

1916.  
NEW ZEALAND.

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## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, PRISONS BRANCH

(REPORT ON), FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1915;

ALSO

## OPERATION OF THE FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT, 1908

(REPORT ON), FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1915.

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

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The UNDER-SECRETARY, Department of Justice, to the HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

Department of Justice, Wellington, 10th May, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to present the report of the Inspector of Prisons for the year ended 31st December last, together with extracts from the Gaolers' reports and the annual prison statistics.

C. B. JORDAN.

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### REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF PRISONS.

SIR,— Office of the Inspector of Prisons, Wellington, 1st May, 1916.

The thirty-fifth annual report on the prisons of the Dominion is submitted during the second year of the Great War, and, like its predecessor, will consist mainly of a brief review of the past year's work and the presentation of the statistics relating to crime and criminals.

The whole of the prisons have been frequently and carefully inspected during the year, and the discipline of officers and prisoners has been kept up to the requisite standard.

The order and cleanliness of all the prison buildings has been well maintained, and the manner in which this branch of the work has been attended to reflects the greatest credit on the Gaolers and officers concerned.

#### STATISTICS.

The statistics in regard to the prison population and the number of offenders under the different heads exhibit the usual fluctuations. From June of 1915 until the present date there has been a gradual decrease in the number of committals, but from January to May, 1915, the number was considerably higher than for the corresponding period of 1914, consequently the daily average for 1915 shows an increase of 28·31 over the figures for 1914. Up to the time of writing it cannot be said that there has been the marked decline in the number of criminals in New Zealand that appears to have occurred in Great Britain as a result of the war, although it is known that quite a percentage of men who have undergone imprisonment have enlisted with the Expeditionary Forces. From the beginning of the war it has been apparent that a strong feeling of patriotism has existed among those who have had to be segregated in the interest of the State, and there has been evidence that this feeling has continued after release.

In last year's report it was remarked that the large increase then noted on the figures for 1913 was confined entirely to male prisoners. In 1915, however, the position was altered, there being a substantial increase in the number of female prisoners compared with previous years. This is probably due to more drastic police action having been taken during the past year in regard to a certain class of offenders.

The fluctuations in the prison population from 1881 to 1915 are shown in the table below:—

*Prison Population.*

Year.	Daily Average of Prisoners in Dominion Prisons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1881 .. .. .	631.66	94.37	726.03
1891 .. .. .	459.22	58.39	517.61
1911 .. .. .	799.08	64.18	863.26
1912 .. .. .	855.28	64.07	919.35
1913 .. .. .	826.69	66.55	893.24
1914 .. .. .	916.09	63.72	979.81
1915 .. .. .	931.33	76.79	1,008.12

#### EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS.

In the interest of convenience and accuracy, and also in order to simplify the preparation of the figures, it has been decided that the annual return of expenditure and receipts published with the report shall in future cover the financial year and not the calendar year as heretofore. As this change necessitates a considerable adjustment in the arrangement of the figures, the table will not be printed in the present report, but will appear in its amended form next year.

An analysis of the figures supplied by the Treasury for the financial year ended 31st March last shows that the net expenditure of the Prisons Department rose from £52,354 in 1914-15 to £59,192 in 1915-16, an increase of £6,838. This increased charge for the year appears to be somewhat heavy, but when it is realized that the rise in the price of food products combined with the larger number of prisoners accounts for £3,692 of this amount it cannot be considered that the increase is excessive.

The following are the items in addition to rations upon which the largest increases have occurred:—

	Increase in Expenditure over 1914-15.
	£
(1.) Officers' uniforms and prisoners' bedding and clothing .. .. .	506
(2.) Tools and materials for prison labour .. .. .	1,096
(3.) Payment of gratuities to hard-labour prisoners on discharge and of earnings to reformative-detention and habitual prisoners on release .. .. .	1,140
(4.) Prison farms .. .. .	785

The increase in item No. 1 was largely due to the general rise that has taken place in the price of woollen and cotton goods. Item No. 2 was also affected by war-conditions, but was largely caused by the increased amount of work carried out during the year. No. 3 (payment of gratuities and earnings) resulted from the fact that a comparatively large number of prisoners became due for release or were released by the Prisons Board on probation during 1915-16.

The increase in item No. 4 (prison farms) was caused by the purchase of stock and implements prior to the end of the financial year. No reliable estimate can ever be made of the exact amount required under this heading. The stock purchased are sold again at a profit and the expenditure recouped.

As an indication of the steady increase in the cost of living during the past year it might be pointed out that whereas the cost of rations in the New Zealand prisons in 1914 averaged £11 per prisoner, the cost in 1915 was £14 5s. per head.

While the expenditure for the year increased considerably, it is satisfactory to note that the cash receipts showed a substantial margin above those for the previous twelve months, and constituted a record for the Department. The cash credits for the last financial year were £11,982, as against £9,586 for 1914-15. Among the largest contributions towards this total were the following:—

	£
Payment for tree-planting work .. .. .	3,497
Manufacture of bricks for Parliamentary and other Government buildings .. .. .	2,626
Sale of road-metal, dressed stone, and concrete blocks .. .. .	2,990
Manufacture of boots, &c. .. .. .	495
Sale of farm produce, stock, &c. .. .. .	782

With regard to the last item, the full credit due to the farms is not shown, because a large proportion of the vegetables grown is being sent to other prisons. This results in a saving in the general expenditure, but no cash credit can be given to the supplying prison.

As has been pointed out in previous reports, the Prisons Department carries on a large amount of work for which no return is shown—road-formation, bridge-building, prison-construction, and other undertakings are being proceeded with each year in addition to the work for which payment is received. As time passes it may be found necessary to show a credit for all work that is being carried out by prison labour, in order that the true position of the Department in regard to receipts and expenditure may be properly set out.

## PROGRESS DURING THE YEAR.

*Buildings.*—During the period since the last annual report was prepared a considerable advance has been made towards the completion of the buildings and works upon which the Department was then engaged, but war-conditions have caused considerable delay in the delivery of necessary material, and consequently our building operations have progressed more slowly than was anticipated. In spite of this, however, the first wing of our institution at Waikeria, together with the necessary offices, &c., is now practically ready for occupation, and it will not be long before drafts will require to be made from other prisons to fill it. The administrative block, comprising the Gaoler's and clerks' offices, board-room, stores, library, lecture and drill hall, &c., has been commenced, and if funds are available fair progress should be made in its erection during the next twelve months.

