

1920.
NEW ZEALAND.

PRISONS

(REPORT ON) FOR THE YEAR 1919-20.

ALSO

OPERATIONS OF THE FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT, 1908

(REPORT ON) FOR THE YEAR 1919-20.

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, 31st July, 1920.

I have the honour to submit to Your Excellency the report of the Prisons Department for the year 1919.

I have, &c.,

J. G. COATES,

Minister in Charge of Prisons Department.

The CONTROLLER-GENERAL OF PRISONS to the MINISTER IN CHARGE OF PRISONS DEPARTMENT.

SIR,—

Prisons Department, 15th July, 1920.

I have the honour to present the thirty-ninth annual report of the Prisons Department, together with the criminal statistics for the year ended 31st December, 1919, and the figures and reports regarding the administration of the First Offenders' Probation Act, 1908.

PRISON POPULATION.

Comparative Figures.

The criminal statistics show that the number of new prisoners received into the prisons and reformatories of the Dominion during the last calendar year was 3,207, compared with 3,150 in 1918 and 4,112 in 1917, while the daily average for the three years respectively was—in 1919, 1004·34; in 1918, 981·95; and in 1917, 914·26. When considering, however, the actual position with regard to the increase or decrease in the criminal population of the Dominion account must be taken of the number of prisoners in the different institutions who were sent there for military and not for civil offences. The departmental records show that in 1919 the daily average number of military court-martialled prisoners was 192·80; in 1918, 222·928; and in 1917, 54·111. If these figures are deducted from the totals for the three years under review we find that the total daily average of civil prisoners was 811·54 in 1919, compared with 759·02 in 1918 and 860·14 in 1917. Thus while there was a decrease of 101 between 1917 and 1918, an actual increase of 52 took place in 1919 compared with the previous year. In 1913, the last complete period before the outbreak of war, the daily average number of prisoners was 893·24, so that there is a clear reduction of 81·70 in the prison criminal population for the first year after the war, in comparison with the last pre-war year. This is eminently satisfactory in view of the often-expressed opinion that the coming of peace would be signalized by a marked increase of crime in all countries engaged in war activities. The reason for this somewhat unexpected position is probably that up to the present time we are still floating upon a wave of apparent prosperity. Employment is plentiful, wages are high, and there is little poverty. If conditions change for the worse, it is possible that the change will be reflected in our criminal statistics.

The fluctuations in the prison population from 1881 to 1919 inclusive are shown in the table below :—

Daily Average, 1881 to 1919.

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
1919	936·28	68·06	1,004·34

Prisoners sentenced by Military Courts-martial.

It has already been stated that the daily average number of military court-martialled prisoners in the prisons for the year 1919 was 192·80, compared with 222·928 in 1918, the decrease being caused chiefly by the expiration and remission of sentences and by the reduction in commitments after the termination of the war. The improvement in the figures for the two years is, however, more clearly indicated when a comparison is made between the number of prisoners of this class in March, 1918, and the average for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1920. In March, 1918, there were 293 military prisoners in our charge, while the daily average for the financial year ended 31st March last was 138·87. In August, 1919, the sentences passed upon 72 military prisoners who had been classified as genuine religious objectors by the Religious Objectors Advisory Board were remitted, and the men so classified were discharged without further penalty. Fourteen Maoris who were also serving terms for refusing to serve in the Expeditionary Forces were released in May, 1919, on the recommendation of the same Board, while in May of the current year a remission of six months was granted to all military prisoners sentenced in New Zealand. This resulted in a further 20 men being released, leaving only 14 prisoners of this class in the whole of the prisons on 30th June last. A few deserters have since been arrested and sentenced to short terms, but it is expected that when the next report is written only three or four men who have been sentenced by military Courts for serious civil crimes will remain in custody.

Generally speaking the conduct and industry of the military prisoners have been reasonably satisfactory. As stated in last year's report, there were mild attempts to strike, while even hunger-striking was resorted to at Waikeria by a limited number of the men, but these attempts to defy constituted authority met with little success. Adequate punishments were inflicted, and there was no recrudescence of the trouble.

The distribution of the military prisoners in all prisons and prison institutions of the Dominion during the past five years is shown in the table below :—

Military Court-martialled Prisoners in Civil Prisons.—Daily Average Number in Custody in the Principal Prisons of the Dominion during Five Years ended 31st December, 1919.

Institution.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Auckland	0·756	0·557	0·600	4·717	10·521
Invercargill .. ..	..	..	3·500	39·030	33·211
Kaingaroa .. ..	..	..	2·010	32·040	21·581
Lyttelton	0·016	0·016	0·032	0·065	0·201
Paparua .. ..	..	1·980	2·229	44·256	42·611
Roto-aira	0·410	0·104	20·700	22·250	15·031
Waikeria .. ..	..	..	10·400	58·300	52·301
Wellington	0·512	0·360	14·640	22·270	10·911
Wi Tako .. ..	..	..	..	..	6·441
Totals	1·694	3·017	54·111	222·928	192·80

EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS.

The gross expenditure of the Department under all heads for the financial year ended 31st March last amounted to £109,528, compared with £95,324 for the previous year, an increase

of £14,204. The items contributing most heavily towards this increase were—Salaries, £5,893; clothing, bedding, &c., £2,247; expenditure on farms, £3,119; tools and materials for prison labour, £2,001; rations, £821. As in 1918–19, the salaries vote accounted for the largest proportion of the increase. The larger expenditure on clothing, bedding, &c., is accounted for by the fact that a considerable supply of cotton goods and other material was received from England during the year on account of an order sent to the High Commissioner in 1918. The result was that our general store at Wellington and our local stores in the different institutions were well filled at the end of the financial year, the total value of goods in hand, as shown by the stock-sheets, being £12,488 10s. 11d.

The increased expenditure on tools and materials was caused to some extent by the amount of work that was carried out, as evidenced by our labour returns.

Farm expenditure was particularly heavy, but much of the increase is accounted for by the purchase of store stock, dairy cows, manures, seed, &c., for which we obtained an adequate return, in addition to the enhanced value of our various properties caused by further development in the way of grassing, roading, &c.

The cost of rations again showed a slight upward tendency, but the increase of £821 over the previous year cannot be considered excessive.

The table given below is interesting as illustrating the “cost of living” problem as it has affected the prisons food-bills since 1909:—

Average Cost per Head of Prisoners' Rations from 1909 to 31st March, 1920.

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
1920	..	..	..	17,294	965·07	17·93

Receipts.

While the expenditure for the year has been heavy, it is gratifying to be able to report that our cash receipts were nearly 50 per cent. higher than those of 1918–19, which constituted a record for the Department. The total amount received in cash and cash credits was £31,177, compared with £21,654 in the preceding year and £15,083 in 1917–18. From Table 1 below it will be seen that the three farm properties now being developed contributed largely towards this total. The return was, however, materially assisted by the payments received for work on the Invercargill rifle-range embankment, the Roto-aira Road, and for bricks supplied from one Mount Cook brickworks.

The dairy herds at Waikeria and Invercargill both gave fairly good returns for the year, the total amount received for butterfat being £1,006 at the former institution and £1,001 at the latter. The Invercargill Borstal Institution also made a commencement with the stock-fattening industry, as shown by the fact that £1,740 was received on account of stock sales. Paparua has again obtained useful returns from the sale of sheep, lambs, and wool, while the area planted in wheat also contributed towards the cash receipts for the year.

TABLE 1.—Cash received and Amounts credited to the Prisons Vote for the Year ended 31st March, 1920.

Prison or Institution.	Metal, Gravel, &c.	Farm-produce.	Farm Stock.	Bricks.	Concrete Poles, Blocks, Tiles, &c.	Tree-planting.	Sale of Fire-wood.	Boots.	Salaries of Officers on Public Buildings.	Road Works.	Invercargill Rifle Range.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Auckland ..	2,803	..	..	..	..	..	..	551	..	..	..	3,354
Invercargill ..	..	1,066	1,740	..	118	..	..	..	900	..	3,223	7,047
Kaingaroa ..	..	55	..	..	..	2,499	..	..	..	..	..	2,554
Napier ..	186	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	186
New Plymouth ..	825	53	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	878
Paparua ..	..	790	1,285	..	1,299	..	..	675	608	..	..	4,657
Roto-aira ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,103	..	4,103
Waikeria ..	..	1,634	129	..	..	..	..	..	252	277	..	2,292
Wellington ..	..	34	120	2,652	..	..	409	..	130	234	..	3,579
Wi Tako ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	302	..	..	302
Miscellaneous credits ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,225
Totals ..	3,814	3,632	3,274	2,652	1,417	2,499	409	1,226	2,192	4,614	3,223	31,177

Value of Prison Labour for which neither Cash nor Financial Credits are received.

Although the Department's cash receipts for the year indicate that the labour available has been used to the best advantage, the total amount earned by no means covers the value of the work actually done. Substantial progress has been made in this as in previous years in the construction of buildings, the making of roads, and in other works that have been required for State purposes. All this work if carried out by private contracts would have resulted in considerable expenditure being incurred. By the employment of prison labour the total amount involved was saved to the State. In accordance with the practice recently followed the Public Works Engineers have supplied estimates of the value of this work calculated on free-labour standards. The details of the work carried out and of its value are shown in Table 2 below. The marked increase on the previous year's total is partly due to the fact that the low rate per man allowed in previous years—viz., 3s. per day for labourers and 5s. per day for tradesmen—has been increased to a general average of 7s. 6d. per day in sympathy with the rates now paid to free labour. This alteration is fully justified by the fact that under present conditions it is found that the average prisoner works quite as satisfactorily as the average free labourer or tradesman.

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, 1920.

Prison.	Buildings, Walls, and Yards.	Construction and Maintenance of Roads.	Excavating for Buildings.	Block- making.	Drainage Works.	Electric- light Installation.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Auckland	2,483	..	..	..	..	229	2,712
Invercargill	2,910	..	..	250	1,031	..	4,191
Paparua	3,565	395	..	..	..	..	3,960
Point Halswell	667	334	..	..	..	..	1,001
Waikeria	2,590	167	..	167	..	..	2,924
Wi Tako	6,000	250	200	..	600	..	7,050
Totals	18,215	1,146	200	417	1,631	229	21,838

In addition to the large output of constructional and other reproductive work shown in the two preceding tables a large amount of prison labour is required to develop the farming properties, to make boots and clothing for the inmates and officers, to carry on the domestic services, and to do the numberless things that are necessary in connection with the management of the institutions. This entails a large expenditure of labour that has a definite value to the State. On a low assessment the total value of such labour in each institution is as shown in Table 3 below.

TABLE 3.—Value of Prison Labour employed on Prison Works and Industries, for which Cash Credits are not obtained, for Year ended 31st March, 1920.

Prison.	Boot- making for Officers and Prisoners.	Tailoring (including Repairs) and Red Cross Work.	Gardening and Farming.	Building- work.	Quarrying, Levelling of Reserves, &c.	Domestic Employ- ment.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Addington .. ..	..	616	651	..	..	588	1,855
Auckland	747	487	346	..	4,292	1,963	7,835
Invercargill	144	150	2,506	..	..	1,011	3,811
Kaingaroa	44	45	163	6	..	490	748
Lyttelton .. ..	..	..	..	..	206	210	416
Napier	17	..	81	..	445	238	781
New Plymouth	111	99	336	85	..	387	1,018
Paparua	901	..	1,117	..	..	822	2,840
Roto-aira	45	..	116	120	..	476	757
Waikeria	201	..	2,619	..	..	1,021	3,841
Wellington	66	1,191	1,068	..	835	1,343	4,503
Wi Tako .. ..	..	..	55	..	..	75	130
Minor gaols	11	22	84	..	..	145	262
							£28,797

Summary.

	£
Cash and financial credits for the year 1919-20	31,177
Estimated value of prison labour employed on public works, 1919-20 ..	21,838
Estimated value of prison labour employed on farms, industries, on domestic work, &c., 1919-20	28,797
Total value of prison labour, 1919-20	£81,812

The gross expenditure of the Department for the year 1919-20 was £109,528. If from this is deducted the total value of prison labour as shown above—viz., £81,812—it will be seen that the net cost of the Prisons Department to the State for the last financial year was £27,716.

CESSATION OF TREE-PLANTING.

Tree-planting by prison labour has now been carried on since 1901. During that period 15,932 acres of waste land have been planted with 40,719,310 trees, the total labour-value of the work as estimated by the Forestry Department being £65,435.

At its initiation the work was a bold and successful departure from the older methods of prison employment—or perhaps it would be more correct to say “unemployment.” Men were taken away from the dull, treadmill-like existence in the central prisons and given a healthful and comparatively free life in the country. As shown by the preceding figures, much good work was done, and the State was provided with a valuable permanent asset. Until the advent of the Department’s agricultural policy this was practically the only method of employing prisoners under healthful open-air conditions. With the increase in the number of properties taken up by the Department, and the consequent large demand for labour, much difficulty was found in keeping the afforestation camps adequately manned. In addition to this it soon became evident that as an occupation for the prisoners farming in all its branches was preferable in every way to the monotonous and unskilled work of clearing the land, pitting, and planting trees. The knowledge gained by the farm worker was clearly of more use to the prisoner after release, and consequently to the State, than the very elementary work of planting of trees year after year until his final discharge. So long, however, as the State had only the one method of providing its future forests, it was felt that the employment of prison labour in this direction must be continued. When, however, a forward policy in afforestation was decided upon, and a vigorous and well-equipped department established to carry it out, the Prisons Administration considered that the time had arrived when the interest of the individual prisoner and of its own policy of reform and reclamation might be given precedence. The Government was then asked to decide whether the work of afforestation could be satisfactorily carried on without the use of prison labour, and upon the Forestry Department reporting in the affirmative, immediate steps were taken to cease operations at Kaingaroa, the only remaining prison afforestation camp.

Orders have now been given for the final evacuation of the camp on the 31st July instant and after that date Kaingaroa will be taken over by the Forestry Department and worked by free labour. Thus ends the era of tree-planting by prison labour in New Zealand.

The latest returns from the Kaingaroa camp for the fifteen months ended 30th June last show that the total amount received from the Forestry Department for that period was £2,714. As the number of prisoners in the camp at the present time is only eleven, and the daily average has been gradually reduced from the beginning of the year, the standard of work for the past few months has been entirely satisfactory.

EMPLOYMENT OF PRISON LABOUR: PAYMENT OF WAGES TO PRISONERS WITH DEPENDANTS.

The report of the Inspector of Prisons and Supervisor of Works supplies all the necessary data regarding the work carried out by prison labour during the year, while the tables already given indicate the value of the work to the State.

The position with regard to the employment of prison labour has completely changed in the last few years. Under the older system, where practically all prisoners were confined in the central prisons, it was exceedingly difficult to find sufficient work to keep the prisoners employed. Nowadays our chief difficulty is to find sufficient men to carry on our various works. The Department is now farming, dairying, stock-raising, roadmaking, building in stone, concrete, and wood, manufacturing concrete products, making bricks, and carrying on various trades and industries. A few years ago, beyond making a very limited supply of bricks, manufacturing clothing and boots for prisoners and officers, and tree-planting, there was no means of providing work for the prisoners.

Although the works organization of the Prisons Department has been brought up to a state of efficiency that compares favourably with free-labour standards, there has hitherto been little or no attempt to give the prisoners any reasonable compensation for the really good work many of them have been doing. Wherever possible the Department has rewarded the best and most conscientious workers by recommending substantial remissions of sentence; but this only helped in a minor degree to ease the position of the prisoners’ unfortunate dependants, who are invariably the worst sufferers when the husband, father, or brother is sent to gaol. The hardships suffered by the innocent in all such cases have appealed forcibly to the Head of the Department and the officers under him, and your recent decision to meet the position by paying a reasonable wage to all prisoners with dependants has met with unanimous approval on all hands. It is understood that a deduction will be made from the wages earned by each prisoner to cover the cost of his maintenance and supervision, and that the balance remaining will either be paid over to the man’s dependants or credited to an account in the Post Office Savings-bank for the use of such dependants.

In order to meet the additional charges that will be cast upon the Prisons Department by the decision to make this wage-payment, it has also been decided that all work carried out for other Departments must be charged and paid for at its full labour-value.

When the proposed measure of reform has been tested under working-conditions the payment of a standard wage according to results to all classes of prisoners will require to be seriously considered. It is fairly obvious that the differentiation in the method of compensation for similar work under similar conditions will result in discontent and unrest among the inmates of our institutions that will add materially to the difficulties of management.

INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOLS, ETC.

The system of institutional schools has been extended during the year. At the Invercargill Borstal Institution, which has been retained as a place of confinement for young men and youths under twenty-five years of age, the additional instruction to which reference was made in last year's report has been continued. Two well-qualified and experienced Board-school teachers have been employed, and, as shown by their joint report accompanying that of the Officer in Charge at Invercargill, matters have proceeded quite satisfactorily. Similar results are shown at the Auckland Prison, where evening classes have become well established. At the last-named institution an Esperanto class has recently been established under a prisoner who had studied the modern international language by correspondence with a well-known and philanthropic Esperantist at Wellington. The improvement in the mental outlook of the prisoner referred to after a course of intensive study of this subject has been so patent and pronounced that the Administration felt justified in carrying the experiment further. The need for an intellectual outlook for the prisoners in some definite direction has been keenly felt for some time past, and the timely aid of the gentleman referred to has enabled the Department to find a vent for the stifled intellectual aspirations of some of the long-sentenced prisoners, whose drab existence was formerly unrelieved by any outside interests. The progress of this, our latest experiment, will be watched with considerable interest. In the latter part of 1919 applications were called for the position of full-time schoolmaster at the Waikeria Reformatory, and an appointment was made. The intention was that the appointee should instruct the children of the institutional officers in the daytime and the inmates at night. Unfortunately the gentleman selected obtained a more remunerative appointment before the date fixed for the opening of the school. Upon his resignation the appointment was conferred upon another experienced teacher, but immediately after reporting at Waikeria he became ill, had to undergo an operation, and is reported as medically unfit to take up his duties until August at the earliest. Continued delays of this nature are disappointing, but it is hoped that long before the next report is written the school at Waikeria will be in full operation.

GENERAL PROGRESS DURING THE YEAR.

Institutional.

For some years past the Administration has been desirous of extending the scope of reformatory work in the special institutions at Invercargill and Waikeria, but this could not be done without effecting a more or less complete departure from the older prison methods. This had already been effected to some extent at Invercargill, but circumstances beyond our control had prevented us from going as far as we wished. We were enabled, however, to make certain changes in the early part of the current year that should result in our declared policy being carried out sympathetically and satisfactorily. At Invercargill a distinct advance has already been made, and it is hoped that in twelve months' time the institution will be running on purely "Borstal" lines. Your approval of the provision of a swimming-bath, recreation-ground, recreation-room, and other items of a similar kind, together with the purchase of a complete library, will assist us greatly in building up character and physique in the youthful material we are handling. Your agreement to the appointment of an experienced Mental Hospital Superintendent as head of the Waikeria Reformatory should also enable us to improve our system at that institution and to make a definite departure from older prison methods. This gentleman's appointment is, however, of such recent date that it has not yet been possible to lay down any scheme of management for the future. No doubt there will be definite data to work upon within the next twelve months.

Hitherto any progress we have been able to chronicle has been mainly on the male side, but during recent months we have been making better provision for female prisoners than was previously considered possible. Advantage has been taken of the additional outlet provided for male prisoners by the opening of the Wi Tako Prison Camp at Trentham to convert the two cell buildings at Point Halswell, Wellington, into first-class quarters for the women prisoners at Wellington. It is true that the accommodation provided is of a semi-temporary character owing to the objection that has been raised to the continuance of a permanent prison at the entrance to Wellington Harbour, but by carrying out the whole work by prison labour under the control and direction of prison officers a complete metamorphosis in the buildings and approaches has been effected at a comparatively low cost. The site is a splendid one, and when the women prisoners enter into occupation their accommodation and their surroundings will exceed in comfort, healthfulness, and convenience anything of the kind we have had previously.

Works.

