

(No. 2.)



1872.

SESSION II.

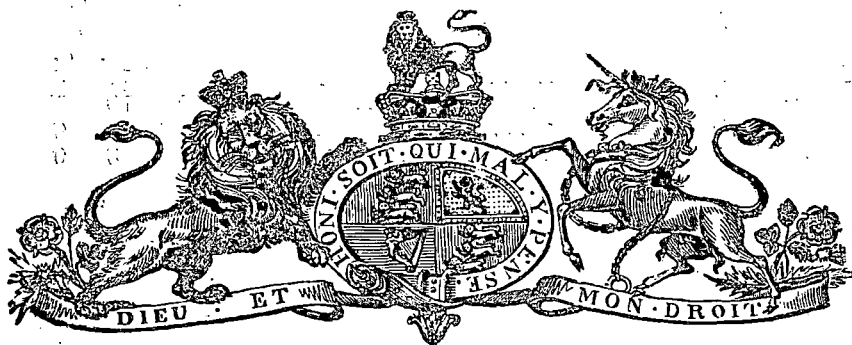
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

P O R T A R T H U R .

REPORT FROM THE CIVIL COMMANDANT.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Wilson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
October 23, 1872.



Colonial Secretary's Office, 15th October, 1872.

SIR,

I HAVE to request that you will furnish me, with the least possible delay, with a Statement or Report upon the Establishments under your control, showing the staff employed, the estimated cost for next year, the time devoted to labor, the nature of the work on which the Prisoners are employed, and the nature of the discipline to which they are subjected.

Your Report will also embrace full particulars relating to the Pauper and Insane Establishments at Port Arthur.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
J. M. WILSON.

A. H. BOYD, Esq., Civil Commandant, Port Arthur.

Civil Commandant's Office, Port Arthur, 17th October, 1872.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, directing me to furnish a Statement or Report relative to the Institution under my control with the least possible delay.

In compliance with your direction I beg leave to state that, since the transfer of this Establishment from the Imperial to the Colonial Government on the 31st May, 1871, very considerable reductions have taken place in the staff of stipendiaries.

The following estimate of the strength of the Establishment, and the requisite Staff, is submitted after careful consideration :—

ESTIMATED Strength of ESTABLISHMENT for the Year 1873.

Convicts under sentence.....	241
Invalids under sentence.....	31
Lunatics under sentence.....	11
Paupers not under sentence.....	156
Lunatics not under sentence.....	86
TOTAL.....	525

Staff of Stipendiaries.

The Civil Commandant and Superintendent.	1 Mail Carrier.
1 Chaplain Church of England.	1 Signalmen Mount Augustus.
1 Chaplain Church of Rome.	1 paid Mechanic.
1 Medical Officer.	1 Dispenser.
1 Station Officer.	1 Head Keeper of Insane.
1 Clerk.	2 Under Keepers ditto.
1 Storekeeper.	10 Attendants ditto.
1 Assistant Storekeeper.	1 Senior Warder Pauper Dépôt.
1 Schoolmaster.	3 Warders ditto.
1 Schoolmistress (Free School).	1 Senior Constable.
1 Coxswain, Settlement Boat.	1 District Constable Eagle Hawk Neck.
1 ditto Guard Boat, Woody Island.	12 Constables ditto.
1 Master of Schooner.	1 Sergeant Civil Guard at Settlement.
1 Mate ditto.	1 Corporal ditto.
3 Seamen ditto.	8 Constables ditto.
3 Overseers.	29 Constables General Police Duty at Settlement and Out-Stations.
5 Assistant Overseers.	

The total estimated cost of the Establishment is £13,336 17s. 11d., less the sum of £2283 10s. 0d. for Provisions raised in aid of Rations and Timber, &c. supplied to the various Colonial Establishments; or—

	£	s.	d.
Cost per head of Convicts.....	22	11	4
Ditto Paupers.....	16	10	1
Ditto Hospital Patients.....	18	1	6
Ditto Lunatics.....	23	3	0

CONVICTS.

Of the 241 Convicts under sentence—

136 are fit for 1st class labor.
60 are fit for 2nd class labor.
45 are fit for 3rd class labor.

TOTAL.. 241

The following is a Table showing the Seasons of the year and hours of labor :—

Summer.	{ November December January February }	From 5.30 A.M. to 5.30 P.M., $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour for breakfast and 1 hour for dinner. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours daily.
Autumn.	{ March April }	From 6 A.M. to 5.15 P.M., $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour for breakfast and 1 hour for dinner. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours daily.
Spring.	{ September October }	
Winter.	{ May }	Breakfast before going out. From 7.30 A.M. to 4.45
	{ August }	P.M., 1 hour for dinner. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours daily.
	{ June }	Breakfast before going out. From 7.45 A.M. to 4.30
	{ July }	P.M., 1 hour for dinner. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours daily.

