

## FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

## REPORT ON THE PRISONS FOR THE YEAR 1923.

## PRISONERS.

The following return shows the distribution of prisoners in the prisons of the Federated Malay States during the year under review :

Admissions and Discharges.	Remaining 1st January, 1923.	Committed.	Received from outstations.	Discharged.	Transferred to outstations.	Escaped.	Died.	Executed.	Remaining 31st December, 1923.
Civil Prison ... ..	163	2,501	8	2,518	8	1	5	...	140
Criminal Prison—									
(i) Europeans and Eurasians ... ..	6	11	1	12	1	...	...	...	5
(ii) Other Races ... ..	1,338	3,890	525	4,135	454	...	33	10	1,121
Total ... ..	1,507	6,402	534	6,665	463	1	38	10	1,266

2. On the 1st January, 1923, there were 1,507 prisoners in the Federated Malay States. During the year 6,936 were admitted and on 31st December, 1923, there were 1,266 prisoners remaining.

## CLASSIFICATION OF PRISONERS REMAINING ON 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

## Civil Prison—

Awaiting trial ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Awaiting banishment ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Simple imprisonment ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Debtor ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Remanded ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

140

## Criminal Prison—

Revenue grade ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	267
Short sentence ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	326
Long sentence ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	527
Condemned ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sultan's pleasure ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

1,126

Eleven of the 1,266 were females as against twelve at the end of the previous year. All female prisoners are sent to Kuala Lumpur Prison.

## DAILY AVERAGE.

(i) Civil prison ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	139
(ii) Short sentence and revenue grade ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	692
(iii) Long sentence and condemned ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	553

1,384

3. The daily averages during the last six years have been :

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Perak ... ..	822	903	860	989	970	898
Selangor ... ..	275	328	352	347	308	271
Negri Sembilan ... ..	157	229	167	223	134	137
Pahang ... ..	90	123	133	112	87	78
Total ... ..	1,344	1,583	1,512	1,671	1,499	1,384

4. The following table shows the proportion of prison inmates to population :

	Estimated population.	No of prisoners admitted during 1923.	No. per 100,000 of population.
Perak ... ..	599,055	3,458	578
Selangor ... ..	401,009	1,765	441
Negri Sembilan ... ..	178,762	1,335	746
Pahang ... ..	146,064	378	259
Total ... ..	1,324,890	6,936	523

against a proportion of 652 per 100,000 in 1922.

The figures for the estimated population are taken from Table 1, page 147, Census Report for 1921.



## CONVICT ESTABLISHMENT.

## STATISTICS OF CRIME.

5. The classification of the crimes of long sentence and condemned prisoners during the last six years is as follows:

		Returning from banishment.	Murder and culpable homicide.		Gang- robbery and robbery.	House- breaking and theft.	Other crimes of violence.	Miscel- laneous.	Total.
			exe- cuted.	com- muted.					
1918	...	7	...	21	...	24	...	22	144
1919	...	12	...	24	...	20	...	46	197
1920	...	9	...	22	...	21	...	38	155
1921	...	17	...	20	...	19	...	28	221
1922	...	3	...	30	...	18	...	23	143
1923	...	4	...	28	...	14	...	33	139

The above figures for murder and culpable homicide include those in all the States, except five executed in Kuala Lumpur Gaol. In the case of other crimes there are a few long-sentence prisoners in Kuala Lipis Gaol who are not included in this return.

## CLASSIFICATION OF SENTENCES.

Prisoners admitted during			Under 2 years.		2 years.		2½ years.		3 years.		4 years.		5 years.		6 years.		7 years.		8 years.		9 years.		10 years.		12 years.		13 years.		14 years.		15 years.		20 years.		Death-sen- tence not commuted.		Total.			
1918	...	...	25	25	...	20	14	18	4	17	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	
1919	...	...	22	26	...	29	14	25	19	20	15	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
1920	...	...	14	17	4	20	15	32	1	23	...	...	15	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	155
1921	...	...	14	21	2	54	14	47	1	28	7	...	18	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	221
1922	...	...	7	11	4	26	14	21	4	24	11	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
1923	...	...	13	17	...	22	8	24	1	18	10	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	139

6. The number of prisoners convicted during 1923 was as follows:

	Long sentence and condemned.	Short sentence and revenue grade.	Total.
Perak	62	1,696	1,758
Selangor	66	1,163	1,229
Negri Sembilan	24	695	719
Pahang	3	192	195
Total	155	3,746	3,901

Of the 139 long-sentence and condemned prisoners admitted in 1923, 125 had no previous convictions. Of the 14 with recorded convictions, 13 had previously served short sentences and one had previously served a long sentence.

