

## INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL

Hereunder is set out a comparative statement showing the gross cash expenditure from the departmental vote and the cash credits or receipts which have resulted from the industrial and other activities of the Department for occupational purposes:—

Year.	Gross Expenditure.		Credits.		Net Expenditure.	
	Total.	Per Head.	Total.	Per Head.	Total.	Per Head.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1939-40 .. .. .	155,333	170·16	74,348	81·97	80,985	88·19
1940-41 .. .. .	162,426	179·47	77,908	86·08	84,518	93·39
1941-42 .. .. .	158,704	163·44	80,514	82·92	78,190	80·52
1942-43 .. .. .	166,982	161·34	99,336	95·98	67,646	65·36
1943-44 .. .. .	173,089	159·97	99,956	92·38	73,133	67·59
1944-45 .. .. .	179,627	174·92	100,451	97·82	79,176	77·10
1945-46 .. .. .	195,648	186·58	98,560	93·99	97,088	92·59
1946-47 .. .. .	212,746	201·59	97,726	92·60	115,020	108·99
1947-48 .. .. .	252,541	226·17	112,956	101·16	139,585	125·01
1948-49 .. .. .	276,894	259·19	114,258	106·95	162,636	152·24

The increased net cost per head is due to some extent to the smaller number of prisoners dealt with, but apart from this there has been an increase of some £24,000 in the expenditure from vote, "Prisons." The main factors in this increase were: an increase of £10,000 in the item "Overtime" consequent upon the introduction of the forty-hour week, and an increase of £15,000 in the "General Prison Industries" section of the vote.

The increase of £10,000 on "Overtime" was due to the introduction as from 1st April, 1948, of penal-rate payments to staff for week-end and holiday duty.

The £15,000 increase in the "Prison Industries" was due to certain materials purchased becoming available earlier than was anticipated, and also to the purchase of new equipment in the way of transport, farm tractors, and machinery.

For many years the development of prison industries was largely occupational, the motive being to provide useful employment, and where ample labour was available little was done in the way of mechanization, but in recent years more consideration has been given to the vocational aspect, and in furtherance of the idea of affording facilities for training prisoners which will assist them in getting employment on release it has been found increasingly desirable to acquire modern mechanical equipment. At one time, for example, milking was done by hand, but now machines are generally installed, and similarly with other phases of farm-work, up-to-date mechanical equipment is used. This adds to the interest of the work and provides better training.

It is arguable, because of the possible risk of damage to mechanical appliances by careless handling, just how far the equipping of industries with mechanical aids to be handled by prisoners should go, but the Department feels that training in up-to-date methods and the use of modern equipment is essential to successful rehabilitation, and that the counter to the risk factor is the development of greater interest in the work, and in supervision.

Departmental cash receipts or credits for the year have shown an increase of £1,300 making a total of £114,258, which is another record, as compared with £112,956 for 1948. There was a decrease of credits under the industry, "Mail-bags," due to fairly large claims being unpaid at 31st March, but when the accounts are completed on a trading basis it is not anticipated that this industry will show any decrease in net earnings.

In last year's report mention was made of an increase of £13,000 in receipts from "Farms and Gardens," and this year there has been a further increase over last year of £2,000. In the main the other industrial undertakings' credits were on a par with the previous year.