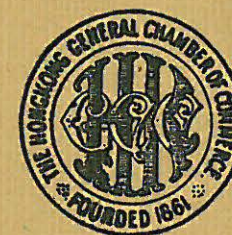


E POSTAGE PAID HONG KONG PORT PAYE	PERMIT NO. 2830
---	-----------------------

優惠級

↑
UNSEALED ARTICLE - May be opened for postal inspection
Lift flap to examine contents to re-fasten press down firmly



Hong Kong
General Chamber of Commerce
Report
For The Year
1895

REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE
OF THE
HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
FOR THE
Year ending 31st December, 1895,
PRESENTED TO THE MEMBERS
AT THE
ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 13th MAY, 1896.

HONGKONG:
PRINTED BY NORONHA & Co., Nos. 5, 7, & 9, ZETLAND STREET.
1896.

CONTENTS.

	<i>Page.</i>
Committee and Sub-Committees :—	
Members, &c., of the Chamber,	5
Rules and Regulations of the Chamber,	7
By-Laws of the Chamber,	8
Scale of Commissions and Brokerages,	10
Tariff of Brokerages,	11
Minutes of Yearly Meeting of the Members,	13
Annual Report of the Committee :—	
Fog Signalling at Gap Rock,	3
Reported threatened position of Foreign Residents in Formosa,	10
Treaty between China and Japan,	12
The New Treaty between England and Japan,	13
Ordinance No. 16 of 1873 : An Ordinance to provide for the Registration of Trade Marks,	16
Quarantine Regulations,	21
Opening of the West River,	25
Proposed Reconstruction of Gap Rock Lighthouse,	35
Proposed enforced Use of Official Telegraph Vocabulary,	38
Sunday Cargo-Working Ordinance. Exemption of certain Mail Steamers,	46
Transit Passes and Obstruction to Sale of Goods at Wuchow,	47
An Ordinance to protect in certain cases rights of property in Telegraph Messages,	61
Camphor Contracts,	63
Preferential Duties granted on Junk-carried Cargo,	66
Navy League,	66
Coinage of a British Dollar and action taken against "Chopping" of same, ...	68
Inadequate Wharf Accommodation,	73
Chamber's Representatives at the third Chambers of Commerce Congress 1896,	76
Postal Arrangements in view of New Contracts,	80
Alteration in Hour of Departure homeward of French Mail,	84
Chinkiang Chamber of Commerce,	87
Telegraph Rates,	88
The Coolie Strike,	94
Sir Claude MacDonald and the Chamber of Commerce,	118
The proposed Reconstruction of the Sanitary Board,	124
Committee,	5
Members,	5
Finance,	35
Quotations of Exchange, Bar Silver, Sycee, Mexican Dollars, Gold Bar, Gold Leaf, and Telegraphic Transfers, during the Year 1895,	131
The Harbour Master's Report for 1895,	134
The Postmaster General's Report for 1895,	148

COMMITTEE, 1896.

A. McCONACHIE, Esq., <i>Chairman.</i>	N. J. EDE, Esq.
HERBERT SMITH, Esq., <i>Vice-Chairman.</i>	T. JACKSON, Esq.
HON. J. J. BELL-IRVING.	St. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.
G. B. DODWELL, Esq.	N. A. SIEBS, Esq.
HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD.	

ARBITRATION COMMITTEE, 1896.

HON. J. J. BELL-IRVING.	N. A. SIEBS, Esq.
St. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.	HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD.
G. B. DODWELL, Esq.	

CORRESPONDING COMMITTEE, 1896.

A. McCONACHIE, Esq.	N. J. EDE, Esq.
T. JACKSON, Esq.	HERBERT SMITH, Esq.

LIST OF MEMBERS, 1896.

MESSRS. ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co.	JOSEPH, E. H., Esq.
" BELILIOS & Co.	MESSRS. LAI HING HONG.
" BENJAMIN, KELLY & POTTS.	" LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.
" BLACKHEAD & Co.	" LAUTS, WEGENER & Co.
" BRADLEY & Co.	" LINSTEAD & DAVIS.
" BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.	LOXLEY, W. R., Esq.
BYRAMJEE, B., Esq.	MCKIE, JAMES, Esq.
MESSRS. CALDBECK, MACGREGOR & Co.	MESSRS. MELCHERS & Co.
" CARLOWITZ & Co.	" MEYER & Co.
" CAWASJEE, PALANJEE & Co.	" MEYERINK, WM., & Co.
CHATER, HON. C. P.	" MING KEE HONG.
COXON, ATWELL, Esq.	" MODY & Co.
MESSRS. DAVID, S. J., & Co.	MODY, H. N., Esq.
DEACON, VICTOR H., Esq.	NOBLE, DR. J. W.
MESSRS. DODWELL, CARLILL & Co.	RAY, E. C., Esq.
" DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.	MESSRS. REISS & Co.
ED. ROBINSON, Esq.	RENNIE, A. H., Esq.
EWENS, CREASY, Esq.	MESSRS. REUTER, BRÖCKELMANN & Co.
FRANCIS, J. J., Esq., Q.C.	" SANDER & Co.
MESSRS. GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.	" SASSOON, DAVID, SONS & Co.
GILLIES, D., Esq.	" SASSOON, E. D., & Co.
MESSRS. GILMAN & Co.	SHARP, G., Esq.
" HARLING, BUSCHMANN & MENZELL.	MESSRS. SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.
" HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.	" SIEMSEN & Co.
HOLMES, H. J., Esq.	SMITH, A. FINDLAY, Esq.
HO TUNG, Esq.	STEWART, G., Esq.
MESSRS. HUGHES & HOUGH.	MESSRS. STOLTERFOHT & HAGAN.
HUTCHISON, J. D., Esq.	" TATA & Co.
MESSRS. J. D. HUMPHREYS & SON.	" TURNER & Co.
" W. G. HUMPHREYS & Co.	VERNON, J. Y. V., Esq.
" JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.	WICKING, HARRY, Esq.
MESSRS. JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER.	MESSRS. WY SING HONG.
	" YUEN FAT HONG.

LIST OF MEMBERS,—*Continued.*

PUBLIC COMPANIES.

THE BANK OF CHINA AND JAPAN, LIMITED.	THE HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.
THE BANQUE DE L'INDO-CHINE.	THE HONGKONG LAND INVEST- MENT & AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED.
THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.	THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.
THE CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.	THE MESSAGERIES MARITIMES Co.
THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COM- PANY, LIMITED.	THE MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA.
THE CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.	THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.
THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA & CHINA.	THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
THE HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAM-BOAT COMPANY, LD.	THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.
THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.	THE SPERRY FLOUR COMPANY OF SAN FRANCISCO.
THE HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN COM- PANY, LIMITED.	THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF NEW YORK.
THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.	THE UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

I. That the Society be styled THE HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

II. That the object of the Chamber shall be to watch over and protect the general interests of Commerce, to collect information on all matters of interest to the Mercantile Community, and to use every means within its power for the removal of evils, the redress of grievances, and the promotion of the common good; to communicate with Authorities and others thereupon; to form a code of practice, whereby the transaction of business may be simplified and facilitated; to receive references, and to arbitrate between disputants—the decisions in such reference to be recorded for future guidance.

III. That all Mercantile Firms and persons engaged or interested in the Trade of China shall be eligible for admission as Members in the manner hereafter described, and on payment of \$50 for Firms, and \$15 for single individuals for the current year, and a like Annual Subscription, payable in advance on 1st January.

IV. That candidates for admission proposed by one Member and seconded by another shall be elected at the yearly Meeting by a majority of votes of the Members then present, or in the interval, by the Committee, subject to confirmation at the next ensuing General Meeting.

V. That voting by Proxy, or by Members whose Subscriptions are in arrear, be not allowed, and that not more than one Member of the same Firm be allowed to vote on the same occasion.

VI. That in the absence from the Colony of all the Partners in a Firm, their Representative by Power of Attorney shall be entitled to vote.

VII. That any Member may be expelled from the Chamber on the proposition of the Committee communicated to all the Members, and considered at a General Meeting, provided that not fewer than two-thirds of those present vote for the expulsion.

VIII. That any number of Members not less than 10 shall be held to constitute a General Meeting called in conformity with the rules of the Chamber, whether yearly or special.

IX. That the Business and Funds of the Chamber be managed by a Committee of Nine Members, consisting of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Seven Members, to be elected annually, at the yearly General Meeting of the Chamber. Four to form a quorum, and the Chairman in case of equality to have the casting vote in addition to his own.

X. That the Committee shall meet at least once a month, on such day as may be fixed for the transaction of business, and at other times when summoned by the Chairman, or in his absence by the Vice-Chairman. The proceedings to be laid on the table for the inspection of Members, subject to such regulations as the Committee may deem expedient. In cases of the non-attendance of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, a Chairman to be chosen by the Members present.

XI. That in case of a vacancy in the Committee, it shall be filled up *pro tempore* by the Committee until the next General Meeting: and that they have the power to appoint a Sub-Committee from their own number for any purpose whatever.

XII. That a paid Secretary be elected by the Committee, such election to be subject to confirmation at the next ensuing General Meeting.

XIII. That the Annual General Meeting of the Chamber shall be held in the month of February (or as soon thereafter as may be found convenient) of each year; and that Special Meetings shall be called by the Chairman, or in his absence by the Vice-Chairman, on the requisition of any Five Members of the Chamber, to be held within ten days subsequent to the receipt of such requisition.

XIV. That all important questions affecting the Trade of the Port, and its Political or Commercial relations with the Empire of China or with other States, may be discussed at the Yearly General Meeting or Special General Meeting for that purpose convened, in the manner provided for by Rule XIII.

XV. That the Committee be empowered to frame By-laws, which shall at once come into force, but must be presented for confirmation at the next ensuing General Meeting of the Chamber; and being so confirmed, shall be equally binding with these Rules upon all Members.

XVI. That the Funds of the Chamber shall be paid into one of the Banks under an account to be opened by the Committee, and that all Cheques shall be signed by the Secretary to the Chamber, countersigned by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, or in their absence by one of the Committee; that all disbursements shall be sanctioned by the Committee at their ordinary Meetings, and that an account shall be audited by two Members of the Chamber and laid before the yearly General Meeting.

XVII. That a yearly Report of the proceedings be prepared, and, after being approved at a General Meeting, printed and circulated.

XVIII. That the above Rules be added to or altered only by a majority of the Members of the Chamber present at a General Meeting, ten days' notice having been given of the proposed alteration.

XIX. That the foregoing Rules be printed, and an authenticated copy, subscribed by each Member on admission, be kept as part of the records of the Chamber.

BY-LAWS.

I. The Office shall be open daily from Noon to 1 o'clock P.M., when the Secretary shall be in attendance, and ready to communicate with any Member requiring information or access to the Records of the Chamber.

II. The Secretary shall attend all Meetings (including those of the Arbitration Committee, if required), keep a journal of all proceedings, take charge of all documents, keep the accounts of the Chamber, collect Statistics, prepare Statements of Trade, conduct and keep copies of correspondence, and attend to such other duties as may be required by the Committee.

III. All Communications shall be received and answered through the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or Secretary.

IV. No documents belonging to the Chamber shall be removed during Office hours, nor shall any minute of its proceedings be made public without an order of the Committee.

V. Notice of any proposition or business to be laid before the yearly General Meeting, or any Special Meeting, shall be given to the Secretary at least forty-eight hours before the Meeting, who, in the circular calling such Meeting, will state the business or proposition, and by whom to be brought forward.

VI. The means to provide a suitable Establishment, and to defray expenses in addition to the Subscriptions fixed by Rule 3, shall be raised in the following manner:—By the sale of Statements of Trade, by fees on Arbitration and References, by fees for certified copies of the Records and other Documents in the Archives of the Chamber, and by voluntary gifts and contributions either in money, maps, books, or anything which may be useful to the Institution.

VII. The Committee shall appoint every year five from their number, three of whom in regular succession shall be the Acting Committee, to decide on all cases submitted to the Arbitration of the Chamber, whose functions shall continue so long as any business brought before them during their period of service is undecided.

VIII. The Members of the Arbitration Committee shall be entitled to a Fee of not less than \$5, and not more than \$20 each, and the Chamber to a Fee (in addition) of not less than \$10, and not more than \$100, on every case submitted to the arbitration of the Chamber. The amount to be regulated by the Arbitration Committee, according to the importance of the case and the time occupied therein, subject to an appeal to the General Committee, whose decision on the amount shall be final.

IX. The Disputants in an Arbitration case shall be held to guarantee the fees jointly and severally to the Chamber.

X. The Arbitration Committee shall appoint its own Chairman and confine its functions to cases when its intervention or advice is requested, and on no occasion shall it proceed with any case unless all the parties subscribe a Bond making the award a Rule of the Supreme Court. Printed forms of such Bonds legally prepared, shall be kept for the information of Members who may have occasion to resort to the Chamber for Arbitration: and the Committee shall not arbitrate upon, nor take any cognizance of, any dispute whatever, unless one of the parties interested therein be a Member of the Chamber.

XI. That in the event of any question as to the construction or application of these By-Laws, the General Committee shall have power to decide the same, submitting the matter to the next General Meeting of the Chamber for its final decision.

SCALE OF COMMISSIONS AND BROKERAGES

*adopted by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
at the half-yearly Meeting held on April 30th, 1872.*

COMMISSIONS.

Purchasing or selling Tea, Raw Silk, and Cotton,	3	per cent.
" any of above, if as returns for Goods sold,	2½	"
" or selling Opium,	2	"
" or selling all other Goods and Produce, Ships }	5	"
and Real Estate,	1	"
" and selling Shares or Stocks,	1	"
Inspecting Tea or Silk,	1	"
Guaranteeing Sales,	2½	"
" Remittances,	1	"
Drawing or endorsing Bills of Exchange,	1	"
" or negotiating Bills of Exchange without recourse,	1	"
Purchasing or realising Bullion or Bills of Exchange,	1	"
Remitting the Proceeds of Bullion or Bills of Exchange,	2	"
Paying and receiving Money in Current Account,	1	"
" Ship's Disbursements,	2½	"
Collecting Freight,	2½	"
Obtaining Freight or Charter,	5	"
" " or " and collecting same Freight,	6	"
Adjusting Insurance Claims on Amount Recovered,	2½	"
Effecting Insurance, on the Insured Amount,	1	"
Prosecuting or defending successfully Claims, either at Law }	5	"
or by Arbitration,	2½	"
Prosecuting or defending unsuccessfully,	5	"
Managing Estates and collecting Rents,	5	"
Transshipping and forwarding Jewellery, and Bullion,	1	"
Forwarding or transshipping Cargo,	1	"
Transshipping or forwarding Opium,	\$2	per chest.
Goods withdrawn or re-shipped,	½	Commission.
Granting Letters of Credit,	1	per cent.
For doing ship's business when no inward or outward Com- }	20	cents per
mission is earned,	1	Register ton.
The conversion into Hongkong currency of sterling freight inward to Hong-		
kong, payable in Hongkong, shall, unless otherwise stipulated, be made		
at the rate for Bank Bills on London payable on demand; and the rate		
ruling at the close of a mail shall be the rate applicable to such purpose		
during the subsequent week.		

BROKERAGES.

Bills and Bullion,	½	per cent.	Payable by Seller.
Produce & General Merchandise,	2	"	"
Fire Arms,	1	"	"
For negotiating and completing Charters }	1	"	by Ship.
and procuring Freight,	1	"	"

TARIFF OF BROKERAGES

To be charged to Buyer and Seller.

ADOPTED BY

THE STOCKBROKERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG.

23rd March, 1892.

BANKS—		MINING—	
China, Japan, & Straits, Ltd.	15c.	Balmoral Gold	25c.
Do. Founders' ... \$5		Charbonnages	\$2.50.
Hongkong & Shanghai	50c.	Imuris	10c.
National Bank of China, Ltd.	25c.	Jebeu	10c.
Do. Founders' ... \$5		Punjom	10c.
New Oriental	50c.	Raub.	10c.
DEBENTURES—		Selama	10c.
Chinese Loan '84 C.		Do.	10c.
Chinese Loan '86 E.		Société Française des Houil-	
Hongkong Hotel Co. 6 ½%	1 ½%	lères de Tourane	50c.
H.K. & Kowloon Wharf 5 ½%		HOTELS—	
China Merchants 7 ½%		Austin Arms	25c.
Charbonnages 8 ½%		Hongkong Hotel	50c.
Green Island 8 ½%		Hongkong Hotel, New Issue ...	25c.
INSURANCES—		Shamcen	10c.
Canton	50c.	MISCELLANEOUS—	
China Fire	50c.	Brown & Co., H. G.	50c.
China Traders'	50c.	Campbell, Moore & Co.	10c.
Hongkong Fire	\$1	China Borneo	25c.
North China	\$1	China Sugar	50c.
Singapore	25c.	Cruickshank & Co.	25c.
Straits Fire	25c.	Dairy Farm Co.	10c.
Straits Marine	25c.	Dakin & Co., Limited	
Union	50c.	Fenwick & Co., Geo.	10c.
Yangtze	50c.	Green Island Cement	25c.
LAND & BUILDING—		Hongkong Brick & Cement ...	10c.
H.K. Land Investment	50c.	Hongkong & China Bakery ...	50c.
Kowloon Land Investment	25c.	Hongkong & China Gas	50c.
Peak Building	10c.	Hongkong Electric	10c.
Humphreys' Estate	50c.	Hongkong H.-L. Tramways ...	50c.
West Point Building	50c.	Hongkong Ice	50c.
STEAMSHIP COMPANIES—		Hongkong & K. Wharf & G. ...	50c.
China Mutuals	50c.	Hongkong Rope	50c.
China & Manila	50c.	Hongkong & Wpoa. Dock	50c.
Douglas S.S. Co.	50c.	Labuk Planting	25c.
Hongkong, Canton, & Macao ...	25c.	Luzon Sugar	50c.
Indo-China S. Navigation	50c.	Wanchai Warehouse & S. Co. ...	50c.
Steam Launch	10c.	Watson & Co., A. S.	15c.

N.B.—All Stocks Market Value \$1 and under as follows:—

\$1 and not under 50 cents.	10	cents per Share.
\$0.50 cents and not under 25 cents.	5	cents per Share.
\$0.25 cents and under	2½	cents per Share.

*MINUTES of the Yearly General Meeting of the HONGKONG
GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, held on the 13th May,
1896, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Committee
and passing the Secretary's Accounts for the year ending
31st December, 1895.*

Present:—

Mr. A. McCONACHIE (Chairman), N. J. EDE, T. JACKSON, St. C. MICHAELSEN, N. A. SIEBS, HERBERT SMITH, Honourable T. H. WHITEHEAD (Committee), R. C. WILCOX (Secretary), G. B. DODWELL, Honourable E. R. BELILIOS, Honourable C. P. CHATER, C. S. SHARP, A. COXON, A. ROSS, D. R. SASSOON, R. INGLIS, G. W. F. PLAYFAIR, A. SHELTON HOOPER, G. H. WHEELER, G. T. VEITCH, D. GILLIES, J. H. GARRELS, G. L. TOMLIN, H. A. RITCHIE, J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., E. OSBORNE, J. D. HUTCHISON, J. Y. V. VERNON, GRANVILLE SHARP, R. L. RICHARDSON, W. R. LOXLEY, F. MAITLAND, T. ARNOLD, HART BUCK, W. WHILEY, G. STEWART, H. N. MODY, H. WICKING, S. D. SETHNA, K. FUKUI, H. E. TOMKINS, M. D. EZEKIEL, N. K. ANTIA, Ho FOOK, MING KEE, WY SHING, &c.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The minutes of the last yearly meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—If the year covered by the Report now laid before you has been rather less eventful than some of its predecessors, there have been several important questions which during its course have claimed and received our attention. We cannot boast, perhaps, of having actually secured any important commercial concessions in China: but at any rate we have managed to get some matters advanced a stage. If we have not been in the proud position to command success we have at least sought to deserve it. The past year has seen a considerable revival in trade and a very general improvement in local stocks and undertakings, which gives promise of permanency. In 1895 we escaped visitation by the bubonic plague in epidemic form, and began to hope that the disease had been in some measure brought under control, but its recrudescence this spring has re-imposed upon Hongkong the evils inseparable from being treated as an in-

fectured port. It is to be hoped, however, that the disease will soon pass away, and such measures of sanitation taken in the City of Victoria as will effectually prevent its re-appearance. It is of the utmost importance to the progress and welfare of the colony that the port shall be kept free from epidemics, which not only act disastrously on the health of the population but tend to cripple its trade and impair its prosperity. Turning to the questions dealt with in the report, I will not detain you by referring to them all and will pass over those to which nothing new of interest can at present be added.

I understand, as regards the Gap Rock Signalling, that as a matter of fact two guns have been mounted at the Rock, and from the 1st January last one has been fired during foggy weather every ten minutes and the result has been most favourably reported on by shipmasters. In connection with the reconstruction of the Lighthouse I can only hope that some sound opinion will be obtained, and I trust it may yet be found that such a costly work is not necessary. (Applause.)