7. The classification of crimes of short-sentence prisoners in the various gaols was as follows:

	Taiping.	B. Gajah.	Papan.	K. Lumpur.	Seremban.	K. Lipis.	Kuantan.	Total.
A. Offences against property	77	481	91	491	200	40	46	1,426
B. Offences against persons	45	94	34	156	103	3	10	445
C. Absconding	...	...	...	6	...	5	9	20
D. Vagrancy	44	85	...	...	43	2	...	174
E. Failure to find security	26	89	35	90	43	16	17	316
F. Drunkenness	2	31	...	...	15	...	1	49
G. Morphia or cocaine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
H. Secret society	1	5	4	19	4	...	...	33
I. Excise Enactment	61	134	51	...	113	8	4	371
J. Chandu Enactment	3	43	4	34	63	5	4	156
K. Firearms	6	7	5	10	1	1	...	30
L. Common Gaming House Enactment	10	48	6	30	29	5	3	131
M. Miscellaneous	192	238	32	522	105	40	32	1,161
Total	467	1,255	262	1,358	719	125	126	4,312



8. The total number of short-sentence prisoners convicted during the year was 4,312. Of these 935 were recidivists classified as follows:

Number with one previous conviction	...	...	...	...	543
" two "	...	...	...	...	207
" three "	...	...	...	...	66
" four "	...	...	...	...	35
" more than four previous convictions	...	...	...	...	84
					<u>935</u>

#### EXECUTIONS.

9. Ten persons were executed as compared with 11 in 1922. Five executions were carried out in the Convict Establishment and five in Kuala Lumpur Gaol.

#### ESCAPES.

10. One person escaped from Kuantan Gaol during the year.

#### SUICIDE.

11. There were no cases of suicide or of attempted suicide during the year.

#### HEALTH.

12. Of the total number of prisoners in the various gaols during 1923, 1,278 were treated in hospital. The deaths numbered 37 or 2.89 per cent. of the total treated against 2.05 per cent. in 1922.

The statistics are as follows:

Daily average in Prison	...	...	...	...	1,384	
Total number treated in Prison Hospital	...	...	...	...	1,278	
Daily average in Prison Hospital	...	...	...	...	44.59	[1922
Percentage of sick to strength	...	...	...	...	3.22 as against	3.12 in
Deaths	( Malaria	...	...	...	...	1
	Dysentery	...	...	...	...	4
	Phthisis	...	...	...	...	5
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3
	Other causes	...	...	...	...	24
						<u>37</u>

Dysentery accounted for four deaths in Taiping.

#### DISCIPLINE OF PRISONERS.

13. The discipline generally of the prisoners was satisfactory. A total of 2,476 cases were dealt with, of which 172 cases were decided by the Visiting Justices. In 86 cases was flogging administered as compared with 37 cases of flogging in 1922.

The discipline of the Convict Establishment was satisfactory.

There was no attempt at outbreak or indication of conspiracy of any sort.

#### DISCIPLINE OF EUROPEAN STAFF.

14. There were 61 cases against the European Staff during the year. The majority of the cases refer to petty breaches of discipline. European Warder J. Pilborough was discharged on the termination of his three years agreement. European Warders J. H. Rice and F. G. Chaffe were dismissed from the service. European Warder H. R. C. Alford ceased work on 20th July, 1923.

#### DISCIPLINE OF ASIATIC STAFF.

15. The Asiatic staff consists of seven warders and 246 sub-warders. During the year 15 resigned and 22 were dismissed. There were altogether 371 cases brought of which 288 were punished, 63 cautioned, six discharged, 11 reported to Government and three sent to Court for trial.

#### REVENUE.

16. The total revenue received in 1923 were as follows:

Convict Establishment	...	...	...	...	...	\$16,900
Other gaols	...	...	...	...	...	8,543
						<u>Total \$25,443</u>

The corresponding total for 1922 was \$29,939. The revenue from the Convict Establishment shows a decrease of \$4,627 and that from other gaols a slight increase of \$131.

