

AVERAGE EXPENSE OF EACH SCHOLAR AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE DURING 1898.

Expenditure,—

Cash Book,	\$29,648.81
Do., Exchange Compensation,	5,142.90
Crown Agents,	2,483.29
Do., Adjustment of Exchange,	713.32

\$37,988.32

Deduct,—

School Fees,	\$21,598.00
Sale of Books,	85.72
Refund, .....	.69

\$21,684.41

Total Expense of the College,\$16,303.91

Average Expense of each Scholar—

Per Number on Roll,	\$12.13
Per Average Daily Attendance,	21.65

GEO. H. BATESON WRIGHT, D.D., OXON.,
Head Master.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 71.

The following Report of the Superintendent of Victoria Gaol for the Year 1898, which was laid before the Legislative Council this day, is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 8th February, 1899.

No. 13

VICTORIA GAOL,
HONGKONG, 24th January, 1899.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit for the information of H.E. the Governor the following report on the Victoria Gaol for the year 1898.

The usual returns are appended.

2. The number of prisoners admitted to the Gaol during the past year under sentence of the ordinary Courts was 4,976, besides 69 soldiers and sailors sentenced by Courts Martial. There were 51 persons imprisoned for debt and 331 in default of finding security, making a total of 5,427. Of these, 760 were old offenders, including 13 juveniles who were merely sent to the Gaol to be whipped by order of the Magistrate, and were detained pending the infliction of the whipping, leaving a total of 747 old offenders who actually underwent imprisonment.

There were altogether 69 juveniles sent to the Gaol merely to be whipped and arrangements have now been made with the sanction of the Governor by which such juveniles are whipped immediately on reception in the outer court of the Gaol. They do not now enter the Gaol nor are they detained beyond the time actually necessary for whipping.

The corresponding numbers for the preceding year were respectively as follows :—

Convicted by the ordinary Courts 4,711, by Courts Martial 48, Debtors 54, in default of finding security 263 ; total 5,076, including 606 old offenders.

3. The daily average number of prisoners confined in the Gaol during the year was 511, as compared with 462 for 1897.

4. The number of prisoners committed to the Gaol for offences not of a criminal nature was 1,837, made up as follows :—

Committed under the Prepared Opium Ordinance,.....	505
Market Ordinance,	210
Vehicle Ordinance,	39
Sanitary Bye-laws,	286
Harbour Regulations,	92
For Trespass,.....	34
For Drunkenness,	158
For Disorderly Conduct,	513

5. The following table, which I insert for the first time, shows the number of prisoners who were committed to Gaol without the option of a fine, and in default of payment of fines.

The period of detention of those who paid their fines after reception in the Gaol was from one to three days.

Number of Prisoners admitted to Gaol during each of the last three years under sentence of imprisonment with and without the option of a fine, and the number of those who obtained their release by paying their fines after reception in Gaol.

Year.	Total.	Imprisonment without the option of a fine.	Imprisonment in default of paying fine.		
			Total.	Served the Imprisonment.	Paid fine after reception into Gaol.
1896,	5,582	2,029	3,553	1,928	1,425
1897,	5,076	1,968	3,108	1,697	1,411
1898,	5,427	1,852	3,575	1,815	1,760

With a view to decreasing the number of prisoners confined in Gaol in default of payment of fines, I have suggested legislation such as has recently been introduced at home, allowing part payment of a fine to be equivalent to serving a proportionate part of the sentence of imprisonment in default.

6. There were 4,038 reports made by Prison Officers against prisoners for offences against Prison discipline, as compared with 2,619 reports for the previous year.

A proportion of the increase is directly due to the increased population of the Gaol in 1898, and I attribute the remainder of the increased reports to the following conditions which rendered difficult the enforcement of strict discipline :—

- (a) The location of a larger number of prisoners in Association while the work of sub-dividing the cells, which is referred to in paragraph 8, was in progress.
- (b) The interruption of the regular routine of labour by this and other structural improvements on a large scale that have been carried out during the year.
- (c) The numerous changes in the Indian Gaol staff to which I have adverted in C.S.O. 1897. Discipline cannot be maintained by inexperienced officers.

I give below the number of reports for offences against prison discipline for each of the last three years, and the average number of reports per unit of the Gaol population :—

Year.	Daily Average Population.	Number of Reports for Offences against Prison Discipline.	Average Number of Reports per Prisoner.
1896,	514	3,884	7.55
1897,	462	2,619	5.66
1898,	511	4,038	7.90

7. The returns which are appended show a considerable increase in assaults on each other, on Prison Officers, by prisoners, and in the offence of having tobacco.

