

1940.
NEW ZEALAND.

PRISONS

(REPORT ON) FOR THE YEAR 1939-40.

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

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

Wellington, 12th June, 1940.

I HAVE the honour to submit to Your Excellency the report on the prisons and Borstals of the Dominion for the year 1939-40.

I have, &c.,
H. G. R. MASON,
Minister of Justice.

The CONTROLLER-GENERAL OF PRISONS to the Hon. the MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

I have the honour to present the annual report of the Prisons Department for the financial year ended 31st March, 1940, showing also the criminal statistics for the calendar year ending 31st December, 1939.

On account of the shortage of paper and the need for economy the report is considerably abridged, and the customary institutional reports, except those relating to Borstal, have been omitted. The reports show that steady progress has been made in the reclamative work of the Department, and the comparatively low percentage of relapses has been maintained. Of the total reformatory detention, hard labour, and Borstal cases released after consideration by the Prisons Board, only 22 per cent. have again been recommitted.

PRISON STATISTICS.

The daily average number of prisoners in custody was 30 up on the previous year, and the number of persons received into prison showed an increase of 261.

The ratio of distinct persons to each 10,000 of the general population is 15.38, which is 1.5 higher than the previous year, though it is just half the figure for 1914.

The following table, showing the nature of the offences committed, reveals that the increase in the number of persons received into prison was due mainly to a substantial increase under the heading "Miscellaneous Offences," which comprise offences against good order and in the main are more or less of a venial character. It is interesting to note in Table C appended hereto that the commitments of distinct persons for drunkenness totalled 416 in 1939, as compared with 222 for the previous year. Drunkenness also is a contributory factor in many other offences—for example, no fewer than 18 persons were summarily imprisoned for being drunk in charge of motor-vehicles.

Nature of Offences.

Year.	Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Miscellaneous Offences.	Total.
1939	238	777	1,490	2,505
1938	197	740	1,287	2,224

An examination of the Court statistics show that under the heading "Offences against the Person" there has been a slight increase in the number of cases of common assault, unlawful carnal knowledge, and indecent assault.

Under the heading "Offences against Property" there has been a decrease in the number of offences for burglary and false pretences, but against this there has been an increase in breaking and entering, receiving, forgery, and theft, the latter being fairly substantial and representing approximately 100 additional receptions to prison. It is rather interesting to observe that a similar increase in England in shop-breaking, &c., and thieving, has been the subject of some speculation as to the cause—*i.e.*, whether or not it is in any way attributable to war conditions. It is not thought that this factor had any material bearing on the situation in the Dominion. It is rather due to a general slipping in moral standards.

Under the heading "Offences against Good Order," as already noted, drunkenness plays a prominent part. It is interesting to observe a diminution in the number of breaches of maintenance orders. At the same time, it is to be noted that the number of persons committed to prison under this heading is still high and represents approximately one-fifth of the total commitments. In view of the generally improved social conditions and the facilities for employment, it is also surprising to find that there were no fewer than 555 convictions for vagrancy, 181 resulting in imprisonment. Stowaways and ships deserters have substantially increased, and these also helped to swell the list of commitments.

Nationality of Offenders.

Year.	New-Zealand-born (excluding Maoris).	Maoris.	Born Overseas.	Total.
1939	1,427	310	768	2,505
1938	1,248	252	724	2,224

It will be observed that in all groups there has been an increase, but the highest percentage increase is of Maori offenders. Although there is not an increase in serious crimes, it is unsatisfactory to note that the number of Maoris committed to prison for vagrancy and drunkenness increased from 31 to 54.

Ages of Offenders.

Year.	Under 20.	20-25.	25-30.	30-40.	Over 40.	Not stated.	Total.
1939	178	424	413	612	875	3	2,505
1938	123	362	321	555	861	2	1,114

It will be observed that, although there has been a general increase in each group, the increase has been the highest amongst those between twenty-five and thirty years of age, and they are comprised mainly of prisoners grouped under the heading "Offences against Good Order."

PUNISHMENT AND INFRACTIONS OF DISCIPLINE.

Capital Punishment.—No executions took place during the year.

Floggings.—One prisoner was sentenced by the Court to a term of seven years' hard labour and a flogging of ten strokes for indecent assault on a female child, but the sentence of flogging was subsequently quashed by the Court of Appeal.

Escapes.—There were fewer escapes than usual during the year. Eighteen prisoners and ten Borstal detainees escaped from custody, and all were recaptured.

BORSTAL RECEPTIONS INCLUDED IN THE PRISONS STATISTICS.

One hundred and seventeen male and eleven female Borstal detainees were received direct from the Courts during the year, while 1 male and 1 female were transferred under section 12 of the Prevention of Crime Act from a prison to Borstal.

HEALTH OF PRISONERS.

The health of prisoners has been uniformly good throughout the year. The daily average on the sick list was 12.29 which represents 1.3 per cent. of the daily average in custody.

There were 58 admissions to the public hospitals, and there was 1 death recorded during the year, that of a prisoner who died in the Auckland Prison of diabetic coma.

