

Tables 37 to 39 give the more important penitentiary statistics as reported by the Superintendent. An increase of 120 is shown in the number of those in custody on Mar. 31, 1925, as compared with the same date in the previous year, but there is a reduction of 141 as compared with 1923. The number of paroles, as shown in Table 37, indicates a continued decrease from 634 in 1923 to 366 in 1925, while Table 38, showing the ages of convicts by groups, indicates that since 1922, when the total number in custody reached the maximum of 2,640, there has been an increase in the average age of those in custody. In the 3 latest years, the convicts under 30 declined from 1,613 to 1,301 or by 312, while the total number in custody declined by only 295, so that convicts over 30 showed a slight increase. Detailed statistics of nationality, religion, conjugal state and racial origin are presented in Table 39.

Pardons and Commutations.—The number of cases in which the prerogative of mercy was exercised during 1924 was 1,676. Of these, 1,137 were released on ticket of leave, with various conditions attached, 156 were deported, 75 conditionally released without ticket of leave, 81 released unconditionally and 148, who were not imprisoned, had fines remitted or reduced. Unconditional pardon was granted to 73 ticket of leave men and 6 death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment.

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 jails, 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 1923 was:—in reformatories for girls, 78 p.c.; in jails, no less than 1,596 p.c. Thus the average time spent in jail is rather less than 1 month.

36.—Population of Penal Institutions, 1922-1924.

NOTE.—Penitentiary statistics till 1919 were supplied directly by each penitentiary, and were for the calendar year. For 1920 and subsequent years they have been supplied by the Inspector of Penitentiaries and are for the fiscal year ended Mar. 31.

Penal Institutions.	In custody, beginning of year.	Admitted during year.	Discharged during year.	In custody at end of year.
1922.				
Penitentiaries.....	2,150	1,366	876	2,640
Reformatories for boys.....	2,023	4,247	4,461	1,809
Reformatories for girls.....	344	543	482	405
Jails.....	2,674	35,028	35,043	2,659
Total.....	7,191	41,184	40,862	7,513
1923.				
Penitentiaries.....	2,640	1,053	1,207	2,486
Reformatories for boys.....	1,878	4,142	4,131	1,889
Reformatories for girls.....	336	243	257	322
Jails.....	2,678	33,698	34,083	2,293
Total.....	7,532	39,136	39,678	6,990
1924.				
Penitentiaries.....	2,486	870	1,131	2,225
Reformatories for boys.....	1,687	4,856	4,618	1,925
Reformatories for girls.....	383	391	387	387
Jails.....	2,293	37,178	36,882	2,589
Total.....	6,849	43,295	43,018	7,126