The number of cases of assault on Prison Officers was two, which is below the average.

The number of assaults by prisoners on each other shows a large increase. The assaults were, however, with one exception, of a trivial nature and arose out of petty disputes between prisoners engaged together on unaccustomed work in connection with the structural alterations in, and additions to, the Gaol.

The increase in the offence of having tobacco is due to the fact that, at various periods during the year, there were a certain number of free men engaged on work in the Gaol.

8. The following improvements, referred to in paragraph 16 of my Report for 1897, have been completed during the year under review almost entirely by prison labour at what must be regarded as the small cost of \$15,000 :—

(a) On the site of D wing, a large two-storied workshop has been erected, the upper floor of which is used as a printing shop while the ground floor is devoted to mat making.

The workshop was much needed, and has rendered possible a useful extension of industrial labour.

(b) The sub-division of Association cells into separate cells has been completed. There are now 427 separate cells in the Gaol, and 26 Association cells, giving accommodation for 453 prisoners in separate confinement, and for 104 extra prisoners by placing 5 prisoners in each Association cell, or a total of 557 prisoners.

(c) The Officers' quarters inside the Gaol have been converted into a commodious hospital, and offices for the Chief Warder and Clerks, but the hospital is still occupied by the Indian Staff pending the building of quarters for them outside the Gaol.

(d) What was formerly the Chief Warder's and Clerks' offices, has been turned into a reception room with cells attached.

(e) The old hospital, which is above the female Prison, has been prepared for the reception of female prisoners as an extension to the existing female Prison. It is, however, still occupied by male prisoners pending the removal of the hospital to the new accommodation provided for it.

(f) Certain alterations in the yards round A and B halls (the Gaol extension) have been made to prevent escapes, and a useful addition to the yard space between the two halls has been contrived.

9. The following improvements are being now effected by Prison labour, having been undertaken before the end of the year :—

In the Lower East Yard the ramp is being entirely removed affording a site for a new and enlarged laundry, which it is proposed to build, and additional yard space for the laundry work, while the old laundry will be converted into a shed for general labour.

When the above work has been completed, it is proposed to demolish B wing and to erect in its place a new hall. B wing contains 15 Association cells and 2 separate cells. The new Ward would contain 76 separate cells, and, being much more compact, would enable an increase in space in the Upper Yard. It is also proposed to cover in the centre of the Upper Yard as a protection against sun and rain in summer time.

With the erection of the proposed new Ward, the Gaol would contain 501 separate cells and 11 Association cells, the latter being capable of accommodating 55 prisoners, or a total of 556.

The Gaol could then be conducted almost entirely on the separate system.

10. The fact that the capacity of the Gaol accommodation does not exceed 557 prisoners is one that should not be lost sight of, and when it is remembered that it is necessary to have space accommodation in the Gaol to meet the demands of any emergency, it is evident that with a rapidly growing population and the acquisition of new territory, the question of increasing the Gaol accommodation for the Colony is one that already demands the attention of Government.

11. During the year one Chinese prisoner succeeded in escaping, and two others attempted to escape, but were re-captured by Prison officers, by scaling the boundary wall of the Gaol extension.

Structural additions have now been made which will render escapes from the same locality very difficult.

12. The profits on industrial labour amounted to \$6,204.19, as compared with \$2,620.08 in the preceding year. The balance sheets of each industry are shown in enclosure E. The increase is principally due to the extension of the Printing Department which now executes the job printing required by the Government and the Military Authorities.

13. I append a table shewing the daily average number of prisoners engaged on non-productive labour, on productive labour and in Gaol services, and of the value of the labour of the prisoners in the two latter categories.

14. A statement of the casualties that occurred in the Gaol Staff during the year is annexed.

The large number of resignations in the Indian Staff was due to the men throwing up their appointment to seek more lucrative employment elsewhere.

Vacancies in the European Staff have, with one exception, that of a Hospital Warder, been filled by local candidates drawn from the Army. Some promising officers have been thus acquired.

15. The year has been an exceptionally busy one in the Gaol, and the large works referred to in paragraph 8, carried out as they were, simultaneously with a high daily average, and at times excessive number of prisoners—the daily average in July was 559 and on two occasions during that month the number reached 589—entailed a great deal of new and unaccustomed work on the officers.