The Convicts are chiefly employed in felling timber and procuring logs for saw-mill, laying horse tramway and keeping same in repair, tanning and currying leather, making boots and shoes for Colonial Establishments, clearing land, carpentering, burning lime, gardening, stonebreaking in wet weather, farming occupations, cooks, bakers, blacksmiths, brickmaking, painting, glazing, &c.

PAUPERS.

Of the 156 Paupers now at Port Arthur 50 are permanent patients in Hospital ; they are mostly old and bed-ridden men.

Of the 106 in the Dépôt 36 are either blind or incapacitated for work of any kind ; 32 are employed to replace effective labor as Wardsmen, &c. receiving a small amount of pay as remuneration for their services, some 4d., some 2d., and some 1d. per day ; and 38 are now employed in clearing and burning off new land for potatoes.

I have every reason to believe the produce of their labor will supply their own Department with the full quantity of Vegetables required—more than this these old men are unable to do.

INSANE.

There are now in the Asylum 97 Lunatics, either confirmed or under temporary observation.

All Lunatics whom the Medical Officer considers can be trusted out of the Asylum (20) are now employed in procuring firewood, clearing and scrubbing land, gardening, assisting brickmaker, &c. and do really good service.

DISCIPLINE.

All men undergoing sentences for offences of an indecent character are placed in the Separate Prison on arrival for a period of 12 months.

Convicts under sentence exceeding 7 years are placed in the Separate Prison on their arrival at Port Arthur for stated periods, as per following Table :—

Life	52 weeks.	14 years.....	44 weeks.
21 years.....	51 weeks.	13 years.....	43 weeks.
20 years.....	50 weeks.	12 years.....	42 weeks.
19 years.....	49 weeks.	11 years.....	41 weeks.
18 years.....	48 weeks.	10 years.....	40 weeks.
17 years.....	47 weeks.	9 years.....	38 weeks.
16 years.....	46 weeks.	8 years.....	36 weeks.
15 years.....	45 weeks.		

Prisoners of 60 years of age and upwards are exempted from the above rule.

Convicts convicted of serious offences at Port Arthur are generally placed in the Separate Prison, for periods varying from 3 to 12 months. While there they are kept under the strictest discipline, but are employed at shoemaking, tailoring, matmaking, and various other occupations.

Men convicted of absconding are invariably sentenced to serve a certain period in this Prison.

Men strongly suspected of intending to abscond are placed in the Separate Prison and detained there during the Governor's pleasure.

Men who have at any time been convicted of indecent offences are kept under constant supervision of either an officer or constable during the day, and occupy cells at night in the General Penitentiary; the number of such men now at Port Arthur is 82.

Juvenile Prisoners are placed in the Separate Prison, and taught shoemaking under modified discipline.

All men over 1000 days are dressed in either yellow or parti-colored clothing; under 1000 days in grey; watchmen in blue.

Men whose sentences exceed six years are on arrival placed in light irons temporarily for safe custody.

As a reward for good conduct and industry prisoners are allowed a certain amount of task-work credit, carrying with it a small amount of money, which is paid to them on their discharge from the establishment as per following Scale:—

SCALE OF PRISONERS' EARNINGS.

<i>Sentences.</i>	<i>Maximum rate per Month.</i>		<i>Total maximum amount of Earnings.</i>			<i>Remarks.</i>
	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
Life	1	1	9	15	0	After 15 years' detention.
20 years	1	1	9	0	0	
15 years	1	5	8	10	0	
12 years	1	5	7	10	0	
10 years	1	5	6	10	0	
8 years	1	5	5	0	0	
7 years	1	5	4	8	0	
6 years	1	5	3	15	0	
5 years	1	5	3	6	0	
4 years	1	5	2	10	0	
3 years	1	5	2	0	0	
2 years	1	5	1	5	0	

Shorter sentences than 2 years not to exceed 1s. 3d. per month.

Men convicted of absconding are not allowed to shorten their period of detention by task-work; neither are men convicted of indecent offences.

By the following Return of Offences and Punishments it will be seen that out of a maximum strength of 300 prisoners for the year ending 30th June, 1872, only 68 cases were tried Magisterially, which I think speaks well for the conduct of the prisoners, especially when it is remembered that Port Arthur contains at present a large number of those originally transported from England, many of whom have a number of the most serious offences recorded against them, and are undergoing very long periods of detention.

Instances.

D. D., 14 years, desertion and wounding a constable; life, bushranging; life, ditto; life, piratical attempt; life, P.S., assault being armed. (A commutation.)

