

# The Vermont State Prison

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To the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

I herewith submit the report of the State Prison and the House of Correction for the biennial term ending June 30, 1922. You will note by the statistical report herein that there has been a considerable increase in the daily average of men during the past two years as compared with those of 1916 and 1920, and there has been much speculation, on the part of some, as the reason for this increase, many claiming it is due to the present Prohibition Law, but statistics here do not prove this to be true, as the records show less than fifteen per cent of the commitments attributable to the liquor business in any way, while about fifty per cent are for stealing in some form. These conditions have been brought about, no doubt, by the unsettled industrial conditions that have prevailed since the War, and whether this wave of lawlessness has reached its height or not, is yet a question.

At the close of the year of 1920 our working contract with the Reliance Shirt Co., expired, and after careful consideration it seemed best to make a change in the occupation of the men, the purpose being, to take up some line of work that would be more of a man's job and, if possible, give them a chance to learn a trade which would be of use to them when they were discharged from the Institution. With this thought in mind, and with the approval of the Director of Institutions and the Board of Control, a contract was made with the Ascutney Shoe Co., for the manufacture of work shoes. To make this change from shirt-making to shoe-making it was necessary to make many changes in the shop, thus for about five months, while these changes were being made and the shoe machinery being installed, the men were unable to earn anything for the State. They were kept in their cells much of the time, except a few at a time who were helping with the repairs or the installation of the new machinery, those who were without work were given exercise in the yard twice each day when weather permitted.

On June 1st, 1921, the Shoe Industry was well started with ninety-six men, and this number has been gradually increased until, at the present time, there is an average of one hundred ninety men employed, and while this number

crowds the shops to capacity, the work is proving very satisfactory, and a number of the men have gone out from here at the expiration of their sentence to take good positions in shoeshops elsewhere.

During June and July of 1921, the women prisoners were transferred to Rutland, thus relieving a situation which has been a source of much concern for many years, owing to the inadequate quarters for the care of the large number of women inmates.

The rooms formerly used for the women have been thoroughly renovated, and fitted as sleeping quarters for the officers, and the rooms that were used for the women as a dining room and laundry, have been repaired, hard wood floors laid, walls painted, and when completed made a large light airy dining room for the officers. There were also new floors put in the kitchen and cook room, which now give more convenient quarters for those who look after the feeding of the official force.

It has also been necessary to make some repairs in the inmate's kitchen and dining room, a new hard wood floor being laid in the kitchen, the walls and ceilings painted in both the kitchen and dining room, making both rooms more light and sanitary.

At the beginning of this beinnial term work of enlarging and remodelling the engine room, coal pockets and refrigerating plant was in progress. This work has now been completed, a new Generator and Switch-board having been installed, and the two generators that were in the death house being moved to the engine room, which now gives sufficient power and lights, not only for the buildings here at the Institution, but also will furnish light and power for the State Farm two and one-half miles away.

In the refrigerating plant a large freezing room was added, giving room to take care of a larger quantity of meat, thus enabling the Purchasing Agent to buy meats in sufficient quantity when the market is right to get the best prices.

Complying with the Legislative Act of 1919, an addition, ninety feet long was built adjoining the East wing of the Prison and this was constructed for a woman's dormitory, this addition being completed late in the Fall of 1920. Number 216 of the Public Acts of the Legislature of 1921 established a State's Prison and House of Correction for Women at Rutland, and the transfer of the women inmates to that institution. By reason of this transfer only a portion of the annex was completed. A room 30 x 40 was finished as a recreation room, and one of the same size for a school room and library.

During the past year the number of inmates exceeded the number of cells in the main prison, and after due consideration it was decided to use the entire annex as an open dormitory for men, and one hundred men have been thus accommodated.

Mention should be made of many improvements which have been made about the Institution, such as the remodeling of the Hospital, by the putting in of hard wood floors, larger windows, and a better ventilating system, also an up-to-date operating room, thereby making it possible to give the sick or injured the best of care.