The building of the south-wing extension of the Mount Eden Prison has proceeded methodically, and the work is approaching completion. When the additional accommodation provided in this wing is available an improvement can be made in the general arrangement of the Prison and the exercise and other yards.

A considerable amount of preliminary work has been carried out during the year preparatory to commencing the erection of the new Canterbury Prison at Templeton. As the building now proposed, together with subsequent additions, is intended to be the principal penal establishment in the South Island, the undertaking is one of some magnitude, and the completion of the whole of the buildings required will absorb a large amount of prison labour for some years to come. In the meantime temporary structures have been provided to accommodate the officers and prisoners employed upon the work.

The extension to the Invercargill Prison building has been delayed owing to a variety of causes, but as all the material required is now in hand the work should advance more rapidly. A main wall round this institution has been under way during the year, and it is intended that internal dividing-walls and necessary outbuildings shall be commenced as soon as the main building is completed.

*Other Works.*—As in 1914, the whole of the able-bodied prisoners have been very fully employed during the past year on work of various descriptions. As time passes the activities of the Department increase, and there is now no difficulty in finding ample employment of a useful character for every available man—in fact, our difficulty is to find enough men to adequately man the undertakings upon which we are engaged.

This has been especially noticeable at Waikeria, where, in addition to the extensive building operations that are being carried on, we are making traffic roads and bridges, carrying on farming operations, and developing the property. Fair progress has been made in every direction, but the pace will be accelerated when the available labour is increased, as it will be on the completion of the first wing of the building.

The principal work at Auckland has been, as heretofore, the completion of the south wing of the building, stone-quarrying and stone-dressing. A commencement has also been made on an extensive wall on the boundary between the Prison reserve and the Grammar School property. The making and repairing of boots for officers and prisoners has employed a limited number of men.

Progress on the Roto Aira Road between Waimarino and Tokaanu has been well maintained. The slowest and most difficult parts of the work (bridges and heavy cuttings and fillings) have now been practically completed, and a connection made with the old and long-disused service-road to Tokaanu constructed by the Armed Constabulary over thirty years ago. As this road, with the bridges that were built at that time, has fallen into disrepair, and in places has become almost obliterated, considerable work will require to be done before through connection with Tokaanu can be established. When that is accomplished there will be further work for the Prisons Department in constructing a deviation over the range round Lake Roto Aira that will shorten the journey between the northern and southern ends of the road by some miles. This deviation will take the road directly into Tokaanu Township, and in addition to being shorter will be far more picturesque than the old line, which joins the Waiouru Road about five miles from Lake Taupo.

The brickworks at the Mount Cook branch prison, Wellington, have been fully employed during the year manufacturing bricks for the new Parliamentary Buildings and for other Government works.

A gang of prisoners has recently been started on the work of excavating to prepare the Mount Cook site for its future purpose. The spoil from the excavation is being deposited on an adjoining low-lying section that the Government is acquiring in order to provide an extension to the existing area of Crown land in this locality.

A number of short-sentence men have been busily employed at Point Halswell excavating a site for the prison that is to be built there, erecting temporary buildings, and generally preparing for the erection of the permanent structure.

Work on the farms and reserve acquired at Templeton for prison purposes has been prosecuted as vigorously as circumstances permitted, but the drought that prevailed in Canterbury during the summer months prevented an adequate return being obtained for the labour expended. With the increased number of prisoners that will soon be available progress during 1916 should be more marked than it has been during the past year. The success of farming operations will necessarily depend upon the nature of the season, but if the weather-conditions prevailing in Canterbury during the last two years continue the question of providing a thorough system of irrigation for this property must be seriously considered at an early date.

The reclamation embankments at Invercargill, which have engaged the attention of the Department for some time past, have progressed steadily during the year, and the question of draining and clearing the area now vested in the Department, as compensation for the labour involved in carrying out this work, will soon require attention.

The making of concrete blocks for the prison buildings and for private sale has been continued, but owing to the small amount of building that has been undertaken by private owners since the commencement of the war there has been a considerable reduction in the demand for this product of prison labour.

#### TREE-PLANTING.

Tree-planting operations at Kaingaroa and Waipa were carried on successfully, the amounts credited to the Prisons vote by the Forestry Department in payment for the labour of the prisoners employed being somewhat in excess of last year's return. The total return from Kaingaroa was £1,795, compared with £1,568 in the preceding year, while that from Waipa was £1,702, compared with £1,223 in 1914.

In addition to afforestation work a crop of oats and some root crops were produced at Kaingaroa, and preparations have since been made for bringing a larger area into profitable cultivation during the present year. In addition to providing forage for the prison horses and so saving the heavy expenditure involved in obtaining supplies from elsewhere, the prison management has thus been able to further demonstrate the cultivability of the pumice lands of which the extensive Kaingaroa Plains are composed. When shelter-belts of suitable trees have reached a suitable height and a system of irrigation is available it should be quite possible for the plains to carry a reasonable amount of settlement.

The progress and labour value of tree-planting operations since the inception of the work fifteen years ago are shown in the table below:—

Area planted by Prison Labour from 1901 to March, 1916.	Number of Trees planted.	Labour-value of Prisoners' Work.
11,188 acres	33,091,425	£54,502.

In addition to the large number of trees planted, many miles of roads and tracks through the various plantations are constructed by prison labour each year.

#### FUTURE PROVISION FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF PRISON LABOUR.

Experience has proved that the best means of employing prison labour in the interest alike of the State and of the prisoners is in agricultural pursuits, and it is becoming increasingly evident that if adequate employment in this direction is to be provided in the future provision must be made at an early date for the acquisition of further areas for this purpose. I have therefore to repeat the recommendation contained in last year's report that a further block of land be obtained and utilized as an additional prison farm. It is possible that some of the swamp land at present lying idle in both Islands could be drained and cultivated by prison labour, and thus converted into a valuable State asset. The reclamation-work now being carried on at Invercargill is of this nature, and it would not be a difficult matter for the Department to extend its operations in other directions.

*Other Employment.*—While the desire of the Department is to employ the bulk of the prisoners on reproductive agricultural work, there is always an appreciable percentage of criminals who cannot be given the liberty that outside employment involves. In order that these men may be profitably employed in the future it is advisable that the bootmaking, clothing, and other industries should be extended so that the principal articles of apparel and footwear required in all Government institutions might be made by prison labour. This is the practice in other countries, and there should be no objection to its being followed in New Zealand.

