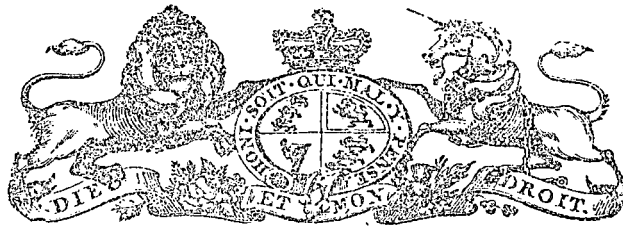


(No. 24.)



1882.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

PENAL ESTABLISHMENT, LAUNCESTON:

REPORT FOR 1881.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 12, 1882.



PENAL ESTABLISHMENT, LAUNCESTON.

Penal Establishment, Launceston, 30th January, 1882.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the Annual Report and Returns of this Establishment for the year ending 31st December, 1881.

Returns.

- No. 1.—Return of Receipts and Expenditure, showing net cost of Establishment.
- No. 2.—Return of number of Women (Prisoners and Invalids) and Children received and discharged.
- No. 3.—Return of number of Prisoners received and discharged from the Gaol for Males.
- No. 4.—Return of number of Prisoners received at and discharged from the House of Correction for Males.
- No. 5.—Return of Sentences.
- No. 6.—Return of Deaths.
- No. 7.—Return showing value of Boots and Shoes made and repaired in the Male House of Correction,
- No. 8.—Return showing value of Washing, &c. performed in Female House of Correction.
- No. 9.—Return of Produce raised in Garden of Establishment.
- No. 10.—Return showing value of Labour (not otherwise taken into account) of Male Prisoners.
- No. 11.—Return of Offences tried at Superior Courts, Launceston.
- No. 12.—Return of Male Prisoners tried and convicted at Inferior Courts remaining on 31st December, 1881.
- No. 13.—Return of Male Prisoners tried and convicted at Superior Courts remaining on 31st December, 1881.

Officers.—The Officers have discharged their duties to my satisfaction. One female warder resigned. Provision having been made in the Estimates for the appointment of one additional constable for the Male House of Correction, and a junior clerk, these positions were filled in January and May respectively.

Number of Prisoners, &c.—On the 1st January, 1881, there remained 123 Prisoners (male and female), Female Invalids, and Children; and there were received during the year 824, or a total of 947, being 57 less than the number of 1880, and 22 more than 1879. The strength on 31st December was 106. The daily average strength was 120, as against 131 for the previous year. Juvenile Offenders.—These numbered 41 of both sexes (under 15 years), a decided increase on former years, 17 being the number received during 1880. Of offenders between the ages of 15 and 25, 195 were received, as against 182.

Supreme Court Sessions.—Four Sessions of the Criminal Court were held during the year, the Session appointed for 10th November lapsing, as there were no cases for trial. At the Courts held 40 prisoners were arraigned. Twenty-four were convicted and 16 acquitted. Of those convicted, one committed suicide by shooting himself whilst being conveyed from the Court House to the Gaol. One prisoner (subsequently sent to Hobart for trial) was received from the Supreme Court, under warrant of committal of the presiding Judge for perjury.

Prisoners, &c. transferred.—Twenty-one male prisoners were transferred to Hobart, 15 to undergo sentences passed by Supreme Court, 1 to undergo sentence passed by an inferior Court for larceny and escaping, and 5 for trial. One male prisoner and 2 female invalids were transferred to New Norfolk Asylum for treatment as lunatics.

Conduct of Prisoners.—The general conduct has been good, punishment being inflicted in 24 cases for slight breaches of discipline, and, in one case, for escape.

Escape.—A prisoner employed with the gang engaged at the Rifle Butts escaped, but was re-arrested two days subsequently by a member of the Launceston Municipal Police. During the past 11 years 23 prisoners escaped, of whom 22 were re-arrested.

Health and Mortality.—The average health has been fair. No sickness of an epidemic character appeared, the applications to see the Medical Officer, 185 in number, having reference in nearly every instance to trivial complaints. Seven deaths occurred (including that of the prisoner who committed suicide).

