

(No. 27.)



1861.

TASMANIA.

LAUNCESTON GAOL.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Innes, and ordered by the House to be printed,
27 August, 1861.



Penal Establishments, Launceston, 24th August, 1860.

MEMO.

WITH reference to my Memorandum of yesterday's date, transmitting two Returns, I have now the honour to forward the third Return called for from the Sheriff's Office; viz.—that of Persons confined in the Female House of Correction here during the Years 1856, 1857, 1858, and 1859.

J. REID, *Superintendent.*

The Sheriff, Hobart Town.

FORWARDED to the Clerk of the House of Assembly, for the information of the Launceston Gaol Committee.

W. NAIRN.

25th August, 1860.

RETURN of the Number of Persons confined in the FEMALE HOUSE OF CORRECTION at LAUNCESTON, during the Years 1856, 1857, 1858, and 1859; showing the number who have been, or are CONVICTS, and those who have been always FREE.

Year.	Number of Persons confined during the Year.	Highest Number confined at any one time in the Year.	Number of Convicts.	Number who have been Convicts.	Number always Free.
1856	483	66	44	428	11
1857	463	48	26	423	14
1858	416	40	15	377	24
1859	514	49	20	482	12

J. REID, *Superintendent Penal Establishments.*

Launceston, 24th August, 1860.

*EVIDENCE taken before the SELECT COMMITTEE of the HOUSE of ASSEMBLY on
the LAUNCESTON GAOL.*

16 AUGUST, 1860.

HENRY DOWLING, Esq., *called in and examined.*

1. I AM Mayor of Launceston, and am well acquainted with the condition of the Gaol there.

2. I consider the present Gaol particularly defective. The authorities have done all they could with this class of building. It does not admit of any improvement, or very little. The slight improvements that could be made would go a very little way towards remedying the evils of having a Gaol in such a condition.

3. The chief defects are in accommodation and in the means of classification. The extent of buildings is insufficient. The greater number of prisoners in the Gaol are allowed to be together. I have seen a young man incarcerated, for the first time, standing next to a man who had spent the greater part of his time at Norfolk Island and penal settlements. There is an utter want of classification. Go in by lamplight, and you would see the walls covered with bugs. Efforts have been made to remedy this evil, but without success. I consider the Gaol quite unfitted for its purpose.

4. There is a sick ward—a very small room, with no ventilation.

5. Does the present site contain sufficient space for the erection of a Gaol?—Ample; but I do not think it is a proper site. That site could be converted into a considerable sum of money, and another site, suitable for a Gaol, purchased at a small cost. It is a valuable plot of land.

6. Apart from pecuniary considerations, I know of no objection to the present site.

16 AUGUST, 1860.

W. R. FALCONER, Esq., *called in and examined.*

7. I AM Director of Public Works. I am well acquainted with the present condition and character of the Gaol at Launceston. I consider it to be most unsuited for the purposes of a Gaol. Men are crowded in their quarters. There are no means of classification. There is not sufficient space. There is only one yard in which prisoners are confined together, even to the extent of fifty.

8. It affords no means of classification of Prisoners. Men under sentence to Port Arthur, men committed for trial, and condemned men, are all in one yard. Frequently those under sentence and those under committal are forced to sleep in the same ward.

9. In a sanitary point of view, it is very defective. It is infested with vermin, and the place is so small that it is impossible to get rid of them.

10. The Gaol is so insecure that it is necessary to keep men who are in for trifling offences in irons.

11. Plans have been prepared for proposed alterations, and for an entirely new Gaol, on the same spot, leaving the walls. If the present Gaol is altered, it will cost a large sum for divisions, and even then it would be insecure: in fact it would be throwing money away to alter the present Gaol. New division walls would deteriorate the sanitary condition.

