

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 177.

The following Report of the Superintendent of Victoria Gaol for the year 1888, which was laid before the Legislative Council on the 18th instant, is published for general information.

By Command.

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 20th April, 1889.

No. 20.

GAOL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 21st January, 1889.

COLONIAL SECRETARY,

I beg to forward herewith Annual Statistical Return of Victoria Gaol for 1888.

2. I have in previous reports referred to the successful results achieved in England by the combination of deterrent and reformatory Prison discipline—the number of crimes and the criminal class—as steadily decreasing there as the population increases. The condition of Hongkong is indeed as I have before observed very different from that of England in as much as the amount of crime and criminal population here is as much or more dependent on the prosperity or the reverse of neighbouring Chinese territory as on the administration of our criminal law and the deterrent and reformatory nature of our Prison administration. For these reasons a reduction in the numbers of criminals confined in gaol, is no more necessarily to be credited to a judicious deterrent and reformatory Prison discipline, than an increase is necessarily to be debited to laxity of Prison discipline.

3. But to whatever causes it may be due, it must be satisfactory to Government to know that the number of criminals confined in Gaol has been of late decreasing, while the population is known to be steadily increasing. From Return Y. 13 it will be observed that the daily average number of Prisoners confined in Victoria Gaol during 1888 is less than it has been for the last ten years. The daily average number in 1888 was 531, in the previous year 1887 it was 584. A very slight portion of this reduction may be owing to the circumstance of Government having released a certain number of gamblers and unlicensed hawkers a few days before the expiration of their short sentences, but this difference would be very trifling, and if we compare the number of committals during these two years, nearly the same proportions are established in 1888, 3,627 persons were committed; in 1887 the number was 4,308.

4. The Ordinance under which Criminals who earn remission of portion of their sentence are now liable to be placed under Police supervision, cannot I believe fail to do much good. It has, however, as I am informed on enquiry, been too short a time in operation to give any reliable results. Many of these persons have, I understand, left the Colony, rather than remain under Police supervision—certainly no loss to the community—and it is satisfactory to know that none of the discharged Prisoners placed under Police supervision have returned to Gaol during the year.

Subordinate Staff.

5. The conduct of the subordinate Gaol staff during the year has been very satisfactory. These Officers have generally been zealous and painstaking, they have been judicious and forbearing in their intercourse with Prisoners, illicit dealings between Turnkeys and Prisoners, so frequent some years ago, have within the last two or three years as I believe entirely ceased. The low pay of most of the Gaol staff leads however to the result that constant changes are occurring, as able officers are constantly on the look-out for other and better paid employment and there are therefore always a large number of Probationers to be instructed in their duties. As it has been proposed in the Estimates of this year to increase the pay of the staff, it is hoped this evil will be diminished. It may be possible in time to obtain a certain number of Prison officials trained in English Prisons, who, like the Police would have to be engaged for a period of at least three years. At present the Gaol Staff have all been trained and taught their duties in this Prison.

Prison Buildings.

6. These remain as formerly reported. The disadvantages of overcrowding in associated wards and of deficient space for workshops are obvious and have been reported on year by year, and I have annually repeated my opinion that the separate system is essential to efficient deterrent and reformatory Prison discipline.

Prisoners and their discipline.

7. The number of Prison offences continues large in comparison with those of English Prisons but their number is decreasing and much less than in previous years, and it is satisfactory to observe that the more serious offences have much diminished. During the year there have been 4,414 Prison offences to an average of 531 Prisoners giving a little over $8\frac{1}{2}$ offences for each Prisoner during the year; the lowest average attained for many years past. On the last day of the year 140 Prisoners had been free of Prison punishment for upwards of three months, among these 35 had been free of punishment for upwards of a year.

8. I append as usual Returns showing the number of punishments during the year for the most common offences. Similar Returns for the last three years being shown alongside for the sake of comparison.

9. During the year there were three cases of insubordination towards and assaults on officers of the Gaol (included in Return B.) a marked diminution of such offences as compared with previous years. The offenders were tried and awarded corporal punishment.

10. The risk of conspiracies and combinations among Prisoners, I have adverted to in former reports as always existing with a lot of criminals sleeping in association. As in previous years so during the last year we have had proof of this in two desperate attempts of large number to escape from chain gang. The stricter the Gaol discipline the more anxious Prisoners will be to try and effect an escape—on the last occasion, on the 18th September those attempting to escape were re-captured, but unfortunately in the struggle the lives of one trustworthy warder and of two Prisoners were lost, while four other Prisoners were wounded but recovered. A full report of the circumstances was submitted at the time.

Industrial Labour.

11. The Chain gang on Public Works has been working during the year with an average strength of 50 or 60 Prisoners—less than last year. I had to reduce one and sometimes two of the six gangs owing to scarcity of Officers many of whom were on the sick list during the year, the work was carried on at a considerable distance about three miles from the Gaol, the work done was not very satisfactory and has now been suspended. After the experience of the year I trust it will not be resumed until the introduction of the separate system.

