

1938.  
NEW ZEALAND.

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# OFFENDERS PROBATION

UNDER OFFENDERS PROBATION ACT, 1920, AND CRIMES AMENDMENT ACT, 1910  
(REPORT ON OPERATION OF), FOR THE YEAR, 1937.

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

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The Hon. the MINISTER OF JUSTICE to His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Wellington, 22nd July, 1938.

I have the honour to submit to Your Excellency the report of the Chief Probation Officer on the operations of the Offenders Probation Act for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

I have, &c.,

H. G. R. MASON,

Minister of Justice.

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The CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER to the Hon. the MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

SIR,—

I have the honour to present my annual report on the work of the probation system under the Offenders Probation Act and the Crimes Amendment Act for the year ended the 31st December, 1937.

The statistical tables showing the number dealt with, the nature of the offence, and the ages of the offenders concerned are also appended.

Abridged reports of the District Probation Officers are annexed hereto.

During the year the probation service sustained a heavy loss through the death of the late Mr. John Garbutt, who was Probation Officer at Dunedin. Mr. Garbutt was a man with a shrewd but sympathetic understanding of men. He was impelled by high Christian motives, and he regarded his probation work as a mission and not merely as a job.

Probation is essentially a work where common-sense and the influences of personality play an important part in the remoulding of character. It has been aptly described as "the reaction of mind upon mind."

Mr. Garbutt's successor is Mr. E. F. Mosley, whose interest in social work constrained him to give up a potentially more remunerative position in the Supreme Court for the service of his fellows in the probation field.

At Auckland the probation staff has been increased by the appointment of an Assistant Probation Officer. With the extending development of probation work it has been found necessary gradually to relieve the police of this duty, and, as the appended report discloses, in most of the larger towns the work is now undertaken by an independent specially appointed Probation Officer.

I—H, 20B.

*Offenders Probation.* The reports from the districts reveal a satisfactory year's work, and, with few exceptions, those placed on probation have responded reasonably well to this method of treatment. The difficulties in finding employment have not been so acute as in past years, and in this regard all Probation Officers pay a tribute to the helpful co-operation of the Government Placement Officers.

The number on probation who have committed breaches of probation by failing to comply with the conditions of their release, or who offended again subsequently, was just under 5 per cent. of the total dealt with during the year. This must be regarded as highly satisfactory.

The number of persons admitted to probation during the year was 897, as compared with 813 for the previous year. The amount of restitution and costs paid by probationers was £4,573, or £1,224 in excess of the amount collected in 1936.

The obligation to make reparation in cash in the case of offences of dishonesty and fraud has a decidedly salutary effect, especially since the passing of the 1930 amendment, under which the term of probation is automatically extended until full restitution is made. The aggregate amount collected, the major portion of which has been restored to victims, since the inception of the scheme is £71,479.

The Courts, since the earliest times, have had power under the Criminal Code (*vide* Crimes Act, section 26) to release an offender with or without punishment subject to his giving an undertaking that he will keep the peace and be of good behaviour, but the Probation Acts carried this idea a stage further by providing for the appointment of Probation Officers to assist offenders in the carrying-out of their undertakings.

This principle was first incorporated in the First Offenders' Probation Act, 1886, and there is no doubt that this origin of probation has been responsible for the common misconception that it is tantamount to letting the offender off without punishment. It has been judicially described as a first chance for a first offender. The Offenders Probation Act of 1920 should have removed this erroneous impression, for this Act stipulates that the Probation Officer shall make inquiries as to the character and personal history of the person accused, and in reporting to the Court it shall be the Probation Officer's special duty, if satisfied that the best interests of the public and of the offender would be served by his release on probation, to recommend that he be so released. Thus it is recognized that there may be cases where even a first offender, on account of character or anti-social propensities, may not be a suitable case for probation, but it is also recognized that in certain circumstances an offender with several convictions may satisfactorily respond to this method of treatment. In considering "the best interests of the public" it would be giving the section altogether too narrow an interpretation to limit this solely to the deterrent factor or the protection of society. The statute is essentially a remedial one, and in accordance with the recognized canons of interpretation is entitled to be given a broad and liberal construction. "Justice requires as strongly the saving of that which is good, as it does the destruction of that which is evil," and, whilst punishment must form an element for the purpose of deterrence, the claims of society to be protected from anti-social acts have to be balanced with the claims of the individual to be treated as something possessing value in himself as a potential citizen.

Punishment which society prescribes to prevent certain conduct injurious to itself may, unless properly conditioned to the facts and circumstances, actually work injury to society itself, hence the necessity for the exercise of careful discrimination in deciding the fate of an offender.

