

1928

Kenya

No. 15305

SUBJECT

CO 533/379

*Prisons Department
Annual Report 1927*

Previous

X 13193/25

see Gov. Xf. 1872/26

1. Detention Camps & etc.

Subsequent

16145/30

FILE C

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

Annual Rep. Apr 11 Sept, 1928.
The tables printed copies of 1927 Report.

Spares to Library.

Per
G. Easton
1410

H

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD
Transmits copy of Memorandum of the Commission of
Prisoners Relative to the Administration of the
Detention Camps for the year ending 31st January 1928.

This Report is a useful one in the
draft is also... 2 3607/124. There is
an earlier report in nos 10007/127
The number of sentences to Detention
Camps is rising very rapidly - but
so far there has been no corresponding
decrease in the number of commitments
to prison. It appears therefore
that those who do otherwise
have got off (or, ^{perhaps} been casual) are
now being sent to Detention Camps.

The value of the labour of
detainees is considerable - see para
12 413. It will perhaps be ~~just~~

but the position seems to
be changing - see
messages in nos 10007/127
12 377 X

YMA to send
to remain

tempt to find any connection between
these values of their labour & the
increase in their numbers; but it is
interesting that the detention camps at
least pay their way.

I doubt whether any action is
necessary except to ask with
interest, & look for a further report at
the end of 1929. G. Easton

6.2.28

Instead of [?] say that the [?]
does not consider it necessary to ask
for further special reports as he
receives that reports on the
Detention Camps will in future
be appended to the annual
Prison Report - as in the case
of that of 1927

J. H. Allen

9/2/28

Not done JLS

11/2

acc. Harrison
12.2.28

G. G. 12.2.28
Horne

RESTAURED UNDER STATUTE 116 - H. Classd 19 SEP 1928

4.8

✓



KENYA

No. 669

4 4
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

30th November, 1928.

Sir,

No. 2.

In continuation of paragraph 2 of my despatch No. 330 of the 22nd June, 1928, I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information, the accompanying copy of a Memorandum by the Commissioner of Prisons relative to the administration of the Detention Camps Ordinance covering the period of eighteen months from the 1st January, 1927, to the 30th June, 1928.

57-2131
116
X
22

It will be observed that, whilst three further Detention Camps were established during the first six months of 1928, the total number of detainees during that period exceeded the number awarded detention during 1927 by 329 although the average sentence was slightly less than in 1927.

3. Some thirty of these camps have now been established and the figures given in paragraph 7 of the Memorandum shew that the steps taken to impress upon Magistrates the desirability of making fuller use of the Detention Camp system have borne fruit.

4. I agree with Mr. Spencer that it is, at this juncture, difficult to estimate the

/effect

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,
LIEUTENANT COLONEL L.C.M.S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1

effect of the system on the native mind. The most important result is of course the segregation of minor offenders from criminals and, though the institution of detention camps hitherto has not effected any considerable decrease in the prison population, it is hoped that the results of this will contribute to a reduction in crime in the Colony and Protectorate.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

David Gunn
GOVERNOR.

6

REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE DETENTION CAMPS ORDINANCE
IN KENYA
FOR A PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS FROM
1ST. JANUARY 1927 TO 30TH. JUNE 1928.

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The following report is supplementary to the Annual Report on Detention Camps for the calendar year 1927 which was submitted to the Kenya Government in April 1928. The present report is in respect of the 18 months during which the Detention Camps Ordinance has been in effective operation.

3. During the past six months three more detention camps have been established, at Kabaret, Mombasa, and Emburua (West Sub District) bringing the total number of camps up to 30. Two more camps, Fort Hall and at Dagorati, should be ready for occupation shortly.

3. The total number of persons committed to serve sentences to detention has been:-

Year 1927	...	1,421 persons
6 months of 1928	...	1,750 "
Total 18 months		<u>3,171</u> "

4. The sentences passed on these 3,171 persons were as follows:-

	<u>6 mos.</u>	<u>5 mos.</u>	<u>4 mos.</u>	<u>3 mos.</u>	<u>2 mos. or less.</u>	<u>1 month</u>	<u>Total</u>
Year 1927	7	1	50	62	195	1,106	1,421
6 months of 1928	6	4	19	55	307	1,359	1,750
Total 18 months	<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>502</u>	<u>2,465</u>	<u>3,171</u>

The average /

The average length of sentence in 1927 was 27 days for the first half of 1928 about 24 days.

Daily average number in detention.

5. The daily average number of persons undergoing sentences of detention has grown steadily during the past 18 months, as shown in the following table:-

	1927.	1928.
January	12	160
February	30	209
March	30	256
April	62	228
May	64	265
June	120	263
July	81	
August	115	
September	104	
October	106	
November	140	
December	133	
Mean average	83	232

The daily average number in detention was small in the majority of camps, and only reached double figures in the six camps shown below; viz:-

	Year 1927.	6 months of 1928.
Kabumuria (West Suk District)	-	51
Nairobi	14	20
Kitui	12	25
Nashakon	10	16
Kitale	5	22
Kisumu	-	10
In 24 other camps	41	86
	82 daily	230 daily

For the whole period of 18 months the daily average number of persons undergoing detention has been 132.

6. The number

Offences for which sentences awarded.

