

E75

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
RECLAMATION DEPARTMENT

For the year ending 31st December 1929.

13566



Lahore :

Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab.
1930.

Price : Re. 0-4-0 or 5d.

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
RECLAMATION DEPARTMENT

For the year ending 31st December 1929.



Lahore :
Printed by the Superintendent, Government, Printing, Punjab.
1930.

Revised List of Agents for the Sale of Punjab Government Publications.

ON THE CONTINENT AND UNITED KINGDOM.

Publications obtainable either direct from the High Commissioner for India, at India House, Aldwych, London, W. C. 2, or through any bookseller.

IN INDIA.

The GENERAL MANAGER, "The Qaumi Daler" and the Union Press, Amritsar.

Messrs. D. B. TARAPOREWALA Sons & Co., Bombay.

The MANAGING PARTNER, The Bombay Book Depôt, Booksellers and Publishers, Girgaon, Bombay.

Messrs. W. NEWMAN & Co., Limited, Calcutta.

The PROPRIETOR, The Book Company, Calcutta.

Messrs. THACKER, SPINK & Co., Calcutta.

Messrs. CHATTERJI & Co., Booksellers, 204, Cornwallis Street, Calcutta.

Messrs. RAMA KRISHNA & Sons, Lahore.

The SECRETARY, Punjab Religious Book Society, Lahore.

The MANAGER, Standard Book Depôt, Lahore.

The MANAGER, University Book Agency, Lahore.

L. RAM LAL SURI, Proprietor, "The Students' Own Agency," Lahore.

L. DEWAN CHAND, Proprietor, The Mercantile Press, Lahore.

The MANAGER, Mufid-i-'Am Press, Lahore.

The PROPRIETOR, Punjab Law Book Mart, Lahore.

Mr. D. PESTONJI, Stockists' Representative, Lahore.

The MANAGING PROPRIETOR, The Commercial Book Company, Lahore.

R. S. JAURA, Esq., B.A., B.T., The Students' Popular Depôt, Anarkali, Lahore.

The PROPRIETOR, Aftab Punjab General Law Book Agency, Lahore.

The MANAGER, Oxford Book and Stationery Co., The Mall, Lahore.

The PROPRIETOR, City Book Co., Post Box No. 283, Madras.

The MANAGER, The New Book Depôt, No. 79, The Mall, Simla.

Messrs. THACKER, SPINK & Co., Simla.

*Proceedings of His Excellency the Governor of the Punjab
in Council (Home—Jails) Department, No. 34242-Jails,
dated 20th November 1930.*

READ—

The Report on the Reclamation Department for the year ending the 31st December 1929.

REMARKS.—The first and second Reports of the newly founded Reclamation Department contained encouraging records of pioneer work carried on under difficulties in a new and experimental sphere. In this, the third Annual Report, the works described has passed the initial stages and the Department may be regarded as performing its natural and ultimate functions. Although there is considerable room for expansion the initial difficulties have been to a great extent surmounted. Much of the land in the Reclamation Farms has been brought under the plough, the system of labour under the Probation Officers is working smoothly and the object of the Good Conduct Prisoners Probation Release Act is beginning to be understood by prisoners and their friends.

2. Probationally released prisoners continued to be

Employment by outside agencies at the close of the year. sent either to the Reformatory Farms in the Nili Bar, to the salt mines camp at Khewra, or to employment with Government and private employers under the control of the four Probation Officers. The Probation Officer, Montgomery, who distributes probationally released prisoners to his own and the Multan districts, dealt with no less than 725 men and the newly appointed Probation Officer, Lyallpur, had no difficulty, in finding employment for 80 men in 5 months. The Governor in Council has noted with pleasure the rapidity with which a demand arose in Lyallpur for such labour. His Excellency regards this as clearly testifying to the satisfaction given to employers by prisoners thus employed in other districts. Unskilled labour continued to fetch between Rs. 15 and Rs. 18 a month, while skilled labour earned up to Rs. 30 a month.

3. Three hundred and seventy-four adults and 187 adolescents were working at the two farms at various times. The land available could have employed a larger number, particularly in the Borstal Farm, and Development has therefore not been rapid. The Head of the Department should now make all possible efforts to expedite the development of this farm, and to place both farms on a paying basis. Notwithstanding difficulties of weather and irrigation a satisfactory crop was produced. The experiment of granting individual tenancies has been largely extended and the very small proportion of those who withdrew from their tenancies shows that these prisoners appreciate both the incentive of a sense of proprietorship and the opportunity of greater profit. As prophesied in the remarks on the second Annual Report the cost per inmate has been greatly reduced in both farms, the decrease in the Adult Farm exceeding 50 per cent.

