



THE HONGKONG Government Gazette.

Published by Authority.

No. 16.

VICTORIA, SATURDAY, 17TH APRIL, 1869.

VOL. XV.

No. 44.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Report from the Captain Superintendent of Police for the Year 1868, is published for general information.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 12th April, 1869.

POLICE DEPARTMENT,
HONGKONG, 4th February, 1869.

Sir,—I have the honor to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, a Return of Serious and Minor Offences reported to have been committed during the year 1868.

2. I also have the honor to enclose a separate Return of Felonies coming under the cognizance of the Police during the same year, in accordance with the instructions conveyed to me in your despatch No. 588, of 5th December, 1868.

3. From these and similar Returns forwarded last year, it will be apparent that Serious Crimes have decreased 13.8 per cent, Minor Offences, 2.9 per cent, and all Crimes, 5.5 per cent, when compared with the year 1867.

Year.	<i>Serious Crimes.</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>	<i>Minor Offences.</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>	<i>All Offences.</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>
1867	1,458	..	4,585	..	6,043	..
1868	1,256	13.8	4,449	2.9	5,705	5.5

4. This decrease of Serious Crimes I believe to be especially attributable to the infliction of the punishment of flogging in cases of crime accompanied by violence; and also to the optional deportation of well known criminals.

5. I regret to find that a large increase is apparent in the number of European prisoners. Drunkenness shows an increase of 215 cases, equivalent to 82.5 per cent on the Return of the previous year.

6. In cases of Robbery with Violence, perpetrated solely by Chinese, a decrease of 109 cases is noticeable, the number being 41 in 1868 and 150 in 1867; whilst Assaults with Intent to Rob are less numerous by 31 cases, only four having been reported in 1868.

7. Two cases of Murder occurred, one of an American named Yancey residing at British Kowloon; the other of a Turnkey of Victoria Gaol; in the first case, it transpired that nine persons had been engaged in the burglarious attack that resulted in Yancey's murder;.....In the second case the murderer, a convict in the Gaol, suffered the extreme penalty of the Law.

8. Cases of common Assaults continue to be very numerous, averaging more than 2 for each day.

9. Seventy-six cases of Burglary are reported, against 119 in the previous year, shewing a decrease of 43 cases. This may, I think, be in a great measure owing to the arrest of a gang of 10 men, who lived in the shed on the hill side near the Rifle Butts, and who were traced on information procured by a Lokong after they had perpetrated some most daring burglaries.

10. The decrease of 323 cases of Gambling (181 in 1868—504 in 1867) is clearly attributable to the establishment of Licensed Public Gaming Houses; and here I may remark that these Returns of crime dissipate the idea, prevalent at the time of their introduction, that crime would be largely increased.

11. Sixty-eight cases of Kidnapping appear, at first sight, to manifest a very extensive field of crime, but reference to the "Discharged" column shows the number of cases dismissed by the Magistrates, and which really might have been refused at the Police Stations, as they are in fact cases wherein the alleged kidnapped person, being of sufficient age to be responsible for his actions, had voluntarily joined an emigrant ship, and then, repenting of his undertaking, had persuaded his friends to charge the Agents who engaged him with Kidnapping. The remaining cases are more serious and refer to the Abduction of Children for sale on the mainland.

12. Cases of unlawful possession (215 in 1868—360 in 1867) refer generally to articles of small intrinsic value, and a large number yearly arise from property stolen at fires.

13. Cases of Larceny continue very numerous (805 in 1868—719 in 1867) and are, I think, greatly fostered by the conveniences afforded by the Pawn Shops for the disposal of the property. As usual, in no case during the year has any Pawnbroker voluntarily assisted the Police, but more stringent Rules are now being enforced as to the issue and renewal of Pawnbrokers' Licenses.

