

be paid over to his mother or other dependant it indicates that he at least has taken an important step in the direction of reform. The system of the payment of wages is already bearing good fruit.

I would suggest that arrangements be made towards securing the services of competent tradesmen to act as trades instructors. A sufficient number of skilled tradesmen should be attached to the staff of each prison to ensure the proper carrying-out of the various works upon which prisoners may be employed, and at the same time teaching them how to earn an honest livelihood when released. Provision has been made for giving effect to this under the new regulations, and it is to be hoped that ere long such a system will be in active operation, thus promoting efficiency and at the same time effecting a considerable saving in the upkeep of the various institutions concerned.

FIRST OFFENDERS' PROBATION ACT.

At the beginning of the year there were 2 males on the Probation Register for this district. During the year 15 males and 1 female were placed on probation. Of these, 9 males were transferred to other districts; 4 males completed their terms satisfactorily, leaving 4 males and 1 female still on the register. One male probationer was arrested and sentenced to a further term of twelve months' probation for failing to observe the conditions of his release.

I have, &c.,

M. HAWKINS,

Gaoler.

The Under-Secretary for Justice, Wellington.