The progress in works is dealt with in detail in the report of the Inspector and Works Supervisor. The main proposals for the year are the establishment of an up-to-date metal-crushing plant at Auckland, and of brickworks at the Wi Tako Camp, Trentham. Stone-quarries have been worked for many years at the Mount Eden Prison, Auckland, but owing to the obsolete

methods followed (the use of the old-fashioned hammer and drill instead of the much more effective pneumatic drill, and the lack of a modern crushing-plant) the output of crushed metal has been absurdly limited, and out of all proportion to the number of men employed in the quarry. Your visit to the Auckland Prison a few months ago enabled you to appreciate the disadvantages under which we were labouring, and your subsequent approval of the expenditure requisite to enable the Department to purchase a compressor, motor, and drills will enable us very shortly to more than quadruple our output. If your further proposal to establish a completely equipped crushing-plant is finally given effect to, we shall be in a position to provide the Auckland local bodies with much-needed supplies of metal and at the same time to show a handsome return upon our expenditure. At present we are quite unable to cope with the orders we receive. The placing of the Mount Eden metal-crushing works on a commercial basis will also assist us materially in financing the payment of wages to prisoners with dependants.

The provision of brick-burning works at Trentham is another strictly commercial proposition that should assist us in financing our added obligations. The supply of clay at Trentham is good in quality and illimitable in quantity, while the demand for bricks for governmental and other purposes cannot be satisfied. We have recently let a contract for the building of a Sercombe patent kiln and chimney-stack, and are now transferring an engine and brickmaking plant to Trentham to enable us to make the bricks that will be required in the first instance to build this structure. An opencast kiln will be required for this purpose. The bricks for this kiln will be obtained from our Mount Cook works, which were finally closed down last year.

Closing and Reduction of Prisons.

The acquisition of new sites and the steady advance of our building programme has enabled us to make various changes during the year that will tend to increase our working efficiency and at the same time to improve conditions so far as the individual prisoner is concerned. At the end of December last we were able to find accommodation for the prisoners remaining at Lyttelton in the new buildings at Paparua, Templeton. From that date the Lyttelton Prison, after an existence of something over thirty-five years, was reduced to the status of a police gaol, with a single officer in charge of the small section of the buildings still utilized for the detention of short-sentence local prisoners.

The approaching transfer of the female division at Wellington to Point Halswell, combined with the closing-down of the brickworks at Mount Cook and the opening of the Wi Tako Prison for short-sentence prisoners, will soon reduce the prison population in Wellington itself considerably, and it has accordingly been arranged that the Gaoler at Wellington shall in future be responsible for the Terrace Prison only.

As stated in a previous paragraph, the Kaingaroa Afforestation Camp will be finally abandoned at the end of the present month.

The falling-off in the number of committals to the Napier Prison, together with our policy of transferring all men with sentences exceeding six months to other prisons or institutions, has resulted in the daily average falling considerably during the past twelve months. It has therefore been decided to reduce the prison at Napier to the status of a police gaol, with a Principal Warder and one officer as staff, instead of a Gaoler and four other officers. Were it not for the necessity of retaining a place in which trial and remand prisoners can be safely held, the Napier Prison would be closed absolutely.

Acquisition of Further Farm Areas and Development of Existing Properties.

Our property at Templeton has recently been added to by the purchase of two small farms, both of which were offered to us for sale by the Crown lessees occupying them. We have now acquired in this way five of the sections comprising the Drayton Settlement. Their abandonment by the original lessees has probably been caused by the fact that the sections are too small in area and are not sufficiently productive to enable the settlers to support themselves and their families satisfactorily.

The development of our freehold and leasehold sections at Invercargill has proceeded during the year, and further areas have been grassed. A considerable amount of drainage will now be required before our cultivations can be increased.

The Waikeria Reformatory Farm management have continued to develop the area under their charge, and have also extended our cultivations over land belonging to the Mental Hospitals Department. The two Departments have agreed that the whole of the Mental Hospitals property lying between our boundaries and the Waikeria and Mangatutu Streams shall be improved and cultivated by prison labour, the Prisons Department to retain possession of this land for a period of ten years without charge, as compensation for labour and capital expended. An additional area of not less than 1,000 acres should now be acquired either adjoining the Waikeria property or within easy distance, to enable us to carry on our farming policy economically and effectively.

The provision of a prison reserve of 362 acres at Trentham has eased the position a little, so far as development at Wellington is concerned, but the position will never be satisfactory until a suitable block of country is obtained in the Wellington District and the whole of the prison population moved out of the city.

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

The report of the Prisons Board for the year gives a full and detailed account of the administration of the Acts bearing upon the release upon probation and discharge of habitual criminals, reformatory-detention offenders, and of hard-labour prisoners whose cases come under their

jurisdiction. The personnel of the Board and the long experience of its members peculiarly fit it for the semi-judicial work it has been carrying on since it was first constituted in 1911. Judged by results the legislation of 1910 and 1917 has been fully justified, and has paved the way for the proposed enactment of 1920 making the cases of all offenders, whatever their sentences, subject to review by the Board, in regard to the question of release upon probation or final discharge.

DEPARTMENTAL AND STAFF MATTERS.

In my first report after the conclusion of the war I expressed the hope that with the advent of peace our difficulties in regard to the staffing of the different prisons and institutions would cease; but I regret to say that such is far from being the case. With the closing of some of the older prisons and the reduction in grade of others I thought we should be able to keep our staffs up to full strength, and to make many very necessary improvements in our organization. Unfortunately, however, our experience has been quite contrary to my expectations. Not only has it been found impossible to keep our staffs up to full strength and to augment them where required, but there is at present a pronounced shortage of officers in all our large and more important institutions. More serious still is the dearth of suitable applicants for employment in our service. Under former conditions the work of a prison warder was comparatively simple—he was little more than a guard whose chief concern was to see that the prisoners carried out their very elementary tasks, that they did not escape, and that discipline was maintained. The position has now completely changed. While a certain number of guards are still necessary, the majority of our officers are required to have a knowledge of the various trades and callings that are being followed in the different institutions. They are also expected to interest themselves in the work and in the lives of the men under their charge, and to assist where possible in building up character, and generally in fitting the men to become useful citizens on their release. Unfortunately, there is not one applicant in fifty who is qualified by experience or temperament for the role he is called upon to fill. In fact, the average candidate for employment is not even up to the average standard of twenty years ago. In proportion to the total number of officers there is no Department in the Public Service through which so many men pass in the course of the year. Many of them leave within a few days or weeks of reporting for duty; many more are dispensed with for general unfitness; while others, again, transfer to the more highly paid Police Force, or take up more remunerative private employment. The Department is fighting hard to improve conditions in every direction, and, as evidenced by the particulars published in this and previous reports, has met with a fair measure of success, but I am reluctantly compelled to admit that further progress along the road of reform will be difficult, if not impossible, unless we are given the means to attract the right type of man to our service. In the first place the pay must be raised to a rate at least equivalent to that allotted to the sister service, the Police. With increased pay we should be able to build up our staffs to full strength, and so provide for a reduction in hours and for an improvement in the conditions under which our officers work. With the present limited and partly temporary staffs it is quite impossible to have an efficient or contented service. It is probable that the contemplated general increase in salaries may somewhat improve the position, but, taking into account the special nature of the work and the hours of duty, it is apparent that the Prisons Department should be given exceptional treatment if it is successfully to carry to fruition the schemes of reform upon which it has entered.

By the passing of the Prisons Amendment Act, 1919, the title of the Permanent Head of the Department has been changed from "The Inspector of Prisons" to "The Controller-General of Prisons," while certain added powers have been conferred upon him. A section of the same Act provided that the person for the time being holding the office of "Deputy Inspector of Prisons" should become an "Inspector of Prisons." Mr. M. Hawkins thus received well-merited promotion, and has now the necessary powers to enable him to carry on the general work of inspection in addition to his former duties as "Supervisor of Prison Works." While by his long experience and ability Mr. Hawkins is well fitted for the combined positions, there is much ground to be covered in his inspections and many works of considerable importance requiring his personal attention. The volume of work is too great for one man to carry on satisfactorily, and it will soon be necessary to provide assistance for office inspection and the visiting of the smaller institutions.

During the year Mr. A. W. Ironside, Superintendent of the Auckland Prison, and the senior officer in the service, reached the age-limit and retired on superannuation. Mr. Ironside has always been a highly efficient and loyal officer, and his retirement is a distinct loss to the Department. Other officers who have retired on superannuation are Mr. David Kearney, Deputy Superintendent at Auckland, and Mr. R. L. Johnson, Police Gaoler at Wanganui, both of whom served the Department loyally and faithfully over a long period of years.

Consequent upon the reduction in grade of the Wellington Prison the Gaoler, Mr. G. H. T. Crook, has commenced six months' leave of absence prior to final retirement. His place at Wellington is being taken by Mr. J. C. Scanlon, of Napier.

Mr. Ironside's place at Auckland has been filled by the appointment, as Gaoler, of Mr. T. Vincent, of New Plymouth, who has been succeeded by Mr. J. Down, formerly Officer in Charge of the Waikeria Reformatory.

In connection with our general scheme of reform, provision was made some time ago for the appointment of a Superintendent at Waikeria, who had special qualifications for the efficient carrying-on of the institution as a reformatory. Considerable difficulty was experienced in finding a suitable man for the position, but it was finally arranged, with the consent of the Government, that the Mental Hospitals Department should place the services of Dr. St. L. H. Gribben, Medical Superintendent of the Sunnyside Mental Hospital, at our disposal as a temporary

measure. Dr. Gribben has now taken up his residence at Waikeria, where he will fill the dual position of Superintendent of the Waikeria Reformatory and Medical Superintendent of the Tokanui Mental Hospital. The two institutions are within a few miles of one another, and as the properties are contiguous he will have little difficulty in supervising both places.

Mr. W. T. Leggett, acting Officer in Charge of the Invercargill Borstal Institution, has been promoted to the position of Deputy Superintendent at Waikeria.

It having been found impossible to secure a man with the requisite qualifications to fill the long-vacant position of Superintendent of the Invercargill Borstal Institution, the Department deemed it advisable to appoint a Deputy Superintendent in the person of Mr. H. J. Bathgate, late of the Burnham Industrial School, and to place the general management of the institution under the control of Inspector M. Hawkins, until such time as a more permanent arrangement could be made. Mr. Hawkins visits Invercargill at frequent intervals, and, ably assisted by Mr. Bathgate, is carrying out the Department's scheme of reorganization. Both officers have had long experience of this class of work, and from present indications their efforts are likely to meet with success.

The conduct of the staffs generally has been satisfactory, but in order to enforce discipline and order certain compulsory resignations have been necessary, and some fines have been inflicted. The Superintendents, Gaolers, and officers in charge have loyally supported the Department in carrying out the various works in hand, and in controlling the different institutions effectively. The thanks of the Department are due to them for the high level of efficiency that has been maintained.

MORTALITY AND OTHER FIGURES.

Deaths and Health Statistics.

Nine prisoners died during the year. The general health statistics show that the daily average number of inmates on the sick-list was 16.49, compared with 24.64 in 1918 and 16.71 in 1917. The difference in the figures for 1918 is no doubt accounted for by the fact that in that year the prisons suffered to some extent from the effects of the influenza epidemic. Under ordinary circumstances the general health of the prisoners can hardly be other than good under institutional control, the major part of the sickness and resultant mortality being due to causes arising prior to the offenders' committal.

Escapes.

The number of escapes (eleven) was greater than usual, but all but two of them were from parties working in the open. In this connection it must be remembered that under the present system by far the larger proportion of our prison population is employed on farm-work, or under similar semi-free conditions. In fact, a partial honours system is followed in regard to those prisoners whose escape would not be a menace to the community. To effectively guard all the men so employed would require triple our present staffs, and to mount special guards over every man would largely defeat the end we have in view. It would be quite impossible to build up the self-respect and self-reliance of the men committed to our charge if we had to treat them as irresponsible beings unworthy of trust. Really dangerous criminals are kept within the four walls of the central prisons. Escapes occasionally take place from such places, as they do from the strongest prisons in other countries; but if such escapes are due in any way to the carelessness or negligence of prison officers, condign punishment follows.

PRISONERS DETENTION ACT, 1915.

Only two prisoners, one male and one female, were dealt with under the provisions of the Prisoners Detention Act during the year, by being detained for curative treatment beyond the term of their sentences. There were a few other cases of venereal disease, but as the prisoners affected were imprisoned for longer periods there was no occasion to detain them after the expiration of their sentences. The total number of persons who have been treated as "detainees" since the passing of the Act in 1915 is now twenty-one.

GENERAL PROBATION WORK AND PREVENTION OF CRIME.

The work of our honorary Probation Officers in the chief centres of population is not now confined, as was formerly the case, to receiving monthly calls from the probationers reporting to them and undertaking no further responsibility regarding them. Our present Probation Officers exercise as careful supervision as possible over the habits and lives of all the first offenders and other classes of probationers committed to their charge. By their constant care of such cases they are brought into touch with the homes and connections of the probationers, and are thus enabled to assist quietly but effectively in social reform, and therefore in matters that have a direct bearing upon the prevention of crime.

I have drawn attention in previous reports to the grave necessity that exists for the establishment of a central Department to control and co-ordinate the various branches of different existing Departments that deal with the treatment of persons of both sexes and all ages that are brought before the Courts, and also with the question of social reform and general preventive measures. I have pointed out how, in regard to probation and other work of that nature, there is much overlapping, diffusion of energy, and wastage that would be avoided if the whole business were under one management. In the absence of such a Department, members of the public who interest themselves in assisting the neglected, the derelict, and the destitute find that they have no permanent organization to appeal to when difficult cases require to be dealt with. The only appeal at present appears to be to the police, and the only place to which the derelict and destitute can

be sent is the gaol. There should obviously be a Department to which the public could go as a matter of course when advice, information, or assistance is required in cases of this description. Such a Department would also serve to link up all the voluntary associations that are engaged in social service, prisoners-aid work, &c., and could control the grants-in-aid that are at present paid out by different Departments to different organizations in a somewhat haphazard fashion. There is also ample room for economy and better administration in the more intelligent grouping of institutional cases, that could be effected were one management in control of the several branches now carrying on different sections of the work. In this connection I might point out that much pressure has been brought to bear upon the Department by the ladies forming the "Female Prisoners Welfare Group" to establish what is termed a "farm colony" for the women prisoners of the State. The proposal is really to carry on an institution on very similar lines to those we have provided for male prisoners, but with a somewhat different system of government. The scheme is quite a good one if it could be applied to all the women who are now committed by the Courts to various institutions, but is not practicable so far as the Prisons Department is concerned, for the reason that there are not sufficient women of the right class under our charge to warrant the expenditure that would be necessary to establish such an institution. If all classes of women that are dealt with were under one control there would be ample justification for the Department concerned purchasing the necessary land and providing suitable buildings and staff. On economic grounds alone the proposition would be a payable one.

If there is to be any solid effort to deal with the prevention of crime, root causes must be attacked. This cannot be done without concentration of effort. Under present conditions there is not, nor can there be, any such concentration.

FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT, 1908.

A survey of the figures published from year to year since the First Offenders' Probation Act was passed in 1886 shows that in the aggregate 3,466 individuals of both sexes have been dealt with under its provisions up to and during the year ended 31st December, 1919. Of the number thus placed upon probation only 285, or 8·22 per cent. have abused the privilege granted them by breaking the terms of their licenses, leaving the fine record of nearly 92 per cent. of successes. This means that owing to the presence on the statute-book of this beneficent measure 3,181 persons have been saved from the stigma of imprisonment and the probable relapse into a criminal career as the result thereof. At the same time they have been made to conform to the requirements of the law by the restrictions imposed upon them while under license, and to compensate those they have defrauded or injured by the payment of restitution-money and Court costs. The total amount collected by the Probation Officers from probationers under this head during the past thirty-four years amounts to the substantial total of £9,975.

The reports of the honorary Probation Officers indicate in detail the progress and scope of the probation work carried on during the past year in the main centres of population. The summary of the results for the whole Dominion as printed in Table J shows that the number of persons placed upon probation in 1919 was 226. Last year's figures (192) constituted a record for the Dominion. It is therefore apparent either that the Courts are taking further advantage of the provisions of the Act, or that the number of first offenders is substantially increasing. In view, however, of the fact that a considerable number of persons have been placed upon informal probation in 1918 and 1919, it would appear that our Judges and Magistrates are extending the probation system to the greatest extent possible. Cases of informal probation are not reported to the Department, therefore no general figures under this head are available for publication.

The large increase in the number of cases in which offenders are simply convicted by the Courts and ordered to come up for sentence when called upon, on condition that they remain under the supervision of the Probation Officers or of the police, indicates unmistakably that an extension of the scope of the First Offenders' Probation Act is necessary, in order that Judges and Magistrates may be empowered to exercise a wider discretion when dealing with offenders who have a previous conviction recorded against them. An enlargement of the provisions of the original Act in this direction has been recommended, and it is hoped that effect may shortly be given to this recommendation.

The total amount paid by probationers during the year as Court costs and restitution-money was £894 6s. 4d. (costs, £404 12s. 5d.; restitution-money, £489 13s. 11d.). This is the largest sum collected in any one year since the passing of the Act, exceeding the highest previous total (1918) by £353 12s. 10d.

C. E. MATTHEWS,
Controller-General of Prisons.

INSPECTOR OF PRISONS to the CONTROLLER-GENERAL OF PRISONS.

SIR,—

Prisons Department, Wellington, 15th July, 1920.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1919, 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 past year my time has been fully occupied in attending to the various duties attached to the position of Inspector of Prisons and Supervisor of Prison Works. The whole of the larger prisons have been frequently visited, and those of lesser importance at intervals as was found practicable. Generally speaking I found matters satisfactory. In so far as the inmates

of our various institutions were concerned I found little to complain of. Complaints were few and far between.

Last year I found occasion to remark upon the difficulty of obtaining suitable candidates for the position of prison officers, and at the same time expressed the hope that the war being over it would be possible to obtain a sufficiency of suitable recruits. Such, however, has not proved to be the case, and one of the greatest difficulties confronting the Department at the present moment is the lack of men of the right stamp. It may be urged that a way out of the difficulty might be found by increasing the amount of salary attached to the position, also by improving the conditions under which the officers are called upon to work. No doubt such might help to improve matters, but at the back of it all it must be admitted that at the present rates of pay and under present conditions the prison service does not attract the class of men that is required to carry on the work satisfactorily under a modern system. Men who are possessed of the necessary qualifications fail to offer their services. Occasionally a good man is found, and so it is possible to keep matters running.

During the past year a marked improvement has taken place in the matter of the general standard of industry amongst the prisoners. In former years, owing to the uninteresting nature of the work upon which many of the prisoners were employed, it was found very difficult indeed to get the men to take an intelligent interest in their work. The advent of prison farms has, however, changed all that, and it is really surprising to note the keen interest taken by the majority of the inmates in their daily work. This, however, is not to be wondered at, and the prison farm is certainly going to be the means of giving many a man a fresh interest in life. Work in the open air amongst growing plants and animals gives a man a new outlook on life and tends to make a better citizen of him.

The system which you have recently introduced of appointing skilled tradesmen, farming instructors, and others possessed of special knowledge and ability to teach the inmates of our institutions various trades and callings is also having a very important bearing on the matter of promoting greater efficiency of effort while in prison and still further equipping a man with skill and knowledge of the work upon which he has been engaged against the day of his release. By this means men are turned out fitted to take up everyday employment with every prospect of success. The question of further classification of prisoners, especially at Invercargill and Waikeria, has received further attention during the past year. Work in this direction is necessarily slow, there being many formidable difficulties to contend with. Once the exercise-yards and recreation-grounds at present in course of construction at both of the above-mentioned institutions are completed it will be possible to give effect to many of the improvements which you have already in train. The system providing for improved classification methods has much to recommend it, and in so far as our labours have gone in this direction the results have been distinctly encouraging. Much, however, still remains to be done before the ultimate goal is reached.

PROGRESS DURING THE YEAR.

