

the Chinese during the year. These watchmen patrol the streets in the Chinese quarter of the City. They are placed on police beats and are supervised by the European police on section patrol.

The total number of persons committed to Victoria Gaol was 4,050 as compared with 6,885 in 1913. Of these 935 were committed for criminal offences, against 1,369 in 1913. Of committals for non-criminal offences there were 538 less under the Prepared Opium Ordinance, and one more for infringement of Sanitary By-laws, than in 1913.

The daily average of prisoners confined in the Gaol was 600, the average for 1913 being 702, and the highest previous average being 726 in 1904. The percentage of prisoners to population, according to the daily average of the former and the estimated number of the latter, was 0.12. The average percentage for the last ten years was 0.13. Owing, however, to the large floating population, which is constantly moving between the Colony and Canton, the percentage of crime to population does not convey an accurate idea of the comparative criminality of the residents of the Colony. The Gaol has accommodation for 630 prisoners.

The prison discipline was satisfactory, the average of punishments per prisoner being 1.34 as compared with 1.22 in 1913 and 1.40 in 1912.

Long sentence prisoners serving two years and upwards are taught useful trades, including printing, book-binding, tin-smithing, mat-making, tailoring, carpentering, etc. The profit on the work done was \$66,034 as against \$59,007 in 1913. A sum of \$3,329 was received and credited to Government for non-Government work against \$4,652 in 1913.

IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(a.)—POPULATION.

The civil population of the Colony, according to the Census taken on May 20th, 1911, was 456,739, of whom 104,287 reside in the New Territories and in New Kowloon; at the Census taken in 1906 it was 301,967 exclusive of the New Territories and of New Kowloon. The estimated total population at the middle of the year under review was 501,304, but this includes the New Territories; and, as the birth and death figures given below do not include those from this area (with the exception of New Kowloon), the population for the purposes of calculating these rates is estimated at 410,710, of whom 20,710 were Non-Chinese (including Army and Navy).

The distribution of population at the Census was as follows:—

Non-Chinese Civil Community,		12,075
Chinese Population.	{ City of Victoria (including Peak), .	219,386
	{ Villages of Hongkong,	16,106
	{ Kowloon (including New Kowloon),	67,602
	{ New Territories,	80,622
	{ Population afloat,	60,948
Total Chinese Population, —————		444,664
Total Civil Population, —————		456,739
		<u> </u>

(b.)—PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

The activity in building operations, which was so noticeable a feature of 1912 and 1913 has only slightly abated, and the demand for housing accommodation by the Chinese continued to be greatly in excess of the supply, as many of those who fled with their families to Hongkong during 1911, 1912 and 1913 elected to remain in the Colony. However in August and September 1914 nearly 60,000 Chinese hastily returned to China, owing to fears of a bombardment of the Colony following the outbreak of the European War. The Chinese quarters which had been in an overcrowded condition throughout the Plague season were thus relieved of their excess but not in time to prevent the severe epidemic of Plague which had been predicted in the report for 1913. The relationship between overcrowding and Plague was discussed at length in the report for 1912.

The general birth-rate for the year was 9·3 per 1,000 among the Chinese community and 16·8 per 1,000 among the Non-Chinese community, as compared with 11·7 and 15·8 during 1913.

The general death-rate for the year was 23·8 per 1,000 among the Chinese community and 12·9 among the Non-Chinese community, as compared with 21·7 and 10·9 during 1913.

The number of deaths from Malaria (241) shows a decrease on the previous year (290). The deaths of Chinese from this cause in the City of Victoria numbered 73 out of a population of 247,500 or a rate of 0·29 per 1,000 per annum. All districts show a reduction in mortality from this cause except the Stanley (rural) district, where a large number of workmen have been employed throughout the year in the construction of the extension to the Tytam Waterworks.

The deaths from Plague numbered 2,020 as compared with 386 in 1913 and 1,768 in 1912.

Small-pox deaths numbered 91, all Chinese, with the exception of one Portuguese infant and one British shipwright.