

1930.
NEW ZEALAND.

PRISONS DEPARTMENT

(REPORT ON) FOR THE YEAR 1929-30.

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

The Hon. the MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT to His Excellency the GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Wellington, 12th August, 1930.

I HAVE the honour to submit to Your Excellency the report of the Prisons Department for the year 1929-30.

I have, &c.,

JOHN G. COBBE,
Minister in Charge of Prisons Department.

The CONTROLLER-GENERAL OF PRISONS to the Hon. the MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT.

SIR,—

I have the honour to present the annual report of the Prisons Department covering the financial year ended the 31st March, 1930, together with the Inspector's report and extracts from the reports of Controlling Officers of the different Institutions, and the criminal statistics for the calendar year ended 31st December, 1929.

PRISON POPULATION.—COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

The statistical tables appended to this report show that, notwithstanding the depressed industrial and economic conditions which undoubtedly have a marked influence on the amount of crime, the slight downward trend noticed during the past few years has been maintained. The comparison with last year is summarized as follows :—

Total Number of Prisoners dealt with.

	1928.	1929.	Decrease.
Number in detention at beginning of year	1,549	1,484	65
Number received during the year	5,133	5,076	57
Number discharged or transferred	5,198	5,165	33
Number in prison at end of year	1,484	1,395	89

The daily average number of prisoners in custody was sixty-one less than for the previous year. A comparative table showing new prisoners received and also the daily average of prisoners in custody, and the ratio to each 10,000 of the general population, for the past five years is set out hereunder :—

Year.	Receptions.	Ratio to 10,000 of Population.	Daily Average in Custody.
1925	4,713	34·15	1324·25
1926	4,600	32·62	1366·25
1927	4,664	32·17	1458·16
1928	4,364	31·18	1499·58
1929	4,357	30·68	1438·26