Credit is due to all for their share in the labour, but the services rendered by the Chief Warder in immediately directing and supervising the work deserves special notice.

Mr. CRAIG assisted me with many valuable suggestions in connection with the various works, and to his technical knowledge and unflinching industry and resource is largely due the successful accomplishment of an undertaking of no small magnitude.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

F. H. MAY,
Superintendent.

The Honourable

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

(A.)

VICTORIA GAOL.

Return of Reports for talking, idling, short oakum picking, &c., in the years 1895, 1896, 1897, and 1898.

MONTH.	1895. Daily average number in Prison, 472.	1896. Daily average number in Prison, 514.	1897. Daily average number in Prison, 462.	1898. Daily average number in Prison, 510.
January,	301	214	200	170
February,	314	209	161	113
March,	223	249	147	165
April,	286	257	154	213
May,	295	270	191	223
June,	311	261	166	241
July,	447	191	142	282
August,	374	192	159	331
September,	346	213	132	274
October,	309	174	160	227
November,	273	174	151	131
December,	225	188	140	100
Total,	3,654	2,592	1,903	2,470

(B.)

*Return of Offences reported of Prisoners fighting with or assaulting each other, or officers,
for the years 1895, 1896, 1897, and 1898.*

MONTH.	1895. Daily average number in Prison, 472.	1896. Daily average number in Prison, 514.	1897. Daily average number in Prison, 462.	1898. Daily average number in Prison, 510.
January,	Nil.	4	4	1
February,	5	1	1	6
March,	3	4	4	3
April,	12	..	2	9
May,	12	2	1	8
June,	4	4	1	6
July,	6	5	2	6
August,	9	4	4	3
September,	2	2	2	9
October,	10	2	4	7
November,	3	..	1	5
December,	3	..	8	3
Total,	69	28	34	66

(C.)

Return of Offences of Prisoners having Tobacco for the years 1895, 1896, 1897, and 1898.

MONTH.	1895. Daily average number in Prison, 472.	1896. Daily average number in Prison, 514.	1897. Daily average number in Prison, 462.	1898. Daily average number in Prison, 510.
January,	18	2	0	4
February,	15	1	1	3
March,	11	4	3	4
April,	17	1	4	6
May,	3	1	7	4
June,	11	1	7	2
July,	3	2	2	7
August,	6	5	0	3
September,	20	6	1	3
October,	15	6	1	7
November,	4	8	2	1
December,	3	5	2	1
Total,	126	42	30	45

(D.)

*Comparative Return of Prisoners confined in Victoria Gaol on the 31st December, for the years
1895, 1896, 1897, and 1898.*

CONVICTION.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
1st,	340	444	321	363
2nd,	54	60	56	52
3rd,	21	23	27	28
4th,	20	10	9	15
5th,	24	11	7	15
6th,	4	7	3	7
7th,	2	4	2	2
8th,	4	5	2	1
9th,	1	2	1	..
10th,	1	2	2	..
11th, .....	..	..	..	..
12th, .....	..	..	..	1
13th,	1	..	..	..
16th, .....	..	..	..	2
Total,	472	568	430	486

(E.)

Abstract of Industrial Labour, Victoria Gaol, for the year 1898.

Dr.	OAKUM.		Cr.		
1898.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1898, ..	\$ 871.00	1898.	By Oakum sold during the year,	\$ 2,453.60
	„ Cost of Paper Stuff purchased during the year,	916.00		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1898,	527.60
	Profit,	1,193.66			
	Total,	\$ 2,980.66		Total,	\$ 2,980.66

COIR.

1898.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1898, ..	\$ 500.20	1898.	By Matting, &c., sold during the year, ..	\$ 1,129.14
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,	924.70		„ Articles made for Gaol use,	50.90
	Profit,	759.71		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1898,	1,004.57
	Total,	\$ 2,184.61		Total,	\$ 2,184.61

NET-MAKING.

1898.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1898, ..	\$ 1.90	1898.	By Nets and Nettings sold and repaired,	\$ 74.07
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,	28.48		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1898, .....	..
	Profit,	43.69			
	Total,	\$ 74.07		Total,	\$ 74.07

TAILORING.

1898.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1898, ..	\$ 2.28	1898.	By Articles sold and repaired,	\$ 102.45
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,	1,791.75		„ Work done for Gaol,	1,707.34
	Profit,	95.62		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1898,	79.86
	Total,	\$ 1,889.65		Total,	\$ 1,889.65

PRINTING.

