

1942.  
NEW ZEALAND.

# PRISONS

(REPORT ON) FOR THE YEAR 1941-42.

*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, 19th August, 1942.

I HAVE the honour to submit to Your Excellency the report on the prisons and Borstals of the Dominion for the year 1941-42.

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, 1942, showing also the criminal statistics for the calendar year ending 31st December, 1941.

This report, on account of the shortage of paper and the present need for economy, is much abridged. The customary reports from officers controlling institutions have been omitted. They reveal that reclamative efforts have been progressively maintained and that energies have been focused on increased production to assist in the national war effort. It is satisfactory also to note the enthusiastic response of prisoners in these activities. The conduct of prisoners generally has been good, there being no untoward incidents of a serious nature reported during the year. Institutional Controlling Officers are appreciative of the helpful interest shown by the various voluntary organizations who have assisted in the work of the Department. Thanks are accorded to ministers of religion and others who, despite present difficulties in respect of transport, continue their ministrations and visits and help in the after-care work.

## PRISON STATISTICS.

There has been comparatively little variation in the number of persons committed to prison for criminal offences. The tables appended to this report show that the aggregate number of receptions during 1941 was 3,656, the number of distinct prisoners involved being 2,369, which represents an increase of 168 on the number committed to prison during 1940. This increase, however, is almost entirely accounted for by the committals of persons to prison during 1941 for breaches of the National Service Emergency Regulations in respect of their military obligations. An analysis of the nature of the offences shows that, apart from this class of offence, there has been little fluctuation in the number of offences under other headings. Offences against the person show a very slight increase, offences against property no increase, and it is interesting to observe that the number of offenders committed to prison for drunkenness has substantially declined. Viewed from the point of view of nationality of offenders, it is to be noted that the ratio of New Zealand born is higher and the number of Maoris committed to prison again showed a small increase. The increase falls mainly in the age group between twenty and thirty years.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*Health of Prisoners.*—The general health of the prisoners throughout the year has been good. The daily average number on the sick-list was 16·31, representing 1·7 per cent. of the daily average number in custody.

*Deaths.*—There was one death recorded during the year, that of a prisoner held on remand at the Wellington Prison on a charge of murder, who committed suicide by hanging.

*Escapes.*—During the year 24 prisoners and 8 Borstal detainees escaped from custody, while 1 prisoner and 3 Borstal detainees attempted to escape. All were reapprehended, but one again escaped.

*Borstal Receptions.*—A total of 133 lads and 23 young women were received as direct committals to Borstal, and 4 male and 2 females were transferred from the child-welfare homes. Four males were transferred from reformatory institutions to Borstal. Of the aggregate numbers dealt with at Borstal since the passing of the Prevention of Crime Act, 1924, only 18 per cent. have again appeared before the Courts.

*Mental Defectives.*—Twenty-four persons certified as mentally defective were transferred to mental hospitals during the year, 5 before conviction and 19 subsequent thereto.

*Industrial Activities.*—During the year prisoners have been employed mainly at farming, quarrying, roadworks, tailoring, bootmaking, and laundering. Besides its occupational value, a good proportion of the work is directly related to the war effort. The total credits to the vote for the year were £80,514, representing an increase of approximately £3,000 on the previous year, and thereby reducing the gross expenditure from £158,704 to a net charge against taxation of £78,190 or £80 per head.

The Department has continued its policy, as far as practicable, of making itself self-sustained in respect of foodstuffs off its farms—*e.g.*, meat, milk, vegetables, &c.—and in addition has produced large quantities for the open market. At Waikeria sufficient tobacco is grown to supply the whole of the Department's requirements, and this institution also supplies pasteurized milk to adjacent schools. From other institutions milk and vegetables are supplied for Army requirements.

I desire to place on record the Department's appreciation of the co-operation of Visiting Justices, who assist in the maintenance and discipline and regularly inspect institutions to ensure that the standard of conditions is properly maintained. Thanks are also extended to Official Visitors, the Borstal Committees, the Borstal Association, and other voluntary helpers. The Department is indebted to the psychiatrists attached to the Mental Hospitals Department for their co-operation in dealing with mentally defective inmates and in advising as to their method of treatment.

I desire also to place on record my sincere thanks to the members of the staff for their loyal assistance in carrying out the work of the Department under the difficult conditions that now obtain.

