the behaviour of the probationers themselves, especially during the time of stress and strain of the influenza epidemic, when all regular work was completely disorganized. The probationers generally, with few exceptions, regard the officer in charge of them as their friend and guide, and only occasionally has it been necessary to resort to arrest and similar harsh methods. When arrest has to be resorted to the advice, warning, or imprisonment given by the Court has had the desired effect. During the year many of my probationers have returned from active service, after having made good to the full in service for the Empire. Imprisonment in their cases would have deprived the nation of the most valuable services that they have rendered to the nation in her hour of need.

I commenced the year with 103 probationers, and ended it with ninety-eight still under my care. During the year I received from our Courts seventy-two cases for various periods as follows: Two for three months, five for six months, twenty-three for twelve months, four for eighteen months, twenty-five for two years, thirteen for three years. Of these two defaulted and were gazetted for arrest, a failure of 2·7 per cent. Several cases were received on transfer from other districts. The orders issued by the Courts for payments to be made by the probationers committed to my care were, for costs of prosecution, £219 6s. 4d., and for restitution £172 4s. 11d.; the bulk of this has been duly collected. Owing to the large amount being paid to me in restitution the Department opened a deposit account for me in the Bank of New Zealand in April, 1918, and by the 31st March, 1919, I had paid into this account the sum of £531 8s. 7d., the major portion of which belonged to orders made in previous years. I have given these figures to prove my statement made earlier in this report that by the advantages of probation the aggrieved persons benefit as well as the probationers.

It often happens in taking a probationer from the Court that it is necessary to find him in clothes and lodging or to assist the family in various ways. In this connection much important work can be done by the Probation Officer because of his social service organization behind him; but it sometimes means giving assistance that is really too heavy a burden thus to be borne, and the State might well set aside an allowance to its Probation Officers for the purpose of putting young delinquents on their feet again.

Throughout the year the women and girls who have been placed on probation have been supervised by my co-worker, Sister Constance, whose tactful, kindly, and firm methods have been a great factor in helping many delinquents to redeem the past. The Door of Hope, an unsectarian institution for preventive work among girls, has been of great assistance, and time after time I

have made free use of this and have placed girls there who require discipline before placing them out in situations. To Mrs. Drew, the Matron, her staff, and the authorities of this institution I wish to record my gratitude.

Crimes Amendment Probationers: On the decease of Mr. Brakenrig in September, 1918, I took over this branch of work also, and have had an average of forty probationers under my care. This work would have been quite impossible without assistance, and so the Department sent me a clerk from Head Office in December last. The assistance thus given has been of inestimable value to me. During the six months that I have carried on this branch of work I have paid out to probationers about £225 on account of prison gratuities and earnings. These payments are made by voucher in small amounts only, the Probation Officer acting as trustee of prisoners' earnings in order to safeguard against any tendency to squander.

Informal Probationers: During the year I have had quite a number of these cases under my care, and with few exceptions they have been most satisfactory.

With the three classes of probationers, averaging never less than 150 a month, my hands have been pretty full, but no effort that can be made to help young men and women make good the mistakes of the past is labour lost.

My business is so arranged that it is almost impossible for young offenders to come in contact with old offenders. Separate days are allocated for various classes of probationers to report, and thus they are kept quite apart. Most of my probationers report weekly, and it is a common thing on report days to have from fifty to seventy reports. The weekly report is of greater value than the statutory monthly report. A large amount of correspondence is done in keeping in close touch with probationers who have been placed in positions in country districts. Some hundreds of letters have been written in this connection.

Finally, I would like to refer to the most promising feature of my work as general Probation Officer for the district. During the year quite a number of parents and relatives have come to me for help in the case of young folk who were beginning to go astray, and many of these have been handed over to my care privately, and thus prevented from going any further in wrongdoing and getting into the clutches of the law. I have invariably found that in all departments of social work efforts to prevent wrongdoing are far more effective than efforts to reform the wrongdoer.

REV. FRANK RULE, CHRISTCHURCH.

During the year ending 31st March, 1919, the work of the Probation Officer under the First Offenders Act, 1908, has continued to supply a real need in our Courts. The increasing number of first offenders who are thus saved from the not pleasant experience of spending a longer or shorter time among criminals and becoming familiarized with the inside of penal institutions is surely a matter for thankfulness. If in this way only a few are prevented from embarking on a life of crime, then all the labour is worth while. During the year our Magistrates have made considerable use of the system of "informal probation," and both men and women have been enabled to turn a dangerous corner to where their attempts to recover themselves are both fostered and encouraged. It is gratifying to see the number who, having made a slip, are thus enabled to recover themselves. During the year fifty have been on probation, reporting regularly; fourteen of these have been ordinary probationers and twenty-six informal. Six have been transferred to other districts, three have completed their terms and been discharged, while one has been sent to an inebriate institution, leaving forty on our books.