Outside the walls many changes have been made, with some additions which have added much to the value of the State Property. A greenhouse one hundred feet long has been built at a small cost to the State under the care of a competent florist and gardner. This has proven an asset. Also an additional root cellar has been constructed to care for the large quantity of winter vegetables raised. The horse barn at the west of the Prison has been remodeled and made into a garage and storehouse. The old hen house near the barn has been torn down and much of the lumber taken to the Farm for building new poultry houses. The old sheds and ice house at the east of the Prison have been removed and a new ice house erected near the garage.

New concrete walks and curbing have been laid the entire front of the State Property, with all necessary cross walks. This, with the putting in of a new lawn, has added greatly to the appearance of the grounds. The work was all done by the inmates under the supervision of a competent cement worker.

Our garden has been enlarged, and twenty acres of ground has been cultivated for the raising of vegetables for the Institution.

At the State Farm much work has been done toward improving the property. New sheds have been built around the horse barn for the storage of farm machinery and tools. Care is being taken to improve the herd of cows and young stock, and at this time we have thirty head of pure bred Holsteins, and it is our purpose to continue to improve the herd until all are pure bred and registered. Equal care is being given the swine, and we now have a number of O. I. C. and Berkshire pure bred animals which are being reared for breeding purposes.

It is expected that the Electric line to the Farm may be completed this year which will eliminate the danger from fire in and about the barns, and will also furnish power when needed.

There are ten of the inmates that stay at the Farm all the time, and others are sent there from the Prison each day when there is work for them to do.

I would at this time call attention to the work at the Road Camp in Sherburne and Bridgewater, where an average of forty-five men have worked the past two seasons, and much credit is due the foreman, as well as the large number of different men who have worked there, for the amount that has been accomplished in the building of State roads. With very few exceptions every man has made good, or has tried to do the best he knew how. There has been a small number of men who have not appreciated the opportunity to earn money, or the confidence placed in them, and have made their escape from camp, but in nearly every case they have been apprehended and returned to Prison to serve their maximum sentence, but the road work as a whole has proven a success, and with the larger number of men committed here the past two years, had it not been for this work it would have been very difficult to find employment for them. These men are given one third of their earnings, and this money in many cases is sent to their families where it is much needed.

The health of the Inmates has been, on the whole, remarkably good, very little serious illness, and no deaths during the period.

School for the illiterates has been maintained by the Chaplain, with good results, but as stated elsewhere in this report, this work has had to be temporarily given up because of the crowded conditions, and the fact that the only room we have for this work had to be given over for sleeping quarters, but it is hoped that this condition may be overcome in some way, so that the school work may be resumed.

We have had many visitors the past two years, some coming from mere curiosity, others with a genuine interest to see what we are trying to do for those so unfortunate as to be sent here. Many cooperate with the administration in trying to do the things that are helpful. We receive from them many books and magazines for the library and many times they seek to find employment for the men when they are released. To all these people we feel deeply grateful, and I am very sure their thoughtfulness is appreciated by a large percent of the men.

Since January 1st, 1921, every man committed has had his finger prints taken, and this work has proven of great value many times in giving us a man's previous history, thus enabling us to better understand how to handle each individual case. It has also proven of value in locating men wanted elsewhere for crimes committed before coming to this Institution.

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There is a thorough physical examination given by the Prison physician to every man when he is committed to the Institution, and if he is found to be in need of medical care, this is given him and a record of his case kept on file.

An up-to-date system of taking and filing of the records of all the inmates has been inaugurated so that all records are now kept together, and can be found easily if wanted for reference at any time.

During the summer months the inmates are given Saturday afternoons in the yard for recreation, when base ball and other games are enjoyed. For the winter months moving pictures are given each Saturday afternoon, the State having bought a Simplex Picture machine and had same installed in the Chapel, within a sheet iron fire proof booth, this work having been done by the inmates under the direction of the engineer.

The inmates are also given one hour at noon time, one half of which is spent in the yard where they have an opportunity to smoke, play ball, or visit, as they choose.

To Governor James Hartness, Hon. John E. Weeks, Director of State Institutions, and the Board of Control, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation, for the kindness and consideration shown me, and I also desire to thank the officers and all employed at the Institutions for their interest and co-operation in the work.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. WALKER,  
Superintendent.

