

The Probation Officers and Voluntary Probation Committees associated with them have also done exceedingly good work in the friendly oversight of discharged inmates.

The Department is indebted to the many voluntary helpers, christian workers, lecturers, and others for their valued assistance in connection with the running of the Borstals.

#### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The general betterment in economic conditions has been reflected in an improvement in the various industries carried on by the Department. The revenue for the year from the sale of farm-produce, quarry metal, and other activities, exclusive of the values of commodities used for domestic consumption, amounted to £69,933, which represented a gross revenue gain of £9,700, or 15 per cent. more than the previous year.

The diminished number of inmates accounted for a reduction of expenditure in certain directions, and the net expenditure, £74,527, was the lowest recorded for ten years.

An item of expenditure that stands out in more liberal proportions in the Department's accounts than in most oversea administrations is the total sum granted each year for the aid of prisoners' dependants and for the assistance of prisoners in their rehabilitation on release. Last year the total amount paid out under this section was £14,867, which included £8,809 as grants towards the maintenance of dependants, which now commence after the first month instead of after three months as heretofore, £5,884 as gratuities to prisoners on release, and £165 as grants to Prisoners' Aid Societies.

#### *Summary of Cash Payments and Receipts of Prisons Vote, 1924 to 1936.*

Year.	Daily Average Number of Inmates.	Gross Expenditure.		Credits.		Net Expenditure.	
		Total.	Per Head.	Total.	Per Head.	Total.	Per Head.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
1924-25	1,228	144,484	117·67	68,118	55·56	76,366	62·11
1925-26	1,340	152,794	114·00	79,099	59·02	73,695	54·98
1926-27	1,397	148,766	106·47	70,915	50·76	77,851	55·71
1927-28	1,490	161,199	108·21	66,979	44·95	94,220	63·26
1928-29	1,502	163,451	108·83	73,994	49·27	89,457	59·56
1929-30	1,425	172,248	120·83	83,806	58·87	88,442	62·04
1930-31	1,525	171,382	112·36	70,669	46·33	100,713	66·03
1931-32	1,641	152,581	92·93	55,867	34·03	96,714	58·90
1932-33	1,661	142,940	86·04	52,412	31·84	90,528	54·49
1933-34	1,488	138,193	92·88	54,823	36·77	83,370	56·11
1934-35	1,306	137,484	105·25	60,242	46·12	77,242	59·13
1935-36	1,170	144,460	123·47	69,933	59·77	74,527	63·70

#### PUBLIC WORKS FUND EXPENDITURE ON PRISON WORKS.

A summary of public-works expenditure is given below. The amount expended has been relatively low and insufficient to meet needs, but full consideration has had to be given to Government's past desire for reduction in loan and capital expenditure. For the present year provision is being made for a number of improvements of a capital nature which will involve increased expenditure. They are confined in the main to farm buildings and improvements to laundries, which have been deferred for several years, fuller details of which are contributed in the Public Works Department annual report.

#### *Summary of Public Works Fund Expenditure.*

Pre-depression period—

Seven years 1923 to 1930: Average, £20,382 per annum.

Depression period—

Four years 1930 to 1934: Average, £2,047 per annum.

Present period—

Year ended 31st March, 1935: £1,605.

Year ended 31st March, 1936: £2,123.

#### INDUSTRIES AND DEVELOPMENT.

The finding of adequate work for prisoners of a nature which is healthy and instructive and at the same time sufficiently remunerative to assist in reducing the cost to the taxpayer for prison maintenance is one of the major difficulties of a prison administration. The aim is to select work which will involve the minimum of competitive friction with private enterprise and at the same time provide some training or experience for when a prisoner is released. The change from task labour to work of a utilitarian character accentuated this problem in the early depression years. There was a large influx of prisoners and