

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

REPORT ON THE PRISONS FOR THE YEAR 1924.

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, 1924.	Committed.	Received from outstations.	Discharged.	Transferred to outstations.	Escaped.	Died.	Executed.	Remaining 31st December, 1924.
Civil Prison	140	2,478	26	2,525	14	...	3	...	102
Criminal Prison—									
(i) Europeans and Eurasians	4	7	...	6	...	...	...	...	5
(ii) Other Races	1,122	3,635	367	3,678	338	2	13	6	1,087
Total	1,266	6,120	393	6,209	352	2	16	6	1,194

2. On the 1st January, 1924, there were 1,266 prisoners in the Federated Malay States. During the year 6,513 were admitted and on 31st December, 1924, there were 1,194 prisoners remaining.

CLASSIFICATION OF PRISONERS REMAINING ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1924.

Civil Prison—

Awaiting trial	47
Awaiting banishment	19
Simple imprisonment	16
Debtor	1
Remanded	19
	102

Criminal Prison—

Revenue grade	276
Short sentence	313
Long sentence	500
Sultan's pleasure	3
	1,092

Nine of the 1,194 were females as against eleven at the end of the previous year. All female prisoners are sent to Kuala Lumpur Prison.

DAILY AVERAGE.

(i) Civil prison	143
(ii) Short sentence and revenue grade	633
(iii) Long sentence and condemned	520
	1,296

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

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Perak	903	860	989	970	898	812
Selangor	328	352	347	308	271	254
Negri Sembilan	229	167	223	134	137	154
Pahang	123	133	112	87	78	76
Total	1,583	1,512	1,671	1,499	1,384	1,296

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

	Estimated population.	No. of prisoners admitted during 1924.	No. per 100,000 of population.
Perak	599,055	3,265	546
Selangor	401,009	1,715	428
Negri Sembilan	178,762	1,216	680
Pahang	146,064	317	217
Total	1,324,890	6,513	492

against a proportion of 523 per 100,000 in 1923.

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. (executed, mated.)		Gang-robbery and robbery.	House-breaking and theft.	Other crimes of violence.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
1919	12	8	24	79	20	8	46	197
1920	9	5	22	40	21	20	38	155
1921	17	6	20	124	19	7	28	221
1922	3	5	30	52	18	12	23	143
1923	4	5	28	41	14	14	33	139
1924	15	2	39	14	11	21	30	132

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

CLASSIFICATION OF SENTENCES.

Prisoners admitted during	Classification of Sentences																Total.	
	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-sentence not commuted.
1919	22	26	...	29	14	25	19	20	15	3	1	...	...	1	1	13	8	197
1920	14	17	4	20	15	32	1	23	...	...	15	...	1	...	...	8	5	155
1921	14	21	2	54	14	47	1	28	7	...	18	1	...	...	...	8	6	221
1922	7	11	4	26	14	21	4	24	11	...	4	2	...	...	1	9	5	143
1923	13	17	...	22	8	24	1	18	10	...	13	...	...	...	...	8	5	139
1924	17	12	...	23	7	23	10	9	1	...	4	..	...	...	6	8	2	132

6. The number of prisoners convicted during 1924 was as follows:

	Long sentence and condemned.	Short sentence and revenue grade.	Total.
Perak	58	1,428	1,486
Selangor	56	1,216	1,272
Negri Sembilan	35	732	767
Pahang	5	147	152
Total	154	3,523	3,677

