

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

JAILS OF THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY,

1903.

MADRAS:

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRES

1904.

CONTENTS.

	PARAS.
Introductory	1
Inspector-General of Prisons	2
Number of different classes of jails	3
Statistical Tables	4
General Summary	5
Classification of offences—Most numerous offences—Statement D	6
Statement No. I—Convicts	7
Prisoners under trial—Statement No. XVIII	8
Civil prisoners	9
State prisoners	10
Statement No. II—Religion, age, etc., of convicts	11
Juveniles	12
Education of convicts	13
Previous occupation	14
Statement No. III—Nature and length of sentences	15
Statement No. IV—Previously-convicted prisoners	16
Statement No. V—Escapes and recapture of convicts	17
Statement No. VI—Offences and punishments	18
Punishments	19
Corporal punishments	20
Fetters	21
General remarks on jail punishments	22
Statement No. VII—Prison officers	23
Statement No. C—The mark system	24
Statement No. VIII—Diet scales	25
Total expenditure of the year	26
Increases and decreases of expenditure	27
Expenditure in different classes of jails	28
Expenditure as exhibited in Statement No. IX	29
Establishment charges	30
Dietary charges	31
Hospital charges	32
Clothing and bedding	33
Sanitation charges	34
Charges for moving prisoners	35
Miscellaneous services and supplies	36
Travelling allowances	37
Contingencies	38
Extraordinary charges	39
Statement G—Subsidiary jails	40
Statement No. XI—Employment of convicts	41
Statements Nos. XII and XII-A.—Cash earnings and results of manufacturing operations.	42
Results of manufacturing operations in individual jails	43
Statement No. XIII—Net cost per prisoner	44
Value of military supplies	45
Value of jail supplies	46
Statement No. XIV—Sickness and mortality in 1903	47
Death-rate in the several classes of jails	48
Do. in Central Jails	49
Do. in District Jails	50
Do. in Subsidiary Jails	51
Classes of diseases—Statement No. XV	52
Cholera	53
Dysentery	54
Malaria	55
Tubercular diseases	56
Other diseases	57
Mortality according to sentences—Statements Nos. XVI and XVII	58
Prisoners' Weighment—Miscellaneous Statement B	59
Statement A—Accommodation of prisoners	60
Visits to jails	61
Inspections	62
General features of the year	63
Events of administrative interest—Changes and improvements	64
Expenditure on jail buildings	65

	PARAS.
Service registers, valuable stock and records	66
Conduct of officers	67
Superintendents' Annual Reports	68

APPENDIX I—STATEMENTS.

JUDICIAL.

	PAGES
General Summary showing the distribution of all classes of prisoners	20 & 2
STATEMENT No. I.—Admission and disposal of convicts	22 & 2
Do. „ II.—Religion, age, previous occupation and state of education of convicts	24 & 2
Do. „ III.—Sentences of convicts	26 to 3
Do. „ IV.—Number of re-convicted criminals admitted	3
Do. „ V.—Escapes and recaptures of convicts	3
Do. „ VI.—Jail offences and punishments	3
Do. „ VII.—Employment of convicts as Prison officers	34
Do. „ VIII.—Diet-scales for Europeans, Foreign convicts and Natives (Central, District and Sub-Jail) including punishment diets	35 to 38

FINANCIAL.

STATEMENT No. IX.—Expenditure in guarding and maintenance	39 to 42
Do. „ X.—Expenditure compared with three preceding years	43 & 44
Do. „ XI.—Employment of convicts	45
Do. „ XII.—Cash earnings of convicts	46
Do. „ XIII.—Net cost of prisoners	47

VITAL.

STATEMENT No. XIV.—Sickness and mortality amongst all classes	48 to 51
Do. „ XV.—Admissions and deaths from chief diseases among convicts	52
Do. „ XVI.—Mortality according to length of original sentences	53
Do. „ XVII.—Mortality according to length of time passed in jail	54

MISCELLANEOUS.

STATEMENT No. XVIII.—Particulars regarding under-trial prisoners	55
Do. A.—Nature and amount of accommodation for each class of prisoners	55 to 59
Do. B.—Condition of prisoners discharged	60
Do. C.—Working of mark system	60
Do. D.—Nature of crimes for which convicts were imprisoned	62 to

APPENDIX II—SPECIAL STATEMENTS FURNISHED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ONLY.

STATEMENT No. XII-A.—Balances of the manufacturing department	63
Do. E.—Cost per head under diet after allowing for increase or decrease in the value of the stock of rations	69
Do. F.—Population, sickness and mortality of subsidiary jails	70
Do. G.—Expenditure in guarding and maintaining prisoners in subsidiary jails... ..	71 to 73

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS

FOR THE YEAR 1903.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Remained at the commencement of the year	10,638	9,647	9,671	10,273	10,710	10,733	11,045	13,621	13,238	11,476
Received during the year	73,388	69,995	70,411	80,318	94,282	85,499	113,188	102,890	88,694	77,368
Total	84,026	79,642	80,082	100,591	104,992	96,232	124,233	116,511	101,932	88,844
Discharged from all causes during the year	74,380	69,971	69,809	89,881	94,257	85,187	110,612	103,273	90,456	78,053
Remained at the end of the year	9,646	9,671	10,273	10,710	10,735	11,045	13,621	13,238	11,476	10,791
Daily average number.	10,025.13	9,790.14	9,586.59	10,327.61	10,936.42	10,747.48	12,832.18	13,020.37	12,491.13	10,647.57