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

OFFENDERS PROBATION: SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT (UNDER OFFENDERS PROBATION ACT, 1920, AND CRIMES AMENDMENT ACT, 1910) FOR THE YEAR 1941.

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

The following is the annual report under the Offenders Probation Act and the Crimes Amendment Act for the year ended 31st December, 1941.

Owing to the general paper shortage the reports from District Probation Officers are omitted from this report, but an examination of such reports reveals that, in the main, probationers have reacted reasonably satisfactorily, the number who have relapsed being just over 10 per cent. of the total dealt with.

During the year 879 persons were admitted to probation by the Courts in lieu of more severe forms of punishment. The majority of those placed on probation were in the post-adolescent age-group, 458 being under twenty-five years of age and 38 per cent. of the total dealt with being under twenty years of age. There has been no material increase in the aggregate number of offenders dealt with, if those committed for breaches of the National Service Act are excluded, thus the fact emerges that whilst it may be satisfactory to observe a steady diminution in the number of older offenders who relapsed into crime it is less satisfactory to observe that the criminal ranks are so readily filled by a steady inflow of young offenders, and largely first offenders. Reclamative policies in penal methods—be it by an efficient probation system or by wise prison treatment—are at best “an ambulance at the bottom of the cliff.” It is the initial lapse into crime that should be averted. Is it that our methods of penal treatment are not adequately deterrent to prevent such a lapse, or is it that our social code and our ethical standards are at fault? The initial lapse is not the fault of the penal methods, but is rather an indictment of our social institutions whose function it is to instil the fundamentals of moral conduct—the home, the school, and the church. It has to be admitted that the war has undoubtedly brought in its wake a crop of social problems, the quickened tempo of life, the anxieties, and the loosening of conventional restrictions, these all tend towards a drifting from socially acceptable standards—sacrilege and sacrifice are the strange bedfellows of war.

The amount of money collected by Probation Officers from probationers by way of restitution during the financial year ended 31st March, 1942, was £4,863. The requirement to make restitution is a salutary factor in probation. The total amount collected since the inception of the scheme is now over £92,200. Present conditions have facilitated the ready absorption of probationers into employment, and in this connection the Department has had the ready co-operation of State Placement Officers. Over eighty probationers proceeded overseas on active service during the year, and at the 31st December many more were undergoing training.

*Parole.*—The figures under this heading deal with persons released on license from a prison, reformatory, or Borstal institution, as distinct from those admitted to probation in the first instance by the Courts. The statistics show that during the year 1941, 317 persons were released from institutions on probationary license on the recommendation of the Prisons Board. Of these, only 2 were

recommitted to prison for breaches of the conditions of their licenses, while 16, including 10 habitual criminals, had their licenses cancelled for further offences. Considering the difficulties with which these parolees are generally faced in endeavouring to re-establish themselves in the community, the small percentage of failures must be regarded as distinctly encouraging. The effectiveness of this method of parole may be gauged from the fact that during the past five years 1,548 persons, excluding habitual criminals, were released from institutions on license, and during that period only 8.6 per cent. were returned to institutions for breaches of the conditions of their license, and only 27.5 per cent. have again been convicted subsequent to completion of the probationary period.

*Conclusion.*—In conclusion, I desire again to place on record appreciation of the excellent work rendered by the Women's Borstal Association in the oversight and placement of girls released on parole from Borstal, the Voluntary Probation Committees for their helpful co-operation with Probation Officers in supervising probationers generally, and the Prisoners' Aid Societies for their assistance to released prisoners, and to the Honorary Justices' Associations, Y.W.C.A., Y.M.C.A., Salvation Army and many public-spirited persons for their interest and assistance in this important work.

I desire also to express my indebtedness to my own staff for their loyal assistance.