14. Under the head of Piracy (21 in 1868—35 in 1867) will be found a great many cases affecting small Fishing Boats and which should rather be described as Robberies in Chinese Waters. The only attack on a European vessel was that on the North German barque *Lesmona*, on the 25th May, off the Island of Hainam. The vessel was captured and scuttled by the Pirates, the crew narrowly escaping with their lives. The distance of the place of attack, 300 miles from Hongkong, prevented the Police of this Colony being successful in arresting any of the culprits, although they obtained information as to the place where two of the piratical junks were for a time lying. Their seizure was however unaccomplished, through a misunderstanding on the part of the Officer in command of the Gun-boat that was sent in search, as to the proper place to visit. As His Excellency is well aware, although these offences are placed on the Police Returns, the Police themselves have no power or means to act without the waters of the Colony.

15. As to miscellaneous offences, there is little worthy of remark, except the large items of the arrest of 427 as suspicious characters and 324 for hawking without license. It is under the former heading that a large number of persons, who have been connected with more serious crimes, have been convicted; when the main charge through the absence of witnesses, or non-production of property, would have broken down. The number of licensed hawkers is very great and thus several persons screen themselves in the crowd from taking out licenses. I may here remark that the Police are at present powerless to stop the street cries of these men, unless some person is ready to prove at the Police Court that he was annoyed or alarmed.

16. Although the diminution of crime is often traceable to external circumstances, yet the daily increasing knowledge of their duties by the Police must, in a great measure, have tended to the above effect. The Sikh constables are rapidly becoming more acquainted with the nature of their work and many are endeavouring to obtain a knowledge of the Colloquial to increase their usefulness; whilst, as a body of disciplined men, it is unquestionable that they would be of great service if in the event of any disturbance, the necessity should arise.

17. External assistance has been rendered to the Police during the past year through the continued employment of district watchmen, and the co-operation of informants in the pay of the licensees of the Gambling Houses. The former have paid especial attention to cases of Kidnapping, Larceny and Breaches of the Peace; and the latter to reporting the return of any well known criminals.

18. As an increased means of keeping up a proper supervision over constables on their beats, the Mounted Force has been increased and a larger amount of patrolling is done. Apart from the benefits arising from rapid communication with the out-stations, I think a marked improvement is visible in the deportment of constables on duty.

19. The conduct of the Police is apparently improving, especially since the latter part of the year, when the severe example of two Inspectors being dismissed for drunkenness took place. The mess of the Europeans has, under the superintendence of one of the Inspectors, been more carefully attended to and certain conveniences added. The men consequently remain more together in Barracks instead of frequenting the Town when off duty.

20. Much has been done during the past year towards the improvement and repair of Barracks of the Force; but still the want of greater accommodation, both for men and horses, is urgently felt at the Central Station.

21. The Fire Arms of the men are now worn out and will require to be replaced.

22. The removal of the Water Police from a Station on land to a floating Hulk has quite answered the expectations entertained. Communication is rendered more easy both from the shipping and the Central Station; and the duties appear to be carried out more efficiently.

23. Improved as the means of communication are with the out-stations through the increase of horses attached to the Police, I must urge the advantages that would result from the introduction of telegraphic wires. This matter I have already referred to in C. S. O. No. 341 of 1868, and it is, I believe, under consideration.

24. The disturbed state of British Kowloon, owing to the lawless and desperate characters that reside there, and its proximity to Chinese territory has rendered it necessary to strengthen the Police detachment there. A large space of territory is still however left comparatively unprotected. The question of adopting here and in small villages on the Island the Indian plan of punitive Police Stations, the expenses of which are defrayed by the villagers, should any grave outrage occur, may be deemed worthy of consideration.

25. The out-stations of Aberdeen, Stanley and Showkewan have, owing in a great measure to the care of the Inspectors in charge, been exempt from any serious crime.

26. I am indebted to Mr. Deputy Superintendent Creagh for the enclosed Report on the stables.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

W. M. DEANE,
Captain Superintendent.

The Honorable J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Return of Felonies coming under the notice of the Police during the Year 1868.

