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REPORT

ON

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Class 1 1872
Date 8
17.11.1904

ENGLISH AND IRISH PRISONS

WITH

APPENDICES.

BY

Major J. Jackson, I.M.S.

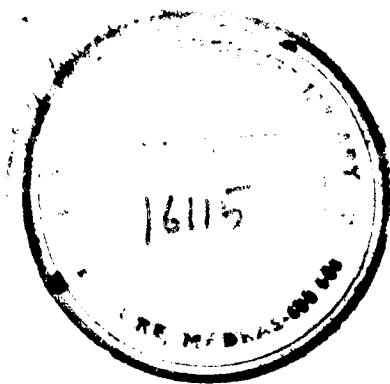
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I.—CLASSIFICATION OF PRISONERS.

1. Prisoners in England are (excluding debtors and first and second division offenders) divided into —

A. Star Class.—Prisoners not previously convicted of serious crime, or who are not of habitually criminal or corrupt habits.

B. Ordinary Class.—Prisoners who have been previously convicted of serious crime, or who are habitual criminals or of corrupt habits.

C. Juvenile Offenders.

Prisons are classed as Local and Convict Prisons; and now juvenile prisons are being tried as an experiment, *e.g.*, Borstal.

The object of the Star Class is not to confer privileges, but to secure absolute separation while in prison of prisoners, who have never been previously convicted or are not habitually criminal, from the habitual prisoner. This classification applies to all prisoners whatever their sentence. Now that the overcrowding in Bombay prisons is relieved, it may be practicable to carry out that proper separation—which has been impossible of late years—and which is absolutely necessary. Of course it cannot be done at once nor ever done as perfectly as in England. The association sleeping wards, the industries—and especially such an industry as the Press—render the question a difficult one. The system of separation of habituals is laid down in the Prison Manual. This system should also apply to first offenders convicted for rape, indecency and unnatural vice. In the case also of receivers of stolen property, it is rare indeed that the first crime is followed by conviction, and therefore this class of offenders should be separated from first offenders.

In convict as in local prisons the above classification exists.

A secondary classification by stages is also in force.

In Local Prisons.—A prisoner not being a juvenile if sentenced to hard labour will in the first stage —

(1) Be employed in strict separation on hard bodily or manual labour for not more than 10 hours or less than six hours daily.

(2) Sleep without mattress for the first 14 days (if over 16 and under 60 years of age).

(3) Earn no gratuity.

(4) Be allowed books of religious and secular instruction.

In the second stage —

(1) Labour of a less hard description in association if practicable.

(2) Can earn a gratuity not exceeding 1/.

(3) Books of instruction, religious and secular.

(4) Receive school instruction, if eligible under rules.

(5) Allowed a library book changed weekly.

In the third stage —

(1) Labour as in second stage.

(2) Can earn a gratuity not exceeding 1/6.

(3) Library book changed twice weekly, as well as books of instruction.

(4) School instruction if eligible.

(5) Allowed to write and receive a letter, and a visit of 20 minutes on reaching this stage.

In the fourth stage —

(1) Labour as in second stage.

(2) Earn a gratuity not exceeding 2/ in 28 days, and continue to earn at this rate; but the total earned from commencement of sentence must not exceed 10/.

- (3) Library privileges as in third stage.
- (4) School instruction if eligible.
- (5) Is eligible for any special employment for which his services may be required.
- (6) Allowed to write and receive a letter and a visit of 30 minutes when he has earned 112 marks in this stage, and a further letter and visit for every 224 marks earned.

A prisoner remains in the first stage until he earns $28 \times 8 = 224$ marks. In the second till he earns 224 marks more, in the third until an additional 224 marks are earned, and in the fourth till the end of his sentence. (See Section II.)

In Convict Prisons.—

	<i>Male convicts.</i>	<i>Female convicts.</i>
Stages. {	I. One year or until 2,920 marks are earned.	One year or until 1,620 marks are earned.
	II. } Until 2,920 marks are earned in each stage.	Until 1,620 marks are earned in each stage.
	III. }	

A male convict is kept in absolute separation until he has earned 1,460 marks, and a female until she has earned 720 marks. When a convict has earned his (or her) requisite number of marks in Stage III he (or she) is eligible for promotion to the fourth stage.

A convict who has earned 2,920 marks in the fourth stage and shown exemplary conduct may be admitted to the special class when within twelve months of his release. This rule applies also to a female convict who has earned 1,620 marks in the fourth stage and for any reason (without fault on her part) is unable to go to a refuge.

This special class is —

(1) Given special technical instruction, each convict is employed at his own trade, or at any trade of which he has knowledge, and every effort is made to make him efficient, so that on release he can earn his livelihood.

(2) Eligible for any special employment for which his services may be required.

(3) Eligible for an extra remission not exceeding one week.

The limitation of this class to within twelve months of release appears to be a hardship on prisoners undergoing long sentences.

II.—MARKS AND REMISSION SYSTEM.

(*Vide Appendix A.*)

The whole system of progressive stages depends on the marks earned.

Local Prisons.—

A prisoner while in hospital is only awarded six marks per diem; but at the end of each week a list of all prisoners, having lost marks by being in the infirmary, is submitted by the medical officer to the Governor, and is accompanied by the medical officer's recommendation. The Governor then decides what marks shall be allotted having regard to—

- (a) The prisoner's previous conduct and industry.
- (b) The cause of detention in hospital.

The four stages have been explained in Section I, and punishments inflicted under the mark system will be dealt with under Section V.

In the case of every prisoner whose sentence exceeds six months, the total number of marks to be earned by him will be entered at the head of his stage register.

The number of marks representing the first six months will be calculated at eight per day, to which are added marks for the remaining portion of the sentence

at six per day. As an example, a prisoner sentenced to nine calendar months' imprisonment commencing on March 1st—

1,472 marks for six calendar months.
546 marks for remaining three calendar months.

2,018

say the sentence began on April 1st, the marks to be earned would run as follows —

1,464 first six calendar months.
552 remaining three calendar months.

2,016

So soon as a prisoner earns this total he is discharged in the same way as if his sentence had expired.

It will be seen from the above that a prisoner can earn remission on any portion of his sentence over six months to the extent of one-fourth of such period of sentence. These rules do not apply to prisoners treated under the rule for debtors, nor to surety prisoners, who are not convicted, nor to offenders in the 1st division. A prisoner sentenced to a term of imprisonment and ordered to find sureties or in default to serve a further term of imprisonment can, if the combined sentence exceed six months, earn remission under the rules.

2. *Convict Prisoners.—*

	<i>Male Convict.</i>	<i>Female Convict.</i>
For hard steady labour and full performance of task ...	8 marks daily	6 marks daily.
For a less degree of industry and medium task ...	7 do.	5 do.
For a fair moderate day's work, viz., minimum task.	6 do.	4 do.