4. The Salt Department find in these prisoners a Reclamation Camp at convenient source of well conducted labour, but the Government is considering whether this work really offers a suitable field for the reclamation of prisoners.

5. It is gratifying to note that no prisoner abused the privilege of taking casual leave granted as a reward for good behaviour.

6. The number of inmates continued for the most part to be slightly above that for which the accommodation was intended, but it has been decided that an extension of the premises is not at present necessary. The details given in the Report show that no influence is neglected which might assist in converting a potential criminal to a useful citizen. Sixty per cent. of the former inmates are known to be leading honest lives.

7. The records of the after careers of the convicts finally released after a period under the control of the Reclamation Department show that out of 733 cases examined 78.5 per cent. are definitely reported to be earning an honest living. As the remainder included 12 untraced men, and the cases examined covered a period of three years. These statistics constitute a convincing tribute to the work of this Department.

8. The Governor in Council notes with approbation the many other respects in which the activities of the Reclamation Department have recently developed and he congratulates Sardar Sahib Sardar Gur Partab Singh on another successful year, which reflects credit on all the staff of the Department and on the Jail Department whose willing co-operation has always been forthcoming.

Conclusion.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the Report and the Review be forwarded to the Government of India, in the Home Department, and a copy of the Review be forwarded to the Registrar, High Court of Judicature at Lahore, Reclamation Officer, Punjab, and the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, for information and guidance.

Ordered also that the Review be published in the *Punjab Government Gazette*.

By order of the Governor in Council,
C. M. G. OGILVIE,
Home Secretary to Government, Punjab.

Annual Report on the Reclamation Department for the year ending 31st December 1929.

1. The office of Reclamation Officer, Punjab, and Inspector-General of Reformatory Schools, was held by Sardar Sahib Gur Partab Singh, P.C.S., throughout the year.

2. The field for employment of probationally released prisoners had hitherto been confined to the Reclamation Camp at Khewra and the districts of Montgomery and Multan. During the year a new Probation Officer with the usual staff was appointed with his headquarters at Lyallpur in which district he commenced operations. It is intended that the probationally released prisoners under him should work also in the districts of Jhang and Sargodha.

3. The large number of applications for the probational release of prisoners received during the year by the Reclamation Officer from their relatives and friends proves that the Act is becoming widely known in the districts. The Reclamation Officer also visited almost all the Jails to select suitable prisoners for release in consultation with the Superintendents of Jails. The total number of prisoners released on probation during the year was 737, of whom 645 were adults and 92 adolescents. The latter were sent to the Borstal Farm at Burewala while of the adults 166 were sent to the Adult Farm, Burewala, 91 went to the Reclamation Camp at Khewra, 308 were employed by Government and private agencies in the districts of Montgomery and Multan under the Probation Officer, Montgomery, and 80 under the Probation Officer, Lyallpur.

The total number of prisoners who worked at the Adult Reformatory Farm during the year was 374; of these 147 were finally released, 10 were transferred to the Probation Officer, Montgomery, 5 died, 2 absconded and one was sent back to Jail on account of misbehaviour. One hundred and eighty-seven adolescents were working at the Borstal Farm, of whom 2 were transferred to the Adult Farm, 2 to work under the Probation Officer, Montgomery, and 87 were finally released. Seven hundred and twenty-five probationally released men came under the control of the Probation Officer, Montgomery, during the year; of these 1 escaped, 2 returned to Jail

on the revocation of their licenses and 201 were finally released. A number of prisoners were sent at a short notice to the Executive Engineer, Sulemanki; these did useful work in repairing damage done to the canal by floods. In the Lyallpur district propaganda by the Reclamation Officer among possible employers of labour, preceding the posting there in July 1929 of a Probation Officer, resulted in the employment of 80 prisoners by the end of the year, and there was a demand for more than twice that number.

The monthly wages paid to prisoners working for private employers varied between Rs. 6 and Rs. 8 with food, lodging and clothing and between Rs. 14 and Rs. 18 without them. These licensees were employed chiefly on agricultural labour or as domestic servants. Canal digging fetched daily wages of annas 12 a head; while skilled labourers such as masons, carpenters, dyers and motor-drivers earned wages up to Rs. 30 a month.