In my capacity of Inspector of Prisons and Supervisor of Prison Works it has been my duty to visit the various prisons where works are being carried on. The following is a brief summary of the progress made since last year's report was written:—

Auckland.—The main industry connected with this prison consists of the quarrying and crushing of stone for roadmaking purposes. Latterly it has become quite apparent that the old-time use of hammer and drill in connection with boring operations has become obsolete even for prison-labour purposes. In view of the present scarcity of road-metal and our inability to cope with one-half of the orders on hand, your decision to have an up-to-date air-compressor plant established is certainly good business. Once this plant is in operation the output of metal can be at least trebled. Stone-dressing for additions to buildings and for the purpose of providing material for the building of officers' cottages is being carried on inside the walls of the prison as formerly. Concrete blocks for internal walls are also being manufactured. Bootmaking with the aid of up-to-date machinery is also in full swing. Several cottages for officers are in course of erection. Provided your intention of having a new modern quarry plant established is given effect to, Auckland will prove to be one of the best revenue-producing institutions in the Dominion, besides materially assisting various local bodies in their difficulty in the matter of providing good roads.

Waikeria.—Building operations, in so far as the main institution is concerned, have been completed, leaving only the exercise-yards and boundary-wall to be built. A large reservoir has been constructed on the top of the hill at the rear of the institution and a 6 in. main laid. Several additional cottages have been built, and a comfortable building arranged for the use of single officers has been begun. Roading operations have been also further advanced and an additional farm branch established. Taken altogether, this property is rapidly becoming one of the most valuable in the district, and its condition fully justifies the action taken by the Department in taking over this property in the first instance. The experiment (for it was an experiment in those days) has proved a complete success, and should encourage the Department to still further extend its operations in this direction.

Wellington.—Brickmaking having ceased, the only work in hand at Mount Cook consists of levelling and preparing the site for the purposes of the proposed Technical College building. In addition, considerable revenue is being secured by cleaning and preparing second-hand bricks (of which there are large quantities) for sale. At Point Halswell work consists of making alterations and additions to the present buildings in order to fit them for occupation as a prison for females. At the time of writing this work is nearing completion. Work at the Terrace consists of gardening, &c. (only short-sentence prisoners and those awaiting trial being confined there now).

Wi Tako.—Accommodation for over fifty male prisoners has been provided here, with offices, stores, staff quarters, &c. An electric-lighting plant is being installed. The work of draining and cleaning the large swamp has been put in hand. A cottage for the use of the officer in charge is being built. Steps are also being taken in the direction of establishing brickworks on a large scale to take the place of the brickworks formerly worked at Mount Cook Prison by the Prisons Department. As there is suitable clay in abundance and a railway-siding near the property, the establishing of such a useful industry should materially help at the present juncture, when bricks are so scarce as to be practically unobtainable excepting at a prohibitive price. Taken altogether, *Wi Tako* promises to be one of our best investments.

Paparua.—During the latter half of the year building operations have been more or less at a standstill owing to the difficulty of obtaining cement: several additional cottages have, however, been built, and work on the farm has progressed rapidly. This property is fast becoming one of the best in the district, and still further serves to demonstrate that farming is the best possible employment for prisoners.

Invercargill Borstal Institution.—A great deal of useful work has been carried out here during the past year. Work on the new rifle-range embankment has occupied an average of about fifty of the inmates daily throughout the year. This work will take till the end of 1920 to complete. In addition to providing one of the finest sites for a rifle range in the Dominion this embankment when finished will reclaim about 350 acres of the finest land, all of which will have been wrested from the sea, and the whole of it can be used for grazing or other purposes. The work of building a fine block of buildings, comprising kitchens, laundry, bathrooms, &c., is being gone on with at the main institution. Various yards and grounds for recreation purposes are being made, and much is being done to provide for the moral welfare of the inmates of this institution. Much, however, still remains to be done. I am confident that *Invercargill* will eventually become one of the finest institutions of its kind in the Dominion. Work on the farm, consisting of over 2,000 acres of land, part of which is freehold and part leasehold, and held by the Prisons Department and Borough Council in conjunction, is being pushed on apace. Miles of roads and drains have, however, to be constructed, the main drains being in some cases 24 ft. in width. Much of this work is of necessity of an arduous, unpleasant nature, but once the cutting of the drains has been completed much of this will disappear. Your intention to use machinery for the purpose of digging the main drains will also materially help. No doubt there is much requiring to be done before this valuable property can be deemed to have become fully developed, but once such is the case there can be no two opinions as to the soundness of the whole project.

Roto-ava.—A fair amount of work has been carried out on this road during the past year. The climatic conditions, however, militate against good progress being made, and great difficulty is being experienced in the matter of keeping up the necessary staff. While the camp was near the Main Trunk line the officers were content to remain, but now that the camps are situated, one sixteen and the other twenty-four miles from Waimarino, it is a difficult question how to keep up a sufficient staff. About the end of September should see this road far enough advanced to permit of through traffic being maintained, provided the formation-work, which has already been given a full coat of punice, is looked after by the local bodies interested. Up till the present the Prisons Department has been called upon to effect all maintenance repairs.

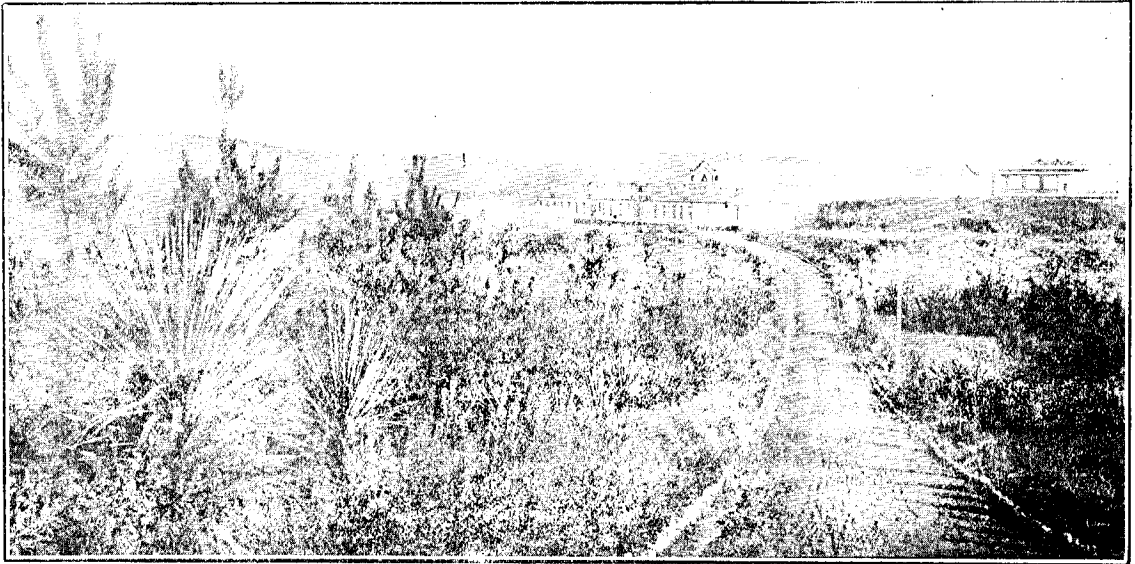
New Plymouth.—Quarrying and preparing road-metal for sale is the only work carried out at this prison, and such finds a means of employment for the whole of the inmates. A ready sale is found for the whole of the output at a fair price.

Kaingaroa.—Tree-planting and looking after plantations already in existence is, as usual, being carried on at this prison. As you have already indicated your intention of closing down this camp during the present year and removing the remaining prisoners to a farm prison where their labour can be utilized to greater advantage than is at present possible, further comment is unnecessary.

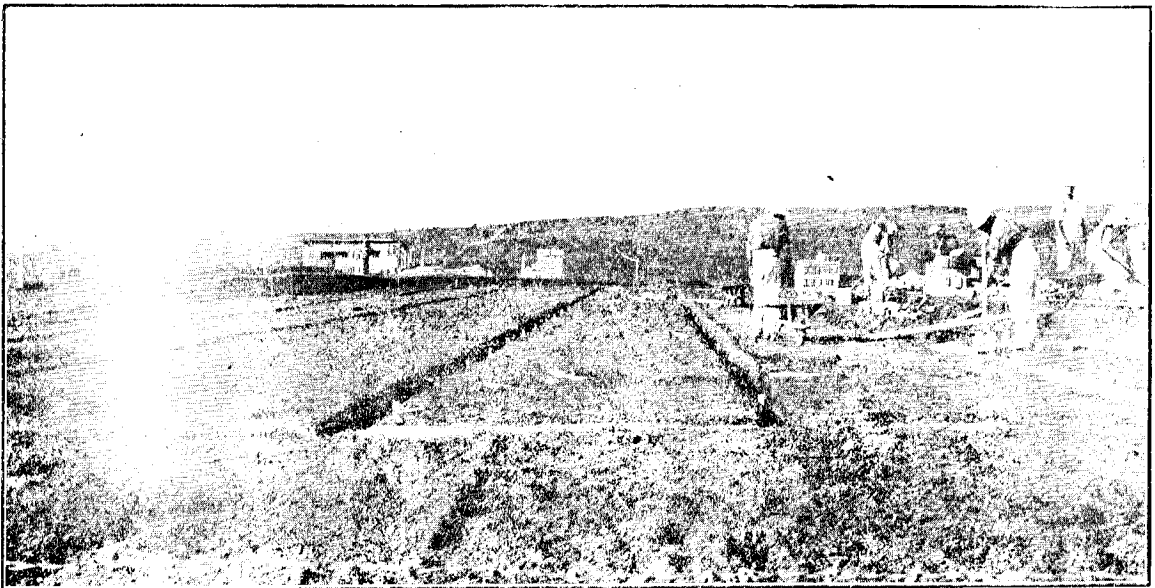
From the foregoing report it is possible to gather that much useful work is being carried out by the inmates of our prisons and institutions. As time goes on it is being found possible to utilize prison labour in many directions formerly considered impracticable. This has been made possible only by treating the prisoner as a rational human being, and by placing a certain amount of confidence in him and giving him credit for at least a desire to make good if given an opportunity of doing so.

M. HAWKINS,
Inspector of Prisons.

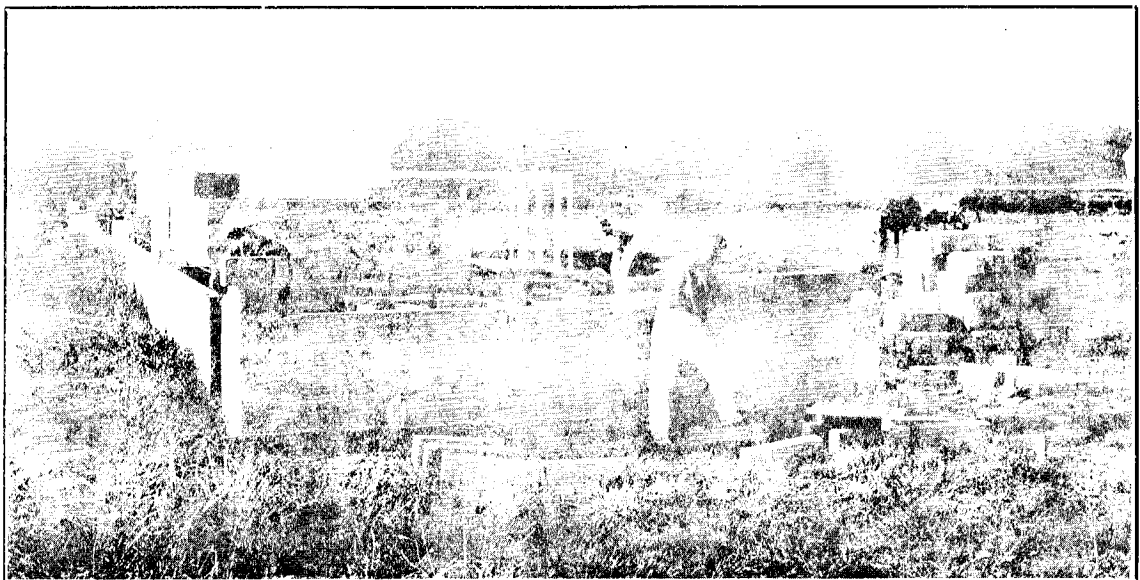
WAIKERIA REFORMATORY FARM (NEAR TE AWAMUTU).
GENERAL VIEWS SHOWING DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPERTY.



BIRDS EYE VIEW OF WAIKERIA REFORMATORY BUILDINGS FROM RESERVOIR HILL.

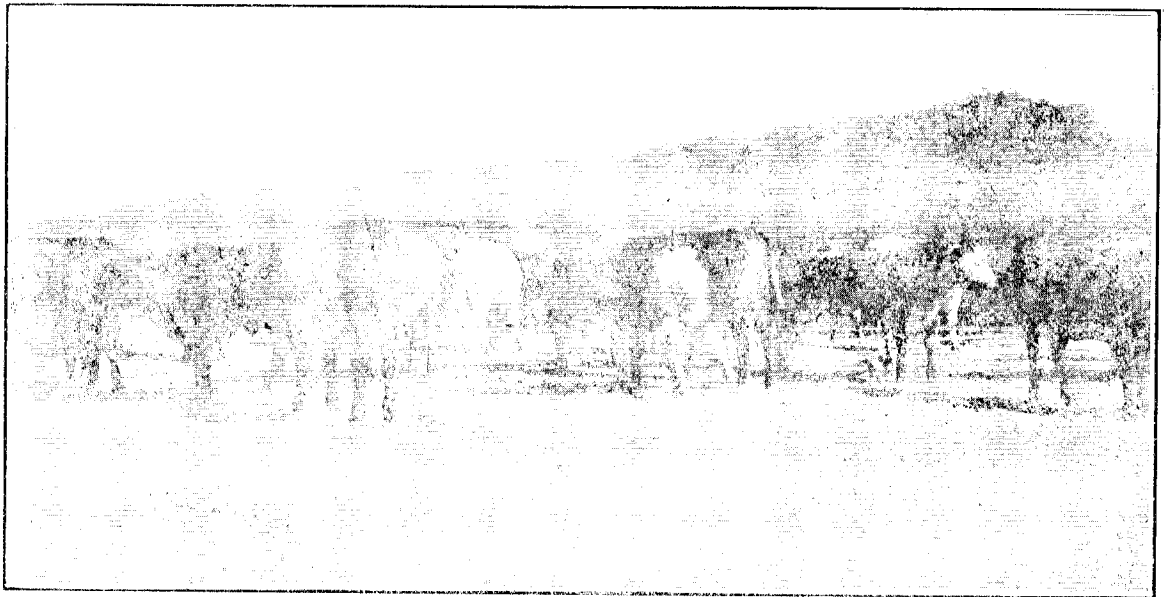


BUILDING OF NEW PIGGERIES.



POULTRY HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION.

WAIKERIA REFORMATORY FARM.



GROUP OF CALVES BRED ON THE INSTITUTION FARM

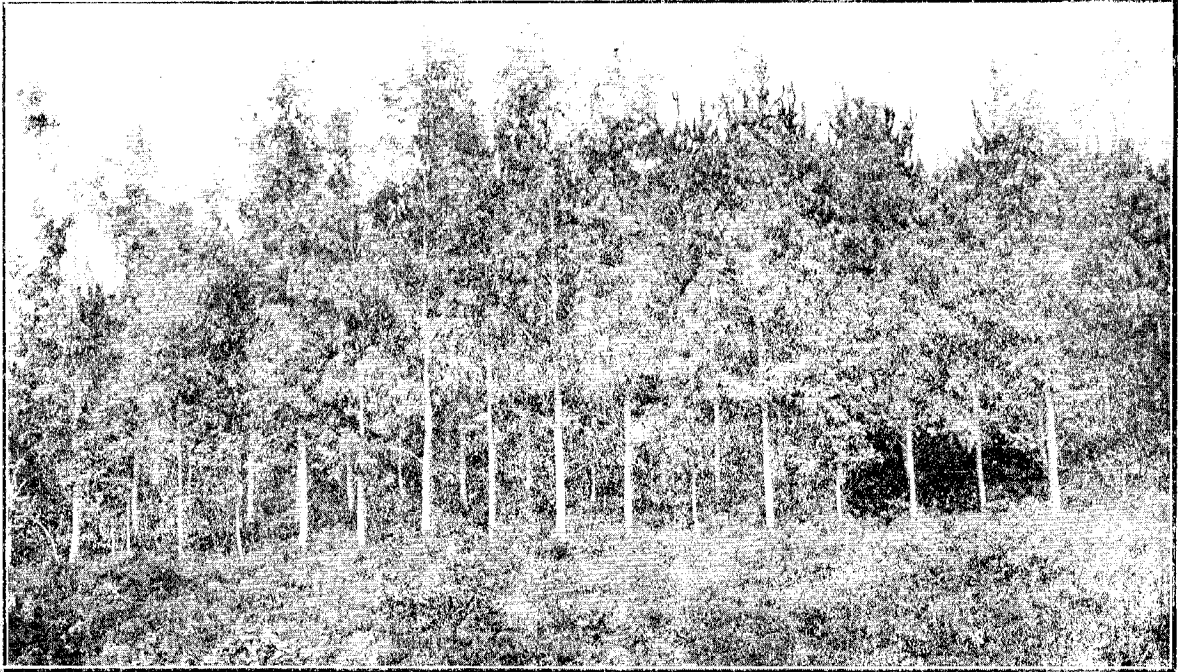


WAIKERIA OAT STACKS AND TEAMS



A FEW OF THE WAIKERIA PIGS.

WAIKERIA REFORMATORY FARM.



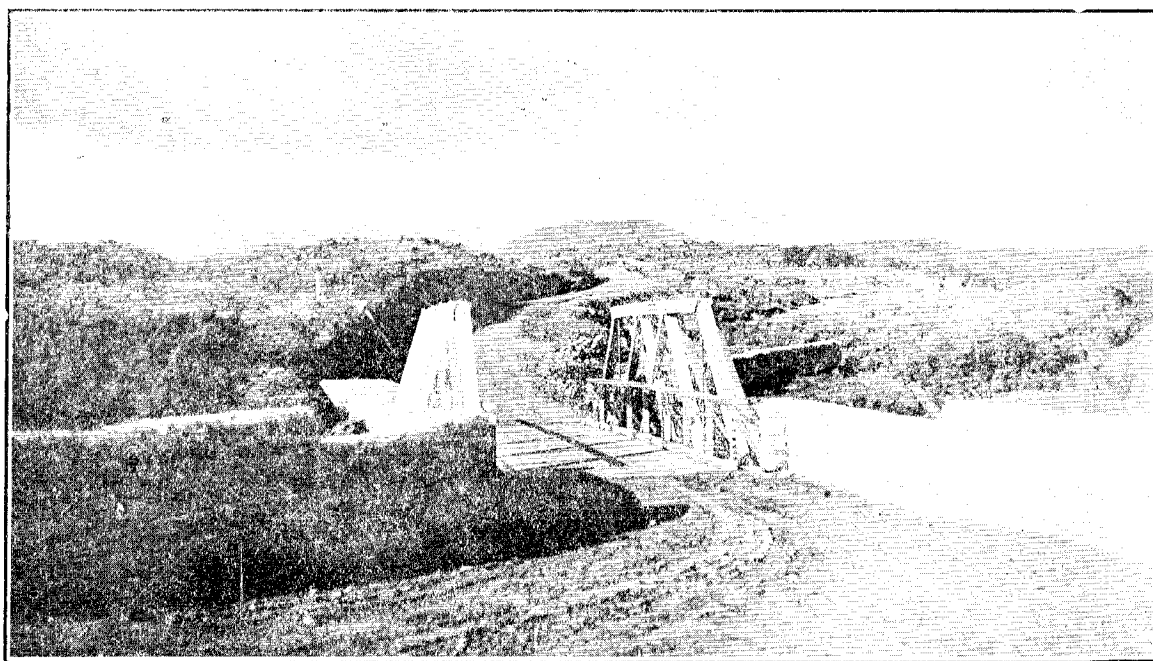
GROVE OF TREES GROWN FROM SEED PLANTED AT WAIKERIA IN 1914.



THATCHING OAT-STACKS.