The Medical Officers, in addition to undertaking the care of the sick, examine all prisoners before transfer from the city prisons to the farms and camps. Where it is considered that a mental examination would assist in the treatment of the prisoner, this is arranged through the Mental Hospitals Department, to which authority the Prisons Department is deeply indebted for the helpful co-operation of its specialist officers. Four prisoners were transferred to mental hospitals under section 4 of the Mental Defectives Act, 6 were transferred for special observation under section 37, and 10 were transferred after sentence under the provisions of section 38.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure covering a period of ten years is given hereunder :—

Year.	Daily Average Number of Inmates.	Gross Expenditure.		Credits.		Net Expenditure.	
		Total.	Per Head.	Total.	Per Head.	Total.	Per Head.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
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
1936-37	985	146,314	148·54	68,661	69·70	77,653	78·83
1937-38	852	164,132	192·64	69,075	81·07	95,057	111·56
1938-39	855	152,093	177·89	64,910	75·92	87,183	101·97
1939-40	907	155,333	170·16	74,348	81·97	80,985	88·19

It will be seen from the foregoing table that the net annual cost per head has gone down from £101 to £88. This is mainly due to an increase in the revenue earned by £10,000, resulting from the further development of the Department's industrial and farming activities.

INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES.

As already indicated, for reasons of economy, with the exception of those relating to Borstal, which are of especial interest because they show the wide range of socializing activities now in vogue for the reclamation of younger offenders, the customary reports of Controlling Officers are omitted.

These disclose generally that the health and conduct of prisoners have been uniformly good and that the social and industrial activities have been successfully pursued. At Mount Eden the boot-factory and clothing-factory have continued at high pressure supplying equipment for our own institutions, for the Mental Hospitals Department, and for military purposes. The Department has also continued to grow and manufacture its own requirements of tobacco. General farming (particularly dairying), gardening, quarrying, and roadworks constitute the main activities.

Educational classes, cinema programmes, first-aid classes, and recreational activities are included in the regular curriculum.

The Prisoners' Aid Society, social workers, and representatives of the various Churches have ministered to the spiritual well-being of inmates and assisted in the work of rehabilitation.

To all public-spirited citizens who have assisted in this important social work, and to the staff for their loyal co-operation, the grateful thanks of the Department is extended.

B. L. DALLARD,
Controller-General of Prisons.

BORSTAL INSTITUTIONS: EPITOME OF REPORTS OF CONTROLLING OFFICERS.

INVERCARGILL BORSTAL INSTITUTION.
(Superintendent, Mr. R. W. ARNOLD.)

On 1st January, 1939, there were 100 inmates in custody in the Borstal institution. During the year 97 were received, while 82 were released or otherwise disposed of, leaving thus 115 in custody on 31st December, 1939. Those released from this institution included five transferred to other institutions.

There were twenty-two admissions to the Southland Public Hospital during the year. It is to be noted that in practically all cases the inmates were suffering with their various ailments on admission to the institution. Quite a number of boys on arrival are of poor physique, and for these, generally an average of about half a dozen at any one time, malt and extra milk is prescribed.

Of the boys reporting sick, some are put into the institution hospital for attention. Others are permitted to remain in their cubicles, while others are excused duty for the time being. The Matron makes it a practice to keep parents informed of the progress of patients. This entails much work, but it is considered that the contact is particularly valuable.

It will probably prove interesting if some general particulars are given to indicate the type of inmate being received in the institution. This will give an idea of the difficulties to be encountered in endeavouring to bring about their reformation.

Of the 97 inmates received during the year, only 11 came in as first offenders. Their offences were: 3 breaking, entering, and theft; 3 car conversion; and one each theft, cycle conversion, conversion of horse, indecent assault, and attempted buggery. The other 86 had all been previously convicted—29 once; 34 two, three, and four times; and the rest on even more occasions.

The offences committed in respect of which the inmates were received may be classified as follows: Theft, 39; conversion of motor-cars, &c., 27; breaking, entering, and theft, 16; assault, false pretences, forgery, and various, 15.

Bearing in mind the information given above, it will not be difficult to understand that reformation is no easy matter. The truth of the saying "The child is father to the man" is well exemplified in the cases of Borstal boys. There is no doubt that the early years of a boy's life are the most important as regards the moulding of his character, and it is quite obvious that there has been sad neglect in those years. Another factor is that the present-day tendency generally appears to be to allow more latitude to young people than was the case years ago, so that later on repressive measures are usually resented, if not openly, then by cunning.

It must not be taken that all the boys in the institution are incorrigible. Many turn out quite well, and frequently letters are received from ex-inmates stating that they are making a success of life and expressing thanks for the training received here. On the other hand, some appear to be definitely incorrigible, and during the year a few had to be transferred to other institutions as they were having a bad influence on the others.

There were nine escapes in 1939, four in one group, two together, and three singly. Two lads escaped on two occasions. All except two were recaptured without much difficulty. Of the two exceptions, one got to Dunedin and the other to Christchurch. Unfortunately, as soon as a boy escapes it is practically a necessity for him to commit other offences—theft of clothing, food, money, &c.; sometimes the conversion of a motor-car.