Probation offers, in selected cases, a constructive alternative to imprisonment. It should be borne in mind that it is by no means entirely divorced from the idea of punishment, for, apart from the shock of discovery and the shame of the proceedings, which in themselves in many cases are sufficient to cause the offender to live an unexceptionable life thereafter, the law provides for the imposition of exacting conditions restricting the liberty of the offender and conditioning his conduct so that he is required to conform to a more ordered and disciplined mode of living. The stipulation that the probationer must make restitution obliges him to get down to regular work, which is socially advantageous as contrasted with the alternative of imprisonment, where the offender is a charge upon the community.

The best interests of the public are certainly not served by an indiscriminate recourse to imprisonment with its severance of social and domestic ties, its stigma, and other hurtful consequences that may prejudice the ultimate rehabilitation of the offender.

Notwithstanding the positive advantages of probation over imprisonment in suitable cases, it must be kept in mind that there are many cases where institutional treatment is definitely preferable both in the interests of the offender and of society. For example, where young offenders are associating in "hoodlum or criminal gangs" it is desirable that these should be broken up and those concerned removed from these baneful influences and subjected to the ordered regimen of an institution. In the case of certain classes of sex offenders who show unrestrained anti-social propensities which make them a public menace, particularly to children, segregation is essential. Again, with crimes of wide-spread prevalence it may be necessary to have recourse to the more rigorous sanctions of the law to stem what is commonly described as the imitative trend. It is an accepted axiom that, from a deterrent point of view, the more generous impulses of the law are not generally appropriate to crimes involving deliberation and brutality.

*Parole.*—The Crimes Amendment Act statistics show that 369 persons were released on probation during the year on the recommendation of the Prisons Board. Four of these were recommitted to prison for breaches of the conditions of their license, and thirty, including seven habitual criminals, had their licenses cancelled for further offences. Considering the difficulties with which these parolees are often faced in rehabilitating themselves, the small percentage of failures must be regarded as satisfactory.

The effectiveness of the methods of parole and after-care may be judged from the fact that during the five years ended 31st December last, 1,775 prisoners (excluding habitual criminals) were released on probation, and during this period only 141, or 7.94 per cent., were returned to prison for failing to comply with the conditions of their release or for committing other offences whilst on probation, and only 27.70 per cent. have again been convicted subsequent to discharge.

This form of probation will be better understood if it is explained that the granting of parole is not merely a shortening unconditionally of the offender's term by way of clemency or leniency granted to well-behaved prisoners. It is part of a system which first involves the consideration of the offender's record and character and his prospect of ultimately making good, and, secondly, provides the machinery for the shepherding of the parolee during the transition period from the more or less abnormal life of the institution to the normal life in the community. Probation during this period of readjustment is designed to protect the public and at the same time help the parolee during the most difficult period in his career.

*Conclusion.*—I desire to place on record the Department's appreciation of the valuable assistance given in the probation work by a large body of public-spirited citizens working with Probation Officers, both individually and through the Voluntary Probation Committees, the Borstal Associations, the Prisoners' Aid Societies, the Salvation Army, and other social-service organizations. There are some four hundred people, including officials, engaged in this important social service. I particularly desire to place on record the Department's gratitude to the Women's Borstal Association for its unflagging interest in the care of the young women released from the Point Halswell Borstal Institution.

I also wish to record my thanks to my own staff for their loyal co-operation; also to the Salvation Army officers, Police officers, and others who act as Probation Officers.

B. L. DALLARD,  
Chief Probation Officer.

## REPORTS OF DISTRICT PROBATION OFFICERS.

Mr. J. ANDERSON, District Probation Officer, Auckland.

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the probation work at this centre for the period from 1st January, 1937, to 31st December, 1937.

At the beginning of the period under review there were 170 probationers on the register, 160 were admitted to probation from the Auckland Courts, and 41 were received on transfer, making a total of 371 dealt with. Of that number, 74 completed the probationary period, 82 were transferred to other districts, 4 were discharged from probation by the Prisons Board, 4 left the Dominion by permission, 5 were brought before the Court and sentenced on the original charge, while 7 came before the Court for other offences committed while on probation. The foregoing figures total 176, which, deducted from the total number dealt with, left 195 probationers on the register at the termination of the period under review.

To the number of defaulters shown above there has to be added 8 others who came before the Court for other offences and later reverted to probationary conditions. A total defaulters' list of 20 is, therefore, shown for the year, that number being not quite 6 per cent. of the total number dealt with, a result which may be considered very satisfactory indeed.

The sum of £695 3s. 5d. was paid in as restitution, and £82 4s. as costs of prosecution, a total of £777 7s. 5d. for the year. That total is £236 over that shown for the previous year, reflecting in some degree the improved conditions in relation to employment and earnings.

Apart from the number of defaulters shown, the majority of the probationers who reported during the period were very well behaved, thus showing an appreciation of the opportunity given by the Courts in granting probation. There are always those, however, who at some time during the probationary period show in a greater or lesser degree that lack of sense of responsibility necessary to the full compliance with the conditions imposed. One has therefore to act somewhat in the role of a schoolmaster of a large class—warning, advising, admonishing, and, as a last resource in the case of those who again transgress, punishing through the Courts.