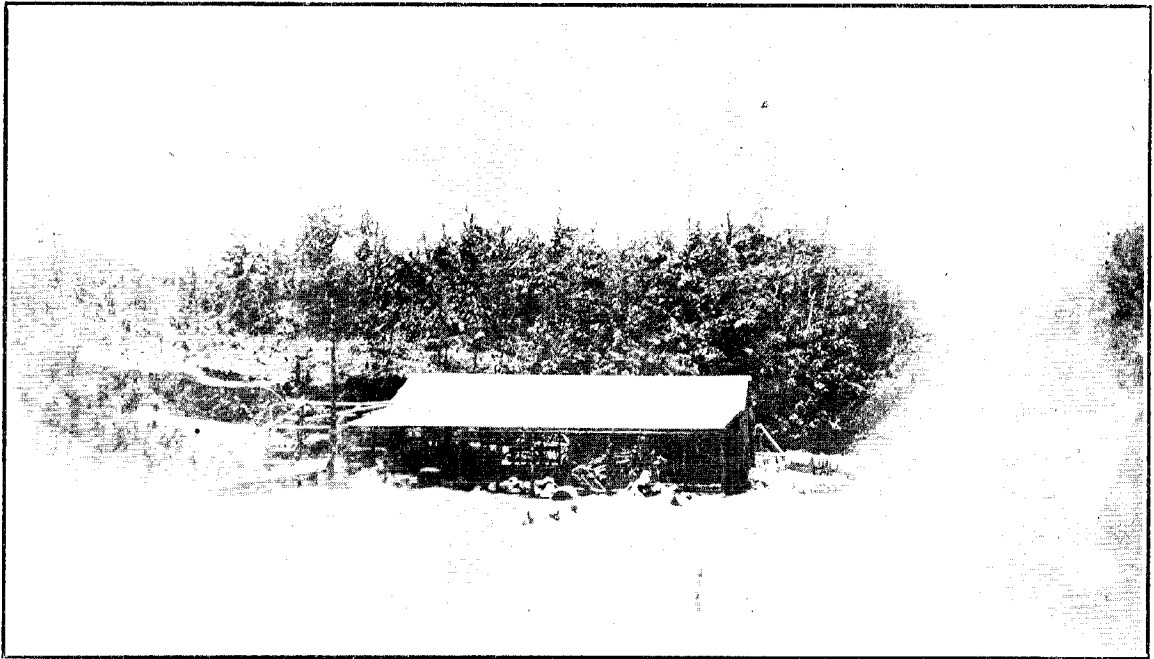
ROTO-AIRA ROAD CAMP (WAIMARINO PLAINS).

ROAD-CONSTRUCTION BY PRISON LABOUR.

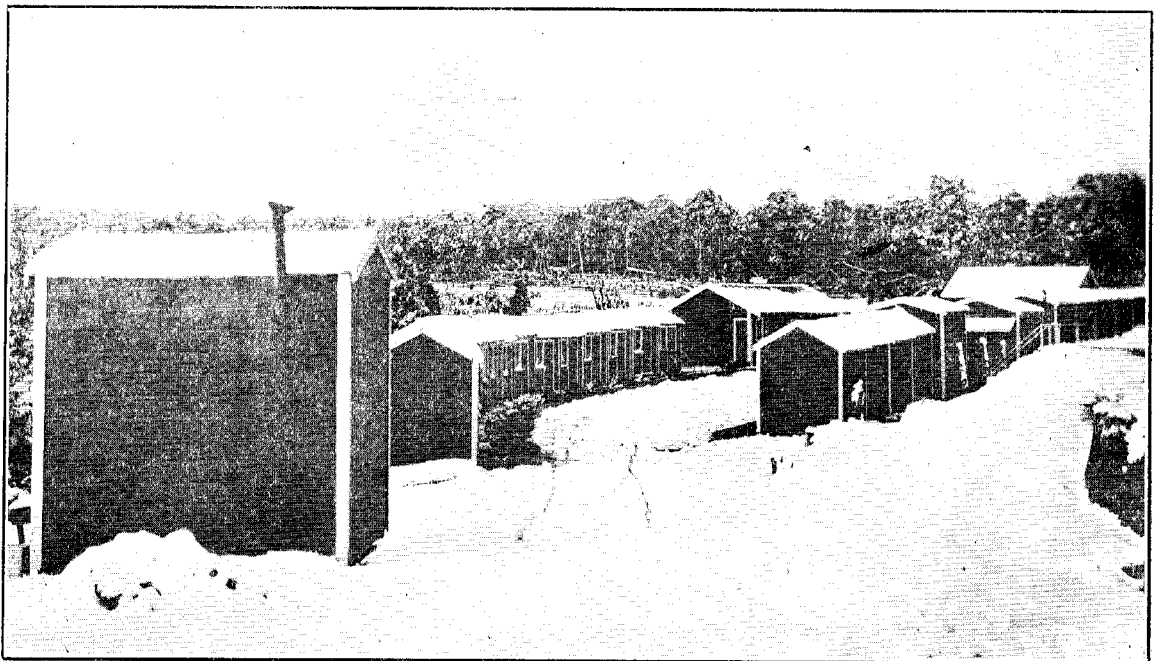


BRIDGE WITH STONE APPROACHES, WHAKAPAPANI STREAM.
Constructed by Prison Labour on line of Roto-Aira-Waimarino Road.

ROTO-AIRA ROAD CAMP (WAIMARINO PLAINS.)



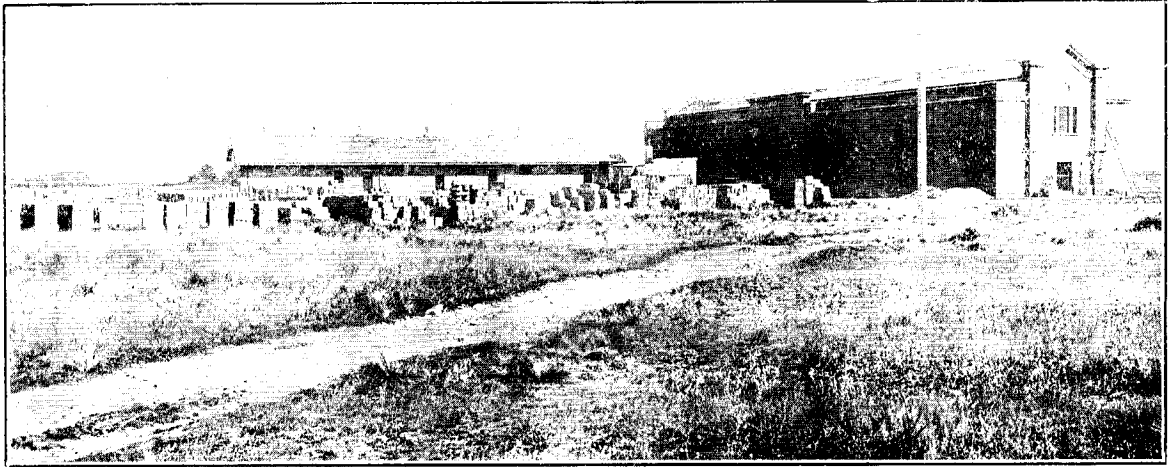
ROTO-AIRA STONE-CRUSHING PLANT AND BUILDINGS UNDER WINTER CONDITIONS.



ROTO-AIRA CAMP UNDER WINTER CONDITIONS.

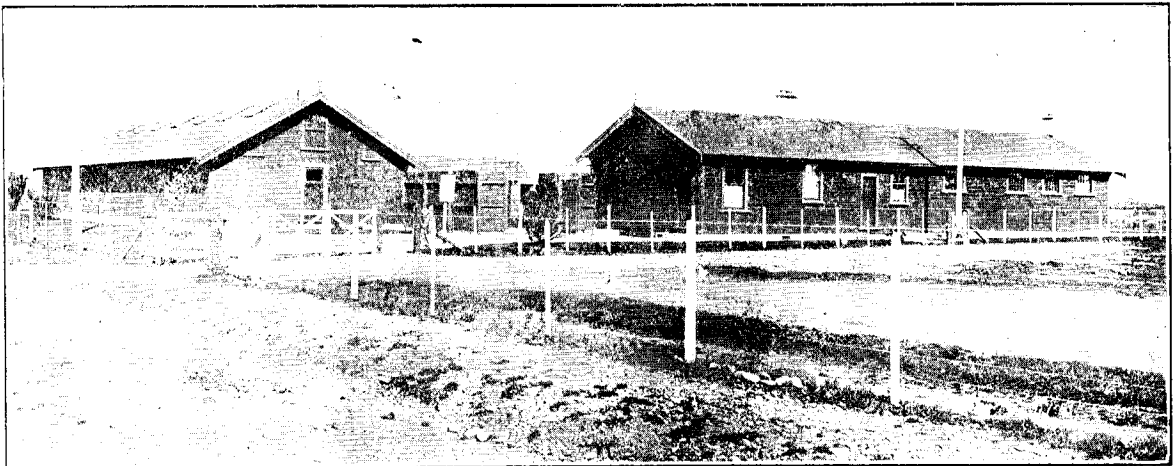
PAPARUA PRISON (TEMPLETON). GENERAL PRISON FOR SOUTH ISLAND.

VIEWS SHOWING BUILDINGS COMPLETED AND IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION, FARMING OPERATIONS, CROPPING, ETC.



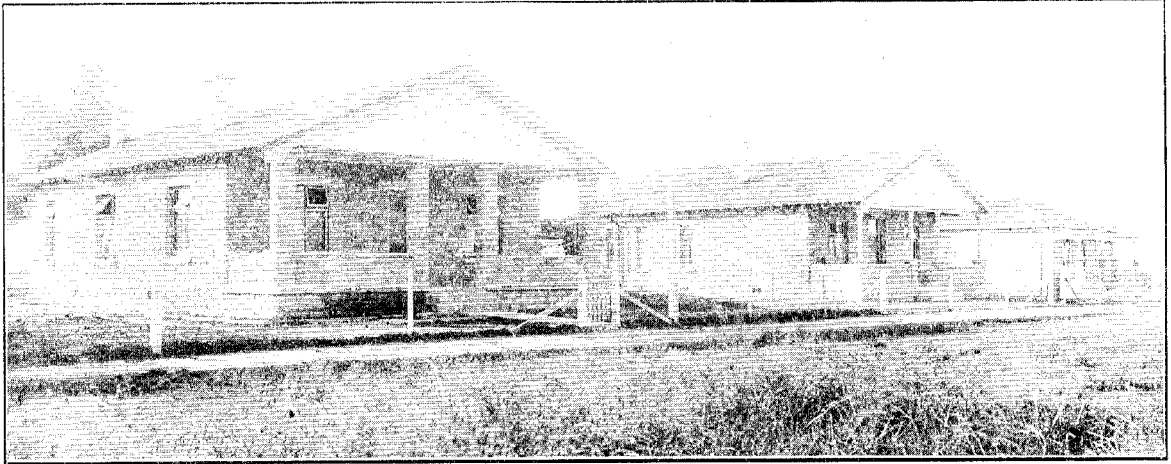
WESTERN CELL RANGE, WITH KITCHEN, LAUNDRY, BATHHOUSE, ETC., AT BACK.

Foundation of Eastern Cell Range completed but not visible. Material used, concrete and concrete blocks and concrete roofing-tiles.



TEMPORARY CELL HOUSES IN WOOD.

PAPARUA PRISON (TEMPLETON).

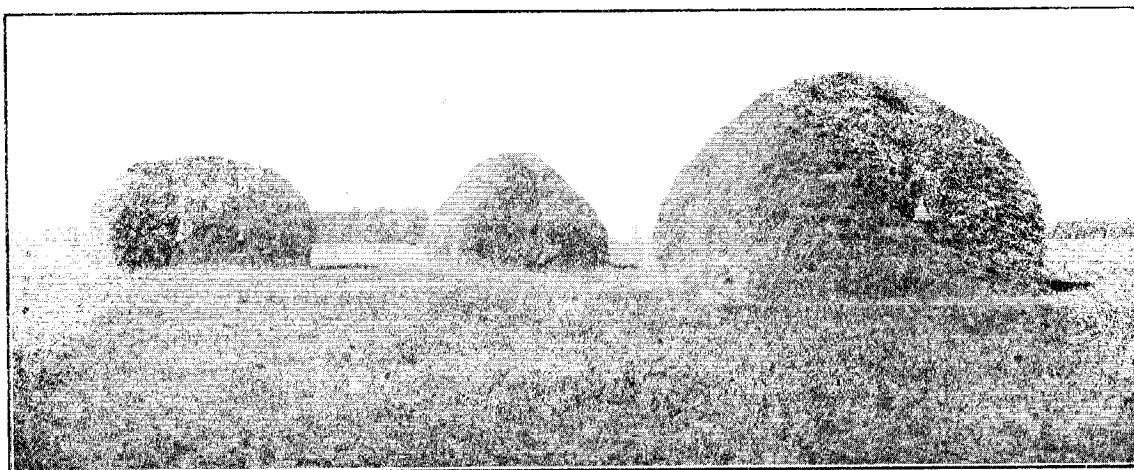


OFFICERS' COTTAGES BUILT OF CONCRETE BLOCKS AND ROOFED WITH CONCRETE TILES.

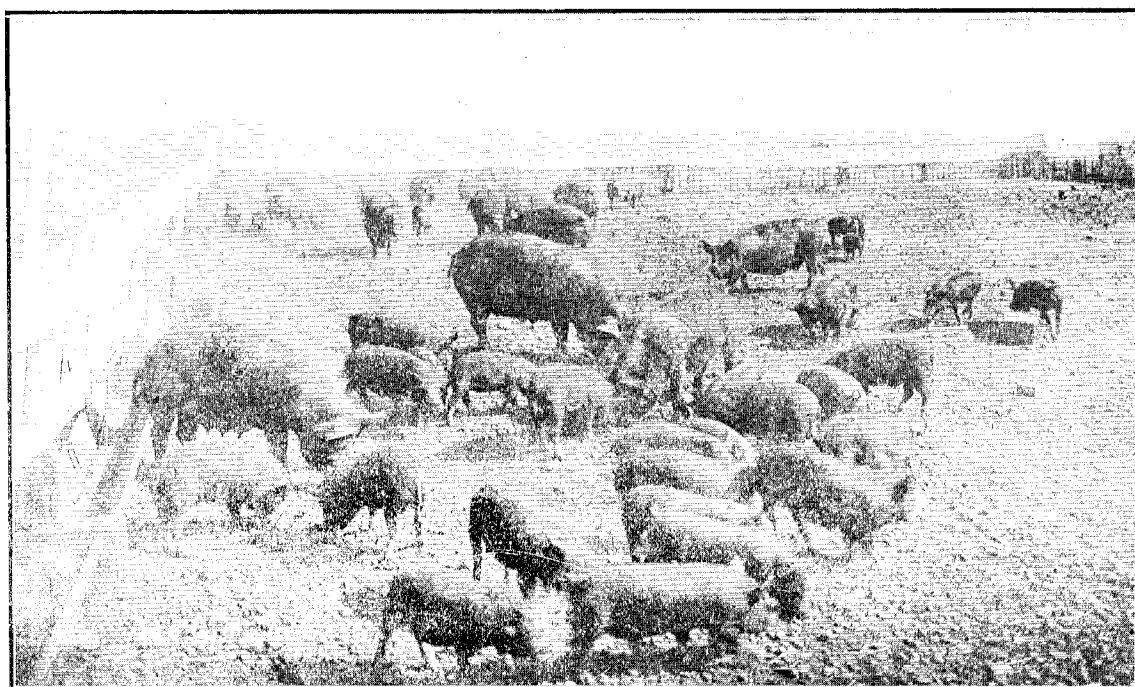


THRESHING OATS AND WHEAT.

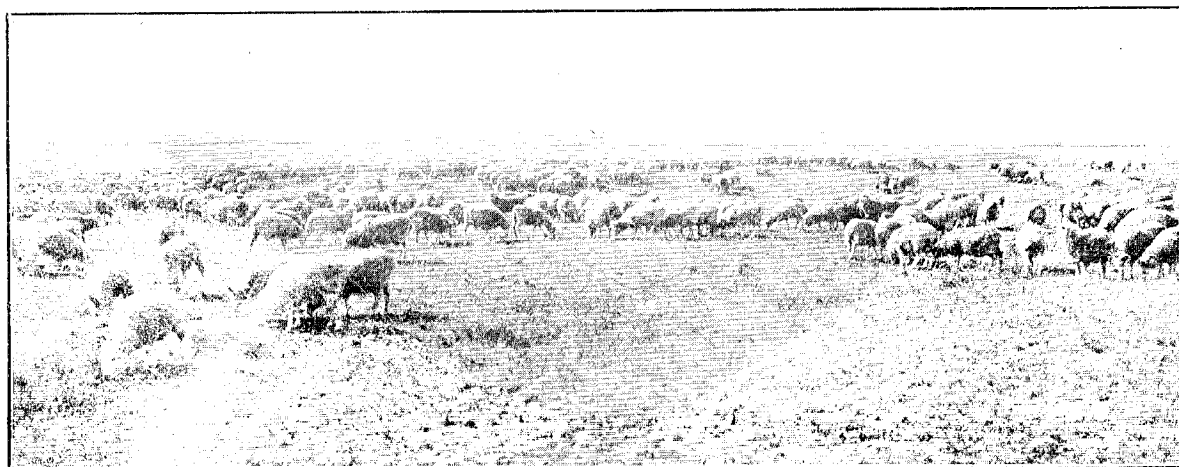
PAPARUA PRISON (TEMPLETON).



PAPARUA WHEAT-STACKS.



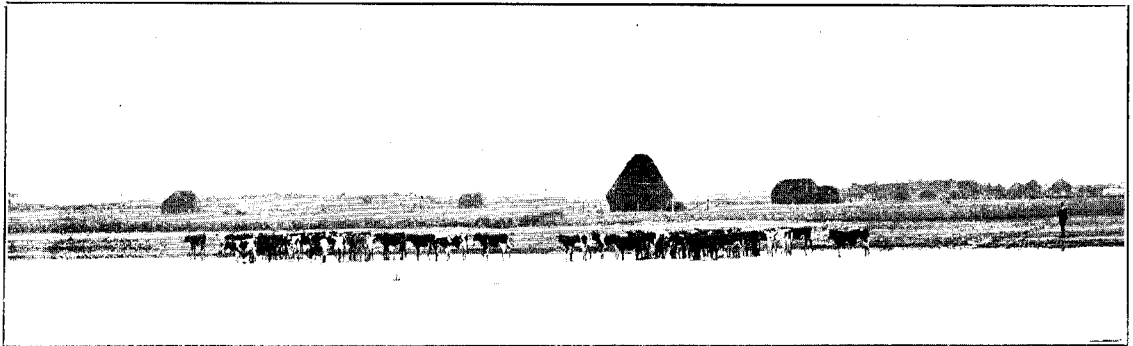
SOME OF THE LIVE-STOCK.



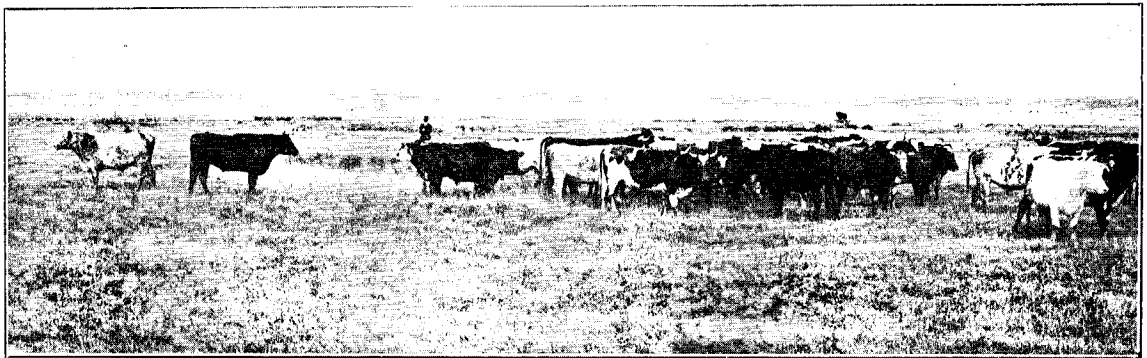
THE PAPARUA FLOCK.

INVERCARGILL BORSTAL INSTITUTION.

