

34.—Summary Statistics re Convicts in Penitentiaries, as at Mar. 31, 1954-58

Item	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Country of Birth—					
Canada.....	4,712	5,123	5,157	5,123	5,412
British Isles and possessions.....	138	134	118	99	115
Austria and Hungary.....	14	13	17	20	34
Italy.....	9	7	10	13	11
Poland.....	29	33	37	31	25
U.S.S.R.....	24	24	15	23	16
Other European.....	84	67	49	38	51
United States.....	90	99	86	68	84
Other countries.....	20	7	19	18	22
Marital Status—					
Single.....	3,017	3,357	3,325	3,307	3,503
Married.....	1,592	1,603	1,601	1,527	1,633
Widowed.....	132	143	156	157	158
Divorced.....	131	130	141	141	150
Separated.....	248	274	285	301	326
Sex—					
Male.....	5,025	5,412	5,426	5,347	5,682
Female.....	95	95	82	86	88
Age—					
Under 21 years.....	639	694	669	703	815
21 to 29 ".....	2,192	2,299	2,217	2,091	2,225
30 to 39 ".....	1,364	1,467	1,546	1,521	1,622
40 to 49 ".....	597	701	698	742	736
50 to 59 ".....	213	232	259	268	266
Over 60 ".....	115	114	119	108	106
Totals.....	5,120	5,507	5,508	5,433	5,770

The National Parole System.*—The progressive correctional system now in operation in Canada places emphasis on reformation rather than on punishment alone for the sake of retribution to society. It is quite obvious from past experience and from the high rate of recidivism among criminals that punishing a person for wrong-doing merely by depriving him of his freedom is not effective in turning that person from crime. It is therefore considered imperative that during his period of incarceration every possible means be taken to reform the inmate through treatment and training and through assistance with his personal problems. Not only is it highly desirable that the individual be given such assistance and returned to freedom as a useful citizen but it is also undoubtedly preferable for society generally that he be saved from the further resentment and bitterness that would result from imprisonment without assistance. The only way the public can be properly protected is by reforming the offender. Thus the treatment and training program in the institution is a vital part of the whole correctional process and parole is an extension of that training outside the institution.

In January 1959, the National Parole Board, consisting of a chairman and three members, was formed and given absolute jurisdiction over all matters of parole. It operates under authority of the Parole Act (SC 1958, c. 38) which came into force on Feb. 15, 1959, replacing the former Ticket-of-Leave Act administered by the Remission Service of the Department of Justice. The Board has taken over the Remission Service, and the staff of the Board, numbering 82 persons, is now known as the National Parole Service.

The basic purpose of parole is to reform and rehabilitate the offender and the function of the National Parole Board is to select those inmates in the various federal and provincial penal institutions who indicate that they sincerely intend to reform, and to assist them in doing so by grant of parole. The Board is not a reviewing authority and is not concerned with the propriety of conviction or the length of sentence but only with the

* Prepared by T. G. Street, Chairman, National Parole Board, Ottawa.