Classification.—The opinions expressed by me in former years as to the effect of the present system of classification are, unfortunately, still applicable.

Cost of Establishment.—The gross expenditure for the year amounted to £3224 18s. 11d., and the net to £2092 3s. 11d.; the annual cost per head of each prisoner being, respectively, £26 17s. 5d. and £17 8s. 8d. The item of labour, £970 9s. 7d., is a fair credit to the Establishment, as the work taken into account would have had to be performed at much heavier expense had not prison labour been available.

Visiting Magistrates.—The Visiting Justices inspected the Establishment as under:—Henry Bennett, Esq., J.P., 23 visits; William Mason, Esq., M.R.C.S., J.P., 19 visits. I append extracts from their minute book.

Visitors.—I also append extracts from the Visitors' Book.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Sheriff, Hobart.

A. JONES, Superintendent.

Penal Establishment, Launceston, 30th January, 1882.

SIR,

I FEEL it my duty to draw attention to what I regard as a very serious abuse of this Establishment, namely, the readiness of the Magistracy in the northern parts of the island to regard this Institution not merely as a Gaol or House of Correction, but as a temporary refuge for the destitute imbecile. It has become a common practice with most of the northern police offices to relieve their district or municipality from the presence of such unfortunate members of the community as are of weak intellect and uncared for by friends, by convicting them of vagrancy and inflicting sentences which, though generally short, are yet of sufficient length to justify or require their removal to this Institution.

I would submit that this practice is a most reprehensible one, inasmuch as it affects injuriously the Colony at large, the unfortunate beings who are the unwitting cause of it, and this Establishment.

It affects the Colony by the inclusion amongst its criminal population of a class whose chief, if not only, crime is imbecility, and by the consequent introduction of inaccuracy into the data required for statistical comparison and deduction. It affects the unfortunate sufferers under the system by attaching to them a stigma of crime, by the forced association with the criminals proper, to whom their pitiable condition affords matter for amusement and ridicule, and by their being deprived of due care and supervision. It affects this Establishment by the intrusion of an element foreign to the purpose of organisation.

I need not enforce the simple statement of the first and second objections, but I may be excused for more particularly referring to the effect of the system on this Establishment.

First, it was never contemplated in the organisation of this Institution that it should come under the provisions of 22 Vict. No. 23; but the practice of which I complain virtually causes it to do so. Second, the treatment of imbecile prisoners with some degree of consideration for their condition,—an adequate consideration it is not in my power to extend,—involves the lessening of direct control over the other prisoners, the time and attention of the officers are divided, and a generally disturbing element is introduced which is incompatible with the proper working of the Institution. In the case of male imbeciles, a special officer and structural alterations would be required for their supervision and accommodation; and were it not for the fact—itself singular—that, attached to this Institution, is a female invalid or pauper ward, those of the other sex would have to be treated as ordinary prisoners. Third, the cost of the Establishment is increased by the number of non-effective prisoners being in an excessive proportion to the effective strength.

Where the circumstances permit of my doing so, I have procured a board of inquiry or magisterial investigation into the sanity of the prisoners. One such board and two magisterial investigations were held during the year under review, and in each case the prisoner was committed to New Norfolk Asylum. In the majority of instances, however, I could not do so, but in several of these I have admitted the persons to the Male Invalid Dépôt or Female Pauper Ward respectively, and in others local police have, at my suggestion, taken the necessary steps for the transmission of the person to the Asylum.

I would respectfully submit that the proper course for the magistracy and police officials to adopt is, not to charge such persons as I have indicated, with vagrancy, but as being of unsound mind, and, the necessary medical forms having been gone through, to procure their transmission to their proper destination—New Norfolk.

An abuse of a similar nature to the above is the committal of homeless women near their confinement to prison, thus turning the Female House of Correction into a lying-in ward. Twice during the past year this occurred, an excessive amount of trouble and annoyance being caused thereby from the unsuitability of the buildings, &c. In one of these cases, which I brought under your notice at the time, the woman was actually discharged from the General Hospital to admit of her being arrested as a vagrant, and this within three days of her confinement.

