Appendix L.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISONS FOR THE YEAR 1924.

1. The number of prisoners received into prison during the year and the corresponding number for year 1923 were as follows:—

1923. Convicted by Ordinary Courts	1 59
5,338	7,382

There was an increase of 2,044 on the total number of admissions as compared with the year 1923. There was an increase of prisoners convicted for larceny during the year under review, the number being 1.345 against 1,060 for the previous year.

2. The number of Revenue Grade prisoners admitted to prisons was 4,695 made up as follows:--

Convicted under the	Opium Ordinance	2,457
**	Gambling Ordinance	147
"	Arms and Ammunition	
,,	Ordinance	131
	Vehicles Ordinance	47
**	Harbour Regulations	46
"	Water Works	16
**		
"	Marine Hawkers Ordinance	44
**	Dangerous Goods Ordinance	28
**	Chinese Wine and Spirit	
	Ordinance	17
,,	Societies Ordinance	27
	Public Health and Buildings	
**	Ordinance	19
	Truck Ordinance	12
**		14
"	Women and Girls (Protec-	
	tion) Ordinance	9
22	Importation and Exporta-	
	tion Ordinance	12
**	Pharmacy and Poisons Ord.	3
	Tobacco Ordinance	52
**	Police Regulations	11
77	Tonce Regulations	11
0 11	c 7	2.079
Carriea	forward	3,078

	Br	oüğh	t för	ward			•••	•••	3,078
Convicted of	removing d	ead	body	with	out	perm	issio	n	11
>>	committin	g nu	isanc	e in	the s	strée	t		13
"	unlawfully	boa	rding	g ste	amei	·s			16
77	hawking v							•••	498
22	cruelty to	anin	als			•••			9
**	keeping he	ouses	for	pros	tituti	ion	•••		. 21
22	illegal paw	ning	ž.	• • • •					7
33	drunkenne					•••	•	••	13
>>	trespass .					• • •			57
33	disorderly								31
22	assault					• • •			74
33	obstruction								25
22	cutting tre	es		• • •					81
27	removing s	and	with	out r	erm	issio	1		13
>>	mendicane							•••	33
>>	unlawful p	osse:	ssion	of lo	otter	y tie.	kets		38
33	anlawful p								328
3.9									153
>>	possession	of in	npler	nent	fit f	or w	ilawi	ful	
**	purpose								24
,,	offering br	ibe							32
,,	obtaining !								64
,,	soliciting in	ĭар	ublic	thor	ongl	ifare	for t	he	
	purpose								11
22	unlawful r								53
13	travelling	on 1	tram	car	wit	hout	pavi	ng	
••	legal fa					•••		•••	12
	Te	tal					•••	•••	4,695

3. The above, figures show that 74 per cent of the total admissions to prison were Revenue Grade prisoners.

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

		In defau	lt of paymer	at of fine.	
Year.	Without option of fine.	Served the imprison-ment.	Paid full fine.	Paid part fine.	Total.
1923	926	2,895	927	159	4,277
1924	1,644	4,135	285	. 275	6,339

- 4. One hundred and one (101) juveniles were admitted during the year, with sentences varying from 24 hours detention to 12 months hard labour. In 12 cases corporal punishment was awarded in addition.
- 5. The percentage of convicted prisoners admitted to prison with previous convictions recorded against them was 17 as compared with 14.5 for 1923.
- 6. There were 147 prisoners admitted who were convicted by the Police Courts in the New Territories against 99 for the previous year.
- 7. The following table shows the number of convictions in custody on the 31st December for the past 10 years, and the percentage of the total number of prisoners in custody to the estimated population of Hongkong:—

Year.	Estimated population.	Number of convicts.	Percentage of population.	Daily average number of prisoners.	Precentage to population.
1915	516,870	213	.041	594	•115
1916	528,010	203	.038	638	121
1917	535,100	209	.038	600	112
1918	558,000	224	.040	601	.108
1919	598,100	259	.043	756	126
1920	648,150	275	.043	755	·117
1921	665,350	231	.035	764	115
1922	662,200	259	.039	787	119
1923	681,800	294	.043	861	126
1924	799,550	345	.043	1,066	133

- 8. There were 463 punishments awarded for breach of prison discipline as compared with 432 for the preceding year. Corporal punishment was inflicted in twelve cases for prison offences.
- 9. Ninety four (94) prisoners were whipped by order of Courts.
 - 10. There was no escape, but one attempt to escape.
 - 11. There were 6 deaths (5 natural causes and 1 execution).
- 12. 11,673,172 forms were printed and issued to various Government Departments and 69,543 books bound or repaired, as compared with 9,440,324 forms and 70,809 books in 1923.

