

Appendix K.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISON FOR THE YEAR 1914.

1. The number of prisoners received into prison during the year and the corresponding number for the year 1913 were as follows :—

	1914.	1913.
Convicted by Ordinary Courts, - - -	3,034	5,792
" " Courts Martial, - - -	3	1
Supreme Court for China and Corea, -	3	6
High Court, Weihaiwei, - - -	—	—
Debtors, - - - - -	61	52
On remand or in default of finding surety, - - - - -	949	1,034
Total, - - -	<u>4,050</u>	<u>6,885</u>

There was a decrease of 2,835 on the total number of admissions as compared with the year 1913. There was a decrease of prisoners convicted for Larceny during the year under review, the number being 595 against 726 for the previous year.

2. The number of prisoners admitted to prison for offences not of a criminal nature was 1,991 made up as follows :—

Convicted by Courts Martial, - - -	3
Debtors, - - - - -	61
Convicted under the Opium Ordinance, - -	135
" " " Divan " - -	139
" " Gambling " - -	349
" " Market " - -	51
" " Arms " - -	45
" " Vehicle " - -	30
" " Police " - -	5
" " Sanitary By-laws, - -	14
" " Harbour Regulations, - -	316
" " Post Office Ordinance, -	6
" " Prison " - -	—
" " Stowaway " - -	23
" " Servants' Quarters Ordinance, -	5
" " Marine Hawkers " -	4
" " Dangerous Goods " -	13
" " Pharmacy Ordinance, -	5
" " Chinese Wine and Spirit Ordinance, - - -	2
" " Eating House Ordinance, -	1
" " Education Ordinance, - -	2
" " Lodging House Ordinance, -	2

Carried forward, - - 1,211

	<i>Brought forward,-</i>	-	-	1,211
Convicted for	Adultery, - - - -	-	-	4
"	" Discharging fireworks, - - - -	-	-	2
"	" Wasting water, - - - -	-	-	1
"	" Hawking without a licence, - - - -	-	-	226
"	" Cruelty to animals, - - - -	-	-	1
"	" Keeping house for prostitution - - - -	-	-	11
"	" Impersonation, - - - -	-	-	2
"	" Removing Sand, Stone and Earth without permission, - - - -	-	-	2
"	" Depositing rubbish in the public Street, - - - -	-	-	8
"	" Illegal pawning, - - - -	-	-	8
"	" Perjury, - - - -	-	-	2
"	" Travelling on river-steamer, with- out paying legal fare, - - - -	-	-	5
"	" Drunkenness, - - - -	-	-	6
"	" Trespassing, - - - -	-	-	37
"	" Disorderly conduct, - - - -	-	-	52
"	" Vagrancy, - - - -	-	-	13
"	" Naval offence, - - - -	-	-	9
"	" Assault, - - - -	-	-	79
"	" Obstruction, - - - -	-	-	55
"	" Cutting trees, - - - -	-	-	25
"	" Fighting, - - - -	-	-	21
"	" Mendicancy, - - - -	-	-	19
"	" Malicious Damage, - - - -	-	-	14
"	" Applying false trade marks, - - - -	-	-	2
"	" Soliciting person for immoral pur- poses, - - - -	-	-	1
"	" Demanding more than legal vehicle fare, - - - -	-	-	2
"	" Attempting to commit suicide, - - - -	-	-	1
"	" Throwing goods into water to pre- vent seizure, - - - -	-	-	2
"	" Triad Society, - - - -	-	-	2
"	" Unnatural offence, - - - -	-	-	3
"	" Unlawfully printing and publish- ing lottery tickets, - - - -	-	-	30
"	" Removing dead body without per- mit, - - - -	-	-	1
"	" Unlawful possession of lottery tickets, - - - -	-	-	121
"	" Catching fish by explosives, - - - -	-	-	4
"	" Offering bribe, - - - -	-	-	1
"	" Failing to return to House of De- tention, - - - -	-	-	1
"	" Leaving the service without giving due notice,- - - -	-	-	3
"	" Carrying pigwash without covers, - - - -	-	-	4
Total, - - -				<u>1,991</u>

3. The above figures show that 65 per cent. of the total admissions to prison were for non-criminal offences. The percentage in 1913 was 77.

The following table shows the number of prisoners committed to prison without the option of fine and in default of payment of fine :—

Year.	Without option of fine.	In default of payment of fine.			Total.
		Served the imprisonment.	Paid full fine.	Paid part fine.	
1913	1,212	2,867	624	1,096	5,799
1914	1,415	1,086	277	262	3,040

4. There were 60 juveniles admitted into prison 28 of whom were sentenced to be whipped in addition to various terms of imprisonment varying from 24 hours detention to 6 months and 42 days imprisonment with hard labour.

5. The percentage of convicted prisoners admitted to prison with previous convictions recorded against them was 11·7 as compared with 13·1 for 1913.

6. There were 113 prisoners admitted who were convicted by the Police Court in the New Territories against 154 for the previous year (136 in 1912).