It has always been considered important to improve as far as possible in the limited time available the standard of education of the boys committed to Borstal. To this end, outside teachers are engaged who conduct classes in the evenings. Certain classes are also held by members of the staff. Reports submitted by the outside teachers are quoted hereunder:—

(a) *General Schooling*.—"In February the general course of classification was carried out, and the boys were classified according to their mental ability and past schooling. Those showing a low standard of education were given a special elementary instructional course planned to meet their varying requirements.

"The English course followed throughout the school covered a wide range graded to meet the standard of the groups, and stimulated an interest in oral and written expression. Letter-writing also occupied a prominent part in the curriculum.

"In the upper school, added to the formal grammar was the study of the works of some of the well-known English authors. The general aim was to eliminate the errors of speech and expression in language, together with a socially correct form in written work. In arithmetic the aim was to make the work as concrete and as practical as possible, making the subject interesting and profitable by the utilization of every-day experiences. Mental work necessarily played a special part in the scheme.

"The course in history covered local history, new topics in New Zealand affairs, proposed social legislation, and the elementary principles of citizenship. The seniors studied British history on these lines: The consolidation of the Empire; the growth of the Constitution; social and industrial development.

"In geography a survey of the countries of the world, map-work, and newspaper geography formed the basis of instruction.

"The *Students' Digest* kept the school well informed of current happenings, and appeared to be of special interest to the boys."

(b) *Economics and Civics*.—"The class completed another successful session this year. Most of the members displayed great enthusiasm in contributing to the work of the class. This consisted for the main part in debating, delivering lectures, play-reading, and dramatic work. A feature of the session was the fact that two debates were held with the Invercargill W.E.A., in which honours were even."

(c) *Agriculture and Wool-classing*.—"A satisfactory year's work in both agriculture and wool-classing was completed with the holding of the annual examinations in both subjects, and the results of these tests indicate that the students have a very fair grasp of their work.

"As is to be expected with this type of student, the practical work reaches a much higher standard than that of the written work. Generally speaking, most of the lads are interested in the courses of instruction, and the knowledge gained will no doubt be of considerable value to them in later life."

The prizes for the agriculture and wool-classing classes are donated each year by the Reginald Mackinnon Trust, which is administered by the Public Trustee. The usual donation is £4. In 1939 the same boy won the first prize in both courses.

There is always plenty of work to be done in the institution and on the farm. To a limited extent boys are permitted to follow an occupation in which they may be interested or for which they may be suited by past experience.

Attached to the institution there is the bakehouse and kitchen in which several boys are employed. Quite a number who have learned baking bread have followed that line after release. In the carpentry shop, where a woodworking machine and most of the latest tools are used, inmates get a good grounding in carpentry-work—in fact some have proved quite skilful. They learn also the elements of plumbing and concrete work.

There is also a paint-shop, which requires the services of a few boys, and the boot-shop, where selected inmates learn repairing-work and the making of new boots and shoes. The experimental garden area attached to the institution gives boys an opportunity to learn the principles of gardening. The institution meat is grown on the farm, and so the services of a butcher are needed. He has one or two boys to assist, who thus gain instruction in this trade.

The blacksmithy offers a field for the employment of several with a view to learning the trade. During the year an oxy welding plant was added to the equipment, which includes also lathe, boring-machine, grinding and sharpening gear, &c. The shoeing of all the horses is done in the blacksmithy, and this includes making the shoes.

Most of the inmates are given work on the farm, where all branches of farming may be learned.

In addition to the practical work, the inmates are taught the theory, &c., of the different trades at evening classes under the guidance of the several tradesmen-officers, each of whom has had years of experience. Singing, music, and art classes are also conducted for boys with talent or inclination in that direction.

There is a well-filled library in the institution from which the inmates may draw a regular supply of books. The library frequently benefits by the receipt of donations of books from interested friends.

The Department supplies various English, American, and New Zealand publications: *Illustrated London News*, *Windsor*, *Pearson's*, *Life*, *Popular Science*, *Popular Mechanics*, *National Geographic*, *Auckland Weekly*, &c.

We are indebted to various friends and well-wishers of the institution for free supplies of *Unity*, *Christian Herald*, *Signs of the Times*, *Te Waka Karaitiana*, &c. Copies of the *Children's Magazine* are also received.

Parents and friends of the inmates also send in a good deal of reading-matter.

Spiritual needs are catered for to a full extent. Services are arranged by the Ministers' Association for the various denominations which they represent, by a representative of the Roman Catholic Church, and by an officer of the Salvation Army. For special occasions such as Christmas Day, Good Friday, King's Birthday, and Anzac Day, special services are arranged. Bible classes are held regularly.

There appears to be no lack of assistance by local people to give entertainment to the boys and supply valuable social contact. Thanks are expressed to all who so kindly gave their services during the year. Each Sunday evening a "Pleasant Hour" is spent, when there are musical items, talks, &c. The entertainments enjoyed during the year are summarized as under:—

Concerts, &c.—By Mr. Aitchison and party; Old Timers' party; Southland Boys' High School gymnastic display, with use of horse, bar, &c.; Battalion Band and visiting artists; Howard Moody and party—concert, interspersed with songs and stories; wrestling display by Southland Wrestling Association; Southland Boys' High School choir; Mr. Matthews and party; Boys' Battalion Band selections; electro-gramophone records; St. Catherine's Dominican Ex-pupils' Association; Imperial Ex-Servicemen's Social Committee.

