

X

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

1921.

STATISTICAL RETURN for the PRISONS of MALTA.

Name and Nature of the Prisons (Whether "Common Gaol," "Penitentiary," &c.) Mere "Lock-ups" not to be inserted.	Total Number of Persons Committed during the Year.	Number Committed for Debt, Want of Bail, and Punishment.			Number of those Committed who have been Previously Convicted.			Number of Persons Committed to "Penal Imprisonment,"* including "Penal Servitude" (if that term is used in the Colony to describe any Punishment.)				The Daily Average Number in Prison.	The Number of Admissions to Hospital during the Year.	The Daily Average on the Sick List.	The Number of Deaths during the Year.
		For Debt.	For safe custody till Trial or for want of Security.	For purpose of Penal Imprisonment.*	Once.	Twice.	Three or more.	For Five Years or more.	For One Year or more, but less than Five Years.	For more than Three Months, and less than One Year.	For Three Months or less.				
Corradino Civil Prison ... (Common Gaol)	2151	1	226	1924	476	330	1345	14	69	89	1752	285	129	7	—
Valletta Prison ... (Prison attached to the Police)	1666	—	61	—	324	518	763	—	—	—	1605	11	—	—	—
Gozo Prison ... (Common Gaol)	693	—	12	681	118	59	516	—	—	—	681	6	2	—	—
TOTAL ...	4510	1	299	2605	918	907	2624	14	69	89	4038	302	131	7	—
Men ...	3314	1	252	1804	604	666	1987	13	64	57	2927	259	120	5	—
Women ...	480	—	19	458	130	77	273	1	5	10	445	20	11	2	—
Juveniles ...	716	—	28	343	184	164	364	—	—	22	666	23	—	—	—

* By "Penal Imprisonment" is meant imprisonment inflicted as a substantive punishment in pursuance of a sentence of a Court of Justice, as distinguished from imprisonment for safe custody, &c.

RETURNS OF GAOLS, &c.—(continued).

<i>Questions.</i>	<i>Answers.</i>
	CORRADINO PRISON:
I. If the prison is on a separate system, is the separation complete? And, if not, what is the separation enforced by day and night respectively?	The Prison is on the mixed cellular system as regards the Criminal Ward. The separation is complete as regards prisoners undergoing hard labour of the first class for the first 28 days. After this period prisoners are employed on hard labour of the first class in association as far as practicable.
	VALLETTA LOCK-UP:
	It is on a separate system and no effectual separation can, as a rule, be enforced either by night or by day, owing to the fact that the premises are defective and ill suited for the object for which they are intended, viz:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The temporary detention of persons sentenced during the day, until their removal to the Corradino Prison in the afternoon. 2. The temporary detention of persons apprehended in the evening or by night until the next conveyance to the Corradino Prison. 3. The temporary detention of prisoners escorted from the Corradino Prison early in the morning to undergo trial before the Magistrate, or before His Majesty's Criminal Court to communicate with their legal adviser when their defence is taken up by the Advocate for the Poor. 4. The detention of Prisoners sentenced to not more than three days.
	GOZO PRISON:
	It is not on a separate system, but the premises admit, generally, of the separation of persons sentenced to imprisonment from others who are under examination or remitted for trial.
	CORRADINO PRISON:
II. If not on the separate system, what provision is there for the supervision of the prisoners while in association?	The Prisoners, while in association, are supervised by warders in the male division, and by Sisters of Charity in the female ward.
	VALLETTA LOCK-UP:
	They are occasionally supervised, day and night, by the Keeper of the Prison and by the Inspector and Sergeants of Police on duty at the Main Station.
	GOZO PRISON:
	They are occasionally supervised by the Keeper of the Prison and Warder.
	CORRADINO PRISON:
III. How many cells are there; and how many associated wards?	There are 264 separate cells and 8 wards.
	VALLETTA LOCK-UP:
	There are 8 cells now in use; all the others are damp, dark, and insanitary.
	GOZO PRISON:
	There are 4 cells and 3 wards, 2 of which wards have airing yards.

RETURNS OF GAOLS, &c.—(continued).

