

1942.

NEW ZEALAND.

PRISONS BOARD.

(ANNUAL REPORT OF) FOR 1941.

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.;
 and ERNEST EDRIIDGE, Esq.

SIR,—

25th June, 1942.

I have the honour to forward herewith the report of the Prisons Board for the year 1941.

I have, &c.,

H. H. OSTLER,

President.

The Hon. the Minister of Justice.

REPORT OF THE PRISONS BOARD.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1941.

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 1,041 cases at fifteen 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 ..	402	Recommended for release on probation ..	498
Persons sentenced to reformatory detention	303	Deferred for later consideration ..	491
Persons sentenced to hard labour ..	262	Petitions declined ..	25
Habitual criminals	39	Recommended for discharge ..	8
Habitual offenders	..	Discharged from probation ..	16
Habitual criminals for remission of head sentence	4	Recommended remission of head sentence	3
Probationers under Crimes Amendment Act	14	Modification of terms of probation ..	..
Probationers under Offenders Probation Act	17		
	1,041		1,041

The urgent necessity for general economy in the present state of affairs warrants only a very brief review of the Board's operations for the past year.

The total number of cases dealt with by the Board in 1941 was 1,041, or 16 more than for 1940, while 525 persons were recommended for a remission of sentence, as against 541 in 1940.

The statistics when compared with those of former reports show that the percentage of offenders who make good after release has been maintained. Approximately 22 per cent. only of the total number released after undergoing sentences of Borstal detention and reformatory detention or imprisonment with hard labour have been reconvicted or failed to comply with the conditions of their release. When dealing with persons detained under the foregoing sentences the Board aims, wherever reasonably possible, particularly in respect of young or first offenders, to permit of a substantial portion of the sentence being served on license. This period of conditional release is regarded by the Board as being the final stage of the treatment prior to the discharge becoming absolute. The results obtained in