

unexpected position after the conclusion of a great war, and that if the conditions changed for the worse the "change would be reflected in our criminal statistics."

That the altered conditions prevailing during the past twelve months have had the expected ill effect is further evidenced by the fact that the daily average prison population for the financial year ended 31st March last was 965·03, while the number of prisoners in all the prisons on the 30th July of this year (1921) was 1,050.

The fluctuations in the prison population from 1881 to 1920 (inclusive) are shown in the table below :

Daily Average, 1881 to 1920.

Year.	Daily Average of Prisoners in Dominion Prisons.		
	Males.	Females.	Totals.
1881	631·66	94·37	726·03
1891	459·22	58·39	517·61
1911	799·08	64·18	863·26
1912	855·28	64·07	919·35
1913	826·69	66·55	893·24
1914	916·09	63·72	979·81
1915	931·33	76·79	1,008·12
1916	895·99	82·78	942·77
1917	817·27	96·99	914·26
1918	896·98	84·97	981·95
1919	936·28	68·06	1,004·34
1920	872·59	67·10	939·69

PRISONERS SENTENCED BY MILITARY COURTS-MARTIAL.

The class of prisoners covered by the above heading is now practically non-existent, the only men remaining who come within the category being two who were sentenced for long terms by Courts-martial outside the Dominion for civil offences (manslaughter and attempted murder). The figures covering the period from 1915 to 1920 (inclusive) are accordingly published for the last time.

Military Court-martialled Prisoners in Civil Prisons. — Daily Average Number in Custody in the Principal Prisons of the Dominion during Six Years ended 31st December, 1920.

Institution.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
Auckland	0·756	0·557	0·600	4·717	10·52	3·57
Invercargill	..	..	3·500	39·030	33·21	1·46
Kaingarua	..	..	2·010	32·040	21·58	3·38
Lyttelton	0·016	0·016	0·032	0·065	0·20	..
Paparuā	..	1·980	2·229	44·256	42·61	3·79
Roto-aira	0·410	0·104	20·700	22·250	15·03	..
Waikeria	..	..	10·400	58·300	52·30	7·92
Wellington	0·512	0·360	14·640	22·270	10·91	3·32
Wi Tako	..	..	..	..	6·44	10·63
Totals	1·694	3·017	54·111	222·928	192·80	34·07

EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS.

The gross expenditure of the Department under all heads for the financial year ended 31st March, 1921, was £127,444, compared with £109,528 for the previous year, an increase of £17,916. Of this sum the general increase in salaries granted to all officers of the Public Service, together with a limited increase of staffs, accounted for £13,969; the ration account, for £2,776; and purchase of tools, material, and motor vehicles, including running-costs to enable the Department to carry on its extended works policy, for the balance. As the Department has no control over the allotment of salaries, the number of prisoners committed to its charge, nor of the cost of food and clothing, it will thus be seen that the actual increase for which the administrative officers can be held responsible amounted to £1,171. This sum may be fairly debited to operating-expenses—in other words, to the production of revenue. The increase under this head, as shown by the Treasury figures for the financial year, amounted to £7,959, so that the additional outlay is fully justified by results.

It must not be forgotten that as a set-off against the annual expenditure of the Department in recent years is the asset that is being created by the acquisition and breeding of stock, purchase of implements, manures, grass-seed, &c. On the 31st March last the Department's live-stock was valued at £13,036.