12. The cost of repairing and altering would be about £1800. A new establishment would cost about £10,000, taking in Bathurst-street. There is a difficulty for yards in the present site; but, with Bathurst-street, there would be sufficient space. The building consists of onestory with attics. The present building has not sufficient height. A ward 16 by 14 is devoted to the accommodation of sixteen men. It is fitted up with a double tier of bunks, and before the Sessions it is generally full. There are three wards, similarly occupied, of same dimensions and fitting. The ward above is a little larger, but has more men.

13. *By Mr. Crookes.*—The present construction renders efficient classification impracticable. The alterations proposed to be made would not render the Gaol more secure; it would only improve the classification. But the buildings are very unsuited to go to such an expense. A new Gaol would reduce the number of attendants,—perhaps a couple. The alterations would not effect that; but would require a greater number of attendants. The proposed alterations would afford accommodation by iron bedsteads instead of bunks, and there would be more space. The space occupied by the kitchen and dining-room would be devoted to new wards. Prisoners have frequently escaped from the Gaol in consequence of its insecurity.

14. *By Mr. Henty.*—In my opinion it would be better to build a new Gaol than to go to the expense of alterations.

15. *By Mr. Sherwin.*—There are 48 cells in the rear of the Penitentiary. In consequence of the want of room in the Gaol, female prisoners are sometimes kept in the Penitentiary. A new Gaol would afford accommodation for females; but the Female Penitentiary is better suited for them. If the men were removed from them, there is plenty of room where they could be kept quite secure, with a separate yard. The building at the east is now occupied as a Watch-house; it was formerly a Male House of Correction. There are 48 cells attached to it. If a new Watch-house was to be built, it would be put up in the square. The erection of a new Gaol would not necessitate the erection of a new Watch-house. That is a separate matter already provided for.

22 AUGUST, 1860.

W. E. NAIRN, Esq., *called in and examined.*

16. As Sheriff of the Colony, you are acquainted with the Gaol at Launceston?—I am.

17. What is your opinion as to its fitness?—Utterly unfit. I can hardly say whether any direct representations have been made to me by the Visiting Magistrates, or other persons; but I know that the Visiting Magistrates have been aware of the state of the Gaol, and have been anxious that changes should be made.

[Mr. Nairn read a Correspondence which he had had with the Government.]

18. Do you still adhere to your recommendations in this Correspondence?—Yes.

19. Do you think a new Gaol should be built on a new site?—I think the Gaol and Houses of Correction for Launceston should be on the same spot. I think, as regards space, the present site is sufficient, and the situation convenient.

20. Do you concur with Mr. Irvine as to the reduction of the number of javelin-men?—I am not prepared to say so just now.

21. *By Mr. Cohen.*—Do you consider the accommodation of the Male and Female Houses of Correction sufficient?—Yes; for I look for a decrease, and not for an increase.

22. Do you think a decrease may be looked for?—I do.

23. *By Mr. Crookes.*—Do you think the accommodation sufficient at present?—Yes; if the sheds were removed, and some other small alterations were effected. I have never found a large number in Hospital.

24. *By Mr. Cohen.*—Do you think the Houses of Correction could be made secure for the class of prisoners accommodated therein?—Yes; I think it could.

25. Do you think there is sufficient accommodation in both Houses of Correction?—Yes, in the female, I think. I cannot say that the building is a perfect building,—far from it.

26. Have you had any complaints from the Visiting Magistrates as to want of classification?—When last in Launceston, I saw to the classification of the women who have always been free, from the convicts; and, on this point, I conversed with the Visiting Magistrates.

27. Do you think the classification sufficient? Could it be made sufficient in those buildings?—Yes; I think the classification of women under sentence to be, on the whole, satisfactory.

28. *By Mr. Crookes.*—Do you know that the women all herd or work together?—Yes, under Magisterial sentences; except so far as regards women who have always been free, from those who are or have been convicts. This classification has only been recently carried out—since June last.

29. *By Dr. Officer.*—Is the number of women who have always been free large or otherwise?—The average number, for the last four years, should be called for. I will furnish a Return.

