

Appendix L.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISONS FOR THE YEAR 1920.

1. The number of prisoners received into prison during the year and the corresponding number for the year 1919 were as follows:—

	1920.	1919.
Convicted by Ordinary Courts,	4,254	4,336
Convicted by Court Martial,	9	12
Supreme Court for China & Korea,	2	5
Debtors,	67	51
On remand or in default of finding surety,	821	808
Total,.....	5,153	5,212

There was a decrease of 59 on the total number of admissions as compared with the year 1919. There was an increase of prisoners convicted for larceny during the year under review, the number being 1,179 against 1,048 for the previous year.

2. The number of Revenue Grade prisoners admitted to prisons was 2,266 made up as follows:—

Convicted under the Opium Ordinance,	367
" Gambling Ordinance,	186
" Arms and Ammunition Ord.	63
" Vehicles Ordinance,	91
" Sanitary By-laws,	7
" Harbour Regulations,	9
" Post Office Ordinance,	3
" Stowaway Ordinance,	18
" Servants Quarters Ordinance,	6
" Marine Hawkers Ordinance,	42
" Dangerous Goods Ordinance,	2
" Chinese Wine & Spirit Ord.	26
" Eating House Ordinance,	8
" Asiatic Emigration Ordinance,	1
" Society Ordinance,	7
" Public Health and Buildings Ordinance,	51
" Truck Ordinance,	20
" Counterfeit Coins Ordinance,	2
" Women and Girls (Protection) Ordinance,	12
" Pawnbrokers Ordinance,	6
" Importation and Exportation Ordinance,	20
Carried forward,	947

	<i>Brought forward,</i>	947
Convicted under the	Boarding & Lodging House Ordinance,	1
"	Pharmacy & Poisons Ordinance,	8
"	Tobacco Ordinance,	18
"	Indecent Exhibition Ordinance,	1
"	Railway Ordinance,	1
Convicted of	committing nuisance in the street,	12
"	unlawfully boarding steamers,	36
"	hawking without a licence,	434
"	cruelty to animals,	3
"	keeping houses for prostitution,	56
"	depositing rubbish in the street,	7
"	illegal Pawning,	11
"	travelling on river steamer without paying legal fares,	17
"	drunkenness,	22
"	trespass,	120
"	disorderly conduct,	42
"	assault,	31
"	obstruction,	46
"	cutting trees,	45
"	Fighting,	6
"	mendicancy,	62
"	causing malicious damage,	1
"	unlawful possession of lottery tickets,	65
"	unlawful possession,	116
"	stealing,	57
"	possession of implement fit for unlawful purpose,	15
"	offering bribe,	15
"	obtaining by false pretences,	2
"	blasting stone in dangerous manner,	6
"	soliciting in a public thoroughfare for the purpose of prostitution	13
"	conveying pigwash during prohibited hours	3
"	unlawful receiving,	16
"	possession of false scale,	2
"	avoiding payment of Tram Car fare,	6
"	removing dead body without permission	1
"	adultery,	2
"	demanding money with menaces,	1
"	sleeping on duty,	1
"	possession of dagger without licence,	12
"	using indecent languages,	1
"	being absent without leave,	2
"	neglect of duty,	2
"	as Rogue and Vagabond,	1

Total.....2,266

3. The above figures show that 53 per cent. of the total admission 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	
1919	2,552	1,424	181	196	4,353
1920	1,999	1,931	147	188	4,265

4. One hundred and sixty five (165) juveniles were admitted during the year. In 58 cases corporal punishment was awarded. All these juveniles in addition to whipping, received sentences varying from 48 hours detention to 12 months hard labour.

5. The percentage of convicted prisoners admitted to prison with previous convictions recorded against them was 14.1 as compared with 12.7 for 1919.

6. There were 125 prisoners admitted who were convicted by the Police Court in the New Territories against 153 for the previous year (98 in 1918).

7. The following table shows the number of convicts 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 Hongkong:—

Year.	Estimated population.	Number of convicts.	Percentage of population.	Daily average number of prisoners.	Percentage to population.
1911	464,277	241	0.52	595	1.28
1912	467,777	222	0.47	701	1.49
1913	489,114	253	0.52	702	1.44
1914	501,304	216	0.44	600	1.20
1915	516,870	213	0.41	594	1.15
1916	528,010	203	0.38	638	1.21
1917	535,100	209	0.38	600	1.12
1918	558,000	224	0.40	601	1.08
1919	598,100	259	0.43	756	1.26
1920	648,150	275	0.43	755	1.17

8. There were 750 punishments awarded for breach of prison discipline as compared with 723 for the preceding year. Corporal punishment was inflicted in one case for a prison offence.

