

Appendix L.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISONS FOR THE YEAR 1926.

1. The number of prisoners received into prison during the year and the corresponding number for year 1925 were as follows:—

	1925.	1926
Convicted by Ordinary Courts	5,333	5,663
Convicted by Court Martial	5	4
Debtors	53	64
On remand or in default of finding surety	948	780
Total	6,339	6,511

There was an increase of 172 on the total number of admission as compared with the year 1925. There was an increase of prisoners convicted for larceny during the year under review the number being 1,083 against 927 for the previous year.

2. The number of Revenue Grade prisoners admitted to prisons was 4,509 made up as follows:—

Convicted under the	Opium Ordinance	2,595
,,	Gambling Ordinance	169
,,	Arms & Ammunition Ord.	41
,,	Vehicle Ordinance	105
,,	Harbour Regulations	7
,,	Water Works	8
,,	Marine Hawkers Ord.	27
,,	Dangerous Goods Ord. ...	11
,,	Chinese Wine and Spirit Ordinance	7
,,	Societies Ordinance	16
,,	Public Health and Buildings Ordinance...	12
,,	Truck Ordinance	13
,,	Women and Girls (Protection) Ord.	11
,,	Importation and Exporta- tion Ordinance	6
,,	Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance.....	3
,,	Tobacco Ordinance	18
,,	Police Regulations	22
	<i>Carried forward</i>	3,071

	<i>Brought forward</i>	3,071
Convicted of removing dead body without permission		5
" committing nuisance in the street.		16
" unlawfully boarding steamers		14
" hawking without a licence	443	
" cruelty to animals		13
" keeping house for prostitution		13
" illegal pawning		13
" drunkenness		16
" trespass		31
" disorderly conduct		23
" assault		77
" obstruction		27
" cutting trees		59
" removing sand without permission.		6
" mendicancy		16
" unlawful possession of lottery tickets		39
" unlawful possession	313	
" stealing	166	
" possession of implement fit for unlawful purpose		27
" offering bribe		21
" obtaining by false pretences		36
" soliciting in a public thoroughfare for the purpose of prostitution.		3
" unlawful receiving		51
" travelling on tram car without paying legal fare		6
" spitting in Court		4
	Total	<u>4,509</u>

3. The above figures show that 78 per cent of the total admissions to prison were Revenue Grade prisoners.

The following table shows the number of prisoners committed to prison without the option of fine and in default of payment of fine:—

Year.	Without option of fine.	In default of payment of fine.			Total.
		Served the imprisonment.	Paid full fine.	Paid part fine.	
1925	613	4,331	74	315	5,333
1926	1,154	3,946	117	446	5,663

4 Fifty four (54) juveniles were admitted during the year, with sentences varying from 24 hours detention to 12 months hard labour. In 2 cases corporal punishment was awarded in addition.

5. The percentage of convicted prisoners admitted to prison with previous convictions recorded against them was 19 as compared with 17.5 for 1925.

6. There were 133 prisoners admitted who were convicted by the Police Courts in the New Territories against 134 for the previous year.

7. The following table shows the number of convictions in custody on the 31st December for the past 10 years, and the percentage of the total number of prisoners in custody to the estimated population of Hong Kong:—

Year.	Estimated population.	Number of convicts.	Percentage of population.	Daily average number of prisoners.	Percentage to population.
1917	535,100	209	·038	600	·112
1918	558,000	224	·040	601	·108
1919	598,100	259	·043	756	·126
1920	648,150	275	·043	755	·117
1921	665,350	231	·035	764	·115
1922	662,200	259	·039	787	·119
1923	681,800	294	·043	861	·126
1924	799,550	345	·043	1,066	·133
1925	874,420	394	·045	1,116	·128
1926	786,920	409	·052	1,054	·134

8. There were 516 punishments awarded for breach of prison discipline as compared with 792 for the preceding year. Corporal punishment was inflicted in five cases for prison offences.

9. Seventy seven (77) prisoners were whipped by order of courts.

10. There was no escape, or attempt to escape.

11. There were 18 deaths (13 natural causes and 5 executions.)

12. 13,319,014 forms were printed and issued to various Government Departments and 74,030 books bound or repaired, as compared with 13,069,606, forms and 74,497 books in 1925. During the year type to the value of \$9,000 was cast at an approximate outlay for material and labour of \$1,400. The type casting machine was purchased in 1925 for £871.

13. More land was resumed at Lai Chi Kok in November 1926 and as much as possible placed under cultivation. This land gives part employment to 40 prisoners. The staff is too limited to permit the employment of prisoners all day on this particular work.