Degree of Offences.	No. of Cases.		Persons Implicated.		No. of Persons Convicted.		No. of Persons Discharged.		Executions.		Remarks.
	1868.	1867.	1868.	1867.	1868.	1867.	1868.	1867.	1868.	1867.	
Murder,	2	2	10	8	1	1	2	..	1	1	(a) One Prisoner committed Suicide before Trial.
Attempt at Murder, .....	..	2	?	3	..	3	..	..	..	4
Piracies,	21	35	?	?	9	12	14	10	..	..
Burglary,	76	119	165	318	38	52	13	5	..	..
Highway Robbery,	41	150	92	329	16	94	14	59	..	..
Embezzlement and Extortion,	15	8	18	12	12	11	6	..	..	..
Kidnapping,	68	53	94	69	36	36	36	31	..	..
Unlawful Possession,	215	360	285	434	172	303	113	130	..	..
Larceny,	805	719	1,090	962	616	526	308	385	..	..
Counterfeit Coin,	12	9	33	10	9	5	24	5	..	..
Arson,	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..
Total,	1,256	1,458	1,788	2,146	909	1,043	531	626	1	5	

W. M. DEANE,
Captain Superintendent.

Police Department, 4th February, 1869.

The attached statement shows the present state of the Police Horses. Nos. 1 to 9 inclusive are the survivors of the batch that I brought from Calcutta in March, 1868.

They are all sound with the exception of No. 1, who is now under treatment for a slight strain of the suspensory ligaments of the near fore leg. Of the remaining horses, Nos. 15, 16, 18 and 19 are unsafe to ride and unfit for further service, I would recommend that they be sold and re-placed by Japanese or Chinese ponies. The latter, being hardier and requiring less attention than horses, are best suited to out-station work, where of necessity they are at the mercy of a Chinese coolie.

The remaining, Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14 and 17 are beginning to be worn out, but can still perform light work on level roads, they are useful at Nos. 1, 7, and Showkewan Stations.

The Central Station stables have been recently improved by substituting a stone floor for one of soft brick. The verandah has been closed in with thick mat screens, which protect the stalls from the sun during day and from cold draughts of air at night.

Sickness has greatly decreased since these alterations were made.

The new stable at the East and West Point Stations are, as regards internal arrangement, probably as good as any in the Colony, but their distance from Head Quarters is a serious objection in cases of sudden illness.

The stables at Aberdeen and Showkewan are, as has been frequently reported, unfit for the purpose.

At Stanley no accommodation whatever has been provided. The nature of Police duty renders it peculiarly productive of disease in horses. An animal that has only had patrol work for days has suddenly to go off 8 or 10 miles at a good pace, and that frequently during the hottest time of the day. A walk up and down in the sun for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour is not a sufficient restorative for an animal that has taken an express 11 miles to this Station and it is unprofitable to Government as well as trying to the horse, not to provide shelter.

I would suggest that a stable be provided at Stanley and Aberdeen, each to contain one stall for the horse or pony attached to the Station and at least one spare stall for the accommodation of horses from Victoria. Until the question of removing the Showkewan Station has been settled, a stable cannot be erected there.

C. V. CREAGH,

Deputy Superintendent of Police.

Central Police Barracks, 4th February, 1869.

No. 45.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Account, duly certified, of the Average Amount of BANK NOTES in Circulation in Hongkong, during the Month ending 31st March, 1869, is published for general information.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 12th April, 1869.

BANKS.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.	SPECIE IN RESERVE.
	\$	\$
Oriental Bank Corporation,	394,037	131,346
Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China,	361,815	150,000
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,	399,305	135,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,	926,279	400,000
TOTAL,.....\$	2,081,436	816,346

No. 46.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Tenders will be received at the Colonial Secretary's Office, until Noon, on Tuesday the 27th instant, for the supply of 1,500 yards of Khakee Drill for Summer Clothing for the Indian and Sikh Police.

Samples to be produced at the time of the opening of the Tenders.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 15th April, 1869.