

HONGKONG.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF VICTORIA GAOL FOR 1889.

*Presented to the Legislative Council, by Command of His Excellency
the Officer Administering the Government.*

No. 7.

GAOL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 15th January, 1890.

COLONIAL SECRETARY,

I beg to forward herewith Annual Statistical Return of Victoria Gaol for the year 1889.

2. During eight months of the year I was detached from Gaol duty Major DEMPSTER acting as Superintendent for the time and carrying out the discipline of the Gaol on the same lines as hitherto.

3. There has been a small increase in the average number of Prisoners during the year, and a large proportionate increase in the number of Prison Offences, but the latter increase is due entirely to petty offences of which talking and short oakum picking are the principal. The number of violent and serious Prison Offences has continued to steadily decrease.

Subordinate Officers.

4. The conduct of the Subordinate Staff during the year has been very satisfactory. These Officers have generally been zealous and painstaking and judicious in their intercourse with Prisoners. The frequent changes which hitherto occurred in the personnel of the Staff have diminished since the late increase of pay.

Prison Buildings.

5. These remain without change as formerly reported on. I can only repeat what I have frequently urged that in my opinion the introduction of the separate system is (especially in this Colony) *essential* to proper prison discipline. The ordinary Chinese Prisoner better fed, housed and clothed, with far less hard labour to do than an ordinary coolie finds nothing deterrent in our Prisons as long as he lives in association with companions day and night but I believe that under the separate system the Chinese Criminal classes would prefer even the hardships and cruelties of a Chinese prison to the long isolation of this system and that its introduction would be speedily followed by a considerable diminution in the number of Prisoners.

Prisoners and their Discipline.

6. During the year there have been 6,196 Prison Offences to an average of 581, giving a little over 10½ offences for each Prisoner. The great proportion of Prison Offences are committed by short sentence Prisoners. Prisoners entitled to earn remission are generally careful to avoid Prison Offences. On the last day of the year of 292 Prisoners sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment or over, 90 have been clear of punishment for more than three months and of these 35 had been clear for upwards of a year.

7. I append as usual Returns showing the number of the most common offences committed by Prisoners, similar Returns for the last three years being shown alongside for the sake of comparison.

Industrial Labour.

8. There has been an increase in the industrial earnings during the year and also an increase in the number of Prisoners taught trades but industrial work is greatly hampered by absolute want of space. The usual Returns are appended.

A. GORDON,
Superintendent.

(A.)

VICTORIA GAOL.

Return of Reports for talking, &c., in the years 1886, 1887, 1888 and 1889.

MONTH.	1886. Daily average number in Prison, 674.	1887. Daily average number in Prison, 584.	1888. Daily average number in Prison, 531.	1889. Daily average number in Prison, 581.
January,.....	119	146	355	105
February,	135	75	320	150
March,	248	97	362	182
April,	330	408	380	142
May,	197	963	402	278
June,	298	918	296	205
July,	297	500	258	220
August,	232	530	225	167
September,	318	558	220	219
October,	209	429	222	130
November,	183	184	328	118
December,	93	113	277	220
Total,.....	2,659	4,921	3,645	2,086

A. GORDON,
Superintendent.

(B.)

Return of Offences reported of Prisoners fighting with or assaulting each other, or Officers,

for the years 1886, 1887, 1888 and 1889.

MONTH.	1886. Daily average number in Prison, 674.	1887. Daily average number in Prison, 584.	1888. Daily average number in Prison, 531.	1889. Daily average number in Prison, 581.
January,.....	14	21	14	1
February,	15	20	21	10
March,	17	11	19	11
April,	32	29	11	6
May,	31	41	27	5
June,	19	33	19	12
July,	13	31	11	5
August,	13	39	8	13
September,	8	26	18	7
October,	17	27	13	5
November,	9	18	5	5
December,	7	10	19	12
Total,.....	195	306	185	92

A. GORDON,
Superintendent.

(C.)

Return of Offences of Prisoners having Tobacco, for the years 1886, 1887, 1888 and 1889.

MONTH.	1886. Daily average number in Prison, 674.	1887. Daily average number in Prison, 584.	1888. Daily average number in Prison, 531.	1889. Daily average number in Prison, 581.
January,.....	28	14	74	32
February,	16	10	35	50
March,	14	20	48	55
April,	11	27	25	21
May,	7	39	61	45
June,	15	34	27	33
July,	9	57	34	24
August,	11	40	22	35
September,	31	58	30	51
October,	17	71	35	67
November,	30	32	34	15
December,	23	33	17	59
Total,.....	212	435	442	487

A. GORDON,
Superintendent.

(D.)

Comparative Return of Prisoners confined in Victoria Gaol on 31st December, 1886, 31st December, 1887,
31st December, 1888 and 31st December, 1889.

CONVICTION.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
1st,	414	436	367	466
2nd,	62	30	43	59
3rd,	35	34	35	22
4th,	27	15	13	14
5th,	24	20	16	16
6th,	18	15	13	8
7th,	15	10	4	2
8th,	10	10	8	9
9th,	1	1	1	1
10th,	3	3	2	1
11th,	3	2	1	...
12th,	1
13th,	1
Total,.....*	612	576	503	600

A. GORDON,
Superintendent.

(E)

ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNT OF INDUSTRIAL LABOUR, VICTORIA GAOL, FOR THE YEAR 1889.