The omission pointed out by Messrs Gibb, Livingston & Co. in the Trade Marks Ordinances has since been rectified by the passing in August last by the Legislative Council of an Act to amend the Trade Marks Ordinances Nos. 16 of 1873 and 8 of 1886.

You will notice that your Committee has continued agitating in the matter of the proposed enforced use of the official Telegraph Code Vocabulary, and it is to be hoped that some solution satisfactory to all parties will be arrived at by the convention fixed to meet during the current year. Closely connected with this subject is the cost of telegrams, and you will observe that the present high rates not only between this Colony, India and Europe, but also locally with Japan and the Straits have formed the subject of considerable correspondence, with the result that the tariff on local traffic has been reconsidered and the rates to countries south of the Colony will be reduced at once, and hopes are held out that a modification of those between here and Japan may also shortly follow.

The community generally are much indebted to the acting agent here and the Directors in Paris of the Messageries Maritimes for the prompt and courteous consideration given to the opinion of the Chamber against the alteration, early this year, of the hours of departure of the French Mail from noon to ten o'clock a.m. This practically involved closing our mails the previous night, and was most inconvenient.

Turning to an old and much-worn question, I may call it a time-honoured grievance, that of official obstruction to transit passes in South China, I am glad to say that we have at least advanced a point. We have, through the action of the officials at Wuchow-fu this spring, in the case of Mr. JOHN ANDREW, obtained incontrovertible proof of the manner in which the Treaty stipulations with regard to trade, under Transit Pass, are set at naught in South China. Hitherto, while the fact of official hostility to this privilege was notorious, it had been difficult to furnish proof; but the conduct of the Prefect of Wuchow in refusing to reassure the native merchants by issuing a proclamation sanctioning the purchase of Mr. ANDREW's cargo, and, when at length compelled to issue such proclamation, rendering it nugatory by stating that the duty would be levied on the goods after their transference to the buyer, afforded convincing evidence of their determination to render the treaty a dead letter. The Acting British Consul at Canton took up the case vigorously, and this Chamber, on becoming acquainted with the facts, pressed the matter on the attention of the Foreign Minister and of H. B. M.'s Chargé d'Affaires at Peking, both by telegram and by letter, with the result that careful consideration has been promised, and we are assured that "Her Majesty's Government are pressing the Chinese Government to carry out the spirit of their Treaty obligations in regard to the Transit Pass system." With this assurance from Lord Salisbury, we must for the present rest satisfied.

Within the last few days, as you are aware, a statement has been telegraphed out by Renter to the effect that after the coronation of the Czar, His Excellency Li Hung Chang intends visiting the Courts of the various treaty ports partly with a view of obtaining an increase of from five to eight per cent. *ad valorem* of the import duties levied on foreign goods at the treaty ports of China. Now, gentlemen, I am sure you will agree with me that this will raise a very important question. I think that before entertaining any proposals the British Government (and indeed all the Foreign Governments interested) will submit them first to the various Chambers of Commerce in China and to this Chamber. For my part I do not see how any proposal to raise the tariff can be considered for a moment unless it were to consolidate all the import and lekin duties into one, after payment of which the goods would be free to any part of the Empire. Then there would be the question of guarantee. We should want some very sufficient guarantee that this stipulation would be observed. Can this guarantee be obtained? I feel sure

this important matter will receive the careful attention of your new Committee.

Another question, somewhat closely associated with the foregoing, is the much-agitated proposal for the opening of the West River. The Chamber has, during the past year, continued to carefully nurse this important question, and if we are to credit the published statements in London papers, the Chinese Government has at last assented to the principle, but the negotiations now proceeding are to settle the ports and places to be opened to trade. I trust that Her Majesty's Government will not rest satisfied with the mere opening of the so-called West River only; but will ask the Chinese Government to include the North River also in the inland waters of South China to be opened to foreign trade and steamer navigation. The negotiations in London are in good hands, Mr. CURZON, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who has undertaken the conduct of them, being thoroughly posted in East Asian questions; and he has the China Association to appeal to in any matters of detail. Let us hope that we shall see this privilege accorded before the close of the current year.

The preferential duties granted on junk-carried cargoes has again been brought to the attention of the Foreign Office, but little progress has been made with this question. It is to be hoped that it may be included in the negotiations in reference to transit passes.

Early in April last, the arrival of Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, the new British Minister to China, on his way through to take up his post at Peking, afforded the Committee an opportunity for an interchange of views with His Excellency, who, in reply to an address, gave some acceptable assurances of the progress of negotiations on the various subjects brought to his notice, and left a pleasant impression on our minds that he had our commercial interests thoroughly at heart.

As you are aware, from the published correspondence, the Government recently addressed a letter to the Chamber inquiring whether its opinion on the subject of the Sanitary Board remains the same as that expressed in the letters of Mr. J. J. KESWICK, the then Chairman, dated 19th October and 12th November, 1894, and by the member then representing the Chamber in Council; also whether Mr. WHITEHEAD had received any mandate from the British Members of the Chamber to oppose the views pronounced by the Retrenchment Committee, Mr. KESWICK and myself. To this we have returned a reply to the Governor to the effect that if His Excellency wishes

an expression of opinion on the subject it would, in order to be final, be necessary to take the opinions of all the members. For my own part, I can only say, I strongly deprecate the Chamber, which should remain a purely commercial body, being mixed up with political or municipal matters. (Hear, hear, and Applause.)

There is one question which, although it has not formed the subject of correspondence, has not been lost sight of by the Committee. I allude to the additional light dues imposed on shipping in this free port. These were first levied to pay for the construction and lighting of Gap Rock lighthouse, and a pledge was given by the then Governor (Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX) that they should cease when the object for which they were imposed had been attained. That term has expired, but the light dues continue to be levied. It is, I am aware, a temptation to a Government to continue a convenient impost, especially when its finances are not in too flourishing a condition; but when a pledge has been given it ought to be punctually and honourably redeemed. (Applause.) There is also another question involved of the highest importance to this port. The tonnage is attracted hither, in no small degree, by the freedom from the dues of all kinds which in some ports form so heavy a burden on vessels. I hope we shall not only firmly maintain that freedom, but that we shall likewise succeed in ridding ships of the light dues, thus again making the port absolutely free. (Applause.)

Any intention or device calculated to lessen the perils which are inseparably connected with the sea must naturally excite interest and arrest attention, and the man who succeeds in minimising the risk to life to those who, either in pursuit of their vocation or who take passage on steamers, travel thereon will merit the blessings of his fellow-men. In January last those interested in shipping were afforded an opportunity of hearing, in this room, an interesting address by Admiral MAKAROFF, of the Imperial Russian Navy, in which he very clearly described an invention devised by himself for minimising the effects of collisions at sea. The importance of such a device as that described by the gallant officer, received melancholy and striking illustration the other day by the terrible loss of life in the collision between two steamers at the mouth of the Woosung River. I am not prepared to say that the Admiral's invention of a false nose (had the striking vessel possessed one) would have averted the entire effect of the collision, but it would probably have lessened the sad results thereof.

I am glad to be able to announce that at the forthcoming third congress of

the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire to be held in London, this Chamber will be represented by Messrs. W. KESWICK, E. MACKINTOSH, and A. G. WOOD, all of whom have been most intimately associated with it in the past, having each of them in turn presided over its meetings and worked on the Committee. They are well posted in all questions affecting the commercial interests of the Colony, and will no doubt be able to speak with authority on any matter connected with the Far East.

Although the inconvenience and loss occasioned by the coolie strike in the spring of last year have now ceased to trouble us, the lessons taught by that incident ought not to be forgotten, and it will be well to be prepared for any recurrence of the labour trouble by making ourselves more independent of one class of labour. It is stated by the British Consul at Amoy that an ample supply of labour can be procured from that port at any time, but the coolies would require a guarantee of permanent employment, and would also demand assurance of protection from incensed Cantonese labourers. Amoy, however, is not the only place from which a labour supply can be procured. I imagine that it is obtainable both from India and Japan.

Coming to matters personally connected with the Chamber, I have to record the return of Mr. WHITEHEAD, the nominee in the Legislative Council of this Chamber, who resumed his seat in that assembly in August last. There have been few changes in the Committee during the past year. In July last, Mr. DOUGLAS JONES left for Shanghai, and Mr. EDE, who had returned to the Colony, was asked to resume his old place on the Committee. On the departure of Mr. GRAY recently, Mr. HERBERT SMITH was invited to fill the vacancy. The Chamber has only lost two members during the year, and I am glad to say a number of new members have been elected, and their election will require confirmation from you to-day. By the resignation, at the commencement of the year, of Mr. FULLARTON HENDERSON, the Chamber have lost a tried and able secretary, whose experience in China and business capacity peculiarly fitted him for the effective discharge of the somewhat onerous and occasionally difficult duties. Those duties were, as you know, always discharged with the greatest credit to himself. (Applause.) His place has been filled by Mr. R. C. WILCOX, who also brings to bear a lengthy experience and intimate knowledge of the Colony to the work.

One more subject remains for me to touch upon, and on this I shall not detain you long. I refer to the financial position of the Chamber. You will observe that again our expenditure unfortunately exceeds our income; the

difference on the year's working being \$1,126.41 which, added to the \$1,876.96 short on the working of the previous year, reduces our former reserve fund of \$5,250 to \$2,509.13. This is not a healthy state of finance, and unless new members come forward and add to our revenue by their subscriptions, some other means must soon be found by which income and expenditure can be balanced. With these remarks, I beg to move the adoption of the report and the passing of the accounts. (Applause.)

Mr. INGLIS—I have very much pleasure, Mr. CHAIRMAN, in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. DODWELL—Before putting the adoption of the report and accounts to the meeting, Mr. CHAIRMAN, have you any answer from the Government to your letter on the Sanitary Board?

The CHAIRMAN—No.

Mr. DODWELL—No reply?

The CHAIRMAN—No.

Mr. DODWELL—Can you tell us how you dissociate the Chamber politically and commercially?

The CHAIRMAN—I spoke in the first person.

Mr. DODWELL—I presume you speak for the Committee?

The CHAIRMAN—I am speaking in the first person.

Mr. DODWELL—The Chamber, as originally constituted, is a commercial body, but it has political privileges, one being the appointment of a member to the Legislative Council. Such being the case, I do not see how you can dissociate the two.

The CHAIRMAN—What I had in my mind is this. If you, for instance, introduce such a question as the constitution of the Sanitary Board you introduce to this Chamber the elements of discord at once, and it would be fatal to its interests in future. That is what I had in my mind when I wrote out this paragraph. The rule under which members come is this. Rule 14 reads, Mr. DODWELL:—"That all important questions affecting the trade of the port, and its political and commercial relations with the Empire of China or with other States, may be discussed at the yearly general meeting provided for that purpose in the manner of Rule 13." Under that Rule, if it has a bearing on the commerce—

Mr. DODWELL—The health of the port I take it, and surely it has a very great bearing on the commercial relations of the port, and for that reason

I think the matter of the Sanitary Board should be taken up by the Chamber of Commerce.

The CHAIRMAN—Do you wish to propose an amendment?

Mr. DODWELL—No; I am simply making a remark.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD said—Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—The remarks I have to make are not very long. The annual report now before you shews, I think, that Hongkong has business men, able and willing to give their spare time, their energy, and experience to the promotion of public as distinguished from private interests, and it is, I submit, a creditable record of work done. I can speak from experience that in India the Chambers of Commerce, on commercial matters, are frequently and continuously consulted by the Government. Through such institutions, those at the head of affairs are enabled the more accurately to feel the pulse of the country on any particular question which may arise, and can thus legislate more in accordance with actual requirements. The presence of the Governor of the Presidency at the annual meeting of the Bombay Chamber in February last was evidence of the estimate Lord SANDHURST places upon the Chamber's value. I hope the Colonial Government will avail itself more freely in the future of this Chamber's services in matters affecting trade and commerce than it has done in the past. If the Government had first referred the proposed new "Arms and Ammunition Ordinance" to the Chamber, I feel convinced that no such drastic legislation would have been brought forward. The proposal to enact that Ordinance has already seriously injured a perfectly legitimate branch of trade. If passed into law, the new Bill will assuredly drive an important business away from Hongkong to the neighbouring Colony of Macao. I am sure the Chamber could have suggested methods of attaining the end the Government has in view, without hurting a long-established and *bonâ fide* branch of trade. Before entering upon the new Treaty with Japan it is much to be regretted that the Imperial Government did not first consult the Chambers of Commerce in the Far East, the China Association, and others intimately acquainted from experience with the needs and the requirements of local trade. (Applause.) The Home authorities will make another serious mistake if they agree to any rearrangement in connection with any increase in the *ad valorem* duties on Imports into China now in force under existing Treaties before first referring the matter to merchants and others on the spot directly interested. Imports of Foreign goods into South China, owing to the action of the Provincial officials, have been and are still

denied their rights under Transit passes as stipulated for in the Tientsin Treaty. Such Imports can well bear an increased duty provided that the one duty payment will absolutely free the goods from all further and every other charge during transit and after arrival at their destination. Regarding the shipping and trade of these waters let me quote from a despatch of a former Governor, who was fully alive to the peculiar and exceptional local circumstances. Sir JOHN BOWRING wrote:—"Believing that the satisfactory development of our prosperity is mainly due to the emancipation of all shipping and trade from fiscal vexations and exactions, I trust no Custom House machinery will ever be introduced, either for the collection of tariff or harbour dues, or for any purpose which may check the free ingress and egress of all shipping to and from the port, nor the free transfer of commodities from hand to hand. Hongkong presents another example of the elasticity and potency of unrestricted commerce which has more than counterbalanced the barrenness of the soil, the absence of agricultural and manufacturing industry, the disadvantages of its climate and every impediment which would clog its progress." These are the opinions of Sir JOHN BOWRING, and I think the present Governor and his successors would do well to give them serious consideration. In his instructive paper read recently at the Royal Colonial Institute on "British Rule in Malaya," Mr F. A. SWETTENHAM says of the "British official and the public"—"It is a curious fact that, so far as I know, Crown Colonies hardly ever produce really rich colonists, while the constitutionally-governed colonies can tell them by hundreds and thousands. I believe the reason is that in Crown Colonies there is a narrowness and want of liberality in the treatment of *bonâ fide* commercial undertakings that makes it impossible to obtain much success, and in consequence, the capital, the energy, and the brains go elsewhere." It is unfortunately too true that successive governments here have not freely and fully consulted the opinions of old and experienced residents on matters of trade. If they had done so, perhaps there might be less demand for some share in the management of local affairs, but, as they have not, nothing can be more natural than the present feeling in favour of a municipality, or a majority of Unofficial Members in the Legislative Council. Although I think the Government would do well to consult the Chamber more than it has done, yet I am clearly of opinion that it should only do so on matters affecting trade and commerce. As a cosmopolitan body we ought to have nothing to do with political questions, like unto the composition of the Sanitary Board. We are a constitu-

tion of Foreigners and Britishers, and any act is to be regretted which may in any way tend to disturb or mar the harmonious relations and the cordial friendly feeling which has ever existed between the various nationalities composing the Chamber. (Applause.) The constitution has for its objects—"To watch over and protect the general interests of Commerce, to collect information on all matters of interest to the mercantile community, etc., etc." Therefore I feel sorry that Mr. KESWICK, a former Chairman, should have committed the Chamber to any opinion on the question of the Sanitary Board, without first submitting the matter to the members for their deliberation and consideration, and first obtaining their views.

The CHAIRMAN—I must object, Mr. WHITEHEAD. I do not think you are altogether right in saying Mr. KESWICK committed the Chamber to any opinion on the Sanitary Board question. He did not, as Chairman of this Chamber, commit the Chamber to any expression of opinion on the constitution of the Sanitary Board. The letter he addressed in regard to the constitution of the Sanitary Board was in his capacity as a member of the Legislative Council to the Senior Unofficial Member, Mr. CHATER.

Mr. WHITEHEAD—I refer to his letter of October, 1894, in regard to the Sanitary Board and the acts of the Sanitary Board; and I think it is greatly to be regretted that he committed the Chamber to the views he expressed there. Before committing the Chamber to any expression of opinion he should have consulted the members. (Applause.) The sanitary state of the Colony is still very bad. Mr. JACKSON has truly said that "There is no doubt the present state of Hongkong is a disgrace not only to the Government but to our civilization." After full consideration I agree with Mr. EDE that "unless some well-considered scheme be adopted to abate overcrowding, to resume, lay-out, rebuild on new principles, at least the worst sections of the town, we shall never make any real permanent progress towards immunity from filth disease." (Applause.) This means a considerable expenditure, and we appear to be somewhat heavily taxed already. The Government states the burden at between \$8 and \$9 per head, whereas according to the *North China Herald* in Shanghai it is about \$2.75 a head. We each of us may desire to lessen taxation, but that is not a question for the Chamber of Commerce, nor is it for the Chamber to advise the Government as to the best method of carrying on the work of its various departments. The fact has to be faced that the Plague has again gained a habitation here and the enemy ought to be grappled with vigorously, and effectively

evicted by the proper authority. As further delay in dealing with the matter may permanently injure shipping and other interests, the new Committee you to-day elect would do well see to it that Hongkong is not allowed to continue an infected port. I think you will all agree that the necessary sanitary reform to render the port clean and healthy should be effected forthwith, at whatever cost of money. The cost, whatever it may be, should not stand in the way. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—It has been proposed by myself, and seconded by Mr. INGLIS, that the report and accounts should be adopted.

Agreed unanimously.

NEW MEMBERS.

The CHAIRMAN—The next business is the confirmation of the members elected during the year, viz.,—

Messrs. Renter, Bröckelmann & Co.,
The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited,
The Sperry Flour Co., of San Francisco,
The Canton Insurance Office, Limited,
The China Traders' Insurance Co., Limited,
The Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Limited,
The China Fire Insurance Co., Limited, and
Mr. Harry Wicking.

Mr. WHITEHEAD—Before submitting these names I beg to propose the following as members:—

The Banque de l'Indo-Chine,
Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master,
Mr. Creasy Ewens,
Mr. H. J. Holmes,
Messrs. Hughes & Hough,
Mr. Victor H. Deacon,
Dr. J. W. Noble,
Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly & Potts, and
Messrs. Caldbeck, Macgregor & Co.

Mr. EDE seconded.

Mr. DODWELL—I beg to propose Mr. James McKie as member of the Chamber.

Mr. T. JACKSON seconded.

The Chairman moved that the election of these members be confirmed.
Agreed unanimously.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY.

The CHAIRMAN—I beg to propose that the appointment of Mr. R. CHATTERTON WILCOX as Secretary be confirmed.

Mr. VERNON seconded.

Carried unanimously.

The election of the Committee for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, Messrs. DODWELL and VERNON acting as scrutineers.

A SUGGESTION FOR OCCASIONAL MEETINGS.

Mr. G. SHARP said—Mr. CHAIRMAN, I think there should be an opportunity given to the members of the Chamber to introduce matter which may be absolutely new and not bearing on the subjects enumerated in the report. The first part of the meeting is always occupied with the reading of the report and any remarks made bearing upon it. Then the report is passed, new members are elected, and the scrutiny and vote is taken for the new Committee, and we all go away while the scrutiny is going on. Is there really no opportunity for anything to be said on anything new?

The CHAIRMAN—The opportunity is given, Mr. SHARP, before the report is put to the meeting.

Mr. SHARP—I beg to say that the reading of the report and the discussion upon it is enough for such a meeting and that anything which unduly prolongs the meetings is undesirable. May I venture to suggest that there might be a quarterly meeting of the Chamber, once in three months, to give the public an opportunity to say anything and to suggest anything for the good of the community at large in reference to matters for which the Chamber is formed. I think a meeting once a year is really wholly inadequate, and that some of the matters in the report become matters of ancient history before they come before the meeting. If the feeling of the members is in favour of it, I think it will be acceptable that a quarterly meeting might be convened of the general members of the Chamber.

The CHAIRMAN—To meet that as far as possible, Mr. SHARP, the Committee a short time ago decided to publish abridged minutes of each meeting of the Committee, so that members should know what has taken place in the Chamber and through the Press express opinions upon any subjects. A quarterly meeting would, I think, be altogether too large a

tax upon the Committee. They devote a great deal of time and attention already to matters connected with the Chamber, and I think it would be a great tax upon them indeed if quarterly meetings were held.

Mr. SHARP—I am quite sure the Committee work very hard, and anybody who takes up that pamphlet and reads it through cannot be oblivious of the fact that the Committee are working very hard, but I do not see how a quarterly meeting would increase their work. It would simply give the public the opportunity of saying how very much obliged they were to the Committee. I should be glad to know whether anybody will second my proposal to give members the opportunity of expressing their views.

Mr. J. J. FRANCIS seconded.

The CHAIRMAN did not put the resolution, but said the incoming Committee would not lose sight of Mr. SHARP's suggestion.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—You can call a special meeting if you will state the subjects to be discussed.

ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE.

The result of the ballot having been ascertained,

The CHAIRMAN announced the election of the following Committee:—Messrs. T. JACKSON, H. SMITH, T. H. WHITEHEAD, N. J. EDE, ST. C. MICHAELSEN, N. A. SIEBS, J. J. BELL-IRVING, G. B. DODWELL, and A. MCCONACHIE. Mr. BELL-IRVING was elected Chairman and Mr. EDE Vice-Chairman.