H. J., life, rape; life, assault with arms; 10 years, indecent assault.

W. Y., 7 years, stealing; 7 years, ditto; life, burglary; 3 years, stabbing; life, P.S., stabbing. (A commutation.)

D. M., 14 years, insubordination; 15 years, robbery; life, P.S., buggery. (A commutation.)

E. M., 15 years, burglary; 14 years, bushranging; life, attempt to murder; life, burglary being armed &c.; life, P.S., assault and robbery. (A commutation.)

G. W., 10 years, larceny; life, stealing; life, P.S., robbery. (A commutation.) Life, P.S., assault with intent.

RETURN showing the Number of Prisoners under detention at PORT ARTHUR who have been tried Magisterially during the Year ending 30th June, 1872.

Number of Prisoners at Port Arthur during the Year ending 30th June, 1872 300

OFFENCES.	PUNISHMENTS.												TOTAL.	
	5 years' hard labour.	4 years' hard labour.	3 years' hard labour.	1 year's hard labour.	1 year's hard labour in chains.	6 months' hard labour.	4 months' hard labour.	3 months' hard labour.	1 month's hard labour.	1 month and above 14 days' solitary confinement.	14 days' and above 7 days' hard labour.	7 days and under.		Reprimand d.
Common assault ^a .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	3
Absconding ^a	3	1	1	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Wilful destruction of Government property ^a ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2
Misconduct and other breaches of discipline ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	6	5	3	1	12	2	33
Insolence .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	1	6
Disobedience of Orders .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	11	1	14
Larceny under £5.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
	3	1	1	1	1	5	1	9	5	5	4	28	4	68*

* 13 of this number convicted of the offences marked ^a were ordered to be kept in the Separate Prison for periods varying from 3 to 12 months.

For special industry, and cases where prisoners are employed in wet weather, a small allowance of tea and sugar is granted to them, which they greatly appreciate.

Divine service for the members of each creed is performed twice every Sunday in the church; also on Christmas Day and Good Friday.

On week days a short service is performed in the Penitentiary morning and evening for the general body of the Convicts.

The Chaplains perform Divine service in the Separate Prison every Sunday, in addition to visiting the Convicts in their cells twice on working days weekly; also on Christmas Day and Good Friday.

Divine service is also performed by the Chaplains at the Hospital, Infirmary, and Pauper Depot occasionally, in addition to personal attendance on the sick.

The Convicts confined in the Separate Prison receive instruction from the Schoolmaster daily, Saturdays excepted; he also holds school five evenings weekly in the Penitentiary for the benefit of those who wish to improve themselves.

Books of general information are read aloud in the Dormitories by men appointed for the purpose during the evening, for the benefit of those who do not attend school.

The following are the Dietary Scales at Port Arthur:—

No. 1.

For Convicts at Hard Labor.

BREAKFAST DAILY.

Gruel 1 pint, made with 2½ ozs. oatmeal and ½ oz. molasses, bread 8 ozs.

DINNER.

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, & Saturdays.—Fresh meat 10 ozs., beef and mutton alternately, soup 1 pint, made with 4 ozs. mixed vegetables, ½ oz. flour, ½ oz. barley, and 1·100th oz. pepper, potatoes 12 ozs., bread 6 ozs.

Tuesdays.—Bacon 6 ozs., potatoes 8 ozs., green vegetables 8 ozs., or an equivalent in broad beans or peas, bread 6 ozs.

Thursdays.—Salt meat 10 ozs., soup 1 pint, made with 4 ozs. mixed vegetables, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. flour, 1 oz. peas, and 1·100th oz. pepper, potatoes 12 ozs., bread 6 ozs.

Sundays.—Potatoes 16 ozs., bread 4 ozs., pudding 16 ozs., made with 2 ozs. suet, 8 ozs. flour, and 6 ozs. water.

SUPPER DAILY.

Bread 12 ozs., tea 1 pint made with 3·16th oz. tea, and 1 oz. sugar.

No. 2.

For Convicts at Light Labor.

BREAKFAST DAILY.

Gruel 1 pint, made with 2 ozs. oatmeal and $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. molasses, bread 6 ozs.

DINNER.

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, & Saturdays.—Fresh meat 8 ozs., beef and mutton alternately, soup 1 pint, made with 4 ozs. mixed vegetables, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. barley, and 1·100th oz. pepper, potatoes 12 ozs., bread 6 ozs.

Tuesdays.—Bacon 4 ozs., potatoes 8 ozs., green vegetables 4 ozs., or an equivalent in broad beans or peas, bread 6 ozs.

Thursdays.—Salt meat 8 ozs., soup 1 pint, made with 3 ozs. mixed vegetables, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. flour, 1 oz. peas, and 1·100th oz. pepper, potatoes 12 ozs., bread 6 ozs.

Sundays.—Potatoes 16 ozs., bread 4 oz., pudding 12 ozs., made with 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. suet, 6 ozs. flour, and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. water.

SUPPER DAILY.

