

ESTABLISHMENT OF PENANG PRISON UNDER BRITISH IN MALAYA

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the institution of prison under the British administration in the Penang Prison in the 19th and the 20th century. Penang as an important port in the northern Malaya under the British administration has led to an increase number of people in the state who are immigrants besides the natives. Sudden boost in the population had led to an increase in criminal activities on the island that had disrupted the British administration. Penang which used the local customary law of Kedah Government had failed to control the criminal activities in Penang. Thus British introduced Western law in Penang to control the criminal activities on the island. The objective of this article is to analyze the factors for the establishment of the Penang Prison and its enforced regulations in the prison system of Penang to prisoners and prison officers. The methodology used to achieve this objective is through research on primary sources obtained from the national archive such as the Straits Settlements Departmental Annual Report, Rules And Regulations Under Ordinance No. XIV of 1872, Federated Secretariat 14250 / 49.1949, letters and files related to the prison rules. The study found that the enforcement of British system on the rules and regulations of Penang Prison has an important contribution because it has introduced a systematic prison system.

Keywords: British rules, Penang, prison, colonial, Malaya.

INTRODUCTION

The selection of Penang by Francis Light who represents British East India Company as an entreport was driven by its strategic geographical location which was surrounded by economic resources. Thus the economic development of Penang as a port city has led to the presence of some immigrant groups such as long-distance traders, regional traders, merchants, and laborers. This migration happens because job opportunities that become a major attraction not only to Western immigrants but also to Asian immigrants. The rapid increase of population has led to Penang's diverse ethnic and immigrant mostly consisting of ethnic groups such as Malay, Indian, Chinese and European. Thus, the population rises dramatically contributed to the increase in serious crimes. This is because the year 1901 showed a high crime rate for Penang, which was 51.4% while compared with Singapore which accounted was 45% as well as Malacca which was barely 3.6%. The high increase in crime in Penang can be seen starting from 1901 until 1920. (Hussin, 2007, p.294). Therefore, a high crime rate makes the prison detention center appeared to be a necessity for the British at the same time as a branch of implementation of sentences towards the prisoners who committed crimes. The early establishment of British power in Penang has led to the development of the first prison known as the Chowrasta Lines prison located at Jalan Pulau Pinang in 1811. Prisoners placed in this prison consists of convict labor from Bangka Hulu and India. (Davies, 1956, p.47). This causes the density and overcrowding Chowrasta Lines which urge the British to set up another larger prison to accommodate a growing number of prisoners. Furthermore, the EIC administration

also made Penang a dumping ground for convicts which continued until 1873.(Turnbull, 1970, p.103).

Congestion and density can be seen when Chowrasta Lines was no longer able to accommodate the increasing number of prisoners which increased every year. Based on this we can see an increase in the admission of prisoners into the prison, as in 1795 until 1806, there were only 250 of 300 inmates only, but a significant increase which detected have occurred in 1856, with an increase of 1358 people. It urged the British to establish a wider and larger prison to accommodate growing number of prisoners led to the establishment of the Penang Gaol (Penang Prison) in 1849. The Penang Prison was established due to the British recognition of the need for prison as an important institution to improve the effectiveness of its legal system, especially in its efforts to handle the criminal affairs. Moreover, in the meantime, the British continued to introduce certain ordinances under the First Charter of Justice 1807 and the Second Charter of Justice 1826 which aimed to enforce laws in Penang. This is seen as one of the most important steps towards strengthening and improving its administrative system in the view of Penang previously did not have a formal legal system, especially in addressing the problems of crime. (Government Gazette, Straits Settlements 1900, p.4)The ordinance introduced include the Prison Ordinance of 1872. Thus beginning with the introduction of the Prisons Ordinance it led to the continued efforts in improving the effectiveness of the administration of the British prison system in Penang, coupled with the drafting of the prison acts in 1933 until 1952.The formulation of these laws was done staggered over time to meet the quality and effectiveness of the prison system implemented. The introduction of these legislations have been a guide to the rules and procedures to be followed by the Penang Prison in administering the prison management affairs subject to the rules and guidelines that have been set. (Legislative Council, The Laws Of The Straits Settlements, 1901-1907, p.77).

