

Reviewing the prison industries as a whole, notwithstanding the unfavourable economic conditions and the depressed prices that were prevalent throughout the year under review for primary produce, the revenue for the past year is the maximum yet earned in any one year. In reviewing the results it is necessary not merely to have regard to the extent of the business done and the total revenue received, but rather to the net revenue and its effect in reducing the cost of prison maintenance. It is satisfactory to note that due to the vigorous prosecution of industries, together with the farm-development programme of recent years, which is now coming into fruition, the year has shown a greatly improved cash surplus within the industries. The total cash receipts including institutional items amounted to £83,806, which is approximately £10,000 in excess of the preceding year, while a comparison of the net cash surpluses from the industries alone, compared with previous years, shows the following :—

Year.			Cash Expenditure on Industries. £	Cash Receipts from Industries. £	Cash Surplus. £
1927-28	..	..	.. 34,670	63,310	28,640
1928-29	..	..	.. 33,528	70,389	36,861
1929-30	..	..	.. 39,070	80,365	41,295

The principal contributions to this revenue are from the following sources: Farms and garden products, £21,642; quarries, £29,989; road works and contracts, £17,781; bootmaking, £4,288; mail-bag repairs and tailoring, £2,386; miscellaneous industries, £4,279.

It is to be borne in mind that the actual revenue earned by the Department does not by any means indicate the total value of production. The clothing, feeding, and housing of the inmates comprises a substantial production in addition to the production which leaves the prison, and a heavier expenditure from the Public Account would be involved were the Department not producing its own requirements in this respect.

A statement is given hereunder which reveals what may be termed a maximum acceptable figure of the value of prison production. It is by no means easy to estimate the aggregate economic value of prison labour, and in the figures quoted the following classes have been omitted: Value of output of bakehouses, £7,000, which can hardly be included to the exclusion of kitchen production, internal laundry, clothing, repairs, and produce grown for domestic consumption.

	Distributed out of the Department.	Farm and Garden Produce to Institutions.	Workshop Manufactures to Institutions.	Labour Value of Capital Additions to Buildings and Works.	Total.
	£	£		£	£
Addington	867	82	..	..	949
Auckland	23,538	582	5,314	..	29,434
Hautu	665	573	..	2,133	3,371
Invercargill	5,960	1,668	1,032	1,546	10,206
Napier	552	40	..	..	592
New Plymouth	1,258	156	..	..	1,414
Paparua	16,579	1,729	333	1,294	19,935
Point Halswell	779	29	..	..	808
Rangipo	13	152	..	1,455	1,620
Waikeria	9,209	1,127	..	1,110	12,446
Waikune	16,943	15	..	..	16,958
Wanganui	45	17	..	..	62
Wellington	4,629	241	60	2,695	7,625
Wi Tako	4,794	490	..	352	5,636
Minor gaols	15	..	..	..	15
	85,846	7,901	6,739	10,585	111,071

Touching on the activities of the various industries, the following are the main points for mention. The volume of farm production showed a substantial increase over any previous year, but towards the close of the year when most of the revenue normally comes to hand, practically all commodities were seriously affected by the fall in the markets. Notwithstanding this, the farm revenue amounted to £21,642, being only £277 lower than for the previous year, which was a record. The drop in butterfat, wool, mutton, and lamb prices cost the Department, at a conservative estimate, £5,000 for the year.

At the prison farms, where the honour system can be applied and men placed on trust to a greater degree, are the conditions favourable to the best results from a reformatory point of view. Farm life and broad acres provide the freedom and the healthful physical exercise which are so essential to impart the resistance necessary to break anti-social habits, and at the same time inspire a feeling of confidence and promote the extension of those higher qualities of manhood which must develop in the process of reformation. While the main direction of prison labour is in farm-development, it is not practicable to employ all classes of prisoners on farms. For the safety of the community many must be kept on *intra mural* occupations, or where they can be kept under close surveillance.