



SUPPLEMENT

To the HONGKONG GOVERNMENT GAZETTE of 3rd September, 1887.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 361.

The following Extracts from the Report of the Captain Superintendent of Police for the year 1886, together with the Statistics therein referred to, are published for general information.

By Command.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 3rd September, 1887.

FREDERICK STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 21.

POLICE OFFICE, HONGKONG, 22nd January, 1887.

I have the honour to forward for the information of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, details of the Police Establishment, the list of Pensioners, and the Criminal Statistics for the year 1886.

The Criminal Statistics show that 8,836 cases were reported to the Police during 1886, being an increase of 2,061 cases or 30.42 per cent. on the return for 1885. In the subdivision of these cases serious crimes (so called) and Minor Offences, an increase of 34 cases or 1.37 per cent. is found in serious crimes, and an increase of 2,027 cases or 47.04 per cent. in Minor Offences.

Three murders took place. Two blind mendicants were attacked near Shaukiwan, and one murdered. The names of the assailants were quickly known, but the men took refuge in Chinese Territory, not without, it is supposed, the assistance of the Triad Society. In the two remaining cases the presumed culprits were arrested, and of their actual guilt there was little moral doubt, but the evidence adducible was not deemed sufficiently conclusive to justify a conviction at the Supreme Court.

There was a decrease in the number of Burglaries. Robberies with violence and Piracy; and the other serious crimes call for no special remark. In one case, however, gold coin, to the value of nearly one thousand pounds, that had been stolen, was entirely recovered within three days by the perseverance and ability of a Chinese detective.

In the Minor Offences the principal noteworthy case was the prosecution of fifty one Chinese Constables. Information was given by a man that on a certain day some Constables would receive bribes for affording protection to Gambling Houses. The Officers deputed to inquire into the case brought conclusive evidence that some fifty men received money to the extent of about ten cents or three pence a piece, but they failed, which is not to be wondered at, considering the notorious bad character of the informant, to prove the object for which the money was paid. The charge therefore dwindled down into one of receiving money without authority contrary to the Police Regulations. The conviction was quashed on appeal. In consequence of this case the security required for the good behaviour of Chinese Constables in the Land Force has been increased from fifty to two hundred dollars.

Breaches of the Opium Ordinance show an increase of 686 cases. A number of search warrants have also been issued and returned without result.

The foreshore between No. 2 Station and East Point has silted up in a way that materially affects the utility of the Patrol Launches. The smallest launch drawing 4 feet 6 inches cannot now at low water go alongside Observation Point Pier, which should be lengthened, unless it is considered that it would be more advantageous and profitable to extend the Praya.

I regret that the mortality among the European Police has been unusually heavy, no less than eight having died. In addition, the cases of fever were especially numerous and severe. The Force was therefore in the autumn from these causes and from the dismissal of the Chinese one hundred men below its effective strength. Whitfeld Station from the number of fever cases had to be temporarily abandoned.

A Board held an inquiry into allegations concerning the Triad Society, and evidence was given that tended to show that it exercised a dangerous influence, twelve of the Head men have been banished from the Colony with a beneficial result.

Fires are now of very frequent occurrence and interfere with the general Police Work, owing to the Fire Brigade being so largely manned from this Force. It may be as well to recall to notice the fact, that where premises are insured, the standing Government Orders to the Police are that any prosecution for arson should be initiated by the Insurance Company affected. This is assumed to apply to cases when the supposed offender resides on the premises.

From the experience gained in severe typhoons, it appears that a grave danger to life has been allowed to spring up within the last few years by the multiplication of overhead telegraphic wires. It would be quite contrary to what might be expected, if in a bad typhoon these wires are not blown down so as to dangerously obstruct some of the main thoroughfares.

The Roman Catholic Cathedral having been pulled down and a large number of houses being in the course of erection on the site, the probability of a fire extending to the Central Station is much greater than before, and the danger is materially increased by the dilapidated state of the adjoining bungalows which were purchased some sixteen years ago for the purpose of supplying ground so greatly needed for the extension of the Barracks. The want of accommodation is now more felt than before, as the Force is larger, and fourteen men have ceased to receive quarters in the Markets.

