

REPORT OF THE PRISONS BOARD

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1948

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

CASES DEALT WITH		BOARD'S DECISIONS	
Persons undergoing Borstal detention ..	251	Recommended for release on probation	129
		Recommended for discharge	..
		Deferred for later consideration ..	120
		Applications declined	2
	251		251
Persons sentenced to reformative detention	496	Recommended for release on probation	250
		Recommended for discharge	1
		Deferred for later consideration ..	242
		Applications declined	3
	496		496
Persons sentenced to hard labour ..	248	Recommended for release on probation	177
		Recommended for discharge	7
		Deferred for later consideration ..	57
		Applications declined	7
	248		248
Habitual criminals for release or remission of head sentence ..	37	Recommended for release on probation	11
		Recommended for remission of head sentence	1
		Deferred for later consideration ..	23
		Applications declined	2
	37		37
Probationers under Crimes Amendment Act	14	Recommended for discharge	6
		Deferred for later consideration ..	5
		Applications declined	3
	14		14
Probationers under Offenders Probation Act	10	Discharge granted	10
	10		10

During the year the Board visited every prison, prison camp, and Borstal institution in the Dominion. At each, every prisoner or inmate entitled to appear before the Board was interviewed and given every encouragement to make such representations as he or she desired.

In the aggregate, fifteen meetings were held during the year at various centres throughout the country. Several of these meetings extended over more than one day. The volume of work done was as considerable as is usual. One thousand and fifty-six cases were considered—an increase of 9 over the previous year. Many of these cases concerned prisoners too recently sentenced to make it possible for the Board to make any immediate recommendation for a remission of sentence. Only good can, however, result from the early establishment of contact between individual prisoners and the Board. Such meetings inspire in the prisoners an appreciation of the fact that society is still concerned in their welfare and is prepared to extend help and consideration according to merit.