#### EDUCATION AND DRILL.

Where it has been possible to do so educational classes have been continued in the prisons during the year with fairly satisfactory results. The schoolmasters at Auckland and Invercargill have shown a commendable interest in their work, which, owing to the low standard of education among their pupils and to other disabilities common to prisoners, is by no means of an easy or encouraging nature.

*Drill.*—The drill instructors at Auckland and Invercargill have carried out their duties satisfactorily, and their work has resulted in an improved physique and a greater alertness among the younger prisoners.

#### CLASSIFICATION OF PRISONERS.

Attention must again be drawn to the difficulty the Department has in carrying out an effective primary classification so long as the Courts continue to give such a wide interpretation to the sections of the Crimes and Crimes Amendment Acts relating to the sentencing of prisoners to reformatory detention and to their declaration as habitual criminals or offenders. It has happened on several occasions during the past year that habitual criminals who have committed offences while out on probation have been recommitted by the Courts under sentences of reformatory detention. It is needless to comment upon the difficulty with which the Department is faced in the reclassification of individuals who are dealt with in this way.

The line of demarcation between prisoners sentenced to terms of reformatory detention and those serving ordinary hard-labour sentences is so slight that it appears advisable that the distinction between the two classes of sentences should be removed. This could be effected by carrying out the recommendation contained in last year's report that legislation should be introduced to enable hard-labour prisoners who had served a certain proportion of their sentences to be released on probation. Provision should also be made for the payment of a small wage to hard-labour prisoners at the same rate as is at present fixed for reformatory-detention prisoners. This would remove an anomaly that is severely felt by many of the hard-labour men, and would give the management a greater hold over them.

#### EXTENSION OF EXISTING ACTS.

Suggestions were made in last year's report regarding the advisability of amending the Prisons Act in the direction referred to in the preceding paragraph and in certain other directions, but owing no doubt to the exigencies of the situation at that time the necessary legislation was not proceeded with.

#### ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS ON RELEASE.

The need for a Dominion organization to deal with the whole question of assistance to prisoners on release, to which reference was made in last year's report, still exists, but until the cessation of the war enables public attention to be diverted into other channels there seems little probability that this most important branch of social work will be taken up with the energy that is required to effect the necessary revolution in existing methods.

#### INEBRIATES.

The inebriates' institutions on Pakatoa and Rotoroa Islands have been visited at intervals during the year. Both places were well kept and the inmates well cared for, but I have seen no reason to change the opinion I expressed in my last report as to the necessity for providing State institutions to which the inebriate with many convictions against him could be committed, and where he could be compelled to labour for his own good and for that of the State.

#### TRANSFER OF DUNEDIN PRISON BUILDINGS TO POLICE.

Owing to the unfortunate situation of the Dunedin Prison and the consequent impossibility of providing employment for the prisoners confined there, the Department has found it necessary from time to time to reduce the daily average and the staff. As a result the buildings and the valuable site upon which they stand were only partly utilized, and during the year it was decided, in the interest of general economy, to hand the premises over to the Police Department and to reduce the status of the Prison sufficiently to enable the small section of the building now required for the temporary confinement of short-sentence prisoners to be controlled by the Police.

So far as the Prisons Department is concerned, this arrangement has resulted in the saving of the salaries and allowances of officers, a total of over £600 per annum, and in the reduction of expenditure in other directions. The Police Department is provided with a building suitable for all their requirements at Dunedin, while the present police-station buildings will soon be available for general departmental purposes, thus saving the General Government a considerable sum per annum which is now being disbursed in rents to private owners.

The Police took over the custody of the buildings in December last.

#### STAFF.

In the Prisons, as in other Departments, the effects of the war are being felt in regard to the personnel of the various staffs. At the time of writing nine Prison officers have been granted leave of absence to join the Expeditionary Forces. Of this number six have left New Zealand with different drafts; two (Warders Collinson and Beck) have returned to New Zealand wounded. Both the last-named officers have been discharged as medically unfit for active service. A number of other Prison officers who have not desired to have their positions kept open for them have resigned and volunteered for active service.

As it is impossible to carry on the effective supervision and control of prisoners with a reduced staff, a number of temporary officers have been employed to fill the places of those who have retired or who have been granted leave of absence to join the Forces.

Owing to the number of camp prisons that are now in existence, the Department requires a percentage of single officers, as married men cannot be sent out to staff such places. Difficulty is already being experienced in keeping the tree-planting and farm prisons staffed, and if all single men, without exception, are called up in the near future the Department will be placed in a somewhat awkward position.

The conduct of the officers generally has been very satisfactory. In certain cases there have been infractions of discipline or conduct that have been suitably dealt with after full inquiry.

Since the presentation of the last report a commencement has been made at Auckland with the instruction of junior officers in Swedish drill and squad drill. As opportunity offers the system will be extended, but until the new prison buildings now under construction are further advanced the facilities for drilling either officers or prisoners are decidedly limited.

There have been no retirements among the senior officers of the Department during the year.

## GENERAL.

*Health of Prisoners.*—The figures regarding the health of prisoners are given in Table A. The daily average on the sick-list is shown to have been considerably lower than for the previous year or for several years past. This is entirely satisfactory, but as the sick-returns in prisons are more largely affected by the state of health of offenders on admission than by illnesses having their origin within the prison, the annual statistical returns cannot be regarded as a reliable index of the general health of the inmates in any particular year.

*Deaths.*—Eleven persons, including one suicide, died in prison during the year, compared with thirteen in 1914 and ten in 1913.

## FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT.

The proposed change referred to in last year's report in regard to the appointment of gentlemen not connected officially with the Penal Departments as Probation Officers under the First Offenders' Probation Act has now been given effect to in the four chief centres. It is hoped that this alteration will satisfactorily meet the objection that has been raised from time to time to the necessity that previously existed for this class of probationers to report to the Gaolers at the prisons.

From the returns received from Probation Officers it appears that ninety-three persons were placed on probation in 1915, compared with eighty-seven in 1914. Of these, twelve have now completed their terms without relapse, two have been rearrested and committed to prison, two absconded, and seventy-seven still remain under supervision.

The total sum ordered to be paid by the Courts towards the cost of prosecutions amounted to £369 2s. 6d., of which £80 was due from one probationer, who absconded. The amount collected was £200 14s. 6d.

C. E. MATTHEWS,  
Inspector of Prisons.

## EXTRACTS FROM GAOLERS' REPORTS FOR 1915.

## ADDINGTON PRISON.

During the year two prisoners died, one suddenly, and one after eleven days' illness. Inquests were held and verdicts in accordance with the medical evidence were returned.