Experience from year to year convinces that the measure of wisdom and understanding is largely the measure of success in dealing with those probation units that go to make the whole.

There is much in this probation work that cannot be expressed in figures. The figures given, however, go to show the success, the value, and the wisdom of the system of probation. It should never be forgotten that where probation is extended those offenders so dealt with are kept from prison, with all that such a sentence implies and entails.

A decided improvement in the conditions relating to employment was apparent throughout the period.

The members of the Probation Committee did all that was possible to assist in that respect, and my thanks are due to them for their kindly efforts and assistance in a number of cases.

*Probationers on Release from Prison and Borstal Institutions.*—At the beginning of the year there were 72 probationers in this class on the register, and 142 were received on probation from the various institutions or on transfer from other districts, showing a total of 214 dealt with. Of these, 82 completed the term of probation, 26 were transferred to other districts, 3 were discharged by the Prisons Board, 4 left the Dominion by permission, 1 was drowned, and 21 were sentenced to terms of imprisonment for offences committed while on probation, leaving 77 probationers on the register at 31st December, 1937.

Three of the number who committed further offences were habitual criminals whose licenses were cancelled. Two probationers had failed to report, and had not been traced up to the end of the year. The number of defaulters shown in this class is approximately 10 per cent. of the total of the 214 dealt with.

A review of the list of those probationers who completed the term shows that the majority were of good behaviour, showing by their conduct due appreciation of the earlier liberty granted to them by the Prisons Board. It has to be recorded, however, that there were 10 probationers in this class who, while they completed the term without again coming before the Court, were subject to censure and warning for questionable conduct, warnings which, in the main, were heeded.

I have pleasure in again placing on record the kindly understanding shown, and the very valuable assistance given, by the Chief Placement Officer and his staff in placing so many probationers, particularly those released from prison, to whom the question of employment on release means so much.

Concluding this report, I have again to express my appreciation of that kindly and courteous treatment which I experience from the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Magistrates at this centre, nor must I omit to once more record my thanks for the kindly assistance given by the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society, the Salvation Army officers, many social workers, and the police, whose valuable help contributes in no small degree to the measure of success shown.

Mr. W. H. DARBY, District Probation Officer, Christchurch.

In presenting my annual report for the past year I think it would be quite safe to say that it has been the quietest year since taking over my duties here a little over eleven years ago. By quiet, I mean that the work has gone along so satisfactorily and the conduct and industry of all the men coming under my supervision has been so good that there has been practically no need for any drastic action whatever. Problems there have been, but only ones that will be with us for all time, chiefly in respect to those men who are unemployable and those who will not settle down to honest work, although it may be there for them to do.

During the past year we have again had placed under our supervision for the purpose of collecting the restitution ordered a large number of men who have obtained moneys from the Employment Fund by false pretences and false statements. This has given us a good deal of extra work, but in the majority of cases the men have responded well, and I have very little cause for complaint. I may mention that the Court has indicated very definitely that in cases where the frauds have been committed since the 1st January, 1938, quite a different and more drastic policy will have to be adopted.

Once again we have to thank the officers of the Government Placement Service for their very valuable assistance in placing many of our men in work. The service which is rendered is a very valuable one to the community.

The work also of the City Missioner and the officer in charge of the Salvation Army Men's Home at Addington is worthy of a special word of thanks. Without their kindly help many a homeless man would have found himself in sore straits, hungry, and without a roof over his head. These gentlemen never refuse assistance to the needy. Our thanks are also due to members of the Voluntary Probation Committee, business firms, the Police Department, members of the legal profession, and many others. To all we say "Thank you."

Reporting under the Offenders Probation Act, our statistics for the year ended 31st December, 1937, are as follows: Number on register at 1st January, 1937, 111; released by Courts during the year, 150; transferred from other districts, 25; a total of 286. Discharged or completed term of supervision, 101; transferred to other districts, 41; sentenced on original charge, 8; sent to gaol for other offences committed, 3; and defaulted-missing, 3. On register at 31st December, 1937, 130.

Under the Crimes Amendment Act we commenced the year with 41 reporting; received on license and transfers from other districts, 63; licenses cancelled, 7; sent to gaol for another offence committed, 1; transferred to other districts, 12; discharged during the year, 45; reporting at 31st December, 1937, 39.

The amount collected for the year ended 31st March, 1938, by way of restitution was £601 14s. 2d., and for costs of prosecution £43 9s. 6d., a total of £645 3s. 8d.

Mr. E. F. MOSLEY, Acting Probation Officer, Dunedin.