4. The Reclamation camp opened in the previous year was continued throughout 1929, and the prisoners there were mainly employed on loading salt into wagons for which work the Salt Department paid a contract rate of Rs. 3-7-0 per wagon. They were occasionally employed on marl breaking (separating salt from stone and earth) which labour fetched annas 9 per head per working day. The average earnings during the year was Re. 0-7-1 per head per day. The health of the inmates was good and the Royal Commission on labour visiting the camp in October 1929 found the "conditions satisfactory." Housing, however, for the inmates and staff still presents considerable difficulty.

5. Most of the probationally released prisoners received visits from friends and relatives. Three hundred and eighty-one adults and 55 adolescents enjoyed short periods of casual leave as a reward for good conduct. None overstayed his leave and no complaint was received against any while on leave. As a further reward for sustained industry and exemplary behaviour, 289 Adults and 2 adolescents were allowed to keep their families with them, 409 Adults and 51 adolescents earned special remissions.

Forty-two Adults and 8 adolescents forfeited part of remissions for misbehaviour. Five licensees broke the conditions of their licenses and were sent back to Jail.

There were three escapes, two from the Reformatory Farms, Burewala, and one from the inmates working in Montgomery district.

The work and conduct of the prisoners working under the three Probation Officers was generally satisfactory, more than a hundred cases being strongly recommended by their employers for special remission.

6. The general health of the prisoners working in the Multan, Montgomery and Lyallpur districts was satisfactory. There was no death from Malaria. Six men died of various diseases and one was accidentally killed at Khewra. The Salt Department paid compensation to the heirs of the latter.

Health of probationally released prisoners.

Final releases.

7. Four hundred and nineteen adults and 25 adolescents were finally released and 4 prematurely released by Government on medical grounds.

Reformatory Farms at Burewala.

8. Mr. T. S. Farmer, Superintendent, Reformatory Farms, died early in the year. In him Government lost an experienced and devoted servant and the Reclamation Department, an able disciplinarian. The work at the farms was carried on in addition to their own duties for some five months by the Reclamation Officer and Pandit Munshi Ram, Assistant Superintendent, Borstal Farm. Khan Bahadur Mian Altaf Hussain, P.C.S. (Retired) held charge of both farms from the 9th June to the end of the year.

At the close of the year 209 adults and 108 adolescents were employed at the respective farms. The number employed in the Adult Farm was adequate being specially large during the busy season of Rabi harvesting and kharif sowing, but the number of inmates in the Borstal Farm was still insufficient for the proper development of the land available. Nevertheless the area brought under cultivation rose from 737 to 1,200 acres in the Adult Farm and from 320 to 406.5 acres in the Borstal Farm out of the total irrigable areas of 1,877 and 925 acres, respectively.

9. The Rabi crop was fairly satisfactory, though severe frost caused damage especially to the late sown wheat in the Borstal Farm. The yield per acre was 17.2 maunds in Adults and 12.6 maunds in the Borstal Farm. Toria of which some 70 acres were sown in both farms gave a good yield.

Condition and yield of crops at Burewala.

Cotton sowings occupied 242 acres in the Adult Farm and 144.75 acres in the Borstal. In the Adult Farm this crop suffered from a prolonged canal closure at the flowering season and from heavy rainfall in June and July. In the Borstal Farm 32 acres of cotton were totally destroyed by drought. Boll worm also damaged cotton of the Desi variety in that farm. The average yield per acre of the three varieties sown is shown below :—

Variety of cotton.	ADULT FARM.			BORSTAL FARM.		
	Maunds.	Seers.	Chhks.	Maunds.	Seers.	Chhks.
289 F. (American) ..	10	14	9	9	..	10
4 F. (do.) ..	8	16	6	8	23	1
Mollisoni (Desi) ..	8	2	12	5	6	3

Fodder crop did well, and the farms escaped damage from locusts. Irrigation arrangements were still unsatisfactory, especially in the Borstal Farm.

The system of giving individual tenancies was largely extended, tenants being selected for character and physique. In the Adult Farm, the number increased from 15 to 96 out of whom 14 were finally released, 4 died and one gave up tenancy. In the Borstal Farm they increased from 10 to 25 of whom 2 were released and 4 withdrew. The monthly income of tenants averaged Rs. 17-4-11 in the Adult Farm and Rs. 21-5-10 in the Borstal Farm as compared with the ordinary wage of Rs. 13.

Two Co-operative Provision shops were started and the savings of inmates in each farm totalled almost a thousand rupees. Over 1,400 trees were planted by the road sides and near the Abadies, and a small fruit garden was laid out at headquarters. The number of bullocks was increased to 275 by importing a strong draft of the Bhag Nari breed.