MR. F. G. CUMMING, DUNEDIN.

The past year has been a most successful one, both with regard to the ordinary Court work and the real work of the Probation Officer. During the year quite a large number of young people—men and women—have been placed upon probation, and with one or two exceptions have done well and are making good. In this way they are proving that the Judge or Magistrate was fully justified in giving them the chance recommended by the Probation Officer.

At the present time I have upon my books something like twenty-two probationers, the majority of whom are first offenders, and the balance those who have been released upon probation by the Prisons Board. From the latter class I have very little trouble; indeed, it is a pleasure to help these men, because there is distinctly seen in them an earnest desire to as far as possible have the past cleaned up and forgotten. I think the Prison Board and the Department are to be highly commended for the magnificent work done and the trouble they take in dealing with this class of criminal. It will be highly gratifying to them to know from those who handle and help these men and women that in most cases a real and true reformation takes place and that they become law-abiding citizens.

It is pleasing to report that at this centre the Probation Officer has the greatest possible assistance from Judges, Magistrates, and police. No young man or woman's case is hurriedly dealt with; the Probation Officer is always consulted, and every chance is given him to make a recommendation. I am grateful to these gentlemen for the opportunities given, and by which I am led to believe that the work done by the Probation Officer is at least satisfactory to them.

Quite a large amount of money has been collected during the year on behalf of the Department. One probationer has refunded just on £150, so you will gather that if such a person had been sent to prison the State would not only have been put to the expense of keeping the individual, but the amount repaid would not have been forthcoming. I state frankly that the getting of the amounts due by these people is not difficult; indeed, the probationer who wants to do the right thing is most anxious to meet the claims made upon him.

I must further note the fact that the past year stands out as a record one for the district so far as placing people upon probation is concerned. This does not imply an increase in crime, but rather suggests that more use is made of the Probation Act to create a new hope in the man or woman who comes before the Courts.

I again repeat, the young person who gets the benefit of probation should be put on a lengthy, not a short, term, thus giving the Probation Officer the right to make a recommendation to the authorities for the remission of part of the sentence if the conduct of the probationer is decidedly good. This I am sure would be an encouragement to the person concerned to do his best to get his complete liberty.

The strong point of my work lies largely in getting to the homes of the probationer. I find that the parents and friends are pleased to meet me, and this means their assistance, which results in good; at all events I find it so here in Dunedin.

MR. A. McLEAN, INVERCARGILL.

I beg to report that during the year fourteen first-offender probationers were received—four from the Supreme Court, nine from the Magistrate's Court, and one on transfer from another district. Two were on the register at the beginning of the year, making a total of sixteen dealt with. The periods of probation were three for three years, three for two years, four for one year, one for eighteen months, and two for six months. Seven were transferred to other districts, two completed their probation satisfactorily, and seven remained under my charge at the close of the year. Orders were made for restitution in seven cases—two by the Supreme Court and five by the Magistrate's Court—amounting to £60 7s.; and costs of prosecution in five cases—four by the Supreme Court and one by the Magistrate's Court—to the amount of £57 6s. 4d. The amounts collected during the year were—restitution money, £61 13s.; and costs of prosecution, £3 16s. 4d. It is gratifying to record there were no failures.

The friendly feeling which has subsisted between probationers and their Probationer Officer was well maintained. Probationers were visited at their homes, and on various occasions parents were interviewed and conferred with on matters concerning the welfare of youthful probationers. By securing the confidence of probationers opportunities were presented to give direction to their activities by personal effort and by suggestion and counsel, at the same time giving due consideration to natural ability and temperament. The year's work was satisfactory, and the time, thought, and personal effort given in forwarding the welfare of probationers fully justified by the results. Probation is disciplinary, and the probationer is taught to regulate his life in accordance with the conditions imposed, and he is trained in self-control by being subject to control.

MR. T. P. MILLS, WELLINGTON.

There were seventeen offenders on the register at the beginning of the year, forty were placed on probation and eleven were transferred from other districts, sixty-eight in all passing through my hands during the year. Five completed the period of their probation satisfactorily, twenty-one were transferred to other districts, four left the Dominion with the Expeditionary Forces, three received sentences of imprisonment, leaving thirty-five on the register at the 31st March, 1919.

Two only of those imprisoned lapsed into criminal ways; the third refused to obey orders as a conscientious objector in camp, and was sentenced at a Court-martial. The first two were both mental weaklings, and may never reform.