Films, &c.—The Department arranges for periodical screenings of sound-movie pictures of an instructive and educational value, and a number were enjoyed during the year.

Dr. R. P. Carr, of the Zenana Bible and Medical Mission, gave a lecture on India, illustrated with lantern-slides. Sister Templeton, of the Soudan Interior Mission, gave a similar address on Abyssinia. A further lantern lecture dealt with the production of rubber, followed by views of some of the scenic wonders of Australia and New Zealand. The Director of the City Reserves gave an illustrated address on the Royal Kew Gardens.

Talks and Addresses: General.—A great variety of subjects came under review during the year, as the subjects noted hereunder will show: "World Affairs" (on four occasions this subject was treated); "Humours of Military Life"; "Trip to Queensland"; "Value of Sport"; "Chinese Art"; "European Affairs"—with special reference to Germany under Hitler, Italy and her Problems, and General Franco and Spain; "Aircraft in 1914"; "Colour Processes and Printing"; "Trip to England and Germany," by Sister Rita Snowden, of the Methodist Home Mission; "Gallipoli"; "Past and Present World Affairs"; "Tree-planting"; "State Forests"; "Te Puoho's Trek from Nelson to Tukurau, Southland, and the Last Fight between Maori and Maori"; "Experiences during the Great War"; "European Situation"; "London in War-time"; "Motor Tour through Catlins District to Christchurch and over the Lewis Pass"; "Maoris"; "The making of an Indian Brave";

address by Brigadier Renshaw (Salvation Army, Australia); "Life in Japan," by Brigadier (Miss) Smythe, M.A.; talk by Mr. Chas. Martin, Mus.Bac., on "A Tour through England and Germany"; "Adrift in an Open Boat"; "Weapons used during the Great War." Frequently at talks, musical items were given and community sings held. The Institution Medical Officer gave quarterly addresses.

Rotary Club.—The club arranges for one or more members to visit the association class once a week. This class is composed of about thirty of the best boys, and for Rotary purposes goes under the name of "the Kiwi Club." It keeps records of its meetings. Cigarettes are usually distributed at each meeting. During the year the following entertainments were given: Moving-pictures of Lake Tekapo and Milford Sound; various scenes by moving-picture; film of motor tour of United States of America, with views of testing plant of General Motors Corporation, Detroit; films of bread-making, boat-racing, &c.; pictures of New Zealand scenic resorts; travel talk on London, with special reference to Madame Taussaud's war museum, Tower Bridge, and zoo; talk on mineral oils, with samples; talk on Dutch East Indies and Singapore; film of coronation of King George VI, and of trip to Australia; talk on New Zealand West Coast; film of South Island scenery, also of Charlie Chaplin; talk on "Marie Celeste"—a test was set as to the best solution of the mystery; "Newspapers and their Development"; "Golf," with demonstration; "Federated Malay States"; "Reinforced Concrete, and Braicing and Trussing of Wooden Buildings"; "Submarines"; "Sojourn in England," by a Rhodes Scholar on visit; "Cruise of Raider 'Wolf'"; "Recollections of Great War"; "Trip to England and Europe"; films of Canada and Europe; demonstration of radios and sound-transmitting instruments; "History of Motor-cars"; pictures of travels in Australia and Central Otago; various humorous items. On one occasion a Rotary concert party came from Gore and gave an entertaining concert, at which all inmates were present, the evening included a talk on "A Trip Round the World."

Toc H.—A Toc H party attends on the last Sunday in the month, and all inmates available attend. Musical items are given, and there were talks on the following subjects: "Egypt"; "The Manufacture of Mustard"; "British Flags"; "Athletics"; "Trip to Milford Sound"; "Youth Movement in Roumania"; "Great War Experiences."

On other occasions Toc H members met the association class. Two evenings at draughts have been played; and once there was a debate, the subject being "That newspapers and periodicals are published for enlightenment and not for personal gain."

W.E.A. Class.—The work of this class has already been mentioned under "Education." Further details of the programme carried out are included here: At the opening meeting the objects and benefits of the class were explained; the European crisis was discussed; there was a talk on the visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen to Canada and the United States of America; a lecture on explosives; a discussion on world affairs; lectures were given by three inmates on "The Electric Film Projector," "Car-painting," and "Holidays in Australia." Eight inmates took part in a debate that "New Zealand is in a Position to withstand a Foreign Invasion." A further debate, this time with a W.E.A. team, took place later on; and still another debate on the subject "That the Hire-purchase System is a benefit to the Community" was held with the W.E.A. During the session there were three play-readings.

Band.—The Salvation Army Band attends on one Sunday afternoon each month and plays selections.

Cricket, football, and tennis are all well catered for and fully taken part in by the boys. The cricket team was successful in regaining possession of the *Times* Cup, which it lost last year after holding it for the previous three years. Besides competition games under the Southland Cricket Association, many friendly matches are played with outside teams. On 14th October, 1939, the official opening of the cricket season was held on the recreation ground, with the usual match—Staff v. Boys. There were present, among others, the President of the Cricket Association; Mr. W. M. C. Denham, M.P. for Invercargill; and Mr. J. Pickard, a City Councillor representing the Mayor. The staff suffered the usual defeat—perhaps owing to increasing age. The Battalion Band was in attendance.

