

[CIRCULAR.]

INFORMATION REQUIRED BY GAOL COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

I. AS TO THE EXISTING PRISONS OF THE COLONY.

1.—*A list of all Prisons, and the Purposes of the Prisons.*2.—*Description of each Prison.*

- (1.) Its position, aspect, accessibility, distance from Court.
- (2.) The materials of which constructed.
- (3.) A plan showing all internal arrangements.
- (4.) Provisions for security in respect of construction.
- (5.) Divisions for separate classes, if any, and on what principles constructed.
- (6.) General amount of accommodation.
- (7.) Number of separate cells, dormitories, and working rooms, and size; number of cubic feet per person in sleeping cells; how many cells, and how many persons sleep in each cell.
- (8.) Average number of prisoners in each year for last five years.
- (9.) Work yards, exercising yards—size and particulars.
- (10.) What eating places—size, &c.
- (11.) What cooking places.
- (12.) Baths and lavatories.
- (13.) Privies—number, character, and position.
- (14.) Urinals.
- (15.) Provisions for ventilating and heating.
- (16.) Drainage.
- (17.) Particular deficiencies or advantages of the prison in any of the respects above mentioned.
- (18.) Means for adapting prison for separate confinement, and hard or industrial labour.
- (19.) Means of dealing with fire, if any. Could prisoners be readily got out in case of fire?

3.—*Prison Regulations in force, and Discipline.*

- (1.) A copy of these posted in gaol, or used.
- (2.) Are they observed strictly or not?
- (3.) If departed from, or not enforced, in what particulars?
- (4.) What reasons assigned for such departure or non-observance?
- (5.) Is the mark-system carefully enforced, and what has been effect since introduction?
- (6.) Objection made by officers of prison, or prisoners, to existing rules?
- (7.) Number of Visiting Justices?
- (8.) What kind of visits, how often, and what record thereof?
- (9.) How often do visitors report, and to whom?
- (10.) Is skilled inspection necessary or advisable?
- (11.) What books are kept in prison, and what they show; regularity of entries?
- (12.) What improvements, changes, or modifications in prison within five years, and by whose authority?
- (13.) Number of prison punishments for five years and by whom inflicted; what sorts, classifying them as to cause and amount?
- (14.) How many repetitions by same persons?
- (15.) Numbers of recommitments of previously convicted prisoners?
- (16.) Means, if any special, of identification?
- (17.) Attempts at escape: the mode, the result, the temptation;—remarks.
- (18.) What part of treatment most irksome to prisoners, and most complained of?
- (19.) Are prisoners often in possession of money when convicted? What is done with it?

4.—*Number, Classification, and Separation of Prisoners.*

- (1.) Total number in last five years, 1st January, 1873, to 1st January, 1878.
- (2.) Average numbers.
- (3.) Distinguish,—
 - (a.) Debtors.
 - (b.) Lunatics, criminal and non-criminal.
 - (c.) Waiting for trial.
 - (d.) Summary convictions.
 - (e.) Convicted, but without hard labour.