

All female convicts, numbering 27 on Mar. 31, 1925, 34 on Mar. 31, 1926, 39 on Mar. 31, 1927, are kept in the penitentiary at Portsmouth, a suburb of Kingston, where a special wing and staff are maintained for their use and supervision. A new building to be used for this purpose is under construction.

Tables 36 to 38 give the more important penitentiary statistics as reported by the Superintendent. An increase of 7 is shown in the number of those in custody on March 31, 1927, as compared with the same date in the previous year, but there is a reduction of 6 as compared with 1923. The number of paroles as shown in Table 36 indicates a continued decrease from 634 in 1923 to 300 in 1926, though it rose to 377 in 1927. Table 37, 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 last five years, the convicts under 30 declined from 1,613 to 1,317 or by 296, while the total number in custody declined by only 160, so that convicts over 30 showed a slight increase. Detailed statistics of nationality, religion, conjugal state and racial origin are presented in Table 38.

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 1926 was:—in penitentiaries, 42 p.c.; in reformatories for boys, 311 p.c.; in reformatories for girls, 99 p.c.; in gaols, no less than 1,566 p.c. Thus the average time spent in gaol is rather less than one month.

35.—Population of Penal Institutions, 1924-1926.

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.
1924.				
Penitentiaries.....	2,486	870	1,131	2,225
Reformatories for boys.....	1,637	4,856	4,618	1,925
Reformatories for girls.....	383	391	387	387
Gaols.....	2,293	37,178	36,882	2,589
Totals.....	6,849	43,295	43,018	7,126
1925.				
Penitentiaries.....	2,225	968	848	2,345
Reformatories for boys.....	2,187	7,511	7,505	2,193
Reformatories for girls.....	387	512	496	403
Gaols.....	2,327	39,761	39,436	2,602
Totals.....	7,126	48,752	48,335	7,543
1926.				
Penitentiaries.....	2,345	1,132	1,003	2,474
Reformatories for boys.....	2,193	6,826	6,829	2,190
Reformatories for girls.....	403	439	411	431
Gaols.....	2,602	40,416	40,679	2,439
Totals.....	7,543	48,913	48,922	7,534