Football is very popular, and many good games have been played. There is a team in the competition under the Southland Rugby Union each year; and the boys play among themselves. Much interest is also shown in the broadcast of any big football match during the season, for which other games are sometimes postponed.

Tennis has a good hold, and two courts are usually available, one hard inside the quadrangle, and one grass in the recreation-ground.

With the tepid baths, swimming can be indulged in all the year round. Swimming and life-saving classes are conducted by the Oreti Surf Life-saving Club, the instructors being Mr. A. J. Kingsland and his assistants Messrs. Mitchell and Cameron. At the examination held, seven inmates gained bronze medals (of the Royal Life-saving Society); one, an Intermediate Certificate; three gained passes in Resuscitation; and two, Awards of Merit.

A class in first aid was again conducted by officers of St. John Ambulance Brigade. Physical drill is part of the usual routine of the institution, classes being held in the gymnasium by an instructor from the Boys' High School.

In July, 1939, a new "Ultimate" radio set was installed for the benefit of the inmates. Seven speakers are attached, whereby the different parts of the institution can be given music, news, &c., the whole being controlled from the Deputy Superintendent's office.

In view of the outbreak of war, necessitating economy, and the fact that camping and cooking equipment was not available this year from the Defence Department, the annual camp was not held as heretofore. In order, however, that the boys would not be deprived of some form of outside entertainment, it was decided to hold one or more picnics.

The first was held on 30th December, when a number of boys were taken by motor-lorry to the camping-site at Otatara, where a most enjoyable time was spent—swimming, rabbiting, games, &c. The picnic appeared to be a successful function, and it is possible that picnics will give as good, if not better, results than the camp held over a period of ten days. Picnics do not interfere with the working of the institution and are more economical.

The A. and P. Association held its winter show in May, and the institution made an exhibit on the usual lines, showing the industries, arts, and crafts which are taught or carried on. This created a good impression, and the Gore Association asked if a similar exhibit could be entered in their show held in July. This was accordingly done.

The Honorary Ladies' Borstal Committee, consisting of Mrs. R. Henderson and Mrs. J. D. Campbell, made weekly visits to the institution during the year, and gave interviews as desired. The members of the Invercargill Borstal Society were always available to assist in any way as required; as also were the members of the Invercargill Voluntary Probation Committee.

It is with pleasure that I record my appreciation of the work of the various members of the staff during the year. There have been several changes, some leaving and others being newly appointed. Perhaps one might mention especially the Matron, who, living on the premises, gives freely of her own time in the conscientious performance of her work. The same might be said also of the farm-manager.

WAIKERIA BORSTAL INSTITUTION (TE AWAMUTU).

(Superintendent, Mr. D. DUNLOP.)

At the commencement of the year there were in custody 36 Borstal inmates, and 26 were received during the year; the discharges were 27 on probationary licenses, thus leaving 35 in custody on the 31st December, 1939. The greatest number of Borstal inmates in custody at any one time during the year was 37, the least number 29, and the daily average was 33.51.

In the Reformatory Section there were in custody at the beginning of the year 98 inmates, and 95 were received during the year; of these, 15 were discharged on expiration of sentences, 8 by special remissions of sentences, 61 on probationary licenses, while 11 were transferred to other institutions, leaving 98 inmates in the reformatory at the end of the year.

During the year there were four escapes, of which three were recaptured within a few hours. The escapes, according to the explanations of the inmates concerned, were entirely unpremeditated. They were of the usual runaway type of escape, which is difficult to prevent but fortunately is not very common. The majority of the inmates, as a general rule, respond to the trust placed in them when working out on the farm.

The general health of the inmates throughout the year was good. Regular visits were made to the institution by the Medical Officer, who attends to all cases brought before him in a thorough and sympathetic manner.

Full advantage was taken by the inmates of the facilities provided for dental treatment by the visiting dentist, Mr. W. Mackenzie, of Te Awamutu.

The food supplied has been of excellent quality, with a plentiful supply of vegetables from the institution garden. The bread produced in the institutional bakery still maintains its high standard of excellency.

The conduct of the inmates throughout the year was very good. There were the usual number of minor breaches of the regulations, arising mainly from loss of equipment and damage to clothing and other property through the want of reasonable care. The Department is indebted to the Visiting Justices, Mr. W. Jeffrey and Mr. S. Clark, and to the members of the Borstal Visiting Committee, Mr. F. Quin, Mr. F. W. Bevin, Mr. G. A. Empson, and Mr. F. J. Gilbert, for their assistance, and the fair and impartial manner in which they have dealt with disciplinary matters.

The spiritual welfare of the inmates has been attended to throughout the year by ministers and laymen of various denominations, and thanks are due to these gentlemen for the interest displayed.

It is pleasing to record that, as a result of a keen demand for farm labour in the surrounding districts, employment has been found for a number of young men who wished to follow this vocation. In this work I have again had the enthusiastic co-operation of Mr. F. Finlay, of Hamilton, and through his kind offices positions have been obtained for a number of inmates on their discharge from this institution.