Mr. EDE—I am very much obliged to the gentlemen who elected me Vice-Chairman, but I am sorry I cannot accept the position. There are circumstances which I cannot explain to you now that prevent me from accepting it.

The CHAIRMAN—Not under any circumstances?

Mr. EDE—Not under any circumstances. I am very sorry.

The CHAIRMAN—As Mr. EDE cannot accept the position of Vice-Chairman, the one with the next highest number of votes on the list is myself. That is all the business of the meeting. I thank you for your attendance.

Report of the Committee of the HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, for the Year ending 31st December, 1895, for presentation to the Members at the Annual Meeting, to be held on Wednesday, the 13th May, 1896, at 3.30 p.m.

Fog Signalling at Gap Rock Lighthouse.

In connection with the grounding of the steamer *Polyphemus* on Jubilee Island, in close proximity to the Gap Rock Lighthouse, Messrs. BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE brought to the notice of the Chamber the question of fog signalling at the Gap Rock, stating that in their opinion—based on the circumstances attending the grounding of the above steamer—the methods employed were inadequate. Through the courtesy of the Government the matter was referred to the Chamber.

A report by Commander RUMSEY, drawn up shortly after the above accident, which stated that the fog signals were audible at 1,612 yards, and only slightly audible at 2,059 yards, supported the contention that the means employed were not effective.

The Chamber suggested that as the radius of distinct sound was limited to somewhat less than a mile the Lighthouse should be furnished with a signalling apparatus of much greater compass than that then in use. The extraordinary acoustic properties possessed by fog—varying apparently under different conditions of the atmosphere—of diverting and arresting sound, which recent investigations have disclosed, renders any thoroughly efficient system of signalling difficult of attainment. Captain HASTINGS's proposal to fire a 12-pounder brass gun at regular intervals during thick weather has, we understand, been adopted, and will, it is hoped, prove a sufficient warning to vessels approaching the Rock. (Appendix A, page 3.)

Reported threatened position of Foreigners in Formosa.

The Amoy Chamber telegraphed that the reported intention of the British Admiral to withdraw protection from Taiwanfoo threatened the utmost danger to life and property, and asked the support of this Chamber to

telegraph to Her Majesty's Minister at Peking. In the absence of definite information, and considering the position might be really critical, the Committee acceded to the request. Subsequent events, however, seemed to indicate that the Admiral could not have prudently acted otherwise than as he did, and very fortunately it was afterwards proved that the fears of the Amoy Chamber had been premature. (Appendix B, page 10.)

Treaty between China and Japan.

The uncertainty existing last May as to the ratification of the above treaty being the cause of considerable anxiety and threatening to bring about a serious interruption to trade, your Committee addressed the Governor, suggesting that he should telegraph to Peking for definite information on the subject, which suggestion His Excellency promptly acted upon, eliciting the reply that the ratifications were exchanged at Chefoo on the 8th May; thus happily terminating a period of business suspense. (Appendix C, page 12.)

New Treaty between Great Britain and Japan.

In the annexed correspondence the new treaty between Great Britain and Japan has been again dealt with, more particularly as regards its probable effects upon the sugar industries of Hongkong by the imposition of duties which, while eminently calculated to foster sugar refining in Japan, must act adversely on that branch of the trade of this Colony. The Chamber can now only express its regret that it was not consulted, and had not an opportunity of expressing its opinions on the provisions of this treaty—which may be expected to deal a severe blow to such an important branch of the trade of the Colony—before they were finally settled. (Appendix D, page 13.)

An Ordinance to provide for the Registration of Trade Marks.

Messrs. GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co. called attention to the above Ordinance, pointing out an omission which they considered entailed a hardship on those wishing to avail themselves of the protection which the Ordinance was enacted to afford, stating that without in any way making the application public, "any person claiming the right to the exclusive use of any trade mark, either solely or jointly with others, may apply to the Governor for leave to register the same in the Register of Trade Marks." They urged that the fact of such application having been made is notified in the *Government Gazette* only after the registration of the Mark has already been granted,

with the result that should it prove an infringement the owner can only get the registration cancelled after, probably, very considerable delay and expense and it was considered a clause might advantageously be introduced into the Ordinance making it compulsory that all applications for registration should be made public at the date of application, and continue to be made public at intervals, by notification in the *Government Gazette*, or otherwise, for a period of not less than three months until the date of registration, so as to admit of communicating with and receiving a reply from Europe.

The question was referred to and received the approval of the Government. (Appendix E, page 16.)

Quarantine Regulations.

The various restrictions which it had been considered necessary to enact at different points against this Colony had all been withdrawn, but the unfortunate re-appearance this Spring of the bubonic plague has given rise to a renewal of the restrictions in the Straits Settlements, Japan, and other places. The re-appearance of this disease is causing severe loss to the general trade of the Colony. (Appendix F, page 21.)

Opening of the West River.

This question, which has long occupied the attention of the Chamber, has continued to receive earnest consideration. It is satisfactory to the Committee to feel assured that the question has had careful treatment at the hands of Her Majesty's Ministers, and that there are now reasonable grounds for supposing the concession so persistently urged upon the Chinese Government is within reasonable distance of being granted. The Chamber is indebted to Mr. WILLIAM KESWICK for his valuable assistance in keeping this matter before the Home Government. (Appendix G, page 25.)

Proposed Reconstruction of the Gap Rock Lighthouse.

Further correspondence has taken place with regard to the proposed reconstruction of the Gap Rock Lighthouse, and the Committee have repeated the suggestion that before entering upon operations involving so large an outlay it would be well to obtain the opinion of an official of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs on the subject. Though Sir ROBERT HART was unable to spare the services of such an officer at the time the request was made to him, it is possible that the then existing difficulties may have disappeared. (Appendix H, page 35.)

Proposed enforced use of Official Telegraph Code Vocabulary.

The Committee have continued agitating in this matter, and besides other action taken, a joint letter, signed by this, the Canton, Shanghai, Hankow, Foochow, Hio-go, Yokohama, Amoy and Tientsin Chambers was addressed to the International Telegraph Bureau, Berne, further protesting, and recapitulating the arguments already advanced against the proposed enforced use of the Code. This joint letter was declined by the Bureau at Berne, having no authority to take cognizance of any representations excepting such as proceed from one of the countries of the Union, but was passed on to the British Post Office Authorities, who were good enough to take charge of same, promising that it should receive the same attentive consideration as the other memorials on the same subject forwarded to them by other Chambers. The question will come on for the decision of the Telegraph Convention fixed to meet at Buda-Pesth during the current year. (Appendix I, page 38.)

Sunday Cargo-Working Ordinance and the exemption of certain Mail Steamers therefrom.

In reply to inquiries initiated by the Chamber as to the exemption of certain mail steamers from the provisions of the Ordinance, the Secretary of State wrote in reply to His Excellency the Governor that these concessions had been granted under the regulations of 31st October, 1893, which had been adopted after full consideration, and that there did not seem to exist any sufficient reason why these should be departed from; adding that the mail contracts with the Messageries Maritimes Company and North German Lloyd's steamers will expire in July, 1903, and July, 1900, respectively, beyond which dates the present arrangements will not extend. (Appendix J, page 46.)

Transit Passes and Obstruction to the Sale of Goods at Wuchow-fu.

The question of the obstruction of trade under Transit Passes by the Chinese Authorities in Southern China, which has so often been before the Chamber, was this year invested with a fresh interest through the direct and undisguised action of the mandarins in interfering with the legitimate sale of goods, the property of Mr. JOHN ANDREW, a British subject, and which were forwarded from Canton to Wuchow under Transit Passes, regularly

obtained, and in complete accordance with treaty rights. The circumstances attending this obstruction to trade are fully described in the annexed correspondence, and the action of the local authorities at Wuchow seems to afford positive proof of their utter disregard of transit passes which has been heretofore always so difficult to substantiate. The representations of the Chamber on the subject to H. B. M. Secretary of State, H. B. M. Minister, Peking, and the Consular Authorities at Canton have elicited promises of careful consideration. (Appendix K, page 47.)

An Ordinance to protect in certain cases rights of property in Telegraph Messages.

Deeming it expedient to endeavour to obtain protection over certain rights of property in telegraph messages the Government was approached on the subject. The proposal was favourably entertained, and an Ordinance, on lines similar to one in force in the South African Colonies, introduced into the Legislative Council. This Ordinance, being in the ordinary course embodied in the laws of the Colony, has afforded the protection asked for. (Appendix L, page 61.)

Camphor Contract.

Some difficulties having arisen between the buyers and sellers of camphor in regard to the weights delivered, the contract form to be found in the Appendix was submitted to and approved of by the Committee. (Appendix M, page 63.)

Preferential Duties granted on Junk-carried Cargo.

This much vexed question has again occupied the attention of the Chamber, but without much progress having been achieved. (Appendix N, page 66.)

Navy League.

This institution being somewhat outside the sphere of action of a cosmopolitan body like the Chamber, the correspondence relating thereto, with which the Chamber had been favoured, was handed over to the Hongkong Branch of the China Association. (Appendix O, page 66.)

Coinage of a British Dollar and action taken against "Chopping" of same.

With reference to this matter, China and Straits Exchange has ruled during the year under the laying down cost of silver, therefore it has not been

profitable for the Banks to buy Bars in the London market and have them converted into British Dollars at the Mint in Bombay. Under these circumstances only about fifty lakhs have been coined during the year, and most of these are in circulation.

There is no doubt that when the Hongkong and the Straits Exchanges permit of the import of coin, British Dollars will be freely minted. (Appendix P, page 68.)

Inadequate Wharf Accommodation.

The congested state of the steam-launch and sampan traffic in the vicinity of Pedder's Wharf owing to the reclamation works now being carried on led to representations to the Government on the subject early last year, and this has been relieved in consequence by the provision of temporary landing places opposite Wardley Street and near the new Markets. (Appendix Q, page 73.)

The Chamber's Representatives at the 3rd Congress of Chambers of Commerce, 1896.

In July last Mr. W. KESWICK was invited and accepted the nomination to represent this Chamber at the forthcoming third Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire to be held in London. Subsequent suggestions being made from the Congress Committee for the appointment of additional delegates, Messrs. E. MACKINTOSH and A. G. WOOD were asked to accept nomination, and agreed to do so. (Appendix R, page 76.)

Postal Arrangements in view of New Contracts.

The General Post Office, London, in view of the existing contract for the Mail Service expiring in January, 1898, sought the opinion of the Chamber as to the possibility of shortening the stoppages here on the outward and homeward voyages and the expediency of substituting Hongkong for Shanghai as the terminal point. These important questions having been referred to the members by circular, the very general opinion elicited was that the stoppage homewards might be shortened to twenty-four hours, but that no change should be made in the terminus, which decision was duly communicated to the Government. (Appendix S, page 80.)

Alteration in Hour of Departure Homeward of French Mail.

Early this year, on short notice, the Messageries Maritimes Company altered the hour of departure of the homeward Mail steamers from noon on Wednesday to 10 A.M. The Chamber, in response to a request for their opinion from Government, represented the great inconvenience this would cause the community. The Company's Agent having represented the matter, the directors have, upon re-consideration, reverted to the former hour of departure, and have thus conferred a great boon on the Colony. (Appendix T, page 84.)

Chinkiang Chamber of Commerce.

A Chamber of Commerce having been formed this year at Chinkiang, this Chamber forwarded its congratulations and expressed its readiness to co-operate in matters affecting their mutual interests. (Appendix U, page 87.)

Telegraph Rates.

The question of the cost of telegrams between this Colony, India and Europe has been the subject of some correspondence, and your Committee intimated to the London Chamber their readiness to co-operate in any action it could suggest to secure a reduction in the rates. They were unable, however, to adopt the proposal of the London Chamber to approach the Government with a view to their giving a guarantee to the Telegraph Companies to make good any loss of revenue that might result from a reduction of the present tariff. Notwithstanding the reduction of 30 cents a word made by the Telegraph Companies in December last in the cost of telegraphing to Europe and America, direct representation has been made to the Joint Telegraph Companies, more particularly in connection with the rates charged between this port and Japan and the Straits Settlements, to which a reply has been received intimating that considerable reductions will be made on certain local traffic south of Hongkong, and that later the same principle may be extended in other directions. (Appendix V, page 88.)

The Coolie Strike in Hongkong.

In connection with the Coolie Strike, which caused so much loss and inconvenience early last year, two public meetings were held under the auspices of the Chamber, on the 28th March and 1st April respectively, at

which the question was fully discussed, and it was resolved to support the Government in repressing the strike. Correspondence between the Government and H. B. M.'s Consul at Amoy elicited the statement that an ample supply of labour can at any time be obtained from that port on condition that the coolies can be guaranteed permanent employment and protection against mal-treatment by the Cantonese coolies. (Appendix W, page 94.)

Admiral Makaroff's device for Minimising the effects of Collisions at Sea.

Those interested in shipping were on the 23rd January afforded an opportunity by the Committee of hearing an interesting address by Admiral MAKAROFF, of H. I. R. M.'s Navy, explanatory of his proposed method of minimising the effects of collisions at sea. Some instructive discussion followed the address.

The New British Minister to China.

His Excellency Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, K.C.M.G., the new British Minister to China, while passing through the Colony on his way to Peking, having courteously consented to meet the Committee, an interview took place in the Chamber of Commerce Room on the 4th April, when His Excellency, in reply to an address from the Chairman dealing with the questions of the opening of the West River, the official obstruction in South China to trade under Transit Pass, and the proposed extension of the boundaries of this Colony, and, in response to certain Members of the Committee, gave some welcome assurances in reference to the progress of negotiations on these subjects. (Appendix X, page 118.)

The proposed Reconstruction of the Sanitary Board.

The Government last month inquired whether the opinion of the Chamber on the subject of the Sanitary Board remains the same as expressed in the letters of the Chairman dated 19th October and 12th November, 1894, and by the Member then representing the Chamber in the Council: also whether Mr. WHITEHEAD had received any mandate from the British Members of the Chamber to oppose the views expressed by the Retrenchment Committee and by Messrs. KESWICK and MCCONACHIE.

The Committee replied that they understood that His Excellency the Governor desires an expression of opinion on the question of the re-constitution of the Sanitary Board only and not on all the various points raised by

Mr. KESWICK's letter of the 19th October, 1894, and that as no expression of opinion by the Committee on that question could be final it would be necessary, if His Excellency wishes it, to obtain the opinions of all the Members of the Chamber. The Committee added that there was no record of any precedent in respect of the Chamber or any section of its Members ever having issued a mandate to any one of the gentlemen who have previously represented the Chamber in the Legislative Council.

Mr. WHITEHEAD addressed a letter to the Committee on the subject, which, with the other correspondence, will be found in Appendix Y, page 124.

Light Dues.

The increased light dues continue to be levied. This matter has lately had the consideration of the present Committee, and it is hoped the new Committee will press this question on the attention of the Government.

The Chamber's Representative in the Legislative Council.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD, on his return to the Colony in August, resumed his seat in the Legislative Council as representative of the Chamber.

Committee.

Mr. DOUGLAS JONES retired in July on his departure for Shanghai, and Mr. N. J. EDE was asked to join the Committee. Mr. R. M. GRAY having tendered his resignation on leaving the Colony, Mr. HERBERT SMITH has been invited to fill the vacancy.

Members.

During the past year Messrs. ED. SCHELLHASS & Co. resigned membership, and the Chamber has to regret the loss of one member by death, Mr. L. MENDEL. The following names have been added to the list of members :—Messrs. REUTER, BRÖCKELMANN & Co., the Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., Mr. W. WHILEY, Agent of the Sperry Flour Co. of San Francisco, the Canton Insurance Office, Ltd., the China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd., the Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., the China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd., and Mr. H. WICKING.

During the past year Messrs. ED. SCHELLHASS & Co. resigned membership, and the Chamber has to regret the loss of one member by death, L. MENDEL. The following names have been added to the list of members:—Messrs. REUTER, BRÖCKELMANN & Co., the Hongkong & Amoy Dock Co., Ltd., Mr. W. WHILEY, Agent of the Sperry Flour Co. San Francisco, the Canton Insurance Office, Ltd., the China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd., the Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., the China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd., Mr. H. WICKING.

J. Y. V. VERNON, }
G. STEWART, } *Auditors.*

Secretary.

Mr. F. HENDERSON having resigned, Mr. R. CHATTERTON WILCOX was appointed Secretary to the Chamber in January, 1896.

Finance.

The Accounts for the year ending 31st December were audited by Messrs. GERSHOM STEWART and J. Y. V. VERNON. The balance at the credit of the Chamber amounted to \$2,509.13, and a special Fixed Deposit, representing the "Pinnacle Rock Fund," of \$3,037.22, both amounts being in the hands of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.

REPORT
M. V. HARRISON being sworn, deposes that he is a resident of New York
appointed Secretary to the Finance Commission, and

FINANCE

The Account for the year ending December 31, 1900, submitted by
Messrs. GEORGE STURGES and H. V. VANCEY, the Finance Commission, is
corrected of the Finance Commission with the result of a special audit, and
submitted to the Finance Commission, and the Finance Commission, and
is the result of the Finance Commission and the Finance Commission.

APPENDIX.

A**Fog Signalling at Gap Rock.**

No. 950.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

HONGKONG, 2nd May, 1895.

SIR,—With reference to the finding of the Marine Court in the matter of the grounding of the S.S. *Polyphemus* on Jubilee Island on the 8th ultimo, which was published in the *Government Gazette* of the 27th ultimo, I am directed to transmit for the information of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copy of a report by the Harbour Master relative to the firing of the fog signal at Gap Rock.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary*,
The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HARBOUR DEPARTMENT,

HONGKONG, 30th April, 1895.

SIR,—In furtherance of my intention expressed to you when forwarding the Finding of the Marine Court on the stranding of the *Polyphemus* on Jubilee Island, I yesterday visited the Gap Rock and afterwards proceeded in the *Fame* to a position south of the Rock approximate to that ascribed to the *Polyphemus* on the morning of the casualty.

From this position, I steamed slowly towards Jubilee Island on a course nearly approaching that which took the *Polyphemus* on shore.

The fog signal on the Rock was by my orders kept going every 5 minutes, and observations were made by me as to the distance from the Rock at which these were heard, the result being as follows:—

2394	yards	distant	inaudible
2059	"	"	slightly audible
1662	"	"	audible
1628	"	"	do.
1843	"	"	do.
2587	"	"	inaudible

The weather at the time was fine and clear with a light S.E. wind.

The conclusion I come to is, that, on the windward side of the Rock, one sea mile is the extreme distance at which the fog signal should be

A

expected to be heard, and even then it should be looked for with extreme caution. I would deprecate its being considered as anything more than a warning of approach towards the Rock itself, and would recommend its not being used for the purpose of navigating past the Rock on either side.

Further, after due enquiry, I see no reason for doubting that the fog signal was being properly worked on the morning of the 8th instant, or that the intervals were properly timed. The chief lightkeeper was attending to this duty himself. The remaining stock of gun cotton charges and detonators is correct, and, with a clock within a yard of him when firing the charge, I see no good reason to rely on the time taken on board the *Polyphemus* in preference to that taken in the Light Room. The Honourable Director of Public Works accompanied me on this occasion and kindly gave me his assistance in making the observations.—I have, &c.,

R. M. RUMSEY, *Harbour Master, &c.*

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

HONGKONG, 4th May, 1895.

SIR,—With reference to the recent finding of the Naval Court of Enquiry into the accident to the S.S. *Polyphemus* near the Gap Rock when the fog signals appeared to have been insufficient, we beg to enclose copies of correspondence, as noted below. From that correspondence, it seems to us that the Gap Rock Lighthouse is inefficient in its fog signalling equipment, and that a signal that is only slightly audible at a distance of 2,059 yards, and is audible at 1,662 yards—under a mile and under favourable weather circumstance—is useless in the position it occupies, and we beg to suggest that the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce will impress upon the Government the strong necessity that exists for equipping the Gap Rock Lighthouse with the most perfect signalling apparatus.—We are, &c.,

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, *Agents, O. S. S. Co., Ltd.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

Secretary, HONGKONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Enclosures:—

- (a) Letter from B. & S. to the Colonial Secretary 22.4.95.
- (b) Letter from the Colonial Secretary to B. & S. 25.95.
- (c) Letter enclosing Harbour Master's Report dated 30.4.95.

A

HONGKONG, 22nd April, 1895.

SIR,—We beg to direct the attention of the Government to the finding of the Court of Enquiry in the recent investigation of the grounding of the s.s. *Polyphemus* wherein it is stated—"that if the Gap Rock fog signal had been heard the casualty would probably not have occurred."

It is further found that the vessel passed at a distance of not more than one and a half miles from the Gap Rock.

The telegraphic fog report, made to the Harbour Master from the Gap Rock, adduces the statement that the firing of the fog signal began at 4.20 A.M. and was continued till 11 A.M.

