

Value of Prison Labour for which neither Cash nor Financial Credits are received.

Although the Department's cash receipts for the year indicate that the labour available has been used to the best advantage, the total amount earned by no means covers the value of the work actually done. Substantial progress has been made in this as in previous years in the construction of buildings, the making of roads, and in other works that have been required for State purposes. All this work if carried out by private contracts would have resulted in considerable expenditure being incurred. By the employment of prison labour the total amount involved was saved to the State. In accordance with the practice recently followed the Public Works Engineers have supplied estimates of the value of this work calculated on free-labour standards. The details of the work carried out and of its value are shown in Table 2 below. The marked increase on the previous year's total is partly due to the fact that the low rate per man allowed in previous years—viz., 3s. per day for labourers and 5s. per day for tradesmen—has been increased to a general average of 7s. 6d. per day in sympathy with the rates now paid to free labour. This alteration is fully justified by the fact that under present conditions it is found that the average prisoner works quite as satisfactorily as the average free labourer or tradesman.

TABLE 2.—Total Value of Prison Labour employed on Roads, Buildings, Reclamation, Wall-building, and other Public Works, for which no Financial Credit has been received, for the Year ended 31st March, 1920.

Prison.	Buildings, Walls, and Yards.	Construction and Maintenance of Roads.	Excavating for Buildings.	Block- making.	Drainage Works.	Electric- light Installation.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Auckland	2,483	..	..	..	..	229	2,712
Invercargill	2,910	..	..	250	1,031	..	4,191
Paparua	3,565	395	..	..	..	..	3,960
Point Halswell	667	334	..	..	..	..	1,001
Waikeria	2,590	167	..	167	..	..	2,924
Wi Tako	6,000	250	200	..	600	..	7,050
Totals	18,215	1,146	200	417	1,631	229	21,838

In addition to the large output of constructional and other reproductive work shown in the two preceding tables a large amount of prison labour is required to develop the farming properties, to make boots and clothing for the inmates and officers, to carry on the domestic services, and to do the numberless things that are necessary in connection with the management of the institutions. This entails a large expenditure of labour that has a definite value to the State. On a low assessment the total value of such labour in each institution is as shown in Table 3 below.

TABLE 3.—Value of Prison Labour employed on Prison Works and Industries, for which Cash Credits are not obtained, for Year ended 31st March, 1920.

Prison.	Boot- making for Officers and Prisoners.	Tailoring (including Repairs) and Red Cross Work.	Gardening and Farming.	Building- work.	Quarrying, Levelling of Reserves, &c.	Domestic Employ- ment.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Addington	..	616	651	..	..	588	1,855
Auckland	747	487	346	..	4,292	1,963	7,835
Invercargill	144	150	2,506	..	..	1,011	3,811
Kaingaroa	44	45	163	6	..	490	748
Lyttelton	..	..	..	..	206	210	416
Napier	17	..	81	..	445	238	781
New Plymouth	111	99	336	85	..	387	1,018
Paparua	901	..	1,117	..	..	822	2,840
Roto-aira	45	..	116	120	..	476	757
Waikeria	201	..	2,619	..	..	1,021	3,841
Wellington	66	1,191	1,068	..	835	1,343	4,503
Wi Tako	..	..	55	..	..	75	130
Minor gaols	11	22	84	..	..	145	262
							£28,797