12. As to other industrial work we are much hampered by want of space, having to utilize verandahs and passages as workshops. But the industries of Coir, yarn work, shoe-making and book-binding have been increased, I append the usual Returns of Gaol Industrial work.

A. GORDON,
Superintendent.

(A.)

VICTORIA GAOL.

Return of Reports for talking, &c., in the years 1885, 1886, 1887 and 1888.

MONTH.	1885. Daily average number in Prison, 530.	1886. Daily average number in Prison, 674.	1887. Daily average number in Prison, 584.	1888. Daily average number in Prison, 531.
January,	55	119	146	355
February,	25	135	75	320
March,	44	248	97	362
April,	23	330	408	380
May,	252	197	963	402
June,	362	298	918	296
July,	289	297	500	258
August,	344	232	530	225
September,	254	318	558	220
October,	174	209	429	222
November,	148	183	184	328
December,	162	93	113	277
Total,	2,132	2,659	4,921	3,645

A. GORDON,
Superintendent.

(B.)

Return of Offences reported of Prisoners fighting with or assaulting each other, or Officers, for the years 1885, 1886, 1887 and 1888.

MONTH.	1885. Daily average number in Prison, 530.	1886. Daily average number in Prison, 674.	1887. Daily average number in Prison, 584.	1888. Daily average number in Prison, 531.
January,	28	14	21	14
February,	18	15	20	21
March,	18	17	11	19
April,	29	32	29	11
May,	6	31	41	27
June,	22	19	33	19
July,	27	13	31	11
August,	13	13	39	8
September,	12	8	26	18
October,	13	17	27	13
November,	8	9	18	5
December,	10	7	10	19
Total,	204	195	306	185

A. GORDON,
Superintendent.

(C.)

Return of Offences of Prisoners having Tobacco, for the years 1885, 1886, 1887 and 1888.

MONTH.	1885. Daily average number in Prison, 530.	1886. Daily average number in Prison, 674.	1887. Daily average number in Prison, 584.	1888. Daily average number in Prison, 531.
January,	74	28	14	74
February,	78	16	10	35
March,	82	14	20	48
April,	133	11	27	25
May,	106	7	39	61
June,	61	15	34	27
July,	52	9	57	34
August,	47	11	40	22
September,	17	31	58	30
October,	23	17	71	35
November,	15	30	32	34
December,	21	23	33	17
Total,	709	212	435	442

A. GORDON,
Superintendent.

(D.)

Comparative Return of Prisoners confined in Victoria Gaol on the 31st December, 1886, 31st December, 1887 and 31st December, 1888.

CONVICTION.	1886.	1887.	1888.
1st,	414	436	367
2nd,	62	30	43
3rd,	35	34	35
4th,	27	15	13
5th,	24	20	16
6th,	18	15	13
7th,	15	10	4
8th,	10	10	8
9th,	1	1	1
10th,	3	3	2
11th,	3	2	1
12th, .....	...	...	...
TOTAL,	612	576	503

A. GORDON,
Superintendent.

(E.)

ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNT OF INDUSTRIAL LABOUR, VICTORIA GAOL, FOR THE YEAR 1888.

<i>Dr.</i>		OAKUM.		<i>Cr.</i>	
1888.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1888, ..	\$ 995.90	1888.	By Oakum sold during the year,	\$2,847.40
	„ Cost of Paper Stuff purchased during the year,.....	1,140.00		„ Oakum issued for Gaol Hospital use,	7.50
				„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1888,—	
	Profit,.....	906.41		Paper Stuff, 650 lbs. \$ 17.41	
				Oakum, 3,400 „ 170.00	187.41
	Total,.....\$	3,042.31		Total,.....\$	3,042.31

COIR YARN.

1888.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1888, ..	\$ 620.00	1888.	By Matting sold during the year,	\$1,541.31
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	320.04		„ Issue for Prison use during the year,	17.89
				„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1888,—	
	Profit,.....	966.40		Manufactured, ....\$149.24	
				Material,..... 198.00	347.24
	Total,..... \$	1,906.44		Total,.....\$	1,906.44

RATTAN WORK.

1888.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1888, ..	\$ 39.04	1888.	By Chairs, Fenders, &c., sold during the year,.....	\$163.66
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	138.60		„ Articles made for Gaol use,	21.10
				„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1888,—	
	Profit,.....	108.57		Manufactured Articles, \$97.45	
				Material, 4.00	101.45
	Total,.....\$	286.21		Total,.....\$	286.21

NET MAKING.

1888.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1888, ..	...	1888.	By Nets sold during the year,	\$ 89.20
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	\$184.07		„ Nets made for Gaol use, (value),...	128.00
				„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1888,—	
	Profit,.....	43.13		Material,.....	10.00
	Total,.....\$	227.20		Total,.....\$	227.20

GRASS MATTING.