The evidence of Capt. CHUBB, which was corroborated by several witnesses, is that the first signal was heard at 5.00 A.M. and thereafter it was heard at intervals of 13 minutes instead of 10 minutes, which Capt. CHUBB timed. It would appear from this, unless the instructions to the Lighthouse keepers are indefinite as to the interval between the signals, that the signals were not sufficiently frequent, and also tends to throw doubt upon the correctness of the telegraphic fog report which the Court only assumed to be correct; for the *Polyphemus* must have been within a radius of one half mile of the Gap Rock for a considerable time before the accident happened and though there are a variety of opinions upon the audibility of fog signals, it seems difficult to believe that in this instance they should not have been heard if they were made.

We suggest that a searching enquiry be instituted into the methods of signalling adopted at the Gap Rock, bearing more particularly on the present accident.—We have, &c.,

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

No. 949.

HONGKONG, 2nd May, 1895.

GENTLEMEN,—With reference to my letter No. 864 of the 25th ultimo, I am directed to transmit for your information the enclosed copy of a report * by the Harbour Master relative to the firing of the fog signal at Gap Rock.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*
Messrs. BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

A

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 20th May, 1895.

SIR,—As a subject in which many of the Members are interested, Messrs. BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE brought to the notice of the Chamber the matter of Fog Signalling at the Gap Rock, and in connection therewith have laid before the Committee copies of the correspondence which passed between the Government and themselves on the subject, and also Commander RUMSEY's report of experiments made by him to test the efficiency of the fog signalling apparatus.

The contention of the above named firm is that as the fog signal, according to Commander RUMSEY's own shewing, is only slightly audible at 2059 yards, and audible at 1612 yards—less than a mile, and under favourable weather circumstances—it is practically of little use as a warning to vessels of their approach to the Rock in thick or foggy weather. It is also contended that the interval between one sounding of the signal and the next is of too long a duration. This question was raised in connection with the enquiry into the accident which recently happened to the steamer *Polyphemus* in the neighbourhood of the Gap Rocks. Commander RUMSEY was inclined to doubt the accuracy of the evidence tendered by the people on board the steamer as to the length of time that elapses between the signals, but that is a point of easy solution, and if found on investigation that it is unduly long the Government will, no doubt, see fit to apply a remedy.

The more important question of the distance at which the fog signal can be heard seems well worth the consideration of the Government, and the Committee venture to suggest that if the radius of distinct sound is limited to something less than a mile, under favourable weather circumstances, the lighthouse should be furnished with a fog signalling apparatus of much greater compass.

As His Excellency the Governor has on several occasions been good enough to refer to the Committee questions connected with the working of the Gap Rock Light they hope the suggestions now made, in the interests of shipping, may receive his favourable consideration.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary*.

A

No. 1146.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 27th May, 1895.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 20th instant, I am directed to transmit for the information of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copy of a report by the Harbour Master relative the *Fog Signal at the Gap Rock*.

His Excellency would be glad to receive any observations that the Chamber may have to offer in regard to the proposal contained in the final paragraph of the above report.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary*.

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

(Report by the Harbour Master to the Hon. Colonial Secretary.)

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY,—I do not agree that the Gap Rock fog signal is "practically of little use as a warning to vessels of their approach to the Rock in thick or foggy weather."

A signalling apparatus of "much greater compass" might in the geographical position of the Gap Rock prove more dangerous than useful, bearing in mind the impossibility of correctly estimating distance by sound alone.

If any alteration be made I would suggest that it be in the direction of assimilating our method of signalling to that of the China Coast stations where the signal is made in answer to vessels whose signals are first heard at the station.

R. M. RUMSEY.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 26th June, 1895.

SIR,—Begging reference to your esteemed communication of 27th May handing copy of a further report from Commander RUMSEY on *fog signalling at the Gap Rock*, and stating that His Excellency would be glad to receive any observations the Chamber may have to offer on that gentleman's suggestion—

"Of assimilating our mode of signalling to that of the China Coast
"stations where the signal is made in answer to vessel whose
"signals are first heard at the station,"

A

I am directed to state that, from inquiries made it does not appear to the Committee that the above suggestion could be advantageously carried out at the Gap Rock, the position of which seems to render necessary, if to be effective, a different system of signalling to that adopted at the China Coast stations, where signals are made for the benefit of passing steamers steering an outside course to assure them of their position, rather than to warn them of their proximity to danger.

At these stations it is the custom of the lighthouse keepers when they hear a fog signal from a passing steamer (which as a rule can be heard several miles off) to respond by firing a gun which sufficiently indicates to those on board the position of their vessel.

The position of the Gap Rock, though a considerable distance off, is at the southern entrances to Hongkong being the first land made, and signals are necessary to vessels approaching, in thick or foggy weather, to serve as a warning that they are in the neighbourhood of danger, and not as is suggested by Commander RUMSEY to enable them to steer a course by fog signals.

From the information the Committee has been able to gather, it would appear the method of signalling at the Gap Rock likely to prove most useful to vessels approaching Hongkong would be signals repeated at very short intervals made by an instrument capable of distributing sound over a wide radius.

When addressing you on 20th May last the Committee ventured to suggest that the signalling apparatus now in use at the Gap Rock, which had been shown to be only slightly audible, under favourable weather circumstances, at a distance of 2,509 yards, should be replaced by one of much greater compass, and now beg to repeat that suggestion with the further recommendation that the apparatus put in substitution should be one capable of being heard, in all direction, at a distance of not less than three miles.

I am directed by the Committee to ask you to be good enough to convey to His Excellency their thanks for his courtesy in giving them the opportunity of expressing an opinion on a subject important to the shipping interests of the Colony.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

A

No. 1454.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 10th July, 1895.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo, relative to the fog signal at the Gap Rock, I am directed to transmit for the information of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copy of a memorandum on the subject by the Acting Harbour Master and to enquire whether the recommendations therein made will meet its wishes.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*
The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

MEMO.

Originally it was intended that a syren capable of being turned in any direction should be used at the Gap Rock. The Elder Brethren advised, however, that detonators should be used in preference, when fixed as now above the light the sound would be heard all round.

The suggestion of the Committee that the fog signal should continue to be made at regular intervals, is a good one, the Gap Rock being the land first made for by vessels from the Southward.

That on the one occasion when the Harbour Master made experiments as to the audibility of the fog signal the limit appeared to be 2,059 yards by no means demonstrates that that is the maximum range, experiments with this object in view varying in the most inexplicable manner under apparently the same conditions of weather.

As the Committee recommend that the fog signal should be audible at least three miles, a twelve-pounder should be substituted (preferably brass) to be fired at the same interval as the bombs, viz., every ten minutes in foggy weather.

W. C. H. HASTINGS, *Acting Harbour Master, &c.*
HONGKONG, 7th July, 1895.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 15th July, 1895.

SIR,—In acknowledging the receipt of your esteemed communication of 10th instant I am directed to again thank you for a further reference to the

A

mode of *fog signalling at the Gap Rock* and affording the Committee the opportunity of expressing an opinion as to the desirability of substituting the firing of a 12-pounder gun for the present system of exploding bombs.

From enquiries made it would appear that, in the opinion of nautical men, the suggested change would be very acceptable, and it is considered that a 12-pounder gun (preferably brass) fired at intervals of not less than 10 minutes would be likely to prove a most efficient mode of warning vessels approaching Hongkong Harbour in thick weather from the South—while still at a considerable distance—of their being in the neighbourhood of the Gap Rock.

It has been suggested it would be well that early and widespread notice be given of the date at which the contemplated change, if adopted, will take effect.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

B

Reported threatened position of Foreign
Residents in Formosa.

AMOI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
AMOI, 29th June, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—Having received news that the British Admiral intended to withdraw protection from Taiwanfoo and had ordered the return of the marines landed at Anping to the war vessels now lying off Taiwanfoo, an urgent meeting of this Chamber was called to protest against such action as being of great danger to life and properties of residents there. It was agreed to send you a telegram as follows:—"British Admiral proposes withdraw protection from Taiwanfoo to-morrow action entails utmost danger life property beg you join us telegraph at once British Minister protesting "we already done so."

B

The Chamber has, since the despatch of above telegram, received private advice from Consul GARDNER of this port that the British Minister has informed the Admiral that the men landed at Anping must remain on shore.—I am, &c.,

FRANCIS CASS, *Vice-Chairman*.

To the Chairman of the HONGKONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 2nd July, 1895.

SIR,—On the 29th instant a very urgently worded telegram was received from the Amoy Chamber of Commerce stating that Admiral BULLER proposed withdrawing protection from Taiwanfoo, pointing out the great danger such action would entail on life and property, and asking this Chamber's co-operation in support of a telegram sent direct to your Excellency.

The circumstances seemed to be sufficiently alarming to fully justify the Amoy Chamber's extreme anxiety, and assuming that the message forwarded direct to your Excellency was of a similar nature to the one received here, this Chamber at once despatched to you the following telegram:—

"This Chamber strongly supports Amoy Chamber's telegram
"objecting withdrawal naval protection Taiwanfoo."

The information so far to hand does not quite define the exact position of affairs in Formosa, but it appears the Japanese had intimated their intention of making an immediate attack in that vicinity, which doubtless explains the proposed action of Admiral BULLER of withdrawing the forces landed. The position may not have left any other course open to him, and the German Admiral is reported to have adopted a similar course.

Your Excellency will understand that the Chamber felt compelled to act promptly in this matter on information which emphasized the fact that foreign lives and interests were seriously imperilled.

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

His Excellency Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR, K.C.B., C.M.G.,
*Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister
Plenipotentiary in China, Peking.*

B

PEKING, 22nd July, 1895.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the 2nd instant, addressed to me by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, respecting the withdrawal of the marine guard from Anping.—I am, &c.,

N. R. O'CONOR.

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

C

Treaty between China and Japan.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 16th May, 1895.

SIR,—It has been brought to the notice of the Chamber that the absence of positive information as to whether the Treaty between China and Japan has, or has not, yet been ratified is causing considerable anxiety in the minds of those engaged in business with the two countries, and that the present state of uncertainty threatens to bring about a somewhat serious interruption to trade.

The Committee of the Chamber have been asked to place this matter before you and to suggest that if the Government has not yet received any official intimation of the ratification of the Treaty, His Excellency the Governor may be pleased to telegraph either to Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, or direct to Her Majesty's Chief Secretary of State for the Colonies for the desired information.

As the question is one of considerable importance to the Colony the Committee trust His Excellency may see fit to accede to the above suggestion, and remove, if possible, the existing uncertainty as to whether or not the negotiations recently entered into between China and Japan have been completed.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

To the Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

C

Telegram.

(From H.B.M.'s Minister at Peking to H.E. the Governor, Hongkong.)
"Exchange of ratifications took place at Chefoo on 8th May.
"16th May, 1895."

D

The New Treaty between England and Japan.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 7th June, 1895.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of this Chamber to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 45, dated 11th March, in which you enclosed the following copies of despatches :—

Foreign Office to Colonial Office dated London 28th June, 1894.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office dated London 29th June, 1894.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office dated London 15th Jan., 1895.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office dated London 4th Feby., 1895.

This correspondence deals with the imposition of duties upon refined sugar under the new commercial treaty with Japan signed in London on the 16th July, 1895, which was brought to your notice by the Chamber on the 4th December last when the Committee forwarded to you a letter, addressed to them by Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., in which the incidence of these duties was exhaustively dealt with.

It is stated in the above correspondence that the Japanese Government considered the levy of duties upon sugar a fundamental part of their proposals, and, at the initial stage of negotiations, desired they should retain a free hand in respect of sugar.

This solicitude on the part of the Japanese Government may have suggested to the Foreign Office that that Government had in view proposals calculated to prove inimical to local sugar industries, but if any such suspicions were awakened these were unfortunately not communicated to the Hongkong Government while the treaty was under consideration.

D

In the course of correspondence Lord RIBON pointed out that the conditions asked for by the Japanese were agreed to after consultation with Mr. KESWICK, a partner in the firm of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. It is not known how far Mr. KESWICK expressed his approval of the terms proposed, but although he may have expressed his opinion as to the fairness of a 10 per cent. duty, he could not be expected to have a full knowledge of such fact before him, as that raw sugar would be left free, and the refined duty levied on an extreme basis of value in Japan.

It is therefore very much to be regretted that the question was not submitted to His Excellency the Governor for his consideration, as he could, had he so desired, have availed himself of the collective opinions of the representatives of the sugar industries of Hongkong, who, with a complete knowledge of the position, would no doubt have been able to suggest measures for safeguarding an industry, which, though the result of private enterprise, is a very important factor in the advancement of the Colony.

The opinions held by the Home Government are in opposition to the views expressed by this Chamber, which arise mainly from the elimination of the low price of silver in the arguments they prefer.

The Foreign Office call it a separate question. In a sense it is ; but it is also an integral part of the subject under discussion ; and it is not only impossible to separate it, but to attempt to do so deduces an utterly erroneous conclusion.

The price of refined sugar in Japan and silver was abnormally high for the six monthly period selected for turning the *ad valorem* duties into a specific tax, and arose from the serious decline in the value of silver during that period. The gold value of sugars referred to in the statement enclosed by the Foreign Office, shewing the English prices, only tells part of the tale.

That document notes the fall in the value of sugar, in "Gold," but it omits all mention of the corresponding silver value of the article. It must not be lost sight of that the question under discussion refers to a country whose sole standard of currency is silver, not gold, and that to attempt to compare a gold price with a silver, when the latter metal has seriously altered its relative value to the other, without taking into account that change, is to institute a false comparison. For this cause also the statement that the proposed Japanese duty upon refined sugars is particularly light compared with that levied in other countries is open to question.

D

After deprecating the introduction of the "silver" cost of the "gold" value of sugar in the preceding paragraph, it is singular that the Foreign Office has no hesitation in using the "gold" cost of the tariff levy to illustrate how small the duty is in "gold."

But the question can only be viewed from the silver standpoint. The duty is not payable in gold. It is a ten per cent. duty upon a silver cost, which really becomes even more than ten per cent. owing to the selection of an inflated, instead of a normal, period.

The consumers in these silver using countries do not find their currency appreciated, as gold is in Europe.

The purchasing power of the *yen* is limited and is measured by its silver value in paying for commodities expressed in gold.

The ten per cent. duty upon refined sugar is therefore relatively, in silver, a greater imposition than it appears if measured in gold, particularly in a poor country where the remuneration for labour, which is paid for in silver, has increased little if at all.

But this Chamber did not direct attention to the point whether the duty was light or heavy. It wished to intimate that this duty, taken at 90 cents per picul, or £1. 12. 9. per ton, would be a direct bounty of that sum to the Japanese refiner, if the Government levied no impost upon raw sugars—which it is quite within their power to do—for the treaty omits all mention of any duties upon raw sugar. It can be imported free while refined sugar is penalised to the extent of £1. 12. 9 per ton and it can hardly be contended that £1. 12. 9 per ton is a trifling bounty to the Japanese refiner.

If Japan imposes a duty upon raw sugars, she has the right to impose a similar excise upon her refined products, which excise will be added to imported refined sugar in the shape of an additional duty. It is equally in the power of Japan to return this excise in the shape of a bounty to their refiners, and though Her Majesty's Government may regard an additional bounty given to Japanese home refined produce, equal the excise levy, as not warranting the additional extra duty upon imported refined.

It is most probable, however, the Japanese will keep within their strict rights, and levy no duty upon raw sugar, to which no reasonable objection can be made, as the treaty is silent upon the point of duties upon raws. The Japanese Government thus have a countervailing duty or bounty ready to hand of £1. 12. 9 per ton, which is sufficient to stop foreign imports

D

without having recourse to special legislation either by excise, bounties, or otherwise. That Japan can impose duties upon raw sugars and remove them at will has been demonstrated recently by their action with cotton and cotton yarns.

Under the old treaty the duty on refined sugar offered less probabilities of the Japanese Government taking the action here suggested. For the duty on refined was but 24 cents per picul, against the anticipated 90 cents, while raws paid 13 cents per picul. And if the Japanese Government had wished to bounty their home industry, it would have been at a much greater cost to them than will be necessary under the new treaty.

Whatever view may be taken of the position it is quite plain that Her Britannic Majesty's Government have conceded to Japan a preferential levy upon imported refined sugars of, say, £1. 12. 9 per ton, which must prove a most serious blow to the industries of this Colony.

I am directed to request that a copy of this letter may be sent to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

E

Ordinance No. 16 of 1873: An Ordinance to provide
for the Registration of Trade Marks.

HONGKONG, 23rd April, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—We have recently, as agents, had to bring before His Excellency the Governor in Council a petition (we believe the first under the Ordinance), under Ordinance No. 16 of 1873, for the cancellation of the registration of a trade mark, and our experience in connection therewith leads us to think that some improvement might be introduced into the Ordinance in question as affecting the method prescribed for the registration of trade marks.

We therefore beg to lay the matter before your Committee, and to invite their assistance with the object of bringing this about.

E

In the Ordinance in question, it is provided under sections 2, 3, 4 and 5, that—

- “(2) Any person claiming the right to the exclusive use of any
“trade mark, either solely or jointly with others, may apply
“to the Governor for leave to register the same in the
“Register of Trade Marks.”
- “(3) *Such application may, at the option of the applicant, be*
“either made direct to the Governor, or transmitted to the
“Governor through Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of
“State for the Colonies, and must be accompanied by a *fac*
“simile or specimen of the ‘Trade Mark’ sought to be
“registered, verified by affidavit; and every such affidavit
“shall set forth the description and nature of the goods
“upon which such trade mark has hitherto been, or is
“intended to be used, and that the deponent is to the best
“of his belief entitled solely or jointly with other persons
“therein named to the exclusive use of such trade mark.”
- “(4) Upon compliance with the formalities hereinbefore prescribed,
“it shall be lawful for the Governor, if he shall in his dis-
“cretion think fit, to grant the application and to order the
“registration of the said trade mark in the Colonial Secre-
“tary's Office, and the filing therein of all affidavits trans-
“mitted therewith in manner aforesaid.”
- “(5) Notice of the registration of a trade mark under this Ordi-
“nance shall be published in the *Gazette*, and the register
“of trade marks shall be open to public inspection, at all
“reasonable times, on payment of such fee as may be fixed.”

From this it will be seen that any person has only to lay claim to the exclusive use of any trade mark and to state same formally as required by the Ordinance in order to have the mark duly registered, (subject, of course, to the discretion given by the Ordinance to His Excellency the Governor), and if the trade mark so claimed and registered should prove to be an infringement of a trade mark belonging to some one else and already duly registered, a cancellation of the registration of same can only be obtained after the lapse of some time and at considerable expense for legal advice, etc., and thus hardship is wrought.

E

We would point out that in our opinion the Ordinance is defective inasmuch as it does not provide for notice being given the public of applications having been lodged for the registration of trade marks, but only for the notice of the registration having been actually granted, and the proprietors of registered trade marks, which may be infringed by those sought to be registered, have thus no opportunity of opposing applications for the registration, but can only obtain redress through the more costly process of lodging a petition for the cancellation of registration of such marks as they may consider infringements of their own.

We would therefore suggest it would be desirable to have a provision made for the due notice to the public of any applications lodged for registration of trade marks, and the allowance under same of ample time for those concerned to examine into the application and if necessary to lodge objections thereto.

We understand the practice of the Trade Marks Registration Office at home to be that on an application being lodged for the registration of a trade mark, the trade mark is carefully compared by experts with all such already on the register for the purpose of ascertaining whether it is likely to be an infringement of any, and should it be considered as in any way resembling any trade marks already on the Register, a reference is made to the proprietors of such marks, and they are given the opportunity of lodging their objections, and after hearing same the Registrar makes his decision.

We would point out that there appears to be no expert staff provided by the Government here for such examination of trade marks submitted for registration, and, in our opinion, in lieu of this, the suggestion we make would, to some extent, provide protection for the proprietors of trade marks already registered.—We are, &c.,

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.

FULLERTON HENDERSON, Esq.,

Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Ordinance No. 16 of 1873: An Ordinance to provide for the registration of Trade Marks.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

HONGKONG, 20th May, 1895.

SIR,—The Committee beg to bring to the notice of the Government that

E

MESSRS. GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co. have called the attention of the Chamber to an omission which they consider entails a hardship on those who have occasion to avail themselves of the protection which the above Ordinance was enacted to afford, stating—

That without in any way making the application public anyone is at liberty to apply for the exclusive right to any trade marks on conforming to the requirements of the Ordinance.

That the fact of such application having been made is notified in the *Government Gazette* only *after* the registration of the Mark has already been granted, with the result that should it prove to be an infringement the owner can only get the registration cancelled after, probably, very considerable delay and expense.

That in England marks tendered for registration are subject to a severe scrutiny at the hands of a large staff of experts and compared with those already registered, and if any resemblance is supposed to exist between the mark tendered and any other already registered the owner of that mark is communicated with and given the opportunity of objecting to the registration.

As the requirements of the Colony in the matter of registration are not such as justify the maintaining of a special staff for the investigation of trade marks, Messrs. GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co. think a clause might advantageously be introduced into the Ordinance making it compulsory that all applications for registration should be made public at the date of application and continue to be made public, at intervals, by notification in the *Government Gazette*, or otherwise, until the date of registration.