B. L. DALLARD,  
Chief Probation Officer.

### STATISTICS.

#### OFFENDERS PROBATION ACT, 1920.

##### AGES AND TERMS OF PROBATION OF THE OFFENDERS ADMITTED TO PROBATION DURING THE YEAR 1941.

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 ..	5	120	14	108	21	1	3	272
20 and under 25 ..	6	94	8	58	18	..	2	186
25 " 30 ..	3	47	5	25	10	1	1	92
30 " 40 ..	5	36	3	31	11	..	1	87
40 " 50 ..	2	18	..	15	8	..	2	45
50 " 60 ..	1	10	..	6	4	..	..	21
60 " 70 ..	2	3	..	1	..	..	..	6
Totals ..	24	328	30	244	72	2	9	709

##### SUMMARY OF CASES DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR 1941.

	Admitted to Probation.	Deferred Sentence.	Total.
Number reporting on 1st January, 1941 ..	1,316	193	1,509
Admitted to probation during the year ..	709	170	879
Resumed probation—previously struck off ..	5	1	6
Totals ..	2,030	364	2,394
Completed probation during the year ..	643	163	806
Deceased ..	7	1	8
Discharged by Prison Board ..	14	2	16
Left the Dominion (mostly soldiers) ..	79	10	89
Absconded and not traced (term expired) ..	20	2	22
Resentenced on the original charge ..	38	6	44
Committed further offences ..	41	3	44
Totals ..	842	187	1,029
Number reporting on 31st December, 1941 ..	1,188	177	1,365

##### BREACHES OF CONDITIONS OF RELEASE COMMITTED DURING 1941.

Failed to report, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	..	76
Committed further offences ..	..	..	..	..	..	152
Absconded (still untraced) ..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	248

Table A.  
TABLE SHOWING PARTICULARS, FOR EACH PRISON, OF PRISONERS AT BEGINNING AND END OF YEAR, AND RECEIVED AND DISCHARGED DURING YEAR 1941.

	Addington.	Auckland.	Hautu (Tokaanu).	Invercargill.	Invercargill Institution.	Napier.	New Plymouth.	Papara (Templeton).	Point Halswell.	Point Halswell Borstal Institution.	Rangipo.	Waikeria.	Waikeria Borstal Institution.	Waiuku (Erua).	Wanganui.	Wellington.	Wai Taku (Trenham).	Minor Prisons and Police-gaols.	Police Lock-ups.*	Totals.	Grand Totals.			
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.		
(a) In prison at beginning of year:—																								
Undergoing—																								
Simple imprisonment, hard labour—																								
Under three months ..	3	31	2	3	3	11	2	13	1	1	3	1	1	6	3	17	3	9	..	88	..	88		
Three months and under one year ..	3	40	20	3	3	3	24	27	1	3	3	11	11	6	2	18	32	3	..	149	4	153		
One year and upwards ..	3	70	1	3	3	1	24	24	1	12	12	34	34	15	4	24	12	..	..	246	4	250		
Detention as habitual criminals ..	3	13	..	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	2	..	..	..	24	..	24		
Reformatory detention ..	3	31	7	3	3	..	13	18	2	..	4	33	33	20	4	14	5	..	..	152	9	161		
Detention in Borstal institution ..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	173	12	185		
Total criminals in prison ..	9	187	29	9	132	15	42	87	3	12	19	79	79	42	15	76	52	12	..	832	29	861		
For trial or on remand ..	1	14	2	..	..	..	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	6	..	28	4	32		
Total in prison for criminal offences ..	10	201	31	9	132	15	44	89	4	12	19	79	79	42	15	80	52	18	..	860	33	893		
Debtors ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	2		
Total persons in prison ..	10	201	31	9	132	15	44	89	4	12	19	79	79	42	16	80	52	19	..	862	33	895		
(b) Received during the year:—																								
Sentenced to—																								
Simple imprisonment, hard labour—																								
Under three months ..	5	744	15	19	1	67	23	176	14	..	..	1	..	..	45	512	..	254	2	23	..	1,864	381,902	
Three months and under one year ..	6	181	6	13	..	26	5	95	3	..	..	2	..	..	4	198	..	29	..	..	..	553	15,568	
One year and upwards ..	..	65	1	..	..	1	..	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	64	..	11	..	..	..	161	1,162	
Hard labour, reformatory detention, and declared habitual criminal ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hard labour and reformatory detention ..	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hard labour and flogging ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Reformatory detention only ..	..	36	..	2	..	2	1	13	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Reformatory detention and declared habitual criminal ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Detention in Borstal institution ..	1	8	..	..	97	..	4	4	..	28	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hard labour and declared habitual criminal ..	..	4	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Detention as habitual criminal ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Death ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Detained until the pleasure of the Minister of Justice is known ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Under conviction for sentence ..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total new prisoners received ..	121,069	22	..	34	1	96	29	1,315	20	28	..	3	13	..	50	840	..	304	2	23	..	2,873	872,960	
On remand or for trial ..	9	181	18	12	..	31	2	63	6	..	..	..	..	..	10	96	..	100	6	..	..	506	42,548	
Total ..	211,250	40	..	46	1	127	42	1,378	26	28	..	3	13	..	60	936	..	404	8	23	..	3,379	1293,508	
Debtors ..	..	20	..	2	..	5	16	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	18	..	41	9	..	..	134	134	
Lunatics ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	6	1	..	..	12	2	
Total new persons received ..	211,271	41	..	48	1	132	58	1,383	26	28	..	3	13	..	78	959	..	451	9	32	..	3,525	1313,656	
On transfer or <i>in transitu</i> ..	12	69	2	5	26	68	1	92	1	1	27	104	22	66	30	92	285	181	1	..	..	1,154	181,172	
Grand totals ..	331,340	43	47	53	1123	200	3	1,475	27	29	27	107	35	66	108	2,051	285	632	10	32	..	4,679	1494,828	