<i>Questions.</i>	<i>Answers.</i>
IV. Taking the <i>average</i> number of prisoners in gaol, how many cubic feet of space are there for each prisoner during the hours of sleep?	CORRADINO PRISON: In the Criminal wards there are 1,120 cubic feet of space for each prisoner in 78 cells and 1,260 cubic feet in 186 cells.
And what superficial area?	The superficial area of each cell is 103.3 sq. ft.
	VALLETTA LOCK-UP: See Answer to Question No. I.
	GOZO PRISON: The cells and yards being very spacious, and the number of persons detained in the same limited, no possible doubt can be entertained of the prisoners being too closely confined.
V. How are the prisoners classified?	CORRADINO PRISON: Long sentence prisoners are subdivided into three grades, viz:—lower, middle, and upper—six months good conduct being required before passing to the middle grade, and three months to the upper grade.
	VALLETTA LOCK-UP: A classification is not practicable.
	GOZO PRISON: See Answer to Question No. I.
VI. Is penal labour—that is, labour by treadmill, crank, or shot drill—in force?	FOR ALL PRISONS: No penal labour is in force.
VII. If so, during what periods of imprisonments, in respect of what classes of prisoners, and during how many hours, is such penal labour enforced? In stating hours of treadwheel labour, give, first, the total time on and off at the wheel, &c.; secondly, the length of spells and intervals of rest.	FOR ALL PRISONS: See Answer to Question No. VI.
VIII. What kind of labour, other than penal labour, is in use?	CORRADINO PRISON: Building, stone-cutting, carpentering, glazing, mining, painting, staining, whitewashing, tailoring, shoe-making, mat and broom making, gardening, field labour, stone-breaking, washing, sewing, knitting, patching, book-binding, oakum picking, &c.
	VALLETTA LOCK-UP: See Answer to Question No. VI.—Sweeping and washing the Police dormitory, Valletta Lock-up cells and occasionally Police Offices.
	GOZO PRISON: Sweeping and cleansing the prison and conveying water to the same.

RETURN OF GAOLS, &c.—(continued).

Questions.

Answers.

IX. If the prisoners are employed beyond the walls of the gaol, state—

1. On what kind of work they are so employed.
2. How are they supervised?
3. How many escapes of prisoners, while being employed beyond the gaol, have taken place during each of the last three years.
4. How the profits of their labour are accounted for.

CORRADINO PRISON:

- 1 & 2. The prisoners are not employed outside the Prison as a rule; but well conducted men, supervised by a warder, are sent out to cultivate the lands annexed to the Prison, to clean the Police Depot, &c.
3. $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{In 1918—Giuseppe Borg—Field party.} \\ \text{In 1919—Giuseppe Baldacchino—Field party.} \\ \text{In 1920—Giuseppe Muscat—Field party.} \\ \text{Giovanni Cauchi—Field party.} \end{array} \right.$
4. Lodged in the Colonial Treasury.

VALLETTA LOCK-UP:

1. Washing and sweeping the cells.
2. By the Prison Keeper.
3. None. Prisoners are supervised by special policemen when employed beyond the gaol as stated in Question VIII.
4. Prisoners who are fed at the public expense are never employed as remunerative labour.

GOZO PRISON:

- 1 to 4. The Prisoners are not employed beyond the walls of the gaol.

X. What was the total annual cost of the prison during the year?

Corradino Prison	£ 11,264 4 6
Valletta Lock-up	213 19 1
Gozo Prison	276 6 0
Total	£ 11,754 9 7

XI. What was the annual amount of the prisoner's earnings during the year?

CORRADINO PRISON:

The annual amount of the prisoners' earnings were:—

Stone breaking.	£ 40 0 0
Tailoring	385 0 0
Joinery	112 10 0
Masonry	50 0 0
Painting	80 0 0
Plastering	225 0 0
Shoe-making	150 0 0
Tinsmiths	60 0 0
Reclaiming waste land and field labour	600 0 0
Cooking	146 0 0
Bakers	127 15 0
Cleaning and Jobbing	584 0 0
Patching and Knitting	22 10 0
Attending sick Prisoners	18 5 0
Washing	40 0 0
Picking oakum	450 0 0
Book-binding	240 0 0
Lace-making	3 6 8
Broom and mat-making	500 0 0
	£ 3,834 6 8

VALLETTA LOCK-UP & GOZO PRISON:

See Answer to Question No. VI.

RETURN OF GAOLS, &c.—(continued)

<i>Questions.</i>	<i>Answers.</i>																				
	CORRADINO PRISON:																				
XII. What is the number of the hours allotted for sleep? And, if sleep is in association, are the dormitories lighted? and how often are they patrolled during the night?	In the summer prisoners are locked up in their cells for the night at 17.30 hrs. and rise at 06.00 hrs. In winter they are locked up for the night at 16.30 hrs. and rise at 06.00 hrs. Lights are put out at 21.00 hrs. in summer and 20.00 hrs. in winter. All the wards are patrolled every half hour during the night.																				
	VALLETTA LOCK-UP:																				
	There is no limited time for sleep. There are no dormitories but cells only receiving light from the Prison yards. The cells are visited by the Prison Keeper and his Assistant by day and by the Sergeants at the Main Guard and the Orderly Inspectors by night.																				
	GOZO PRISON:																				
	There is no limited time for sleep.																				
	CORRADINO PRISON:																				
XIII. What were the number and nature of the punishments inflicted for offences committed by prisoners undergoing imprisonment?	The total number of punishments inflicted was 2,953, i.e. <table border="0" style="margin-left: 2em;"> <tr> <td>Admonished</td> <td style="text-align: right;">279</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Solitary confinement without punishment diet</td> <td style="text-align: right;">722</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Solitary confinement on punishment diet</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,534</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reduction in grade</td> <td style="text-align: right;">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Postponement of promotion to higher grade</td> <td style="text-align: right;">26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Loss of marks</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Forfeiture of gratuity money</td> <td style="text-align: right;">329</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deprivation of mattress for a period not exceeding 3 days</td> <td style="text-align: right;">35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Condemned by Magistrates</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">2,953</td> </tr> </table>	Admonished	279	Solitary confinement without punishment diet	722	Solitary confinement on punishment diet	1,534	Reduction in grade	16	Postponement of promotion to higher grade	26	Loss of marks	11	Forfeiture of gratuity money	329	Deprivation of mattress for a period not exceeding 3 days	35	Condemned by Magistrates	1		2,953
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	VALLETTA LOCK-UP & GOZO PRISON:																				
	None.																				
	CORRADINO PRISON:																				
XIV. Is there, or are there, any Chaplain or Chaplains of any, and what, religious persuasions?	One Roman Catholic Chaplain and the Visiting Chaplains, i.e. one Church of England, one Presbyterian and one Wesleyan.																				
	VALLETTA LOCK-UP:																				
	There is a Roman Catholic Chaplain who performs Divine Service on Sundays and other holidays when required.																				
	GOZO PRISON:																				
	There is no Chaplain attached; but mass is celebrated on Sundays and holidays by a Roman Catholic Clergyman paid by Government.																				