In quite a number of cases under review men whose characters have not been altogether unblemished have been extended probation. This certainly increases the task of supervision, but on the whole the Courts' leniency has been amply justified, for in a period extending over almost three years there have been only two distinct cases of failure, the total number passing through my hands being 116.

Outside those who have been granted probation, there are over thirty on my lists who have been convicted and ordered to come up for sentence when called upon, and placed under my supervision. Only one of these has lapsed into criminal ways, thus emphasizing the advantages of extending the benefits of the probationary system.

Table A.
PRISON ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS.
TABLE SHOWING ACCOMMODATION, NUMBER OF PRISONERS, ETC., AT THE SEVERAL PRISONS OF THE DOMINION DURING THE YEAR 1918.

Name of Prison.	Number of Persons for whom there is Accommodation.						Number received during Year.				Number discharged or transferred.				Number in Prison at End of Year.			
	In Separate Cells for One Prisoner.			In Wards or Cells for more than One Prisoner.			Beginning of Year.				Number received during Year.				Number discharged or transferred.			
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Addington ..	270	7	52	222	35	52	..	53	53	53	..	55	..	50	50	..	50	50
Auckland ..	137	35	246	116	35	246	793	83	876	877	784	93	231	14	245	154	..	245
Invercargill ..	62	1	116	58	..	116	148	2	..	..	110	2	..	..	154	..	..	154
Kaingaroa ..	108	..	..	..	..	56	30	..	..	..	35	..	..	..	35	..	..	35
Lytelton ..	7	..	..	..	..	56	326	..	..	..	347	..	..	..	35	..	..	35
Napier ..	53	3	13	11	8	13	134	7	..	..	131	9	14	..	14	..	..	14
New Plymouth ..	110	4	33	64	4	33	91	..	..	..	85	..	..	..	42	..	..	42
Paparoa (Templeton) ..	39	..	64	45	..	64	138	..	..	..	24	..	..	..	117	..	..	117
Roto-aira (Waimarino) ..	102	..	99	99	..	99	95	..	..	..	73	..	..	..	45	..	..	45
Waikaria ..	192	31	202	172	33	30	929	99	1,028	1,086	964	122	137	7	121	..	..	121
Wellington ..	70	24	23	22	42	1	809	46	855	852	805	47	26	..	144	..	..	144
Minor prisons ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	..	..	26
Totals ..	1,150	105	1,007	898	158	109	3,517	290	3,807	3,768	3,440	328	975	71	1,046	..	..	..

Name of Prison.	Greatest Number in Prison at One Time.		Least Number in Prison at One Time.		Daily Average Number of Prisoners.		(a.) Greatest Number ill at any One Time.		(b.) Admissions to Hospital during Year.		Sickness.						(c.) Number of Distinct Prisoners ill on One or More Occasions, with Number of Occasions, Total Number of Separate Illnesses, Total Number of Days, and Daily Average on Sick-list.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Once.	Twice.	Three Times.	Four Times.	Five Times.	Six Times and Over.	Number of Separate Illnesses.	Total Number of Days ill.	Daily Average on Sick-list.
	T.	T.	T.	T.	T.	T.	T.	T.	T.	T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Addington ..	239	60	199	40	214.30	49.16	110	2	..	17	3	3	..	..	..	..	32	545	1.49
Auckland ..	157	24	157	11	129.90	230.41	92	2	..	153	1	..	..	..	..	..	155	2,625	7.19
Invercargill ..	61	..	111	..	129.90	129.90	21	..	..	99	32	7	1	..	..	..	188	2,143	5.87
Kaingaroa ..	64	..	53	..	36.34	36.34	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lytelton ..	24	..	21	..	38.28	38.28	..	..	..	24	1	..	..	..	1	..	31	586	1.61
Napier ..	58	26	33	2	13.40	14.60	10	..	..	11	3	..	..	..	..	..	17	178	0.49
New Plymouth ..	120	58	64	..	40.73	40.73	10	..	..	14	2	2	2	..	..	..	32	255	0.70
Paparoa (Templeton) ..	48	..	34	..	95.50	95.50	53	..	..	60	14	1	..	..	..	1	97	1,224	3.35
Roto-aira (Waimarino) ..	124	48	80	..	40.26	40.26	3	..	..	6	2	1	..	..	..	..	13	131	0.36
Waikaria ..	172	30	102	13	109.20	109.20	5	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	143	0.39
Wellington ..	96	12	108	1	133.48	150.48	20	2	1	35	16	..	..	..	..	1	85	1,121	3.07
Minor prisons ..	..	..	..	..	25.59	27.09	7	1	1	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	42	0.12
Totals ..	1,163	128	1,291	781	896.98	981.95	318	12	3	450	74	15	4	1	2	2	681	8,993	24.64

Table A1.
TABLE SHOWING PARTICULARS, FOR EACH PRISON, OF PRISONERS AT BEGINNING AND END OF YEAR, AND RECEIVED AND DISCHARGED DURING YEAR 1918.