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the probation work at this centre for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

The number of probationers on the register at the end of the year shows a considerable decrease compared with the previous year. This is due to the large number discharged rather than to any substantial reduction in the number placed on probation. The total number of men dealt with under all headings was slightly greater than in the previous year.

The total of the number of defaulters, those sentenced to imprisonment, and those recommitted to prison amount to less than 5 per cent. of the number dealt with, a very small percentage when contrasted with the 95 per cent. who complete their term satisfactorily.

The sum collected by way of restitution is more than was collected in the previous year. Whilst some men pay only after considerable persuasion, it is found that many recognize the justice of the demand that they should in conformity with the moral law, make restitution to those they have defrauded before the offence is completely cancelled.

The finding of employment is one of the problems which still requires considerable attention. A busy probationer does not have the same opportunity to get into trouble as an idle one. In this connection the State Placement Service has extended every assistance, and I desire to record my gratitude to its officers.

As to the general behaviour of the men, the figures speak for themselves. It cannot be doubted that, in the main, the probationers recognize the benefits of becoming law-abiding citizens. It is not to be wondered at, however, that sometimes old, harmful associations and habits beckon alluringly, and occasionally successfully. Many, perhaps most of the young men, go astray because of their unsatisfactory home conditions, and it is obviously desirable to make every effort to remove the thoughts of criminal activity from the present generation for the benefit of themselves and the next generation.

Grateful appreciation is acknowledged to the voluntary social workers, the police, the Labour Department, and the Salvation Army. I especially wish to record thanks to the agent of the local Patients' and Prisoners' Aid Society, whose co-operation in our mutual endeavours has been of great benefit.

Statistics for the year are as follows :—

*Offenders Probation Act.*—On register at the beginning of the year 60, admitted during the year 30, received on transfer 12, total 102, which is to be reduced by 43 who completed their term, 14 transferred, 3 discharged by Prisons Board, 2 defaulters, and 2 imprisoned, leaving 38 on the register at the end of the year.

*Crimes Amendment Act.*—On register at beginning of year 22, released from institutions 19, received on transfer 11, total 52, less 22 who completed period, 10 transferred, 3 recommitted to institutions, and 1 discharged by Prisons Board, leaving 16 on register.

Restitution payments totalled £74 8s. 1d., and costs of prosecution, £1 13s.

Mr. R. WATT, District Probation Officer, Wellington.

I have the honour to submit the following annual report on probation work in this district for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

At the beginning of the year 116 offender probationers were reporting; during the year 129 were released on probation by the local Courts, while 30 were received on transfer from other districts, making a total dealt with during the period of 275.

Of this number, 72 completed their respective periods of probation and were discharged; 62 were transferred to other districts; 3 absconded and at the end of the year remained untraced; 5 were dealt with for additional offences, and 4 of this number were sentenced on the original charges; 2 left the Dominion; 3 were charged with a breach of the conditions of their release on probation; while 2 were convicted on other charges and were again released on probation. At the end of the year there remained 131 probationers on the register.

Reference to the statistics indicates that there has been an increase of 20 per cent. in the number dealt with, although the proportion of defaulters, approximately 4 per cent., is about the average for the district and may be regarded as satisfactory, reflecting, as it does, on the general standard of conduct and response among probationers. Reviewing the year's activity, one feels that, on the whole, response has in a general way been encouraging, and for the most part probationers have shown an intelligent interpretation of their obligations and of the opportunity for re-establishment provided through their release on probation.

The sum collected by way of reparation in the form of restitution and costs of prosecution, £441 11s., is somewhat less than last year, but, nevertheless, represents a fair response on the part of those probationers mainly concerned. Apart from those who seem to require constant pressure, many are regarded as having made a genuine effort that seemed to indicate the recognition of a moral obligation. Permanent and suitable employment has largely contributed to the ability of many to meet their monetary obligations, although in some cases reparation has meant a measure of self-denial.

Seven offenders, all of the youthful type, were dealt with for traffic offences and released on short terms of probation on condition that they attended instruction classes conducted by the Traffic Department of the City Council. Most of these probationers displayed a keen interest, and the reports of the Chief Traffic Inspector leaves no doubt as to the potential value of such instruction, which embraces all phases of driving and application and knowledge of Road Code and by-laws, &c., particularly as effecting youthful and impetuous drivers.

*Borstal Institutions and Crimes Amendment Act.*—At the commencement of the year 41 were reporting, while 79 came to this district on release from various institutions, 29 were received on transfer, making a total dealt with during the year under review of 149.

In all, 45 were discharged on completing their terms on probationary license and 44 were transferred to other districts, while 4 left the Dominion with prior consent. It was found necessary to cancel licenses in 6 instances by reason of unsatisfactory conduct or other offences having been committed, while 4 probationers were sentenced for further expressions of criminal conduct. Two absconded and failed to report, leaving 44 probationers on the register.