TABLE A.
RETURN of SERIOUS and MINOR OFFENCES reported to have been committed during the Year 1886, with the Results of such Reports.

a Two absconded from bail.
b Two absconded from bail.
c 1 case undecided.

b Two absconded from bail.

10,312

TABLE C.
COMPARATIVE RETURNS OF OFFENCES COMING UNDER THE NOTICE OF THE POLICE, DURING THE YEARS 1884, 1885, AND 1886.

DESCRIPTION.	NUMBER OF PERSONS						NUMBER OF PERSONS					
	SERIOUS.			MINOR.			SERIOUS.			MINOR.		
	1884.	1885.	1886.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Convicted.				Discharged.			Convicted.			Discharged.		
Murder.....	4	3	3	..	..	26	2	..	..	1,118	753	1,031
Robbery with Violence from the Person,	52	96	64	18	70	33	2	15	35	1,513	973	973
Burglary or Larceny from Dwelling,	47	93	68	15	36	32	8	8	6	255	194	248
Assault with Intent to Rob,	3	3	4	1	1	5	..	..	1	2,441	1,901	3,735
Kidnapping,	32	53	78	4	25	63	39	..	55	202	323	1,998
Piracy,	9	17	10	16	13	28	20	..	10	790	690	470
Unlawful Possession,	298	229	291	262	165	287	109	96	65	{ No analysis of Convictions & Discharges.	2,896	387
Larcenies,	2,153	1,927	1,898	949	952	898	322	300	278			479
Felonies not already given,	55	45	84	32	36	70	19	40	40			
Total,	2,652	2,466	2,500	1,297	1,298	1,389	569	561	472	Total,	7,551	4,309
											6,336	4,743
											3,507	3,457
											1,102	1,102
											757	757
											672	672

1886.—Total Number of Cases 8,836, being an increase of 2,061 Cases or 30.42 per cent. over 1885.

Increase of Serious Crimes 34 Cases or 1.37 per cent.
Increase of Minor Offences 2,027 Cases or 47.04 per cent.

Police Department, Hongkong, 22nd January, 1887.

TABLE D.

1.—RETURN of Serious OFFENCES reported to the POLICE, during the 10 Years ending 1886, showing the Number of Prisoners Arrested, Convicted and Discharged.

D.

2.—Return of Minor Offences reported to the Police, during the 10 Years ending 1886, showing Number of Prisoners Arrested, Convicted and Discharged.

YEAR.	ASSAULT.			GAMBLING.			MISCELLANEOUS.			DRUNKENNESS.			NUISANCES.		No Light or Pass.	
	Cases reported.	No. of Persons convicted.	Total No. arrested.	Cases reported.	No. of Persons convicted.	Total No. arrested.	Cases reported.	No. of Persons convicted.	Total No. arrested.	Cases reported.	No. of Persons convicted.	Total No. arrested.	Cases reported.	No. Light or Pass.		
1877,	841	1,282	281	1,563	282	497	146	643	2,073	2,012	275	2,287	464	611	1,151	
1878,	875	1,289	318	1,607	353	585	125	710	1,794	1,965	332	2,297	512	355	335	
1879,	838	1,134	376	1,510	157	499	185	684	1,442	1,717	337	2,054	301	232	762	
1880,	746	965	310	1,275	358	814	191	1,005	1,815	1,769	374	2,143	276	329	840	
1881,	904	1,430	227	1,657	397	1,046	108	1,154	1,879	1,983	367	2,350	337	284	566	
Total,.....	4,204	6,100	1,512	7,612	1,547	3,441	755	4,196	9,003	9,446	1,685	11,131	1,890	1,811	3,654	
1882,	754	1,089	817	1,406	261	693	147	840	1,550	1,820	382	2,202	276	263	424	
1883,	730	852	299	1,151	86	358	166	524	2,629	2,804	559	3,363	158	527	1,135	
1884,	1,118	1,513	397	1,910	104	594	124	718	2,441	2,636	581	3,217	202	790	2,896	
1885,	753	973	273	1,246	255	736	58	794	1,901	1,998	426	2,424	323	690	387	
1886,	1,031	1,486	225	1,711	248	762	31	793	3,735	4,209	416	4,626	373	470	479	
Total,.....	4,386	5,913	1,511	7,424	954	3,143	526	3,669	12,456	13,467	2,364	15,832	1,332	2,740	5,321	
Average of 1st period,.....	840.8	1,220.0	302.4	1,522.4	309.4	688.2	151.0	839.2	1,800.6	1,889.2	337.0	2,226.2	378.0	362.2	730.8	
Average of 2nd period,.....	877.2	1,182.6	302.2	1,484.8	190.8	628.6	105.2	733.8	2,491.2	2,693.4	472.8	3,166.4	266.4	548.0	1,064.2	