### REPORT OF THE CHAPLAIN

To the Superintendent of the Vermont State Prison:

The Prison has ceased to be a place of punishment where cruelty is administered for correction, but rather it is thought of as a service station for the reconstruction of broken and defective lives.

Realizing the responsibility resting upon the Chaplain in performing his part of this service it was not without some timidity that he took upon himself the duties of his office. But feeling the close co-operation of the Superintendent, warden and other officials, together with a sense of a definite call to the work he accepted the challenge of the task before him, confident that some good would be accomplished.

The aim of the Chaplain has been to correct the thinking of the boys that they may come into a fuller appreciation of the real values in life, and gain a clearer conception of their relationship to life.

The method has been teaching, preaching and personal conversation. The Chaplain ventured to organize a class in religious instruction, and it has been very gratifying to see such interest and appreciation on the part of the boys in the discussion of religious themes. They seem eager for such knowledge. Many of them have expressed their regret at having to close for lack of room, and have asked when we might resume the study.

It has also been a great pleasure and satisfaction to assist the boys who could not read or write to gain some little mastery in this respect. As the Chaplain was passing down the corridor a young man called and said, as he held up a book in his hand, "Chaplain, I can read that book thru, now." "Could you read at all when you came in?" "Not a word." Another young fellow who could not speak scarcely a word of English came into the school, and with the help of a few of the boys who could speak both French and English we had him reading in a marvelously short time. How appreciative such boys are, and how good it makes one feel to be able to help them. These young fellows are going to do their own thinking when they get out into the world of life and activity again, and it is going to be a new world to them. The boys are very interested in the books of the Prison library, which contains about fifteen hundred volumes. This is supplemented each year with from fifty to seventy-five new volumes selected by the Chaplain. We also subscribe for a few of the best magazines for distribution among the boys, which are greatly appreciated.

In the preaching service we try not to condemn the evil merely, but to appreciate the good in the men and to bring them to a consciousness of the latent powers within, and encourage them to develop their highest spiritual powers.

But it is in the cell that we come closest to the real inner life of the boys. Here we have the opportunity of seeing thru the superficial outside, and we get a look at the heart. And sometimes we get the boys to see their own inner life and its possibilities. And we trust that the seed thoughts we have been trying to sow in their minds, at Chapel, in class and in the cell will bear fruit in their lives, and will assist in making them good and loyal citizens of our Republic.

The girls were here but a short time after the Chaplain came, but he holds a few letters in which the girls thank him

for pointing out the way to Christ, whom they have accepted as their saviour. And it makes one feel that the work is worth while.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our thankful appreciation of the friendly co-operation of the Superintendent, Warden and other officers, and for the many courtesies shown the Chaplain by them, for it is these things, together with the appreciation on the part of the boys that makes the work a joy, which otherwise might be a wearisome task.

Respectfully submitted,

H. S. PUTNAM,  
Chaplain.

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### PHYSICIAN'S REPORT

To the Superintendent of the Vermont State Prison and House of Correction:

I have the pleasure of submitting to you the following report for the past biennial term:

During the past two years there has been more work at the Institution than at any other time during the past fifteen years that I have been connected with the Institution as prison physician.

This condition has been brought about mainly by two factors, principally by the great increase in the number of prisoners which at the present time is the largest in the history of the Institution, and by the introduction of the system of examination of every prisoner when he comes to the Institution.

The rates of general sicknesses is probably no greater than during the past years with the exception of the year of 1918 during the Influenza Epidemic but there has been great increase of Venereal diseases, which have been discovered by the physical examination and blood tests of prisoners as they came in. These last cases are all put through the most improved form of treatment and are retained at the Institution until tests show that the patient is cured.

At the present time the housing capacity of the Institution is in very crowded condition, and were it not for the very rigid rules in regard to cleanliness and general hygiene, it would be a very hard task to avoid an epidemic, but this situation I am in hopes can be remedied in the near future.

The rigid rules in regard to general hygiene and cleanliness about the Institution and the personal cleanliness of the inmates

has done wonders for them, and an improved personal condition with a healthy body goes a long way toward making a better man.