Commending this to your consideration,

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Sheriff, Hobart.

A. JONES, *Superintendent.*

EXTRACTS from Visiting Justices' Minute Book.

WE have this day visited the whole of this Establishment, and have great pleasure in testifying to its excellent order and cleanliness.

(Signed)

WILLIAM MASON, *J.P.*
HENRY BENNETT, *J.P.*

7th February, 1881.

WE have this day visited the whole of this Establishment; and as it is the last visit during our present term of office, we must again testify, and if possible more earnestly, to Mr. Jones' excellent management, there being no complaint; and the same cleanliness and careful supervision manifested over the whole of the Establishment. In fact, there could be no better management in any Establishment in England, where the means are of a vastly superior nature.

(Signed)

WILLIAM MASON, *J.P.*
HENRY BENNETT, *J.P.*

22nd March, 1881.

WE have this day visited this Establishment, and found everything in good order as far as the present state of the premises will permit. Alterations in the arrangement are required for a better system of classification.

(Signed)

HENRY BENNETT, *J.P.*
WILLIAM MASON, *J.P.*

5th April, 1881.

EXTRACTS from Visitors' Book.

WELL pleased with the cleanliness and order.

(Signed)

CHARLES LILLEY,
Chief Justice of Queensland.
EDWYN M. LILLEY.

7th January, 1881.

I ENDORSE the above.

(Signed)

HENRY C. THOMPSON,
Under Sheriff, Queensland.

13th January, 1881.

VERY clean and well kept. Discipline and order excellent.

(Signed)

L. K. ABBOTT,
Police Magistrate, Gunnedah, N.S.W.

22nd January, 1881.

VERY much pleased with the cleanliness and order.

(Signed)

RICHD. FRASER,
Clerk of Peace, N.S.W.

22nd January, 1881.

PLEASED with inspection : everywhere cleanliness is apparent.

(Signed)

W. H. WALKER, J.P.,
Mayor of Collingwood, Melbourne.

27th January, 1881.

I HAVE again visited this Prison. In respect to cleanliness and order it is satisfactory ; as an instrument of justice for repression of crime it is and must be ineffective until far better arrangements for the classification and separation of prisoners can be made.

(Signed)

J. H. LEFROY.

21st February, 1881.

VISITED the Gaol this day ; everything clean and in good order as far as the defective buildings permit.

(Signed)

W. R. GIBLIN.
C. O'REILLY.

21st February, 1881.

I HAVE this day visited the Prison and Female Invalid Depôt, and found everything clean and well ordered, with no complaints. I have only to renew my observations as to the great need of better structural arrangements, and classification of inmates.

(Signed)

J. H. LEFROY.

15th June, 1881.

GREATLY pleased with the arrangements of the Gaol, which is very clean throughout.

(Signed)

GEO. R. EVANS, J.P.,
Visiting Justice, Murrurundi Gaol, N.S.W.

11th October, 1881.

THE Gaol appears clean and well ordered. I was much struck at the smallness of the ordinary cells, and should think they required more ventilation to counteract the want of cubic space.

(Signed)

E. F. ANGELO, *Lieut.-Col.*

11th November, 1881.

THE Sheriff visited the Establishment on 10 occasions during the year.

No. 1.

RETURN showing the Cost of Penal Establishment, Launceston, for the Year 1881.