BACKGROUND OF THE PENANG PRISON

If view in the context of the Straits Settlements, prison is the earliest detention institution created. This is because starting with the British administration until the arrival of Japan, places of punishment being used is prison and placed under the supervision and responsibility of the state government with certain regulations. Straits Settlement states were also the earliest states to have prisons compared to other states under British control with the introduction of the 1807. The introduction of this statute contributed to the establishment of the prison as one of the British steps to resolve and fight the arising criminal problems. Thus, the first prison was built in Penang as the Chowrasta Lines Prison, followed by the second most important prison which is the Penang Prison (Penang Gaol). Therefore, in 1849 the formal establishment of the Penang Prison was followed by the establishment of other prisons in the Federated Malay States. This was done by the British after the British position was further strengthened by the enforcement towards coordination and uniformity of regulations and specific laws for each state. In fact, the Penang Prison was built as a direct consequence of the British action of allocating Penang as a port city. In this case, Colonel WJ Butterworth founded the Penang Prison. As such, it was governed under the control and supervision of the Superintendent of Penang Prison which specifically allows individuals who have committed criminal offenses being placed in prison as the location of their detention. Aspects that allow individuals sentenced to prison include prisoners who committed various wrongdoings from the category of serious offense such as murder, robbery, and kidnapping to the category of lesser offense such as cheating and stealing. (Legislative Council, Straits Settlements Penal Code, 1884, p, 31)

Therefore, the introduction of the Penal Code in 1870 as the Penal Code of Malaya was seen as playing an important role in controlling the criminal activities, then it has come into force in the Straits Settlements included Penang. This is to enable the British rules and laws being enforced formally in handling various criminal problems as well as in strengthening the British legal system. (Department of Statistics, Annual Report Of The Straits Settlements, 1855, p.167). Penal Code is an act enacted to allow prisoner who commits an offense punishable upon conviction. Every prisoner who is found guilty will be dealt with according to the provisions of the Penal Code. The existence of the Penal Code is seen to control the behavior and treatment of prisoners in accordance with the provisions of the legislation legally, other than its function to simplify procedures or procedures of the courts in determining verdict and punishment. Therefore, any judicial process will ultimately empower the institution to conduct any prison sentence prescribed. (Legislative Council, Federated Secretariat 14250/49, 1949) Through the provision of powers under the Prisons Ordinance of 1872 in particular has become a guide to the Penang Prison to perform its administrative system. (Department of Statistics, Ordinance To Amend And Consolidate The Law Relating To Prisons, And To The Custody Of Prisoners. 1872). This Ordinance has outlined certain laws as prison rules and discipline that must be implemented thoroughly. These laws regulate and supervise prisoners since most prisoners who committed crimes in Penang Prison are involved in serious and lesser criminal offenses. Starting in 1873, the EIC has decided to stop the dumping of foreign prisoners to the Penang Prison. Thus it facilitates the administration of the British in Penang Prison to focus completely in the local prisoners only. While for foreign prisoners who commit serious offenses, the British will carry out the sentence of banishment on them either banishment to China or India. (Prison Department, S.P.P No 194/1928). This could indirectly reduce the congestion in Penang Prison although at the same time increasing influx of prisoners continued to occur.