	Auckland		Kaitiaki		Waikanae		New Plymouth		Rotorua		Napier		Wellington		Addington		Lyttelton		Papara (Templeton)		Invercargill		Minor Prisons		Totals		Grand Totals			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
(a.) In prison at beginning of the year—																														
Undergoing—																														
Simple imprisonment	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	27	2	29			
Under three months' hard labour	13	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	48	1	48			
Three months' hard labour and under one year	27	15	4	17	3	17	3	17	3	17	3	17	3	17	3	17	3	17	3	17	3	17	3	4	179	31	210			
One year's hard labour and upwards	82	6	54	35	26	35	26	35	26	35	26	35	26	35	26	35	26	35	26	35	26	35	26	384	39	423				
Detention as habitual criminals	45	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	47	1	48				
Reformatory detention	26	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	165	31	196				
Detention under Prisoners Detention Act, 1915	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	4			
Sentenced to death	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1		
Total criminals in prison	202	24	58	99	32	99	32	99	32	99	32	99	32	99	32	99	32	99	32	99	32	99	32	15	853	106	959			
For trial or on remand	9	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	7	1	34	3	37		
Total in prison for criminal offences	211	24	58	99	33	99	33	99	33	99	33	99	33	99	33	99	33	99	33	99	33	99	22	1	887	109	996			
Debtors		
Lunatics		
Prisoners of war	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	11		
Total persons in prison	222	24	58	99	33	99	33	99	33	99	33	99	33	99	33	99	33	99	33	99	33	99	22	1	898	109	1,007			
(b.) Prisoners received during the year—																														
Sentenced to—																														
Simple imprisonment	12	6	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	12	..	45	9	54		
Under three months' hard labour	327	34	..	..	13	..	13	..	13	..	13	..	13	..	13	..	13	..	13	..	13	..	253	3	1,131	91	1,222		
Three months' hard labour and under one year	108	20	..	..	16	..	16	..	16	..	16	..	16	..	16	..	16	..	16	..	16	..	54	3	363	50	413		
One year's hard labour and upwards	37	1	1	..	3	..	3	..	3	..	3	..	3	..	3	..	3	..	3	..	3	..	15	2	267	14	281			
Hard labour and reformatory detention	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	27	3	30			
Simple imprisonment and sent to an industrial school	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1		
Hard labour and declared habitual criminal	10	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	27	..	27		
Habitual criminal without further sentence shown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2		
Death		
Under conviction for sentence	10		
Criminals for reformatory treatment only	35	2	..	..	3	..	3	..	3	..	3	..	3	..	3	..	3	..	3	..	3	..	21	3	103	16	119		
Total new prisoners received	550	63	1	..	37	..	37	..	37	..	37	..	37	..	37	..	37	..	37	..	37	..	371	12	2,001	188	2,189			
On remand or for trial	164	20	..	..	34	..	34	..	34	..	34	..	34	..	34	..	34	..	34	..	34	..	301	29	799	77	876		
Debtors	714	83	1	..	71	..	71	..	71	..	71	..	71	..	71	..	71	..	71	..	71	..	672	41	2,800	265	3,065			
Lunatics	7	..	..	..	5	..	5	..	5	..	5	..	5	..	5	..	5	..	5	..	5	..	35	..	62	..	62		
Prisoners of war	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	11	1	12			
Total new persons received	723	83	1	..	76	..	76	..	76	..	76	..	76	..	76	..	76	..	76	..	76	..	715	42	2,884	266	3,150			
On transfer or in transitu	70	..	29	..	15	..	15	..	15	..	15	..	15	..	15	..	15	..	15	..	15	..	94	4	633	24	657			
Grand totals	793	83	30	..	91	..	91	..	91	..	91	..	91	..	91	..	91	..	91	..	91	..	809	46	3,517	290	3,807			

Table A1—continued.
TABLE SHOWING PARTICULARS, FOR EACH PRISON, OF PRISONERS AT BEGINNING AND END OF YEAR, AND RECEIVED AND DISCHARGED DURING YEAR 1918—continued.