During the past two years we have had several major operations, in all cases the patients have made good recovery; in fact there has not been any deaths at the Institution since the last biennial report.

Good wholesome entertainments are furnished the inmates from time to time, recreation hours in the yard, these features help greatly to relieve the monotony and increase the general health among the inmates.

When we compare the average inmate's condition at the time he comes in until he is released, we cannot help but feel we have done him a good deal of good, as the personal and physical condition of the average man when he goes out is greatly improved.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you and the officers of the Institution for the many kindnesses and the great assistance you have rendered me in my work as Prison Physician.

Respectfully submitted,

S. H. McKEWEN, M. D.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF VERMONT STATE PRISON  
AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION

July 1, 1920 to July 1, 1922

Receipts

Contract Labor .....	\$30,824 01
Inmate Labor, not Contract .....	19,613 96
Freighting, for Contractor .....	1,270 00
Miscellaneous Sales .....	8,482 50
Visitors Fees .....	388 50
Received for Fines .....	3,741 52
	\$64,320 49
State Treasurer's Checks .....	\$61,027 29
Contracts paid by Treasurer .....	165,955 18
	\$226,982 47
	\$291,302 96

Disbursements

Paid Treasurer .....	\$64,320 49
Inmates Discharges .....	3,708 00
Salaries .....	57,319 29
Subsistence .....	47,423 32
Fuel, Light and Water .....	15,494 74
Clothing .....	10,538 49
Medical Care, Drugs and Tobacco .....	6,869 91
Telephone, Freight and Express .....	20,914 39
Stationery, Postage and Advertising .....	885 42
Beds, Bedding and Furniture .....	8,310 65
Construction, Repairs and Supplies .....	20,298 75
Farm and Garden .....	25,185 92
Miscellaneous Expenses .....	10,033 59
	\$291,302 96

Summary

Contracts paid by Treasurer .....	\$165,955 18
Salaries .....	57,319 29
Inmate Discharges .....	3,708 00
	\$226,982 47
Receipts Paid Treasurer .....	64,320 49
	\$162,661 98
Bills Outstanding .....	1,256 17
	\$163,918 15

Owing to the change of industries at the Institution, January 1, 1921, from shirt-making to shoe-making, there were nearly five months, when there were no earnings, this with the overcrowded conditions that have prevailed here the past year, making a greater part of the time a hundred men or more who could not be worked at productive work, and has made it necessary to keep a larger number of guards, this, taken as a whole, is the reason for the extra per capita cost.

## Special Accounts

Completion of Repairs on Engine House, Boiler Room and Refrigerating Plant .....	\$12,700 44
Building Extension in East Wing .....	28,527 80
Finishing, Heating, Lighting and Equipment for Dormitory to be used as Sleeping Quarters for the Prisoners, Including Fixtures .....	5,395 77

## STATISTICS FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD, 1920-1922

## VERMONT STATE PRISON

## MOVEMENT OF POPULATION

Whole Number of Convicts in Prison July 1, 1920 .....	139
Received from State Courts July 1, 1920 to July 1, 1922 .....	266
Returned for Breach of Parole .....	15
Returned for Escaping .....	8
Received for Safe Keeping .....	3
<b>Total Received .....</b>	<b>431</b>
Pardoned conditionally .....	75
Paroled at Expiration of minimum sentence .....	66
Discharged at expiration of maximum sentence .....	17
Transferred to Waterbury Hospital .....	5
Transferred to Women's Reformatory, Rutland, Vt. ....	16
Escaped .....	11
Transferred to Courts .....	3
Transferred to House of Correction .....	1
<b>Total Released .....</b>	<b>194</b>
Whole number in Prison July, 1922 .....	237
Highest number in Prison during period .....	239
Lowest number in Prison during period .....	144
Daily average during period 1920-1922 .....	180.50

## COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Daily average during period 1918-1920 .....	132.38
Daily average during period 1916-1918 .....	178.08
Daily average during period 1914-1916 .....	229.54
Daily average during period 1912-1914 .....	205.60
Daily average during period 1910-1912 .....	157.77
Daily average during period 1908-1910 .....	175.98
Daily average during period 1906-1908 .....	167

