

SECTION 24.

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

STATISTICAL RETURN for the PRISONS of MALTA.

| Name and Nature of the Prisons (Whether "Common Gaol," "Penitentiary," &c.) Here "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 Prisons. | 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. | Thrice 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) | 1212 | 7 | 979 | 226 | 68 | 64 | 755 | 1 | 17 | 31 | 177 | 121.07 | 9 | 1.05 | — |
| Valetta Lock-up ... (Prison attached to the Police) | 883 | — | 111 | — | 81 | 279 | 523 | — | — | — | 772 | 4 | — | — | — |
| Gozo Prison ... (Common Gaol) | 3071 | — | 11 | 296 | 47 | 19 | 241 | — | — | — | 296 | 2.18 | 5 | — | — |
| TOTAL ... | 2402 | 7 | 1101 | 522 | 196 | 362 | 1519 | 1 | 17 | 31 | 1245 | 127.25 | 14 | 1.05 | — |
| Men ... | 1040 | 7 | 596 | 437 | 59 | 30 | 755 | 1 | 17 | 25 | 394 | 114.78 | 13 | 1.01 | — |
| Women ... | 208 | — | 176 | 32 | 10 | 27 | 119 | — | — | 6 | 26 | 5.83 | 1 | — | — |
| Juveniles ... | 271‡ | — | 218 | 53 | 46 | 26 | 122 | — | — | — | 53 | 2.64 | — | 0.04 | — |

* 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.

† Exclusive of 8 adults male who were transferred to Corradino Civil Prison the next day of their sentence.

‡ Exclusive of Juvenile Offenders detained at Salvatore Reformatory.

RETURNS OF GAOLS, &c.—(continued).

Questions.

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?

II. If not on the separate system, what provision is there for the supervision of the prisoners while in association?

III. How many cells are there; and how many associated wards?

Answers.

CORRADINO PRISON:

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:

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:

The Prisoners, while in association, are supervised by warders in the male division, and by Sisters of Charity and wardresses in the female ward.

VALLETTA LOCK-UP:

They are occasionally supervised, day and night, by the Keeper 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:

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> |
|--|--|
| | CORRAJINO PRISON: |
| 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? | In the Criminal wards there are 1,120 cubic feet of space for each prisoner in 78 cells and 1,250 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. |
| | CORRAJINO PRISON: |
| V. How are the prisoners classified? | 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. |
| | FOR ALL PRISONS: |
| VI. Is penal labour—that is, labour by treadmill, crank, or shot drill—in force? | No penal labour is in force. |
| | FOR ALL PRISONS: |
| 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. | See Answer to Question No. VI. |
| | CORRAJINO PRISON: |
| VIII. What kind of labour, other than penal labour, is in use? | Building, stone-cutting, carpentering, glazing, minging, painting, staining, whitewashing, tailoring, shoe-making, mat and broom making, gardening, field labour, washing, sewing, knitting, patching, book-binding, oakum picking, baking, hair-dressing, &c. |
| | VALLETTA LOCK-UP: |
| | See Answer to Question No. VI.—Oakum picking, sweeping and washing the Police dormitory, Valletta Lock-up cells and occasionally Police Offices. |
| | GOZO PRISON: |
| | Sweeping and cleaning the prison and conveying water to the same and oakum picking. |

RETURN OF GAOLS, &c.—(continued).

Questions.

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.

Answers.

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. { In 1923—Giuseppe Schembri—Awaiting trial.
In 1924—Nil.
In 1925—Nil.
4. Lodged in the Colonial Treasury.