	Auckland.		Rangiora.		Waikato.		New Plymouth.		Rotorua.		Napier.		Wellington.		Addington.		Lyttelton.		Paparua (Templeton).		Invercargill.		Minor Prisons.		Totals.		Grand Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
(c.) Discharged during the year—																												
On expiration of sentence ..	460	68	18	..	38	..	30	..	12	..	48	4	554	90	..	31	171	..	54	..	43	1	279	6	1,707	200	1,907	125
On bail or probation ..	16	1	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	..	13	1	29	4	..	1	5	..	..	..	3	..	34	2	116	9	125	3
Pardoned ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	6	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	1	19	..	19	2
Died ..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	1
Executed ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1
Abandoned and not retaken ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Committed suicide ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Released on recommendation of Prisons Board ..	36	..	5	..	27	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	4	..	..	12	3	..	9	..	33	..	..	..	122	12	134	134
Total criminals discharged to freedom ..	519	69	23	..	65	..	46	..	15	..	66	5	594	94	..	44	181	..	64	..	83	1	315	8	1,971	221	2,192	125
Acquitted and after remand ..	163	19	..	..	..	..	18	..	..	..	4	..	136	18	..	8	66	..	..	..	..	..	29	2	416	47	463	463
Debtors ..	682	88	23	..	65	..	64	..	15	..	70	5	730	112	..	52	247	..	64	..	83	1	344	10	2,387	268	2,655	61
Lunatics transferred to mental hospitals ..	6	2	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	3	..	6	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	35	..	61	..	61	16
Total persons discharged from prison ..	690	88	23	..	65	..	69	..	15	..	74	5	738	112	..	55	253	..	64	..	83	1	386	11	2,460	272	2,732	77
Transferred to other prisons or to police ..	94	5	12	..	8	..	13	..	9	..	57	4	226	10	..	..	94	..	21	..	27	1	418	36	979	56	1,035	56
Grand totals ..	784	93	35	..	73	..	82	..	24	..	131	9	964	122	..	55	347	..	85	..	110	2	804	47	3,439	328	3,767	328
(d.) In prison at end of year—																												
Undergoing—																												
Simple imprisonment ..	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	7	8	15	15
Under three months' hard labour ..	16	1	..	..	7	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	14	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	9	..	44	1	45	45
Three months' hard labour and under one year ..	24	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	40	4	..	6	12	..	13	..	3	..	6	..	112	14	126	126
One year's hard labour and upwards ..	110	2	51	..	80	..	38	..	40	..	3	..	61	..	..	13	10	..	87	..	71	..	..	..	551	15	566	566
Detention as habitual criminals ..	39	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42	..	42	42
Reformatory detention ..	28	..	1	..	34	..	2	..	4	..	..	..	13	1	..	30	2	..	17	..	77	..	..	..	178	31	209	209
Detention under Prisoners Detention Act, 1915 ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	2
Sentenced to death ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total criminals in prison ..	221	13	53	..	121	..	42	..	45	..	9	..	132	6	..	50	25	..	117	..	154	..	17	..	936	69	1,005	1,005
For trial or on remand ..	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	5	1	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	38	2	40	40
In transit ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1
Total in prison for criminal offences ..	230	14	53	..	121	..	42	..	45	..	14	..	137	7	..	50	35	..	117	..	154	..	27	..	975	71	1,046	1,046
Debtors ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1
Lunatics ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Prisoners of war ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total persons in prison ..	231	14	53	..	121	..	42	..	45	..	14	..	137	7	..	50	35	..	117	..	154	..	27	..	976	71	1,047	1,047

Table B.
TABLE SHOWING DETAILS OF THE EXPENDITURE OF EACH PRISON FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1919.