1898.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1898, ..	\$ 0.20	1898.	By Printing done for outside,	\$ 16.35
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,	328.40		„ Printing done for Government,	3,099.60
	Profit,	2,787.35		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1898, .....	..
	Total,	\$ 3,115.95		Total,	\$ 3,115.95

BOOK-BINDING.

1898.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1898, ..	\$ 4.80	1898.	By Book-binding and repairing done for outside,	\$ 10.55
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,	114.44		„ Book-binding, and repairing done for Government,	171.61
	Profit,	62.92		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1898, .....	..
	Total,	\$ 182.16		Total,	\$ 182.16

WASHING.

1898.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1898, ..	\$ 17.00	1898.	By Washing done for which cash was received, .....	..
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,	600.21		„ Washing done for Prison Officers at 1 cent per piece,	\$ 408.29
	Profit,	1,017.71		„ Washing Prisoner's Clothing at 1 cent per piece,	1,206.83
	Total,	\$ 1,634.92		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1898,	19.80
				Total,	\$ 1,634.92

RATTAN.

1898.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1898, ..	\$ 6.05	1898.	By Articles sold during the year,	\$ 27.60
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,	16.20		„ Articles made for Gaol use,	1.50
	Profit,	12.32		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1898,	5.47
	Total,	\$ 34.57		Total,	\$ 34.57

TIN-SMITHING.

1898.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1898, ..	\$ 9.05	1898.	By Work done for outside,	\$ 0.30
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,	62.02		„ Work done for Gaol,	81.83
	Profit,	38.31		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1898,	27.25
	Total,	\$ 109.38		Total,	\$ 109.38

CARPENTERING.

1898.	To stock on hand, 1st January, 1898, ..	\$ 6.56	1898.	By Articles sold and repaired during the year,	\$ 32.37
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,	114.26		„ Work done for Gaol,	242.49
	Profit,	192.90		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1898,	38.86
	Total,	\$ 313.72		Total,	\$ 313.72

RECAPITULATION.

1898.	Oakum,	\$1,193.66	1898.	By Surplus,	\$ 6,204.19
	Coir,	759.71			
	Net-making,	43.69			
	Tailoring,	95.62			
	Printing,	2,787.35			
	Book-binding,	62.92			
	Washing,	1,017.71			
	Rattan Work,	12.32			
	Tin-Smithing,	38.31			
	Carpentering,	192.90			
	Total,.....\$	6,204.19		Total,.....\$	6,204.19

Return showing the employment of prisoners and the value of their earnings.

Description of employment.	Daily average number of prisoners.			Value of Prison Labour.	Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
<i>Non-productive,—</i>				\$ c.	\$ c.
Crank labour, shot and stone, debtors, re- mands, sick and under punishment,	139		139		
<i>In Manufactures,—</i>					
Book-binding,.....	6		6	256.50	
Printing,.....	24		24	1,026.00	
Knitting,.....	6	4	10	142.00	
Oakum picking,.....	90	10	100	570.00	
Tin-smithing,.....	4		4	114.00	
Coir Mat Making,.....	30		30	855.00	
Grass Mat Making,	6		6	51.00	
Twine Making,	4		4	34.00	
Shoe-making,.....	2		2	85.00	
Tailoring,	8	10	18	769.00	
Rattan Work,.....	1		1	28.50	
					3,931.00
<i>In Building,—</i>					
Bricklaying,	26		26	1,111.50	
Carpentering,.....	12		12	547.20	
Painting,	4		4	114.00	
Miscellaneous Labour,	62		62	1,767.00	
					3,539.70
<i>In service of the Prison,—</i>					
Laundry,	22	7	29	1,239.75	
Cooking,	10		10	365.00	
Cleaning,	18	2	20	730.00	
White-washing,	4		4	114.00	
					2,448.75
Totals,.....\$	478	33	511	Total,.....\$	9,919.45

Table showing the number of Casualties in the Gaol Staff during the Year 1898.

	Establishment.	Joined.	Transferred from other Departments.	Resigned Volun- tarily.	Resigned through Sickness.	Services dispensed with.	Transferred to other Departments.	Dismissed.	Total num- ber of Casualties.
Europeans, .	29	8	...	4	1	1	1	2	9
Indians,	44	23	2	23	...	1	1	...	27

The above Table does not include—The Superintendent.
Chief Warder.
Clerical Staff.
Servants.