

Tables 18 to 20 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, 1931, as compared with the same date in the previous year. The number of paroles as shown in Table 18 for 1931 is an increase of 50 compared with the previous year. It has fluctuated considerably between the 566 mark in 1924 and the figure of 413 set for 1931. Table 19, 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 1,344 to 2,194 or by 850, while the total number in custody increased by 1,241; 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 20.

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. In dealing with these figures it must be borne in mind that common gaol population changes from day to day and is partly made up of accused persons awaiting trial who may be liberated to-day or sent to a penitentiary or reformatory to-morrow.

17.—Population of Penal Institutions, 1928-30.

Note.—Penitentiary statistics until 1918 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.
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.....	2,435	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
1930.				
Penitentiaries.....	2,769	1,648	1,230	3,187
Reformatories for boys.....	2,846 ¹	9,728	9,469	3,105
Reformatories for girls.....	602 ²	543	497	648
Gaols.....	3,579	63,672	62,968	4,283
Totals.....	9,796	75,591	74,164	11,223

¹ St. John's Industrial School, Toronto, added in 1930.

² Alexander Industrial School, Toronto, added in 1930.