—	Addington.	Auckland.	Invercargill.	Kaingaroa.	Lyttelton.	Napier.	New Plymouth.	Papamoa.	Roto-atua.	Waikeiria.	Wellington.	Police and Minor Gaols.	General Charges.	Total.
Daily average number of prisoners	(Males ..	218'04	140'32	56'05	33'79	15'50	42'62	108'46	41'02	116'92	126'18	25'59	..	924'49
	Females ..	15'21	0'01	..	..	0'96	..	..	..	..	12'10	1'50	..	78'94
	Both sexes	233'25	140'33	56'05	33'79	16'46	42'62	108'46	41'02	116'92	138'28	27'09	..	1,003'43
<i>Expenditure.</i>														
Salaries, war bonus, and allowances (including uniforms)	£ 1,165	£ 10,179	£ 5,093	£ 1,117	£ 1,901	£ 1,149	£ 1,655	£ 4,248	£ 1,534	£ 4,024	£ 7,698	£ 1,707	£ 3,169	£ 44,699
Clothing, bedding, &c.	70	972	202	120	614	10	30	545	29	102	335	23	3,213	6,265
Fuel, light, and water	221	1,296	372	45	193	97	158	233	60	149	740	254	40	3,858
Medicines, medical comforts, and hospital charges	70	165	14	32	67	14	36	51	7	40	205	40	..	741
Rations	544	3,180	2,390	1,033	513	235	571	1,409	838	2,181	2,260	1,100	219	16,473
Tobacco .. ..	..	260	28	7	17	4	28	80	45	51	50	4	1,124	1,698
Tools and materials for prison labour and expenses	3	619	93	14	8	3	29	615	58	226	452	6	60	2,186
Materials and expenses connected with brick-making .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,153	..	..	1,153
Expenses connected with prison farms .. ..	..	..	2,246	..	..	..	..	2,134	..	2,232	64	..	58	6,734
Expenses connected with tree-planting camps .. ..	..	..	..	517	..	..	..	..	1,203	..	..	..	46	1,766
Gratuities to prisoners on discharge	4	224	48	32	52	7	19	37	25	64	86	10	..	608
Payments to prisoners under the Crimes Amendment Act	175	525	529	43	25	5	6	142	18	577	92	..	..	2,137
Travelling-expenses, &c.	112	613	535	235	78	34	108	302	116	383	290	59	524	3,389
Administration of Crimes Amendment and First Offenders' Probation Acts .. ..	..	2	..	5	..	1	..	..	..	6	..	..	630	644
Compassionate allowances to widows of deceased officers .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	410	410
Miscellaneous expenditure	76	485	246	84	98	39	79	194	150	236	303	76	497	2,563
Totals	2,440	18,520	1,796	3,284	3,626	1,598	2,719	9,990	4,083	10,271	13,728	3,279	9,990	95,324
Less credits (including transfers from other Departments)	80	2,096	4,845	2,914	526	127	761	2,725	1,609	2,197	1,620	50	2,104	21,654
Net total expenditure	2,360	16,424	6,951	370	3,100	1,471	1,958	7,265	2,474	8,074	12,108	3,229	7,886	73,670

Table C.

PRISONERS.—OFFENCES AND EDUCATION.

TABLE SHOWING THE OFFENCES AND DEGREE OF EDUCATION OF DISTINCT CONVICTED PRISONERS (EXCLUDING MAORIS) RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1918.

Offences.	Superior Education.		Able to read and write.		Able to read only.		Unable to read.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Offences against the person—										
Convicted on indictment	48	2	..	..	..	..	48	2
Summarily convicted	50	3	..	..	1	..	51	3
Offences against property—										
Theft and deceit	2	278	21	1	..	3	..	284	21
Mischief	53	..	..	..	1	..	54	..
Miscellaneous—										
Vagrancy	109	18	1	..	4	1	114	19
Drunkenness	284	27	3	1	9	..	296	28
Others	2	703	61	2	..	10	3	717	64
Totals	4	1,525	132	7	1	28	4	1,564	137

Table D.

PRISONERS.—BIRTHPLACES, AGES, AND OFFENCES.

TABLE SHOWING THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF DISTINCT CONVICTED PRISONERS (EXCLUSIVE OF MAORIS) RECEIVED INTO GAOL DURING THE YEAR 1918, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO PRINCIPAL OFFENCE, BIRTHPLACE, AND AGE.

—	Offences against the Person.				Offences against Property.				Miscellaneous.						Totals.	
	Convicted on Indictment.		Summarily convicted.		Theft and Deccit.		Mischief.		Vagrancy.		Drunkenness.*		Other Offences.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Birthplaces—																
England and Wales ..	6	..	12	..	56	3	3	..	22	2	86	4	164	7	349	16
Scotland ..	4	..	3	..	16	..	3	..	15	..	38	..	44	5	123	5
Ireland ..	3	..	4	..	19	2	1	..	19	5	50	3	55	8	151	18
New Zealand ..	25	1	19	3	148	12	36	..	42	11	70	16	320	38	660	81
Australia ..	3	1	7	..	28	3	5	..	7	1	18	4	56	4	124	13
Other British possessions	1	..	2	..	4	..	1	..	1	..	4	1	5	1	18	2
China ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	8	..	11	..
Other countries ..	5	..	3	..	13	1	5	..	6	..	28	..	63	1	123	2
At sea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Not stated ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	5	..
Totals ..	48	2	51	3	284	21	54	..	114	19	296	28	717	64	1,564	137
Ages—																
Under 10 years ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10 and under 12 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12 and under 15 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 and under 20 years	3	..	1	..	40	3	19	..	1	2	1	..	11	..	76	5
20 and under 25 years	8	..	4	..	23	3	9	..	1	3	7	..	102	2	154	8
25 and under 30 years	7	1	11	..	35	4	2	..	6	..	9	2	130	9	200	16
30 and under 40 years	16	1	21	1	92	6	15	..	31	3	70	14	244	22	489	47
40 and under 50 years	3	..	9	2	62	4	5	..	23	7	80	6	139	14	321	33
50 and under 60 years	6	..	3	..	19	1	1	..	27	3	80	5	68	13	204	22
60 and over ..	5	..	2	..	12	..	2	..	25	1	48	1	23	4	117	6
Not stated ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	..
Totals, 1918 ..	48	2	51	3	284	21	54	..	114	19	296	28	717	64	1,564	137
Totals, 1917 ..	93	5	64	3	353	19	72	4	203	60	477	37	908	101	2,170	229