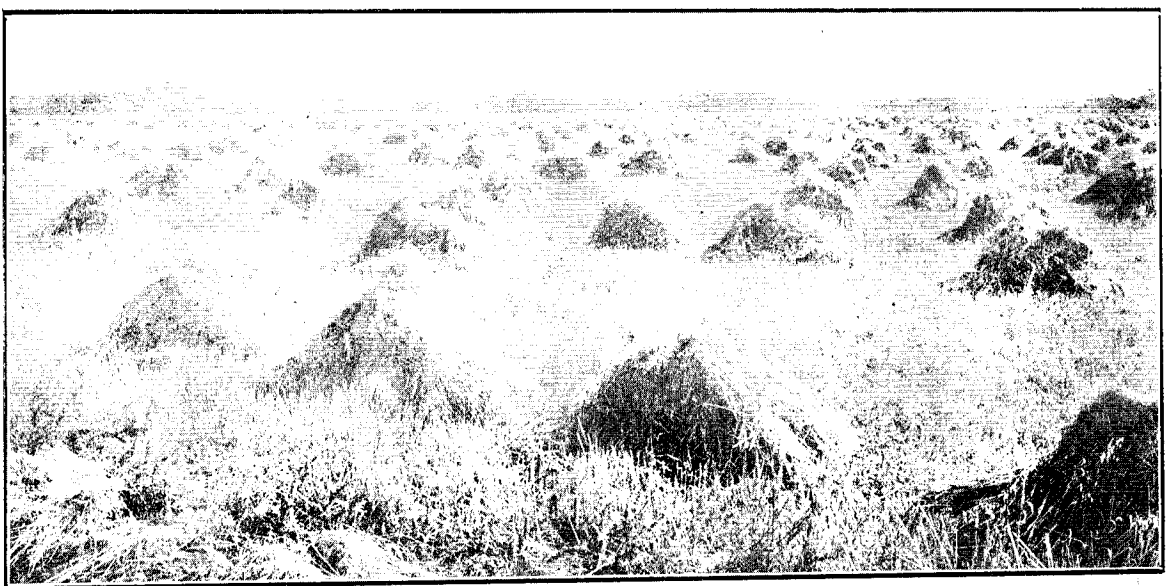
VIEWS OF FARM AREA RECLAIMED FROM TIDAL ESTUARY BY EXTENSIVE EMBANKMENTS
CONSTRUCTED BY LABOUR OF INMATES.



GENERAL VIEW OF SECTION OF PROPERTY.

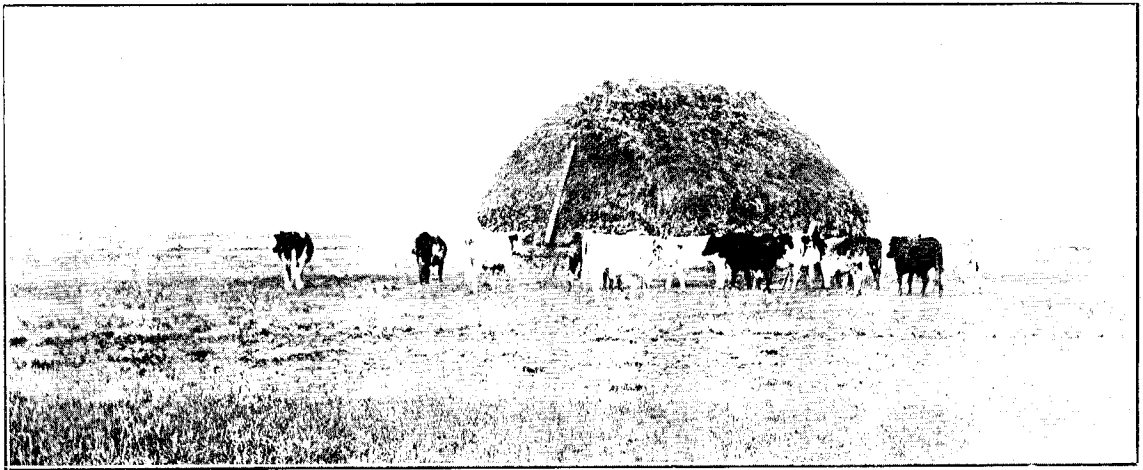


BORSTAL INSTITUTION CATTLE—FOUR- AND FIVE-YEAR-OLD BULLOCKS.

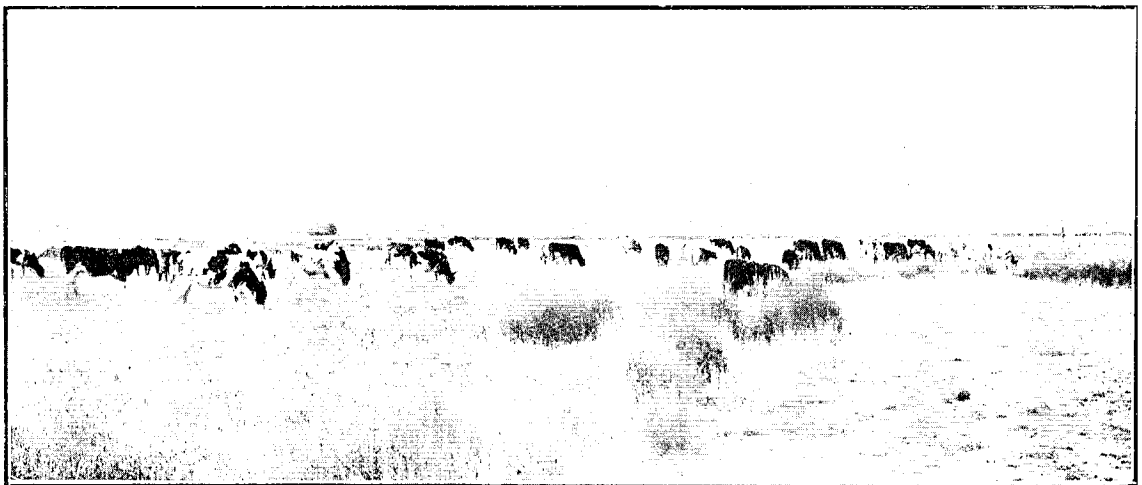


BORSTAL INSTITUTION FARM—OATS IN STOOK, "RECORDS" VARIETY.

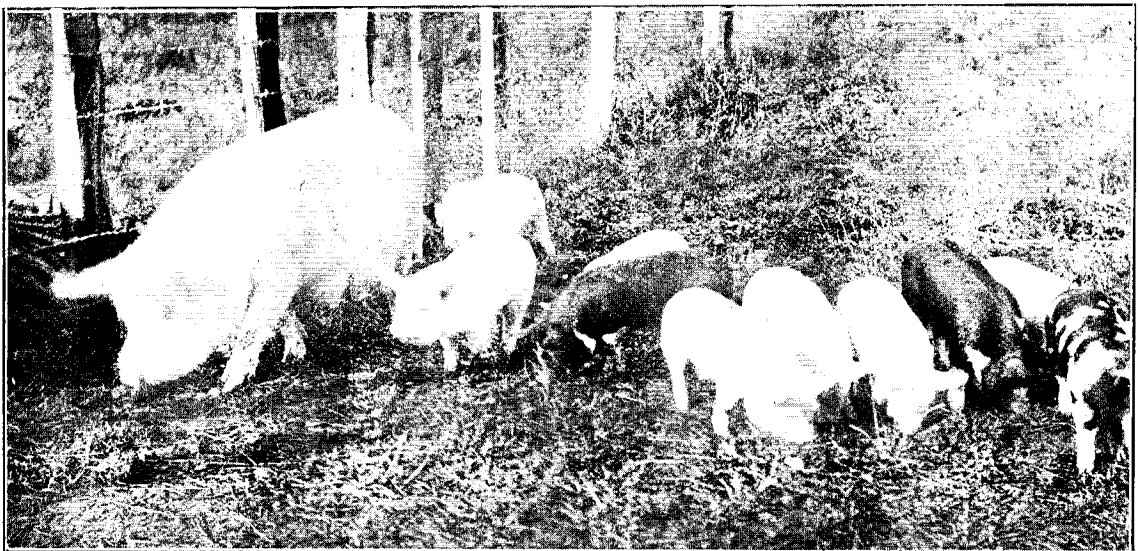
INVERCARGILL BORSTAL INSTITUTION.



BORSTAL INSTITUTION FARM -- HAYSTACK AND FAT BULLOCKS.

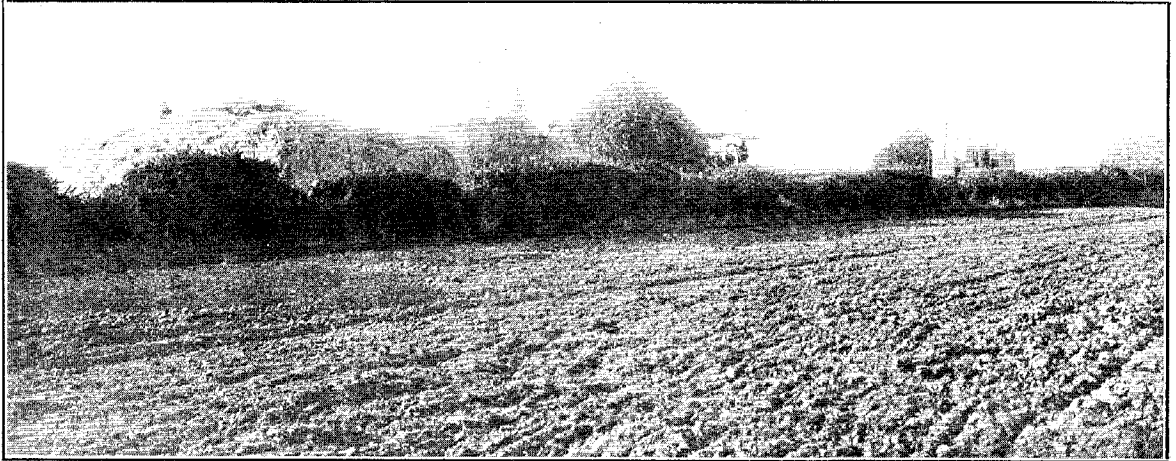


BORSTAL INSTITUTION FARM -- GRADE DAIRY CALVES.

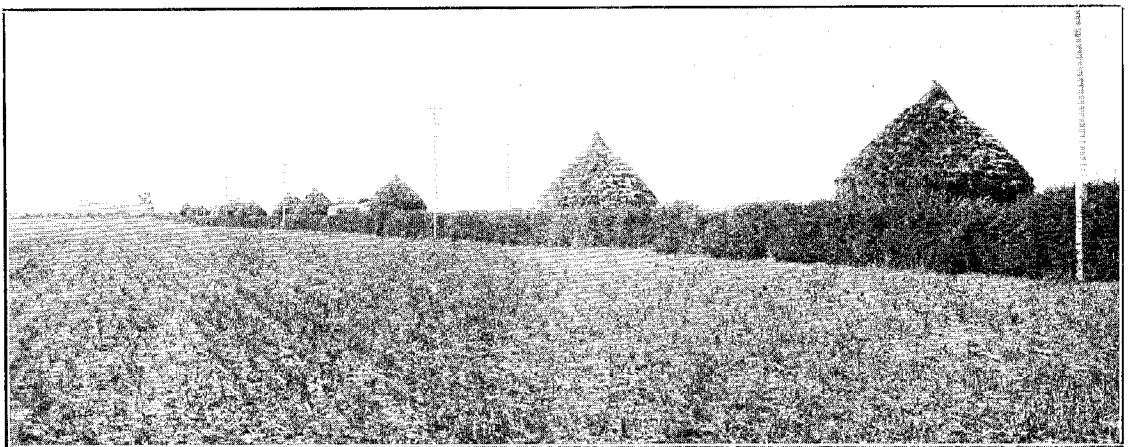


SOW WITH FIRST LITTER.

PAPARUA PRISON (TEMPLETON).



THRESHING OATS.

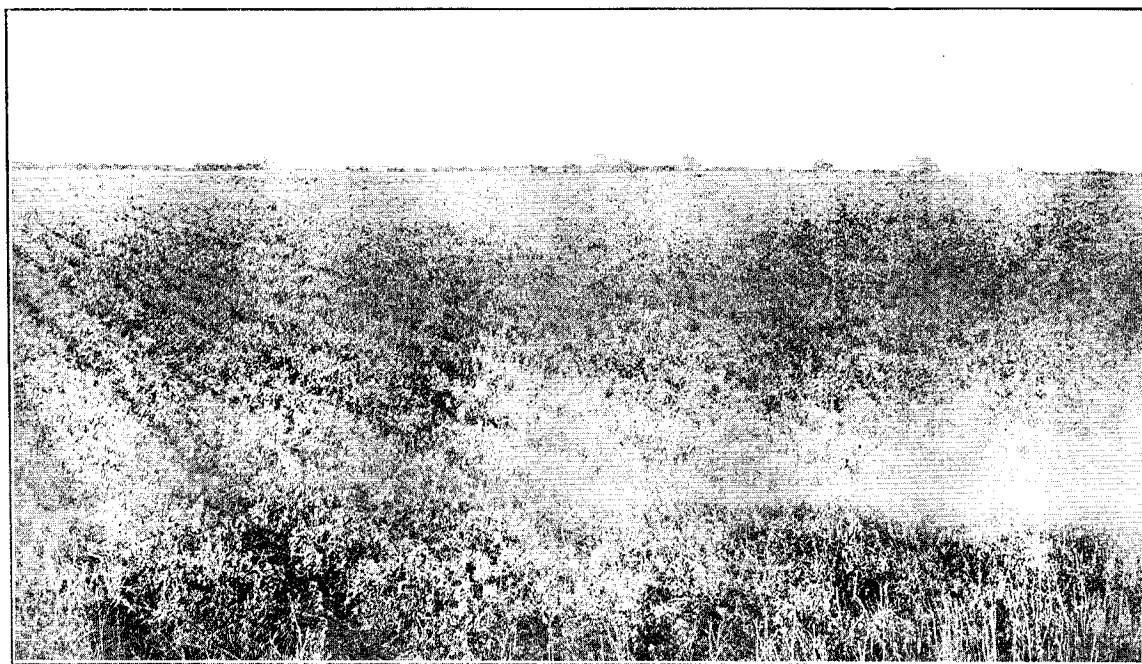


PAPARUA OAT-STACKS.

PAPARUA PRISON (TEMPLETON.)



SOME OF THE PAPARUA TEAMS.



PAPARUA LUCERNE PADDOCK.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF SUPERINTENDENTS, GAOLERS, AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF INSTITUTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1919.

ADDINGTON REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN.

A significant change has been made in general order, and a marked improvement in every branch of working. No effort that may tend towards the reinstatement of individuals is being spared either by the Department or those whose duty it is to carry on the work of training them. Numbers have been greatly reduced by transferring less hopeful cases to northern prisons, thus allowing the staff to give almost uninterrupted attention to the younger members. Encouraging interest is taken in every branch of domestic science—cleaning, cooking, nursing, and sewing. Grateful and commending mention must be directed to Mrs. E. Gardener, instructress in domestic science, Technical College, Christchurch, and to Mrs. S. Watkins, Lady Superintendent of St. John Ambulance Corps, Avonside, Christchurch, for the time and pains they have given in these branches of our work.

An additional interest has been introduced and profitable means of spending the evenings afforded by allowing inmates, according to their ability, to knit, sew, crochet, embroider, &c., the proceeds being credited to them in the institutional deposit account and paid to them on release. The Official Visitors and ladies of Christchurch interested in social work have helped by securing orders and disposing of articles.

Duty hours and dietary for inmates have been altered and improved.

In addition to electric lights throughout the institution, gas-cooking arrangements are being installed. The work in connection with this and other proposed improvements and extensions has been held up owing to short supply of cement and to labour conditions.

The gardens, vegetables, and flowers have been, with the exception of the potato crop, most successful. The inmates work with zeal, and strive for results.

The usual work of the institution, including gardening, sewing, knitting, darning, laundry, cooking, and cleaning, is being well carried out.

Supplies of rations—meat, bread, milk, &c.—have been excellent in quality and measure, and punctually delivered.

The usual concerts and recreations according to the seasons are eagerly looked forward to and heartily enjoyed. Peace Day and Christmas Day were amply provided for.

Divine services have been held by Canon Bean, Revs. Percy Revell, Father Long, and the Salvation Army. Visiting Justices and Official Visitors have rendered noteworthy assistance. The Revs. Frank Rule and Percy Revell visit weekly. The latter has been appointed by the Anglican Bishop to take up the duties of the late Mr. T. I. Smail, Prison-gate Mission, and is commencing a series of short lectures chosen to meet the average intelligence and assist the neglected education of young offenders.

AUCKLAND PRISON.

There were three deaths during the year, one in the Prison and two at the General Hospital, to which the patients had been removed. The usual inquest was held in each case.

There were two escapes, one from the quarry party during the day and one from the interior of the Prison during the night. Both escapees were recaptured and dealt with by the Courts. Three males and one female were certified insane and were committed to the Mental Hospital.

The number of punishments is considerably in excess of previous years, the number of reports totalling 236, against 172 individual prisoners. 102 cases were dealt with by the Superintendent and 134 by Visiting Justices and Magistrates. Several prisoners who persisted in refusing to work had to be punished a number of times before they would turn to.

The daily average on the sick-list was 6.25 males and 0.09 females. This fairly large daily average on the male side is accounted for by some individuals being on the sick-list for a lengthy period—some of them the whole year—several consumptives being quite unfit for work, merely swelling the sick-list.

The new workshops have been in occupation the greater part of the year. Bootmaking machinery driven by electric power has been installed. The shops are bright and airy, and work can now be turned out much more expeditiously than under former conditions.

General work for the year has been the usual quarry-work and stone-dressing for the long-sentence prisoners employed inside the walls. A large quantity of road-metal has been crushed and sold, but a complete modern quarry plant is required before it can be made a payable industry.

A portion of the reserve facing Clive Road has been levelled in order to provide space for the erection of officers' cottages. They are to be built of stone and concrete blocks. Most of the blocks, and stone sufficient for at least one cottage, has been got ready, but we have been subjected to various delays and have only just been able to commence building operations.

The habitual criminals have for several months past been employed in levelling for a football ground about 2½ acres of the Prison Reserve given to the Grammar School Board. A large portion of this ground consists of solid rock, and it will be a considerable time before the work is completed.

Electric light has been installed in the West Wing of the Prison. Half the Prison is now lighted by electricity, and I recommend that the other half be done also. There is always trouble with the gas, and the electric light is cleaner, handier, and less expensive.

The conduct of the staff has been fairly satisfactory. One was reprimanded and warned for lack of vigilance, one fined for being absent without leave, one fined and three reprimanded over the escape of the prisoner who got out of his cell and escaped during the night.

REPORT OF THE SHOOLMASTER AT AUCKLAND.

The average number of pupils for the year is 22·8. The highest roll number was 32.

A better spirit of work has been shown, and considerable progress has been made by all classes, particularly the Fourth Standard. As the men in the Third Class were fairly intelligent I was able to combine this standard with the Fourth in reading and arithmetic, a plan which saved a great deal of time. Most of the men in the Fourth Standard will soon be ready for promotion to Standard Five, which will leave me more time for individual attention to the weaker pupils.

I introduced the teaching of history on Friday evenings for the last twenty minutes. It has proved to be quite a popular subject.

Newcomers unable to read or write are still a perplexing problem. They require a great deal of attention, and, not having sufficient knowledge to be able to continue long at desk-work, can do little to occupy their time while I am engaged with other classes. Most of them find the learning of tables irksome, and are apt to lose heart because they forget so easily. There are, however, at least three notable exceptions. One Maori, unable to read or write in October, 1918, can now read fairly well from a Standard I book, and is quite proficient in Standard II arithmetic.

With the smaller numbers I had towards the end of the year I was able to devote more time to mental arithmetic and composition. In Standard V I gave a good deal of time to English. Each pupil has a book on the subject, and the exercises done are fairly creditable. A pupil of Standard VI is taking a correspondence course in book-keeping, and the college reports his work as excellent. I should strongly recommend that this year an examination for the Fifth Standard should be held under the Department's Regulations. Any headmaster of one of our large city schools is empowered to grant these certificates, the possession of which would prove of considerable advantage to the men when they left the institution. The ambition to obtain such a certificate would, I am certain, be a strong incentive to better work in the lower standards.

