

SUMMARY OF CASH EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE RECEIVED, PRISONS VOTE, 1924 TO 1937.

Year.			Daily Average Number of Inmates.	Gross Expenditure.		Credits.		Net Expenditure.	
				Total.	Per Head.	Total.	Per Head.	Total.	Per Head.
				£	£	£	£	£	£
1924-25	..	..	1,228	144,484	117·67	68,118	55·56	76,366	62·11
1925-26	..	..	1,340	152,794	114·00	79,099	59·02	73,695	54·98
1926-27	..	..	1,397	148,766	106·47	70,915	50·76	77,851	55·71
1927-28	..	..	1,490	161,199	108·21	66,979	44·95	94,220	63·26
1928-29	..	..	1,502	163,451	108·83	73,994	49·27	89,457	59·56
1929-30	..	..	1,425	172,248	120·83	83,806	58·87	88,442	62·04
1930-31	..	..	1,525	171,382	112·36	70,669	46·33	100,713	66·03
1931-32	..	..	1,641	152,581	92·93	55,867	34·03	96,714	58·90
1932-33	..	..	1,661	142,940	86·04	52,412	31·84	90,528	54·49
1933-34	..	..	1,488	138,193	92·88	54,823	36·77	83,370	56·11
1934-35	..	..	1,306	137,484	105·25	60,242	46·12	77,242	59·13
1935-36	..	..	1,170	144,460	123·47	69,933	59·77	74,527	63·70
1936-37	..	..	985	146,314	148·54	68,661	69·70	77,653	78·83

Detailed accounts and balance-sheet are shown at the end of this report in Table B, showing the total cost of prison administration after taking into consideration all charges for interest and depreciation and building maintenance out of Public Works Department votes.

INDUSTRIES AND DEVELOPMENT.

My previous report indicated that a period of high influx of prisoners and depressed economic conditions for a number of years had made it difficult to provide useful work for all inmates of a character non-competitive with the outside trades. During 1935-36 the substantial reduction in the number of receptions, together with improved conditions outside, diminished this difficulty. For the 1936-37 period now under review this changed tendency has continued to a marked degree, and at the present time it has become a difficult matter to find sufficient labour for those industries which require a maximum of manual labour. In particular, the prosecution of farm-work has necessitated a substantial curtailment in quarrying and roadworks, which is reflected in a decrease of £9,500 revenue from the two latter activities compared with the previous year.

Although these conditions have provided the Department with a new aspect of its constant problem of providing prisoners with labour of a utilitarian character and of remunerative results, it definitely enables the problem, for a few years at least, to be found a satisfactory solution. The Department has, as indicated above, concentrated much of the available labour on farming work aided by mechanized plant where necessary. This has been a substantial factor in raising farm revenue from £24,000 to £32,000 during the past twelve months. This latter figure represents the highest annual value of production to date. Except with regard to quarries and roadworks, it has been possible by partially mechanizing the minor industries, to help keep up miscellaneous revenue to a satisfactory level compared with previous years, notwithstanding the acute shortage of labour available.

Apart from the monetary results, this development has the further advantage from the psychological and vocational viewpoint that by the judicious use of machine plant the Department is providing inmates with a more modern and useful farm and industrial training than it has been possible to undertake at any time in the past.

The following figures show the cash expenditure incurred and cash revenue earned from prison industries over the past seven years, indicating by the steadily improving results that these industries are on a stable footing to recoup all expenditure invested in them.

Cash Expenditure and Cash Revenue : Prison Industries.

Year.				Industries Expenditure.	Industries Receipts.	Net Cash Revenue.
				£	£	£
1930-31	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	34,340	65,235	30,895
1931-32	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	27,788	50,863	23,075
1932-33	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	25,709	46,918	21,209
1933-34	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	27,456	49,413	21,957
1934-35	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	25,822	55,328	29,506
1935-36	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	31,952	65,247	33,295
1936-37	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	26,094	63,845	37,751