Of the 132 long-sentence and condemned prisoners admitted in 1924, 116 had no previous convictions. Of the 16 with recorded convictions, 12 had previously served short sentences and 4 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 ...	100	409	66	180	172	24	51	1,002
B. Offences against persons ...	90	83	27	425	58	3	22	708
C. Absconding	1	...	...	2	3	1	7	14
D. Vagrancy	8	25	...	...	66	17	...	116
E. Failure to find security ...	32	62	23	61	41	11	1	231
F. Drunkenness	21	18	...	...	9	...	...	48
G. Morphia or cocaine ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
H. Secret society ... ..	...	6	...	12	7	...	...	25
I. Excise Enactment	51	117	21	303	104	3	2	601
J. Chandu Enactment	7	31	2	72	30	...	1	143
K. Firearms	4	14	5	13	3	1	...	40
L. Common Gaming House Enactment	7	66	7	49	15	3	7	154
M. Miscellaneous	135	214	29	291	219	26	23	937
Total	456	1,045	180	1,408	727	89	114	4,019

8. The total number of short-sentence prisoners convicted during the year was 4,019. Of these 810 were recidivists classified as follows:

Number with one previous conviction	459
„ two previous convictions	171
„ three „	61
„ four „	35
„ more than four previous convictions	84
	810

EXECUTIONS.

9. Six persons were executed as compared with ten in 1923. Two executions were carried out in the Convict Establishment and four in Kuala Lumpur Gaol.

ESCAPES.

10. Two prisoners escaped during the year; one from Seremban Prison and the other from Kuala Lipis Prison. There was one case of attempted escape in the Convict Establishment, in which the offender was captured within the prison walls.

SUICIDE.

11. There were two cases of suicide in Batu Gajah Gaol and one of attempted suicide in the Convict Establishment.

HEALTH.

12. Of the total number of prisoners in the various gaols during 1924, 1,046 were treated in hospital. The deaths numbered 16 or 1.53 per cent. of the total treated against 2.89 in 1923.

The statistics are as follows:

Daily average in prison	...	...	...	1,296
Total number treated in Prison Hospital	...	...	...	1,046
Daily average in Prison Hospital	...	...	...	28.76
Percentage of sick to strength	...	...	...	2.22 as against 3.22 in 1923
Deaths	{	Phthisis	1
		Pneumonia	2
		Other causes	13
						—	
						16	
						—	

DISCIPLINE OF PRISONERS.

13. The discipline generally of the prisoners was satisfactory. A total of 1,848 cases as compared with 2,476 in 1923 were dealt with, of which 135 cases were decided by Visiting Justices. In only 46 cases was flogging administered as compared with 86 cases of flogging in 1923.

The discipline of the Convict Establishment was very satisfactory.

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

Certain reforms with regard to prisoners' treatment are being gradually introduced into the Federated Malay States Prisons.

The principal reforms briefly are:

- (a) The abolition of the broad arrow.
- (b) The institution of regular physical training for young prisoners between the ages of 17 and 25.
- (c) Making the dress distinction between the different grades of long-sentence prisoners more marked.
- (d) The institution of a privilege grade for prisoners of the upper grade. The conditions for selection for promotion to this grade will be conspicuously good conduct and industry. The privileges to be granted are:
 1. A distinctive dress.
 2. Ration privileges on festival days for those of the prisoners' nationality.
 3. Greater facilities for visits and letters.
 4. Some evening hours in association.
 5. Tobacco ration.
 6. Increased gratuity on discharge.
- (e) The inauguration of Prisoners' Aid Societies with the object of finding employment for prisoners on discharge.

DISCIPLINE OF EUROPEAN STAFF.

14. There were 33 cases as compared with 61 in 1923 against the European staff during the year. The services of Mr. Marshall were dispensed with on 1st March, 1924. Mr. L. B. Sheldon ceased work on 1st August, 1924, before being taken on agreement.

DISCIPLINE OF ASIATIC STAFF.

15. The Asiatic staff consists of 7 warders and 246 sub-warders. During the year 30 resigned and 12 were dismissed. There were 240 cases as compared with 371 in 1923 against Asiatic staff during the year. One hundred and ninety-one were punished by fine, 34 cautioned, 7 discharged, 3 withdrawn and 5 were reported to Government.