The total number admitted during the year (77,368) is lower than the number received in any year since 1896 and is considerably lower than the average for the decade (86,603). The daily average number (10,647) fell by nearly 15 per cent. (due partly to depletion by Coronation remissions) and is lower than that of any of the preceding five years. It may be remarked that these decreases are in consonance with the now accepted theory of the close relation subsisting between the commission of crime and current prices of food stuffs, the year 1903 being more favourable in regard to market rates of food than its predecessors.

6. The percentage of committals for offences under the Penal Code and those falling under Local and Special Laws is 64 and 36 of the total respectively. Of the former, the numbers which dominate the totals in Prison records are for offences against the public tranquillity, hurt and assault, house-breaking and house-trespass, and theft; but the offences recorded under theft alone constitute more than one-third of the total number included under the Penal Code. Taking all offences against 'property' by themselves, exclusive of those under Special and Local Laws (for which details are not available), it is found that these aggregate nearly two-thirds of the total number. In other words, two out of three persons convicted under the Penal Code and committed to prison, are sentenced to imprisonment for some offence against 'property'. In a country where 55 to 60 per cent. of the population are engaged in agricultural or pastoral pursuits and where, owing to unfavourable seasons, drought and famine, there are from time to time much distress, and poverty among some part of this large section of the population, it is easy to see that the fluctuations in the criminal population are dependent to a large extent upon the meteorological conditions of the year.

7. The number of convicts admitted by direct committal was 24,731 which is the smallest number recorded since 1889. All districts show a reduction except Madura, Tinnevely and the Nilgiris. Forty prisoners were received from jails outside the province, 38 of whom were Police registered criminals. In commemoration of the auspicious event of His Majesty's Coronation, Government, as an act of clemency and grace, sanctioned the release of 1,771 convicts on 1st January 1903; of these,

16. The history of recidivism shows that there has been a progressive decline in the numbers of habitual offenders recommitted to jails, and this, notwithstanding the gradual perfecting of the means for identification of previously-convicted criminals. The ratio per cent. in 1901 of such prisoners to total admissions was 13.19, in 1902 it was 12.53 and in 1903 it was 10.86. This is one of the most satisfactory features of the statement under reference, and might be taken to indicate that the jails are not without their deterrent and reformatory influences. It should, however, be borne in mind that the seasons during the past two years have been very favourable. The usual table is given below:—

Jails.	Number of convicts admitted.			Number of convicts in column (2) identified as habituals before conviction and whose previous convictions appear in the records of proceedings at the trial.			Number of convicts in column (2) not so identified and whose previous convictions did not so appear but who were after arrival in jails identified as having been habituals.			Number of prisoners who confessed themselves to be habituals.			Total number of habituals.		
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Rajahmundry ...	2,407	1,771	1,469	367	246	193	4	...	4	...	...	...	371	246	197
Vellore ...	2,700	2,129	1,247	394	304	174	18	1	5	1	...	...	413	305	179
Trichinopoly ...	576	434	414	110	84	77	...	1	15	3	...	8	113	85	100
Coimbatore ...	1,513	1,415	1,225	239	190	167	...	1	...	...	...	...	239	191	167
Cannanore ...	1,294	1,307	1,680	119	87	70	...	...	...	...	...	...	119	87	70
Salem ...	839	768	815	119	109	112	1	...	...	...	...	...	120	109	112
Penitentiary ...	4,131	2,646	2,302	390	316	242	...	...	1	...	...	...	390	316	243
Russellkonda ...	130	201	247	2	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	...	22
Berhampur ...	554	617	477	103	91	62	...	...	...	...	...	...	103	91	62

67. It is due to the officers concerned that I should bring to the favourable notice of Government the arduous work which was imposed on them by the Coronation releases. The duties entailed by selection, scrutiny and correspondence were particularly heavy in the Head office where, owing to the nature, urgency and magnitude of the work, the strain was specially severe. The final results were highly satisfactory.

The anxious work—which so far has been successfully carried out—of excluding plague from jails seated in the heart of infected areas merits notice and the names of Lieutenant-Colonel Pemberton, I.M.S., Messrs. Cloney and McCready and Captains Webster and Tucker may be mentioned in this connection. By the energy and enterprise of Mr. Young, the large construction works at Salem were carried out to the satisfaction of the Public Works Department and with great saving to Government.

The result of the year's administration speaks to the care and attention of Superintendents and Medical officers.

68. The annual reports of the Superintendents of Central Jails are herewith submitted (as directed in G.O., No. 491, Judicial, dated 19th March 1874) for perusal and favour of return.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM O'HARA, Lieut.-Col., I.M.S.,

Inspector-General of Prisons.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I—STATEMENTS.

APPENDIX II—SPECIAL STATEMENTS FURNISHED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ONLY.

No

APPENDIX II.

SPECIAL STATEMENTS FURNISHED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ONLY.