STATISTICS FOR BIENNIAL PERIOD 1920-1922  
VERMONT STATE PRISON

## COMMITMENTS BY COUNTIES

Addison .....	8
Bennington .....	23
Caledonia .....	16
Chittenden .....	46
Essex .....	4
Franklin .....	28
Grand Isle .....	1
Lamoille .....	6
Orange .....	12
Orleans .....	8
Rutland .....	20
Washington .....	32
Windham .....	16
Windsor .....	17
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	237

## RELIGIOUS FAITH

Protestant .....	98
Catholic .....	128
No Preference .....	11
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	237

## HABITS OF LIFE

Temperate .....	158
Intemperate .....	79
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	237

## NATIVITY

Alabama .....	1
California .....	1
Connecticut .....	1
Florida .....	1
Illinois .....	4
Indiana .....	1
Massachusetts .....	31
New Hampshire .....	6

New Jersey .....	1
New York .....	28
North Carolina .....	1
Ohio .....	1
Pennsylvania .....	1
Rhode Island .....	1
South Dakota .....	1
Vermont .....	120
Australia .....	2
Canada .....	12
Cuba .....	2
England .....	2
Germany .....	4
Italy .....	10
Ireland .....	1
Portugal .....	1
Russia .....	1
Sweden .....	1
Wales .....	1
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	237

## EDUCATION

No Schooling .....	38
Little Schooling .....	9
Third to Seventh Grade ....	6
Common Schooling .....	148
1 yr. High School .....	8
2 yrs. High School .....	9
3 yrs. High School .....	2
4 yrs. High School .....	10
High School and B. College	2
College .....	5
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	237

## COLOR

White .....	229
Black .....	8
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	237

PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS

Committed for first time . . . . .	147
Committed twice . . . . .	57
Committed three times . . . . .	16
Committed four times . . . . .	7
Committed five times . . . . .	4
Committed six times . . . . .	2
Committed seven times . . . . .	2
Committed nine times . . . . .	2
	237

AGE WHEN COMMITTED

Under 18 years . . . . .	3
18 to 20 years of age . . . . .	16
20 to 30 years of age . . . . .	107
30 to 40 year of age . . . . .	55
40 to 50 years of age . . . . .	33
50 to 60 years of age . . . . .	20
60 to 70 years of age . . . . .	3
	237

SOCIAL RELATIONS

Married . . . . .	70
Single . . . . .	143
Widowers . . . . .	10
Divorced . . . . .	14
	237

SENTENCE

3 to 12 months . . . . .	1
6 to 9 months . . . . .	1
6 mo. to 3 yrs. . . . .	1
7 mo. to 3 yrs. . . . .	1
8 mo. to 12 mo. . . . .	1
9 mo. to 3 yrs. . . . .	1
9 mo. to 12 mo. . . . .	1
11 mo. to 5 yrs. . . . .	1
1 yr. . . . .	6
1 yr. to 15 mo. . . . .	1
1 yr. to 1½ yrs. . . . .	4
1 yr. to 2 yrs. . . . .	9
1 yr. to 2½ yrs. . . . .	2
1 yr. to 3 yrs. . . . .	5
1 yr. to 3½ yrs. . . . .	1
1 yr. to 4 yrs. . . . .	3
14 mo. to 3 yrs. . . . .	1
15 mo. to 1½ yrs. . . . .	1
15 mo. to 2 yrs. . . . .	1
15 mo. to 6 yrs. . . . .	4
1½ yrs. . . . .	1
1½ yrs. to 2 yrs. . . . .	9
1½ yrs. to 2½ yrs. . . . .	1
1½ yrs. to 3 yrs. . . . .	6
1½ yrs. to 4 yrs. . . . .	1
1½ yrs. to 5 yrs. . . . .	4

