

The special penitentiary for Doukhobors on Piers Island, which was administered under the warden of the penitentiary at New Westminster, was in operation from 1932 to Mar. 28, 1935, when the 39 remaining inmates were transferred to New Westminster. The statistics of this special penal colony are included with those of the regular penitentiaries in the following tables, and the reader is referred to p. 1035 of the 1936 Year Book for details of the Piers Island colony, given by sex, age, race, and conjugal condition.

Female convicts committed to penitentiaries in the different provinces are sent to the penitentiary at Kingston, Ontario, where special quarters and staff are maintained for their detention and supervision. Female convicts in custody on Mar. 31, 1940, numbered 33 compared with 34 in 1939, and 36 in 1938.

Movement of Population of Penal Institutions.—Penal institutions may be classified under three headings: (1) penitentiaries, with slow turnover, since prisoners have long sentences; (2) reformatories and training schools, also with rather slow turnover; and (3) 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 1939 was: in penitentiaries, 52 p.c.; in reformatories and training schools, 214 p.c.; in gaols, no less than 1,436 p.c. Thus, the average time spent in gaol was about 3.6 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, 1937-39

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.
1937				
Penitentiaries.....	3,098	1,521	1,355	3,264
Reformatories and training schools.....	4,108	9,001	8,577	4,532
Gaols.....	3,948	60,397	59,933	4,412
Totals, 1937.....	11,154	70,919	69,865	12,208
1938				
Penitentiaries.....	3,264	1,718	1,402	3,580
Reformatories and training schools.....	4,532	10,469	10,121	4,880
Gaols.....	4,412	66,760	66,243	4,929
Totals, 1938.....	12,208	78,947	77,766	13,389
1939				
Penitentiaries.....	3,580	2,135	1,912	3,803
Reformatories and training schools.....	4,880	10,267	10,343	4,804
Gaols.....	4,978	65,672	66,383	4,267
Totals, 1939.....	13,438	78,074	78,638	12,874

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