

RANGIPO PRISON

(Officer in Charge : Mr. A. Banks)

At the commencement of the year there were 31 males in custody. During the year 43 were received, whilst 31 were discharged and 5 transferred, leaving in custody at the end of the year 38 prisoners.

The health of the prisoners has been good, most cases of illness being of a minor nature. Examinations were regularly made by Dr. Feltham, and dental treatment was given by Mr. Davies, of Raetihi.

Divine services were conducted during the year by Mr. Forlong, Mr. Mountjoy, and the Rev. Smith.

Thanks are due to the Taupo Presbyterian Church for the luxuries supplied to the men at Christmas and to the Christchurch Branch of the Howard League for Penal Reform for a donation of Christmas cake. The Church of Christ (Scientist), Wellington, was responsible for generous donations of reading-material, and Christmas letters were received by the men from the Christmas Letters to Prisoners Society, 5 Tudor Road, Upper Norwood, London, and in this respect I have to thank Miss E. C. L'Estrange and her committee.

The rations supplied during the year were of good quality. Various kinds of vegetables were supplied from the prison garden, and beef and mutton for rations were killed on the farm.

Farm activities carried out during the year were principally the maintenance of the area already brought under cultivation, such as the clearing of second growth, the eradication of weeds, and the draining of swamps. Development and top-dressing was restricted on account of the shortage of manure and fertilizers.

Progress has been well maintained in the sheep-breeding industry. During the year a good clip of wool was obtained. The wether lambs were disposed of to the works and saleyards and the ewe lambs were kept to add to the breeding-flock.

Control of the rabbit pest was maintained by trapping and poisoning. A useful credit being obtained from the sale of the skins.

The following crops were grown : 50 acres of swedes and 20 acres of soft turnips. The swedes were not a very good crop, due to dry conditions experienced during the spring ; the soft turnips were not affected so much by the drought, and a reasonably good crop was obtained.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all members of the staff for their loyal co-operation throughout the year.

WAIKUNE PRISON (ROADMAKING CAMP), ERUA

(Officer in Charge : Mr. J. G. QUILL)

At the commencement of the year there were 59 prisoners in custody, and 99 were received during the year. The discharges were 8 on the expiration of their sentences, 21 on special remissions, and 39 on probationary licences. Altogether, 20 prisoners were transferred to other institutions, leaving 70 prisoners in custody at the end of the year.

Five prisoners escaped from custody during the year. Two surrendered to the Taumarunui Police the same day, 1 gave himself into the custody of the police at National Park within an hour of his departure from the prison, while the other 2 prisoners were at large for eight days and were finally apprehended at Wairoa. In all cases, additional sentences were imposed.

As in former years, the general health of the prisoners has been excellent. One man was in hospital for four days as a result of an accident at one of the quarries, but he returned to Waikune fully recovered from the injury which necessitated his removal to hospital. Mr. R. B. Davies again attended to the dental requirements of the prisoners. It is with regret that I refer to the loss of Dr. W. J. Feltham as medical officer at this institution. Dr. Feltham, who for over thirty years attended to the