30. *By Mr. Crookes.*—Do you know that, for several years past, and recently, alterations have been made to the Gaol and Houses of Correction, and yet they are most inefficient, insecure, and unsatisfactory establishments?—I am not aware of any alterations to the Gaol. As regards the Houses of Correction, I am aware that frequent additions and alterations have been made. The building itself is, undoubtedly, not well adapted for constituting an efficient and satisfactory establishment; but I do not consider that, with regard to the Houses of Correction, any evil consequences have arisen from the arrangements now in force. The escapes effected in the last six years, undoubtedly show a want of sufficient security, but I am not prepared to say it could not be remedied.

31. *By Mr. Sherwin.*—Looking at the gradual extinction of the Convict class, do you think the Gaol accommodation will not be less in four or five years?—Yes; of course. The great majority of the inmates have been or are Convicts.

32. *By Mr. Cohen.*—What is your opinion of the Male and Female Houses of Correction in a sanitary view?—I have no reason to suppose it is unfavourable.

33. *By Mr. Cohen.*—How many javelin-men are employed in the Hobart Town Gaol?—Four. This is owing to the excellent arrangements of the Gaol, and the means I have of drafting men who are Convicts to the Prisoners' Barracks. I have not the facility at Launceston; though I generally bring men away who are sentenced to punishment with hard labour. This class is not retained in the Launceston Gaol.

34. *By Dr. Officer.*—Are there any female Ticket-of-Leave holders in service in Launceston?—Very few, if any.

22 AUGUST, 1860.

MR. C. J. IRVINE, *called in and examined.*

35. You were for some time Governor of the Gaol at Launceston?—I was; and I am well aware of its general character and functions as a Gaol.

36. Are you aware whether any improvements or alterations have been made in it recently?—Yes; since I gave up charge.

37. Do you know its present condition?—Yes. The alterations which have been effected were deemed expedient consequent on opening up Bathurst-street and handing over the Male House of Correction to the Municipality. I believe they do not afford means for the more efficient management of the place for classification and separation of prisoners.

38. What is the character of the building in regard to security?—It is impossible to make the female portion secure. I believe that if a Gaol were built, with proper arrangements for classification, &c., for the prisoners, it would require one-half the present amount of supervision.

39. Are the Prisons crowded?—Yes. In the Male House of Correction, as many as 10 or even 20 have been transferred to the Gaol to sleep, and that very recently.

40. Did the Medical Officer complain of want of space in the Prison?—Yes.

41. Has sickness been prevalent in Gaol?—No. I have not known cases of fever originate in the Gaol.

42. Have you observed that the health of persons has improved during their detention?—Persons of dissipated habits admitted to Gaol usually improve in health.

43. Are escapes frequent?—They have been.

44. *By Mr. Crookes.*—In summer what is the condition of the Gaol?—Swarming with bugs, and close atmosphere. The old walls cannot be cleared of bugs, though I tried every means—hot lime and scalding water. I never tried fumigation, because of the open gratings.

45. From the nature of the building, is there such ventilation as there should be?—No; there is not; and if a smaller division of the yards is made, the sun will never reach them.

46. Could alterations be made so as to suit the building for a Gaol?—No; certainly not.

47. Did you find the Gaol frequently overcrowded?—Yes.

48. What number is the Gaol calculated for?—There are 42 berths. I have known 8 over that number confined, generally for 10 days or a fortnight. This is the general excess of men.

49. In the cells 16 × 12, how many prisoners have you known?—I have known 14 in the cells.

50. *By Mr. Henty.*—Do you think the accommodation sufficient for 42 men?—No; I do not think it is sufficient for more than 20 men.

51. *By Mr. Crookes.*—You think it necessary that arrangements should be made for classification?—Yes; for the prisoners are all herded together. As a general rule, the man condemned to death, or the prisoner in as a witness, mingle together in one yard, except in some very special case; and there is but one water-closet. They used to mess in the same room (but at different tables; though still very close together,) in a ward 18 × 14.