Bread 12 ozs., tea 1 pint, made with $\frac{3}{16}$ oz. tea, and 1 oz. sugar.

No. 3.

For Convicts in the Separate Prison for the first Six Months.

BREAKFAST DAILY.

Gruel 1 pint, made with 2 ozs. oatmeal and $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. molasses, bread 6 ozs.

DINNER.

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, & Saturdays.—Fresh meat 6 ozs., beef and mutton alternately, soup 1 pint, made with 3 ozs. mixed vegetables, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. barley, and 1·100th oz. pepper, potatoes 9 ozs., bread, 4 ozs.

Tuesdays.—Bacon 4 ozs., potatoes 8 ozs., green vegetables 4 ozs., or an equivalent in broad beans or peas, bread 4 ozs.

Thursdays.—Salt meat 6 ozs., soup 1 pint, made with 3 ozs. mixed vegetables, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. flour, 1 oz. peas, and 1·100th oz. pepper, potatoes 9 ozs., bread 4 ozs.

Sundays.—Potatoes 12 ozs., bread 4 ozs., pudding 12 ozs., made with 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. suet, 6 ozs. flour, and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. water.

SUPPER DAILY.

The same ingredients as for Breakfast.

No. 4.

For Convicts in the Separate Prison after Six Months' Confinement.

BREAKFAST DAILY.

Gruel 1 pint, made with 2 ozs. oatmeal and $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. molasses, bread 6 ozs.

DINNER.

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, & Saturdays.—Fresh meat 8 ozs., beef and mutton alternately, soup 1 pint, made with 3 ozs. mixed vegetables, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. barley, and 1·100th oz. pepper, potatoes 9 ozs., bread 6 ozs.

Tuesdays.—Bacon, 4 ozs., potatoes, 8 ozs., green vegetables 4 oz., or an equivalent in broad beans or peas, bread 6 ozs.

Thursdays.—Salt meat, 8 ozs., soup 1 pint, made with 3 ozs. mixed vegetables, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. flour, 1 oz. peas, and 1·100th oz. pepper, potatoes 9 ozs., bread 6 ozs.

Sundays.—Potatoes 12 ozs., bread 6 ozs., pudding 12 ozs., made with 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. suet, 6 ozs. flour, and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. water.

SUPPER DAILY.

The same ingredients as for Breakfast.

No. 5.

Penal Class as a minor punishment for Men who do not perform a fair day's Work, and for other irregularities.

BREAKFAST DAILY.

Porridge, 1 pint, made with 4 ozs. oatmeal and $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. molasses, bread 4 ozs.

DINNER DAILY.

Potatoes 16 ozs., bread 12 ozs.

SUPPER DAILY.

The same ingredients as for Breakfast.

No. 6.

Punishment in Close Solitary Confinement.

Bread, 1 lb. per diem, water *ad lib.*

If close Solitary Confinement is continued above 7 days, Penal Class diet to be given on the 8th day, and every 4th day afterwards.

TABLE OF EQUIVALENTS.

1 Bullock's head, tongue, and heart equal to	7 lbs. meat.
4 Hocks and 4 feet, ditto	3 ditto.
1 Sheep's head and pluck, ditto	1½ ditto.
4 Sheep's trotters, ditto	½ ditto.
1 lb. Salt beef, ditto	1 lb. fresh beef.
1 lb. Mutton, ditto	1 ditto.
1 lb. Fresh pork, ditto	1 ditto.
2 lbs. Fish, ditto	1 ditto.
3 lbs. Turnips, ditto	1 lb. potatoes.
2 lbs. Cabbage, ditto	1 ditto.
1½ lb. Carrots, ditto	1 ditto.
1 lb. Parsnips, ditto	1 ditto.
12 ozs. Green leeks, ditto	1 ditto.
8 ozs. Green onions, ditto	1 ditto.
6 ozs. Dry onions, ditto	1 ditto.
8 ozs. Flour, ditto	1 ditto.
1 lb. Biscuit, ditto	1½ lb. bread.
1 ditto, ditto	1 lb. flour.
1½ lbs. Wheat, ditto	1 ditto.
1 lb. Broad beans, or peas (dry), ditto	3 lbs. potatoes.

Materials for Yeast.—3 and 3-7ths. ozs. Flour, 1 and 5-7ths. ozs. Sugar, 3-7ths. ozs. Hops, for 100 rations.

Meat or fish to be weighed before being cooked. When fish or salt meat is issued, 1-16th pint of vinegar is allowed per ration.

Vegetables of all kinds to be issued as per Table of Equivalents.

In all the foregoing Dietaries all the mixed vegetables have been uniformly reduced to potato-weight.

It is impossible for me, during the short time I have had the control of the Establishment (17 months), to pronounce on the reformatory nature of the discipline as at present carried out.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. H. BOYD, *Civil Commandant.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town.