For the most part, conduct proved satisfactory during the period and on the part of many, general response has given pleasing encouragement. Singularly enough, some failed in varying degrees in the reaction from institutional to civil life with the existing favourable conditions of employment, &c., and apparently found readjustment as difficult as they might have done under more disadvantageous economic conditions.

Among those who defaulted or committed other offences are included those almost inevitable types who seem prone to err under almost any conditions and several comparatively young men who obviously failed to profit by experience. Two of the latter were representative of a sub-normal type who present a problem both to the Courts and social workers.

In the matter of employment, the State Placement Service has again proved of invaluable assistance and has been instrumental in placing many in suitable and congenial employment. The understanding interest of the officials has been a noticeable feature, particularly in regard to probationers who have lacked skill, intelligence, and adaptability, and whose consideration requires much patience and tolerance. That many probationers have been able to establish themselves in suitable and remunerative employment almost immediately on release from institutional care or from the Courts has, I think, provided that requisite stimulus that seems to awaken a personal effort for genuine self-rehabilitation without which, in co-operation, little definite progress can be made, and advisory control as exemplified in probation is hindered in its attempt to be of constructive assistance, either material or otherwise.

To the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, the Honorary Justices' Association, the Salvation Army, and other social workers our thanks are due for helpful and encouraging interest that has been of invaluable assistance: appreciation is also expressed of the understanding interest of the Judges of the Supreme Court and Magistrates and of the courtesy and assistance of the police and Court officials.

Major HOPE HART, Probation Officer for Women, Auckland.

I respectfully submit my annual report as Probation Officer for Women for the Auckland District for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

On the register at the beginning of the year 39 probationers, received from Auckland Courts 27, by transfer from other places 5, making a total of 71 dealt with for the year. Of this number, 19 were transferred to other places, 3 were charged with a breach of probation and were readmitted to probation, 2 were before the Court on other charges and sentenced to the Borstal Institution, while 23 completed their term of probation, leaving 27 reporting at the close of the year.

Received from prison reformatories 2, these having satisfactorily completed their term of probation.

Total of restitution-moneys collected during the year, £54 4s. 10d.

Most of the probationers appreciate the opportunity afforded by this system and have responded well to the help and advice given. Their conduct on the whole has been good.

I desire to again express my appreciation for the kindness and sympathetic understanding shown by the Magistrates, the Court officials, and the Police Department.

Major V. D. WOOD, Probation Officer for Women, Christchurch.

I have pleasure in submitting my annual report for the year ended 31st December, 1937, in connection with the probation system.

At the beginning of the year there were 25 probationers on the register: 11 were admitted to probation during the year; 2 were transferred from other districts, and 1 was received on license from prison, making a total of 39 dealt with. Of these, 24 completed their period of probation and 6 were transferred to other districts, leaving 9 on the register at 31st December.

The costs of prosecution and restitution-moneys collected amounted to £57 17s. 7d. On the part of the majority of the probationers this has meant a real effort.

Among the probationers dealt with there have been some particularly difficult cases, but these have been piloted through and have done creditably.

I think the probation system speaks for itself when so few come again before the Court. The results for the year are very gratifying, the probationers having responded well.

I would like to express my gratitude to Magistrates, Court officials, and police for their courtesy and help in the work.

Miss A. J. SIMPSON, Probation Officer for Women, Wellington.

I beg to submit my ninth annual report as Women's Probation Officer for the City of Wellington and district for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

At the beginning of the year there were 26 probationers reporting, 23 were admitted to probation by the local Courts during the year, 8 were transferred from other districts, and 10 were received on parole from Borstal and prison, making a total of 67 dealt with. Of this number, 22 completed their period of probation, 9 were transferred to other districts, 5 were reconvicted, 1 left the Dominion, and 1 absconded. At the close of the year there were 29 names on the register.

Restitution to the amount of £293 19s. 3d. and costs of prosecution amounting to £3 9s. 6d. have been received.

All girls are at present employed; one finds that it is the idle girl who is reconvicted. The husbands of the married probationers are all in regular employment, and, judging by their appearance and the amount of restitution which has been paid, they, too, are benefiting from the higher wages.

I have to thank the Justices of the Peace Association for permitting me to turn to them for help in an emergency, and my thanks are also due to the police and Magistrates' Court staff for their courtesy and ready help.

MR. D. DAVIES, Probation Officer, Gisborne.

I respectfully submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

With the exception of a few who make but very little effort to co-operate and are hard to convince that such is necessary if they wish to succeed, the conduct of the probationers has been good. I wish to thank the secretary of the local branch of the Y.M.C.A. for his kind assistance, also the Placement Officer for his courtesy and readiness to assist when called upon.

