

1939.  
NEW ZEALAND.

PRISONS BOARD

(ANNUAL REPORT OF) FOR 1938.

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

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

Hon. Sir HUBERT OSTLER, Kt. (President); Sir DONALD MCGAVIN, Kt., C.M.G., D.S.O., M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.);  
Hon. JOHN ALEXANDER, C.M.G., M.L.C.; B. L. DALLARD, Esq.; THEO. G. GRAY, Esq., C.M.G., M.B., M.P.C.;  
MRS. A. I. FRAER, M.B.E.; and W. G. RIDDELL, Esq.

SIR,—

20th July, 1939.

I have the honour to forward herewith the report of the Prisons Board for the year 1938.

I have, &c.,

H. H. OSTLER,  
President.

The Hon. the Minister of Justice.

REPORT OF THE PRISONS BOARD.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1938.

THE Board has to report that during the year it visited each of the prisons, prison camps, and Borstal institutions in the Dominion. It dealt with a total of 954 cases at sixteen meetings held in Wellington and at the various institutions.

The following summary gives details of the cases considered and the decisions arrived at:—

<i>Cases dealt with.</i>		<i>Board's Decisions.</i>	
Persons undergoing Borstal detention	.. 294	Recommended for release on probation	.. 381
Persons sentenced to reformative detention	255	Deferred for later consideration	.. 499
Persons sentenced to hard labour	.. 307	Petitions declined	.. 27
Habitual criminals	.. 53	Recommended for discharge	.. 22
Habitual offenders	.. 1	Discharged from probation	.. 22
Habitual criminals for remission of head sentence	.. 2	Recommended remission of head sentence	.. 2
Probationers under Crimes Amendment Act	16	Modification of terms of probation	.. 1
Probationers under Offenders Probation Act	26		
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As you are aware, Sir, for the greater part of the period covered by this report I was absent on sick-leave. During this period—that is, from the 2nd February, 1938, until the end of the year—the Hon. Sir John Reed, Kt., C.B.E., was acting-President of the Board.

It is with regret the Board records the retirement of Sir John Reed and W.G. Riddell, Esq. Sir John occupied the position of President of the Board from the 10th October, 1928, until the date of his retirement as a permanent Judge. Mr. Riddell for private reasons resigned at the expiration of his appointed term. The Board has to express its appreciation of the services rendered by these gentlemen. Both were profoundly interested in the work of the Board, and gave their time, at considerable personal sacrifice, willingly and liberally in this connection.