* It must be remembered that drunkenness is punished more by fine than by imprisonment, so that the figures in the gaol tables do not represent the full number of persons punished for that offence.

Table E.

PRISONS.—NEW-ZEALAND-BORN PRISONERS RECEIVED, 1918.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF DISTINCT NEW-ZEALAND-BORN CONVICTED PRISONERS OF EACH SEX (EXCLUDING MAORIS) RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1918, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGES AND OFFENCES.

Offences.		Under 10.		10 and under 12.		12 and under 15.		15 and under 20.		20 and under 25.		25 and under 30.		30 and under 40.		40 and upwards.		Totals.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Offences against the person—																				
Convicted on indictment	2	..	6	..	3	..	9	1	5	..	25	1	
Summarily convicted	1	..	5	..	10	1	3	2	19	3	
Offences against property—																				
Theft and deceit	31	3	15	3	23	2	48	2	31	2	148	12	
Mischief	17	..	8	..	1	..	8	..	2	..	36	..	
Vagrancy	2	1	3	4	..	16	2	21	4	42	11	
Drunkenness	5	..	2	1	25	8	38	7	70	16	
Other offences	7	..	57	1	73	8	118	17	65	12	320	38	
Totals, 1918	57	5	93	7	111	11	234	31	165	27	660	81	
Totals, 1917	3	..	62	8	125	11	123	12	280	58	247	46	840	135	
Totals, 1916	59	10	91	7	124	16	274	59	245	41	793	133	
Totals, 1915	57	6	128	9	175	31	390	65	271	39	1021	150	
Totals, 1914	2	..	..	75	4	157	6	216	31	416	58	268	47	1134	146	
Totals, 1913	1	1	..	81	7	172	10	183	20	391	58	200	30	1028	126	
Totals, 1912	1	1	..	92	4	197	7	197	25	354	48	176	32	1017	117	
Totals, 1911	4	..	..	59	3	158	13	189	17	333	44	173	30	916	107	
Totals, 1910	2	..	..	75	3	199	9	249	35	331	51	182	28	1038	126	
Totals, 1909	2	..	..	66	4	174	15	236	28	298	53	192	28	968	128	
Totals, 1908	1	..	5	..	71	4	190	17	203	24	287	43	118	22	875	110	
Totals, 1907	2	1	..	79	5	181	23	213	33	256	44	113	19	844	125	
Totals, 1906	2	..	..	82	9	189	20	219	26	249	39	120	18	861	112	
Totals, 1905	1	..	..	76	8	172	25	196	27	195	38	99	17	739	115	
Totals, 1904	1	..	2	..	3	..	83	9	172	25	219	19	187	34	73	17	740	104
Totals, 1903	2	..	5	..	79	9	191	16	187	21	177	36	60	21	701	103	
Totals, 1902	2	..	..	77	5	192	9	147	17	128	35	57	12	603	78	
Totals, 1901	5	..	74	7	175	22	114	20	143	38	40	8	551	95	
Totals, 1900	7	..	79	8	166	19	110	15	120	28	36	9	518	79	
Totals, 1899	3	2	..	91	9	147	14	101	16	116	19	36	9	494	69	

Table F.

TABLE SHOWING DISTINCT PERSONS (EXCLUDING MAORIS) IMPRISONED AFTER CONVICTION DURING EACH OF THE LAST TEN YEARS.

Year.	Prisoners.	Proportion per 10,000 of Mean Population.	Year.	Prisoners.	Proportion per 10,000 of Mean Population.
1908	3,009	31·84	1914	3,386	31·05
1909	3,159	32·51	1915	2,924	26·60
1910	3,242	32·66	1916	2,404	21·87
1911	2,877	28·35	1917	2,399	21·84
1912	3,023	29·10	1918	1,701	15·42
1913	3,229	30·22			

Table G.
TABLE SHOWING DISTINCT CONVICTED PRISONERS (EXCLUDING MAORIS) RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1918 AND SENTENCED TO REFORMATIVE TREATMENT OR DECLARED HABITUAL CRIMINALS, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO SENTENCES.