Daily Average—Colonial Government, males, 74·15; females, 43·12: Imperial Government, males, ·89.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Labour supplied to Officers.....		11	19	0				Salaries				1363	5	0		
Ditto private persons.....		13	3	4				Contingencies—								
Washing performed for private persons		14	12	10				Provisions and Medical Com- forts	970	18	3					
Ditto Invalid Depôt		53	2	8				Stores, clothing, bedding, and stationery	420	18	4					
Potatoes supplied to Invalid Depôt		20	3	7				Fuel and light.....	379	12	10					
Ditto General Hospital.....		11	6	0				Miscellaneous, funeral, and incidental expenses	19	9	6					
Tobacco supplied to General Hospital		2	5	0				Medical attendance and medi- cines.....	30	15	0					
Proceeds of sale of pigs		10	11	0				Carriage of stores and pro- visions.....	10	0	0					
Ditto road metal, 57 loads...		5	14	0				Water	30	0	0					
					142	17	5						1861	13	11	
Labour supplied to Swamp Em- bankment	445	14	7													
Ditto Corporation quarry...	211	12	0													
Ditto Rifle Butts	115	5	0													
Ditto General Hospital.....	60	5	0													
Ditto Volunteer Buildings	16	9	0													
Ditto Cricket Ground	15	0	0													
Ditto Telegraph Depart- ment	9	6	0													
Ditto Police Station	37	8	0													
Ditto Invalid Depôt	59	10	0													
					970	9	7									
Cartage performed for Public Departments .....	...				19	8	0								
					1132	15	0									
Balance, being net expenditure for year .....	...				2092	3	11								
					£3224	18	11						£3224	18	11	
Annual cost per head on gross expenditure...		£26	17	5				Annual cost per head on net expenditure.....		17	8	8				

NOTE.—A sum of £131 16s. 2d. for consignments from England for the service of the year 1882, but received in 1881, has been carried to account in the Statement of Expenditure for the latter year. Exclusive of this amount, the expenditure was as follows; viz.—

Gross	£3093	2s.	9d.
Net.....	£1960	7s.	9d.
Cost per head, gross.....	£25	15s.	6d.
Ditto, net	£16	6s.	8½d.

No. 2.

RETURN showing the Number of Women and Children received and discharged at the Female House of Correction, Launceston, during the Year 1881.

	Prisoners.	Invalids.	Children.	Total.
Strength on 1st January, 1881	26	16	2	44
Receipts	202	37	17	256
TOTAL.....	228	53	19	300
Discharges.....	214	29	16	259
Deaths .....	...	4	...	4
TOTAL.....	214	33	16	263
Remaining on 31st December, 1881.....	14	20	3	37

No. 3.

RETURN showing the Number of Prisoners received and discharged at Her Majesty's Gaol for Males, Launceston, during the Year 1881.

Strength on 1st January, 1881.....	18	Discharges	238
Receipts	235	Deaths	3
TOTAL	253	TOTAL	241

Remaining on 31st December, 1881..... 12

No. 4.

RETURN showing the Number of Prisoners received and discharged at the House of Correction for Males, Launceston, during the Year 1881.

Strength on 1st January, 1881.....	61	Discharged	337
Receipts	333	Deaths	Nil.
TOTAL	394	TOTAL	337

Remaining on 31st December, 1881 57

No. 5.

RETURN showing Sentences, &c. of Prisoners remaining on 1st January, received and discharged during the year, and remaining on 31st December, 1881.

<i>Sentences.</i>	<i>Remaining 1st January, 1881.</i>	<i>Received during year.</i>	<i>Discharged during year.</i>	<i>Remaining 31st December, 1881.</i>
Remanded	3	177	177	3
Committed	5	41	43	3
24 hours .....	..	112	112	..
48 hours .....	..	20	20	..
3 days .....	..	5	5	..
4 days .....	..	2	2	..
7 days	1	39	40	..
10 days .....	..	3	3	..
14 days	4	28	32	..
21 days	1	5	6	..
1 month	9	114	116	7
6 weeks	1	9	8	2
2 months	2	43	38	7
3 months	13	78	71	20
4 months	6	8	13	1
6 months	27	54	64	17
8 months	1	..	1	..
9 months	7	5	8	4
12 months	9	7	10	6
18 months	1	1	2	..
2 years	7	6	8	5
3 years	3	4	4	3
4 years	3	5	6	2
5 years	1	1	1	1
6 years	1	..	..	1
8 years .....	..	1	1	..
Default in Bail .....	..	2	1	1
Invalids	16	37	33	20
Children	2	17	16	3
TOTAL.....	123	824	841	106

Remaining 1st January	123	Discharged during year	841
Received during year	824	Remaining 31st December	106
947		947	

9

No. 6.