FACTORS LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PENANG PRISON

i) Congestion and density of the Chowrasta Lines Prison

There are several factors that led to the establishment of the Penang Prison which caused the congestion and density in Chowrasta Lines Prison. Chowrasta Lines Prison, which has existed since 1811, has become a gathering place of foreign prisoners. Most of the prisoners are Indian prisoners who were taken from Bangka Hulu Prison, and Sumatra. Apart from the Indian prisoners, prisoners from Hong Kong has also been put in this prison. The act of throwing prisoners into Chowrasta Lines has started since 1790 until 1873. The British action of gathering foreign prisoners to Penang is to carry out the sentence of banishment. Until 1840, the Prison Chowrasta Lines were really experiencing congestion and density. Added by the influx of convict workers as cheap labor force in the 19th century which indirectly promote the increase of inmates in the prison. This increase dramatically changed the condition of the prison into congest until Chowrasta Lines become very narrow and crowded given the sheer size of the prison. Up to 1848, the number of inmates in the Chowrasta Lines Prison has exceed its capacity and no longer suitable be used as a detention institution with the function to punish its inmates. The density of this prison was caused by the various types of prisoners gathered by the British. Among the prisoners are being thrown to Chowrasta Lines for the sentence banishment for their crimes. But there are also political prisoners. They were imprisoned for rebelling against the British colonial rule in India. (Yang, 2003, pp.179-8). For example, two of India's political prisoners who were taken to the Straits Settlements in 1850 was sentenced

to banishment because of being convicted of plot against the British. These two political prisoners are named Nihal Singh and Kharak Singh. Until 1857, the British administration in India has sent prisoners from India to the Straits Settlements as many as 4,000 people. This action is strongly opposed by a merchant who traded as regards the presence of the prisoner will affect the image of the Straits and threaten their lives, but that he also would cause the Straits trade is affected.

The British were using prisoners as a source of cheap labor with low costs and payment for carrying out any work or projects. In 1800, a planning and advisory body, the Committee of Assessors in Penang was introduced under the administration of George Leith the Lieutenant Governor. Leith has used prisoners as laborers and even demanded the government in Calcutta to provide more prisoners from India to fulfill the tasks of constructing and maintaining roads. Based on this, an increase can be seen from 130 prisoners used in 1800 to 772 in 1805. (Hussin, 2004, p.4). Increased admission of inmates into prison has caused overcrowding and space density continued to occur. Thus, there appears an urge to create a more larger prison. Therefore, a new prison was built opposite the Chowrasta Lines Prison to serves as the Police Headquarters of Penang. Thus, Penang Prison or Penang Gaol was built in 1849, located in Gaol Road, to replace the Chowrasta Lines Prison which have been full. The establishment of this new prison allows multiple inmates being gathered with a much larger prison area. At the same time the existence of a diverse population of various ethnic groups include Chinese, Malay, Indian caused the serious increase of criminal cases in Penang. Thus the Penang Prison continues to be used as the gathering place of prisoners. For example, an increasing number of cases occurred in Penang can be seen in 1895 until 1899 in Penang. There is an increase in the number of cases every year in Penang, since from 9241 cases in 1895 to 14,845 cases in 1899. The increase in the number of cases that occurred in Penang was influenced by a booming economy based on increased annual revenue generated from imports and exports. Starting in 1895 the revenue of the Straits Settlements is \$ 4,028,508, while the number has rose in 1899 to \$ 5,199,150. (Inland Revenue Board, *Abstract Of Revenue And Expenditure And Of Receipts And Payments On Personal Accounts 1901*, 1895, pp.C7-11). The economic boom that occurred in Penang also led to the development of criminal activities which in turn led to increased influx of inmates into prison (Azlizan Mat Enh, 2010). According to the British annual report, the increasing number of criminal offenses in the period 1895-1899 involves robbery and murder every year. During this period there were 76 offenses of murder committed while offenses of armed robbery gang were 68 cases. (Department of Statistics, *Annual Reports Of The Straits Settlements, 1892-1900*, p.211). In addition, in 1898 the offense of burglary in Penang are 113 cases compared with 107 cases in Singapore, and 8 cases in Malacca. Therefore, there is a clear increase in the number of cases in Penang by the 20th century. Thus, through the establishment of the Penang Prison to replace Chowrasta Lines is one of the best British efforts to ensure its smooth administration and the control of the criminal activities in Penang.