These gentlemen further suggest that it seems desirable that a period of three months should be allowed to elapse before granting registration to admit of time to communicate with, and receive a reply from the Trade Mark Branch of the Patent Office, London. Messrs. GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.'s suggestions appear calculated, if adopted, to add to the usefulness of the Ordinance now referred to, and the Committee have much pleasure in submitting them to His Excellency the Governor for his favourable consideration.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

E

No. 1119.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 22nd May, 1895.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 20th instant, I am directed to state for the information of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce that the suggested addition to Ordinance No. 16 of 1873 will receive due consideration.

It is not quite clear from your letter whether the reference to the Trade Mark Branch of the Patent Office, London, is to be made by the Government or by the applicants in each case, and whether such reference is to be made obligatory or not. I shall be obliged if you will be good enough to furnish definite information on these points.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 25th May, 1895.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed communication of 22nd instant, and on behalf of the Committee beg to thank you for the promised consideration to their suggestions in regard to Ordinance No. 16 of 1873 for the registration of trade marks.

I much regret to notice that the reference to communicating with Trade Mark Branch of the Patent Office, London, gave rise to some doubt as to the exact meaning it was intended to convey.

Many of the firms here only act in the capacity of agents for the owners of marks registered in England, and in suggesting that between the date of application for, and granting of registration an interval of three months might be allowed to elapse, the Committee only had in view giving the agents here time to communicate with and receive a reply from the principals at home, who could, if they so desired, refer to the Patent Office, London; but it was not intended that such reference should be obligatory, nor was it the intention of the Committee to venture the suggestion that the Government should on each application for registration put itself in communication with the above office.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

F

Quarantine Regulations.

JAPANESE CONSULATE,
HONGKONG, 17th April, 1895.

SIR,—Regarding your letter No. 765 of the 16th instant, I beg to further state that quarantine at Nagasaki is intended only for vessels arriving from Liaotung Peninsula in certain districts of which cholera is epidemic.—I have, &c.,

T. J. NAKAGAWA, *H. I. J. M. Consul.*

The Honourable COLONIAL SECRETARY,

&c., &c., &c.

No. 924.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 30th April, 1895.

SIR,—I am directed to state for the information of the Chamber of Commerce that a Proclamation has been issued to-day by the Governor in Council under section 1 of Ordinance No. 5 of 1895 prohibiting the immigration of Chinese from the port of Swatow from this date until further notice.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

&c., &c., &c.

(*Copy of telegram received from the Governor of the
Straits Settlements.*)

9th May, 1895.

Chinese immigration prohibited vessels leaving or touching at Macao, Swatow, Hainan after 10th May.

(*Secretary of State to Governor, Hongkong.*)

HONGKONG.

DOWNING STREET, 22nd April, 1895.

No. 93.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 76 of the 12th ultimo forwarding copies of correspondence relative to the quarantine regulations made by the Straits Settlements Government during the prevalence of the bubonic plague in Hongkong.

F

It appears that on the 7th of September last a telegram was sent to Singapore from Hongkong stating that clean bills of health were being issued, but that five days later than that date a further case of the plague occurred.

I think therefore that the Straits Settlements Government were amply justified in delaying the removal of their quarantine restrictions until they had clear information that the disease had ceased to exist in Hongkong.—I have, &c.,

KIMBERLEY.

Governor Sir W. ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

No. 1174.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 30th May, 1895.

SIR,—I am directed to state for the information of the Chamber of Commerce that the following telegram has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Bangkok :—

“Governor,

“Hongkong.

“Inspection enforced at Paknam on arrivals from Hongkong and China
“ports.

“BUNSEN.”

I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

TELEGRAM.

“BANGKOK, 4th June, 1895.

“Governor, Hongkong.

“Medical inspection will not be imposed on direct arrivals from
“Hongkong without touching infected port.

“BUNSEN.”

F

No. 1429.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 6th July, 1895.

SIR,—I am directed to state, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, that this Government has received information that the quarantine restrictions recently imposed at Saigon against vessels arriving from Hongkong have now been removed.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

&c., &c., &c.

No. 4561/95.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
SINGAPORE, 6th July, 1895.

SIR,—With reference to the Governor's telegram of the 9th May, informing His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong, that Chinese immigration by vessels leaving or touching at Macao, Swatow or Hainan after 10th May had been prohibited by proclamation at this port, I am directed by the Officer Administering the Government to inform you that the proclamation referred to was withdrawn as regards Swatow on 20th June and as regards Hainan ports on 27th June. Further information is awaited from Macao before withdrawing the proclamation as regards that port also.—I have, &c.,

A. P. TALBOT, *Acting Colonial Secretary,*
Straits Settlements.

The Honourable THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
HONGKONG.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
SINGAPORE, 24th July, 1895.

SIR,—In continuation of my letter of the 6th instant, No. 4561/95, I am directed by the Officer Administering the Government to inform you that the proclamation of 8th May, therein referred to, prohibiting Chinese immigration into this port by vessels leaving or touching at Macao, Swatow or Hainan, has now been entirely withdrawn.—I have, &c.,

A. P. TALBOT, *Acting Colonial Secretary,*
Straits Settlements.

The Honourable THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
HONGKONG.

F
NOTIFICATION.

With reference to the Regulation made by Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in Japan on the 20th day of June, 1894, to secure the observance by British Subjects of the Regulations for the Inspection of Vessels arriving from localities infected with Cholera, issued by the Imperial Japanese Government on the Twenty-third day of June, 1882, and subsequently amended by Imperial Decree:

The Undersigned Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan, hereby makes known for the information of British Subjects resident in or resorting to Japan, that he has received a note from His Excellency the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs stating that the said Regulations for the Inspection of Vessels will now be put in force at the Ports of Yokohama, Kôbe, Nagasaki, Kuchinotsu, Shimonoseki and Moji, in the case of all vessels arriving directly, or otherwise, from Ports in Formosa and Corea, being localities infected with Cholera.

The said Inspection will take place:—

For vessels proceeding to the Port of Kôbe at Wada Point;

For vessels proceeding to the Port of Yokohama at Nagaura; and

For vessels proceeding to the Port of Moji or Ujina at Shimonoseki.

When it is necessary to enforce disinfection in the case of vessels bound for the Port of Kuchinotsu in Nagasaki Prefecture, or for any other special Port of export, they shall proceed to the nearest disinfecting station.

ERNEST SATOW.

H.B.M. Legation,
July 31st, 1895.

(Telegram from Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Tokio, Japan.)
"17th December, 1895.

"Governor, Hongkong.

"Medical inspection of ships ceases from to-day.

"SATOW."

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 29th February, 1896.

SIR,—In view of the fact that the Government of the Straits Settlements has imposed quarantine on all vessels arriving at Singapore from this

F

Port, my Committee earnestly hope that His Excellency the Governor will wire to Singapore urging that those steamers not carrying Chinese passengers should be exempt from quarantine.—I have, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary*.

Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary*.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 4th March, 1896.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of 29th ultimo, I am directed to transmit for the information of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copies of a telegram despatched on the 2nd instant to the Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements, and his reply thereto.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary*.

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

TELEGRAMS.

To COLONIAL SECRETARY, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Chamber applies for exemption from quarantine vessels without Chinese passengers. Please telegraph what exemptions allowed.

2nd March.

From COLONIAL SECRETARY, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Exemptions at discretion of Health Officer dependent on estimated risk to public health.

4th March.

G

Opening of the West River.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 16th May, 1895.

SIR,—As there seems to exist some doubt as to whether provision has been made in the treaty reported to have been ratified between China and Japan for the opening up of the West River to foreign navigation, the

G

Committee venture to suggest that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to telegraph to Her Majesty's Minister at Peking with the view of ascertaining if a concession of so much importance has been the subject of diplomatic arrangement between the two contracting Powers.

This Chamber has for many years endeavoured to urge upon Her Majesty's Ministers the desirability of strongly impressing upon the Chinese Government the benefits to trade that would necessarily follow the opening of the West River—benefits in which China would herself participate equally with other nations.

The last occasion in which the Chamber had the honour of bringing the question to the notice of Her Majesty's Minister, was in a letter addressed to Lord RIXON under date of 31st July, 1893, and as His Excellency was then good enough to express his willingness to solicit the good offices of his Lordship in regard to the representations of the Chamber, the Committee feel somewhat confident that they may still assure themselves of his valuable advocacy. The Committee consider the present a very opportune time to agitate afresh the opening up of such an important commercial highway, and they beg to suggest that His Excellency will strongly urge upon Mr. O'CONNOR the necessity of pressing for the opening of ports, more particularly Wu-chow, a large trading centre on the junction of the Fu Ho and West Rivers. Other ports such as Nan-ning Fu, some 300 miles farther up the river, will no doubt be included, but the Committee are strongly inclined to emphasize the importance of Wu-chow, up to which point the river is reported to present no difficulties to navigation.

Mr. O'CONNOR has already marked his approval of the proposal, when writing to the Chairman of the Chamber on 5th September, 1893, in reference to the West River, he stated—"I beg to assure you that if it should be in my power to forward at any time a proposal so eminently in the interests of the development of British trade, I shall spare no pains to do so." In fulfilment of this promise Mr. O'CONNOR will no doubt be found willing to support the contention of the Chamber when the commercial supplement to the treaty comes to be arranged.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

G

No. 1120.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 22nd May, 1895.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 16th instant, I am directed to state for the information of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce that, in answer to inquiries made, a telegram has been received from Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Peking to the effect that the clause contained in the original treaty for the opening up of the West River was not included in the Treaty as finally ratified by the contracting parties.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 29th May, 1895.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favour of 22nd instant and to ask you to be good enough to convey to His Excellency the Governor the best thanks of the Committee for his courtesy in so promptly obtaining from Her Majesty's Minister at Peking the information asked for in the Chamber's letter of 16th instant as to whether in the treaty recently entered into between China and Japan provision had been made for *opening up the West River to foreign trade.*

The Committee were naturally somewhat surprised and disappointed to learn that a clause providing for the opening of the river introduced into the original draft had been omitted in the treaty subsequently ratified, and it seems rather difficult of explanation why a question of admitted importance, and so materially affecting the trade of Southern China, which had been the subject of deliberation while negotiations were pending, should have been abandoned at a later stage of the proceedings.

His Excellency Mr. O'CONNOR, who has evinced very considerable interest in the opening of the West River as a measure eminently calculated to prove beneficial to trade, will, no doubt, when the Commercial Supplement comes to be arranged, be found willing to do all in his power to obtain a re-introduction into the treaty of the rejected clause.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

G

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 29th May, 1895.

SIR,—The Chamber has again had occasion to trespass on your kindness in asking your good offices in moving the Foreign Office to consider anew the question of opening up the West River to foreign trade.

On learning from the Government here that in the recently ratified treaty between China and Japan no provision had been made for opening the above river, the Committee took the liberty of at once despatching to you a telegram, copy of which I now beg to enclose, calling your attention to the omission, and asking your assistance in bringing it before the Foreign Office.

The Committee were naturally surprised and disappointed to find that a clause providing for the opening of the river introduced into the original draft had been omitted from the treaty subsequently ratified, and are at a loss to understand why a question of admitted importance and so materially affecting the trade of Southern China, which had been the subject of discussion while negotiations were pending, should, at a later stage of the proceedings, have been deliberately abandoned.

The Committee has again called the attention of Her Majesty's Minister at Peking to the subject, and as he has already evinced his interest in the opening of the West River as a measure eminently calculated to develop British trade, he will no doubt, when the commercial supplement comes to be arranged, be found willing to do all in his power to obtain the re-introduction into the treaty of the rejected clause.

It is hoped that, at your suggestion, the Foreign Office may see fit to instruct Mr. O'Connor, when the supplementary arrangements are in course of settlement, to act in accordance with the repeated recommendation of your Association and this Chamber, and press for the right of navigating the West River.

The Chamber has emphasized the importance of Wu-chow, a large trading centre on the junction of the Fu Ho and West Rivers, up to which point the river is reported to present no difficulties to navigation, but Nan-ning Fu, some 300 miles farther up the river, and other ports will no doubt be considered.

Begging to tender you, in anticipation, the best thanks of the Committee

G

for any assistance you may have it in your power to render the Chamber in its endeavours to obtain the opening of the West River,—I remain, &c.,

F. HENDERSON,
Secretary.

WM. KESWICK, Esq.,

*Chairman, China Association,
London.*

(Translation of Telegram.)

The British Minister Peking has telegraphed opening inland navigation West River Canton included in first treaty but has been omitted ratified treaty Chamber of Commerce Hongkong recommend strongly promptly urge the Foreign Office of the utmost importance to Hongkong included in commercial supplement opening up to Wu-chow.

25th May, 1895.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 12th June, 1895.

SIR,—The Committee of the Chamber having recently heard from Mr. WILLIAM KESWICK, London, that the Foreign Office were in communication with your Excellency on the question of the opening of the West River to foreign trade, and deeming the present a suitable time to again bring the subject to your notice, took the opportunity of forwarding to you the following telegram on the 11th instant:—

“Chamber Commerce most earnestly requests utmost
endeavour open West River.

“10th June.”

Through the courtesy of His Excellency the Governor, the Committee had been previously informed that no provision had been made in the treaty lately concluded between China and Japan for the opening of the above river, and were naturally disappointed to further learn that though the question, one of admitted importance, had been the subject of deliberation while negotiations were pending, it had been subsequently abandoned.

In the hope that opportunities may arise, when the commercial supplement to the treaty comes to be arranged, of re-opening the question, the Committee beg to again refer to it with the request that if such opportunities do occur

G

your Excellency may be pleased, so far as it is in your power to do so, to impress upon the Chinese Government the benefits to trade that must necessarily follow the opening of the West River—benefits in which China would herself participate in excess of other nations.

Having already expressed your approval of a proposal eminently in the interests of the development of British trade, it seems unnecessary to trouble you with a repetition of arguments already adduced, and the Committee would now only solicit your Excellency's good offices in endeavouring to obtain for British traders, in common with other nationals, the right of navigating the West River, with the opening of ports thereon, more particularly Wu-chow, a large centre of trade at the junction of the Fu Ho and the West Rivers.

Other ports such as Nan-ning Fu, some three hundred miles farther up the river, will no doubt be considered, but the Committee are strongly inclined to press the importance of Wu-chow, up to which point the river is reported to present no difficulties to navigation.

Begging for the contents of this letter your Excellency's very favourable consideration,—I have, &c.,

A. McCONACHIE,
Vice-Chairman.

His Excellency SIR NICHOLAS O'CONOR, K.C.B., C.M.G.,
*Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and
Minister Plenipotentiary in China, Peking.*

(Reply from Her Majesty's Minister, Peking, to above telegram.)

"In answer to your telegram of 10th matter been well considered
"receiving greatest attention."

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 15th June, 1895.

SIR,—From the tenor of the remarks which have recently appeared in the columns of the local papers, it might be assumed that these had been written under the impression that the Chamber had allowed the question of the opening of the West River to drop out of consideration.

It may interest your readers to know that the agitation commenced years ago has been persistently maintained, and that the Chamber has not

G

ceased, by letter and wire, to urge upon the Foreign Office, and also by Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, the desirability of throwing open to foreign traffic this important commercial waterway, pointing out the benefits which must necessarily follow such a course—benefits in which China would herself participate in excess of other nations.

At the present stage it is not desirable to go further into details of the action taken by the Chamber.—I remain, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

To the Editors,

"CHINA MAIL."

"DAILY PRESS."

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

3, LOMBARD STREET,
LONDON, E.C., 17th May, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—Your telegram of 10th instant forwarded through Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., was duly received by me as per translation on the other side.

The matter is being considered and I shall place it before H.M. Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the way most likely to secure its object, and I hope to write you further by next mail.—I am, &c.,

W. KESWICK.

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 20th June, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure to own receipt of your esteemed communication of 17th May, and have further to acknowledge your telegram (in answer to the Chamber's messages of 10th and 25th May) of 8th June, received through the courtesy of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., reading—

"Inform Hongkong Chamber of Commerce Foreign Office are in communication with British Minister We would suggest urge matter British Legation.

8th June."

G

On the receipt of your telegram the Chamber at once acted on your suggestion and telegraphed to Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR, and were yesterday favoured with the following reply:—

"In answer to your telegram of 11th matter been well considered receiving greatest attention."

I am directed by the Committee to thank you for the above telegram and to express to you the obligation they are under to you for having so readily on this, and all other former occasions, acceded to the requests of the Chamber when it had occasion to ask your valuable services, which are very fully appreciated.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

WILLIAM KESWICK, Esq.,
LONDON.

PEKING, 25th June, 1895.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 12th instant I do not know that I can say more than to assure you that I shall lose no opportunity depending upon me to give practical effect to the wishes of the General Chamber of Commerce of Hongkong in regard to the opening of the West River, of the possible advantages of which to British and all foreign trade I have a very clear idea.—I am, &c.,

N. R. O'CONOR.

A. McCONACHIE, Esq.,
Vice-Chairman, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 24th July, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed communications of 7th and 14th June giving cover to copies of correspondence with the Foreign and Colonial Offices having reference to the opening of the West River, and the granting of preferential duties on cargo carried by native craft.

The right of trading in the West River which, if conceded, would of necessity become an important factor in the development of British trade in Southern China, and the granting of preferential duties, which has certainly

G

proved detrimental to British shipping interests on the Canton River, are subjects which have long occupied the attention of the Chamber, and I am directed by the Committee to express the great obligation they feel they are under to you for having strongly impressed upon the Home Government the important bearing these questions, the former favourable the latter adversely, have upon foreign trade with China.

The Chamber has the assurance of Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR's support, who writing from Peking under date of 25th June states—"I shall lose no opportunity depending upon me to give practical effect to the wishes of the Chamber of Commerce of Hongkong in regard to the opening of the West River, of the possible advantages of which to British and all foreign trade I have a very clear idea." The Chamber has also repeatedly had the benefit of his assistance in the endeavours, which were successful at the time in temporarily doing away with preferential duties as affecting trade in the Canton River.

The great importance attached to the opening of the West River might with advantage be brought to the attention of the New Government, and the Committee ardently hope that the efforts being now made in that direction may eventually result in success.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

WILLIAM KESWICK, Esq.,
LONDON.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 15th August, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—Through the courtesy of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. the Chamber had again the opportunity of availing of their telegraph code, and on 6th instant sent you the following message:—

"The West River the British Minister no progress reported. Hongkong Chamber of Commerce they recommend strongly urge opening new British Government and keep us well advised as to prospects."

Considering the dissolution of Parliament a very favourable opportunity to agitate afresh the importance of opening the West River to foreign navigation, the Committee again venture to solicit your good offices, and presuming on the readiness you have shown on all previous occasions to

G

respond to such requests, do not hesitate to ask your valuable assistance in support of a question in which you have already evinced your interest and approval.

It will no doubt appear to you, as it does to the Committee, highly desirable that the new Government on assuming office should have impressed upon them, in the interests of British commerce, the importance of opening up so valuable a waterway, and the Committee would ask you to be good enough to take such steps as may seem to you best calculated to bring it prominently to their notice and attention.

The request to be kept advised as to prospects was an addition considerably made by Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. to the Chamber's telegram.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

WILLIAM KESWICK, Esq.,
LONDON.

(*Extract from Mr. Wm. Keswick's letter dated London,
6th September, 1895.*)

I have had an opportunity of mentioning at the Foreign Office the very great and urgent importance at this time and under the special circumstances of the recent Treaty of Peace between China and Japan, the first version of which provided for the opening of the West River although eliminated from the ratified document, that this valuable water communication with the interior should no longer be kept closed.

The Foreign Office, you will be pleased to learn, have the whole matter under consideration.

3, LOMBARD STREET,

LONDON, E.C., 22nd November, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 15th ultimo, and my best attention shall be given to the subjects mentioned in it.

At an interview last week, Lord SALISBURY gave me to understand that the opening of the West River continued to receive the special attention of the Government, and that, likewise, the position of British interests in general in China were receiving earnest consideration.

G

I hope, therefore, that it may not be very long until the navigation of the West River, which your Chamber has so long urged, will be opened to foreign enterprise.—Yours, &c.,

W. KESWICK.

The Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG.

H

Proposed Reconstruction of Gap Rock Lighthouse.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 14th May, 1895.

SIR,—I beg to revert to this Chamber's letter of 16th March and to your esteemed communication of 21st March, both being in continuation of previous correspondence having reference to Messrs. COODE, SON, and MATTHEWS's report on the *condition of the lighthouse building at Gap Rock* containing a recommendation that it should be re-constructed.

His Excellency the Governor having been good enough to place the report before the Committee of this Chamber for an expression of opinion as to the advisability or otherwise of adopting that recommendation I am directed to now state, in reply, that the question has again had the careful attention of the Committee and further consideration of the proposal to rebuild the lighthouse, which in the opinion of Mr. MATTHEWS is necessary if it is to be effectively maintained, strengthens the opinion that a proposal involving such a drastic measure and raising several points of a purely technical character cannot be efficiently dealt with by any others than experts.

Under these circumstances the Committee venture to suggest, that in so important a matter, it would be well to avail of the expert assistance of the officers attached to the Imperial Chinese Customs, whose knowledge of the Coast and long experience in the erection of lighthouses thereon would render their opinion in the present instance, when the nature of the site as well as the construction of the building has to be considered, particularly valuable. Sir ROBERT HART, who has all along shewn his interest in the Gap Rock Light, would no doubt be found ready to afford any assistance or information the Government might wish to obtain.