During the year there has been ample work of a useful and productive nature available to keep all inmates fully employed on the farm property. Inmates who are artisans are also employed as far as possible at their respective trades.

The usual facilities were provided for the recreation of inmates, and it is again my pleasure to record our thanks to Mr. F. Finlay, of Hamilton, for the valuable assistance given in the organizing of concert parties for the benefit of the inmates. Thanks are also due to local artists for providing entertainments at various times during the year, and also to those who kindly made donations to the Christmas cheer funds. As in previous years, a concert was arranged by the inmates themselves, and after diligent practice it was presented before the inmates and visitors in the institution concert hall. It was an unqualified success, and, in response to requests, permission was obtained to have the concert repeated in Te Awamutu, Kihikihi, and Hamilton, the proceeds being in aid of local charities. The concert was also presented at the Tokanui Mental Hospital for the benefit of the patients at that institution.

The usual wireless programmes were provided during the year, the schedule of hours being extended where necessary to incorporate any broadcasts of exceptional interest.

The institution by the Department of a regular sound-cinema programme has been appreciated by the inmates, both from the entertainment as well as the educational point of view.

During the season one team was entered in the local Rugby competitions, and several inmates participated in the matches. The team was successful in winning the seven-a-side tournament and also the Senior B knock-out competition and Brown Cup. The team were runners-up in the championship, a most satisfactory season, bearing in mind that in previous seasons Waikeria has played junior grade. I have to thank the officials of the Waipa Rugby Football Union for the assistance given to the team and to the institution staff throughout the season.

Cricket matches were played during the summer season, the Waikeria team being successful in winning the Loomb Cup. The season was very successful and enjoyable, the competitive games being appreciated by the inmates who participated.

The evening educational classes were conducted throughout the year. The work given throughout the year has continued to be of a practical nature, while those who wished were allowed to take work in those subjects in which they were directly interested. As much individual attention as possible has been given to those inmates taking individual courses such as book-keeping, mechanical drawing, poster drawing, and signwriting. The work given to other inmates was selected from various sources, the maximum use being made of material from different English educational journals. One evening each week was devoted to a lecture or talk on some topical event, and to make the lectures more interesting the Schoolmaster arranged for a regular supply of film strips from the Auckland Education Board. This phase of school activities was greatly appreciated by the members of the class, and assisted towards maintaining interest in the general and more routine work of the school. The inmate who was following up his studies with the Auckland University College completed his degree examinations during the year.

The usual programme of work was carried out in connection with the maintenance of departmental buildings. During the year extensions were made to the cell-house veranda and the laundry kit-room. The conversion of the "Camp" buildings into three flats assisted to alleviate the housing problem, and a further two cottages are in the course of construction. The new sewerage system and water-supply for the institution and the staff cottages has been practically completed.

During the year the milking-shed at No. 2 dairy was reconstructed and fitted with milking-machines, skim-milk pump, and pasteurizer, and all dairies are now complete in this respect.

The stock of farm implements and machinery has been maintained in good order, and has been augmented by the addition of a hay-baler, tedder, and mower, and a rotary hoe for use in the orchard and garden.

Farming operations have been carried out successfully during the year, the revenue amounting to approximately £17,664, exclusive of the value of a large quantity of produce consumed at the institution for ration purposes and on the farm itself. Practically all branches of farming are carried out, including cattle-raising and dairying; sheep, horse, and pig raising; vegetable, fruit, honey, and tobacco culture; and ordinary crop-production.

Dairying continues to occupy a prominent place in the farm activities, and during the 1938-39 season an average of 466 cows were milked, the average butter-fat production per cow being 284 lb. The total milk yield was 3,010,660 lb.; cream yield, 281,555 lb.; and butterfat supplied to factory, 110,176 lb. The average cream and milk tests were 39.39 per cent. and 4.49 per cent. respectively. Of the total cream supplied to the factory, 86.59 per cent. was graded finest quality. Herd-testing, carried out by inmates, was continued during the year.

All supplies of beef and mutton both for this institution and that of Auckland Prison were obtained from the farm. The quality of the meat produced received favourable comment from visitors to the institution.

In the sheep industry the result of shearing operations was a return of 106 bales of wool, shorn from 4,209 sheep. The whole clip realized £1,506. A total of 1,830 lambs were sold to the freezing-works, realizing £1,742.

Satisfactory progress continues to be made in the pig industry, and 550 pigs were disposed of during the year. A comparison of returns with those of the previous season shows a slight decrease in the net production of pig-flesh, but this has been accounted for by the fact that it was necessary early in the year to dispose of a number of old sows, which were replaced by maiden sows.

The garden provides a useful and healthy avenue for the employment of inmates fitted for light labour, and is valuable in meeting the requirements of the institution for fresh vegetables.

Tobacco-culture was again carried out in conjunction with the gardening operations, a yield of 2,255 lb. of air-cured leaf being secured from an area of 4 acres.

Orchard returns showed an improvement over the previous season, 2,466 cases of apples being sold during the year, giving a revenue of approximately £520. The new apple-grading machine which was installed in the packing-shed has proved a great convenience.