Head Sentence.	Sentenced to Reformative Treatment for a Period not exceeding														Declared Habitual Criminals.	Totals.													
	6 Months.		12 Months.		18 Months.		2 Years.		3 Years.		4 Years.		5 Years.				6 Years.		7 Years.		8 Years.		9 Years.		10 Years.				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Reformative treatment only ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	M.	F.	14	
Declared habitual criminal	85	
Under 1 week	2	
1 week and under 1 month	1	
1 month	
3 months	
6 "	
9 "	
12 "	
1 year	
2 years	
3 "	
4 "	
5 "	
7 "	
10 "	
Totals ..	1	..	8	3	7	..	37	8	37	4	6	1	11	1	1	133	17

Table H.

RETURN OF PRISON OFFENCES AND PUNISHMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1918.

Prison.	Offences.			Total Offences.	Number of Prisoners punished.	Total Number of Prisoners in Custody during the Year.
	Against Officers.	Disobedience of Orders, and Idleness.	Other Breaches of Regulations.			
Addington	1	14	21	36	27	105
Auckland	14	56	94	164	128	1,122
Invercargill	20	86	140	246	172	266
Kaingaroa	1	3	3	7	3	88
Lyttelton	3	1	6	10	7	382
Napier .. .. .	..	3	6	9	6	154
New Plymouth .. .. .	..	6	19	25	7	124
Paparu	3	12	22	37	21	202
Roto-aira .. .. .	..	3	..	3	3	69
Waikeria	21	47	113	181	143	194
Wellington	44	30	102	176	98	1,230
Totals	107	261	526	894	615	3,936

Table I.

VISITS OF THE VISITING JUSTICES TO THE LARGER PRISONS DURING THE YEAR 1918.

Prisons and Visiting Justices.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
<i>Addington—</i>													
T. A. B. Bailey, S.M. . .	2	1	..	..	1	2	2	..	..	..	1	..	9
S. E. McCarthy, S.M. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	3
<i>Auckland—</i>													
F. V. Frazer, S.M. . .	1	2	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
E. C. Cutten, S.M. . .	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	2	1	..	..	..	7
J. H. Hannan . . .	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
J. H. Bradney . . .	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
F. K. Hunt, S.M. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4	3	11
E. D. Mosley, S.M. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
<i>Invercargill—</i>													
G. Cruickshank . . .	..	2	1	1	1	1	2	..	1	1	..	..	10
W. A. Ott . . .	3	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	9
William Baird . . .	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
John Stead . . .	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	5
J. Crosby Smith . . .	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	6
<i>Kaingaroa—</i>													
R. W. Dyer, S.M. . .	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
<i>Lyttelton—</i>													
F. W. Anderson . . .	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
C. Ferrier . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
H. W. Bishop, S.M. . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Napier—</i>													
J. S. Large . . .	4	3	4	4	3	5	3	5	4	2	8	4	49
A. L. Beattie . . .	2	1	1	3	8	4	4	5	6	7	5	7	53
R. W. Dyer, S.M. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
<i>New Plymouth—</i>													
C. Ahier . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
H. Weston . . .	3	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	9
A. Crooke, S.M. . .	..	1	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	3	..	..	8
<i>Paparu—</i>													
T. A. B. Bailey, S.M. . .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
S. E. McCarthy, S.M. . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
<i>Waikeria—</i>													
E. Rawson, S.M. . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
J. B. Teasdale . . .	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	6
<i>Wellington—</i>													
E. Arnold . . .	5	5	3	3	2	4	7	5	2	2	3	4	45
Henry Hume . . .	3	2	2	4	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	24

Table J.

FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT, 1908.

AGES AND TERMS OF PROBATION OF OFFENDERS PLACED UNDER THE ACT DURING THE YEAR 1918.

Ages, in Years.		4 Months and under.	6 Months.	12 Months.	15 Months.	18 Months.	2 Years.	2½ Years.	3 Years.	Totals.
10 and under 15	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	2	5
15 " 20	..	..	5	21	..	4	28	..	15	73
20 " 25	..	1	1	10	..	3	15	..	7	37
25 " 30	1	3	..	1	14	..	2	21
30 " 40	..	1	2	13	..	3	7	1	6	33
40 " 50	6	..	2	6	..	3	17
50 " 70	3	..	1	2	6
Totals	..	2	9	59	..	14	72	1	35	192

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