9. One hundred and seventy-four (174) prisoners were whipped by order of Courts.

10. There was no escape or attempt to escape.

11. There were 20 deaths (11 natural causes and 9 executions).

12. Long-sentence prisoners of good conduct are employed at industrial labour.

13. 7,006,540 forms were printed and issued to various Government Departments and 32,880 books bound and repaired.

14. The buildings are in good repair.

15. The conduct of both the European and Indian Staff has been very good.

16. The appliances for use in case of fire are in good condition and the water supply adequate.

17. A Branch Prison was opened at Lai Chi Kok on the 17th March, 1920. The daily average at this prison was 126. A Hall at Lai Chi Kok has been set apart for Juvenile offenders.

18. Major C. Willson, O.B.E., acted as Assistant Superintendent, during the absence of Mr. J. W. Franks on leave, from 26th March to 30th December, 1920.

19. The Department was separated from the Police Department and Mr. J. W. Franks appointed Superintendent of Prisons, as from the 31st December, 1920.

20. The increase in expenditure is due to (A) general increase in salaries. (B) increase in staff (C) opening of Lai Chi Kok (D) increase in prices.

21. The rules laid down for the Government at the prisons have been complied with.

22. I append the usual returns.

J. W. Franks,
Superintendent.

8th June, 1921.

Table I.

Return showing the Expenditure and Income for the year 1920.

EXPENDITURE.	\$	c.	INCOME.	\$	c.
Pay and allowance of officers including Uniform, etc.	145,623	62	Earning of prisoners	64,014	11
Vietnamling of prisoners	55,559	41	Debtors' subsistence	669	75
Fuel, light, soap, and dry earth	27,007	45	Vagrants do.	84	53
Clothing of prisoners, bedding, and furniture ...	30,418	69	Wei-Hai-Wei prisoners' subsistence	128	10
			Shanghai do.	630	60
			Military do.	532	15
			Naval do.	85	65
			Canton do.	124	00
			Subsistence of prisoners sentenced by Marine Magistrate.....	201	20
			Waste Food sold.....	77	50
			To Balance.....	192,061	56
Total.....	\$258,609	17	Total.....	\$258,609	17
1919.....	\$135,550	16			

Average annual cost per prisoner \$254.37, in 1919 \$87.66, and in 1918 \$63.07.

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.
1911	93,458.23	53,889.26	39,568.97	66.50
1912	97,577.82	62,348.80	35,229.02	50.25
1913	106,275.20	61,298.50	44,976.70	64.07
1914	108,143.24	70,597.22	37,546.02	62.58
1915	109,369.95	65,544.33	43,825.62	73.78
1916	112,615.70	70,019.18	42,596.52	66.77
1917	108,212.43	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	87.66
1920	258,609.17	66,547.61	192,031.56	254.37

Table III.

Return showing value of Industrial Labour for the year 1920.

Nature of Industry.	1 Value of stock on hand January 1st 1920.	2 Value of materials purchased.	3 Total Dr.	4 Value of articles manufactured or work done for payment.	5 Value of articles manufactured done for Gaol or other Departments.	6 Value of Stock on hand December 31st, 1920.	7 Total Cr.	8 Value of earnings. (Difference between columns 3 and 7.)
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Oakum,	393.20	...	393.20	1.98	220.14	171.44	393.56	.36
Coir,	1,435.18	3,833.91	5,269.09	3,058.26	1,419.96	2,265.50	6,743.72	1,474.63
Net-making,	3.50	104.80	108.30	209.10	...	1.05	210.15	101.85
Tailoring,	306.80	11,563.92	11,870.72	81.15	10,960.83	2,363.30	13,405.28	1,534.56
Rattan,	2.36	206.87	209.23	18.20	260.92	60.25	339.37	130.14
Tin-smithing,	71.24	1,082.84	1,153.58	57.75	2,004.49	4.12	2,066.36	912.78
Carpentering,	48.15	1,705.32	1,753.47	146.00	1,722.72	709.38	2,578.10	824.63
Grass-matting,	1.16	42.50	43.66	...	108.00	1.78	109.78	66.12
Shoe-making,	362.82	2,588.83	2,951.15	236.60	2,206.42	1,138.55	3,581.57	630.42
Laundry,	3,999.23	3,999.23	14.45	10,591.65	...	10,606.10	6,606.87
Printing and Bookbinding,	41,950.48	41,254.54	83,205.02	162.72	79,472.40	55,201.18	134,836.30	51,631.28
Photography,	12.55	664.55	677.10	15.85	751.26	10.46	777.57	100.47
Total,.....\$	44,587.44	67,046.81	111,633.75	4,002.06	109,718.79	61,927.01	175,647.86	64,014.11

Paid into Bank during 1920, which sum includes \$286.35 for work executed in 1919, \$3,598.21.
Value of work executed during 1920 for which payment was deferred to 1921, \$1,130.78.