52. *By Dr. Officer.*—Is the numbers confined increase or decrease lately?—I believe increase.

53. *By Mr. Cohen.*—You think the present site sufficient for the erection of a new building?—Yes; if Bathurst-street is taken in.

54. *By Mr. Crookes.*—Do you consider the accommodation in the Male House of Correction sufficient for the number now confined therein?—No; I do not. I think it is overcrowded; for I have been informed, by the Governor recently, that he has removed as many as 20 to the Old Gaol to sleep.

55. Is there proper accommodation in the Female House of Correction for the number now confined?—No; I do not think there is. The cells recently built are said to be too short.

56. How many prisoners escaped from the Gaol walls while you were in charge?—One from the Gaol, proper. Some escaped from the Gangs. It is difficult to escape from the Old Gaol; for when a man is fully committed for trial, he is put in heavy irons immediately. This I consider necessary for their safe custody: and when there was fear of escape I have put them in 50lb. irons. This mode of treatment is necessary on account of the insecurity of the Gaol.

57. *By Dr. Officer.*—Are all men so ironed without reference to their offence?—No.

58. *By Mr. Sherwin.*—Looking at present position of Gaol, do you think it would be desirable to build a new Gaol on the same site, or to remove to a distance?—Not on the present site. A Gaol ought not to be in the centre of the Town; although it would be inconvenient to move it far from the Court House. The present site is increasing every day in value, and will be eventually of great value.

59. *By Mr. Henty.*—No alteration could be made so as to make the Gaol or any part of it so secure as to classify and separate the prisoners.

60. *By Dr. Officer.*—Could you find a site in another place where the land would not be so valuable?—I do not know.

61. *By Mr. Cohen.*—Do you attribute the health of the inmates only to constant and minute attention to cleanliness?—Yes, only to that.

62. *By Mr. Crookes.*—Then you consider a new Gaol could be conducted, as to salaries, for £666 less than the present establishment?—Yes; it would depend on the construction of the Gaol; such as the new prison at Port Arthur.

63. *By Mr. Sherwin.*—There are 1400 feet of street frontage comprised in these buildings. Do you think the probable value would shortly be £5 a foot?—It would be worth a great deal more if the bridge was built over the Tamar, and that part of the Town opened up.

[Mr. Crookes handed in Papers, which were read.]

64. *By Mr. Crookes.*—You have seen the new prison at Port Arthur?—Yes, I have. It is well adapted for classification, requiring fewer attendants than any other system.

MEMORANDUM—*Handed in by the Sheriff, 22nd August, 1860.*

25th February, 1856.

THE Sheriff begs to acquaint the Colonial Secretary, in reference to Mr. Irvine's note respecting the alterations required at the Launceston House of Correction, that the Papers and Plans were forwarded by the Sheriff to the Director of Public Works on the 25th ultimo, with a Minute, stating that the Sheriff would be ready to confer with the Director of Public Works, as directed by the Colonial Secretary, at any time that Mr. Kay might find convenient; and that it was very desirable that as little delay as possible should occur in the preparation of the plans.

No reply has been received by the Sheriff; but he has again drawn the attention of the Director of Public Works to the subject.

W. NAIRN.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

Sheriff's Office, 24th January, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the consideration of the Government, my proposals in reference to the Gaol and House of Correction, Launceston.

2. The present Gaol is the centre of three buildings: the Female House of Correction, with the Keeper's residence, being on one side; and on the other, what used to be the Treadmill, and is now used for the Male House of Correction, with the enclosed portion of Bathurst-street.

3. After a careful consideration of the whole subject, my opinion is, that accommodation for the males under hard labour sentences should be provided in the Female House of Correction; that the present Gaol should be reconstructed; and that the present Treadmill, together with the portion of Bathurst-street now enclosed should be given up.