GISBORNE GAOL.

The health and conduct of the prisoners has been good.

The prisoners were employed during the year at keeping the Prison clean, attending to the grounds, and levelling at the back of the Prison, which is now complete. The garden this year has been a failure, owing to the sandy nature of the ground and the long period of dry and very hot weather.

The female prisoners were kept constantly employed at keeping their quarters clean, washing and repairing prisoners' clothes and blankets.

GREYMOUTH GAOL.

The general health of the prisoners has been very good, with the exception of eight male prisoners received for medical treatment and suffering from the effects of drink. Two of these had to be transferred to the Mental Hospital at Hokitika.

The prisoners were employed during the year keeping the Prison clean, washing and repairing Prison clothing, digging and cropping the garden.

During the year I had paid into the Public Account the sum of £11 14s. 1d., amount received by me for 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 general health of the inmates has been good. There were nine admissions to the District Hospital, and they were cases requiring treatment that could not be dealt with in the institutional infirmary. Two of the cases required operative treatment for appendicitis, and one was a case of meningitis, which ended fatally, that being the only death during the year.

The conduct of the inmates on the whole has been very good, the majority of institutional offences being of a minor nature. There were four escapes during the year, and the escapees were recaptured after a very brief freedom. In three instances the escapees were from working-parties employed within a few yards of the Otatara Bush, and in the other instance the inmate escaped from the police escort while being transferred to this institution. There was also an attempted escape from the rifle-range-embankment construction party.

The physical classes have been continued in the gymnasium under a qualified instructor with beneficial results.

The educational facilities, having been increased during the year, now cover the full primary course by teaching up to the Sixth Standard. Quite a number of the brighter youths have shown the necessary qualifications to gain proficiency or competency certificates if the opportunity were given, and on their release they could have left the institution with some tangible proof of literary attainment which would be invaluable to their future progress.

The entertainment committee provided the inmates with an entertainment or lecture at least once a month, and they have indeed been appreciated, and, being of an interesting and instructive nature, have helped towards mental improvement.

Demonstration classes in woodwork and bricklaying were undertaken during the year, and are proving very successful; and, although the inmates may not be made finished tradesmen, the foundation has been laid to cause the desire to complete on release the knowledge gained at the institution, and thereby have a means of earning an honest livelihood.

Progress during the year has been made with the new rifle-range reclamation embankment at Otatara.

The development of the Borstal Farm has made steady progress, and now the whole area is ring-fenced and subdivided into grazing-areas. There are now approximately 800 acres under grass, 40 acres in oat crops for chaff, and 40 acres in turnips for winter feed, and it is estimated to have a hay crop from 150 to 200 tons, and carrying 320 store stock and 92 milking-cows. An up-to-date piggery has been erected, allowing for the convenient handling of 90 pigs for fattening purposes.

A cell-house building to accommodate twenty-three inmates has been completed, and the domestic block, comprising bathroom, kitchen, stores, and officers' quarters, is on the verge of completion, likewise a residence for the estate-manager.

The following work has been carried out at the institution: Relaying the whole of the storm-water and sewerage systems; completion of three exercise-yards with exercise-rings and shelters; erection of first floor of new kitchen block, which is to include kitchen, bakehouse, storerooms, visiting-room, butcher's shop, coal-cellar, laundry, and drying-room and washhouse. Block-making and gardening have been carried on as usual, and the lighter has been fully employed conveying gravel for building purposes and roadmaking.

The conduct and efficiency of the staff has been fairly satisfactory, and in most instances keen interest is taken in maintaining a proper standard of discipline and in carrying out the various works.

JOINT REPORT OF SCHOOLMASTERS AT BORSTAL INSTITUTION.

The scheme of work embraces reading, writing, arithmetic; history on broad lines; geography as suggested by the reading lessons; literature, its appreciation and desirability; and general knowledge from the understanding of the language and import of readings from various authors, as well as from short addresses on suitable subjects, such as races, colonization, elementary astronomy, and zoology.

We wish to stress particularly our endeavour to show the students the treasures that lie ready to every one in our great English literature, and we hope later to have them read from standard authors of prose, poetry, and even drama. We are encouraged to this by the interest developed, and up to this sustained, of these hungry young minds for information and for the means of acquiring that information.

The mental processes of these young men, living as they do in community and therefore circumscribed and prejudiced, remind us of the workings of children's minds in their lack of method in approaching new subjects. They (the inmates) are in many ways big children.

We are pleased to report that the happiest relations exist between teachers and taught; that discipline is easy; that enthusiasm even is evinced. The officials have been of the greatest help in preventing waste of time when new pupils enter, and we wish to record our appreciation of their efforts in supervising classes when a teacher is engaged with other standards. From these points we think the Borstal Institution justifies its existence—the change in the point of view of many young men, as evidenced from the change of tone in answers, and their altering view of the problems of life, leading us to that conclusion.

The general note we beg to strike, then, is one of hopefulness that the attitude towards life of many of these young men will be changed—changed for the better.

It was with something of a shock that we found that a full half-dozen of these lusty young men could not read, could not write, and therefore were thrown necessarily into the thought-world of those whose limits of knowledge are the hearsays of the illiterate: for shame of illiteracy is a force quite sufficient to drive a young man into even lower company than his own.

KAINGAROA AFFORESTATION CAMP.

The Prisons Board held two meetings 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 five prisoners—viz., one under the Reformatory Detention Act, 1910, and four under the Statute Law Amendment Act, 1917.

Three prisoners were brought before the Visiting Justice and dealt with for misconduct.

The general conduct of the prisoners has been exemplary, and the work carried out on the plantation has been entirely satisfactory. The following is a summary of the work done by prisoners for the Forestry Department during the year: Pits dug, 1,528,350; trees planted, 317,335; lining-out, weeding, ploughing, fire-breaks, roadmaking, fencing, stable-work, clearing for tree-planting, and general upkeep. The amount earned by the prisoners employed by the Forestry Department represents the sum of £2,669 11s. 2d.

The general health of the prisoners has been good; there were no cases of sickness during the year.

The officers carried out their duties satisfactorily. Three officers arrived on transfer, and three were transferred during the year.

The quantity of fresh vegetables grown in the Prison garden was more than sufficient for the use of the Prison. A good crop of oats and hay was grown on the Prison farm, and provided sufficient feed for the Prison horses, sheep, and cattle, leaving a surplus for the coming year. The 30 acres of grass mentioned in last year's report has come on well, and will be available for feeding stock during the coming season. An area of 25 acres was sown in oats during the spring, and, in spite of a very dry season, gives promise of a very good crop. An area of 2½ acres was planted in potatoes and yielded 130 sacks of good tubers. About sixty pigs were bred during the year; nine were slaughtered for the use of the Prison, the market value at 6d. per pound being £33.

Divine service was conducted periodically throughout the year.

The medical officer paid regular visits to the Prison, saw all prisoners, and made a general inspection of the Prison.

LYTTELTON PRISON.

The health of the prisoners has been good. One prisoner on admission was found to be suffering from venereal disease and was sent to the District Hospital, Christchurch; and one man received on remand from the Police Court, Christchurch, for drunkenness had to be sent to the Hospital, as he was suffering from heart-disease and dropsy. He died in the Hospital after his remand warrant expired.

The conduct and industry of the prisoners has been good, there being only four minor prison offences, which were dealt with by the Visiting Justices, and one charge against a prisoner for assaulting an officer with intent to escape. This prisoner was brought before a Stipendiary Magistrate and punished.

The rations supplied were of good quality.

The North and South Wings have been closed from the 31st December, 1919, and the East Wing was opened for the reception of prisoners. The party of prisoners employed at the Lyttelton Borough Council quarry was transferred to the Paparua Prison at the end of December.

Divine service has been held on Sundays during the year.

NAPIER PRISON.

The conduct and industry of prisoners have been good, only four individuals being charged with minor prison offences. They were dealt with by the Visiting Justices.

The health of prisoners has been good; no cases occurred requiring the urgent attendance of the medical officer.

The rations supplied were of good quality, and the scale of allowances sufficient.

The prisoners have been employed in the quarry, Coote Road. The sale of the material quarried realized £188 17s. 2d. for the year, and is the only source of income derived from the labour of prisoners at this Prison.

Divine service on Sundays has been conducted by the clergy of the Church of England; no ministers of other denominations have visited to hold service.

NEW PLYMOUTH PRISON.

The prisoners have been employed on work similar to that of last year, such as quarry-work, gardening, building a piggery, and improving the approaches to the quarry so as to make it almost impossible for a prisoner to escape without taking an enormous risk. The quarry road has had a lot of labour and good material put on, and resulted in the teams and motor-lorries being able to work all through the winter without any inconvenience. Considering the narrowness of the road, and that parts of it seldom get any sun during the winter, and also considering the axle-weight of some of the loads would be 10 or 11 tons, the road stood the strain well.

The cash returns from the quarry and garden show a substantial increase; and, as no credit is taken for the expenditure of labour and material on the quarry road, also the general upkeep of the reserve, the prisoners on the whole have done good work.

There was an attempt to break prison by one prisoner. I believe the action of the man was more to satisfy his vanity and become a gaol hero without any expectation of remaining out of prison for any lengthy period. The Stipendiary Magistrate punished him severely, and probably the prisoner will not make another attempt.

The conduct of the prisoners on the whole has been very good, and the majority, I believe, do their best to give satisfaction.

The health of the prisoners has been very good, with the exception of one man who was diseased when he came into Prison.

Ministers of the various denominations have under their plan conducted services every Sunday, and have gained the attention of the inmates, and I do not know of one prisoner who had to be checked for any irregularity during the services.

The prisoners were entertained by Mr. Bennett, Official Visitor, and several gentlemen who took part in a concert provided for the benefit of the prisoners. I am sure the inmates were grateful to those who took part, also to the Department for the privilege.

PAPARUA PRISON.

The health of the prisoners has been good; very few cases of sickness having occurred, the open-air surroundings of the Prison being conducive to health.

There was one escape during the year, the prisoner being recaptured three days later on the plains, and sentenced to a further term of imprisonment. The conduct of the prisoners has been very good, the number of punishments found necessary being caused by twenty-two military objectors refusing to work on one occasion on account of one of their number being locked up for refusing to attend fire drill in the interest of their own safety.

Large numbers of boots and slippers have been manufactured in the bootmaker's shop for the Prisons and Mental Hospitals Departments.

The spiritual welfare of the prisoners has been well attended to by Staff Captain Barnes (Salvation Army), members of the Brethren faith, the Revs. Revell and Fox, and the Rev. Father Leen. Services have been held on Sundays throughout the year.

The new cell range is practically finished, and is fully occupied by prisoners. The cement floor of balcony is still to be laid, the delay being caused by the shortage of cement, which has been unobtainable in Christchurch for some five months. On the east side of this range an exercise-yard for trial and remand prisoners has been built. This is 50 ft. by 30 ft., with W.C., urinals, &c., and is completely covered with expanded metal.

The kitchen block is practically completed with the exception of the divisions in the bathroom and fitting up the bakehouse. The electric cooking-apparatus in the kitchen is completed. The bathroom and laundry are also connected with the electric heater in the kitchen. A new transformer is to be installed to supply the necessary energy for cooking, baking, &c.

The improvements to No. 1 temporary block are completed with the exception of plastering the septic tank, which is delayed owing to the shortage of cement.

There are now five concrete-block cottages completed and occupied by officers. These are all connected with the septic tank, electrically lighted, and have hot- and cold-water systems. The Gaoler's residence is nearly completed, being roofed in, but is now waiting for a supply of cement to finish the plastering. The well at the cottages has been completed, and a large 2,000-gallon tank and windmill erected which supplies all the officers' cottages with water. In connection with the building operations a large number of blocks and roofing-tiles, also fencing-posts, have been manufactured, but the industry is held up on account of the cement shortage. A large concrete-block piggery containing twenty sties has also been built nearly roof-high, the completion of which is held up for the same reason. The concrete foundation of a seventh concrete-block cottage has also been laid down. A concrete-block poultry-run has also been erected, consisting of two large hen-houses, incubator-room, and store; also four smaller breeding-houses are in course of erection.

The new road on the boundary of the farm is now nearing completion.

A large amount of fencing has been completed with concrete posts. The old fences have nearly all been removed.

The crops this year consisted of 125 acres of oats, 60 acres wheat, 24 acres barley, 20 acres potatoes, 17 acres mangolds, 2 acres horse-carrots, 1 acre partridge peas, 30 acres turnips, 10 acres rape, 40 acres lucerne, 5 acres tall oat-grass, 5 acres sheep-burnet, 30 acres laid down in grass.

Cash credits amounting to £2,484 5s. 4d. were received and paid into the Public Account. £229 was received for sale of pigs. 547 lambs were bred on the farm, and realized the sum of £656 8s. 10d. With the exception of 206 ewes, all the old flock of sheep have been sold and replaced with two-, four-, and six-tooth ewes. The flock now consists of 1,000 ewes and twenty rams. £332 was received for wool and skins, £254 1s. for roofing-tiles and paving-blocks, £95 5s. 2d. for vegetables, £104 5s. 4d. for meat and rations to officers, £368 10s. 3d. for cull ewes, £327 10s. 3d. for wheat.

Fire practice has taken place weekly during the year.

The conduct of the staff has been very satisfactory. One officer was dismissed for misconduct.

I regret having to record the death of Warder George Protheroe from pneumonia, the after-effects of influenza contracted during the epidemic. He was a smart, efficient officer.

ROTO-AIRA ROADMAKING PRISON CAMP.

The work of forming and metalling the Waimarino-Tokaanu Road and bridging the various streams still continue to progress. Work in this district is very seriously hampered by wet weather, and under these circumstances it is not possible to make the progress one would desire.

Early in the year the advance camp was removed from the Whakapapanui Stream to the Mangatepopo Stream—a distance of about seven miles. Road-formation and bridge-building has been pushed on from the latter stream, three bridges being erected, and about three miles of formation was completed, including the long side cutting leading down to the Wanganni River.

A temporary camp was established at Waimarino, where men and teams were kept for the purpose of dealing with the metalling of the section of road near the township. In addition to road-metalling a large quantity of firewood was cut and railed to Wellington, which was found very useful during the winter months when coal was not procurable. The section of road near Waimarino known as Carroll Street was widened from 14 ft. to 20 ft., which improved the road considerably. There is now a fair amount of motor traffic over the road which is in course of construction. This, coupled with the abnormal rainfall, entails a large amount of maintenance work.

Timber for bridges and culverts is still pit-sawn from the bush by prison labour, and in this connection I wish to mention that only first-class timber is used, which adds to the life of all bridges erected.

WAIKERIA REFORMATORY FOR MEN.

The conduct of the inmates, on the whole, has been very satisfactory, although several were punished for breaches of the regulations. There was only one escape throughout the year, despite the fact that a large number of inmates are working on the honour system. This goes to show the men appreciate the trust bestowed upon them.

The health of the men has been good. One inmate was taken to the hospital with a broken leg in the latter part of 1918, and was brought back to the institution early in January. Other illnesses were of a minor nature, and were treated in the Reformatory by the medical officer.

The progress made with the buildings has been delayed on account of the Railway Department not carrying cement, lime, and timber for some considerable time, and also by the difficulty experienced by the Public Works in supplying some of the lines we order.

The Administrative Wing is finished with the exception of the bathroom. There has been a considerable amount of excavating done on the site, and a new road formed up in front of the building, this latter giving a better access to the Administrative Wing. All paths and roads leading to the site have been metalled.

A start was made during the latter portion of the year with quarters for single officers, and the blocklaying is half completed. A small building of concrete blocks was erected for use as a slaughterhouse, and is finished except for the fixing of two doors. It will be a great improvement on the building at present in use.

One four-roomed cottage has been erected, and a start has been made with the foundations for another residence. This latter should be finished in the early part of next year.

The reservoir, to hold 35,000 gallons of water, is now being plastered, and will be ready for use shortly.

A bowling-green is being provided for the use of the officers, and this I hope to have down in grass by next autumn.

I have had 188 acres cleared, burnt, and stumped. In many instances a great deal of grubbing was required to clear the roots out of the ground before the plough could be got to work. Good progress has been made with the swamp drainage on the north end of the farm, and also with the new vegetable-garden.

A large amount of work has been done in the blacksmith's shop both for the farm and for the Public Works.

The fencing of the Tokanui Mental Hospital Road is well in hand, but there has been considerable delay with the delivery of materials such as posts and battens, of which I have only been able to procure small quantities at a time.

The manufacture of concrete blocks has been carried on when cement was available, and a large number of blocks are now in stock. Several thousand have been carted to the new officer's quarters and to No. 11 cottage. A new tile machine has lately been received, and a start will shortly be made to manufacture tiles. A large number of posts and pipes have been made both for the farm and also the Mental Hospital Road fences.

Telephones have been fixed at the dairy camp, dairy, and Principal Warder's cottage.

A good deal of fencing, in addition to that on the Tokanui Hospital Road, has been done on all parts of the farm, and several large concrete troughs have been built in order to keep the cows well supplied with water in the dry weather. The dairy herd is giving satisfaction, and has been increased from forty to ninety-eight cows. In addition a large number of calves and steers have been reared. The pigs have done very well on the whole, and give promise of better results during the ensuing year. The sows we have—to the number of sixteen—are of a very good class, but when changing our breed we experience great difficulty in purchasing a good class of suitable boar. The poultry department, being only a side line, is paying as well as can be expected. There is not a very large stock on hand at present, as a number were sold in the latter part of the year, these being old birds and young birds unsuitable for laying. In addition several turkeys were disposed of. During the coming year it will be necessary to reduce the size of the poultry-yards in order that a smaller number may be kept together. In this way we will have better results in our breeding-pens. The number of eggs sold was 1,555 dozen, and the average return was 1s. 9½d. per dozen. The number of chickens, turkeys, and ducks on hand at present is 481.

The orchards, both old and new, are looking well. They have received a good deal of attention this year, both in pruning and spraying, hence their fine appearance. As we have now an expert orchardist appointed, next year we should show a fair return for our labour.

The amount of land put down in crops during the twelve months is as follows: 10 acres in soft turnips, 70 acres in oats, 10 acres in potatoes, 3 acres in pumpkins, 4½ acres in wheat, 11 acres in mangolds, 25 acres in swedes, 2 acres in carrots, and 58 acres reserved for hay. Most of the crops are looking well, and the autumn oats have turned out splendidly. The latter have been cut and are now in stock. The potatoes, tomatoes, and tobacco-plants received a severe check, as the frost destroyed all our early crops. The vegetable-garden has been kept in good order, and a large area has been planted out in onions. We have a small nursery of pine and gum trees, and these should be ready for planting out in the coming June, also 10,000 privet-plants for shelter hedges.

The conduct of the officers, on the whole, has been good.

Divine service for the Protestants was conducted by the Revs. Henderson, Shaw, and Carew-Thomas, and for the Roman Catholics by the Rev. Father Jansen.

The Visiting Justices—Mr. Burton (Stipendiary Magistrate), Mr. Teasdale, and Colonel Ryder—visited the Reformatory at intervals, and, in several instances, granted interviews to inmates.

The Rev. Henderson and the members of the Reformatory Aid Society have done excellent work throughout the year in providing suitable concerts and lectures for the inmates, by whom they have been highly appreciated. The piano that was supplied by the Department is certainly one of the chief assets at the concerts.

WELLINGTON PRISON.

The general health of the prisoners was very good. The greatest number of cases of sickness at any one time was four males and one female. Admissions to hospital were eight males and two females.

Of the offences committed by prisoners, thirty-four were against officers, fifty-eight for disobedience of orders and idleness, and ninety-eight for other breaches of the regulations. Seventy military offenders were received during the year. There were fifty-five males and three females admitted for medical treatment.

The quality of the rations issued to the prisoners was excellent, with the result that no complaints were made. The material supplied for manufacture and other articles gave every satisfaction.

The conduct of the officers was very good, no offences of a serious nature being reported. They carried out their duties in a very satisfactory manner.

The Visiting Justices made frequent visits to the prisons.

The Official Visitors—Mrs. Duncan and Mrs. Brigadier Glover—made weekly visits to the female Prison, conversed with the prisoners (ofttimes in private), and gave them timely aid on their discharge. Mr. T. P. Mills made frequent visits to the prisons and gave friendly advice, especially to the younger offenders.