RETURNS OF GAOLS, &c —(continued).

<i>Questions.</i>	<i>Answers.</i>
	CORRADINO PRISON:
XV. Are religious services regularly, or otherwise, performed for the benefit of the prisoners of any, and, if any, what, religious persuasion?	There are two Chapels, i.e. one Catholic (Roman) and the other Protestant in which Divine Service is regularly performed.
	VALLETTA LOCK-UP & GOZO PRISON:
	See Answer to Question No. XIV.
	CORRADINO PRISON:
XVI. Are Roman Catholic Priests and Dissenting Ministers allowed free access to prisoners of their own persuasion? and are they apprised when prisoners of their respective persuasions enter the prison?	Yes.
	VALLETTA LOCK-UP & GOZO PRISON:
	Clergymen of every religious persuasion have free access to the prisoners when the latter require their assistance.
	CORRADINO PRISON:
XVII. What provision is made for the education of prisoners?	The Roman Catholic Chaplain is also Schoolmaster and gives religious instruction to prisoners. He also teaches reading and writing, &c. to such prisoners as wish it.
	VALLETTA LOCK-UP & GOZO PRISON:
	None.
	CORRADINO PRISON:
XVIII. On what conditions are remissions of imprisonment granted?	Long sentence prisoners may earn remission of sentence by industry accompanied by good conduct according to the mark system.
	VALLETTA LOCK-UP & GOZO PRISON:
	Remissions of imprisonment are granted or withheld by His Excellency the Governor after enquiries into the circumstances connected with each case.
	CORRADINO PRISON:
XIX. Have Coroners' Inquests been held on every occasion of a death in prison during the past year? And what were the verdicts?	No deaths occurred during the year under review.
	VALLETTA LOCK-UP & GOZO PRISON:
	Same as above.
	CORRADINO PRISON:
XX. 1. What was the Sanitary state of the prison during the year?	1. Very good. 2. Febricula and gastro-enteric disturbances.
2. What were the prevailing diseases?	VALLETTA LOCK-UP:
	1. Fair. 2. None.
	GOZO PRISON:
	1. Good. 2. None.

RETURNS OF GAOLS, &c.—(continued).

Questions.

XXI. What are, shortly, the rules as to Diet?

Answers.

CORRADINO PRISON:

Simple imprisonment.

Half pint coffee, twentyfour ounces bread, soup, two ounces salt fish or cheese or $\frac{1}{20}$ mond. olives. Salt fish — or olives — or cheese — is given on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, four ounces beef or pork on Sundays, Tuesday and Thursdays.

Hard Labour.

Six ounces bread in addition to the ordinary diet on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Two ounces bread in addition to the ordinary diet on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Prisoners during their first month of imprisonment and persons sentenced to detention, who do not provide their own food, receive only 20 ounces bread. Half pint coffee contains half ounce of raw coffee and half ounce sugar. Each basin of soup contains $1\frac{1}{2}$ rations vegetables (including potatoes), $\frac{1}{100}$ pint oil or $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. suet and '008 dry beans, lentils, &c. A ration of vegetables is made up of 34 rot. of raw vegetables (including potatoes) for every 100 persons.

VALLETTA LOCK-UP:

Detention prisoners who have no means, and all others who are undergoing punishment are fed at the public expense by rations supplied from the Orphan Asylum on requisition by the Commissioner of Police.

A day's ration consists of:

20 oz. of salt fish
2 oz. of cheese
or
2 oz. of salt fish
 $\frac{1}{20}$ of mond. olives.

GOZO PRISON:

26 ounces bread, 4 ounces paste, $2\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. cheese or salt fish or $\frac{1}{20}$ mond. olives, 1 ration vegetables.