RETURN showing the Number, Gross and Average Ages, of the Male Prisoners and Female Paupers who died at the Penal Establishment, Launceston, during the year 1881.

	PERSONS.		TOTAL.
	Male Prisoners.	Female Paupers.	
Number of Deaths.....	3	4	7
Gross Ages	175	237	412
Average Age at Death..	58.33	59.25	58.85

No. 7.

RETURN of Boots and Shoes made and repaired at Male House of Correction, Launceston, during the Year 1881.

	£	s.	d.
137 Pairs Men's Boots made, at 8s. 6d. per pair	58	4	6
211 ditto repaired, at 5s. per pair	52	15	0
66 Pairs Women's Shoes made, at 6s. per pair	19	16	0
5 ditto, at 6s. 6d. per pair	1	12	6
79 ditto repaired, at 3s. per pair	11	17	0
16 Pairs Children's Boots made, at 5s. per pair.....	4	0	0
10 ditto repaired, at 2s. per pair	1	0	0
52 Pairs Invalid Depôt Shoes made, at 8s. 6d. per pair.....	22	2	0
159 ditto repaired, at 6s. per pair	47	14	0
12 Pairs General Hospital Boots repaired, at 6s per pair.....	3	12	0
	<u>£222</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>

No. 8.

RETURN showing the Value of Washing and Needlework performed by Female Prisoners in the Penal Establishment, Launceston, during the Year 1881.

	£	s.	d.
Washing for H.M. Gaol	8	16	8
Ditto Female House of Correction	49	10	3
Ditto Female Invalids and Children.....	28	12	6
Ditto Invalid Depôt	53	2	8
Ditto private persons.....	14	12	10
Needlework, new articles	7	3	4
Ditto, repairs	4	0	0
Washing for Male House of Correction.....	40	12	10
	<u>£206</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>

No. 9.

RETURN showing the Quantity of Produce raised at the Penal Establishment, Launceston, during the Year 1881.

	£	s.	d.
Potatoes, 12 tons, at £5 per ton	60	0	0
Hay, 2½ tons, at £2 10s. per ton.....	6	5	0
Straw, 2 tons, at £2 per ton.....	4	0	0
Carrots, 5 tons, at £2 10s. per ton.....	12	10	0
Parsnips, 3 tons, at £3 per ton.....	9	0	0
Onions and Leeks, 4 tons, at £7 per ton	28	0	0
Mangolds, 4 tons, at £1 5s. per ton	5	0	0
Green fodder, 2 tons, at 15s. per ton	1	10	0
Oats, 30 bushels, at 2s. per bushel.....	3	0	0
	<u>£129</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>

RETURN showing the Value of Labour performed by Male Prisoners during the Year 1881.

No. of days.	Description of Work.	Amount.		
		£	s.	d.
245	Blacksmiths—Repairs and alterations to Establishment, at 4s. per day	49	0	0
208	Bricklayers—Ditto, ditto	41	12	0
205	Bookbinder—Binding and repairing books, at 2s. 6d. per day	25	12	6
584	Carpenter—Repairs and alterations to Establishment, at 4s. per day	116	16	0
27	Painter—Painting, at 5s. per day	6	15	0
569	Tailor—Repairing prisoners' clothes, at 2s. per day.....	56	18	0
365	Barber, at 2s. 6d. per day.....	45	12	6
2155	Cook, wardsmen, and yardsmen, at 2s. per day	215	10	0
326	Whitewashing Establishment, at 2s. 6d. per day	40	15	0
2746	Garden, other employments, &c., at 1s. 6d. per day.....	205	19	0
1366	Exempt by Medical Officer, stone-breaking, &c., at 1s. 6d. per day.....	102	9	0
		£906	19	0

RETURN of Offences tried at Superior Courts, Launceston, during the year 1881.