7. The following table shows the number of convicts in custody on the 31st December for the past ten years, and the percentage of the total number of prisoners in custody to the estimated population of Hongkong :—

Year.	Estimated population.	No. of convicts.	Percentage of population.	Daily average number of prisoners.	Percentage to population.
1905	462,861	216	·046	697	·150
1906	414,049	156	·037	518	·125
1907	414,415	146	·035	502	·121
1908	420,741	130	·038	465	·110
1909	428,858	180	·042	560	·130
1910	435,986	208	·048	547	·125
1911	464,277	241	·052	595	·128
1912	467,777	222	·047	701	·149
1913	489,114	253	·052	702	·144
1914	501,304	216	·044	600	·120

8. There were 804 punishments awarded for breach of prison discipline, being an average of 1·34 per prisoner as compared with 853 with an average of 1·22 for the preceding year. There was no case in which corporal punishment was inflicted for a prison offence during the year.

9. 72 prisoners were whipped by the order of the Courts.

10. There was no escape or attempt to escape.

11. There were 7 deaths (5 from natural causes, 1 execution, 1 suicide).

12. Constant attention is given to the instruction of long-sentence prisoners of good conduct, who are employed at industrial labour.

13. 7,801,548 forms were printed and issued to the various Government Departments and 46,908 books bound and repaired.

14. The buildings are in good repair.

15. The conduct of the European Officers generally has been excellent and that of the Indian Staff satisfactory.

16. The appliances for use in case of fire are in good condition, and the water supply adequate.

17. The rules laid down for the government of the prison have been complied with.

18. I append the usual returns.

C. MCL. MESSER,
Superintendent.

2nd March, 1915.

Table I.

Return showing the Expenditure and Income for the year 1914.

EXPENDITURE.	Amount.		INCOME.	Amount.	
	\$	c.		\$	c.
Pay and Allowance of Officers including Uniform, &c.,	76,314	00	Earning of Prisoners,	66,034	07
Vietnalling of Prisoners,	15,574	03	Debtors' Subsistence,	, 549	25
Fuel, Light, Soap and Dry Earth,	9,060	10	Wei-hai-wei Prisoners' Subsistence,	109	50
Clothing of Prisoners, Bedding and Furniture, ...	7,195	11	Canton Prisoners' Subsistence,	14	70
			Shanghai do.,	553	80
			Tientsin do.,	55	50
			Naval do.,	118	20
			Military do.,	7	20
			Subsistence of Prisoners sentenced by Marine Magistrate,	3,058	80
			Waste Food sold,	95	70
			Sale of Condemned Store,	...	50
			Paid out of Colonial Revenue for Prisoners' Maintenance,	37,546	02
Total,	\$108,143	24	Total,	\$108,143	24
1913,	\$106,275	20			

Average annual cost per prisoner \$62.58—in 1913 \$64.07 and in 1912 \$50.25.

Table II.

Return showing Expenditure and Income for the past 10 years.

Year.	Expenditure.	Income.	Actual cost of prisoners' maintenance.	Average cost per prisoner.
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
1905	110,687.83	39,444.50	71,243.33	102.21
1906	96,202.08	39,613.26	56,588.82	109.24
1907	89,711.39	40,079.90	49,631.49	98.86
1908	95,537.85	48,066.33	47,471.52	102.09
1909	93,926.80	46,421.13	51,505.67	91.97
1910	96,802.19	52,104.75	44,197.44	80.80
1911	93,458.23	53,889.26	39,568.97	66.50
1912	97,577.82	62,348.80	35,229.02	50.25
1913	106,275.20	61,298.50	44,976.70	64.07
1914	108,143.24	70,597.22	37,546.02	62.58

Table III.

Return showing value of Industrial Labour for the year 1914.

Nature of Industry.	1. Value of Stock on hand January 1st 1914.	2. Value of Materials Purchased.	3. Total Dr.	4. Value of Articles Manufactur- ed or work done for Payment.	5. Value of Articles Manufactur- ed or work done for Goal or other Department.	6. Value of Stock on hand December 31st 1914.	7. Total Cr.	8. Value of Earnings (Difference between Columns 3 & 7.)
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Oakum,	263.20	...	263.20	712.40	...	142.00	854.40	591.20
Coir,	240.00	1,494.68	1,734.68	1,174.38	337.70	582.12	2,094.20	359.52
Net-making,	...	61.25	61.25	175.53	...	.80	176.33	115.08
Tailoring,	139.50	2,183.20	2,322.70	132.81	3,455.95	31.32	3,620.08	1,297.38
Raffan,	13.80	7.50	21.30	22.44	6.70	1.40	30.54	9.24
Tin-smithing,	34.25	360.80	395.05	35.89	671.97	5.90	713.76	318.71
Carpentering,	7.69	341.30	348.99	212.10	932.99	.90	1,145.99	797.00
Grass-matting,	1.20	38.40	39.60	8.67	23.70	11.40	43.77	4.17
Shoe-making,	62.82	2,173.82	2,236.64	595.78	2,086.27	1.19	2,623.24	386.60
Laundry,	3.20	1,739.20	1,742.40	...	8,136.08	...	8,136.08	6,393.68
Printing and Bookbinding,	18,178.43	19,121.02	37,299.45	169.82	78,142.45	14,714.37	93,026.64	55,727.19
Photography,	...	127.00	127.00	24.49	136.81	...	161.30	34.30
Total,	\$ 18,944.09	\$ 27,648.17	\$ 46,592.26	\$ 3,204.31	\$ 93,930.62	\$ 15,491.40	\$ 112,626.33	\$ 66,034.07

Paid into Bank during 1914 which sum includes \$89.62 for work executed in 1913, \$3,329.45.

Value of work executed during 1914 for which payment was deferred to 1915, \$59.88.