POINT HALSWELL BORSTAL INSTITUTION.

(Superintendent, Miss A. E. SEWELL.)

On the 1st January, 1939, there were 12 girls in the Borstal Section of this institution; a further 15 were admitted and 12 discharged, leaving 15 girls in the institution on 31st December. Of the 12 discharged, 10 were released on probationary license and 2 were transferred to the care of the Mental Hospitals Department—one to Porirua and the other to Templeton Farm.

In the Reformatory Section we began the year with 8 inmates; 33 were admitted and 35 discharged, leaving 6 women in custody on the 31st December.

The health of the girls has again been consistently good. Two have been patients at the Salvation Army Maternity Hospital, one girl subsequently marrying, and, with a home of her own, being able to keep her baby; the other child was committed to the care of the Child Welfare Department, the girl returning to this institution. One other inmate was absent at public hospital for eight days for surgical treatment for venereal disease, and four others attended the out-patients clinic for treatment for the same trouble. Apart from these, there have been no cases of sickness for more than one day. Regular dental attention is given, and in three cases where there was optical weakness spectacles were supplied. Another valuable service is that the advice of a psychiatrist from the Mental Hospitals Department is always available.

The conduct of the girls has again been very creditable, only one breach having occurred, when a girl left the institution grounds without permission. As a mark of encouragement for so good a record, the Borstal Association generously made a grant enabling all the girls to visit the Centennial Exhibition. They went in groups of four with different staff members, and educationally and socially the outing was of great value and was much appreciated. Their conduct in every case was irreproachable, and all spent a very happy day. This same response is noticeable on the several occasions when the girls have been taken for walks on the hills. These excursions help to dispel from minds young enough to be very sensitive the sense of being outcast from the community generally, and makes the resuming of normal occupation easier.

The laundry, with its modernized equipment, is our chief industry, and offers good training for the girls in a useful and interesting trade. The revenue for the year was £1,651 9s. 2d., representing a trading profit of £521 14s. 6d. This work is for the New Zealand Railways and Internal Affairs Departments, and also for the Defence Department in the laundering and repairing of puttees.

The kitchen garden has also provided interesting occupation for another working-party, and has supplied the institution with a good and varied assortment of fresh vegetables. Our menu has been further varied by gifts of apples and tomatoes from the Women's Borstal Association.

The cleaning and cooking for the institution is all done by the girls, under supervision, and this adequate training in domestic work makes each girl able to look after a home of her own or to obtain employment as a domestic worker. Jam-making, sewing and mending, and handwork are other occupations; in the latter, some very beautiful knitting and fancy work being done by the girls.

The school-work for the year has been steadily maintained by the visiting teacher, two classes being conducted thrice weekly. One concentrates on retardate work, trying to fill in the gaps of very incomplete educations; the other studies current events, English grammar and literature, and drawing, &c. Swimming, tennis, and basketball are all enjoyed in season, and matches with visiting Bible-class teams are always keenly contested and enjoyed. Most of the girls are swimmers and can enjoy this sport for about seven months in the year.

Social events during the year have been very varied, and have included a New Year party given by Mrs. Sprott and members of the Mothers' Union; a party given by Mrs. Glover and members of the Salvation Army; regular first-aid and home-nursing talks by Mrs. Gaby; seven talkie entertainments; three social evenings arranged by the Training College Social Service group; nine parties by Bible-class representatives; four musical evenings given by local interested ladies; an evening's entertainment by the Y.M.C.A. Optimists' Club; a party given by the J.P. Association, with orchestral and choral items; a play "Indoor Fireworks," given by the Crescent Players; an evening of carol singing and Christmas music by the Kelburn Presbyterian Choir. To all these people who have so generously varied our weekly routine, we record our thanks.

A very generous gift was recently made to the institution of new books for the library, and also a supply of leather-bound attractive little pocket New Testaments to be given to the girls when they leave the institution.

Church services are regularly conducted by the Wellington South Ministers' Association, Mrs. Glover (Salvation Army), Mrs. Sprott (Church of England), Father Uhlenberg, and the Sisters of Mercy from Seatoun Convent. The Borstal Committee has regularly met during the year under the chairmanship of Mr. G. C. Edwards, and, while happily having no disciplinary cases to interview, have rendered valuable assistance in counselling and encouraging each girl both on admission and on discharge. The members of the Women's Borstal Association have again been a great source of help and encouragement during the year, bringing most sympathetic and capable understanding to the important work of after-care when the girls leave the institution. The members visit the institution regularly and know the girls individually; they also provide for our wants in many thoughtful ways.

To all these good friends who help us we would record our most appreciative thanks.

I would like to record also my appreciation of the unselfish co-operation and efficiency of the staff generally in their work. Such service, taken vocationally, involves considerable strain for the individual, for the work calls for not only the capacity to train and teach the girls in useful work, but demands pre-eminently patience, kindness, and tolerance, and a large degree of sympathy and understanding.

Table C.

TABLE SHOWING THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF DISTINCT CONVICTED PRISONERS RECEIVED INTO GAOL DURING THE YEAR 1939, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO PRINCIPAL OFFENCES, BIRTHPLACE, AND AGE.