4. In carrying out this plan, I propose that the men should at once be transferred to the Female House of Correction. The necessary alteration for the purpose can be effected at a very trifling expense, and in the course of a few days.

5. The Treadmill Buildings would then be free; and, as I understand that a Lock-up House and Police Office are required by the Corporation, in lieu of the present buildings, I would recommend that half the building be given over to the Corporation for that purpose, the other half being retained by me for the present. A dividing wall will be necessary, so as to leave me with half the building, and the enclosed portion of Bathurst-street, available for use while the alterations are being carried on in the Gaol.

6. Should the Government approve of my suggestions it will be necessary to authorize the Director of Public Works to make, at once, the necessary alterations in the Female House of Correction; and, with his assistance, I shall then have a Plan and Estimate prepared of the alterations which I would recommend to be made in the Gaol, and which will be ready for submission to the Parliament, if approved by the Ministry.

7. I believe that the course I have proposed is one which meets with the assent of the Mayor and Aldermen, and provides, in the best manner, for all the interests of the Service.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. NAIRN, *Sheriff*.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

Sheriff's Office, 19th April, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acquaint you that I have personally visited and inspected the Gaol and House of Correction at Launceston.

The introduction of the Male Prisoners into the building hitherto used for the Female House of Correction, an arrangement which was consequent upon the relinquishment of a portion of the Treadmill Building for the site for New Police Offices, has, of necessity, very much reduced the accommodation for the women.

For these necessary alterations and additions, which the transfer rendered necessary, provision was made by the Director of Public Works in the tender which he invited for the erection of the New Police Offices. I learned from the Director that the lowest tender was for a sum of upwards of £2000; and that he believed that the work would not be proceeded with until a Vote had been obtained from Parliament. I then requested him to separate the work required for the Factory; and, during my visit, he applied to the Tenderer for information as to what he would charge for the performance of that portion of the work. The result was, an offer to execute it for upwards of £500. The sum appeared to the Director, as indeed to myself, to be most exorbitant; my belief being, that all that is required might be done for £200 or £250, were the work executed by hired labour; and the Director promised me that he would, without loss of time, address a communication to the Government on the subject.

I have now to represent to the Government, that it is really indispensable that the work I have pointed out should be executed. At present there is no separate accommodation for any free women who may be sentenced to imprisonment; and they have, consequently, to be mixed up with those who have been or are Convicts. It is, I feel assured, quite unnecessary for me to put forth any argument against the continuance of such an arrangement. There are also some additional cells required, in consequence of the surrender of the whole block of separate apartments for the use of the men, and some other minor alterations all requisite for the proper working of the Establishment; and I trust that the Government will, under the circumstances, sanction the whole work as being absolutely necessary.

With regard to the Gaol, I would observe, that I have again gone through it; and that, as it appears to me possible that some difficulty may be found in providing the funds requisite for the erection of a New Gaol, I have requested the Director, in addition to the Plans for the New Gaol, to prepare a Plan, under certain arrangements which I have pointed out, and which he clearly understands, showing in what mode some approach to a proper classification of the Prisoners may be made, by making certain alterations and additions to the present building.

I purpose, by the latter plan, to show what is the smallest sum for which a classification can be obtained, the present state of the Gaol being wholly indefensible; all the prisoners, under whatever circumstances they may be convicted, (the Debtors excepted,) being mixed up together, there being no means of separating them.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. NAIRN, *Sheriff*.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

23rd July, 1859.

MINUTE of the Sheriff on a letter from the Director of Public Works, dated 18th July, 1859, representing that he had convened a Meeting of five gentlemen,* for the purpose of examining the Plans for alterations to the present Gaol at Launceston; also, for Plans for an entirely new Gaol; and that their unanimous opinion was, that no alteration or expenditure should be made on the present Gaol. That the Plan marked No. 2, appeared the one best adapted for a new Gaol; but, if built in accordance with that Plan, they would advise that it should be erected on a larger area of ground than that now shown and proposed.