ii) The Increase of Social Problems in Penang

Next, the factor that led to the establishment of the Penang Prison is due to an increase in social problems in Penang which was influenced by its rapid industrial development (Azlizan Mat Enh & Siti Alwaliyah, 2017). Various social problems in Penang are associated with the development of triad activities carried out by the immigrants. Thus an increase in crimes such as murder, robbery, theft, extortion and so on. (Department of Statistics, *Report On The State Of Crime And The Administration Of The Police Force Of The Settlement Of Penang For The*

Year 1949). The widespread social problems has caused the crime rates to increase. This made the British to realize the importance of an institution with the function of punishing prisoners in order to smoothen its administration. Therefore, the British decided to build the Penang Prison as a way to deal with the continued increase of crimes in Penang. Increased social problems caused by the economic development of Penang indirectly increased the activity of migration. This development of migration led to a rapidly growing population of Penang until it became a port city visited by various ethnic groups. Such ethnic diversity includes Malay, Indian, Chinese and European. The presence of various ethnic groups led to a drastic increase as seen in 1788 at the beginning of the opening of Penang, the total population of Penang was just 1283 (Hussin, 2007, p.1850) then in 1793 it rose to around 5,000 people, before it increased to 20,000 people in 1795. (Chye, 1950, p.100). Meanwhile the diversity of the population in Penang continue to increase year after year based on the Straits Settlement census information in 1891 until 1901, which the year of 1891 recorded a total of 200,197 and continued to increase in the next ten years to 248,207 people. (Department of Statistics, Straits Settlements Census Report 1901). This continuance of migrational activities until the early 19th century was encouraged by the British themselves who offered employment opportunities with the rich natural resources of Penang as attraction. As a result of economic growth it also encouraged the immigrants to involve in various criminal problems, which indirectly disturb the British economic development. This was due to most social problems committed are affecting business and commerce in Penang, such as extortion in business, gang robbery, theft and kidnapping for the purpose of prostitution, as well as riots and fighting. This indirectly threaten the peace of Penang while at the same time many immigrants especially the Chinese have unbridled negative culture such as opiate addiction, prostitution, and alcoholism. (Comber, 1956, p.153). A deep desire for such unhealthy activities led them to easily engage in criminal activities such as triad, theft, mayhem and murder. (Department of Statistics, Straits Settlements Annual Departmental Report For The Year 1930-1938).

Among the dominant social problems in Penang was the problem involves secret societies or triads. (Kim. 1972, p.3). These triads have been established since 1799 with plans to attack and confront the British rule. The earliest triads in Penang not only involved in rebellion against the government but also in assisting the Sultan of Ligor against the British. Assistance was given by the Hai San group through its head, Low Ah Chong to fight and protest the British administration.¹ There are seven organizations active in Penang in 1825, among them are Ghee Hin, Wah Seng, Hai San, Choong Chang, Wye Chow, Wah Yan, Keng San beginning from 1795 until 1801. (Comber, 1959, p.41). In the 19th century, a series of fights often took place in Singapore between triads in 1829, 1846, 1851, 1858, and 1867 in Penang. (Fadzil, 1970, p. 43) Riot in Penang is the most serious riot took place among the triads. It involved more than 30,000 Chinese and 4,000 Indians and Malays. The riots occurred because of the rivalry for economic opportunities such as opium, brothels and women trafficking. Such fighting, indirectly affecting the economic interests in Penang. After a series of riots and rebellion, the British began to realize a serious action must be taken against this triad problem. The British found that strict controls should be done to curtail the triad activities in Penang. Among the solutions that need to be taken to curb triads includes the effort to maintain security to overcome robbery and theft by triads, by improving crime control in Penang. Therefore the action of establishing a prison together with heavy punishment on the triads was done in order to curb the triad activities.