A course of musketry was fired during the year. The results were not good but, in many cases, the men were unfamiliar with the arms provided and satisfactory results at the initial attempt were not anticipated.

REVENUE.

16. The total revenue received in 1924 was as follows:

Convict Establishment	\$27,314
Other gaols	10,177
Total ...	<u>\$37,491</u>

The total for 1923 was \$25,443. The revenue from the Convict Establishment shows an increase of \$10,414 and that from other gaols \$1,634.

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 \$1,977 and in respect of Papan was \$256.

INDUSTRIES.

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

"The most important change in the prison industrial work during the year was the abolition of stone-breaking as a daily task in the lower grade and the substitution of coconut husk beating. The change took effect from 1st August, 1924, the daily task of stone-breaking being considerably enhanced and retained as a form of punishment only.

"The number of days' work done by prisoners employed on stone-breaking up to 31st July was 10,445 as against 24,038 up to a similar date in 1923. Up to this date also 3,254 cubic yards of metal were prepared for the Public Works Department, and subsequently to the end of the year 488 cubic yards of metal were prepared by prisoners reduced to the lower grade for various breaches of prison discipline.

"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 42,044 days' work as against 43,693 in 1923. The garden produced 13.83 pikuls of vegetables valued at \$27, which were used for prisoners' food. In the labour yard 75,841 days' work were done as against 73,106 in 1923 in the following departments: carpentering, carpet-making, book-binding, printing, weaving, tailoring, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, coir work, rattan work, chick-making and boot-making.

"The total value of output, which includes articles sold, articles made on gaol account and articles sent to the showroom to be kept for future sale, was \$34,466 as compared with \$26,982 in 1923."

EXPENDITURE.

17. The total expenditure in the Federated Malay States Gaols amounted to \$434,937. A daily average of 1,296 prisoners was maintained at a nett cost of \$397,446, giving cost per head of \$307 as compared with \$289 in 1923. The reason for the annual increase of \$18 over nett cost per prisoner in 1924 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	106,702	97,224	203,926	27,314	176,612	609	290
Batu Gajah	27,468	15,687	43,155	988	42,167	145	290
Papan	16,349	7,890	24,239	321	23,918	58	413
Kuala Lumpur	49,094	35,160	84,254	736	83,518	254	328
Seremban	28,214	15,463	43,677	4,822	38,855	154	252
Kuala Lipis	20,991	14,695	35,686	3,310	32,376	76	426
Kuantan							
Total ...	248,818	186,119	434,937	37,491	397,446	1,296	307

GENERAL.

18. Five European Warders were engaged locally during the year on six months probation and subsequently on three years agreement with the exception of Mr. F. Marshall whose services were dispensed with on 1st March, 1924. Four European Warders were engaged by the Crown Agents on three years agreement. European Warder H. C. Ridsdale, who was seconded for service as Sergeant-Major Instructor, M.V.I., reverted to his substantive appointment on 1st October, 1924. Senior Gaoler D. Bailey was reduced to Junior Gaoler from 1st December, 1924. Chief Warder J. Topliss retired on pension on 1st June, 1924. Mr. H. L. Bailey acted as Chief Warder from 1st April to 30th June, 1924, and was ultimately confirmed as Chief Warder from 1st July, 1924. European Warder T. Edgar retired on pension on 16th April, 1924.

The writer of this report officiated as Inspector of Prisons throughout the year.

Batu Gajah Prison was inspected on 7th April and 15th October, 1924.

Papan Prison was inspected on 8th April and 15th October, 1924.

Kuala Lumpur Prison was inspected on 9th April, 1924.

Seremban Prison was inspected on 10th April and 17th October, 1924.

Bentong Prison was inspected on 11th April, 1924.

Kuala Lipis Prison was inspected on 12th April and 20th October, 1924.

Kuantan Prison was inspected on 14th April and 22nd October, 1924.

Raub Prison was inspected on 15th April, 1924.

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