Dr.		OAKUM.		Cr.	
1889.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1889, ..	\$ 187.41	1889.	By Oakum sold during the year,	\$2,189.42
	„ Cost of Paper Stuff purchased } during the year,.....	1,619.27		„ Oakum issued for Gaol Hospital use, „ Stock on hand 31st December, 1889,—	7.50
	Profit,.....	897.59		Paper Stuff, 10,082lbs. \$ 362.95 Oakum, 2,880 „ 144.40	507.35
	Total,.....\$	2,704.27		Total,.....\$	2,704.27

Dr.

COIR YARN.

Cr.

1889.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1889,	\$ 347.24	1889.	By Matting sold during the year,	\$1,420.33
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	987.58		„ Issue for Prison use during the year,	65.18
	Profit,.....	792.07		„ Stock on hand 31st December, 1889,—	
				Manufactured,\$191.38	
				Material, 450.00	641.38
	Total,.....\$	2,126.89		Total,.....\$	2,126.89

RATTAN WORK.

1888.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1889,	\$ 101.45	1889.	By Chairs, Fenders, &c., sold during the year,.....	\$ 306.71
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	306.19		„ Articles made for Gaol use,.....	10.73
	Profit,	69.00		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1889,—	
				Manufactured Articles, \$120.75	
				Material,..... 38.45	159.20
	Total,.....\$	476.64		Total,.....\$	476.64

NET-MAKING.

1889.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1889,	\$ 10.00	1889.	By Nets sold during the year,.....	\$ 215.20
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	219.45		„ Nets made for Gaol use, (value),...	98.10
	Profit,	122.85		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1889,—	
				Manufacturer,.....	39.00
	Total,.....\$	352.30		Total,	\$ 352.30

GRASS MATTING.

1889.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1889,	\$ 12.37	1889.	By Issue for Prison use during the year,	\$ 3.10
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	137.25		„ Matting sold during the year,	149.94
	Profit,	21.43		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1889,—	
				Manufactured,\$9.26	
				Material, 8.75	18.01
	Total,	\$ 171.05		Total,.....\$	171.05

WASHING.

1889.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1889,	\$ 6.40	1889.	By Value of Washing done during the year, Prison Clothing at one cent a piece,.....	\$1,392.75
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	438.55		„ Cash received for Clothes washed, ..	28.77
	Profit,	986.57		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1889,	10.00
	Total,.....	1,431.52		Total,.....\$	1,431.52

Dr.

SHOE-MAKING.

Cr.

1889.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1889,	\$ 42.30	1889.	By Estimated value of shoes to Prisoners, and Repairs,	\$ 170.98
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	658.80		„ Two Issues—Summer and Winter Uniform Shoes, to Prison Officers,	226.00
	Profit,	278.22		„ Sale to Prison Officers, &c.,.....	510.93
				„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1889,—	
				Material,\$50.41	
				Value of New Shoes, 21.00	71.41
	Total,.....\$	979.32		Total,.....\$	979.32

PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING.

1889.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1889,	\$ 25.00	1889.	By Estimated value of Printing done for Public Offices during the year, (105,159 forms),	\$ 564.89
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	160.37		„ Estimated value of Books bound for Prison use,.....	2.84
	Profit,	670.11		„ Cash received for Books bound,...	236.90
				„ Cash received for Printing done,...	21.53
				„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1889,—	
				Book-binding Material, &c.,	29.32
	Total,.....\$	855.48		Total,.....\$	855.48

TAILORS' SHOP.

1889.	To Stock on hand, 1st January, 1889,	\$ 975.54	1889.	By Estimated value of Prisoners' Clothing made during the year,	\$1,733.04
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	1,378.29		„ Work done for Officers, Police, &c., and charged for,.....	288.80
	Profit,	134.33		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1889,—	
				Flannel, Serge, Canvas, &c.,.....	\$ 169.85
				Manufactured Articles, 296.47	466.32
	Total,.....\$	2,488.16		Total,.....\$	2,488.16

CARPENTERS' SHOP.

1889.	To Value of Stock on hand, 1st January, 1889,	\$ 15.74	1889.	By Value of Articles made for Gaol use during the year,.....	\$ 156.51
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	203.44		„ Work done for Officers and charged for,	59.48
	Profit,	24.76		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1889,—	
				Material, Wood, &c.,... \$ 7.65	
				Manufactured Articles, 20.30	27.95
	Total,	243.94		Total,.....\$	243.94

TIN-SMITH'S SHOP.

1889.	To Value of Stock on hand, 1st January, 1889,	\$ 2.22	1889.	By Estimated value of Articles made for Gaol use during the year,	\$ 40.97
	„ Cost of Material purchased during the year,.....	26.93		„ Sale of Articles to Prison Officers,	6.18
	Profit,	29.94		„ Stock on hand, 31st December, 1889,—	
				Value of Manufactured Articles,	11.94
	Total,	59.09		Total,.....\$	59.09

Dr.

RECAPITULATION.

Cr.

1889.	Oakum,.....	\$ 897.59	1889.	By Surplus,	\$4,026.87
	Coir Yarn,	792.07			
	Net-making,	122.85			
	Rattan Work,	69.00			
	Grass Matting,.....	21.43			
	Washing,	986.57			
	Shoe-making,	278.22			
	Printing and Book-binding,	670.11			
	Tailoring,	134.33			
	Carpentering,	24.76			
	Tin Work,	29.94			
	Total,	\$ 4,026.87		Total,	\$ 4,026.87

To Profit, \$4,026.87

A. GORDON,
Superintendent.

Victoria Gaol Office, Hongkong, 15th January, 1890.