That, on receiving an official communication from the Sheriff, the gentlemen named will be willing to furnish a Report upon the present and proposed Gaol.

W. R. FALCONER.

* Henry Dowling, Esquire, Mayor; C. J. Weedon, Esquire, and J. Cohen, Esquire, Visiting Justices; Ronald Gunn, Esquire, C. J. Irvine, Esquire.

MINUTE.

“WILL the Colonial Secretary be so good as to inform me what course is to be followed in this matter. I think the best course will be for the Director of Public Works to submit the Plans for a New Gaol, which he has prepared, to these gentlemen for their observations; and I will then forward that Plan, as also the one which I had prepared, effecting certain alterations in the existing Gaol, for the consideration of the Government, as I had originally proposed.”

W. NAIRN. 23rd July, 1859.

MEMORANDUM.

ON the 23rd July last I forwarded some Papers to the Colonial Secretary, relating to the alterations in the Gaol at Launceston, and the proposed erection of a new Gaol.

To the suggestions made by me on these Papers, I have not received any reply. I believe, however, I am correct in supposing that the Government are not disposed to advise the erection of a new Gaol.

I would, however, press upon the Government, that I should be authorized immediately to take steps for having some provision made for the accommodation and separation of prisoners under sentence of death.

From a conversation I have had with the Director of Public Works, I have reason to think that the Vote taken for the alteration of the buildings that formerly formed part of the Gaol to the purpose of a Police Office, would be sufficient to cover the expense of providing the accommodation I have now referred to in the Gaol.

I need not, I feel assured, point out to the Government how indispensable it is that some amendment of the present arrangements, in reference to Prisoners under sentence of death, should be made: and it appears to me that the matter should be dealt with without any further delay.

W. NAIRN, Sheriff, 11 October, 1859.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

Sheriff's Office, 20th January, 1860.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 13th October last, on the subject of the alterations required in the Launceston Gaol, I have the honour to acquaint you that, having visited the Gaol in conjunction with the Director of Public Works, the latter Officer has now prepared a Plan showing the alterations which appeared to us, on careful consideration of what was really required, to be the best and most economical mode of effecting such a degree of improvement as must be admitted to be absolutely called for.

The alterations provide proper accommodation for men under sentence of death, as also the means of separating the other classes of prisoners.

The total cost of the work now proposed is estimated by the Director of Public Works at £1611, and I do not see that any reduction can be made in that amount.

Plan herewith enclosed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. NAIRN, Sheriff.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

Sheriff's Office, 22nd August, 1860

MEMO.

CAPT. REID is requested to fill up the three Returns herewith enclosed, and return them to this Office as quickly as possible. They are required for the information of the Parliament.

Pro the Sheriff,

JOHN ROTHWELL, Chief Clerk.

The Keeper of H.M. Gaol, Launceston.

MEMO.—Two of the Returns herein called for; viz.,—those referring to the Gaol and Male House of Correction—are herewith forwarded. The third Return—that for the Female House of Correction—will be completed and transmitted by to-morrow's post.

J. REID, Superintendent.
23rd August, 1860.

Forwarded to the Clerk of the House of Assembly, for the information of the Launceston Gaol Committee.

W. NAIRN, 24th August, 1860.

RETURN showing the Number of PRISONERS who have ABSCONDED from H. M. GAOL and HOUSES OF CORRECTION, Launceston, between the 1st July, 1855, and 27th July, 1860; also the Number who have been APPREHENDED during the same period.

Establishment.	Absconded.	Of whom have been Apprehended.
Her Majesty's Gaol	1	—
Male House of Correction	* 62	29
Female House of Correction	—	—

J. REID, Superintendent Penal Establishments.

Launceston, 28th July, 1860.

N.B.—Of this Number, 19 actually escaped from within the walls of the Male House of Correction; the remaining 48 absconded from the various Gangs employed about the Town of Launceston and its neighbourhood.—J. R.