At the Borstal Farm school was opened in July under M. Yusaf Ali Khan from the Reformatory School, Delhi, materials being provided at Government expense. Out of 108 adolescents 60 were reading in the school at the end of

the year. Lectures on moral topics were occasionally given to the intimates of both farms.

The health of inmates was good except in September and October when Malaria caused some casualties; 211 in-door and 7,098 out-door patients were treated.

The total receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 40,843-9-0 and Rs. 15,925-7-6 and the total expenditure to Rs. 80,453-12-3 and Rs. 51,212-10-8 in the Adult and Borstal Farms, respectively. The income was more than double that of the previous year and expenditure was reduced by Rs. 8,500 with the result that the net expenditure per inmate fell from Rs. 408-2-0 to Rs. 191-4-7 in the Adult and Rs. 582-2-1 to Rs. 357-5-6 in the Borstal Farms. Details are given in Appendices A, B & C.

10. Mr. Bateman was Superintendent throughout the year. *Reformatory School, De hi* The School continued to serve the Punjab, Baluchistan, North-West Frontier Province and Delhi. The number of inmates was generally in excess of the sanctioned accommodation for 144 boys, at one time reaching 155; but no boy was refused admission. The number of admissions was 25 as against 39 in the preceding year. Of these 14 were Muhammadans and 11 Hindus; six only were literate. The Punjab contributed 14, North West Frontier Province 4, Delhi 2 and Baluchistan 1. Two Punjabi boys were transferred from the Yaruvada Reformatory in Bombay Presidency and 2 who had escaped from the Reformatory in the previous year were re-admitted.

Thirty-eight boys were struck off the rolls during the year. Of these 21 were discharged on the expiry of their sentences, 8 were transferred to the Reformatory School, Chunar, 1 to the Borstal Institution and two to the Mental Hospital, Lahore. One was discharged on appeal and 2 released under orders of Government, while 3 boys including one on license escaped.

11. The Deputy Inspector of Schools, Ambala Division, in his annual inspection reported favourably on the progress made in education and physical training. Seven boys were prepared for the Lower and Upper Middle and three passed the Vernacular Final Examination of the Punjab Education Department. Moral instruction was not neglected.

Education, moral instructions and Industrial training.

A practice which had been in abeyance since 1922 was revived when the Inspector of Industrial Schools, Punjab, carried out an inspection of the industrial instruction, imparted in the School workshops.

Twenty-two boys studied agriculture and gardening. The school garden supplied all the vegetables required for the inmates (estimated as worth Rs. 1,200) and realised a small profit by the sale of surplus produce. Thirty-one pupils studied carpentry and weaving, the former industry reached a fair standard and students of the latter, though unable to compete with modern machinery in the quality of their productions, manufactured on ordinary hand looms all the clothing required for the school. Tailoring, shoe-making and working in cane and bamboo were well taught. Eight boys were trained as blacksmiths while 4 who studied masonry carried out all the petty repairs to the school premises.

The school again opened a stall at the request of the Delhi Health Week Exhibition Committee, where articles manufactured were displayed and sold.

The total amount realised by the sale of articles manufactured was Rs. 2,571 as against Rs. 1,754 in 1928. After deducting 10 per cent. for depreciation of tools and plant the profit amounted to Rs. 957 9-7 as against 1,052 in 1928.

The general conduct of the school was satisfactory ; the monitorial system continued to be a success.

The general health of the school was good. No death occurred and the number of malaria cases fell from 83 in 1928 to 70. Two critical Pneumonia cases were successfully treated and one measles case was removed to the hospital. The Medical Officer reports that the physical condition of the boys continues to improve.

12. The natural enthusiasm and physical energy of youth found expression in Hockey, Football, Volleyball and Scout games. The Volleyball team had a most successful season. During the annual holiday picnics alternated with athletic contests and other amusements. The Scout movement was inaugurated in the school during this year with the Investiture of the " 1st Ferozeshah Kotla Troops "

Physical training and recreation.

and is now in full swing. Four boys were permitted to attend without supervision the Patrol Leaders' Camp 5 miles away, and they returned after 3 days.

Seven boys were released on license during the year; one returned because he disliked his work and one committed a petty theft and absconded. He was recaptured and detained for 6 months in the Borstal Institution, Lahore.

The marks money earned for good conduct and industry averaged Rs. 14-10-7 per head as against Rs. 13-10-2 last year. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 51,828-15-3 as against Rs. 44,634-1-0 in 1928 and the receipts Rs. 3,253-2-9 as against Rs. 2,599-13-3. The net cost per head was Rs. 324-2-9 as against Rs. 229-14-7.