INDICTMENT.	CONDITION.		AGE.							SENTENCE.								GRAND TOTAL.										
	Arraigned.	Convicted.	Native.	Free to Colony.	Free by servitude.	TOTAL.	10 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 35 years.	35 to 45 years.	45 to 55 years.	55 to 65 years.	65 years & upwards.	TOTAL.	2 months.	6 months.	12 months.		18 months.	2 years.	2 years & 6 months.	3 years.	4 years.	5 years.	8 years.	TOTAL.	Acquitted.	
																												TOTAL.	Acquitted.
Arson	5	5	5	3	1	1	5	5	5
Assault with intent (rape).....	2	1	1	..	1	2	..	1	2	1	1	2
Attempting to leave Colony with intent to defraud	1	..	1	1	1	1	1	1
Burglary	3	3	2	..	1	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
Breaking into store	2	2	2	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Common assault	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Concealing birth	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	1
Embezzlement	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Feloniously wounding with intent.....	2	2	2	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Feloniously receiving.....	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
Falsifying books with intent to defraud	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	1
Horsestealing	2	2	2	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	2
Housebreaking	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
Indecent assault.....	3	2	1	2	..	3	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Inflicting bodily harm.....	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Larceny in a dwelling	2	2	1	1	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Larceny	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Perjury	3	2	1	..	2	3	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Setting fire to a fence	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Sheepstealing	2	2	1	..	1	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	2
Unlawfully wounding	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Unlawfully presenting firearms.....	2	2	2	..	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	2
Uttering forged cheque.....	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
TOTAL	40	24	23	9	8	40	5	14	6	6	5	1	3	40	1	2	4	1	4	1	4	5	1	1	24	16	40	

RETURN of Male Prisoners tried and convicted at Inferior Courts in the Penal Establishment, Launceston, on 31st December, 1881.

OFFENCE.	CONDITION.			AGE.					SENTENCE.					CONVICTION.			EDUCATION.			TOTAL.					
	Native.	Free to Colony.	Free by servitude.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 35 years.	35 to 45 years.	45 to 55 years.	55 to 65 years.	65 years & upwards.	1 month.	6 weeks.	2 months.	3 months.	6 months.	8 months.	9 months.	12 months.	2 years.	First.		Second.	Third.	Read nor write.	Read only.	Read and write.
Assault	2	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	2	3
Assaulting Police	1	1	2	1	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	2	4
Breach of Invalid Depôt Regulations .....	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1
Default in bail	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
Exposing person	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1
Idle and disorderly	4	1	7	1	3	1	2	5	2	3	2	4	3	..	..	..	..	3	1	8	2	1	9	12
Larceny	10	2	8	9	1	4	4	2	2	2	7	6	1	1	3	..	..	11	4	5	9	..	11	20
Larceny as bailee	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1
Larceny from the person	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	2	3
Obtaining goods by false pretences	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2	2
Obscene language	1	..	2	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	3	3
Wilfully damaging property .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
TOTAL	23	5	24	14	9	3	11	13	2	5	2	6	16	14	1	4	3	1	19	9	24	17	1	34	52

RETURN of Male Prisoners tried and convicted at Superior Courts in the Penal Establishment, Launceston, on the 31st December, 1881.

OFFENCE.	CONDITION.			AGE.				SENTENCE.					CONVICTION.			EDUCATION.			TOTAL.					
	Native.	Free to Colony.	Free by servitude.	25 to 35 years.	46 to 55 years.	55 to 65 years.	65 and upwards.	1 year.	2 years.	3 years.	4 years.	6 years.	First.	Second.	Third.	Read nor write.	Read only.	Read and write.						
Burglary .....	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	2
Embezzlement .....	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
Forgery and uttering .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Forgery .....	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Inflicting bodily harm .....	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Larceny .....	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1	2
Perjury .....	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
Uttering	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2	2
TOTAL	1	1	9	2	4	3	2	2	4	2	2	1	2	2	7	..	1	10	..	..	..	..	10	11

Prisoners under sentence from Inferior Courts..... 52
 Ditto Superior Courts

Remaining as per Return No. 3..... 12
 Ditto No. 4..... 57
 69