The women were employed in the vegetable and flower gardens, laundry, sewing-rooms, and in general cooking and cleaning.

Grey drill dresses, with white facings for the first offenders, have been provided in place of the general prison dress.

The room which was used for Divine service has been suitably furnished as a chapel.

Apart from the ordinary prison sewing, the women have taken a great interest in the Red Cross work, &c., having made, since October, 46 dozen handkerchiefs for Red Cross and Lady Liverpool Fund, 30 garments for Red Cross, and 161 articles for District Hospital, besides several bundles of mending for same.

With one or two exceptions the conduct of the prisoners has been very good.

## AUCKLAND PRISON.

During the year 1,296 males and 166 females were received, being a decrease of 242 males and an increase of 7 females on the previous year. One male prisoner received the death sentence, which was afterwards commuted to imprisonment for life. Four of the females received were sentenced to reformatory treatment.

Five deaths took place during the year, and 1 prisoner committed suicide.

The health of the prisoners has been good, the daily average on the sick-list being only 4.68 males and 0.18 females, chiefly due to the number of admissions to the District Hospital—viz., 17 males and 1 female—some of whom were detained there for months. Cases treated in the Prison were of a minor nature.

The conduct of the prisoners has, on the whole, been excellent.

Physical drill and evening school for prisoners still continues to work well, the results being very satisfactory.

The stonework of south-wing extension of the Prison has been completed, and a start made with roofing by putting the principals in position.

As usual, most of the prisoners have been employed at quarry-work, dressing stone for the building, &c. A stone wall has also been built enclosing the Prison reserve on the Clifton Road boundary. Stone-crushing, from which a good revenue is derived, did not come up to expectations this year. Owing to the war local bodies have been curtailing expenditure, and fewer orders were received.

In the bootmaking industry excellent work has been done.

Drill for junior officers was commenced in June last, and its good effects can be seen in the smart bearing of those taking part in it.

#### FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT.

I was relieved of this duty in July last by the appointment of the Rev. F. R. Jeffreys as Probation Officer.

There were 17 males on probation at the commencement of the year; 1 was placed on probation by Magistrate's Court and 5 by Supreme Court, while 1 was received from another district. Of these, 4 completed their probation satisfactorily, 1 (a Maori) was discharged by the Magistrate on payment of the money stolen in order that he could join the Expeditionary Force, 7 were transferred to other districts, and 3 were sentenced for non-compliance with the condition of license and committing fresh offences, leaving 9 reporting when the books were handed over to Mr. Jeffreys.

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#### DUNEDIN PRISON.

In custody at the beginning of the year, 22 males; received during the year, 318 males and 36 females; discharged during the year, 296 males and 36 females.

The health of the prisoners has been good, the daily average on the sick-list being 0.15.

The conduct of the officers has been satisfactory.

Divine service was conducted throughout the year by the Rev. Mr. Cumming or some member of one of the Churches.

#### FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT.

Three first offenders were placed on probation during the year.

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#### GISBORNE PRISON.

The health and conduct of the prisoners have been good.

The prisoners were employed during the year keeping the Prison clean, painting the roof of the building, also the male and female divisions. The building of a reinforced-concrete wall has been commenced. When completed it will enclose the whole of the Prison grounds. There is already erected a length of 500 ft. The grounds have also been improved by levelling, sowing of grass-seed, and the laying-out of flower-beds.

There will now for some time to come be ample employment for the number of prisoners we receive here, as the building of the wall and attention to the grounds will keep them fully employed.

There were no punishments during the year.

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#### GREYMOUTH PRISON.

The general health of prisoners has been very good, excepting 9 male prisoners received for medical treatment and suffering from the effects of drink.

The principal occupation of prisoners during the year was draining, fencing, digging, and cropping the area of land allotted to this Prison from the Police reserve. It is now well drained, and a portion cropped with potatoes and vegetables.

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#### INVERCARGILL PRISON.

The general health of the prisoners has been good, except that several males suffering from the effects of drink were received for medical treatment. When necessary these cases were removed to the District Hospital, where proper provision has been made for the reception of such cases, and, when recovered, were dealt with in the usual manner.

The quality of the rations supplied has been good, leaving no room for complaint. The variations in the scale of diet recently authorized by the Department have proved a welcome change, and appear to be much appreciated. A plentiful supply of vegetables has always been obtainable from the Prison gardens.

The extension of the north-west wing is being pushed on as rapidly as circumstances will allow, and it should be ready for occupation during the ensuing year. The making of concrete blocks for prison buildings and also for sale to the general public still continues. During the year a large addition to the Garrison Hall was erected, no less than 4,500 blocks being supplied by the Prison for this purpose. A warden's cottage of the same material was also built.

The Prison lighter has now been in commission for the past five months, and has been used for conveying grit and shingle for blockmaking, thus reducing the cost of building and block-making very considerably. In this connection a jetty, 70 ft. in length, has been constructed at the river terminus, thus facilitating loading operations.

The reclamation-work has been steadily pushed on during the year, about 70 chains of embankment, consisting of about 18,000 cubic yards of material, having been placed in position. I expect to have all tidal and river waters shut off within the next six months, when the drainage and breaking-in of the farm lands could be proceeded with.

The instruction given in the Prison school still continues, with good results. Several of the men who have passed out of the school are continuing their studies and taking up a course with the International Correspondence Schools, thus proving that they are desirous of improving their position.

During the school holidays several prominent citizens of Invercargill have been giving lectures to prisoners, which have proved both instructive and entertaining.

The instruction of prisoners in Swedish drill is still carried on with much success. Those attending are divided into two classes: all begin in No. 2 class, and promotion to No. 1 depends upon the progress made in No. 2. A spirit of rivalry is thus created. Drill instruction is given thrice weekly, and the men evidently take a keen interest in the work, and their conduct has been excellent, for during the past six months there have been no reports against prisoners while attending the classes.

The holding of evening classes of instruction has one distinct advantage in that the young men are kept steadily engaged in healthy mental and physical exercises, instead of being locked up in a cell, which only tends to demoralize them.

I am firmly of the opinion that the methods now in use are giving good results.

#### FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT.

On the 1st January, 1915, there were 2 males and no females on the register. Eight males were admitted to probation during the year, and 2 males completed their terms of probation satisfactorily. Five males were transferred to other districts; 1 failed to comply with the conditions of his probation, was arrested, and is at present in custody awaiting sentence, thus leaving 2 males on the register at the end of the year.