2 yrs. . . . .	1
2 yrs. to 2½ yrs. . . . .	3
2 yrs. to 3 yrs. . . . .	26
2 yrs. to 3½ yrs. . . . .	1
2 yrs. to 4 yrs. . . . .	4
2 yrs. to 5 yrs. . . . .	16
2 yrs. to 6 yrs. . . . .	2
2½ yrs. . . . .	1
2½ yrs. to 4 yrs. . . . .	1
2½ yrs. to 4½ yrs. . . . .	1
2½ yrs. to 5 yrs. . . . .	3
2½ yrs. to 6 yrs. . . . .	3
3 yrs. . . . .	1
3 yrs. to 4 yrs. . . . .	5
3 yrs. to 4½ yrs. . . . .	1
3 yrs. to 5 yrs. . . . .	9
3 yrs. to 6 yrs. . . . .	3
3 yrs. to 7 yrs. . . . .	1
3 yrs. to 8 yrs. . . . .	1
3 yrs. to 9 yrs. . . . .	1
3½ yrs. to 4½ yrs. . . . .	1
3½ yrs. to 5 yrs. . . . .	1
3½ yrs. to 5½ yrs. . . . .	2
3½ yrs. to 6 yrs. . . . .	2
3½ yrs. to 8 yrs. . . . .	1
4 yrs. to 5 yrs. . . . .	3
4 yrs. to 5½ yrs. . . . .	1
4 yrs. to 6 yrs. . . . .	1
4 yrs. to 7 yrs. . . . .	3
4 yrs. to 8 yrs. . . . .	3
4½ yrs. to 5 yrs. . . . .	1
5 yrs. to 6 yrs. . . . .	3
5 yrs. to 7 yrs. . . . .	4
5 yrs. to 9 yrs. . . . .	1
5 yrs. to 10 yrs. . . . .	4
6 yrs. to 8 yrs. . . . .	4
6 yrs. to 10 yrs. . . . .	2
6 yrs. to 12 yrs. . . . .	2
6½ yrs. to 9 yrs. . . . .	1
7 yrs. to 8 yrs. . . . .	1
7 yrs. to 9 yrs. . . . .	1
7 yrs. to 10 yrs. . . . .	3
8 yrs. . . . .	1
8 yrs. to 10 yrs. . . . .	1
8 yrs. to 11½ yrs. . . . .	1
8 yrs. to 12 yrs. . . . .	2
8 yrs. to 15 yrs. . . . .	1
8 yrs. to 20 yrs. . . . .	1
9 yrs. to 14 yrs. . . . .	1
10 yrs. to 12 yrs. . . . .	1
10 yrs. to 15 yrs. . . . .	2
12 yrs. to 20 yrs. . . . .	1
14 yrs. to 18 yrs. . . . .	1
15 yrs. to 20 yrs. . . . .	2
17 yrs. to 20 yrs. . . . .	1
18 yrs. to 20 yrs. . . . .	2
18 yrs. to 22 yrs. . . . .	1

SENTENCE		..			
24 yrs. to 30 yrs. ....	1		Burglary and Horse Stealing	2	
30 yrs. to 35 yrs. ....	1		Extortion .....	1	
Indefinite .....	2		Forgery .....	7	
Life .....	17		Grand Larceny .....	26	
			Horse Stealing .....	2	
			Injuring Chattels .....	1	
		237	Kidnapping a person under sixteen years of age ....	1	
CRIMES					
Adultery .....	19		Larceny .....	10	
Arson .....	4		Larceny and Forgery .....	1	
Assault .....	2		Manslaughter .....	8	
Assault with intent to maim	1		Murder .....	17	
Assault with intent to kill and murder .....	6		Obtaining release from debt by false token .....	1	
Assault armed with a danger- ous weapon .....	1		Obtaining money under false pretenses .....	1	
Assault with intent to rob ..	8		Rape .....	15	
Assault with intent to rape	6		Resisting an officer .....	1	
Assault and burglary .....	1		Receiving stolen property ..	3	
Attempt to rape .....	2		Robbery .....	3	
Bigamy .....	2		Statutory Rape .....	4	
Breach of the Peace .....	6		Stealing .....	1	
Breach of Parole .....	15		Transporting and possessing liquor .....	1	
Breaking Jail .....	1		Violation of Blanket Act ..	1	
Burglary .....	55				237
Burglary and Larceny .....	1				