Representatives of the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist Churches, and the Salvation Army held regular Church services on Sundays; and the splendid band of the Salvation Army visited the Prison quarterly and dispensed music, to the delight and appreciation of the inmates.

On Christmas Day, by permission of the Controller-General of Prisons, Mr. Edwin Arnold, V.J., brought a concert party to the Prison, and the female prisoners were treated to some good songs, solos, and recitations by the party.

Prisoners were employed excavating for the Technical Education Board at the Mount Cook Reserve. Brickmaking was carried on for three months ending 31st March, 1919, and 311,450 bricks were manufactured. 502,360 bricks were sold, of the value of £1,594 10s. 10d.

A large quantity of firewood was cut, and sold to the State Coal and Internal Affairs Departments and others.

At Point Halswell the prisoners were employed during the year excavating and improving the Prison site, clearing the trees on the plantation, clearing and burning off the fire-breaks. A quantity of cocksfoot was cut; wire was unrolled for fencing and other purposes; cable was removed from the sea, dealt with, and forwarded to other prisons; the grass was cut on magazine mounds at Shelly Bay; the Beach Road was repaired from Shelly Bay to Scorching Bay, and a retaining-wall was built.

Milk was supplied to the Terrace and Mount Cook Prisons, amounting in value to £59 0s. 6d. Thirty-two pigs were sold, netting £120 9s. 8d.

WI TAKO PRISON (TRENTHAM).

The conduct and industry of the general body of the prisoners has been exemplary throughout the year.

The health of the prisoners has been very good.

Rations have been obtained from the Military Supply Depot, and have been of the first quality.

The site for the new Prison has been cleared and levelled, and a small reservoir has been built which ensures an ample supply of spring water for all purposes.

Owing to the train "cut" some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining supplies of building-timber, &c., and it was found necessary to employ motor traffic to keep up the supply.

Single-cell accommodation has been completed for twenty-seven prisoners. The Prison kitchen, staff dining-room, and bathing-house for Prison are also complete. The necessary buildings for offices, stores, visiting-room, sleeping-room for staff, &c., are just on completion.

A road to give access to the Prison has been formed and metalled. Some 2 acres of ground has been cleared and ploughed, and the vegetables for the Prison are now being produced by Prison labour. A start has been made on the draining of the swamp, and it is hoped to have the main drains completed within the next twelve months.

The military camp authorities have been of considerable assistance, and I wish to record my thanks for the help they have rendered us.

FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT, AND GENERAL PROBATION.

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

REV. F. R. JEFFREYS, GENERAL PROBATION OFFICER, AUCKLAND.

I have much pleasure in presenting the annual report for the year's work ending 31st March. In many ways the work has been much the same as in previous years, and the experiences met with have more than ever confirmed the opinion that I have expressed in previous reports relative to the value of the probation system. The experience of the five years during which I have been

working as your Probation Officer in Auckland under the First Offenders' Probation Act, 1908, and the eighteen months that I have acted under the Crimes Amendment Act of 1910, fully justify the statement that the system of probation is one of the finest things that our Dominion has in the administration of justice. Since taking over this work in Auckland I can say without the least exaggeration that the probation system in this district alone has been the means of saving at least two hundred young people from the stigma of gaol. From a citizen's as well as from an economic point of view this is of incalculable benefit to the community. Experience under the Crimes Amendment Act, 1910—that is, dealing with reformatory detention prisoners on license from gaol, and with habitual criminals also released by the Prisons Board on license—emphasizes in a very strong manner the advantages, to young people especially, of the first offenders' probation. The contrast in the general outlook upon life is most marked between these two classes of offenders. In the first place, the first offender, if possessed of ordinary common-sense, is generally so grateful for the opportunity of another chance that this gratitude is one of the biggest incentives for going straight in future; and, further, the escape from the gaol stigma helps the delinquent to face the world and make good. On the other hand, prisoners, especially habitual criminals released on license by the Prisons Board, often find it hard to face their fellow-men after a long term in prison.

Under the First Offenders Act I received during the year a total of eighty-six probationers (eighteen of whom were transferred to me from other districts), twenty-one for three years, thirty-two for two years, three for eighteen months, twenty-eight for one year, and two for six months and under. Twenty-eight were transferred to other districts, four completed probation, eight lapsed (that is, through committing some other crime were taken to Court and returned to gaol, &c.), showing that the percentage of those who failed to make good for their probation during the year is under 10 per cent. The year began with ninety-eight probationers under my care and ended with 100. The amount ordered by the Courts to be paid in restitution during the year was £311 16s. 5d., of which £139 9s. 11d. was duly collected. The amounts ordered to be paid for costs of prosecution were £50 13s. 8d., of which £48 8s. 3d. was collected. It is important to note that the payment of amounts ordered in restitution is of great disciplinary value to the probationers. Young men who have robbed people and find that they have to pay back by their own hard work are much less disposed to continue in wrongdoing than those who are sent to gaol and thus released from any responsibility in the matter.

Crimes Amendment Act, 1910: The year commenced with thirty-five probationers on my books, and during the year from the various prisons in the Dominion I received forty-eight; seven were transferred from other districts, showing a total of ninety of these men handled in the year. Twenty-six completed their probation, five were returned to prison for various causes, twenty-two were transferred to other districts, three absconded from probation and so far have not been traced. Of the number received, those who were returned to prison (five) make a percentage of failures of $4\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.—a result that is most satisfactory considering the long records that many of these prisoners had.

Informal probationers: There have not been so many cases in this class of probationers as in previous years, but those who have been received have, on the whole, been turning out fairly satisfactorily.

During the year the sum of £483 1s. 5d. on account of prison earnings was paid to Crimes Amendment Act probationers and to other prisoners who were released from gaol. This disbursement was made by voucher on the Post Office. In several instances prisoners discharged from gaol with a fair amount of prison earnings due to them, although not on probation, have had their earnings controlled by the Probation Officer. This has been a means of safeguarding these men from squandering their money and inducing them to use it beneficially to themselves.

The handling of an average of about 150 probationers every month has entailed a great amount of detail work, and would have been quite impossible for me without the valuable assistance of the Prison Officer who was assigned to me by the Department when I took over the Crimes Amendment Act probation in 1918. An idea of the detail work in keeping in touch with these probationers may be gathered from the fact that during the year there were 1,318 outward letters (exclusive of telegrams and monthly reports) sent from this office.

As in past years your officer has received the utmost assistance and co-operation from Court, police, and gaol officials, and the public little realize how many of the officers connected with these departments of justice will time after time go out of their way in order to help some erring young person to come back to the paths of a straightforward life. To all these officials for many kindnesses received I wish to express the warmest thanks.

Finally, the experience of past years leads me to express the hope that in the very near future our whole probation system may be so improved and linked up with other social departments that it will prove even more effective than it has done in the past.

REV. FRANK RULE, CHRISTCHURCH.

I have the honour to report that during the year ending 31st March, 1920, the work of the Probation Officer under the First Offenders Act, 1908, has been prosecuted with varying degrees of success. Morning by morning in the Magistrate's Court, and each criminal session of the Supreme Court, efforts are made to turn the energies of the potential criminal into channels that make for good citizenship. It is gratifying to find so few first offenders who get the benefits of this humane Act lapsing again into crime. Informal probation in the Magistrate's Court is certainly supplying a real need. During the year the young women who yielded to the impulse to steal so that they might be as well dressed as some one else, and as a consequence found themselves in the grip of the law, have found this modern custom in Court circles a real refuge. It is to be hoped that the period of supervision provided in this way will prevent further lapses. At the beginning of the year forty names were on our books. Since then thirty-four "informal," thirteen

“formal,” and six transfers have raised the number to ninety-three. During the year twenty-six “informal” and five “formal” have completed their terms, nine have been transferred, two were sent to inebriates’ institutions, one disappeared, and only four were sent to gaol, leaving the number on our books at the close of the year forty-six.

MR. F. G. CUMMING, GENERAL PROBATION OFFICER, DUNEDIN.

In submitting a brief report of the probation work in the Dunedin district for the past year I desire to say that the period has been, on the whole, a very satisfactory though fairly heavy one. I have not had any serious difficulty with the men and women placed under my control; indeed, I find them willing to carry out the conditions of their probation freely, realizing that the Act affords them a real chance of making good.

During the year I have entered thirty men and women upon my register under the First Offenders’ Probation Act. Some of these have been transferred from other districts, but the majority are from our local Supreme and Magistrate’s Courts. This is a fairly large number—indeed, it is a record one for this district. They have all been placed in situations, and with rare exceptions are giving every satisfaction to their employers and to myself as Probation Officer.

During the period covered by this report seven probationers have been discharged, and each of these is doing well for himself or herself. They never fail when in town to call at my office and express themselves as grateful for the chance given by the Department and for the assistance and advice rendered by this office. Two have had their license cancelled, and are now in the Borstal Institution at Invercargill. One of these was a local man, the other came to me on transfer. One regrets to have to cancel a license, but in the interests of the men themselves as well as of other probationers this is sometimes necessary, otherwise the Act would become a farce.

I have transferred five probationers to other districts, and am given to understand that they are doing well. At the end of the year I had on my register twenty-seven first offenders and four under the Crimes Act, making in all thirty-one.

Then there are quite a number of men, women, and young people placed on their honour by being ordered to come up for sentence when called upon. These are placed under the Probation Officer’s control, and entail a good deal of work on my part; still, one is always pleased to have a chance to do something for these unfortunates, and, on the whole, good is seen as a result of the chance given. I am, however, strongly of the opinion that probation is the better course to adopt.

I repeat what I have stated on a previous occasion, that the Probation Act prevents an offender from becoming a criminal—first, by showing him definitely what his duty to society is; and, second, by providing such a one with a Probation Officer—or, in other words, a friend—who will advise him, and endeavour to develop within him a spirit of self-reliance and respect, by kindly and practical sympathy. I am strongly of the opinion that there is great possibility for genuine reform among the unfortunates of this country under the humane system of the Probation Act.

It is interesting and encouraging to see the attitude now taken by Judge and Magistrate *re* giving those who come before them a chance to make good. The confidence and respect they place in the Probation Officer, too, is often very pronounced. Personally I am fortunate in this matter, and am very grateful to Judges, Magistrates, and police for the opportunities they give me to carry out the duties of my office.

I attend the Courts almost daily, and if females are charged, my assistant, Sister Alice, is present, and quite a few young women have been placed under her care with unique success. These people are not only taken from the Court, but are visited in their homes and placed in suitable situations. The Magistrates of this centre have expressed their pleasure at the work done among this class of offender.

MR. A. McLEAN, GENERAL PROBATION OFFICER, INVERCARGILL.

In submitting the annual report of my work as First Offenders’ Probation Officer it is gratifying to record that the year has been a successful one. In no instance had probation to be cancelled. There were occasions when probationers were disposed to regard the conditions of release with the laxity and indifference characteristic of their easy view of life. The expenditure of time and personal effort in interpreting and in the explanation of the intention of the conditions of release invariably secured the desired results.

The value of the Act is evident in cases where youths, many of whom having little or no power of resistance, have become slaves to their primitive impulses. In this connection it is interesting to note that the whole of the conditions of release with the exception of two clauses are positive in their requirements. I take it, therefore, they are intended to be constructive agencies in the work of reformation. If this interpretation of the conditions of release is a correct one it is very necessary that this should be constantly kept in view in the administration of the Act. A merely negative system of ethics cannot build up a strong character. Evil habits must be eradicated, but it should be recognized that in doing so a blank is made in the life of a person with limited mentality. The system I have endeavoured to work upon is to substitute industry, thrift, honest endeavour, and thought for others in place of idleness, extravagance, slackness, and selfish indulgence. This method has worked well, and though the progress was often slow, and the results not always all that could be desired, some measure of reform was accomplished in nearly every instance.

My experience is that the value of the Act is enhanced by frank discussions with probationers upon the circumstances, position, or particular problem in the life of the individual concerned. This requires that the Probation Officer be regarded as a friend rather than as an official, and the discussion conducted with judgment rather than under the impulse of enthusiasm. The first essential step in the direction of reformation is to secure the confidence of the probationer. The

attitude of the criminal towards any—even well-intentioned—advance is often one of suspicion and fear. First offenders are usually free from these emotions, and therefore do more readily respond to any attempt to give direction to their energies by advice and suggestion.

The endeavour throughout the year has been to obtain from probationers something more than prompt obedience and the strict fulfilment of the conditions of release. Personal interest, and the knowledge that any failure to comply with the conditions entails the liability to suffer penalty, will generally secure the observance of the conditions imposed. If the probationer is to become a good citizen his conduct must be the expression of an earnest desire to establish, or to regain, social status, with a belief in its possibility.

Instances are on record where the result of judicious encouragement, and the display of belief in the probationer's possibility to make good, fully justified the confidence. In one instance the probationer was so discouraged by his repeated failure to observe all the conditions of his release that he came to see me and suggested that I should get him "sent up" for a term. I had carefully studied this youth's characteristics and concluded he had some good qualities. After discussing the matter together for an hour or two, he went home inspired with the resolve to "make good" and justify my faith in him. Eventually he "made good," and completed his period of probation satisfactorily. Latest advice is that he is still doing well, though it remains to be seen whether or not this reformation is permanent. In some cases it was necessary to reconstruct from the very foundation the viewpoint and life of the probationer. Patient endeavour allied to experience were necessary to secure the desired results, and the methods adopted were as varied as the individuals concerned.

I have always strongly advocated the First Offenders' Probation Act, even before it was placed on the statute-book, and my more extensive official acquaintance with the Act strengthens the conviction that it fully justifies its existence. In my opinion its possibilities as a corrective, restrictive, and constructive, as well as a preventive and reformatory agent, have not yet been fully realized. I believe its provisions could be extended to other than first offenders with advantage to the offender and to the State.

My duties throughout the year included attendance at the quarterly sessions of the Supreme Court, and daily attendance at the Police Court, and to furnish reports when required by the Courts. In this connection I desire to acknowledge the courtesy extended to me by Court and Police authorities and officials. The reception accorded me by parents and relatives of offenders when making inquiries and when visiting probationers was always friendly. The sympathetic co-operation of relatives is a valuable factor in the work of reformation.

My duties also bring me into contact with family and home conditions of many who come under my charge, and I desire to emphasize that any scheme having for its object the welfare of the youth of the Dominion must, to be effective, include provision for dealing with juveniles, eighteen of whom are under my supervision at the present time.

During the year a total of nineteen persons—sixteen males and three females—were dealt with. At the beginning of the year there were seven on the register. Eleven were received on probation—two from the Supreme Court and nine from the Magistrate's Court—and one was received on transfer from another district. The periods of probation in the various cases were—two for three years, six for one year, two for six months, and one while waiting sentence. Eight completed their periods of probation satisfactorily, five were transferred to other districts, and there were six remaining on the register on the 31st March.

Of those released on probation during the year from the Invercargill Courts there were seven whose ages ranged from sixteen years to twenty-four years, and four above the age of thirty years.

The system of restitution continues to work well in the interest of probationers, teaching them that part of their reformation consists in making good the loss their crimes had incurred upon others. During the year orders were made for the repayment of £6 14s. 10d., restitution-money, and £6 13s. 9d., costs of prosecution; and £19 9s. 10d., restitution-money, and £6 11s. 9d., costs of prosecution, was collected, including balances remaining unpaid at the close of last year.

MR. T. P. MILLS, WELLINGTON.

There were thirty-five offenders on the register at the beginning of the year; forty-nine were placed on probation and nineteen were transferred from other districts, 103 in all passing through my hands during the year. Sixteen completed the period of their probation satisfactorily, twenty-eight were transferred to other districts, three left the Dominion permanently, four received sentences of reformatory detention, leaving fifty-two on the register at the 31st March, 1920.

On the whole these results must be considered very satisfactory, the percentage of failures being exceedingly low. Out of the 103 persons dealt with four only have been brought before the Court for sentence. This only adds weight to what has been stressed in previous reports—the excellent advantages of the First Offenders Act.

Outside those who are undergoing imprisonment, three or four have given some trouble, the principal breach being failure to report regularly. In each of these cases I have not considered the breach serious enough to ask the Court to deal with the offender on the original charge.

In addition to those on the probation register, several have been convicted and ordered to come up for sentence when called upon, and placed under my charge. These generally have been satisfactory, only one of the twenty who were thus treated being called up for sentence.

These results certainly justify the operations of the First Offenders Act in this district; but there is another aspect that is worth considering which has raised a doubt in my mind as to the wisdom of the general application of the Act—that is, the serious increase in petty thieving in our midst. In a very large number of instances, too, especially on the railways and tramways, the detection of the offender is a very difficult problem, and it would be a very unfortunate matter if the lenient treatment provided by the Act at the present time were to make the first offence easy.

Table A.
PRISON ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS.
TABLE SHOWING ACCOMMODATION, NUMBER OF PRISONERS, ETC., AT THE SEVERAL PRISONS OF THE DOMINION DURING THE YEAR 1919.

Name of Prison.	Number of Persons for whom there is Accommodation.					Number of Persons at Beginning of Year.			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.		Total.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.												
Addington (Women's Reformatory)	..	26	..	9	35	..	..	50	50	..	64	64	..	36	36	36
Auckland ..	270	35	6	..	35	231	14	245	859	109	93	995	902	21	209	209	
Invercargill (Borstal Institution)	138	1	28	..	166	154	..	154	141	4	4	134	130	..	165	165	
Kaingaroa ..	62	..	..	..	62	53	..	53	36	..	..	54	54	..	35	35
Lytelton ..	102	..	3	..	105	35	..	35	369	..	..	395	395	..	9	9
Napier ..	7	3	59	5	66	14	..	14	166	5	5	171	169	..	11	11	
New Plymouth ..	53	4	1	..	54	42	..	42	60	5	4	56	52	1	51	51	
Papua ..	180	..	1	..	181	117	..	117	149	..	..	168	168	..	98	98
Roto-ara ..	27	..	26	..	53	45	..	45	59	..	..	57	57	..	47	47
Waikeria (Reformatory)	102	..	31	..	133	121	..	121	92	..	..	127	127	..	86	86
Wellington ..	192	31	..	2	192	137	7	144	981	77	68	1,081	1,013	16	121	121	
Wi Tako ..	27	..	..	..	27	27	..	27	28	..	..	5	5	..	23	23
Minor prisons ..	86	26	61	18	147	27	..	27	791	44	44	833	789	..	29	29	
Totals ..	1,246	126	216	34	1,462	976	71	1,047	3,731	285	282	4,143	3,861	74	920	920	

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.			(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.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	Once.	Twice.	Three Times.	Four Times.	Five Times.	Six Times.	Over and Above Six Times.	Number of Separate Illnesses.	Total Number of Days ill.	Daily Average on Sick-list.			
	at One Time.			at One Time.			Prisoners.			ill at any One Time.			to Hospital during Year.			Once.	Twice.	Three Times.	Four Times.	Five Times.	Over and Above Six Times.	Number of Separate Illnesses.	Total Number of Days ill.	Daily Average on Sick-list.	
Addington (Women's Reformatory)	..	52	..	..	52	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	13	4	1	..	..	..	..	24	701	1.92
Auckland ..	228	19	247	184	18	202	38.95	15.94	222.46	13	2	15	5	..	5	61	10	6	1	..	2	..	118	2,316	6.35
Invercargill (Borstal Institution)	174	1	175	148	..	148	38.95	0.08	160.79	8	..	8	15	..	..	38	19	7	4	1	..	..	118	901	2.47
Kaingaroa ..	63	..	63	35	..	35	44.94	..	44.94	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lytelton ..	37	..	37	11	..	11	24.89	..	24.89	12	..	12	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	118	0.32
Napier ..	24	1	25	9	..	9	17.39	0.04	17.43	2	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	15	0.04	
New Plymouth ..	56	..	56	42	..	42	47.77	0.18	47.95	5	..	5	..	..	..	10	4	1	1	..	..	24	271	0.74	
Papua ..	136	..	136	89	..	89	117.02	..	117.02	8	..	8	1	..	..	36	4	..	..	..	..	44	344	0.94	
Roto-ara ..	51	..	51	36	..	36	42.62	..	42.62	1	..	1	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	5	80	0.22	
Waikeria (Reformatory)	138	..	138	79	..	79	110.30	..	110.30	4	..	4	1	..	..	20	3	..	..	..	..	26	161	0.44	
Wellington ..	147	19	166	89	4	93	114.86	11.98	126.84	4	1	5	8	2	10	9	1	..	..	..	..	40	1,018	2.79	
Wi Tako ..	26	..	26	12	..	12	19.68	..	19.68	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Minor prisons ..	108	4	112	14	..	14	29.58	0.89	30.47	1	..	1	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	6	84	0.26	
Totals ..	1,188	96	1,284	748	50	798	936.28	68.06	1,004.34	58	10	68	32	10	42	212	45	15	6	1	2	..	419	6,019	16.49

Table A1.
TABLE SHOWING PARTICULARS, FOR EACH PRISON, OF PRISONERS AT BEGINNING AND END OF YEAR, AND RECEIVED AND DISCHARGED DURING YEAR 1919.