At the beginning of the year there were 16 probationers under the Offenders Probation Act on the register, 29 were admitted to probation during the year, and 7 were transferred from other districts, making a total of 52 dealt with. Of this number, 10 satisfactorily completed their period of probation, 16 were transferred to other districts, 1 was committed to Mental Hospital, and 1 was discharged by the Prisons Board, leaving 24 on the register at the close of the year.

*Crimes Amendment Act.*—Under this heading there were 4 reporting at the beginning of the year, 5 were received on parole from prison, and 1 was transferred from another district, making a total of 10. Of this number, 5 completed the period of parole and 1 was transferred to another district, leaving 4 reporting at the end of the year.

The amount of restitution-moneys collected during the year totalled £85 1s. 5d. Under the heading of costs of prosecution the sum received was £11 14s. 9d.

Mr. D. R. LLOYD, District Probation Officer, Greymouth.

I respectfully submit the annual report on probation work for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

*Moneys recovered.*—Restitution-moneys collected during the year amounted to £101 5s. 7d.

*Offenders Probation Act.*—Total dealt with 20, transferred 12, expired 4, reporting 4.

*Crimes Amendment Act.*—Total dealt with 9, expired 2, transferred 5, and reporting 2.

The year in retrospect is a very satisfying one. The application of common-sense methods and going the extra mile of service ultimately brought the desired results and formed a basis of mutual understanding and respect between the supervisor and probationer. Local contacts were well maintained, but I also had to contend with the "back-country" problem, a feature of the West Coast geographical situation, with probationers in the community workers' camps as far as 200 miles away from Greymouth centre of operation. However, the police co-operated and assisted me therein, and especially would I single out the officer in charge at Hokitika, and the country resident constables from Waiuta in the north to Bruce Bay in the south. To these officers I desire to record my appreciation of the services they have rendered.

In conclusion, it is very encouraging to meet ex-probationers who have retrieved self-respect and readapted themselves into well-ordered community life of the town.

Mr. M. McCORMACK, Probation Officer, Hamilton.

I respectfully report a total of 35 were reporting on the 31st December, 1937. Costs of prosecution and restitution-money collected amounted to £148 14s. 5d.

During the year probation granted by Magistrate's Court 20, and by Supreme Court 3. On transfer from other districts 17. During the year the conduct of all probationers has been quite satisfactory, except two who failed to comply with the order of the Court. When charged later one was sentenced to fourteen days' hard labour and the other, after remand, was eventually discharged. I am pleased to state that the majority of probationers are sticking to their work and not roaming from place to place.

Again it is my pleasure to thank Mr. Frank Findlay, Hamilton, for his assistance.

Mr. A. G. JOHNSTON, Probation Officer, Hastings.

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

The number of probationers on the register at the beginning of the year was 24, admitted to probation at Hastings 12, received by transfer from other districts 20, total 56: less transfers to other districts 11; to prison 1, and those who completed their term 21: leaving 23 on the register at the close of the year.

Amount collected during the year, £40 10s.

One probationer was committed to prison for carnal knowledge, but apart from this case the majority have fully appreciated the leniency extended. As in all cases where endeavours are made to assist those in trouble there is always a small number who do not fully appreciate these efforts on the part of others and require plain speaking and handling.

Mr. R. W. ARNOLD, Probation Officer, Invercargill.

I have the honour to submit hereunder a report on the probation work at this centre for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

*Offenders Probation Act.* At the beginning of the year there were 10 probationers on the register, 6 were admitted to probation during the year, and 6 were received on transfer, making a total of 22 dealt with. Of this number, 12 satisfactorily completed the probationary period, 1 was discharged by the Prisons Board, 4 were transferred to other districts, and 2 absconded, leaving 3 names on the register at the close of the year. This shows a gratifying decrease compared with previous years.

*Crimes Amendment Act and Prevention of Crime Act.*—Under this heading there were 6 probationers on the books at the beginning of the year, 10 were received on release from Borstal, and 7 were transferred from other districts, a total of 23 passing through my hands. Of these, 9 completed the probationary period, 7 were transferred to other districts, and 1 was reconvicted for a further offence, leaving 6 reporting at the end of the year.

Costs of prosecution and restitution-moneys collected during the year amounted to £17 19s.

During the year the State Placement Officer gave willing co-operation in the matter of finding suitable employment for probationers, and for this assistance towards rehabilitation I wish to express my appreciation. Thanks are also due to the members of the Invercargill Borstal Society and of the Invercargill Voluntary Probation Committee for the interest they have taken in the welfare of probationers throughout the year.

Mr. C. J. McMULLIN, Probation Officer, Napier.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

The conduct of the probationers on the whole has been most satisfactory and gratifying.

Owing to the improved economic conditions I have experienced little difficulty in placing the probationers in remunerative employment. I am specially indebted to the officer in charge of the State Placement Service, who has gone to considerable trouble at all times to find work suited to the varied needs.