iii) Need for a Systematic Prison

The sharply increased criminal activities in Penang resulted in the British need for a more systematic prison for updating the records of prisoners. This is because before 1871 there were many prisoners who repeatedly sentenced to prison but the prison authorities have no record of them. Despite this the recognition of prisoners was relied on the memory of Prison Officers alone, and if the officer was transferred to another division or stops working, the prison authorities will not have any information on prisoners ((Azlizan Mat Enh & Siti Alwaliyah, 2017). In 1872, the Prisons Ordinance of 1872 introduced has strengthen the administration of the prison, thus the administration of Penang Prison has been arranged more systematically than Chowrasta Lines Prison with the provisions of special laws on prison affairs. The smooth and systematic implementation of the prison in turn will facilitate the process of handling the prison affairs. Prisoner Registration System was implemented through the Prisons Ordinance of 1872. Through the enforcement of the Prisons Ordinance it allows the registration process of each prisoner who have jailed to be recorded. (Legislative Council, The Acts And Ordinance Of The Straits Settlements Part II, 1886). Every prisoner who have been arrested and convicted o will be liable to imprisonment. Records and data will be stored in the prison authorities' keeping. This was done because there are habitual criminals who often go to jail because of not fearing of punishment. Therefore this Ordinance was established so that the information of prisoner's misconduct will be stored as a record in prison and to be sent to other states. (Department of Statistics, Ordinance To Amend And Consolidate The Law Relating To Prisons, And To The Custody Of Prisoners. 1872). In addition, in 1904, British had officially introduced the Prisoner Registration and Identification System which allows the information details of the inmates to be recorded. To implement this, the British ordered the cooperation between institutions of the prison and police. Thus the Federal Prison Inspector and Inspector General of Police of the Straits Settlement shall contact and cooperate with each other. (Prison Department, SPP No.2547, 1904) Through the introduction of this new system, a copy of the fingerprints of every prisoners will be stored to facilitate the process of the criminal records of prisoners. This allows ex-convicts be detected easily and effectively. (Selangor Secretariat Files, 3015/47. Malayan Union).

Through the provision in the Prisons Ordinance it also allows the task of overseeing habitual criminals who have completed their sentences to be carried out. But it was only for crimes with sentences not less than two years. It also includes crimes which death sentences were changed by the courts to imprisonment with heavy labour. The prisoners were at least declared by the courts twice to be under police surveillance for a period of three years or less. In the three years from his release, such criminals can be convicted under the Prevention of Crime Ordinance if they were proven to be involved with illegal activities, or conspiring with pother prisoners, then these criminals can be punished by imprisonment not exceeding one year. (Legislative Council, The Acts And Ordinance Of The Legislative Council Of The Straits Settlements,1867). The establishment of the Penang Prison shows the awareness and commitment of the British in their effort to address the arisen problems. This is because the Chowrasta Lines Prison administered previously had no systematic recording of prisoners and it is an old prison. In addition, the Chowrasta Lines Prison with its little and untrained prison staff, coupled with the small size of the prison has been difficult for the British government to implement new changes involving the introduction to a system of prisoners' updates. Through the establishment of the Penang Prison with its better architectural structure and better specifications as well as wider space than the Chowrasta Lines Prison it allows the British

government to run the administrative affairs of the prison in a more systematic manner. The act of establishing the Penang Prison is seen as able to solve this problem.

Efforts taken by the British is seen resultful despite not overall because it succeed in reduce the criminal activities in Penang. This can be seen by the decreasing numbers of prisoner in the Penang Prison for the year 1896-1899. The number of prisoners in the Penang Prison has decreased from 1896 until 1899. The admission rate of prisoners in 1899 decreased although it is not said to have solved the whole issue of crime. The introduction of Prison Ordinance of 1872 and its implementation in the new prison could be used as a guide of rules and regulations to be observed by the prisoners. The more systematic administration of prison through the Prisons Ordinance of 1872 in Penang Prison is aimed at improving the prison administration system to a better direction than before. (Legislative Council, Rules And Regulations Under Ordinance No XIV Of 1872, 1881)