D.

3.—CASES REPORTED TO POLICE.
SERIOUS OFFENCES.

In 1877,	1,966 cases.	In 1882,	2,596 cases.
„ 1878,	2,611 „	„ 1883,	2,423 „
„ 1879,	2,397 „	„ 1884,	2,652 „
„ 1880,	2,051 „	„ 1885,	2,466 „
„ 1881,	2,329 „	„ 1886,	2,500 „
	11,854 cases.		12,637 cases.

Increase of 11.29 per cent. in second period.

MINOR OFFENCES.

In 1877,	5,422 cases.	In 1882,	3,728 cases.
„ 1878,	4,224 „	„ 1883,	5,265 „
„ 1879,	3,732 „	„ 1884,	7,551 „
„ 1880,	4,364 „	„ 1885,	4,309 „
„ 1881,	4,367 „	„ 1886,	6,336 „
	22,109 cases.		27,189 cases.

Increase of 22.98 per cent. in second period.

Altogether.

In 1877,	7,388 cases.	In 1882,	6,324 cases.
„ 1878,	6,835 „	„ 1883,	7,688 „
„ 1879,	6,129 „	„ 1884,	10,203 „
„ 1880,	6,415 „	„ 1885,	6,775 „
„ 1881,	6,696 „	„ 1886,	8,836 „
	33,463 cases.		39,826 cases.

Increase of 19.04 per cent. in second period.

4.—DETAIL OF CASES REPORTED TO POLICE.

SERIOUS OFFENCES.

	1877 to 1881.	Yearly Average.	1882 to 1886.	Yearly Average.
1. Murder,	19	3.8	14	2.8
2. Robbery with Violence,	139	27.8	272	54.4
3. Burglaries & Larcenies in Dwellings,	424	84.8	354	70.8
4. Assault with Intent to Rob,	4	0.8	11	2.2
5. Kidnapping,	292	58.4	248	49.6
6. Piracy,	42	8.4	54	10.8
7. Unlawful Possession,	1,641	328.2	1,347	269.4
8. Larcenies,	8,716	1,743.2	10,062	2,012.4
9. Felonies not already given,	77	15.4	299	59.8

MINOR OFFENCES.

	1877 to 1881.	Yearly Average.	1882 to 1886.	Yearly Average.
10. Assault,	4,204	840.8	4,386	877.2
11. Gambling,	1,547	309.4	954	190.8
12. Miscellaneous,	9,003	1,800.6	12,456	2,491.2
13. Drunkenness,	1,890	378.0	1,332	266.4
14. Nuisances,	1,811	362.2	2,740	548.0
15. No Pass or Light,	3,654	730.8	5,321	1,064.2

5.—NUMBER OF PRISONERS ARRESTED BY POLICE.

FOR SERIOUS OFFENCES.

In 1877,	1,537 cases.	In 1882,	1,966 cases.
„ 1878,	2,125 „	„ 1883,	1,663 „
„ 1879,	1,866 „	„ 1884,	1,857 „
„ 1880,	1,638 „	„ 1885,	1,859 „
„ 1881,	1,796 „	„ 1886,	1,861 „
	8,962 cases.		9,206 cases.