6. The number of sentences of detention for offences under each of the various Local Ordinances in the Schedule to the Detention Camps Ordinance was as follows:-

Ordinances	No. of Sentences to Detention.		Total
	1927.	6 months of 1928.	
Native Amal	581	418	999
Employment of Native Amal	337	326	663
Native Amal	293	332	625
Townships	79	163	242
Native Liquor	67	133	200
Unlicensed Native Labourers	91	78	175
Native Amal	11	81	92
Native Amal	24	49	83
Native Amal	46	28	74
Various	108	147	255
	1,421	1,421	3,171

The apparent reluctance on the part of the Amal to resort to detention instead of to imprisonment, at one time noticeable, has recently diminished, and but few in 1927 committals to imprisonment for breaches of local ordinances were 3 times as numerous as sentences of detention, during the first 6 months of 1928 detention has been awarded in the greater number of such cases. This is shown by the following figures:-

	Committals under Local Ordinances.	
	To Imprisonment.	To Detention.
Year 1927	4,480	1,421
6 months of 1928	1,354	1,720

The /

The Ordinances under which sentences of imprisonment were awarded in place of detention were, principally, as follows:-

Committees during the period of 18 months.	Ordinance.	
	To Imprisonment.	To Detention.
Native Registration	1,189	623
Employment of Natives	920	662
Native Authority	722	769
Liquor	692	200

Supervision of detainees.

8. Although no provision has yet been made in the Estimates of Expenditure for the cost of administering the Detention Camps Ordinance, the need for some staff for supervising detainees, especially at the larger camps in towns, has been recognized by Government and security has recently been received for the expenditure of this year, from savings on the Prisons Department Votes, of £405 on salaries of Overseers.

Escapes.

9. Of the 3,171 persons committed to detention during the past 18 months, seventeen have absconded of whom 7 have been recaptured.

Offences against discipline.

10. The only punishments recorded for offences against discipline were the transfers to prison of 11 detainees as follows:-

Year 1927	4 detainees transferred to prison.
6 months of 1928	..	<u>7</u>	" " "
		<u>11</u>	" " "

Health.

11. The general health of inmates of detention camps appears to have been good, the daily average number on the sicklist in all the camps combined

Having /

having been a little over 1 per cent during the 18 months under review. No deaths occurred.

12. As stated in the Annual Report for 1927-28, 1000 convicts have been employed by the Public Works Department at Nairobi and Mombasa, whilst at present they are employed at various other places on the Kenya coast. No payment is made by any Government Department using the labour of detainees for the estimated value of the work done by their labour during the 18 months is as follows:-

Year.	Daily average No. in Detention.	Working Days.	Value per day.	Total value.
1927	23 less 1 sick	100	6/10	615
1928	231 less 2 sick	160	5/10	850
Total for 18 months...				1465

13. Apart from the work done by the convicts in the construction of the camps, there has been no provision for the purchase of stores, food, bedding, etc., being drawn from the Prisons Department. The estimated cost to the Prisons Department of feeding detainees is 1/6 per head a day, which gives a total expenditure on food during the 18 months under review of:-

Year 1927	Daily average 83.	Cost of food	226/6
6 months of 1928	"	"	231
Total for 18 months...			457/6
The wages of overseers have totalled ...			219/0
Giving a total expenditure of ...			676/6

which is little more than one half of the estimated value of the labour of detainees.

Reduction
of
prison
population.

14. The effect on the prison population of the substitution of detention for imprisonment for minor offences has hitherto been slight, as is shown by the following figures:-

	<u>Daily average in prison.</u>	<u>Daily average in detention.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Five years 1923-1926	2,189	Nil.	2,189
Year 1927	2,524	82	2,606
6 months of 1928	2,370	250	2,620

General.

15. The adoption by Magistrates of the principle of detention to replace imprisonment for minor offences was somewhat slow during the first year. The figures for the first half of 1928 show that this form of penalty is becoming much more general. Experience has shown that additions need to be made to the Schedule to the Detention Cells Ordinance, and two such amendments have already been made.

It is difficult to gauge the effect on the native mind of this milder form of punishment for breaches of the law, but it seems probable that they are learning to realize the fact that there is less stigma attaching to the offender who is punished by detention than to the one who is sent to prison.

J. C. E. ...
COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS.

5. The success of the policy of training convicts as carpenters and masons and employing them under European technical supervision on works in various localities referred to in the section of the Report on technical training has proven very satisfactory, as is shown by the acknowledgment by the Public Works Department staff of the quality and output of these convict artisans as compared with that of paid African labour. Care will be taken to follow up the careers of these natives after their discharge from prison and endeavours will be made to obtain employment for them.

It is regretted that no progress was made in 1927 with the scheme for a Central Prison. It has been decided that the proposal put forward requires further consideration and that no work is to be made in the next budget year.

It is, nevertheless, gratifying that there has been an improvement - though slight - in the health of the prisoners at Nairobi during the year which was no doubt due to the increase of accommodation, better ventilation and improvement in the drainage of the grounds surrounding the prison to which reference was made in Kenya Despatch No. 100 of the 16th March, 1928.

17/3/28
 dec. 17

6. I have again to report with pleasure that the work and discipline of the year under review was generally satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,
 Your most obedient, humble servant,
Wm. Deakin
 GOVERNOR.

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CO	379
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