	Auckland.		Kaitiaki.		Waikanae.		New Plymouth.		Rotorua.		Napier.		Wairarapa.		Wellington.		Addington.		Lyttelton.		Papanui (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 year—																														
Undergoing—																														
Simple imprisonment	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	8	15
Under three months' hard labour ..	16	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44	1	45
Three months' hard labour and under one year ..	24	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	40	4	..	6	12	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	112	14	126
One year's hard labour and upwards ..	110	2	51	..	80	..	38	..	40	..	3	..	..	..	61	..	13	10	..	87	..	71	..	..	..	..	551	15	566
Detention as habitual criminals ..	39	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	30	2	..	17	..	77	..	..	..	..	42	..	42
Reformatory detention	28	..	1	..	34	..	2	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	13	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	178	31	209
Detention under Prisoners Detention Act, 1915 ..	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
For trial or on remand	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	5	..	..	..	5	1	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	38	2	40
In transit .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	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
Debtors	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	..
(c.) Received during the year—																														
Sentenced to—																														
Simple imprisonment	23	2	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	18	1	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	63	5	68
Under three months' hard labour ..	384	43	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	..	48	..	..	..	447	39	12	128	..	..	..	..	..	..	248	5	1,279	100	1,379
Three months' hard labour and under one year ..	103	20	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	33	1	..	..	79	8	17	57	..	1	..	4	1	53	3	332	51	383	..
One year's hard labour and upwards ..	25	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	63	3	3	21	..	..	..	1	..	19	1	133	9	142	..
Hard labour and reformatory detention ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	19	1	20	..
Simple imprisonment and sent to an industrial school ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	..
Hard labour and sent to an industrial school ..	8	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	..	..	3
Hard labour and declared habitual criminal ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	28	..	..	28
Habitual criminal without further sentence shown ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Death
Under conviction for sentence	9	1	3	6	8	..	27	..	27	..
Criminals for reformatory treatment only ..	43	3	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	54	6	3	13	..	..	..	6	..	25	..	154	12	166	..
Hard labour, also flogged	1	1	2	..	2	..	2
Total new prisoners received	602	70	..	..	..	..	31	3	..	..	98	1	..	..	689	57	37	239	..	1	..	21	2	361	9	2,042	179	2,221	..
On remand or for trial	175	25	..	..	..	..	15	2	..	..	61	4	..	..	189	11	6	105	..	..	..	20	2	277	26	842	76	918	..
Debtors	777	95	..	..	..	..	46	5	..	..	159	5	..	..	878	68	43	344	..	1	..	41	4	638	35	2,884	255	3,139	..
Lunatics	12	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	26	2	50	2	52	..
Prisoners of war .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	1	13	3	16	..
Total new persons received	792	96	..	..	..	..	49	5	..	..	165	5	..	..	880	68	44	346	..	1	..	41	4	673	38	2,947	260	3,207	..
On transfer or in transit	67	4	36	..	..	..	11	..	59	..	1	..	28	..	101	9	6	23	..	148	..	100	..	118	6	784	25	809	..
Grand totals	859	100	36	..	92	..	60	5	59	..	166	5	28	..	981	77	50	369	..	149	..	141	4	791	44	3,731	285	4,016	..	

Table A1—continued.
TABLE SHOWING PARTICULARS, FOR EACH PRISON, OF PRISONERS AT BEGINNING AND END OF YEAR, AND RECEIVED AND DISCHARGED DURING YEAR 1919—continued.

	Auckland.		Kaingaroa.		Waikare.		New Plymouth.		Hoto-aitia.		Napier.		Wai Taku.		Wellington.		Addington.		Lyttelton.		Paparu (Templeton).		Invercargill.		Minor Prisons.		Totals.		Grand Totals.	
(c.) Discharged during the year—	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.	M.	F.
On expiration of sentence—																														
Hard labour ..	501	63	49	..	77	..	23	1	30	..	87	1	2	..	580	47	28	133	..	122	..	66	1	281	2	1,951	143	2,094	21	
Reformatory detention ..	4	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	6	..	..
Simple imprisonment ..	27	8	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	1	3	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	56	10	66	6
On bail or probation ..	21	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	..	..	4	1	..	..	47	4	1	14	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	128	12	140	12
Died ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	7	7
Executed ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abandoned and not retaken ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Committed suicide ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Released on recommendation of Prisons Board—																														
Hard labour ..	5	..	4	..	3	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	18	..	18	18
Reformatory detention ..	19	..	1	..	27	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	14	3	..	11	..	22	..	..	..	89	14	103	14
Habitual criminals ..	24	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	1	31	31
Total criminals discharged to freedom	604	71	54	..	109	..	36	2	36	..	94	2	3	..	632	53	49	155	..	151	..	98	1	323	8	2,295	186	2,481	186	
Acquitted and after remand ..	151	19	..	..	..	..	11	1	..	..	47	3	..	..	162	10	5	83	..	..	..	11	..	33	3	498	41	539	41
Debtors ..	13	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	2	49	2
Lunatics transferred to mental hospitals ..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	1	12	3	15	3
Total persons discharged from prison	771	91	54	..	109	..	50	3	36	..	147	5	3	..	795	63	55	240	..	151	..	109	1	389	14	2,854	232	3,086	232	
Transferred to other prisons or to police ..	131	2	..	..	18	..	2	1	21	..	22	..	2	..	218	5	9	155	..	17	..	21	3	400	30	1,007	50	1,057	50
Grand totals ..	902	93	54	..	127	..	52	4	57	..	169	5	5	..	1,013	68	64	395	..	168	..	130	4	789	44	3,861	282	4,143	282	
(d.) In prison at end of year—																														
Undergoing—																														
Simple imprisonment ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	8	..	8	8
Under three months' hard labour	15	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	17	3	..	3	..	5	..	3	..	5	..	51	9	60	9
Three months' hard labour and under one year	22	3	..	..	5	..	1	5	..	..	3	..	7	..	19	3	10	1	..	20	..	..	..	7	..	89	17	106	17
One year's hard labour and upwards	88	8	30	..	32	..	41	20	2	..	2	16	..	30	..	5	..	..	41	..	26	..	..	..	..	326	13	339	13
Detention as habitual criminals ..	16	..	..	..	..	..	1	16	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	1	38	1
Reformatory detention	29	..	5	..	49	..	8	..	6	..	..	..	..	18	9	20	..	..	25	..	132	..	..	..	..	272	29	301	29
Detention under Prisoners Detention Act, 1915	1	1	1	1	1
Sentenced to death
Total criminals in prison ..	173	17	35	..	86	..	50	1	47	..	8	..	23	..	87	16	36	4	..	96	..	162	..	12	..	783	70	853	70	
For trial or on remand..	15	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	17	..	..	5	..	2	..	3	..	15	..	60	4	64	4
In transit
Total in prison for criminal offences	188	21	35	..	86	..	50	1	47	..	11	..	23	..	104	16	36	9	..	98	..	165	..	27	..	843	74	917	74	
Debtors	2	..	2
Lunatics	1	1
Prisoners of war
Total persons in prison	188	21	35	..	86	..	50	1	47	..	11	..	23	..	105	16	36	9	..	98	..	165	..	29	..	846	74	920	74	

Table B.
TABLE SHOWING DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE OF EACH PRISON FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1920.

—	Addington.	Auckland.	Invercargill.	Kaikara.	Lyttelton.	Napier.	New Plymouth.	Papara.	Rotorua.	Waikato.	Wellington.	W. Taro.	Minor Gaols.	General Charges.	Total.
Daily average number of prisoners	..	201.41	162.86	39.0	17.69	15.71	48.79	111.0	41.53	101.95	106.94	20.41	29.58	..	896.87
	36.05	16.29	0.01	..	..	0.04	0.19	..	..	..	14.73	..	0.89	..	68.20
	36.05	217.70	162.87	39.0	17.69	15.75	48.98	111.0	41.53	101.95	121.67	20.41	30.47	..	965.07
<i>Expenditure.</i>															
Salaries, war bonus, and allowances (including uniforms)	£ 1,030	£ 11,025	£ 6,890	£ 1,381	£ 1,073	£ 1,315	£ 2,130	£ 5,564	£ 1,657	£ 4,542	£ 7,944	£ 751	£ 1,658	£ 3,632	£ 50,592
Clothing, bedding, &c.	48	1,103	287	12	..	2	50	1,374	36	171	227	34	20	5,148	8,512
Fuel, light, and water	190	788	485	44	98	116	164	250	62	245	790	11	307	85	3,935
Medicines, medical comforts, and hospital charges	70	204	247	41	37	16	45	70	6	105	208	14	115	..	1,178
Rations	475	3,163	2,880	785	212	294	809	1,765	1,110	2,017	1,882	141	1,321	440	17,294
Tobacco	..	155	50	34	5	11	34	115	55	66	70	17	5	480	1,097
Tools and materials for prison labour and expenses	81	730	123	42	16	12	73	247	256	1,085	901	48	37	536	4,187
Materials and expenses connected with brick-making	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	685	..	..	..	685
Expenses connected with prison farms	..	..	6,144	..	..	..	..	1,256	..	2,285	111	40	..	17	9,853
Expenses connected with tree-planting camps	..	..	..	134	..	..	..	..	1,508	..	..	..	..	..	1,642
Gratuities to prisoners on discharge	4	93	36	64	9	5	17	79	32	60	59	..	3	263	724
Payments to prisoners under the Crimes Amendment Act	125	243	225	29	7	2	33	125	58	130	35	..	..	1,624	2,636
Travelling-expenses, &c.	86	302	600	192	56	70	76	197	212	387	445	193	167	703	3,886
Administration of Crimes Amendment and First Offenders' Probation Acts	6	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	870	890
Compassionate allowances to widows of deceased officers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	340	340
Miscellaneous expenditure	49	188	215	116	28	17	42	82	77	163	142	106	62	1,090	2,377
Totals..	2,164	18,194	18,184	2,874	1,541	1,860	3,473	11,124	5,069	11,268	13,499	1,355	3,695	15,228	109,528
Less credits (including transfers from other Departments)	76	3,431	7,013	2,611	180	198	886	4,167	4,103	2,521	3,591	30	79	2,291	31,177
Net total expenditure	2,088	14,763	11,171	263	1,361	1,662	2,587	6,957	966	8,747	9,908	1,325	3,616	12,937	78,351

Table C.

TABLE SHOWING THE OFFENCES AND DEGREE OF EDUCATION OF DISTINCT CONVICTED PRISONERS (EXCLUDING MAORIS) RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1919.

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	69	5	..	..	1	..	70	5
Summarily convicted	75	..	..	..	1	..	76	..
Offences against property—										
Theft and deceit	2	392	17	1	..	4	..	399	17
Mischief	70	3	..	..	..	..	70	3
Miscellaneous—										
Vagrancy	110	49	2	..	1	..	113	49
Drunkenness	268	16	1	..	4	1	273	17
Others	582	43	1	1	5	1	588	45
Totals	2	1,566	133	5	1	16	2	1,589	136

Table D.

TABLE SHOWING THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF DISTINCT CONVICTED PRISONERS (EXCLUSIVE OF MAORIS) RECEIVED INTO GAOL DURING THE YEAR 1919, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO PRINCIPAL OFFENCE, BIRTHPLACE, AND AGE.

	Offences against the Person.				Offences against Property.				Miscellaneous.						Totals.	
	Convicted on Indictment.		Summarily convicted.		Theft and Deceit.		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 ..	11	..	20	..	83	2	7	..	28	5	93	2	123	3	365	12
Scotland ..	5	..	9	..	14	2	2	1	14	3	38	1	38	5	120	12
Ireland ..	3	1	5	..	14	..	4	..	15	4	31	1	54	5	126	11
New Zealand ..	33	3	32	..	214	12	39	2	41	26	79	11	255	29	693	83
Australia ..	8	..	1	..	36	1	5	..	8	6	10	2	47	1	115	10
Other British possessions	2	..	1	..	10	..	8	..	1	2	1	..	11	1	34	3
China ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	9	..
Other countries ..	7	1	6	..	23	..	5	..	5	1	20	..	49	..	115	2
At sea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	2
Not stated ..	1	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	2	..	11	1
Totals ..	70	5	76	..	399	17	70	3	113	49	273	17	588	45	1,589	136
Ages—																
Under 10 years ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10 and under 12 years ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12 and under 15 years ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
15 and under 20 years ..	5	..	5	..	51	5	20	1	3	2	..	..	19	4	103	12
20 and under 25 years ..	5	1	12	..	72	1	11	..	5	1	14	..	60	4	179	7
25 and under 30 years ..	12	1	14	..	52	3	12	..	2	2	10	1	85	2	187	9
30 and under 40 years ..	20	2	29	..	121	5	15	1	23	19	67	3	199	13	474	43
40 and under 50 years ..	13	..	13	..	70	1	7	..	29	20	88	6	134	12	354	39
50 and under 60 years ..	11	1	1	..	24	..	4	1	27	3	58	4	59	6	184	15
60 and over ..	4	..	2	..	7	2	1	..	24	1	36	3	32	4	106	10
Not stated ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Totals, 1919 ..	70	5	76	..	399	17	70	3	113	49	273	17	588	45	1,589	136
Totals, 1918 ..	48	2	51	3	284	21	54	..	114	19	296	28	717	64	1,564	137

* 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, 1919.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF DISTINCT NEW-ZEALAND-BORN CONVICTED PRISONERS OF EACH SEX (EXCLUDING MAORIS) RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1919, 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	5	..	5	1	7	1	10	1	6	..	33	3
Summarily convicted	3	..	6	..	4	..	15	..	4	..	32	..
Offences against property—																		
Theft and deceit	1	..	36	5	30	1	30	1	74	4	43	1	214	12
Mischief	16	1	6	..	5	..	9	1	3	..	39	2
Vagrancy	2	2	3	1	2	1	13	11	21	11	41	26
Drunkenness	7	..	1	1	30	3	41	7	79	11
Other offences	5	3	32	3	40	2	100	10	78	11	255	29
Totals, 1919	1	..	67	11	89	6	89	6	251	30	196	30	693	83
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	1,021	150
Totals, 1914	2	..	75	4	157	6	216	31	416	58	268	47	1,134	146
Totals, 1913	1	1	81	7	172	10	183	20	391	58	200	30	1,028	126
Totals, 1912	1	1	92	4	197	7	197	25	354	48	176	32	1,017	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	1,038	126
Totals, 1909	2	..	66	4	174	13	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

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.
1910	3,242	32.66	1915	2,924	26.60
1911	2,877	28.35	1916	2,404	21.87
1912	3,023	29.10	1917	2,899	21.84
1913	3,229	30.22	1918	1,701	15.42
1914	3,886	31.05	1919	1,725	15.18

Table G.

TABLE SHOWING DISTINCT CONVICTED PRISONERS (EXCLUDING MAORIS) RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1919 AND SENTENCED TO REFORMATIVE DETENTION OR DECLARED HABITUAL CRIMINALS, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO SENTENCES.

Head Sentence.	Sentenced to Reformative Detention for a Period not exceeding																		Totals.
	6 Months.			12 Months.			18 Months.			2 Years.			3 Years.			4 Years.			Declared Habitual Criminals.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Reformative detention only
Declared habitual criminal
Under 1 week
1 week and under 1 month
1 month ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 months
6 "
9 "
12 "
1 year
2 years
3 "
4 "
5 "
7 "
Totals ..	2	..	19	2	11	..	48	9	3	10	..	16	..	2	..	..	..	..	14

Table H.

RETURN OF PRISON OFFENCES AND PUNISHMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1919.

Prison.	Offences.			Total Number of Prisoners in Custody during the Year.		
	Against Officers.	Disobedience of Orders, and Idleness.	Other Breaches of Regulations.			
Addington	1	6	14	21	17	100
Auckland	30	100	106	236	172	1,204
Invercargill	13	64	328	405	187	293
Kaingaroa	..	1	3	4	3	89
Lyttelton	1	3	4	8	8	404
Napier	..	2	2	4	1	185
New Plymouth	1	14	26	41	25	107
Papara	10	28	16	54	47	266
Roto-a-ra	8	2	9	19	7	104
Waikeria	..	82	93	175	120	213
Wellington	34	58	99	191	115	1,202
Wi Tako	..	8	..	8	2	28
Totals ..	98	368	700	1,166	705	4,201

Table I.
VISITS OF THE VISITING JUSTICES TO THE LARGER PRISONS DURING THE YEAR 1919.

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. . .	1	..	1	..	..	..	4	2	..	..	..	..	8
V. G. Day, S.M. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
S. E. McCarthy, S.M. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
<i>Auckland</i> —													
F. K. Hunt, S.M. . .	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	3	1	4	2	2	34
J. H. Hannan . .	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	4
J. H. Bradney . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
J. H. Poynton, S.M. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	3
E. C. Cutten, S.M. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
<i>Invercargill</i> —													
J. Crosby Smith . .	2	1	1	3	..	2	1	1	1	1	2	..	15
J. Stead . .	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
W. A. Ott . .	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	4
G. Cruickshank, S.M. . .	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	6
W. Baird . .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Kaingaroa</i> —													
W. G. K. Kenrick, S.M. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	3
<i>Lyttelton</i> —													
F. W. Anderson . .	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	5
<i>Napier</i> —													
J. S. Large . .	5	4	3	2	1	5	2	3	5	3	2	2	37
A. L. Beattie . .	4	2	6	4	6	4	3	..	2	..	..	2	33
<i>New Plymouth</i> —													
H. Weston . .	3	..	2	..	..	3	..	..	1	2	..	2	13
Alfred Crooke, S.M. . .	..	1	2	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	7
T. A. B. Bailey, S.M. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	1	6
<i>Paparna</i> —													
S. E. McCarthy, S.M. . .	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	5
T. A. B. Bailey, S.M. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Roto-aira</i> —													
George Howitt, S.M. . .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
John Cullen, I.S.O. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
<i>Waikeria</i> —													
E. W. Burton, S.M. . .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	3
H. R. Ryder . .	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	6
J. B. Teasdale . .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
<i>Wellington</i> —													
E. Arnold . .	1	4	6	4	1	2	5	3	2	3	4	8	43
H. Hume . .	1	2	1	1	1	3	4	5	5	6	2	4	35
D. G. A. Cooper, S.M. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1

Table J.
FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT, 1908.
AGES AND TERMS OF PROBATION OF OFFENDERS PLACED UNDER THE ACT DURING THE YEAR 1919.

Ages, in Years.		Four Months and under.	Six Months.	Twelve Months.	Fifteen Months.	Eighteen Months.	Two Years.	Two Years and a Half.	Three Years.	Total.
10 and under 15	..	..	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	6
15 " 20	..	..	6	52	..	2	37	..	23	120
20 " 25	..	..	4	12	..	..	10	..	7	33
25 " 30	..	..	2	10	..	..	8	..	3	23
30 " 40	..	..	1	7	..	1	12	..	6	27
40 " 50	..	..	1	6	..	..	1	..	..	9
50 " 70	..	..	1	2	..	1	2	..	2	8
Totals	..	1	16	94	..	4	70	..	41	226

Approximate Cost of Paper—Preparation, not given ; printing (500 copies, including illustrations), £77 10s.