RETURN of the Number of Persons confined within the GAOL at LAUNCESTON, during the Years 1856-57-58-59; showing the Number who have been, or are CONVICTS, and those who have been always FREE, distinguishing the SEXES.

Year.	Number of Persons confined during the Year.		Highest Number confined at any one time in the Year.		Number of Convicts.		Number who have been Convicts.		Number always Free.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1856	270		35		63		158		49	
1857	286	Nil.	41	Nil.	44	Nil.	202	Nil.	40	Nil.
1858	296		44		37		206		53	
1859	339		48		23		275		41	

J. REID, Keeper.

Launceston, 23rd August, 1860.

RETURN of the Number of Persons confined in the MALE HOUSE OF CORRECTION at Launceston, during the Years 1856-57-58-59; showing the Number who have been, or are, CONVICTS, and those who have been always FREE.

Year.	Number of Persons confined during the Year.	Highest Number confined at any one time in the Year.	Number of Convicts.	Number who have been Convicts.	Number always Free.
1856	893	12	187	807	86
1857	664	95	165	558	106
1858	719	80	74	675	44
1859	680	76	45	667	13

J. REID, *Superintendent, Penal Establishments.*

Launceston, 23rd August, 1860.

COPY of the Visiting Justices Minutes, since July 1855, respecting the Security, &c., of the PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS at Launceston.

Launceston, 27th July, 1856.

WE have taken into consideration a proposal made by Mr. Irvine for shutting up two of the entrances to this establishment, and of substituting for them one new and common entrance to the whole of the Gaol and Penal Establishments here, now enclosed within one outer wall. We approve of the proposed plan, and of the details suggested for carrying it out. We approve also of the proposal to erect a platform at the spot marked in the plan before us, as affording a safe and effective place of observation for the Javlin-men on duty over the Gaol Yard, while the prisoners are at large in it. At present the Javlin-men on guard are placed in the yard among the prisoners, and are necessarily unarmed.

J. C. GREGSON, } *Visiting Magistrates.*
JNO. CROOKES, }

Launceston, 19th May, 1857.

HAVING been called upon by the Superintendent to advise as to the safety of making any reductions of Officers within the Gaol division of these Establishments, we have made a careful examination, and are of opinion that, under the present arrangement of the buildings, it would be extremely hazardous to reduce the force at present employed. And we are further of opinion that, from the defective form of the buildings, there is not that safety that there ought to be; and in the course of our enquiry, we find that the Superintendent has recommended some alterations so far back as 22nd July last, and we must regret that steps were not taken then to effect the improvements recommended, or some such. It would be economy, as well as adding to the safe custody of the prisoners, to re-arrange the yards; for with an improved enclosure, one man could watch and guard the prisoners more effectually than can now be done by three or four.

In expressing our opinion, we should be glad to have the Plan before us that was made when the suggested alterations were submitted to the Government in July last. We should, with that, be better prepared to recommend, if recommendation be desired.

WILLIAM CLEVELAND, } *Visiting Magistrates.*
C. J. WEEDON, }

Launceston, 26th May, 1857.

AT the request of the Governor of these Establishments, we have gone over the buildings to see if any alteration of small extent could be effected to enable him to make a reduction in the force of Officers, with due regard to the safe custody of the inmates; and we are of opinion, from the nature of the buildings, it would require to be very extensive; and that if any alterations be attempted, it should be made under the plans of an architect; but our impression is, that the most economical plan, in the long run, would be to build a new prison altogether, in some other spot, and sell the present premises.

WILLIAM CLEVELAND, *J.P.*
C. J. WEEDON, *J.P. and V.M.*

[COPY.]

Launceston, 13th July, 1858.

WE have this day been called upon by the Superintendent to enquire into the practicability of any present reduction in the number of Officers employed in the working, discipline, and safe custody, of the Prisoners maintained at the Penal Establishments, Launceston; and we are of opinion that, in no instance, does it appear practicable.

