

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

## STATISTICAL RETURN FOR THE PRISONS OF HONGKONG FOR 1876.

Name and Nature of the Prisons. (Whether "Common Gaol," "Penitentiary," &c.) Mere "Lock-ups" not to be inserted.	Total Number of Prisoners committed in 1876.	Number committed for Debt, Want of Bail, and Punishment.			Number of those Committed who have been previously Convicted.			Number of Persons Committed to Penal Imprisonment,* including "Penal Servitude," (if that term is used in the Colony to describe any Punishment.)				The Daily Average Number in Prison.	The Daily Average Number on the Sick List.	The Number of Admissions to Hospital during the Year 1876.	The Number of Deaths during 1876.	
		For Debt.	For safe Custody till Trial, or for Want of Security.	For Purposes of Penal Imprisonment.*	Once.	Twice.	Thrice or more.	For Five Years or more.	For One Year or more, but less than Five Years.	For more than 3 Months, and less than One Year.	For 3 Months or less.					
"Victoria Gaol,"—Common Gaol, House of Correction, also receives Prisoners sentenced to Penal Servitude, &c.	4,065	26	700	3,339	176	81	72	20	117	254	2,008	432.60	14.11	215	1	
Total,.....	4,065	26	700	3,339	176	81	72	20	117	254	2,008	432.60	14.11	215	1	
Here fill up the columns in respect of the whole Colony.																
Men,.....	3,724	24	614	3,080	155	73	68	20	107	244	2,715	400.201	14.11	215	1	
Women, ..	223	2	69	152	...	...	...	...	10	10	192	19.431			...	...
Juveniles,	118	...	17	101	21	8	4	...	...	...	101	3.00			...	...

\* By "Penal Imprisonment" is meant Imprisonment inflicted as a substantive Punishment in pursuance of a sentence of a Court of Justice, as distinguished from Imprisonment for safe custody, &c.

THESE QUESTIONS ARE TO BE FILLED UP IN RESPECT OF EACH PRISON IN THE COLONY.

Questions.

Answers.

I. If the prison is on the separate system, is the separation complete? And if not, what is the separation enforced by day and night respectively?

The Prison is not on the separate system, but the majority of the European prisoners, and a few of the Chinese are in separate cells at night.

II. If not on the separate system, what provision is there for the supervision of the prisoners while in association?

The Chinese and Indian prisoners are in association both day and night.

III. How many cells are there; and how many associated wards?

All the cells of the Prison have iron gates, through which the prisoners can be seen at night. While at labour or at exercise, the prisoners are constantly under the supervision of the Prison Officers.

IV. Taking the average number of prisoners in Gaol, how many cubic feet of space are there for each prisoner during the hours of sleep?

There are 144 ordinary sleeping cells, 15 punishment cells; and 4 wards in the Prison, only one of the latter is used by night. 37 cells are on the separate system, and 107 on the associated plan.

The daily average number of prisoners confined during the year 1876 was 432.60, (as against 374.06 in the previous year.) The cubic space for each prisoner during the hours of sleep was 864.213 cubic feet (as against 982.291 cubic feet in the previous year), if space in passages and corridors be included in the measurement.

V. How are the prisoners classified?

According to the nature of their sentences, their nationality, and occasionally according to their habits and temperament, as follows, viz. :—

*Europeans, Indians, and Chinese.*

Debtors,

Misdemeanants,

Penal servitude,

Prisoners on remand and for trial.

All the prisoners of the above classes are separated at night, on the works, and in the yards, as much as possible.

VI. Is penal labour—that is, labour by treadmill, crank, or shot-drill—in force?

There is no tread-mill labour, but shot-drill, crank-labour, stone-breaking, stone-carrying, and oakum-picking are in force. None of the prisoners are now employed outside the Gaol.

*Questions.*

VII. If so, during what periods of imprisonment, in respect of what classes of prisoners, and during how many hours is such penal labour enforced? In stating hours of tread-wheel labour, give first, the total time on and off the wheel, etc.; secondly, the length of spells and intervals of rest.

VIII. What kind of labour, other than penal labour is in use.

IX. If the prisoners are employed beyond the walls of the Gaol, state—

1. On what kind of work they are so employed?

2. How are they supervised?

3. How many escapes of prisoners, while being employed beyond the Gaol, have taken place during each of the last three years?

4. How are the profits of their labour accounted for?

X. What was the total annual cost of the Prison during the year 1876?

XI. What was the annual amount of the prisoners' earnings during 1876?

XII. What are the number of the hours allotted for sleep? And, if sleep is in association, are the dormitories lighted; and how often are they patrolled during the night?

XIII. What were the number and nature of the punishments inflicted for offences committed by prisoners undergoing imprisonment?

*Answers.*

The hours of labour for all prisoners in this Colony throughout the year are from 7 A.M. to 4.30 P.M., one hour being allowed for dinner. When penal labour is resorted to, men on the crank have to complete revolutions not exceeding 15,300 per day; European prisoners at shot-drill do 3 hours and Chinese prisoners 4 hours per day, in spells of half an hour at a time, with stone-breaking, stone-carrying, or oakum-picking during the intervals.