I wish to record my appreciation of the courteous treatment and helpful advice which I have invariably received from the local Stipendiary Magistrate. My thanks are also due to the Court officials and the police for their untiring help during the year.

*Offenders Probation Act.*—At the 1st January, 1937, there were 21 probationers on the register, 22 were admitted to probation during the year, 9 were received on transfer from other districts, making a total of 52 dealt with during the year, this total being reduced by 11 having completed their term of probation, 17 transferred to other districts, 2 discharged by the Prisons Board, 2 committed further offences, and 1 charged with a breach of probation.

*Crimes Amendment Act.*—There were 8 probationers on the register at the 1st January, 1937, 12 were received on release from Borstal institutions or prisons, 20 being dealt with during the year. Of this number, 6 completed their terms satisfactorily, 5 were transferred to other districts, 1 left the Dominion, and 1 was convicted of further offences.

Mr. M. CUSSEN, Probation Officer, Nelson.

I have the honour to submit my report on the working of the probation system in the City of Nelson for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

*Offenders Probation Act, 1920, and the Crimes Amendment Act, 1910.*—Total dealt with during the year, 23; completed Probation, 11; total on register at 31st December, 1937, 17. Costs of prosecution and restitution-money collected during the financial year ended 31st March, 1938, £13 5s. 8d. I am again pleased to state that the conduct of the probationers has been very satisfactory. Not a single one has been out of work for more than a couple of days, and during the year I have not had one single request for financial assistance in any way. Therefore I have not had to call on the Salvation Army or my Honorary Committee during the year, which, no doubt, is a sign of prosperity. I have no restitution or costs-of-prosecution money owing to me at the present time.

Mr. W. DINEEN, Probation Officer, New Plymouth.

I have pleasure in submitting my report in connection with working of the Offenders Probation Act, and on probationers under the Crimes Amendment Act, in the New Plymouth district for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

In reference to the Offenders Probation Act, I wish to report that there were 20 probationers on the register at the beginning of the period. During the year 26 were received from the local Court and 8 were received from other districts, making a total of 54. Of that number, 21 were transferred to other districts, 14 completed their term of probation, and 19 still remained on the register at the end of the year.

Of the 34 new probationers received during the year, 17 were admitted on charges of dishonesty, the majority of them for theft, 4 were admitted for converting motor-vehicles to their own use, 4 for sexual offences, and 2 for bookmaking.

An amount of £61 18s. in fines and costs of prosecution has been collected between the 1st April, 1937, and the 31st March, 1938, from various probationers. The sum of £22 19s. 4d. has been collected during the same period for restitution, and has been paid as ordered by the Court.

Under the Crimes Amendment Act, 4 probationers were on the register at the beginning of 1937, 16 were received on license from the local prison, and 7 were received on transfer. Of this number 17 were transferred to other districts, the majority of whom, having just been released, were returning to their homes, 1 absconded and was rearrested and sentenced to a term of imprisonment for breach of probation, 3 have completed their term on license, and 6 remained on the register at the end of the year.

The thanks of the Department are due to Miss Scotter, of the Y.W.C.A., and to Mr. Ledgerwood, of the Y.M.C.A., for their valuable supervision of female and young male probationers respectively. Miss Scotter, an experienced social worker, has devoted a considerable amount of time and ability to the care of the women probationers.

Mr. E. C. J. FOOT, Probation Officer, Timaru.

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

The total number of probationers handled during the year was 44, comprising 29 under the Offenders Probation Act and 15 under the Crimes Amendment Act. Of these, 16 completed their period of probation, 13 were transferred to other districts, and 1 absconded, leaving 14 on the register at the close of the year.

The total costs of prosecution and restitution paid during the financial year was £40 7s. 10d. The generally improved conditions of the Dominion have been reflected in the ability of probationers to meet their responsibilities.

The conduct of probationers on the whole has been most satisfactory, but odd cases were dealt with which gave me cause for grave concern.



Care has been taken to try and find work and keep probationers in work, although some of them are definitely misfits and are likely to remain as unemployed for a long time.

The gratitude of parents and the thanks of probationers themselves has made the job wonderfully worth while.

I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Child Welfare Officers, Court staff, police, and would also recognize the valuable assistance rendered by the Placement Officer.

Mr. H. ROBINSON, Probation Officer, Wanganui.

Annual report of the working of the probation system for year ended 31st December, 1937.

*Offenders Probation Act.*—At the commencement of the year the number on the register was 37, new admissions 16, transferred from other districts 5, making a total of 58. Completed probation 22, transferred to other districts 9, sent to prison for breaches of probation 5, leaving 22 on the register on 31st December, 1937.

*Moneys recovered.*—Restitution-money £37 7s. 3d.; costs, £13 8s. 6d.; total, £50 15s. 9d. The general conduct of the probationers has been satisfactory, with the exception of the 5, who did not appreciate the leniency extended to them.

