

Movement of Population of Penal Institutions.—Penal institutions may be classified under four heads: (1) penitentiaries, with slow turnover, since prisoners have long sentences; (2) reformatories for boys; (3) reformatories for girls, also with rather slow turnovers, but more rapid in the case of boys than in that of girls; and (4) common gaols, where the turnover is extremely rapid. If the average population for the year be taken as the average of the inmates at the beginning and at the end of the year, and the number discharged be the turnover, the turnover in 1938 was: in penitentiaries, 41 p.c.; in reformatories for boys, 244 p.c.; in reformatories for girls, 68 p.c.; in gaols, no less than 1,418 p.c. Thus, the average time spent in gaol was about 3·7 weeks. In dealing with these figures it must be borne in mind that the 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.

25.—Population of Penal Institutions, 1936-38.

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 years ended Mar. 31. Commencing with the fiscal year 1937 they have been compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For other institutions, the figures are for the years ended Sept. 30.

Year and Type of Institution.	In Custody, Beginning of Year.	Admitted during Year.	Discharged during Year.	In Custody, End of Year.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
1936.				
Penitentiaries.....	3,552	1,558	2,012	3,098
Reformatories for boys.....	2,823	7,222	6,577	3,468
Reformatories for girls.....	722	487	569	640
Gaols.....	3,419	53,752	53,223	3,948
Totals, 1936.....	10,516	63,019	62,381	11,154
1937.				
Penitentiaries.....	3,098	1,521	1,355	3,264
Reformatories for boys.....	3,468	8,374 ¹	8,053	3,789 ¹
Reformatories for girls.....	640	627 ¹	524	743 ¹
Gaols.....	3,948	60,397	59,933	4,412
Totals, 1937.....	11,154	70,919¹	69,865	12,208¹
1938.				
Penitentiaries.....	3,264	1,718	1,402	3,580
Reformatories for boys.....	3,789	9,894	9,596	4,087
Reformatories for girls.....	743	575	525	793
Gaols.....	4,412	66,760	66,243	4,929
Totals, 1938.....	12,208	78,947	77,766	13,389

¹ Revised since the publication of the 1939 Year Book.

Tables 26 to 28 give the more important penitentiary statistics as reported to the Bureau. The number of convicts in penitentiaries was 1,865 in 1910, rose to 2,118 in 1916 and declined to 1,468 in 1918. After demobilization and the depression of 1921, the number of convicts rose to 2,640 in 1922, declined to 2,225 in 1924, and then increased to 4,164 in 1932. The increase was particularly rapid after 1929, amounting to 1,395 or 44 p.c. in three years. The number of convicts in 1936, at 3,098, was lower than in any year since 1929, but in 1937 there was an increase of 5·4 p.c. with further increases of 9·7 p.c. in 1938 and 6·2 p.c. in 1939. The number of paroles, as shown in Table 26, was 280 in 1939.