\* Deemed to be prisoners under the provisions of section 17 of the Statute Law Amendment Act, 1917.



Table A1.  
PRISONERS.—GENERAL SUMMARY, 1941.

Name of Prison.	Prisoners Received, Discharged, &c.				Greatest Number in Prison at One Time.	Least Number in Prison at One Time.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.	Greatest Number III at any One Time.	Admissions to Hospital during Year.		Sickness.									
	Number received during Year.		Number discharged or transferred.						Number in Prison at End of Year.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Once.	Twice.	Three Times.	Four Times and Over.	Number of Separate Illnesses.	Total Number of Days Ill.	Daily Average on Sick-list.
	M.	F.	M.	F.																
Addington (Women's Reformatory)	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Auckland	201	7	1,340	43	33	34	236	9	11	3	7.78	8	1	6	1	9	8	20	0.05	
Hautu (Tokaanu)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Invercargill	29	..	47	..	43	44	41	6	13	4	6.96	8	1	30	14	5	18	1,086	2.98	
Invercargill (Borstal institution)	9	..	53	1	35	1	7	..	..	..	..	35.02	..	5	5	1	11	134	0.42	
Napier	132	..	123	..	1	..	126	..	..	..	..	5.92	..	6	1	..	..	80	0.22	
New Plymouth	15	..	200	3	..	3	20	..	..	..	..	138.57	..	60	38	14	239	2,155	5.90	
Paparaia (Templeton)	44	..	98	1	3	3	55	..	..	..	0.04	6	..	6	..	..	6	132	0.36	
Pt. Halswell (Women's Reformatory)	89	..	475	1	27	1	114	..	..	..	..	16.45	..	13	3	1	22	657	1.80	
Point Halswell (Borstal institution)	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	3	9	2	3.82	3	1	2	6	..	28	163	0.45	
Rangipo	..	12	..	29	27	22	..	19	26	11	18.18	..	..	2	..	..	2	129	0.35	
Waikeria (Reformatory)	19	..	27	..	..	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	6	168	0.46	
Waikeria (Borstal institution)	79	..	107	..	..	..	90	..	..	..	..	23.98	..	7	1	1	12	146	0.40	
Waikane (Erua)	36	..	35	..	..	..	37	..	..	..	..	78.40	..	18	4	3	54	235	0.64	
Wanganui	42	..	66	..	..	..	46	..	..	..	..	40.30	..	6	5	1	22	218	0.60	
Wellington	16	..	108	2	..	2	14	..	..	..	..	46.85	..	14	3	..	20	174	0.48	
Wi Tako (Trentham)	80	..	1,051	..	..	..	88	..	..	..	..	17.11	..	1	..	..	4	63	0.17	
Minor Prisons and police-gaols	52	..	285	..	..	..	71	..	..	..	..	84.94	..	25	2	2	39	224	0.61	
Police lock-ups*	19	..	632	10	..	..	39	..	..	..	..	55.33	..	11	2	1	19	86	0.24	
Totals	862	33	4,679	149	4,563	145	978	37	..	..	36.83	..	..	44	9	239	86	647	5,954	16.31

\* Deemed to be prisoners under the provisions of section 17 of the Statute Law Amendment Act, 1917.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (697 copies), £12 15s.

By Authority: E. V. PAUL, Government Printer, Wellington.—1942.

Price 6d.]