H

In making this suggestion the Committee are anxious to have it understood that they have no desire to undervalue the services of Mr. T. MATTHEWS, whose opinion, holding as he does so important a position on the Trinity House Board, is worthy of every consideration, but he must of necessity be lacking in the local knowledge which the officers connected with the Imperial Chinese Customs have acquired only after many years' experience.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 7th August, 1895.

No. 1630.

SIR,—With reference to my letter No. 1123 of the 23rd May last, I am directed to state for the information of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce that Sir ROBERT HART, Inspector-General of the Chinese Customs, has expressed his regret that he is unable to lend the services of an officer for the purpose of inspecting the Gap Rock Lighthouse, as there is no officer available.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 1705.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 15th August, 1895.

SIR,—In reference to my letter No. 1630 of the 7th instant I am directed to enquire whether, in view of Sir ROBERT HART's inability to lend the services of an officer of the Chinese Customs for the purpose of inspecting the Gap Rock Lighthouse, the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce has any further suggestion to offer.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

The Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
&c., &c., &c.

H

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 20th August, 1895.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed communication of 15th instant, and am desired by my Committee to express their regret that Sir ROBERT HART, who, they believe, has always been willing to assist in such matters, is not able to lend the services of an officer to inspect the Gap Rock Lighthouse, in view of the suggested reconstruction of that building.

The Committee do not at present know of any competent authority in the neighbourhood whose opinion they could suggest being taken.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 9th September, 1895.

SIR,—The suggested reconstruction of the Gap Rock Lighthouse having, through the courtesy of His Excellency the Governor, been referred to the Chamber for an expression of opinion as to the advisability or otherwise of carrying out the suggestion, the Committee in view of the importance of the question and the estimated large outlay beg to again bring the matter to your notice.

When last addressing you on 20th August the Committee expressed their regret that Sir ROBERT HART was unable to lend the services of an expert, and also their inability to suggest any competent authority in the neighbourhood whose opinion they could suggest being asked.

As it does not appear that the condition of the building is such as to necessitate immediate alterations, and it seems to the Committee desirable that very careful consideration should be given to the contemplated changes before these are attempted to be carried into effect, they venture to suggest that Sir ROBERT HART be again approached in the hope that somewhat later he may be able to devote the services of one of his officers to reporting on the necessity or otherwise of any alterations of a permanent nature.

The Committee are the more anxious to urge the adoption of this course as it is only from that source that a practical opinion of those versed in the construction of Lighthouse along the coast of China can be obtained.

H

The suggestions made by the Honourable C. P. CHATER, when expressing the views of the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council as to strengthening the existing building, if necessary, the providing of extra lenses, and the erection of a refuge for the Lighthouse Keepers, are, in the opinion of the Committee, well worth His Excellency's favourable consideration, and they will be pleased to learn that these meet with his approval.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

I

Proposed enforced Use of Official Telegraph
Code Vocabulary.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 26th April, 1895.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favour of 4th instant, and to thank you for the enclosure contained therein.

The Committee much regret to learn that they were, apparently, premature in congratulating themselves that the use of the Official Telegraph Code Directory was to be made optional, at least, as regards extra-European messages, and that the question has still to be discussed at the Telegraph Convention at Buda-Pesth in 1896, which will render further agitation necessary on the part of those who are opposed to the enforced use of the Code.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

ALEX. J. GUNN, Esq., *Secretary*,

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SINGAPORE.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 23rd September, 1895.

TO THE INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH BUREAU, BERNE.

The Committee of the above Chamber beg to ask the attention of the International Telegraph Bureau to the enclosed document signed by this and

I

various Chambers expressing their objections to the proposed enforced use of the Official Telegraph Code Vocabulary for use in extra-European messages with the request that the same may be forwarded to the International Telegraph Convention to be held at Buda-Pesth for its favourable consideration when the question is brought forward next year for discussion.

TO THE INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH BUREAU, BERNE.

Learning that the proposed compulsory use of the Official Telegraph Code Vocabulary will become the subject of discussion, and its adoption or rejection for use in extra-European messages finally settled, at the next meeting of the International Telegraph Convention to be held at Buda-Pesth in 1896, the undersigned, being desirous of protesting against what they consider an unnecessary innovation, beg to bring the matter to the notice of the International Telegraph Bureau with the request that the objections to the proposal, hereafter stated, may be placed before the International Telegraph Convention for consideration previous to the next assembly at Buda-Pesth.

The compulsory adoption of the official vocabulary, if enforced, will necessitate the abandonment of all private codes now in use, and as most of these have been compiled at great trouble and expense, to render them practically useless would entail serious loss and inconvenience on the bulk of the mercantile and banking communities in the East, without, so far as the signatories are aware, offering or even suggesting, any compensating advantages, such as either reduced cost, or greater safety in the transmission of messages.

These codes have in most instances been the outcome of long continued endeavours to simplify the use of telegraphy to mercantile requirements, have been gradually elaborated and increased to meet the business exigencies of each particular firm as these arose, and to adapt the private codes to the new vocabulary would be a task not easy of accomplishment. As some of the codes now in use contain over 300,000 words the suggested number of 256,700 for the new vocabulary would be insufficient for the reconstruction of each code.

It has not been contended that the use of private codes has given rise to

I

difficulties, or in any way retarded the business of the Telegraph Companies, therefore the suppression of these codes can scarcely have been suggested on public grounds.

In raising objections to the suggested alterations the undersigned believe they are only following a course similar to that adopted by many European Chambers of Commerce.

The signatories venture to hope that the Convention to meet at Buda-Pesth will give the question their fullest and most serious consideration.

It has not been explicitly shown that the compulsory use of the Official Telegraph Code Vocabulary will facilitate the transmission of messages, but on the other hand there is no doubt that it will cause very serious loss and inconvenience to all who have private codes.

Signed by

HONGKONG, CANTON, SHANGHAI, HANKOW, FOOCHOW,
HIOGO & OSAKA, YOKOHAMA, AMOY, AND TIENTSIN
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

Forwarded to "THE INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH BUREAU."

BERNE.

23rd September, 1895.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
SINGAPORE, 2nd November, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to enclose, for the information of your Chamber, copy of a letter addressed to the International Telegraph Bureau, Berne, on the subject of the Berne Telegraph Vocabulary, the manner of introducing which is to be decided at the Buda-Pesth Convention next year.

My Committee would invite the co-operation of your Chamber against its application being made compulsory to extra-European messages.—Yours, etc.,

ALEX. J. GUNN, *Secretary*.

The Secretary,

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Hongkong.

I

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
SINGAPORE, 2nd November, 1895.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Singapore Chamber of Commerce to address you on the subject of the Official Telegraph Vocabulary prepared and recently published under your auspices.

2. I attach hereto copy of a circular on this subject (not bearing any date) which was issued last year (1894) under the names of the Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited, and three other Telegraph Companies, which circular came before my Chamber through the Singapore Agency of the Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Company, Limited.

3. This circular received here early last year is the only intimation of an official or authoritative character which the Chamber had received of the contemplated introduction of such a vocabulary.

4. I beg to draw your particular attention to the fact that the circular in question contains no definite information as to the use of such vocabulary becoming obligatory for messages exchanged with the extra-European system, under which designation it is assumed that messages to and from Singapore are classed.

5. My Chamber learned with no small degree of astonishment that a specimen copy of the vocabulary in question was, on 13th April, circulated in this Settlement by the Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Company, Limited, accompanied by an intimation that the use thereof would probably become obligatory here shortly after the next Conference. I attach hereto a copy of the circular notifying to this effect.

6. As the result of this circular and with a view to obtaining definite information on the subject, the Chamber placed itself in communication with the General Manager here of the Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Company, Limited, who was good enough to cable on March 14th, 1895, to the Head Office of that Company in London, (copy of telegram attached).

7. In reply to this enquiry I now have before me under date 15th March, 1895, a communication from the Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Company, Limited, which in substance informs the Chamber that—

"No time has been fixed for the compulsory introduction of this
"code for extra-European messages. The matter will be fully

I

"discussed at the next meeting of the International Telegraph Convention to be held at Buda-Pesth in 1896. No reliable information can be given before then."

8. My Chamber had previously (on 8th January, 1895) addressed the General Post Office, London, on this subject (copy of letter attached hereto), and on 16th March, a reply under date 14th February was received from that department in which it is distinctly stated that as regards extra-European messages the use of the Berne Vocabulary will be optional.

9. You will at once see from what I have above set forth that the information on this subject which is now before my Chamber is not only indefinite but conflicting. On the one hand the circular to which I first referred, issued under the names of four Telegraph Companies (and this so far as I can learn has never been withdrawn or modified) notifies the expectation that the vocabulary will, shortly after the next Conference, become obligatory for extra-European messages. Then again my Chamber was on 15th March, 1895, officially informed by the General Manager here of the Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Company, Limited, that no time has been fixed for the compulsory introduction of the code for extra-European messages, and further that no reliable information can be given before the meeting of the International Telegraph Convention at Buda-Pesth in 1896.

On the other hand the General Post Office in London has distinctly informed this Chamber that the use of the vocabulary as regards extra-European messages will be optional.

10. It cannot but be admitted that the introduction of an official code to supersede all others, would be a step involving to the commercial and trade communities of these Settlements issues of the gravest possible nature. The setting aside or re-framing of existing codes would in most cases necessitate not only a vast amount of labour and loss of time and serious inconvenience, but it would also for a certainty involve alarmingly heavy losses pecuniarily. And, holding as it does these views, my Chamber cannot but feel that the community here, whose very large and important commercial interests would be prejudicially affected by compulsory introduction of the Berne Vocabulary as now published, has been treated with scant consideration in that the existing position has been unnecessarily disturbed, apparently without any decision on the matter having as yet been definitely

I

arrived at by the Telegraph Authorities, and the application of such a code to the extra-European system appearing to be as yet quite an open question.

11. My Chamber finds it difficult, even impossible, to assume that the communication to it of the General Post Office under date 14th February, 1895—in which it is stated that as regards extra-European messages the use of the Berne Vocabulary will be optional—could have been made otherwise than in accuracy, and one object of my present communication is to ask you to be good enough to favour me with definite information on that point.

12. I would also ask you to be kind enough to inform me of the date in 1896 on which the International Telegraph Convention at Buda-Pesth is first to meet and also by what date it is expected that the result of its deliberations will be made known.

13. My Chamber being in communication with you would avail itself of this opportunity of expressing its views upon the hardship, and grave inconvenience and loss which would ensue to the commerce of the Colony upon a compulsory introduction here of the Berne Vocabulary for telegraphing.

14. It is understood that this vocabulary would, in practice, limit the commercial codes of the Colony to 214,000 words, and when it is pointed out that some of those already in use necessitate the application of somewhere over 338,000 words, it would be obvious that the scope of the Berne Vocabulary would be quite inadequate for requirements as found necessary in practice.

15. The following standard books of telegraphic words are, among others, in use in this Colony, viz.:—

Whitelaw's Book of French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Latin words,	202,600 words.
Whitelaw's Book of Dutch words,	40,000 "
" " of German "	42,600 "
" " of English "	53,000 "

Total,..... 338,200 words,

and instances can be cited where the combined use of all these works are necessary for the satisfactory conduct of business.

16. It is assumed that the object of the Telegraph Companies in desiring the compulsory introduction of and limitation to the Berne Vocabulary aim

I

at minimising trouble to themselves in detecting and correcting errors which happen while messages are in course of transmission by them.

17. I believe, however, that I am correct in stating that the code books at present in use in this Colony are productive of comparatively little trouble in this way; but in any case my Chamber would find difficulty in recognizing the justice or equity of the policy now under discussion, which would in reality amount to the commercial community being penalized for errors or mishaps occurring at the hands of the Telegraph Companies or on their lines by a reduction and curtailment of the telegraphic facilities which it has for so many years possessed, and on which its code systems have at immense labour and cost been constructed and built up.

18. The Chamber would respectfully invite your attention to the various issues—as affecting this community—thus involved in a compulsory application of the vocabulary to the extra-European system and would at the same time ask your forbearance with the lengthy detail at which these issues have been set forth, the importance of the question being its excuse.—I have, &c.,

ALEX. J. GUNN, *Secretary*.

The Secretary,

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH BUREAU,
Berne.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 26th November, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge, with thanks, your letter of the 2nd instant enclosing copy of a letter addressed by your Chamber to the International Telegraph Bureau, Berne, on the subject of the Berne Telegraph Vocabulary, and inviting the co-operation of this Chamber against its application being made compulsory to extra-European messages.

My Committee would have much pleasure in acceding to this request had they not already forwarded a protest to the International Telegraph Bureau on similar lines, which was also signed by the Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Shanghai, Hankow, Tientsin, Hiogo, and Yokohama Chambers. This protest (copy of which is enclosed) was despatched on the 26th September last.

I

If further action becomes necessary my Committee will be glad to co-operate in any step that may appear desirable to secure the object sought.—I am, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Acting Secretary*.

ALEX. GUNN, Esq., *Secretary*,

SINGAPORE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON,
21st November, 1895.

SIR,—The Director of the International Telegraph Bureau at Berne has forwarded to this Department the memorial from the Chambers of Commerce at Hongkong, Canton, Shanghai, Hankow, Tientsin, Yokohama, Hiogo, Foochow and Amoy, objecting to the enforced use of the Official Vocabulary in extra-European telegrams.

At the same time he has pointed out that the International Bureau has no authority to take official cognizance of any representations excepting such as proceed from one of the countries of the Union.

Having regard to the length of time which must elapse before a reply could be received from the Chamber of Commerce concerned, this Department has thought that it would best be carrying out their wishes if it agreed at once to accept the memorial, with a view to its receiving attentive consideration along with the memorials on the same subject which have been sent by other Chambers direct to this Office.

I trust that in the circumstances the course which this Department has adopted will meet with the approval of the Chambers of Commerce of the Far East.—I am, &c.,

J. C. LAMB.

The Chairman, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

No. 497,746.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 3rd January, 1896.

SIR,—I have for acknowledgment your esteemed communication of 21st November informing the Chamber that the Director of the International Telegraph Bureau at Berne had forwarded to your department the memorial from this and other Eastern Chambers objecting to the enforced use of the

I

official vocabulary in extra-European messages explaining that the Bureau had no authority to take cognizance of any representation excepting such as proceeded from one of the countries of the Union.

The Committee of the Chamber are greatly obliged for the action you have taken in respect of the above memorial, and I am directed to tender you their best thanks for your courtesy and the consideration you have shown, in order to save time, of at once accepting the memorial, and placing it on the same position as those of a like nature received from other Chambers direct, thus insuring its receiving attentive consideration at the hands of your department.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

*The Secretary, GENERAL POST OFFICE,
LONDON.*

J

**Sunday Cargo-Working Ordinance. Exemption
of certain Mail Steamers.**

(Secretary of State to Governor.)

HONGKONG.

No. 90.

DOWNING STREET.

11th April, 1895.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 9 of 7th January last forwarding further correspondence with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the temporary exemption of certain mail steamers from the provisions of the Sunday Cargo-Working Ordinance.

2. It appears from the report enclosed in your despatch No. 7 of 9th January, 1894, that only 4 cases occurred in 1893 in which advantage was taken of this exemption. I have not yet received a similar report as to the working of the Ordinance in 1894, but unless the exemptions in that year were much more numerous than in the previous year, I cannot see that any sufficient reason exists for altering the regulations on the subject of 31st October, 1893, which were adopted after full consideration. The exemption was originally suggested at the request of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, as you were informed in my despatch No. 135 of 31st August, 1893.

J

3. I take this opportunity of informing you that the mail contracts of the Messageries Maritimes and the North German Lloyd Steamers, existing at the date of the above mentioned regulations, were to expire in July, 1903 and July, 1900, respectively. In the case of the Messageries Maritimes the time was extended, by a subsequent supplementary contract to July, 1912, but the exemption allowed to this Company's steamers under the Hongkong regulations would, of course, not extend beyond the year 1903.—I have, &c.,

R. H. MEADE, *For the Secretary of State.*

Governor Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.,

Sc., Sc., Sc.

K

**Transit Passes and Obstruction to Sale of Goods
at Wuchow.**

WUCHOW-FU, 18th February, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I have been informed by H. M.'s Acting Consul at Canton that your Chamber has interested itself in regard to my case against the Chinese officials here and the Viceroy of Canton for preventing the free sale of piece-goods and cotton yarn at this port. For the further information of your members I beg to enclose copy of a proclamation on the subject which was issued by the Prefect here yesterday although dated the previous day. You will doubtless be able to get a better translation of it than I can with the limited means at my disposal. Among other things, it says that Chinese merchants are allowed to trade with me, but as soon as the cargo passes into native hands *it will be taxed with lekin and duty again*. This, of course, places me in a worse position than I was in before, as what merchant would dare to buy from me on these terms? The amount of what they would have to pay is not stated, and the wording, I understand, is so arranged that merchants can be punished in other ways by having cargo sold by me in their possession. All the merchants look at it in this light and decline to buy my cargo on any consideration.

I have claimed all along that, having paid for and received a Transit Pass to bring my goods to Wuchow, I am entitled to get them landed free

K

of all taxes and placed in exactly the same position as similar goods coming up *via* the barriers and paying the local taxes. Any inland duty after landing, which applies to the latter, I think should also be paid by the former, but nothing differential.

I trust the Chamber will do everything in their power to enforce Treaty rights in this case, as, if not, there will never again be such strong proof obtainable, and the Transit Pass question, which is vital to British trade, is doomed for ever.

I still remain here waiting instructions from H. M.'s Consul at Canton.—I am, &c.,

JOHN ANDREW.

To *The Secretary* of the HONGKONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 2nd March, 1896.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, copy of a letter received from Mr. JOHN ANDREW, dated Wuchow-fu 18th February, together with copy of translation of a Proclamation issued by the Prefect of Wuchow on the 17th idem.

In view of the official obstruction to the sale of Mr. ANDREW's cargo being thus continued, my Committee on Saturday despatched to the noble lord the Secretary for Foreign Affairs the following telegram:—

“Marquess SALISBURY, London. Sale goods British merchant
“ANDREW obstructed Wuchow-fu, West River. Chamber
“Commerce earnestly submits case merits vigorous action.
“Letter follows. McCONACHIE, Chairman.” I have, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary*.

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary*.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 2nd March, 1896.

SIR,—Referring again to the case of Mr. JOHN ANDREW at Wuchow-fu, I beg to enclose herewith copy of a letter received from him, dated the 18th ult., from which it will be seen that the Wuchow authorities, while

K

issuing a proclamation (translation of which is also enclosed) nominally authorising native merchants to trade freely with him, completely nullify that permission by stating that *Ichin* and Customs dues will be enforced on the goods reaching native hands.

In consequence of this communication, my Committee on Saturday despatched the following telegram to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:—
I have, &c.,

(*See above letter.*)

I have, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary*.

His Excellency W. N. BEAUCLERK,

H. B. M.'s *Chargé d'Affaires*, Peking.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 2nd March, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—In consequence of a letter received from Mr. JOHN ANDREW under date 18th ultimo, enclosing copy of a Proclamation issued by the Prefect the previous day, so worded as to effectually nullify the ostensible concession made, my Committee on Saturday despatched the following telegram to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:—

“Marquess SALISBURY, London. Sale goods British merchant
“ANDREW obstructed Wuchow-fu, West River. Chamber
“Commerce earnestly submits case merits vigorous action.
“Letter follows. McCONACHIE, Chairman.”

I have notified Mr. ANDREW of the action taken, and beg you will kindly have the letter, which I take the liberty to enclose, forwarded to him.—I am, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary*.

E. H. D. FRASER, Esq.,

H.B.M.'s *Acting Consul*, Canton.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 2nd March, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th February and of the Prefect's proclamation, which has been translated for this Chamber.

K

My Committee, in consequence of the information contained in your letter, telegraphed on the 29th February as follows to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs :—

(*See above letter.*)

Trusting that you will soon be relieved from your present irksome position,—I am, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary.*

JOHN ANDREW, Esq.,
Wuchow.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 3rd March, 1896.

MY LORD MARQUESS,—I had the honour, on behalf of this Chamber, to despatch to your Lordship on the 29th ultimo the following telegram:—

“Marquess SALISBURY, London. Sale goods British merchant
“ANDREW obstructed Wuchow-fu, West River. Chamber
“Commerce earnestly submits case merits vigorous action.
“Letter follows. McCONACHIE, Chairman.”

Your Lordship will doubtless ere this be in receipt of the particulars of this case from H. M.’s Chargé d’Affaires at Peking, and it may now suffice to briefly recapitulate the facts.

About two months ago, Mr. JOHN ANDREW, a British merchant, left Canton in a native boat full of piece-goods, for which he had taken out a transit pass, and proceeded up the West River to Wuchow-fu. On arrival there he exhibited his pass to the local authorities, and then commenced business, very quickly disposing of a portion of his cargo to native traders. The next day, however, these buyers informed Mr. ANDREW that they dared not take delivery of the goods. They had been intimidated, and said they could not complete their purchases unless a proclamation were issued by the authorities. Representations to the Acting British Consul at Canton followed, who in turn laid the case before the Viceroy. That official flatly denied the intimidation, but would do nothing to assist the merchant. The case was then carried to Peking, where presumably Mr. BEAUCLERK’s efforts were successful in obtaining some action, for on the 17th ultimo the Prefect of Wuchow issued a proclamation nominally sanctioning trade with Mr.