- 13. The buildings are in good repair.
- 14. The conduct of both European and Indian Staff with few exceptions was very good.
- 15. The appliances for use in case of fire are in good condition and the water supply adequate.
- 16. One new hall was taken into use at L.C.K. to accommodate juvenile offenders, in November.
- 17. The rules laid down for the Government of prisons have been complied with.
 - 18. I append the usual returns.

H. BLOXHAM, Superintendent of Prisons.

5th June, 1925.

Table I.

Return showing the Expenditure and Income for the year 1924.

· ·	121,664.03 219.00 138.00 258,137.11	\$375,158.14	
INCOME.	Earning of prisoners Debtors' subsistence Naval To Balance	Total	
.° ♣	235,087.37 76,964.53 31,163.71 31,942.53	\$375,158.14	\$324,698.2 6
EXPENDITURE,	Pay and allowance of officers including Uniform, etc. Victualling of prisoners Fuel, light, soap, and dry earth Clothing of prisoners, bedding, and furniture	Total	1923

Average annual cost per prisoner \$237.56, in 1923 \$240.88, and in 1922 \$209.72.

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.
1915	109,369.95	65,544.33	43,825.62	73.78
1916	11 2,615. 70	70,019.18	42,596.52	66.77
1917	108,212.42	68,815.01	39,397.42	6 5.66
1918	108,6 51.95	70,747.97	37,903.98	63,07
1919	135,550.16	69,277.07	66,273.09	87.66
1920	258,609.17	66,547.61	192,061.56	254.37
1921	297,970.56	79,635.73	218,334.83	286.78
1922	291,175.12	126,124.62	165,050.50	209.72
1923	324,698.26	117,302.22	207,396.04	240.88
1924	375,158.14	121,664.03	253,137.11	237.56

Table III.

Return showing value of Industrial Labour for the year 1924.

		,0	· ·		10	9	1	
-	4	1	5	н	•	>	-	0
Nature of Industry.	Value of stock on hand hand January 1st 1924.	Value of materials purchased.	Total Dr.	Value of articles manufactured or work done for payment.	Value of articles manufactur- ed or work done for Gaul or other Departments.	Value of stock on hand December 31st, 1924.	Total Cr.	Value of earnings. (Difference between columns 3 and 7.)
	: 		- -	\ \display	. c	.c.	-36 -36	-9 -9
Oakum,	83.79	:	83.79	560.00	:	83.79	643.79	960.00
Coir,	3,924.35	4,308.49	8,232.84	3, 152.32	4.156.73	3,628.25	11.237.30	3.004.46
Net-making,	20.08	135.06	155.14	310.56	16.97	9.30	336.83	181.69
Tailoring,	911.95	14,116.53	15,028.48	66.05	13,407.56	3,509.64	16,983.25	1,954.77
Rattan,	0F.1	1,412.60	1,414.00	4.25	1,534.20	16.75	1,555.20	141.20
Tin-smithing,	49.80	1,294.46	1,344,26	34.05	2,543.50	130.00	2,707.55	1,363.29
Carpentering,	561.40	2,100.90	2,662.30	1,001.35	18.616.1	533.35	3,454.54	7.92.24
Grass-matting,	.36	132.80	133.16	:	246.00	1.04	247.04	113.88
Shoe-making,	2,244.75	5,761.08	8,005.83	86.80	6,885.73	1,912.01	8,884.57	878.74
Laundry.	12.25	2,588.24	2,600.49	:	13,278.30	20.12	13,298.42	10,697.93
Printing and Bookbinding,	59,368,97	94,184.03	153,548.00	347.85	181,020.30	73,821.25	255,189.40	101,641.40
Photography,	18.15	814.00	832.75	50.12	1,111.76	5.30	1,167.18	884,43
Total,	67,192.85	126,848.19	194,041.04	5,913,35	5,913.35 226,120.89	88,670.88	83,670.83 315,705.07 121,664.03	121,664.03

Paid into Bank during 1924, which sum includes \$337.73 for work executed in 1923, \$44.27. Value of work executed during 1924 for which payment was deferred to 1925, \$482,90.