1888.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1888, ..	\$ 12.00	1888.	By Issue for Prison use during the year,	\$ 18.51
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	69.61		„ Matting sold during the year,	89.25
				„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1888,—	
	Profit,.....	38.52		Manufactured, 40 yds., \$5.60	
				Material, 6.77	12.37
	Total,.....\$	120.13		Total,.....\$	120.13

Dr.		WASHING.		Cr.	
1888.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1888, .....	...	1888.	By Value of Washing done during the year, Prison Clothing, at 1 cent a piece,	\$1,245.30
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	\$ 446.72		„ Cash received for clothes washed,.....	10.22
	Profit,.....	815.20		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1888,	6.40
	Total,.....\$	1,261.92		Total,.....\$	1,261.92

SHOE-MAKING.

1888.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1888,	\$202.88	1888.	By Estimated value of Shoes supplied to Prisoners, and Repairs,	\$104.59
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	433.73		„ Two Issues—Summer and Winter Uniform Shoes, to Prison Officers,	240.00
	Profit,.....	74.77		„ Sale to Prison Officers, &c.,	324.49
	Total,.....\$	711.38		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1888,— Material and value of new Shoes,.....	42.30
	Total,.....\$	711.38		Total,.....\$	711.38

PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING.

1888.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1888,	\$ 17.47	1888.	By Estimated value of Printing done for Public Offices during the year, (155,575 forms),	\$ 637.75
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	66.70		„ Estimated value of Books bound for Prison use,.....	6.40
	Profit,.....	726.81		„ Cash received for Books bound,.....	141.83
	Total,.....\$	810.98		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1888,— Book-binding Material, &c.,	25.00
	Total,.....\$	810.98		Total,.....\$	810.98

TAILORS' SHOP.

1888.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1888,	\$ 377.08	1888.	By Estimated value of Prisoners' Clothing made during the year,	\$ 873.24
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	1,547.08		„ Work done for Officers, Police, &c., and charged for,	235.00
	Profit,.....	159.62		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1888,— Flannel, Serge, Canvas, &c.,	975.54
	Total,.....\$	2,083.78		Total,.....\$	2,083.78

CARPENTERS' SHOP.

1888.	To Value of Stock on hand, 1st January, 1888,	\$ 15.62	1888.	By Value of Articles made for Gaol use during the year,	\$ 153.12
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	191.72		„ Work done for Officers and charged for,	62.81
	Profit,.....	24.33		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1888,— Material, Wood, &c.,.....\$ 5.00 Value of manufactured Articles,	10.74
	Total,.....\$	231.67		Total,.....\$	231.67

Dr.		TIN-SMITH'S SHOP.		Cr.	
1888.	To Value of Stock on hand, 1st January, 1888, .....	...	1888.	By Estimated value of Articles made for Gaol use,	\$28.16
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,	\$17.54		„ Sale of Articles to Prison Officers,	1.41
	Profit,	14.25		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1888,—	
				Value of Manufactured Articles,	2.22
	Total,	\$ 31.79		Total,	\$ 31.79

RECAPITULATION.

1888.	Oakum,	\$ 906.41	1888.	By Surplus,	\$3,878.01
	Coir Yarn,	966.40			
	Net-making,	43.13			
	Rattan Work,	108.57			
	Grass matting,	38.52			
	Washing,	815.20			
	Shoe-making,	74.77			
	Printing and Book-binding,	726.81			
	Tailoring,	159.62			
	Carpentery,	24.33			
	Tin Work,	14.25			
	Total,	\$ 3,878.01		Total,	\$ 3,878.01

To Profit,

\$3,878.01

A. GORDON,
Superintendent.

Victoria Gaol Office, Hongkong, 21st January, 1889.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 178.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, has been pleased to grant to His Honour JAMES RUSSELL, Esquire, C.M.G., Chief Justice, six months' leave of absence on half salary, in addition to two months' vacation leave.

Consequent on Mr. RUSSELL's departure, His Excellency has been pleased to make the following appointments, viz. :—

His Honour Mr. Justice FIELDING CLARKE, LL.B., Puisne Judge, to be Acting Chief Justice.
ALFRED GASCOYNE WISE, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, Acting Registrar, &c., of the Supreme Court, to be Acting Puisne Judge.
BRUCE SHEPHERD, Esquire, Deputy Land Officer, to be Acting Registrar of the Supreme Court, Acting Official Trustee, Acting Registrar of Companies, and Acting Land Officer.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 16th April, 1889.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 179.

It is hereby notified that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to nominate the following gentlemen to fill certain temporary vacancies:—

His Honour Mr. Justice FIELDING CLARKE, LL.B. } To act as Trustees of S. John's
The Honourable HENRY ERNEST WODEHOUSE, C.M.G. } Cathedral on behalf of the
The Honourable NORMAN GILBERT MITCHELL-INNES. } Government.
CHARLES FORD, Esquire, to act as Auditor on behalf of the Government.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 17th April, 1889.