

1932.  
NEW ZEALAND.

PRISONS DEPARTMENT:  
  
PRISONS BOARD  
  
(ANNUAL REPORT OF) FOR 1931.

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

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

Hon. Mr. Justice REED, C.B.E. (President); Sir DONALD MCGAVIN, Kt., C.M.G., M.D.(Lond.); D. G. A. COOPER, Esq., O.B.E.; JOHN ALEXANDER, Esq., C.M.G.; THEO. G. GRAY, Esq., M.B., M.P.C.; Mrs. C. A. FRAER; and B. L. DALLARD, Esq., Controller-General of Prisons.

SIR,—  
I have the honour to forward herewith the report of the Prisons Board for the year 1931.  
The Hon. the Minister of Justice.

22nd August, 1932.

I have, &c.,  
J. R. REED, President.

REPORT OF THE PRISONS BOARD.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1931.

THE Board has to report that during the year it visited each of the prisons, prison camps, and Borstal Institutions in the Dominion. It dealt with a total of 1,514 cases at sixteen meetings held at the various institutions.

The following summary gives details of the cases considered and the decisions arrived at:—

<i>Cases dealt with.</i>		<i>Board's Decisions.</i>	
Persons undergoing Borstal detention ..	495	Recommended for release on probation ..	563
Persons sentenced to reformatory detention ..	480	Deferred for further consideration ..	800
Persons sentenced to hard labour ..	431	Petitions declined .. ..	103
Habitual criminals .. ..	79	Recommended for discharge .. ..	36
Habitual offender .. ..	1	Discharged from probation .. ..	11
Habitual criminals for remission of head sentence .. ..	2	Recommended remission of head sentence ..	..
Probationers under Crimes Amendment Act ..	8	Modification of terms of probation ..	1
Probationers under Offenders Probation Act .. ..	18		
	1,514		1,514

A brief review of the operations of the Board during the past year shows that, as heretofore, the results on the whole are satisfactory. There has been an increase in the number of cases reviewed by the Board. The number released after serving terms of Borstal detention, and sentences of reformatory detention or imprisonment with hard labour, who have been reconvicted or failed to comply with the conditions of their release is approximately 20 per cent. Of the habitual criminals