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#### KAINGAROA PRISON.

Eleven prisoners were reported for breaches of the regulations during the year, and 10 were subsequently transferred to the Auckland Prison.

With the exception of the 11 prisoners mentioned above the general conduct and industry of the prisoners has been excellent, and the work done on the plantation has been highly satisfactory. Although the men have had a long walk to the planting-area, they have done exceedingly good work. The credit obtained from the Forestry Department for the year's work was £1,795 10s.

The general health of the prisoners has been excellent, there being no serious sickness during the year. Dr. Bertram, of Rotorua, has recently been appointed Medical Officer to this Prison.

Divine service, both for Roman Catholics and Protestants, was conducted periodically throughout the year.

The Prison garden is looking remarkably well, and there will be a plentiful supply of vegetables for the prisoners until next season. There are also under cultivation 10 acres of oats, 2 acres of swedes, and 1½ acres of potatoes. Owing to a long spell of very dry weather the returns will not be so good as they would have been had the season been more favourable.

About 35 pigs were bred during the year, 28 of which were sold for the sum of £31 10s. 10d.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by prisoners during the year, viz.: Pits dug, 2,199,350; trees planted, 1,380,250; heeling in trees, lining out, weeding, clearing for tree-planting, forming fire-breaks, fencing, road making and repairing, and the usual maintenance-work.

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#### LYTTELTON PRISON.

No deaths occurred in the Prison during the year.

The health of the prisoners has been good. Four cases were sent to the Christchurch District Hospital, 3 for hernia and 1 for appendicitis, and after successful treatment were returned to the Prison.

The conduct and industry of prisoners generally has been good. There was only one case requiring serious punishment.

As in previous years, employment was found in quarrying, stone-dressing, and wall-building for the Lyttelton Borough Council. Another section of the Simeon Quay wall has been finished; also two retaining-walls, about 500 ft. long, with average height of 8 ft., in Upper Canterbury Street, have been completed. A stone-crushing plant has been erected at the new quarry, and is now in working-order and putting through a large quantity of stone for metal and screenings.

The tailoring and bootmaking departments have been exceptionally busy, and have filled large orders for clothing and uniforms, &c., for the prisons throughout the Dominion, also boots and slippers for the Mental Hospitals at Nelson, Christchurch, Seacliff, and Dunedin.

Divine service was held every Sunday by ministers of the several denominations, and on Christmas Day by permission of the Department an entertainment was provided by Mr. Booth and several gentlemen from Christchurch.



## FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT

There were no first offenders on the probation register of this district at the commencement of the year, and none were placed on probation by the local Court during the year. Those admitted to probation at the Supreme Court, Christchurch, were dealt with by the Probation Officer for that district. One first offender on probation was received on transfer from Wellington, and he, having complied with the conditions of his license satisfactorily, was discharged.

## NAPIER PRISON.

The health of the prisoners has been very good. The greatest number of cases of sickness at any one time was 3 males and 1 female. There were 4 admissions to District Hospital.

During the year the prisoners have been employed in the Borough Council quarry, and in cleaning the Court buildings and the police-station. The sum of £318 13s. 3d. was banked to the credit of the Public Account for sale of stone, rubble, mortar, sand, &c.

The spiritual needs of the prisoners were provided for, clergymen and lay readers of the various denominations visiting regularly. On occasions two services were held on Sundays.

## THE FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT

On the 1st January, 1915, there was 1 male probationer on the register of this district. Two males were placed on probation, and 6 were received on transfer from other districts (4 being on license under the Crimes Act). Four were transferred to other districts, 1 has failed to report since license was issued, and 1 completed his term satisfactorily. There were 3 males on the books on the last day of the year. No females were dealt with during the year.

## NEW PLYMOUTH PRISON.

The general conduct of prisoners during the year has on the whole been good.

The employment at this Prison is quarrying, and metal to the value of £467 17s. 9d. was sold. There is also a little gardening carried on, and vegetables to the value of £21 11s. 8d. have been supplied to Roto Aira Prison, also vegetables to the value of £4 13s. 5d. have been sold, and the vegetables required for this Prison supplied. Boots, shirts, flannels, and drawers for prisoners' wear are also manufactured.

The clergymen of the various denominations held their religious services regularly during the year. I have to thank the Rev. Frank Hales and Mr. C. Ahier, Visiting Justice, for gifts of books and magazines for the Prison library.

## FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT, 1908.

There was 1 male reporting at the commencement of the year, and 1 was received on transfer. Of these, 1 was transferred to another district, leaving 1 reporting in this district on the 31st December, 1915.

## PROBATIONERS UNDER THE CRIMES AMENDMENT ACT, 1910.

There was 1 male reporting in this district at the commencement of the year, 9 males were placed on probation, and 2 received on transfer: total, 12. Of this number 10 were transferred to other districts, leaving 2 reporting on the 31st December, 1915.

## PAPARUA PRISON.

General farming and building operations were commenced with prison labour on the 20th January, 1915.

The daily average number of prisoners during the year was 15:79.

The health of the prisoners has been very good. There were no cases of sickness except of a trivial nature.

During the year the following works were carried out by prison labour. A cell-house to accommodate 24 prisoners, with two rooms for officers, was built; a bathhouse, 26 ft. by 12 ft., containing bath and four shower-baths, also accommodation for dressing, was erected; alterations to cookhouse and erection of new kitchen with space to take a Roberts cooker; alterations to old cell-house to provide office, library, store-room, laundry, and officers' mess-room. An old stable was removed from Bowlker's farm to the prison-site. This was converted into a stable to accommodate six horses, also to provide granary, 34 ft. by 15 ft., with feed and harness rooms, also implement-shed with sufficient space to store all the farm implements, &c.

An artesian well was sunk to a depth of 75 ft., and an 8 ft. windmill erected over same.

The following works were carried out in connection with the new Prison. A tramway 20 chains in length has been laid for the conveyance of shingle for blockmaking and other material

between shingle-pit, block-shed, and site. A shed, 60 ft. by 36 ft., has been erected and is now complete, in which it is intended to manufacture the blocks for building the new Prison, &c. A carpenters' and smiths' shop has also been erected for the convenience of these trades. A gravel-pit has been partly opened. Excavation for foundations of a cell range has been carried out.