*Crimes Amendment Act.*—There were 9 on the register at the commencement of the year, received during year 21: total 30. Discharged 9, transferred 4, recommitted 3, leaving 14 on the register at the end of year.

I am very pleased to state that all probationers are in employment and are making an effort to rehabilitate themselves in the community.

## STATISTICS.

### OFFENDERS PROBATION ACT, 1920.

#### AGES AND TERMS OF PROBATION OF THE OFFENDERS ADMITTED TO PROBATION DURING THE YEAR, 1937.

Age, in Years.	Six Months or under.	One Year.	Eighteen Months.	Two Years.	Three Years.	Four Years.	Five Years.	Total.
Under 20 years of age ..	6	56	5	78	7	..	..	152
20 and under 25 ..	13	93	5	69	16	1	2	199
25 „ 30 ..	7	46	6	41	4	1	..	105
30 „ 40 ..	7	41	4	52	4	..	..	108
40 „ 50 ..	..	25	5	17	2	1	..	50
50 „ 60 ..	1	3	1	6	..	..	..	11
60 and over ..	1	4	..	5	1	..	..	11
Totals ..	35	268	26	268	34	3	2	636

#### SUMMARY OF CASES DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR 1937.

		Admitted to Probation.	Deferred Sentence.	Total.
Number reporting on 1st January, 1937 ..	..	1,024	157	1,181
Admitted to probation during the year ..	..	636	261	897
Totals ..	..	1,660	418	2,078
Completed probation during the year ..	..	566	186	752
Deceased ..	..	5	1	6
Discharged by Prisons Board ..	..	11	1	12
Left the Dominion ..	..	7	1	8
Absconded and not traced (term expired) ..	..	5	2	7
Resentenced on the original charge ..	..	15	9	24
Committed further offences ..	..	21	5	26
Totals ..	..	630	205	835
Number reporting on 31st December, 1937 ..	..	1,030	213	1,243

## BREACHES OF CONDITIONS OF RELEASE COMMITTED DURING 1937.

Failed to report, &c. . . . .	21
Committed further offences . . . . .	60
Absconded (still untraced) . . . . .	17
<b>Totals . . . . .</b>	<b>98</b>

## COSTS OF PROSECUTION AND RESTITUTION-MONEYS COLLECTED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1938.

	£	s.	d.
Amount of costs of prosecution collected by Probation Officers . . . . .	730	11	3
Amount of restitution-moneys collected . . . . .	3,842	7	11
	£4,572	19	2

## OFFENCES FOR WHICH OFFENDERS RECEIVED THE BENEFITS OF THE PROBATION ACT DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1937.

Offence.	Admitted to Probation.	Deferred Sentence.	Total.
Theft . . . . .	314	69	383
False pretences and false statements . . . . .	50	86	136
Breaking, entering, and theft . . . . .	44	1	45
Common assault . . . . .	22	17	39
Unlawful conversion of vehicles . . . . .	27	6	33
Mischief and wilful damage . . . . .	16	12	28
Carnal knowledge and attempted carnal knowledge . . . . .	16	5	21
Attempted suicide . . . . .	5	15	20
Forgery and uttering . . . . .	17	..	17
Obscene exposure . . . . .	15	2	17
Receiving stolen property . . . . .	12	3	15
Unlawfully on premises . . . . .	11	4	15
Vagrancy . . . . .	10	4	14
Negligently driving motor-vehicles . . . . .	12	1	13
Obscene language . . . . .	6	7	13
Drunk in charge of vehicles . . . . .	8	4	12
Disorderly behaviour . . . . .	6	5	11
Stowing away . . . . .	5	4	9
Ship desertion . . . . .	6	2	8
Indecent assault . . . . .	5	..	5
Breach of probation . . . . .	3	2	5
Bookmaking . . . . .	4	..	4
Bigamy . . . . .	3	1	4
Breach of prohibition order . . . . .	..	4	4
Presenting firearms . . . . .	3	..	3
Indecent act . . . . .	2	1	3
Cruelty to animals . . . . .	..	3	3
Cattle-stealing . . . . .	2	..	2
Robbery . . . . .	2	..	2
Arson . . . . .	2	..	2
Helpless drunkenness . . . . .	..	2	2
Failing to stop motor-car after accident . . . . .	1	..	1
Killing game without a license . . . . .	1	..	1
Breach of Bankruptcy Act . . . . .	1	..	1
Attempted incest . . . . .	1	..	1
Attempted murder . . . . .	1	..	1
Placing obstruction on railway-line . . . . .	1	..	1
Using instrument with intent to procure abortion . . . . .	1	..	1
Permitting instrument to be used . . . . .	1	..	1
Supplying noxious thing . . . . .	..	1	1
<b>Totals . . . . .</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>897</b>

*Approximate Cost of Paper.*—Preparation, not given; printing (760 copies), £14.

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