	Offences against the Person.						Offences against Property.				Miscellaneous.						Totals.	
	Sexual Offences.		Assaults.		Other.		Theft and Deceit.		Mischief.		Drunkenness.*		Vagrancy.†		Other Offences.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Birthplaces—																		
New Zealand ..	64	1	86	1	18	5	487	24	97	..	253	9	81	15	587	9	1,673	64
Australia ..	3	..	9	..	2	..	34	1	8	..	30	..	8	..	49	1	143	2
England and Wales ..	8	..	19	..	1	..	66	3	6	..	64	1	13	..	152	..	329	4
Scotland ..	1	..	9	..	..	..	18	2	6	..	36	..	10	..	52	1	132	3
Ireland ..	3	..	3	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	13	1	5	1	38	1	70	3
Other British countries ..	..	..	3	..	..	..	5	..	2	..	3	..	2	..	13	1	28	1
China ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	10	..
Other countries ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	6	..	1	..	6	..	3	..	22	..	39	..
At sea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Not stated ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	3	1
Totals ..	79	1	131	1	21	5	626	31	120	..	405	11	123	16	922	13	2,427	78
Ages—																		
15 and under 20 years ..	5	..	7	..	..	..	84	4	34	..	2	..	4	3	34	1	170	8
20 " 25 " ..	17	..	30	..	4	..	141	6	31	..	30	..	21	3	137	4	411	13
25 " 30 " ..	14	1	26	1	8	1	121	7	34	..	42	1	13	6	136	2	394	19
30 " 40 " ..	22	..	41	..	2	2	137	4	13	..	96	1	23	1	269	1	603	9
40 " 50 " ..	11	..	15	..	5	..	90	5	6	..	80	3	23	..	175	2	405	10
50 " 60 " ..	8	..	8	..	1	2	35	5	1	..	98	5	25	2	122	1	298	15
60 and over ..	2	..	3	..	1	..	18	..	..	..	56	1	14	1	49	2	143	4
Not stated ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Totals ..	79	1	131	1	21	5	626	31	120	..	405	11	123	16	922	13	2,427	78
Maoris included above ..	12	..	24	..	3	..	99	3	20	..	35	..	17	2	93	2	303	7

* It must be remembered that drunkenness is punished more by fine than by imprisonment, so that the figures in the gaol tables do not represent the full number of persons punished for that offence.

† Including importuning, consorting with rogues, &c.

Table D.

PRISONS.—NEW-ZEALAND-BORN PRISONERS RECEIVED, 1939.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF DISTINCT NEW-ZEALAND-BORN CONVICTED PRISONERS OF EACH SEX (INCLUDING MAORIS) RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1939, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGES AND OFFENCES.

Offences.	15 and under 20.		20 and under 25.		25 and under 30.		30 and under 40.		40 and upwards.		Not stated.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Offences against the person—														
Sexual offences	5	..	16	..	14	1	17	..	12	..	..	..	64	1
Assaults	7	..	27	..	18	1	21	..	13	..	..	..	86	1
Other .. .. .	..	..	3	..	7	1	2	2	6	2	..	..	18	5
Offences against property—														
Theft and deceit	73	3	124	6	101	5	96	3	93	7	..	..	487	24
Mischief	33	..	27	..	26	..	6	..	4	..	1	..	97	..
Drunkenness	1	..	22	..	38	1	65	1	126	7	1	..	253	9
Vagrancy*	4	3	18	3	9	6	14	1	36	2	..	..	81	15
Other offences	21	1	88	4	90	2	185	1	203	1	..	..	587	9
Totals, 1939	144	7	325	13	303	17	406	8	493	19	2	..	1,673	64
Totals, 1938	109	4	288	11	245	7	375	5	436	23	2	..	1,455	50
Totals, 1937	98	8	235	15	215	5	333	8	433	31	2	..	1,316	67
Totals, 1936	74	12	238	16	192	6	273	6	371	31	2	..	1,150	71
Totals, 1935	109	13	291	12	233	8	390	14	381	30	1	..	1,405	77

*Including importuning, consorting with rogues, &c.

Table E.

PRISONS.—MAORI PRISONERS RECEIVED, 1939.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER, AGES, AND OFFENCES OF DISTINCT CONVICTED MAORIS (MALE AND FEMALE) RECEIVED INTO THE VARIOUS GAOLS DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Offences.	15 and under 20.		20 and under 25.		25 and under 30.		30 and under 40.		40 and upwards.		Not stated.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Offences against the person—														
Sexual offences	3	..	2	..	4	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	12	..
Assaults	1	..	10	..	3	..	7	..	3	..	..	..	24	..
Other .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	3	..
Theft and deceit	22	1	41	1	22	..	10	..	4	1	..	..	99	3
Mischief	4	..	10	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	..
Drunkenness	1	..	8	..	9	..	7	..	9	..	1	..	35	..
Vagrancy	3	1	8	1	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	17	2
Other offences	6	1	36	..	19	1	18	..	14	..	..	..	93	2
Totals	40	3	115	2	67	1	47	..	33	1	1	..	303	7