Work on the Prison farm was commenced at the beginning of the year, and later on a team comprising four draught horses, four sets of harness, a full complement of farm implements, and a farm dray were purchased. During October last an additional pair of draught horses were also procured.

During the year 111 acres of land has been prepared for crops and sown as follows: Oats, 64 acres; mangels, 8½ acres; potatoes, 12 acres; turnips, 24¾ acres; vegetables, 2 acres. The whole of these crops, with the exception of the turnips, were sown under favourable conditions and in good order. However, the season has been the worst experienced in this district for a great number of years. Strong winds continued to blow throughout the spring and summer, which, with the absence of rain, was ruinous to the growing crops. About two months ago the oats looked fairly well, and gave promise of an average crop, but owing to the continued drought this crop will be exceptionally light. The mangels look healthy, and if rain fall there should be a fair crop. The potatoes came up remarkably well, and there was every appearance of a heavy crop, but blight has since caused a reduced yield. The turnips, so far, are a failure, but should rain fall soon they may improve.

Mr. A. Macpherson, Fields Instructor, frequently visits the farm and gives instructions.

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#### ROTO AIRA PRISON.

During the year an advance camp has been established on the banks of the Whakapapanui. None of the prisoners at this camp are habitual criminals. The habitual prisoners at the main camp have been employed on road-construction works between the camps and in the vicinity of the Whakapapaiti Stream. The cutting beyond the Whakapapaiti second stream is nearing completion. The road between the camp and the Whakapapaiti first stream is being graded: this has involved a good deal of heavy work, but will be the means of making a decided improvement in the road. Two bridges have been constructed. A stone-crusher has been installed, and is in readiness for crushing operations when required. Culverts are now being made of concrete: these will be much more serviceable than wood in the larger fillings. During the year additional huts have been erected at the main camp, and there is now accommodation for 35 prisoners.

The conduct of the prisoners has, on the whole, been good.

The conduct of the officers has been good. They have taken a keen interest in the work, and credit is due to them. Taking into consideration the amount of wet weather that is experienced here a considerable amount of work has been done.

Divine service has been held on several occasions.

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#### WAIKERIA PRISON.

The conduct of the prisoners on the whole has been very satisfactory.

The health of the prisoners has been good. There were two admissions to the Hamilton Hospital, one of the cases being afterwards transferred to Auckland for special treatment. Other cases of illness, which were of a mild nature, were treated in the Prison.

A power-house has been erected, and an electric-lighting plant installed.

A large area has been fenced and shelter-belts planted in *Pinus insignis*, *macrocarpa*, and blue-gum trees. Several acres of land have been fenced for an orchard, and 700 fruit-trees planted. Thirty-two acres of new land has been broken in this year, 10 acres planted in potatoes, 3 acres in mangels, 1 acre in horse-beans, 4 acres in vegetable-garden, and 12 acres prepared for turnips. Of the old ground 46 acres has been sown in oats, and by their appearance we hope to have a record crop. A large quantity of hay has been cut and stacked. One acre of lucerne, sown in November for experimental purposes, is making good growth. The total area cleared and under cultivation is 482 acres, the value of the vegetables disposed of for cash and to other prisons amounted to £282 17s. A large number of pigs have been bred from pedigree stock, and two of them that were entered in the Hamilton Show received first prizes. The total cash received for pigs sold was £70 6s.

The breadmaking has been a great success, the saving effected being considerable. There is also a considerable reduction in the cost of meat since we have killed our own.

A four-span bridge has been erected over the Waikeria Stream to give access to the new road. Several chains of this road are finished. Better progress would have been made if the weather had not been so wet. The new Settlers Road was completed and opened during the year. The main road and the Te Kawa Road have been kept in repair.

Divine service was conducted every fifth Sunday by the Rev. D. J. A. Shaw, Presbyterian minister, and the Rev. J. Olphert, Methodist minister. The Roman Catholic service was conducted by Rev. Father Lynch, or a substitute, every Sunday during the year.

## WAIPA PRISON.

The conduct of the prisoners has been very good.

The general health of the prisoners has been very good.

Very good work has been done by the prisoners during the year. Considering the fact that most of the prisoners received here had no previous knowledge of outside work, the returns for the year, which amounted to £1,702, cannot but be looked upon with the utmost satisfaction.

Owing to the very dry season the vegetable and potato crops were not up to the usual standard, although a small sum was also received this year for surplus vegetables sold.

Divine service has been conducted throughout the year by a Church of England minister from Rotorua.

The following are details of the work done by the prisoners for the Forestry Department during the year: Clearing for tree-planting, 597 acres; pits dug, 455,000; trees planted, 427,000; 299 chains of road and service-track made; clearing growth amongst trees, and general maintenance-work.

## WELLINGTON.

The practice of sending persons to prison suffering from the effects of drink still obtains. Time and again Gaolers have pointed out the gross injustice of sending such persons to prison, but the practice still continues.

There were no escapes or attempted escapes during the year. The health of the prisoners has on the whole been good, as is to be expected, but there are always a number of human derelicts drifting in and out of prison who require medical attention.

Brickmaking is still being carried on at Mount Cook, but as the supply of suitable clay is rapidly diminishing it will not be long before this industry will have to cease. Bootmaking and gardening are the principal industries engaged in at the Terrace.

During the year a considerable amount of work has been carried out at Point Halswell. The work of tree-planting has been continued, and the work of excavating a site for the proposed new building has been gone on with. A considerable amount of work has also been done towards widening and improving the road between the Miramar Wharf and Shelly Bay. Up to the present the principal work carried out has been the removing of some of the most dangerous corners. Once this road is completed it should prove a very popular drive, and will no doubt be very much used.

Now that the additions to Mount Cook and Point Halswell Prisons have been completed, it has been found possible to entirely abolish the system of confining prisoners in association. There is now sufficient accommodation available to provide for every prisoner being given a separate cell.

Sunday services have been held as usual by representatives of the various religious denominations, both at the Terrace, Mount Cook, and Point Halswell.

## FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT.

At the beginning of the year there were 8 males on probation. During the year 24 males and 1 female were admitted to probation; 5 males and 1 female completed their terms of probation satisfactorily; 11 males were transferred to other districts—6 left with Expeditionary Force, 4 failed to report leaving. There were 13 males (including 5 transferred from other districts) and no females on the register at the end of the year 1915.