H. WELMAN, J.P.
GEORGE DREW, J.P.

RETURN showing the Number of PRISONERS confined in H. M. Gaol and Houses of Correction. Launceston, (whether under Sentence or otherwise) on the 27th July, 1860.

DIVISIONS.	Remanded.	Committed.	Sentenced.	Default of Securities.	Debtors.	Total.	CONDITION.				
							Free.	Free by service.	Convicts.	Total.	
H. M. Gaol.....	1	2	17	4	4	28	7	20	1	28	Gaol.
Male House of Correction.....	--	--	67	--	--	67	5	58	4	67	M.H.C.
Female House of Correction	--	--	37	--	--	37	5	31	1	37	F.H.C.

J. REID, Superintendent Penal Establishment.

Launceston, 28th July, 1860.



Police Office, Launceston, 2nd October, 1860.

SIR,

WE have the honor to call your attention to the great want of accommodation at the Police Office of this Station. The Meeting of Magistrates to day is convened for the purpose of revising the Jury List; and we beg to assure you, that the very limited space in which we have to meet, and to sit, in the performance of Public duty for several hours, exposes us to much personal inconvenience. The room is of small dimensions, very low, and damp; and if ventilated by the opening of the windows, we are exposed to a constant draught. It is wholly unfit for the ordinary daily Police business of the Launceston and Selby Districts; and when occupied by a number of Justices, as on this occasion, is peculiarly unfitted. We respectfully submit, Sir, that whilst we are subject to a penalty for our non-attendance, the Government should provide proper accommodation.

We have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

W. Gunn.	William Birch.	Richard Thomson.	Henry J. Chamberlain.
C. J. Weedon.	William Hart.	E. Whiting.	William Johnstone.
Ronald C. Gunn	J. Grant.	W. Neilley.	C. Gavin Casey.
Francis Evans.	J. M'Kenzie.	Henry Dowling.	W. G. Sams.
R. Wettenhall.	George Gilmore.	John Atkinson.	W. Simons.
J. Reid.	William Harris.	James Robertson.	W. Lewis, junior.
Charles Thomson.	William Cleveland.	James Peters.	

The Honorable the Attorney-General.

I FORWARD the Letter to the Colonial Secretary, in order that the matter may receive the consideration of the Government, with as little further delay as possible. I was in hopes that I should have been able to give attention to the subject before now, but have been prevented by other pressing matters, and have so informed Mr. Gunn, in a letter addressed to him to day.

F. SMITH.

30 October, 1860.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

Referred to the Director of Public Works for his remarks.

B. T. SOLLY, 3 November, 1860.

In the last Session of Parliament, a proposition for a new Gaol and Police Office at Launceston, was considered by the House of Assembly; but no Vote for the purpose was sanctioned. Evidence as to the want of a new Gaol at Launceston, was taken before a Select Committee; and if this paper is attached to that evidence, and printed, in order to its being laid before Parliament at its next sittings, I will then submit a full report to the Government on the urgent necessity of a new Gaol and Police Office for Launceston.

W. R. FALCONER, *Director of Public Works.*
3, November, 1860.

The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.

Forwarded to the Colonial Secretary.

FRED. M. INNES.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 15th November, 1860.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you, and through you, the Magistrates signing the communication addressed to the Honorable the Attorney-General on the 2nd ultimo, respecting the want of accommodation at the Police Office, Launceston, that the subject is closely connected with that of the Gaol proposed to be erected in the Town; and that it is intended to bring the whole matter again under the consideration of the Legislature at its next meeting. In the meantime, I regret that the Government is unable to meet the wishes of the Magistrates by affording them, at present, accommodation more suitable for the performance of the duties connected with the Magistracy.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

FRED. M. INNES, *for the Colonial Secretary.*

WILLIAM GUNN, *Esq., Police Magistrate, Launceston.*