

Chapter XIII.

JUSTICE AND POLICE.

I. THE COURTS OF HONG KONG.

The Supreme Court of Hong Kong consists of a Chief Justice and one or more other judges. At present there is one other judge.

2. The jurisdiction of the Court is regulated by a number of Ordinances but generally it may be said that the Court exercises a Summary Jurisdiction in all actions where the claim does not exceed \$1,000 and an Original Jurisdiction in all actions where the claim exceeds that amount.

3. In addition to the above the Court exercises Admiralty, Probate, Divorce, Bankruptcy, Lunacy, Criminal and Appellate Jurisdiction.

4. The following is a brief summary of litigation and matters dealt with during the year 1934:—

2,781 actions were instituted in the Summary Jurisdiction and the amounts for which judgment was given totalled \$477,428.

417 actions were instituted in the Original Jurisdiction and the amounts for which judgment was given totalled \$2,772,364.

11 actions were instituted in the Admiralty Jurisdiction.

442 grants were made or grants of other courts sealed in the Probate Jurisdiction.

135 persons were indicted in the Criminal Jurisdiction of whom 98 were convicted.

10 appeals were lodged in the Appellate Jurisdiction 8 of which were disposed of during the year.

5. The lower civil courts are the land courts in the Northern and Southern districts of the New Territories, with jurisdiction over land cases in those districts, and the small debts courts of the same two districts. In these courts the District Officers sit to hear land and small debts cases.

6. The lower criminal courts are the magistrates' courts, two for Hong Kong island and a small area on the mainland opposite Shaukiwan, two for Kowloon, including the whole area south of the Kowloon hills, and one each for the two districts of the New Territories, in which the District Officers are the magistrates.

7. The following figures show the amount of work done by the lower courts in 1934:—

Civil:—

District Officer North,	
Land Court	76 cases.
Small Debts Court	205 „
District Officer, South,	
Land Court	186 cases.
Small Debts Court	62 „

Criminal:—

Hong Kong Magistracy, two courts	32,597 cases.
Kowloon Magistracy, two courts	21,220 „
District Officer, North, one court	1,451 „
District Officer, South, one court	521 „

II. THE POLICE.

8. The Police Force of the Colony is under the control of the Inspector General of Police who is assisted by one Deputy Inspector General and twelve Superintendents. The force consists of four Contingents, European, Indian, and two Chinese, viz., Cantonese and Weihaiwei. The strength of the different Contingents is as follows:—

Europeans	256
Indians	741
Chinese (Cantonese)	655
Chinese (Weihaiwei)	295

In addition the Police Department controls the Anti-Piracy Guards, a force consisting of thirty-five Russians and twenty-seven Indian Guards including three Sergeants together with four European Sergeants and ninety-six Wei-hai-wei Chinese Constables, who are included in Police Strength. The Anti-Piracy Guards are employed and paid for by the Shipping Companies for service in the China Seas.

9. Further, the department supervises 1,146 Indian and Chinese Watchmen who are engaged by the Police Department and paid by private individuals for protection of private property.

10. The waters of the Colony are policed by a fleet of ten steam launches and four motor boats which employ a staff of two hundred and forty-five Chinese under European officers.