**Table A1—continued.**  
**TABLE SHOWING PARTICULARS, FOR EACH PRISON, OF PRISONERS AT BEGINNING AND END OF YEAR, AND RECEIVED AND DISCHARGED DURING YEAR 1915—continued.**

	Auckland.		Waipa.		Kaimarama.		Waikeria.		New Plymouth.		Roto Aira.		Napier.		Wellington.		Addington.		Lyttelton.		Papara (Templeton).		Invercargill.		Minor Prisons.		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.								
(c.) <b>Discharged during the year—</b>	940	123	15	..	11	..	18	..	37	..	3	..	121	3	1,094	179	91	390	..	..	39	..	20	..	713	51	3,401	447	3,848									
On expiration of sentence, not including habitual criminals or prisoners sentenced to reformative treatment	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	4	..	28	7	1	5	..	..	10	..	..	..	32	2	105	10	115									
On bail or probation	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	9	2	11	1									
Executed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..								
Absconded and not retaken	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..							
Committed suicide	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..							
Released on recommendation of Prisons Board	26	..	6	..	15	..	22	..	9	..	22	..	..	..	8	..	6	3	..	..	34	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..							
Total criminals discharged to freedom	998	123	21	..	26	..	41	..	47	..	27	..	125	3	1,132	186	100	398	..	..	85	..	22	..	745	53	3,667	465	4,132									
Acquitted and after remand	197	26	..	..	..	..	..	20	2	..	..	45	4	49	15	20	115	..	..	25	..	..	..	54	..	505	67	572										
Total persons discharged to freedom	1,195	149	21	..	26	..	41	..	67	2	27	..	170	7	1,181	201	120	513	..	..	110	..	22	..	799	53	4,172	532	4,704									
Debtors	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	15	..	10	..	..	2	..	..	5	..	..	..	7	..	122	..	122	..	..								
Lunatics transferred to mental hospitals	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	17	1	18	..	..								
Total persons discharged from prison	1,224	150	21	..	26	..	41	..	73	2	27	..	188	7	1,193	201	120	515	..	..	116	..	22	..	865	53	4,311	533	4,844									
Transferred to other prisons or police	133	4	5	..	11	..	7	..	23	1	15	..	57	2	158	41	6	103	..	..	15	..	3	..	438	29	968	83	1,051									
Totals discharged from respective prisons	1,357	154	26	..	37	..	48	..	96	3	42	..	245	9	1,351	242	126	618	..	..	131	..	25	..	1,303	82	5,279	616	5,895									
(d.) <b>In prison at the end of year—</b>																																						
Sentenced to—																																						
Simple imprisonment	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	11	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Under three months' hard labour	22	10	..	..	7	..	7	..	5	..	..	3	..	36	2	..	2	7	..	..	3	..	..	..	12	1	83	15	98									
Three months' hard labour and under one year	45	9	2	..	29	..	38	..	13	..	13	..	8	1	31	10	11	33	..	..	12	..	9	..	11	..	171	31	202									
One year's hard labour and upwards	93	2	21	..	31	..	33	..	33	..	31	..	3	..	66	10	13	62	..	..	21	..	15	..	..	..	361	25	386									
Habitual criminals	18	..	..	..	3	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	..	5	7	..	..	50	..	..	..	..	..	107	1	108									
Criminals receiving reformative treatment	24	..	7	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	3	..	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	116	5	121									
Total criminals in prison	210	21	30	..	39	..	54	..	38	..	49	..	15	2	172	23	31	119	..	..	88	..	24	..	23	3	861	80	941									
For trial or on remand	11	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	1	15	..	..	7	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	10	..	53	2	55									
Total in prison for criminal offences	221	22	30	..	39	..	54	..	38	..	49	..	23	3	187	23	31	126	..	..	90	..	24	..	33	3	914	82	996									
Debtors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Lunatics	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total persons in prison	221	22	30	..	39	..	54	..	38	..	49	..	23	3	187	23	31	126	..	..	90	..	24	..	33	3	914	82	996									
In transit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total persons in custody at respective prisons	221	22	30	..	39	..	54	..	38	..	49	..	23	3	187	23	31	126	..	..	90	..	24	..	35	3	916	82	998									

Table B (omitted).  
DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE.

Table C.  
TABLE SHOWING THE OFFENCES AND DEGREE OF EDUCATION OF DISTINCT CONVICTED PRISONERS  
(EXCLUDING MAORIS) RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1915.

Offences.	Superior Education.		Able to read and write.		Able to read only.		Unable to read.		Totals.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Offences against the person—											
Convicted on indictment ..	1	..	71	7	..	..	1	..	73	7	
Summarily convicted ..	..	..	94	1	1	..	2	..	97	1	
Offences against property—											
Theft and deceit ..	3	..	548	19	2	..	4	..	557	19	
Mischief ..	..	..	31	3	..	..	..	..	31	3	
Miscellaneous—											
Vagrancy ..	..	..	287	106	1	..	8	..	296	106	
Drunkenness ..	..	..	740	57	6	..	19	4	766	61	
Others ..	..	..	797	77	7	..	26	..	830	77	
Totals ..	5	..	2,568	270	17	..	60	4	2,650	274	

Table D.

TABLE SHOWING THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF DISTINCT CONVICTED PRISONERS (EXCLUSIVE OF MAORIS)  
RECEIVED INTO PRISON DURING THE YEAR 1915, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO PRINCIPAL OFFENCE,  
BIRTHPLACE, AND AGE.

—	Offences against the Person.				Offences against Property.				Miscellaneous.						Totals.	
	Convicted on Indictment.		Summarily convicted.		Theft and Deceit.		Mischief.		Vagrancy.		*Drunkenness.		Other Offences.		M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Birthplaces—																
England and Wales ..	18	..	14	..	116	2	4	1	68	11	210	10	206	16	636	40
Scotland ..	2	..	4	1	34	2	3	..	19	1	120	6	66	4	248	14
Ireland ..	2	..	8	..	34	1	4	..	33	8	104	12	75	12	260	33
New Zealand ..	36	6	52	..	289	14	15	1	118	63	217	27	294	39	1,021	150
Australian States ..	7	1	6	..	49	..	2	1	31	17	59	4	71	3	225	26
Other British possessions ..	2	..	2	..	4	..	..	..	7	..	7	1	17	..	39	1
China ..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	12	..
Other countries ..	5	..	11	..	29	..	3	..	20	5	49	1	91	3	208	9
At sea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1
Totals ..	73	7	97	1	557	19	31	3	296	106	766	61	830	77	2,650	274
Ages—																
Under 10 years ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10 and under 12 years ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12 and under 15 years ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 and under 20 years ..	10	1	3	..	46	3	..	..	4	3	..	..	16	1	79	8
20 and under 25 years ..	12	..	16	..	71	4	5	..	9	2	20	..	81	3	214	9
25 and under 30 years ..	12	5	13	..	97	2	3	..	32	13	63	6	120	11	340	37
30 and under 40 years ..	21	1	32	1	204	5	12	..	110	33	239	21	273	30	891	91
40 and under 50 years ..	13	..	16	..	93	5	3	3	67	35	208	17	187	17	587	77
50 and under 60 years ..	3	..	9	..	31	..	6	..	37	16	145	13	100	11	331	40
60 years and over ..	2	..	8	..	15	..	2	..	37	4	91	4	53	4	208	12
Totals ..	73	7	97	1	557	19	31	3	296	106	766	61	830	77	2,650	274
Totals, 1914 ..	62	..	106	1	698	29	25	2	305	120	967	56	951	64	3,114	272

