

1944
NEW ZEALAND

PRISONS BOARD

(ANNUAL REPORT OF) FOR 1943

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

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Hon. Mr. Justice BLAIR (President); Sir DONALD MCGAVIN, Kt., C.M.G., D.S.O., M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.); B. L. DALLARD, Esq.; THEO. G. GRAY, Esq., C.M.G., M.B., M.P.C.; and ERNEST EDRIDGE, Esq.

12th July, 1944.

SIR,—

I have the honour to forward herewith the report of the Prisons Board for the year 1943.

I have, &c.,
A. W. BLAIR,
President.

The Hon. the Minister of Justice.

REPORT OF THE PRISONS BOARD

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1943

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 957 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	373	Recommended for release on probation	193
		Deferred for later consideration	164
		Applications declined	16
	<u>373</u>		<u>373</u>
Persons sentenced to reformatory detention	254	Recommended for release on probation	119
		Recommended for discharge	3
		Deferred for later consideration	132
		Applications declined	Nil
	<u>254</u>		<u>254</u>
Persons sentenced to hard labour	273	Recommended for release on probation	177
		Recommended for discharge	9
		Deferred for later consideration	81
		Applications declined	6
	<u>273</u>		<u>273</u>
Habitual criminals for release or remission of head sentence	35	Recommended for release on probation	12
		Recommended for remission of head sentence	Nil
		Deferred for later consideration	23
	<u>35</u>		<u>35</u>
Habitual offenders	Nil		Nil
Probationers under Crimes Amendment Act	9	Recommended for discharge	8
		Applications declined	1
	<u>9</u>		<u>9</u>
Probationers under Offenders Probation Act	13	Discharge granted	10
		Modification of terms of probation granted	2
		Applications declined	1
	<u>13</u>		<u>13</u>

Having regard to the continued paper shortage and the necessity for economy generally, it is intended to make only a brief review of the Board's operations during 1943.

The Board, during the year under review, considered 957 cases, or 24 more than the previous year; and it recommended a remission of sentence in 521 cases, as compared with 509 in 1942.

That the percentage of offenders who have responded and evidently made good has been well maintained is disclosed by a comparison of the statistics with those of former reports. Approximately 23 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.