Washing clothes and bed making for the Civil and Lock Hospitals:—mat making for the several Departments, scraping and painting iron bedsteads for the Police Department; also washing, bed and mat making, tailoring, shoemaking, carpentering, cleaning, and executing all incidental repairs to the Gaol buildings.

No prisoners are employed outside the Gaol since November, 1873.

Nil.

No prisoners have escaped during the last three years.

Nil.

Deducting the amount due or received for the subsistence of Naval and Military Court Martial prisoners, Debtors and Lunatics during the past year, \$1,880.23 (or £391.14.3½), and \$1,025.88 (or £213.14.6) representing the prisoners' earnings, the total expenditure of the Prison during the year 1876 was \$28,759.25 (or £5,991.10.2½).

The amount of prisoners' earnings during the year 1876 was \$1,025.88, being proceeds of oakum-picking and mat-making, which was the only profitable work carried on in the Gaol, the prisoners being kept as much as possible to strictly penal labour. Old rope is supplied by or purchased from the Naval Yard and occasionally by the Storekeepers of the town for picking into oakum. The earnings of the prisoners on being collected are paid into the Treasury.

The average time during which the prisoners sleep, is about 9 hours in 24.

The dormitories are not lighted, but gas is burning in all passages and corridors.

Turnkeys are on duty in the Gaol throughout the night, and patrol the corridors and passages constantly.

The number of prisoners reported for Prison offences during the year 1876 was 3,029; out of this number, 21 were discharged; 282 cautioned, and 2,726 punished in the manner detailed below, viz:—

233	by solitary confinement only,	} For short periods.
173	"    "    on Bread & Water,	
713	"    "    on Rice & Water,	
6	were ordered Bread and Water 1 meal.	
2	"    "    1 day each.	
2	were deprived of their congee for 2 meals.	
143	had their supper meal stopped.	
1,127	were ordered Rice and Water 1 meal.	
14	"    "    2 meals.	
2	"    "    3 days.	
16	had their pork ration stopped for a time.	
59	received corporal punishment.	
235	had half their supper meal stopped.	
1	sentenced by the Supreme Court to penal servitude for life for (cutting and wounding with intent to murder.)	

*Questions.*

XIV. Is there or are there, any Chaplain or Chaplains of any and what religious persuasions?

XV. Are religious services regularly, or otherwise, performed for the benefit of the prisoners of any, and if any, what religious persuasion?

XVI. Are Roman Catholic Priests and Dissenting Ministers allowed free access to prisoners of their own persuasion, and are they apprised, when prisoners of their respective persuasions enter the Prison?

XVII. What provision is made for the education of prisoners?

XVIII. On what conditions are remissions of imprisonment granted?

XIX. Have Coroner's Inquests been held on every occasion of a death in Prison during the past year, and what were the verdicts?

XX.—

1. What was the sanitary state of the Prison during the year 1876?

2. What were the prevailing diseases?

XXI. What are shortly the rules as to diet?

*Answers.*

The Colonial Chaplain holds a service once a week, and visits the sick when required.

In addition to the service held by the Colonial Chaplain, a Missionary Student licensed by the Bishop of Victoria holds a service every Sunday.

The Reverend Mr. Lamont, Minister of the Union Church, generally holds a service on Sundays for the Presbyterian and other Dissenting prisoners; when he is unable to attend, the service is performed by a Clergyman of the London Missionary Society.—The Prison is also visited by Roman Catholic Priests, who hold services for both European and Chinese prisoners of that persuasion.

All Dissenting Ministers are allowed free access to the Prison at such hours as do not interfere with the discipline of the Prison. Intimation is immediately sent to any Minister or Priest, if at any time a prisoner expresses a desire to see him.

None; but all are supplied with religious and other useful books.

Remissions of sentences are granted, as a rule, under a scale, which has been approved by the Secretary of State, and is similar to that in use in the Convict Prisons in England; also on medical grounds, and a few under special local circumstances.

Only one death occurred during the year 1876. An Inquest was held, the verdict being "from natural causes"; General Debility and Brouchitis being the cause of death.

Good.

Intermittent Fever and Diarrhoea.

With the exception of debtors and defendants on remand or committed for trial, all prisoners are fed on penal diet of bread (or rice) and water for ten days (i.e., five days at a time) in each month for the first six months of their imprisonment.

At other times, except when under punishment for Prison offences, the diet of each prisoner is as follows:—

Every European or White prisoner receives daily:—

	<i>lb.</i>
Bread, .....	1
Beef without bone, .....	$\frac{3}{4}$
Potatoes or Vegetables of the season, .....	1
Tea, .....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Sugar, .....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Salt, .....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Firewood, .....	2
Soap, .....	$\frac{1}{2}$

Every Chinese or Coloured prisoner receives daily:—

	<i>lb.</i>
Rice, .....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oil (with Vegetables and Fish), .....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Salt Fish, 3 days in each week, .....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Vegetables, 2 days in each week, .....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fresh Fish, 2 days in each week, .....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Cayenne and Chutney (with Fresh Fish), .....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Tea, .....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Salt, .....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Firewood, .....	2
Soap, .....	$\frac{1}{2}$

Chinese or Coloured prisoners serving sentences of 3 years and over (penal servitude) receive besides the allowance specified in the above scale  $\frac{1}{2}$  *lb.* of Pork four times a week.