

Tables 39 to 41 give the more important penitentiary statistics as reported by the Superintendent. An increase of 418 is shown in the number of those in custody on Mar. 31, 1930, as compared with the same date in the previous year. The number of paroles as shown in Table 39 indicates a continued decrease from 634 in 1923 to 300 in 1926, though it rose to 377 in 1927, declined to 363 in 1928, rose to 384 in 1929, and fell again to 363 in 1930. Table 40, showing the ages of convicts by groups, indicates that since 1923, when the total number in custody reached 2,486, there has been an increase in the average age of those in custody. In the last five years, the convicts under 30 increased from 1,301 to 1,837 or by 536, while the total number in custody increased by 842; so that convicts over 30 showed an actual increase but a proportional decrease. Detailed statistics of nationality, religion, conjugal state and racial origin are presented in Table 41.

Population of Penal Institutions.—The penal institutions of Canada may be classified under four heads:—penitentiaries, distinguished by long sentences and comparatively slow turnover; reformatories for boys and reformatories for girls, also with a rather slow turnover, but more rapid in the case of boys than in that of girls; and lastly common gaols, where the turnover is extremely rapid. If the average population for the year be the average of the inmates at the beginning and end of the year, and the number discharged be the turnover, the turnover in 1929 was:—in penitentiaries, 44 p.c.; in reformatories for boys, 284 p.c.; in reformatories for girls, 117 p.c.; in gaols, no less than 1,690 p.c. Thus the average time spent in gaol is a little over three weeks.

38.—Population of Penal Institutions, 1927-1929.

NOTE.—Penitentiary statistics until 1919 were supplied directly by each penitentiary and were for the calendar year. For 1920 and subsequent years they have been supplied by the Superintendent of Penitentiaries and are for the fiscal year ended Mar. 31. For other institutions, the figures are as at Sept. 30.

Penal Institutions.	In Custody, beginning of year.	Admitted during year.	Discharged during year.	In Custody, end of year.
1927.				
Penitentiaries.....	2,474	1,045	1,039	2,480
Reformatories for boys.....	2,249	7,778	7,618	2,409
Reformatories for girls.....	431	419	409	441
Gaols.....	2,439	44,583	44,388	2,634
Totals.....	7,593	53,825	53,454	7,964
1928.				
Penitentiaries.....	2,480	1,202	1,112	2,560
Reformatories for boys.....	2,409	7,286	7,260	2,435
Reformatories for girls.....	441	497	501	437
Gaols.....	2,634	49,980	49,485	3,129
Totals.....	7,964	58,965	58,368	8,561
1929.				
Penitentiaries.....	2,560	1,383	1,174	2,769
Reformatories for boys.....	2,485	7,615	7,328	2,722
Reformatories for girls.....	437	465	494	408
Gaols.....	3,129	57,165	56,715	3,579
Totals.....	8,561	66,628	65,711	9,478