VALLETTA LOCK-UP:

1. Washing, sweeping the cells and oakum picking.
2. By the 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 | £ 11,050 8 9 |
| Valletta Lock-up | 236 12 2 |
| Gozo Prison | 226 13 0 |
| Total | £ 11,513 13 11 |

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

CORRADINO PRISON:
The annual amount of the prisoners' earnings were:—

| REMUNERATIVE LABOUR. | |
|---|--------------|
| Sale of Prison Manufactures | £ 658 4 34 |
| Sale of produce of lands | 211 12 10 |
| Book-binding | 377 2 10½ |
| Sale of bread | 4,230 5 10 |
| | 5,477 5 10 |
| UNREMUNERATIVE LABOUR. | |
| Reclamation of waste lands | £ 255 0 0 |
| Tailoring | 137 10 0 |
| Joinery | 90 0 0 |
| Masonry | 100 0 0 |
| Painting | 40 0 0 |
| Plastering | 37 10 0 |
| Tinsmithing | 80 0 0 |
| Cooking | 91 5 0 |
| Cleaning and Jobbing | 182 10 0 |
| Patching and knitting | 7 10 0 |
| Attending sick Prisoners | 18 5 0 |
| Washing | 30 0 0 |
| Fatigue party Police Depot | 60 0 0 |
| | 1,119 10 0 |
| OTHER SOURCES. | |
| Gozo Court Fines | £ 1 5 0 |
| Subsistence of prisoners on detention | 0 6 0 |
| Subsistence of Consular, Naval and military prisoners | 256 6 6 |
| Miscellaneous receipts | 65 11 1 |
| Court Fines | 90 2 0 |
| Refund of passage expenses of discharged prisoners | 12 7 10 |
| | 425 18 5 |
| | £ 7,022 14 3 |

VALLETTA LOCK-UP & GOZO PRISON:

See Answer to Question No. VI

RETURN OF GAOLS, &c.—(continued).

Questions.

Answers.

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 yards. The cells are visited by the 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 | 643, i.e. |
| Admonished | 149 |
| Solitary confinement without punishment diet | 229 |
| Solitary confinement on punishment diet | 90 |
| Reduction in grade | 3 |
| Postponement of promotion* to higher grade | 11 |
| Loss of marks | 3 |
| Forfeiture of gratuity money | 133 |
| Deprivation of mattress for a period not exceeding 3 days | 25 |
| | <hr/> 643 |

VALLETTA LOCK-UP:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Solitary confinement without punishment diet | 4 |
| Solitary confinement on punishment diet | 4 |
| Condemned by Magistrates | 17 |
| | <hr/> 25 |

GOZO PRISON: Nil.

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).

*Questions.**Answers.*

XV. Are religious services regularly, or otherwise, performed for the benefit of the prisoners of any, and, if any, what, religious persuasion?

CORRADINO PRISON:
There are two Chapels, i.e. one Roman Catholic and the other Protestant in which Divine Service is regularly performed.

VALLETTA LOCK-UP & GOZO PRISON:
See Answer to Question No. XIV.

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?

CORRADINO PRISON:
Yes.

VALLETTA LOCK-UP & GOZO PRISON:
Clergymen of every religious persuasion have free access to the prisoners when the latter require their assistance.

XVII. What provision is made for the education of prisoners?

CORRADINO PRISON:
The Roman Catholic Chaplain gives religious instruction to prisoners. A Schoolmaster has been appointed for teaching, reading and writing, &c. to such prisoners as wish it.

VALLETTA LOCK-UP & GOZO PRISON:
None.

XVIII. On what conditions are remissions of imprisonment granted?

CORRADINO PRISON:
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.

XIX. Have Coroners' Inquests been held on every occasion of a death in prison during the past year? And what were the verdicts?

CORRADINO PRISON:
NIL.

VALLETTA LOCK-UP & GOZO PRISON:
No deaths occurred during the year.

XX. 1. What was the Sanitary state of the prison during the year?

CORRADINO PRISON:
1. Very good.
2. No prevailing disease was noted this year.

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.

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, Tuesdays 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.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint tea is issued daily to Prisoners undergoing sentences of hard labour and imprisonment.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint tea contains $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. raw tea and $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. sugar.

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 and from Corradino Civil Prison on requisition by the Commissioner of Police.

A day's ration consists of:

20 oz. of bread
2 oz. of cheese

GOZO PRISON:

Same diet as Corradino Prison.

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