FOR MINOR OFFENCES.

Excepting Nos. 13, 14 and 15 (See Table 2) of which no details are given.

In 1877,	4,493 cases.	In 1882,	4,448 cases.
„ 1878,	4,614 „	„ 1883,	5,038 „
„ 1879,	4,248 „	„ 1884,	5,845 „
„ 1880,	4,423 „	„ 1885,	4,464 „
„ 1881,	5,161 „	„ 1886,	7,129 „
	22,939 cases.		26,924 cases.

Altogether excepting Nos. 13, 14 and 15.

In 1877,	6,030 cases.	In 1882,	6,414 cases.
„ 1878,	6,739 „	„ 1883,	6,701 „
„ 1879,	6,114 „	„ 1884,	7,702 „
„ 1880,	6,061 „	„ 1885,	6,323 „
„ 1881,	6,957 „	„ 1886,	8,990 „
	31,901 cases.		36,130 cases.

**6.—DETAILS OF NUMBER OF PRISONERS ARRESTED.
FOR SERIOUS OFFENCES.**

	1877 to 1881.	1882 to 1886.
1. Murder,	13	33
2. Robbery with Violence from Person,	105	238
3. Burglaries and Larcenies from Dwellings,	202	198
4. Assault with Intent to Rob,	3	11
5. Kidnapping,	458	383
6. Piracy,	78	114
7. Unlawful Possession,	1,990	1,597
8. Larcenies,	5,996	6,295
9. Felonies not given,	98	330
	8,943	9,199

FOR MINOR OFFENCES.

	1877 to 1881.	1882 to 1886.
10. Assault,	7,612	7,424
11. Gambling,	4,196	3,669
12. Miscellaneous,	11,131	15,832
13. Drunkenness,	1,890	1,332
14. Nuisances,	1,811	2,740
15. No Pass or Light,	3,654	5,321
	30,294	36,318

7.—NUMBER OF PERSONS CONVICTED AND DISCHARGED.

FOR SERIOUS OFFENCES.

	Convicted.	Discharged.	Convicted.	Discharged.
In 1877,	1,196	341	In 1882,	1,405
„ 1878,	1,554	571	„ 1883,	1,178
„ 1879,	1,381	485	„ 1884,	1,297
„ 1880,	1,208	430	„ 1885,	1,298
„ 1881,	1,390	406	„ 1886,	1,389
	6,729	2,233		6,567
				2,639

FOR MINOR OFFENCES.

	Convicted.	Discharged.	Convicted.	Discharged.
In 1877,	3,791	702	In 1882,	3,602
„ 1878,	3,839	775	„ 1883,	4,014
„ 1879,	3,350	898	„ 1884,	4,743
„ 1880,	3,548	875	„ 1885,	3,707
„ 1881,	4,459	702	„ 1886,	6,457
	18,987	3,952		22,523
				4,401

Altogether excepting Nos. 13, 14 and 15.

	Convicted.	Discharged.	Convicted.	Discharged.
In 1877,	4,987	1,043	In 1882,	5,007
„ 1878,	5,393	1,346	„ 1883,	5,192
„ 1879,	4,731	1,383	„ 1884,	6,040
„ 1880,	4,756	1,305	„ 1885,	5,005
„ 1881,	5,849	1,108	„ 1886,	7,846
	25,716	6,185		29,090
				7,040

TABLE E.

RETURN shewing the ENLISTMENTS and CASUALTIES in the Police Force during 1886.

	Enlistments.	Deaths.	Resignations through sickness.	Resignations through expiry of term of service or otherwise.	Dismissals.	Desertions.	Total number of casualties.
Europeans,	19	8	1	14	4	...	27
Indians,	59	2	2	10	8	...	22
Chinese,	98	4	2	30	66	1	103
TOTAL,.....	176	14	5	54	78	1	152

Police Office, Hongkong, 22nd January, 1887.