The Prisons Department at Taiping and Papan is now credited with the value of metal broken for the Public Works Department. The amount paid by the Public Works Department in respect of Convict Establishment, Taiping, was \$2,847 and in respect of Papan \$528.

With regard to the Convict Establishment, the Superintendent writes as follows:

#### INDUSTRIES.

"The number of days' work done by prisoners employed on stone-breaking was 41,212 as against 50,701 in 1922, and 6,579½ cubic yards of metal were prepared for the Public Works Department. This is accounted for by the decrease in the number of admissions both of short-sentence and long-sentence prisoners.



Prisoners on gaol services, which include dhobies, cooks, sweepers, lampmen, night-soil gang, orderlies in hospital, store and office, whitewashers, gardeners, cleaning arms, photographers, water-carriers, bakers, masons and painters, did 43,693 days' work as against 39,406 in 1922. The garden produced 81.69 pikuls of vegetables valued at \$245, which were used for prisoners' food. In the labour yard 73,106 days' work were done as against 73,685 in 1922 in the following departments: carpentering, carpet-making, book-binding, printing, weaving, tailoring, blacksmiths, tinsmith, coir work, rattan work, chick-making and boot-making.

The total value of the output, which includes articles sold, articles made on gaol account and articles sent to the showroom to be kept for future sale, was \$26,982 as compared with \$47,359 in 1922. The decrease is due mainly to lack of orders from customers."

#### EXPENDITURE.

17. The total expenditure in the Federated Malay States Gaols amounted to \$425,881. A daily average of 1,384 prisoners was maintained at a nett cost of \$400,438 giving cost per head of \$289 as compared with \$282 in 1922. The reason for the annual increase of \$7 over nett cost per prisoner in 1923 is that the decrease in the daily average does not and cannot result in a proportionate decrease in the cost of maintenance.

The following shows the cost of various gaols :

Gaol.	Establishment.	Other charges.	Total.	Revenue.	Nett cost.	Daily No. of prisoners.	Cost per head.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Taiping ...	100,952	90,189	191,141	16,900	174,241	647	267
Batu Gajah ...	26,249	14,774	41,023	327	40,696	166	245
Papan ...	16,869	8,899	25,768	810	24,958	85	294
Kuala Lumpur ...	49,906	40,355	90,261	480	89,781	271	338
Seremban ...	27,955	18,051	46,006	3,466	42,540	137	311
Kuala Lipis ...	17,848	13,834	31,682	3,460	28,222	78	362
Kuantan ...							
Total ...	239,779	186,102	425,881	25,443	400,438	1,384	289

#### GENERAL.

18. Five European Warders were engaged locally, one on 12 months probation and four on six months probation. European Warder J. Curry resigned the service at the end of the year. European Warder H. C. Ridsdale was seconded for service as Sergeant Major Instructor, M.V.L., from 1st September, 1923. Messrs. R. Hunter, C. Bailey and G. Williams were promoted Senior Gaoler, Junior Gaoler and Chief Warder, respectively. European Warders H. Morris, J. Larkworthy, J. J. Clark, C. H. Clarke, A. Williamson and C. H. Cox were placed on the pensionable establishment on termination of their agreement. Acting Chief Warder W. H. G. Mordey died in Kuala Lumpur European Hospital on 23rd July, 1923. Senior Gaoler R. S. Pharoah retired on pension on 26th March, 1923.

Mr. P. T. Allen officiated as Inspector of Prisons from 1st January to 28th February; Mr. F. A. S. McClelland from 1st March to 19th April; Mr. C. W. Harrison from 20th April to 31st August and the writer of this report from 1st September to the end of the year.

Taiping Prison was inspected on 5th and 6th March, 1923.

Batu Gajah Prison was inspected on 1st March and 13th November, 1923.

Papan Prison was inspected on 25th January, 2nd March and 14th November, 1923.

Kuala Lumpur Prison was inspected on 21st November, 1923.

Seremban Prison was inspected on 22nd November, 1923.

Bentong Prison was inspected on 23rd November, 1923.

Kuala Lipis Prison was inspected on 24th November, 1923.

Kuantan Prison was inspected on 27th November, 1923.

Raub Prison was inspected on 28th November, 1923.

28th May, 1924.

E. E. H. BECK,  
Inspector of Prisons, Taiping, F.M.S.