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

Table E.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF DISTINCT NEW-ZEALAND-BORN CONVICTED PRISONERS OF EACH SEX (EXCLUDING MAORIS) RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1915, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGES AND OFFENCES.

Offences.	Under 10.		10 and under 12.		12 and under 15.		15 and under 20.		20 and under 25.		25 and under 30.		30 and under 40.		40 and upwards.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Offences against the person—																		
Convicted on indictment ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	1	6	..	4	5	13	..	3	..	36	6
Summarily convicted ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	10	..	10	..	20	..	10	..	52	..
Offences against property—																		
Theft and deceit ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	3	49	4	61	1	100	3	39	3	289	14
Mischief ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	2	..	4	..	4	1	15	1
Vagrancy ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	7	2	19	11	57	28	33	20	118	63
Drunkenness*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	31	6	79	12	95	9	217	27
Other offences ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	39	3	48	8	117	22	87	6	294	39
Totals, 1915 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57	6	128	9	175	31	390	65	271	39	1,021	150
Totals, 1914 ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	75	4	157	6	216	31	416	58	268	47	1,134	146
Totals, 1913 ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	81	7	172	10	183	20	391	58	200	30	1,028	126
Totals, 1912 ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	92	4	197	7	197	25	354	48	176	32	1,017	117
Totals, 1911 ..	..	..	..	..	4	..	59	3	158	13	189	17	333	44	173	50	916	107
Totals, 1910 ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	75	3	199	9	249	35	331	51	182	28	1,038	126
Totals, 1909 ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	66	4	174	15	236	28	298	53	192	28	968	128
Totals, 1908 ..	..	..	1	..	5	..	71	4	190	17	203	24	287	43	118	22	875	110
Totals, 1907 ..	..	..	..	..	2	1	79	5	181	23	213	33	256	44	113	19	844	125
Totals, 1906 ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	82	9	189	20	219	26	249	39	120	18	861	112
Totals, 1905 ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	76	8	172	25	196	27	195	38	99	17	739	115
Totals, 1904 ..	1	..	2	..	3	..	83	9	172	25	219	19	187	34	73	17	740	104
Totals, 1903 ..	..	..	2	..	5	..	79	9	191	16	187	21	177	36	60	21	701	103
Totals, 1902 ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	77	5	192	9	147	17	128	35	57	12	603	78
Totals, 1901 ..	..	..	..	..	5	..	74	7	175	22	114	20	143	38	40	8	551	95
Totals, 1900 ..	..	..	..	..	7	..	79	8	166	19	110	15	120	28	36	9	518	79
Totals, 1899 ..	..	..	..	..	3	2	91	9	147	14	101	16	116	19	36	9	494	69
Totals, 1898 ..	..	..	1	..	9	..	87	7	143	19	91	17	93	18	29	8	453	69
Totals, 1897 ..	1	..	1	..	3	..	82	11	129	15	85	17	77	13	26	5	404	61
Totals, 1896 ..	1	..	1	..	2	..	100	11	120	7	105	19	67	15	18	7	414	59

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

Table F.

TABLE SHOWING DISTINCT PERSONS (EXCLUDING MAORIS) IMPRISONED AFTER CONVICTION FOR EIGHT YEARS.

Year.	Prisoners.	Proportion per 10,000 of Mean Population.	Year.	Prisoners.	Proportion per 10,000 of Mean Population.
1908	3,009	31.84	1912	3,023	29.10
1909	3,159	32.51	1913	3,229	30.22
1910	3,242	32.66	1914	3,386	31.05
1911	2,877	28.85	1915	2,924	26.60





Table H.

RETURN OF PRISON OFFENCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1915.

Prison.	Offences.			Total Offences.	Number of Prisoners punished.	Total Number of Prisoners during the Year.
	Against Officers.	Disobedience of Orders, and Idleness.	Other Breaches of Regulations.			
Addington .. .. .	1	3	5	9	7	157
Auckland .. .. .	5	78	237	320	204	1,754
Dunedin .. .. .	..	3	4	7	5	332
Invercargill .. .. .	45	82	181	308	208	221
Kaingaroa .. .. .	..	5	6	11	11	76
Lyttelton .. .. .	18	28	68	109	53	744
Napier .. .. .	2	3	8	13	9	280
New Plymouth .. .. .	9	12	41	62	29	137
Paparua .. .. .	..	1	..	1	1	49
Roto Aira .. .. .	1	3	5	9	7	91
Waikeria .. .. .	19	10	42	71	48	102
Waipa .. .. .	..	1	..	1	1	56
Wellington .. .. .	23	42	174	239	161	1,803
Totals .. .. .	123	271	766	1,160	744	5,802

Table I.

FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT, 1908.

AGES AND TERMS OF PROBATION OF OFFENDERS PLACED UNDER THE ACT DURING THE YEAR 1915.

Ages.	Four Months and under.	Six Months.	Twelve Months.	Fifteen Months.	Eighteen Months.	Two Years.	Two and a Half Years.	Three Years	Total.
Over 10 and under 15 years .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
" 15 " 20 " .. .. .	..	2	9	..	1	12	..	8	32
" 20 " 25 " .. .. .	..	5	9	..	..	4	..	1	19
" 25 " 30 " .. .. .	1	2	4	1	1	7	..	..	16
" 30 " 40 " .. .. .	1	1	5	..	2	7	..	1	17
" 40 " 50 " .. .. .	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	4
" 50 " 60 " .. .. .	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	3
60 years and upwards .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Totals .. .. .	2	12	30	1	5	31	1	11	93

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