

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, 1924.

Prison.	Buildings and Walls (including Manufacture of Concrete Blocks or Bricks).	Construction and Maintenance of Roads.	Excavation or Drainage-work as Preparation of necessary Grounds.	Reclamation-works.	Erection of Plant and Machinery.	Sundries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Auckland	1,308	..	146	..	429	71	1,954
Invercargill	2,048	3,903	909	2,129	329	190	9,508
Paparua	2,906	822	..	..	..	..	3,728
Wellington	668	129	850	..	..	66	1,713
Wi Tako	1,781	186	19	919	140	1,434	4,479
Other prisons and institutions ..	1,188	370	95	81	264	106	2,104
Totals	9,899	5,410	2,019	3,129	1,162	1,867	23,486

TABLE 3.—VALUE OF PRISON LABOUR EMPLOYED ON PRISON WORKS AND INDUSTRIES FOR WHICH CASH CREDITS ARE NOT OBTAINED, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1924.

Prison.	Bootmaking for Officers and Prisoners.	Tailoring (including repairs to Clothing, &c.).	Gardening and Farming.	Domestic Employment (including Laundry Work).	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£
Addington .. .. .	..	35	116	260	411
Auckland	611	570	312	2,416	3,909
Hautu	22	18	2,525	420	2,985
Invercargill	340	130	2,546	1,896	4,912
Napier	22	15	41	372	450
New Plymouth	95	143	521	468	1,227
Paparua	206	84	1,917	1,472	3,679
Point Halswell .. .. .	..	372	349	387	1,108
Waikeria	87	52	1,948	1,461	3,548
Waikane	52	61	88	521	722
Wellington	415	141	612	1,392	2,560
Wi Tako .. .. .	..	35	936	493	1,464
Minor gaols	9	28	63	210	310
Totals	1,859	1,684	11,974	11,768	27,285

Summary.

	£
Cash and financial credits for the year 1923-24	53,178
Estimated value of prison labour employed on public works for which neither cash nor financial credit was received	23,486
Estimated value of prison labour employed on farms, industries, domestic work, &c.	27,285
	103,949
Less salaries of officers employed on public buildings	2,870
Total value of prison labour, 1923-24	£101,079

DEVELOPMENT DURING THE YEAR.

The reports of the controlling officers show that progress has been well maintained since my last annual report was written. The Waikeria property has been brought a stage nearer its final development. The system of planting shelter-belts has been continued, the whole of the trees planted out having been provided from the nursery on the farm. Drastic culling in the dairy herd has resulted in the returns of butterfat per cow showing a substantial increase over last year's figures. Nearly the whole of the area originally reserved is now in splendid condition, and as each year passes the property is becoming more valuable, and is an object-lesson to those who originally scoffed at the idea of breaking in country and afterwards farming it with prison labour.

Our latest undertaking, the land-development camp at Hautu, near Tokaanu, is progressing very satisfactorily, and a marked impression has already been made on the first section of the block of 10,000 acres we intend to prepare for settlement. The reports of the Agricultural Department's officers on the work that has already been done, the quality of the pumice land we have taken up, and the future of the property are most encouraging. Their advice to my Department regarding manures, grasses, and methods of cultivation has also been most valuable, and has contributed greatly to the success of our operations.

From the report of the Superintendent of our Paparua Prison Farm at Templeton it will be seen that the pace set in previous years has not relaxed. By far the greater part of the ancient Waimakariri River bed that formed the bulk of the original prison reserve has now been brought under cultivation, a dairy herd has been established, and, generally speaking, we are now getting results that compensate us for the large amount of labour expended on this property.

The Invercargill Borstal Institution reclamation is rapidly assuming the appearance of a well-established farm, and is also justifying the large expenditure of labour that has taken place there. The report of the Superintendent on the institution generally, and of the Farm-manager on the general development of the property, show in detail the advance that has been made since last year.