iv) Prison Regulations

To carry out its role and responsibilities as a detention and rehabilitation institution, Penang Prisons Department is subject to the Ordinance and regulations approved by the Legislature of the Straits Settlements and the Federation. (Government Gazette, Straits Settlements, 1900, p.4). Starting in 1873, the Ordinance and these rules have been implemented indirectly which authorize the Penang Prison to carry out any aspect of punishment and certain rules. (Department of Statistics, Straits Settlements Report 1871, p.167). Aspect of the punishment and the rule of law has been enforced more neatly and organized through the Prisons Ordinance 1953 after the enforcement of the Prison Ordinance 1872. This prison Ordinance confirmed the task of Prison Officers can be carried out lawfully and appropriately. The role of the prison laws could control the peace of prison through the prison rules and discipline that have defined clearly and in detail. (Legislative Council, Ordinance To Amend And Consolidate The Law Relating To Prisons, 1872)

Through these rules it has laid the regulations as guidelines for the operation of prisons through the established laws. Before discussions to be made in details, emphasis should be stated that every implementation of the prison rules and discipline is subject to the stated Prisons Ordinance, hence all the implementations of law are binding and cannot be changed. To implement the powers conferred by the Prisons Ordinance, the British had made certain prison rules that must be followed either by prison staff or prisoners in jail. General principles of prison administration and also the application of the rules for prisoners have also been introduced. The custody and administration of prison are controlled by the Police Officer assigned depends on the power of the Chief of Police. Each District Police Officer assigned will be called Warder Officer who are responsible for ensuring the implementation of this regulation. The aim of implementing this prison rules is for the government to administer and manage the Penang Prison affairs more systematically and effectively. In carrying out the management of the prison administration, the British has determined every rules covering various aspects of prison. Prison regulations have set rules regarding the confinement of prisoners includes bed and segregation of prisoners class. Under this regulation it states that separation of prison cells of prisoners will be done according to gender. Moreover separations by type of offense, the age of the prisoner and the conviction status were also performed. In this case, female inmates will be handled by the female Warder, and there is even a prohibition against the male Police Officer to enter the prison cell unaccompanied by female Warder. Male and female prisoners should be completely separate from each other and should be locked up in a different building. (Straits Settlements Gazette 1939, Extract Of The Prison Regulations

1938, p. 2). Ward, cell, dormitory and a courtyard where female prisoners were confined should be locked with a key other than the one used to lock the wards, cells, dormitories and courtyard of the male prisoners. While for the young prisoners both male and female shall be housed separately from adult prisoners. A prisoner who declares himself above 21 years but in the opinion of the Prison Officers and Medical Officers are not, having regard to the character, body language and their background, classified with adult prisoners, should be treated as a young prisoner. Every prisoner shall be confined at night in the cells, dormitories or separate wards which have been certified by the Medical Officer. If necessary for special reasons, the Director may allow confinement of not more than three prisoners in a cell. (Legislative Council, C.O 273/272 File 9321, 1901, p.8)

This is because the aim of every aspect of prisoner's segregation was done to isolate prisoners from other prisoners due to criminal records or their negative behavior that will likely bring a bad influence on other prisoners. In addition, it also aims to divide prisoners by classes to facilitate their treatment so that they can undergo social rehabilitation. Admission of prisoners after knowing their background and personality such as individual needs, physical abilities and natural tendencies allow the prison authorities ready for any possible breaches of prison discipline rules such as those involve chaos and riots to happen. Implementation of regulations that emphasize the separation allows the monitoring of prison rules and discipline being constantly monitored by Prison Officers. This indirectly facilitate the implementation of the rules and discipline of the prison as the surveillance of prisoner's security can be carried out smoothly and more systematically in order to prevent any violation of prison rules and discipline.

v) Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

Rights is a necessary need emphasized by the British. Prisoners are entitled to be treated justly, fairly, and be respected as individuals, therefore the British had set the rules for their treatment. While imprisonment restricts their freedom but they are entitled to have a certain norm of life in prison. Prison regulations have set the treatment to prisoners in various aspects such as the regulation of settlements and clothing, clarification on the use of facilities, food, food inspection, food restrictions, workouts, strict prohibition against tobacco and liquor, time to rest, time to work, and facilities of settlement and clothing. Prison officials can determine what equipment or facilities that can be placed in a cell or dormitory. But the prisoner shall be provided with bedding approved by the Director General of Prisons. Even gloves sheets given to the prisoners will also be washed and changed at least once a month. Additional bedding can be supplied in special circumstances on the recommendation of the Medical Officer. (Legislative Council, Rules And Regulations Under Ordinance No.XIV Of 1872, For The Guidance Of All Persons Concerned In The Care And Management Of Prisons And Prisoners In The Straits Settlements, p.10).

Clarification on the use of the facilities is also provided to prisoners through the information printed in easily visible places. A summary printed in English, Malay, Chinese, Tamil stating the rights and facilities of convicts will be hanged in prison cell doors. This summary touches on the right to see a friend or even a lawyer, gets bail, as well as descriptions of medical assistance. This statement was also read to the prisoners who cannot read within twenty-four hours after his admission and once every three months afterwards. (Prison Department, SPP 606/52, Ogos.1952). In addition, regulation of food in terms of prisoners' food whether convicted or not convicted shall be in accordance with the scale of the diet described in the First Schedule or any other diet scale under the Prison Act 1953. (Legislative

Council, League Of Nations. Penal And Penitentiary Questions. Report Submitted By The Fifth Committee To The Assembly, 1934. p.6). Prisoners who charged with Penalty Diet will be given the menu of Penalty Diet, while the prisoners given Standard Diet will get the menu of Standard Food. In terms of exercise, the estimates should be made as far as practicable for each prisoner, unless exempted by the Medical Officer on medical grounds. Exercise can also be done as long as it does not violate the terms of prison security and discipline. Similarly, the regulations stipulate strict prohibition against tobacco, liquor and others. In this case none of the prisoners are allowed to smoke, drink alcohol, or food that was intoxicating except in accordance with any order as assigned by the Medical Officer. (Legislative Council, Standard Minimum Rules For The Treatment Of Prisoners, Disciplinary Punishment, 1934). In Penang Prison, a record of the daily work of all prisoners shall be kept. Medical Officer will provide each inmate jobs best suited to the prisoner, the main consideration is to provide appropriate vocational training in line with the penalties, interests, capabilities and material resources and equipment of the prison. (Straits Settlements Police Forces, IPO. 601/38, 1938).

CONCLUSION

Penang Prison was instrumental to the British administration of economy because the prison is seen as among the prison that experienced relatively fast industrial growth compared to other prisons through its prison program. The program contributed to the British income through inflow of revenue from the increase in the prison goods products especially in 1952. The practice of using convict labor are also likely had saved the British administrative expenses in overcoming the labor shortage by to build roads and government projects. Density and overcrowding has made the security aspects of prisoners become an important element in the Penang prison administration. Segregation System Initiative was implemented aimed at preventing the negative influence of prisoners with criminal records from influencing other inmates in the prison other than to avoid the fighting and unrest among the inmates. Aspects of security control has also been improved through initiatives to increase prison staff through the Public Service Commission to increase the number of security guards and warders to enhance control. The introduction of Prisons Ordinance of 1872 through the Charter of Justice was a British initiative to streamline the administration of Penang prison. Enforcement of this act, even in the early stages of contained many flaws, but it's been tuned in stages. It strives to be clear guidelines for the prison to be applied across the board to ensure the success and effectiveness of the rules and discipline of the prison. The role of British law is very important, especially against the Penang prison security system as it seeks to enhance the safety of the Penang Prison through control and close care. The law-abiding attitude of the prisoners are also seen to help prisoners to lead a more orderly and disciplined life. In addition, it also allows the human rights of prisoners carried out according to the terms of justice without any repression as an important instrument which serves to contain the rebellion and violent acts in order for the prison and security control systems continue to be preserved and maintained.

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