K

ANDREW, but the document was so worded (translation of same enclosed, together with copy of Mr. ANDREW’s covering letter of 18th ult.) that not one of the native traders would venture to take a single package.

As this case is one in which there is clear and actual proof of the manner in which for many years past the officials of the Two Kwang have effectually prevented foreign merchants availing themselves of the privileges granted by Art. XXVIII. of the Treaty of Tientsin, my Committee desire me to respectfully solicit your Lordship’s particular attention to the facts, and to express a hope that it may influence negotiations for the opening up of the West River to foreign trade and steamer navigation.—I have, &c.,

A. McCONACHIE, *Chairman.*

The Most Noble THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY,
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 3rd March, 1896.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, copy of a letter addressed by this Chamber to the noble lord the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in continuation of the telegram despatched on the 29th ult. in reference to the case of Mr. JOHN ANDREW at Wuchow.—I have, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary.*

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

TELEGRAM.

“From H. M. Minister, Peking.

“To Chamber of Commerce.

“Am representing matter to Chinese Government.

“21st January, 1896.”

(*Translation.*)

PROCLAMATION BY CHANG, PREFECT OF WUCHOW-FU.

The British merchant ANDREW has lately imported some goods into Wuchow. I [the Prefect] have already examined the same and allowed them to pass, leaving him [the said merchant] to bargain and trade with our merchants and people as they please. The said foreign merchant, in conse-

K

quence of some steamers [steam-launches] coming from the eastern provinces [Tung] has petitioned for a Proclamation to stop the same, saying that they are meant to frighten and put a stop to [trade]. But the real facts are that these steamers have already returned to the east, and did not come because of the European merchant selling goods here. I have now received a telegram from the Governor-General, directing me to devise ways and means to have this matter properly settled. I have therefore deemed it a fitting matter to issue this Proclamation. This is therefore to inform you [Chinese merchants and people of all classes] that if you are desirous of buying European goods you can deal with European merchants as you think fit. With regard to the paragraph in the treaty about China being at liberty to take steps herself to prevent frauds and the like language they have nothing to do with European merchants at all. The transportation of goods by European merchants is allowed by treaty, and you people need not therefore suspect that they are offending against the law. After the goods have been transferred to the Chinese merchants then *lekin* taxes and Customs dues will be charged according to regulations. Do not disobey this. A special Proclamation.

No. 35.

H.B.M. CONSULATE,
CANTON, 4th March, 1896.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant acquainting me with the telegram which your Chamber has sent to the Marquess of SALISBURY.

The Prefect's proclamation, translation of which is enclosed, was telegraphed in Chinese to H.M.'s Chargé d'Affaires on the 23rd February, and a remonstrance was addressed to the Viceroy the following day.

The Viceroy, in a despatch received yesterday, defends the proclamation, which he asserts to be in accordance with the Tsung-li Yamên's instructions. His Excellency further declares that, once transit pass goods have reached the destination mentioned in the pass and been sold to Chinese, foreigners cannot interfere, no matter what dues are levied on them.

This declaration has been telegraphed to Peking and reports will be forwarded to the Foreign Office, H.M.'s Legation, and the Hongkong Government.

K

Your letter to Mr. ANDREW has been posted to that gentleman, who reports, under date February 29th, that though the Wuchow dealers are most friendly, they dare not even warehouse his goods.—I am, &c.,

E. H. FRASER, *Acting Consul*.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, Esq.,

Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

WUCHOW-FC, 11th March, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your letter of 2nd instant and beg to return my best thanks to your Committee for the prompt and powerful telegram sent by your Chairman to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in reference to the detention of myself and sale of my goods here.

I now beg to inform your Committee that I have received a letter from Acting Consul FRASER dated Canton, 4th instant, in which he says:—

"To my remonstrance against the wording of the Prefect's proclamation the Viceroy replied yesterday defending the proclamation as in accordance with the instructions of the Tsung-li Yamên, and asserting that once transit pass goods have reached the destination mentioned in the pass and been sold to Chinese, the foreign merchant cannot interfere no matter what dues are levied on them."

"I telegraphed His Excellency's statements to Peking last night and hope that the Viceroy, to whom I am pointing out the illegality of any differential levy on transit pass goods, will be instructed to have a satisfactory proclamation issued without further delay."

The above goes clearly to prove that the Prefect has been acting all along under the Viceroy's instructions, and my case is complete as far as documentary evidence is concerned. The transit pass question is now brought to a distinct head and the matter rests entirely with Her Majesty's Minister at Peking whether he will or not insist upon carrying out the treaty.

I trust your Committee will continue to give this matter their valuable support—a matter of vital importance to British commerce being at stake.—I am, &c.,

JOHN ANDREW.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, Esq.,

Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG.

K

PEKING, 16th February, 1896.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd January respecting the interference of the Chinese authorities with the sale of British goods conveyed to Wuchowfu under transit pass.

The question has formed the subject of correspondence and frequent discussion between myself and the Tsung-li Yamén, and on the 12th instant I received a written assurance that the Viceroy at Canton would be instructed to have a proclamation issued at Wuchowfu, clearly explaining to the people that they are at perfect liberty to purchase transit pass goods.

I have telegraphed this information to Her Majesty's Consul at Canton, and await his report of the result before taking further action in the matter.

As to the opening of the West River, to which you allude in the concluding paragraph of your letter, I beg to assure you that the question continues to receive the closest attention.—I am, &c.,

W. BEAUCLERK.

A. McCONACHE, Esq.,
HONGKONG.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 20th June, 1895.

SIR,—The Committee had the pleasure of addressing you on 25th October last in reference to *Transit Passes*, and in connection herewith pointed out their intention to endeavour, by a series of small experimental shipments to different interior markets, to test how far, and by what means, the protection afforded to goods in transitu by these passes had been rendered nugatory by the action of the provincial Authorities in Kwangtung and Kwangsi.

In replying to the above letter you were good enough to enter very fully into the question in your favours of 31st October and 1st November, and did the Chamber valuable service in indicating how the proposal could probably best be carried out.

The Committee much regret they have now to inform you that after repeated trials the scheme as suggested had to be given up, chiefly on account of the promised co-operation of the Chinese in carrying out the trial shipments having entirely failed when put to the test. At first the matter was taken up with some show of interest—in view probably of prospective

K

profits; but later the fear of their own officials and the possible consequence, however remote, of being mixed up with foreigners in such a venture, seems to have taken possession of them and they withdrew.

Though unsuccessful in carrying out the proposed scheme of trial shipments the Committee are not disposed to leave in abeyance a question so vitally important to foreign trade as the right to forward goods into the interior under transit passes, and encouraged by the interest you have already shewn in this matter venture to again ask your assistance in endeavouring to obtain from the Chinese Government a faithful fulfilment of treaty obligations.

Some other method better suited to test the defects of the transit pass system than that attempted may perhaps occur to you, and any suggestion you may be pleased to make on this point will be much appreciated.

Mr. KESWICK mentioned his intention of writing to inform you of the want of success attending the Chamber's attempts at trial shipment, but the Committee are in doubt as to whether or not he remembered to do so before leaving.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

To BYRON BRENNAN, Esq., C.M.G.,
H. B. M. Consul, Canton.

(Confidential.)

H. M. CONSULATE,
CANTON, December 17th, 1895.

SIR,—I beg to refer you to previous correspondence that has passed between you and Mr. Consul BRENNAN on the subject of transit passes in the Kwangtung and neighbouring provinces.

Mr. BRENNAN's suggestion was that by a series of practical experiments the fare of foreign merchandize under transit pass should be ascertained; and also that data should be obtained shewing by how much the taxes imposed on uncertificated goods exceeded the amount which would be levied under the transit pass system, assuming that system to be working properly.

Your Chamber was quite willing to make the experiment suggested by Mr. BRENNAN, but it found difficulties when it came to carry them out; and although there can be no moral doubt on the subject, this Consulate is still without definite proof either that certificated goods receive unfair treatment

K

in transitu, or that, after they have parted with their certificate at the journey's end, they are subjected to special taxes from which uncertificated goods are exempt.

Mr. JOHN ANDREW of Hongkong has given notice at this Consulate that he will shortly proceed to Wuchow in Kwangsi on business of his own; and it has occurred to me that his services might be engaged to discover by personal observation and experience how and where the transit pass breaks down.

Now that Mr. BRENAN has been commissioned to report on British trade, the moment seems favourable for substantiating our complaints by cases within our own experience; and I beg to suggest that your Chamber should take into consideration the expediency of turning Mr. ANDREW's journey to advantage.—I have, &c.,

E. H. FRASER, *Acting Consul.*

I mark this letter "confidential" because I have not obtained Mr. ANDREW's permission to mention his name.

The Chairman, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 23rd December, 1895.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed communication of 17th instant dealing with transit passes in the Kwangtung and neighbouring provinces.

The Committee of the Chamber learn with much satisfaction from the above favour that this question of such great importance, and one in which your predecessors have always evinced a deep interest, is receiving like consideration at your hands.

The contents of your letter have been read with much interest and will receive careful attention.—I have, &c.,

A. MCCONACHIE, *Vice-Chairman.*

E. H. FRASER, Esq.,

H. M. Acting Consul, Canton.

K

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 17th January, 1896.

SIR,—The Committee of the Chamber will esteem it a favour if you will kindly furnish them with such particulars as it is in your power to supply, of the reported action of the Chinese in the seizure or detention of goods belonging to Mr. JOHN ANDREW while on the way to, or after arrival, at Wuchow, under the protection of transit passes.

As the present seems a most favourable opportunity of again agitating the question of the disregard of transit passes, and the Chamber will no doubt be expected to act promptly, the Committee will feel greatly obliged if you can make it convenient to favour them with a very early reply, giving full particulars regarding the difficulties placed in Mr. ANDREW's way.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

E. H. FRASER, Esq.,

H. M. Acting Consul, Canton.

No. 12.

H. B. M. CONSULATE,
CANTON, 18th January, 1896.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of 17th instant concerning the case of Mr. JOHN ANDREW, I am able to communicate to your Committee the following facts.

Mr. ANDREW took certain piece-goods under transit pass in a native vessel to Wuchow Fu. On arrival there he called on the prefect, showed his passport from this Consulate, and announced his purpose of disposing of his cargo. On 2nd January he sold a considerable part of his goods, delivery to take place on 3rd. During the night a Canton *lehin* launch arrived, carrying also, I believe, two well-known detectives of the Piece-goods Farm here. The following day buyers informed Mr. ANDREW that they had been threatened with prosecution if they bought his goods and stated that, without an official proclamation, they dared not carry out their engagements. The threats were, so far as I can learn, verbal only. The Viceroy and his advisers stoutly deny that any intimidation has taken place and refuse to order the issue of a proclamation.

K

Mr. ANDREW remains on his junk, most of his servants having fled ; and no seizure or detention of his cargo has occurred. The *lekin* charges, however, should he wish to bring his goods back, are some taels 250, and no one in Wuchow Fu dare even warehouse his goods.

The Chinese-owned steam launch that illegally towed Mr. ANDREW's junk to Wuchow Fu has been confiscated, and strict orders have been issued against the hiring of launches to foreigners bound for the West River.—I have, &c.,

E. H. FRASER, *Acting Consul.*

The Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 21st January, 1896.

SIR,—I beg leave to forward for the information of His Excellency the Governor copy of a letter received by this Chamber from H. B. M.'s Acting Consul at Canton in reply to a communication addressed to him relative to the latest case of official obstruction in Kwangtung in regard to foreign trade under transit pass.

The information obtained by Mr. FRASER points, it will be seen, to collusion between the Piece-goods Guild at Canton and the *lekin* officials, and while the Viceroy vigorously denies that any intimidation has taken place he as firmly declines to issue a proclamation to reassure the dealers. If it be true, as the Acting Consul believes, that two detectives in the employ of the Piece-goods Guild left Canton for Wuchow, and, as a sequence, the buyers of Mr. ANDREW's cargo were next day afraid to take delivery of their purchases, it cannot be doubted that the intimidation existed, the assurances of the Provincial Government notwithstanding.

In view of the attitude assumed by the Kwangtung Government on this and all previous occasions in connection with the trade under transit pass and the levy of preferential duties on trade, my Committee most strongly and earnestly suggest that the only means of securing the above named treaty rights is to press for the immediate opening to foreign trade and navigation of the ports of the West River.

My Committee, having regard to the urgency of the case, yesterday telegraphed as follows to H. B. M.'s Chargé d'Affaires at Peking :—

“British Minister, Peking.

K

“Sale of British goods under transit pass interfered with at Wuchow
“Fu Chamber of Commerce earnestly solicits prompt action in
“matter.

“McCONACHIE, *Chairman.*”

Trusting that His Excellency the Governor will also take up the case and throw the weight of his influence into the scale to procure the early cessation of these interferences with treaty rights,—I have, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary.*

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 22nd January, 1896.

SIR,—On the 20th instant, the Committee of this Chamber, regarding the question before them as one of pressing importance, requested me to telegraph to you as follows :—

“British Minister, Peking.

“Sale of British goods under transit pass interfered with at Wuchow
“Fu Chamber of Commerce earnestly solicits prompt action in
“matter.

“McCONACHIE, *Chairman.*”

To which we this morning received the following telegraphic reply :—

“Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

“Am representing matter to Chinese Government.

“BEAUCLEERK.”

My Committee desire me to express their thanks for the promptitude and courtesy shown in the above acknowledgment.

The case of Mr. JOHN ANDREW, which has no doubt been laid before you by H. B. M.'s Acting Consul at Canton, affords, in the opinion of this Chamber, one more convincing proof of the determination of the Kwangtung officials to so handicap foreign trade with the interior by the imposition of excessive *lekin* as to virtually render it impossible.

It appears that Mr. ANDREW sold a considerable portion of his goods at Wuchow Fu soon after arrival, but on the following day a *lekin* steam launch having meantime arrived from Canton with too reputed detectives of

K

the Piece-goods Guild at that city on board, the buyers declared that they had been threatened with prosecution and declined to take delivery of their purchases from fear of the consequences unless a proclamation were issued allowing them to buy the goods. The Kwangtung Government, following their usual tactics, flatly denied that any intimidation had been used, and firmly refused to issue a proclamation to reassure the traders, at the same time consistently ignoring the impediments placed in the way of Mr. ANDREW by the Wuchow authorities.

My Committee desire me to point out that the persistent hostility of the Government of the Two Kwang to the free exercise of the right of trade with the interior by means of transit passes is of itself ample justification for the demand put forward for the opening of the West River to foreign steam navigation and trade. Until that privilege is obtained there is not, in their opinion, the slightest chance of treaty rights bearing upon inland traffic being even partially exercised in the South of China, and they therefore venture to hope that the present incident will serve to establish that conviction in the minds of Her Majesty's Government.—I have, &c.,

A. McCONACHIE, *Vice-Chairman.*

To His Excellency W. N. BEAUCLERK,

H. B. M.'s Chargé d'Affaires, Peking.

FOREIGN OFFICE, March 3rd, 1896.

SIR,—The Marquis of SALISBURY has received your telegram of the 29th ultimo calling attention to the obstruction of the sale of Mr. ANDREW's goods at Wuchow Fu.

I am directed by His Lordship to inform you in reply that the case is being dealt with by the Acting British Consul at Canton, who is in communication with Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Peking on the subject.

Mr. BEAUCLERK has been asked to report the result of the action taken by him in the matter.—I am, &c.,

T. H. SANDERSON.

The Chairman, HONGKONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

L

An Ordinance to protect in certain cases rights of property in Telegraph Messages.

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance to secure, in certain cases, the rights of property in telegraphic messages, and to prevent the forgery and improper disclosure of telegrams.

WHEREAS it is expedient to secure, in certain cases, the rights of, property in telegraphic messages, and to prevent the forgery and, improper disclosure of telegrams.

Be it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited for all purposes as *The Telegraphic Messages Ordinance, 1894.*

2. Whenever any message, transmitted by telegraph from any place outside of this Colony, shall be received by any person, association or company in this Colony, for the purpose of publication in any newspaper, or by printed circular or otherwise, to any limited number of persons, members of or subscribers to any such association or company, no person whether a member of or subscriber to such association or company, or not shall, without the consent in writing of such person, association or company by whom such message shall have been received, print or publish in any newspaper or in any letter or circular, or other printed or written communication such telegraphic message, or the substance thereof, or any extract therefrom until after the expiration of a period of thirty-six hours from the time of the first publication of such message by the person, association or company receiving the same. PROVIDED ALWAYS that such protected period shall not extend beyond forty-eight hours from the time of the first receipt in the Colony of such message. AND PROVIDED FURTHER that the publication of any similar message lawfully received in like manner by any other person, association or company, by such other person, association or company shall not be deemed or taken to be a publication of such first mentioned message within this Ordinance.

3. If any person print or publish or cause to be printed or published any matter contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance he shall, upon conviction before a Magistrate, be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$100

L

for the first offence and to a penalty not exceeding \$200 for the second and every subsequent offence, and in either case in default of payment he shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding the scale provided by section 57 of *The Magistrates Ordinance* (No. 10 of 1890).

4. Every telegraphic message in respect of which the protection of this Ordinance is claimed shall be published with the heading "By Telegraph," and shall state the date and hour of its receipt in the Colony and of its publication, and such statement shall be *prima facie* evidence of the times of the receipt and publication of such message.

5. In any prosecution under this Ordinance the production of any document which purports to be a telegraphic message duly and regularly issued by any telegraph office in this Colony on its customary form shall be *prima facie* evidence that the message contained therein was received in this Colony by telegraph, from the place therein mentioned to the address of the person, association or company therein named and was duly delivered in this Colony to such person, association or company.

6. Every person who forges or wilfully and without due authority alters a telegram or utters a telegram knowing the same to be forged, or wilfully and without due authority altered, or who transmits by telegraph as a telegram, or utter as a telegram, any message or communication which he knows to be not a telegram, shall, whether he had or had not an intent to defraud, be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$50, and, on conviction on information in the Supreme Court, to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding twelve months.

If any person, being in the employment of a telegraph company as defined by this section—

Improperly divulges to any person the purport of any telegram; such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$100, and on conviction on information in the Supreme Court to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding one year, or to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

For the purposes of this section the expression "telegram" means a written or printed message or communication sent to or delivered at a post office, or the office of a telegraph company, for transmission by telegraph, or delivered by the post office or a telegraph company as a message or communication transmitted by telegraph.

L

The expression "telegraph company" means any company, corporation, or persons carrying on the business of sending telegrams for the public under whatever authority or in whatever manner such company, corporation, or persons may act or be constituted.

M

Camphor Contracts.

HONGKONG, 20th July, 1895.

SIR,—We beg to bring the following matter to the notice of the General Chamber of Commerce and to ask its intervention with a view to getting this question settled for the future.

You are no doubt aware that Formosa camphor has been a great export article from Hongkong to Great Britain and to the Continent and that the business in this article has steadily increased. For many years past contracts were made between buyers (mostly European and Parsee firms) and sellers (Chinese) on the basis of a Chinese form, copy of which we beg to enclose herewith (*a*) for your guidance. It has been the custom to supply originally packed boxes from Formosa weighing between 95 and 105 catties nett, and up to now no disputes about the weight have ever arisen. Of late, however, owing to an enormous rise brought about by a powerful syndicate in London, which has advanced the value here by 80 to 90%, the Chinese repeatedly tried to palm off boxes containing only 65, 70, 75 catties or thereabouts in fulfilment of their old contracts, causing thereby lots of troubles and heavy losses to the buyers who had sold by weight, *i. e.*, per picul to their clients at home.

In such instances the boxes were tampered with, wood and lead boxes opened and part of the stuff taken out of the boxes, or the boxes from Formosa were packed quite differently to what they used to be formerly, that is to say, they were packed considerably smaller.

In an action, which Messrs. SIEMSEN & Co. recently took against HIM KEE, the Puisne Judge, Mr. T. SERCOMBE SMITH, decided that there was no breach of contract on part of HIM KEE, who delivered 140 *piculs* in 200 boxes *only* instead of about 200 *piculs*, as the contract provided for 200 boxes only and not for 200 *piculs*.

M

Formosa camphor will at all times be subjected to frequent and violent fluctuations, and if the present system is not changed the Chinese will either deliver short-weight, or over-weight, boxes according to the state of the market. In a rising market they will supply small boxes of 70 catties or thereabouts, and in a declining market they will supply large boxes of 110 catties or thereabouts. In order to put a stop to this trickish behaviour on the part of the Chinese a meeting of firms interested in the camphor trade was held on the 10th instant and a resolution passed by eleven firms represented, that from and after the 1st August those firms will refuse to make further contracts on the basis of the Chinese form and will substitute the same by the form attached (b). However, before this form of contract can be put in force the conditions stipulated therein must be duly sanctioned and approved of by the Chamber of Commerce. It is with this end in view that we beg leave to solicit the prompt intervention of the Chamber in this matter, and we should feel greatly obliged by your informing us whether the Chamber will sanction and approve of this new form of contract, so that we may notify the firms, who have agreed to the new basis as per circular enclosed (c).—We are, &c.,

CARLOWITZ & Co.

