

These figures deal with juvenile crime. Let us take prisoners of all ages received into gaol:—

Year.	Prisoners.	Proportion per 10,000 of Mean Population.
1887	2,639	44·25
1892	2,164	33·69
1897	1,884	25·84
1902	2,396	30·03
1907	3,091	33·63
1908	3,009	31·84
1909	3,159	32·51
1910	3,242	32·66
1911	2,877	28·35
1912	3,023	29·09

We may take serious crime during the five years ending 1912. Sentenced in the Supreme Court there were—

Year.	Prisoners.	Proportion per 10,000 of Mean Population.
1908	501	0·53
1909	514	0·53
1910	478	0·48
1911	403	0·40
1912	395	0·38

Or take another test, those in gaol on 31st December, in the six years—

Year.	Prisoners.
1907	847
1908	879
1909	949
1910	881
1911	873
1912	866

But for intermediate and habitual criminal sentences the numbers would no doubt have shown a far greater decrease.

In illegitimacy our rate has fallen:—

Year.	Illegitimate Births per 1,000 of Married Population.
1886	10·70
1906	9·72
1911	9·24

For every 100 births there were—

1900	4·63
1909	4·61
1910	4·47
1911	4·09
1912	4·28

Finally, judged by the only time-test of an educational system—the type of man that has been produced—who can say that the New Zealand system is in the least degree inferior to that of any Australian State? Men trained under our system have reached the highest positions in all walks of life, and have shown to the generations that come after a model of good citizenship.

Notwithstanding these facts officials and supporters of the Bible in Schools League do not scruple to traduce the present system and its effects, thus: “White heathenism” (Rev. I. Jolly, Auckland, December, 1913). “Relic of barbarism” (Rev. H. Robjohns, 14th December, 1913). “Your scholar comes out of your hands a barbarian” (Mr. George Flux). “It degrades morals” (Rev. Dr. Waddell). “National atheism” (Rev. I. Jolly, 14th October, 1913). “Religious instruction was abolished from the schools without the people being consulted, and some decades of purely secular education had had most deplorable results” (Bishop Averill, *Auckland Herald*, 7th July, 1914). “In New Zealand two generations have passed through our schools and the civic virtues of secularism have been taught, and with what results? Anarchy is reigning in many places through the waterside strike, and special constables and soldiers from our ships by baton and rifle are seeking to awe a crowd led by men who are saying that fire and slaughter may be necessary to them to reach their end” (Rev. R. Wood, League Organizer, *Outlook*, 11th November, 1913). I do not wish to pass any comment on the strike, but at the time of writing the reverend gentleman could surely not have known that most of the strike leaders were not New-Zealanders: that a fair proportion came from the educational paradise of New South Wales. How differently do the chaplains of the Forces speak of the conduct of the men in camp, which they describe as being better than any they have ever experienced before among such bodies of men! “He detested the present system with all his heart, and if he could not get religious instruction in any other way he would have his own school and demand a grant-in-aid” (Bishop Julius, *Christchurch Press*, 26th February, 1913). “If through ignorance and misunderstanding the present demand for a referendum be defeated or refused the