13. Of the 38 boys struck off the rolls during the year none has been reconvicted and all except 2 found immediate employment. The particulars of 85 boys discharged during the three preceding years are given in Appendix D. Seventeen were reconvicted and 11 untraced so that 43 or 60 per cent. are known to be leading honest lives.

14. A separate record is maintained showing the careers of convicts licensed under the Good Conduct Prisoners Probationary Release Act who are finally released by the Reclamation Department. Enquiries were instituted through the Deputy Commissioners of districts in 759 cases and 733 replies were received; out of these 12 or 1.6 per cent. had been reconvicted, 16 were reported of doubtful character, 120 were untraceable and 575 or nearly 78.5 per cent. were reported to be lawabiding and living honestly.

15. In addition to the Co-operative Provisions Supply shops at Burewala a Co-operative Thrift and Saving Society was instituted among the men working under the Probation Officer, Montgomery. Tenants of the Reformatory Farms were encouraged in opening Saving Bank Accounts. The Reclamation Officer was able in conference with some philanthropic landlords to draft terms of tenancies and communicate these to possible tenants and Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society. He also continued to assist the Home Secretary to Government, Punjab, in a considerable number of cases of release and commutation of sentences.

16. I desire to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and inspiration which I received throughout the year from Lt.-Col. Barker, Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab.

Notice of work of Officers.

The high standard achieved in the working of the Reformatory School, Delhi, reflects credit on Mr. Bateman and his Manager Mr. Jalal-ud-Din. Khan Bahadur Mian Altaf Hussain worked with tact and ability in Reformatory Farms and was heartily supported by his keen lieutenants. The three Probation Officers, Montgomery, Lyallpur and Khewra, continued to do well. The staff of the Reclamation Office cheerfully shouldered an increased burden of work.

GUR PARTAB SINGH,

Reclamation Officer, Punjab.

APPENDIX A.

Statement of expenditure. (January to December, 1929).

Name of form.	Supplies and services.	Contingen- cies.	Pay of Officers.	Pay of Establish- ment.	Travelling allowance.	Katcha Buildings.	Total.	REMARKS.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Adult Farm	63,718 14 9	3,113 5 0	140 5 0	9,832 14 0	403 13 0	3,244 8 6	80,453 12 3	
Borstal Farm ...	27,236 11 8	3,119 5 6	6,653 3 0	10,761 5 0	270 14 0	3,171 3 6	51,212 10 8	

APPENDIX B.

Statement of receipts for the year 1929.

Name of Farm.	Farm produce	Refund of cost of clothing.	Miscellaneous receipts.	Total.	REMARKS.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Adult Farm ...	40,460 7 0	..	383 2 0	40,843 9 0	Value of Bhooma and other green and dry fodders raised at the farm and consumed by the farms animals not included in income or expenditure.
Borstal Farm...	15,827 4 6	63 2 0	35 1 0	15,925 7 6	

APPENDIX C.

Statement showing expenditure and receipts per head for the year ending 31st December 1929.

ADULTS FARM.		Rs.	A.	P.
Total expenditure	...	80,453	12	3
Total Income	...	40,843	9	0
Net expenditure	...	39,610	3	3
Expenditure per head	...	388	8	6
Income per head	...	197	3	11
Net expenditure per head	...	191	4	7
Daily average strength	...	207	07	
BORSTAL FARM.				
Total Expenditure	...	51,212	10	8
Total income	...	15,925	7	6
Net expenditure	...	35,287	3	2
Expenditure per head	...	518	9	9
Income per head	...	161	4	3
Net expenditure per head	...	357	5	6
Daily average strength	...	98	75	

APPENDIX D.

After careers of boys discharged during the three years preceding 1929.

	1926.	1927.	1928.	Total.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	
1. Total number discharged in three years.	30	25	30	85
2. Number who were taught Agriculture.	4	2	3	9
3. Number in entry 2 occupied in Agriculture.	1	2	1	4
4. Number who were taught other trades.	23	20	22	65
5. Number in entry 4 occupied in trades and handicrafts taught them.	10	5	5	20
6. Occupied in Industries not taught them in School. } Agriculture	1	1	..	2
	6	6	4	16
7. Unemployed or with friends ..	1	1	2	4
8. Reconvicted	6	5	4	15
9. Of bad character
10. Died	2	2
11. Not known or not reported on	..	2	9	11

1. Transferred to Reformatory School, Chunar	2
Discharged on appeal	1
2. Discharged on appeal	2
Discharged under Government orders	2
3. Discharged on appeal	1
Transferred to Borstal Institution	1
Escaped	3