14. Victoria Gaol is still over-crowded although more prisoners have been transferred to Lai Chi Kok. Authority has been given for the improvement of the Hospital, Reception and office accommodation and this improvement it is hoped will be partially effected in 1927.

15. Several buildings were found to be in a bad state of repair; a paper store, the roofs of "F" Hall and Female Prison were condemned. These will be renewed in 1927.

16. The conduct of both European and Indian Staff with few exceptions has been very good.

17. The general health of the staff has been good. As usual there was a considerable amount of malaria at Lai Chi Kok but there were no serious cases.

18. The appliance for use in case of fire are in good condition but inadequate. The question of fire appliances and the water supply is under consideration.

19. The rules laid down for the Government of prisons have been complied with.

20. I append the usual returns.

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Superintendent of Prisons.

6th May, 1927.

Table I.

Return showing the Expenditure and Income for the year 1926.

EXPENDITURE.	\$	INCOME.	\$
Pay and allowance of officers including Uniform, etc.	315,951.13	Earning of prisoners	148,667.80
VICTUALLING OF PRISONERS	88,598.51	Debtors' subsistence	509.75
Fuel, light, soap, and dry earth	38,536.90	Naval do.	59.50
Clothing of prisoners, bedding, and furniture	29,250.88	Military do.	73.85
Total	\$472,337.42	Marine do.	386.40
1925	\$462,827.04	To Balance	322,640.12
		Total	\$472,337.42

Average annual cost per prisoner \$306.11, in 1925 \$305.20, and in 1924 \$237.56.

Table II.

Return showing Expenditure and Income for the past 10 years.

Year.	Expenditure.		Income.		Actual cost of prisoners' maintenance.		Average cost per prisoner.	
	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.
1917.....	108,212.42		68,815.01		39,397.42		65.66	
1918.....	108,651.95		70,747.97		37,903.98		63.07	
1919.....	135,550.16		69,277.07		66,273.09		37.66	
1920.....	258,609.17		66,547.61		192,061.56		254.37	
1921.....	297,970.56		79,635.73		218,334.83		286.78	
1922.....	291,175.12		126,124.62		165,050.50		209.72	
1923.....	324,698.26		117,302.22		207,396.04		240.88	
1924.....	375,158.14		121,664.03		253,137.11		237.56	
1925.....	462,827.14		122,221.20		340,605.84		305.20	
1926.....	472,337.42		148,667.08		322,640.12		306.11	

Table III.

Return showing value of Industrial Labour for the year 1926.

Nature of Industry.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Value of stock on hand January 1st 1926.	Value of materials purchased.	Total Dr.	Value of articles manufactured or work done for payment.	Value of articles manufactured or work done for other Departments.	Value of stock on hand December 31st, 1926.	Total Cr.	Value of earnings. (Difference between columns 3 and 7.)
Oakum,	\$ 83.79	...	\$ 83.79	336.00	...	\$ 83.79	\$ 419.79	\$ 336.00
Coat,	2,901.76	3,772.68	6,674.44	2,425.52	2,186.89	4,328.48	8,940.89	2,266.45
Net-making,	3.01	335.44	338.45	574.65	109.30	2.55	686.50	348.05
Tailoring,	4,818.38	10,463.91	15,282.29	15.65	3,034.20	14,780.80	17,830.65	2,548.36
Rattan,	10.44	608.10	618.54	2.55	783.00	15.80	801.35	182.81
Tin-smithing,	119.55	1,573.53	1,693.08	161.41	2,815.36	222.83	3,199.60	1,506.52
Carpentering,	853.83	3,982.71	4,836.54	687.15	2,940.72	2,359.87	5,987.74	1,151.20
Grass-matting,85	198.60	199.45	63.18	316.80	1.98	381.96	182.51
Shoe-making,	1,558.20	9,623.62	11,181.82	51.87	9,092.19	2,951.60	12,098.66	916.84
Laundry,	11.32	2,578.05	2,589.37	26.58	12,463.35	9.82	12,499.75	9,910.38
Printing and Bookbinding,	42,308.88	41,489.14	83,798.02	300.85	189,314.22	23,135.62	212,750.69	128,952.67
Photography,	4.16	740.60	744.76	11.50	1,093.82	5.45	1,110.77	366.01
Total,	\$ 52,674.17	75,366.38	128,040.55	4,659.91	224,149.85	47,898.59	276,708.35	148,667.80

Paid into Bank during 1926, which sum includes \$276.08 for work executed in 1925, \$4,029.98, Value of work executed during 1926 for which payment was deferred to 1927, \$282.25.