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

&c.,

&c.,

&c.

[Enclosure (b).]

CONTRACT No.

HONGKONG, 189 .

The undersigned herewith confirm having bought of

Messrs.

the undermentioned goods on condition, as follows :—

(lead-lined) Original

CASES Formosa Camphor containing about ONE picul
nett per box (*i. e.*, weight to be not less than 95 catties
and not more than 105 catties average nett per box).

M

Any disputes arising out of this contract to be settled by arbitration in Hongkong, arbitrators to be nominated by the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

To arrive

Clearance :

Payment :

Broker :

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 25th July, 1895.

DEAR SIRs,—Reverting to your favour of 20th instant, already acknowledged, having reference to the purchase of camphor, and in connection therewith to the difficulties that have recently arisen through the attempt to deliver packages deficient in weight, I have now the pleasure to advise you that your letter, together with enclosures, were duly laid before the Committee of the Chamber.

I am directed to state, for the information of your good selves and the other signatories of the document dated 13th July binding themselves to the adoption of the contract form therein referred to when purchasing camphor, that the Committee have given the conditions of that contract form their careful attention, and they consider it a very fair and reasonable agreement to be entered into between, buyers and sellers of camphor.

The Committee are pleased to accede to your request by stating that the proposed new contract form meets with their entire approval.—I remain, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

Messrs. CARLOWITZ & Co.,

HONGKONG.

N**Preferential Duties granted on Junk-carried cargo.**

(Extract from Mr. Wm. Keswick's letter of 25th May, 1895, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.)

The Chamber of Commerce has also desired me to bring to the notice of the Government the question of preferential duties accorded to goods per native vessels by the Chinese Authorities, and the importance of freeing the Colony from this differential disability which places foreign-owned steamers under a manifest disadvantage.

DOWNING STREET,
31st May, 1895.

SIR,—I am directed by the Marquess of RIXON to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant respecting the opening of the West River to British trade and the preferential duties imposed at Canton in favour of cargoes carried in junks. A copy has been communicated to the Foreign Office.—I am, &c.,

EDWARD FAIRFIELD.

W. KESWICK, Esq.

O**Navy League.**

GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 29th August, 1895.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed communication of 9th July, and accompanying documents, bringing to the notice of the Chamber the aims and objects of the Navy League and suggesting, if approved of, action might be taken towards furthering the objects of the League.

O

Naturally, it did not occur to you, when addressing the Chamber of Commerce in a British Colony, that it would be other than constitutionally British, but such is really the case, the Chamber being a cosmopolitan body, embracing in its membership several nationalities. Under these circumstances it will appear evident to you that however much the Navy League may commend itself to the British members individually it is not a question which the Chamber can deal with as a body.

It appeared to the Committee of this Chamber that the most effective way of dealing with your letter would be to transfer it to the Hongkong Branch of the China Association, which has been done, and the nucleus of a local Navy League already formed, of which full particulars will no doubt be forwarded by Mr. MITCHELL, Honorary Secretary *pro tem.*—I have, &c.,

A. McCONACHIE, *Vice-Chairman.*

Admiral Sir R. VESEY HAMILTON, G.C.B.,
The Navy League, 13, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S. W.

"THE NAVY LEAGUE,"
13, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S. W., 3rd October, 1895.

SIR,—I am desired by Sir VESEY HAMILTON and the Executive Committee of the Navy League to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August 29th last.

And I am furthermore directed to thank you most cordially for your action in handing the correspondence to the Hongkong Branch of the China Association.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that your information as to the formation of a Branch of the League by that Association is noted, and with the most grateful thanks of my Executive Committee,—I am, &c.,

WM. CAINS CRUTCHLEY, *Secretary.*

To A. McCONACHIE, Esq.,
Vice-Chairman, HONGKONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

P

**Coinage of a British Dollar and action taken against
"Chopping" of same.**

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 23rd April, 1895.

SIR,—The Chamber recently learned with much satisfaction that Her Majesty's advisers, doubtlessly acting on the suggestion of the mercantile communities of Hongkong and the Straits Settlements, had recommended the minting of a British dollar which will shortly become a legal tender in both places. In connection with this subject the Committee request you will bring to the notice of His Excellency the Governor, who from the first interested himself in the suggested coinage, and who was good enough when corresponding with the Home Authorities to advocate its adoption, the following resolution put forward by Mr. T. JACKSON, seconded by Mr. G. SHARP, and unanimously adopted at a general meeting of the members of the Chamber held on 19th instant.

"That this Chamber regards the advent of the British dollar as an opportunity for placing the currency of this Colony upon a satisfactory footing; that as a first step every means should be adopted to protect the new coins from the foolish practice of chopping and defacing dollars, and that the Government be requested by the Committee of the Chamber to legislate in this behalf."

It is essential that the Dollar should be left perfectly untrammelled, and the Committee cannot but regard with disfavour so retrograde a measure as making legal its defacement by the Chinese mode of "chopping," as is reported to have been suggested to Her Majesty's Government. Legislation should be in the direction of affording to the coin protection against such mutilation, the effect of which will be to render it useless as a legal tender in the Straits, and prevent its currency in Shanghai, where dollars are largely made use of.

The practice of chopping, which has now nothing to recommend it but old custom, is already becoming less common among the Chinese, and could probably be easily done away with altogether.

The Committee venture to urge upon His Excellency the expediency of strongly impressing upon the Home Government the necessity of affording to the new Dollar complete protection against defacement, and would

P

suggest sanction being obtained to introduce an Ordinance into the Legislative Council to make the chopping of the Dollar a breach of the law, as is the case with the mutilation of the coinage of other countries.

As measures directly opposed to the views herein expressed may at any time be initiated it might be well, should the proposal meet with His Excellency's approval, to telegraph home suggesting that no action should be taken before receipt of written despatches from the Local Government.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary*.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,
HONGKONG, 22nd April, 1895.

SIR,—I am of opinion that the introduction of the British dollar will afford us an opportunity of effecting a currency reform long needed here, viz., doing away with chopped dollars.

Mexicans are now, and recently have been considerably over their intrinsic value, (after allowing for a reasonable seigniorage) so that with the British dollar obtainable in any quantity at a seigniorage charge of 1 per cent. it is certain that Mexican dollars will gradually disappear from circulation in Hongkong and the South of China. The new coin cheaply obtained will take the place of the old one, i.e., the Mexican dollar.

I most strongly recommend that no special legislation in favour of chopping be enacted, but that British dollars be declared a legal tender by count concurrently with Mexican dollars at 7.1.7.

You will have noticed that at the general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce a resolution was unanimously carried against chopping British dollars. British dollars by count are slightly more valuable than what we now call currency, viz., 717 taels for 1,000 chopped dollars, the difference is barely a quarter of one per cent., and as I said in the foregoing Mexican dollars being only obtainable at a price considerably over their value they will in the course of time disappear and unchopped British dollars will take their place.

Some years ago when Mexican dollars were almost always obtainable about their Bullion value it would not have been prudent to write so confidently about their being displaced by the British dollar. The position is

P

now changed, and so long as the Mexican Government charge a seigniorage of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on Mexican dollars as against an export duty on Bar Silver of 2 per cent., Mexican dollars will be handicapped $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. against British dollars.

I show this as follows :—

Mexican Bar Silver 2 per cent. duty, coined into British dollars, at a seigniorage of 1 per cent., total 3 per cent., as against an export duty of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon Mexican dollars (which includes seigniorage).

I am aware that one of my London colleagues advised the Treasury that we would have to put up with the Chinese chopping the British dollars. I am glad to say that I can confidently recommend a different course, one that will ultimately result in placing the currency of this Colony on a civilized footing. I shall do all I can to help the Government in the matter.—Yours &c.,

T. JACKSON, *Chief Manager.*

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,
HONGKONG, 25th April, 1895.

MY DEAR LOCKHART,

Re British Dollars.

With reference to my official letter of 22nd instant, on page 2, lines 13 and 14, I wrote—"the difference is barely a quarter of one per cent." this should read—"the difference is barely $3\frac{1}{32}$ nds., three thirty seconds of one per cent." And is arrived at as follows :—

1,000 Hongkong currency \$ weigh717 Taels.

1,000 British \$ will weigh717.60 „

accordingly to our scales, taking the British \$ as 416 grains—the weight of a yen—or a difference of .082 per cent. ($.09375$ is $3\frac{1}{32}$ nds.).—Yours, &c.,

T. JACKSON.

Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART.

No. 887.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 26th April, 1895.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant relative to the "chopping" of the new British dollar, and to

P

state for the information of the Chamber of Commerce that a further representation has been made to the Secretary of State in the sense of the resolution passed at the recent annual meeting of the Chamber, and that His Lordship has been requested to communicate his decision in regard thereto by telegraph.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

No. 1309.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 19th June, 1895.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the Governor to transmit for your information the enclosed translation of a telegram which has been received from the Secretary of State relative to the chopping of the British dollar.

His Excellency would be obliged if you would be so good as to consult together on the points raised in the above telegram, and acquaint him with the result of such consultation.

I enclose for your information a copy of the despatch referred to in the telegram, with its enclosures in original, which kindly return at your convenience.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

Honourable A. McCONACHIE.

T. JACKSON, Esq.

T. E. SANSOM, Esq.

Translation of telegram received from the Secretary of State.

Referring to your despatch 137 inform me after consulting with Banks and Chamber of Commerce whether they are quite satisfied that prohibition of chopping will not stand in the way of new dollar being accepted by Chinese equally with Mexicans. Do they propose to prohibit chopping Mexicans hereafter, important if so, how could you distinguish between new and old Mexicans?

17th June, 1895

P

HONGKONG, 21st June, 1895.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 19th instant, enclosing a copy of telegram received from the Secretary of State, we are strongly of opinion that prohibition of chopping the new British dollars will not stand in the way of their being accepted by the Chinese equally with Mexicans.

We do not recommend any legislation for Mexican dollars. Clean or unchopped Mexican dollars are to-day worth $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ premium as compared with chopped coin, so that none have been chopped for a very long time, indeed our opinion is that the custom is gradually dying out.

The Acting Manager of the Chartered Bank, although concurring in the foregoing, prefers leaving his principals in London to express their views rather than that he should express them out here.—We have, &c.,

A. McCONACHIE, *Vice-Chairman,*
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

T. JACKSON, *Chief Manager,*
HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANK.

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

Documents returned.

Copy of His Excellency's letter to Lord RIXON 24th April.

Chamber of Commerce's letter 23rd April.

Printed Report Chamber of Commerce Meeting 20th April.

Mr. JACKSON's letters of 22nd and 24th April.

No. 1349.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 24th June, 1895.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the Governor to thank you for your letter of the 21st instant relative to the chopping of the British dollar, and to state that your views have been embodied in the following telegram which was sent to the Secretary of State to-day:—

“Banks and Chamber of Commerce are quite satisfied, they do not propose any legislation with respect to Mexicans. Chopping gradually dying out.”—I have, etc.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

Honourable A. McCONACHIE

and

THOMAS JACKSON, Esq.

P

No. 1381.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 29th June, 1895.

GENTLEMEN,—Referring to my letter No. 1349 of the 24th instant, I am directed to inform you that the following further telegram has been received from the Secretary of State relative to the chopping of the British dollar:—

“Act should be introduced simply making it unlawful to deface or chop British dollars without adding any penalties for infringement of law.”—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

Honourable A. McCONACHIE.

T. JACKSON, Esq.

T. E. SANSON, Esq.

HONGKONG, 1st July, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—We beg to acknowledge your letter of the 29th June, advising the receipt of a telegram from the Secretary of State relative to the chopping of the British dollar.

We note that it is proposed to introduce an Act making it unlawful to chop or deface British dollars, but without any penalty for infringement of law.

Same is quite satisfactory.—We are, &c.,

A. McCONACHIE, *Vice-Chairman,*
GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

T. JACKSON, *Chief Manager,*
HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK.

The Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*



Inadequate Wharf Accommodation.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 25th April, 1895.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee to ask your attention to the under-noted resolution dealing with the question of inadequate wharf

Q

accommodation, unanimously adopted at the annual meeting of the members of this Chamber held on 19th instant, and to request you to be good enough to bring the same to the notice of His Excellency the Governor.

Resolution.

“Inasmuch as the landing, or wharf accommodation recently provided on the new reclamation is quite inadequate for the requirements of the Colony, so many steam launches being necessary for the transaction of the business of the shipping community, and others, between ships and shore, and whereas it will soon be impossible to use Old Pedder's Wharf any longer as a landing place, greater inconvenience will be felt and the danger to small steam craft increased if more adequate landing accommodation be not provided,—Be it resolved that the attention of the Government be called by this Chamber to the pressing need for increased landing facilities as near the vicinity of the Old Pedder's Wharf as circumstances will permit.”

The present congested condition of the steam launch and sampan traffic, consequent on the works now in progress on the Praya and the necessary disuse of Pedder's and other wharves, has so crowded the recently erected wharf in front of the new sea wall, to which nearly all the traffic in that neighbourhood is now diverted, as to render it quite unsuited to the increased number of boats frequenting it.

The want of sufficient wharf accommodation is not only a serious hindrance to the shipping business of the port which requires constant communication between the shipping and the shore, but is also a source of very great danger, and is besides a great inconvenience to a large number of residents.

In view of the urgency of the case the Committee hope His Excellency will give the matter his favourable consideration and be pleased to give instructions admitting of immediate steps being taken to provide the much needed accommodation, which, presumably, would not require to be of a permanent nature, and would be available only until such time as that particular section of the reclamation now under construction is completed, when other arrangements will become necessary.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary,*

Hongkong.

Q

No. 1192.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 1st June, 1895.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 25th April, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to inform you that the subject of increased wharf accommodation in the vicinity of Pedder's Wharf has received His Excellency's careful consideration, and to express a hope that the proposals contained in a letter of this date addressed to Mr. WOOLLEY, copy enclosed, will, under the circumstances, prove satisfactory to the members of the Chamber of Commerce.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq., *Secretary,*

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

(Copy.)

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 1st June, 1895.

SIR,—Adverting to your letter of the 13th ultimo submitting certain proposals for increasing the wharf accommodation in the vicinity of Pedder's Wharf during the construction of the Praya Reclamation works, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to inform you that arrangements are being made to erect a temporary landing near Ice House Lane and to place the platform of the temporary market buildings in such a condition as to serve a similar purpose.

His Excellency regrets that the construction of the piers suggested in your letter above referred to is at present impracticable owing to the interference such structures, if they are to be of any use to the community, would cause with the progress of the reclamation work, but it is hoped that by the end of the typhoon season such works will be sufficiently advanced to dispose of this objection, in which case a temporary jetty will be erected approximately to the westerly position proposed by you, viz., in front of Messrs. DOUGLAS LAPRAIK's office.

I have further to inform you that though everything will be done to push on with the construction of the new Pedder's Wharf and, pending the completion of this work, to keep the existing wharf open to traffic as far as possible, it is impracticable to erect a temporary pier in this situation

Q

owing to the extensive nature of the foundations required for the new wharf.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

A. WOOLLEY, *Superintendent,
Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co.*

R

Chamber's Representatives at the third Chambers
of Commerce Congress 1896.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 24th July, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—On the occasion of the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire held in 1892 you kindly acceded to the request of the Chamber and became its representative at that Congress.

The Chamber has been invited to participate in the third Congress to be held in 1896, and the Committee venture to request you will again allow yourself to be nominated as their representative.

Should you gratify the Committee by accepting this position they will have pleasure in bringing to your notice such subjects as may then seem to them, in the interests of foreign trade with China, most deserving of being laid before the Congress.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

W. KESWICK, Esq.,
London.

3 LOMBARD STREET,
LONDON, 6th September, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your favor of 24th July I beg to say that I shall esteem it an honour to be again *nominated to represent your Chamber at the Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire* to be held in

R

1896, and that if appointed I shall use every endeavour to bring to the notice of the Congress the matters to which your Chamber may desire to have attention directed.—I am, &c.,

W. KESWICK.

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,
*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG.*

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 15th October, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 6th ultimo, in which you are good enough to accept the nomination to represent this Chamber at the Congress of the Chambers of the Empire to be held in 1896.

I am directed by my Committee to express their satisfaction at such acceptance and their conviction that the aims and interests of this Chamber could not be entrusted to better hands.

As you have kindly volunteered to bring to the notice of the Congress the matters in which this Chamber is specially concerned, it may be useful to you to have the principal subjects recapitulated. These are:—

PREFERENTIAL DUTIES.

1. The preferential duties granted by the Haikwan or Chinese Superintendent of Customs at Canton on exports passed through his office, thus diverting trade from foreign steamers to native junks. The Tsung-li Yamén assert, in reply to the representations of the British Minister, that such preferential treatment is not accorded, that they have sent instructions to Canton prohibiting it, and they call for proof that it has been given. The only proof within reach of the Chamber consists in the reports of the British Consul at Canton and those of various Commissioners of the Chinese Maritime Customs, who have frequently had occasion to refer to it. The timidity and self-interest of Chinese shippers render it impossible to collect actual proof; but the fact that such preferential duties are

R

levied by the Haikwan in his competition with the Maritime Customs, is matter of notoriety and admits of no room for doubt.

TRANSIT PASSES.

2. The difficulties in the way of securing the fulfilment, in South China, of the provisions of Art. XXVIII. of the Treaty of Tientsin. The officials in the Two Kwang provinces especially have succeeded in rendering the Transit Pass system a dead letter, and while foreign goods to the value of millions of dollars annually are sent into the interior from the Yangtze ports, the quantity despatched inland from Canton, Swatow, and Pakhoi has never been appreciable.

WEST RIVER.

3. Having regard to the complete failure to open up any trade with the interior of the Southern provinces, this Chamber has for many years agitated the question of opening the West River to foreign trade and steam navigation, and are now engaged in new efforts to secure this desired concession.

THE BOUNDARIES OF HONGKONG.

4. In view of the present negotiations with China to secure reparation for the various outrages on and massacres of missionaries, my Committee have joined in representations to the Imperial Government suggesting such a rectification of the boundaries of the Colony of Hongkong as will render the port secure from sudden attack by an enemy, and at the same time will free it from the surveillance exercised by the Stations of the Chinese Customs.

With the foregoing and many other matters of importance to the welfare of the Colony you are so well acquainted by past experience that it is unnecessary to enlarge upon them, and my Committee confidently leave their advocacy to you.—I am, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Acting Secretary*.

WILLIAM KESWICK, Esq., *London*.

R

LONDON, 5th March, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge your letter of the 28th January, conveying an invitation for me to be appointed as an additional representative of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce at the forthcoming Congress of Chambers of the Empire, and, in reply, I have to say that it will afford me great pleasure to place my services at the disposal of your Committee in the manner desired.—I am, &c.,

A. G. WOOD.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, Esq., *Secretary*.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

22, BILLITER STREET,
LONDON, 13th March, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter of 28th January, which would have been answered earlier, but being wrongly addressed, it did not reach me till the 10th instant.

In reply to the enquiry by the Committee of your Chamber, it will give me great pleasure to be nominated to represent the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce at the forthcoming Congress of the Chamber of the Empire in this country.—I am, &c.,

E. MACKINTOSH.

R. C. WILCOX, Esq., *Secretary*.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 8th April, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 5th ult. in which you accept the invitation of my Committee to act as additional representative of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce at the forthcoming Congress of Chambers of the Empire.

The Committee desire to express their great satisfaction at your decision, which they confidently hoped for, on account of your recent intimate connection both with the Chamber and the Colony.

R

It is unnecessary here to recapitulate at any length the subjects of greatest present interest to this Chamber, as you are so well acquainted with them, but it would seem that the opening of the West River, though now in course of negotiation in London, is still unsettled, while the questions of trade under Transit Passes in South China, of Preferential Duties in China, and the proposed extension of the Boundaries of the Colony remain on the tapis, and may come before the Congress.—I am, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary*.

A. G. WOOD, Esq.

P.S.—At the suggestion of the Committee, I enclose copy of the Chairman's address to Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, H. B. M.'s Minister to China, at an interview accorded by His Excellency to the Committee on the 4th inst. This speech reviews the position of the questions of the hour in Hongkong.

A similar letter was addressed to Mr. MACKINTOSH.

S

Postal Arrangements in view of New Contracts.

No. 2280.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 20th December, 1895.

SIR,—I am directed to request that the Chamber of Commerce will be good enough to favour this Government with its views on the points raised in the enclosed copy of a letter from the General Post Office Authorities in London.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary*.

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
LONDON, 25th October, 1895.

SIR,—I beg leave to inform you that the conditions under which the Mail Service between this country and the East is to be performed on the expiration of the existing contract in January, 1898 are now under consideration.

S

It will probably be decided to call for tenders for a service on the lines of the existing arrangements; and I shall be glad to learn whether in your opinion it would be possible to shorten the stoppages at Hongkong fixed under the present contract. These stoppages, as you are aware, at present are 24 hours on the outward and 48 hours on the homeward voyage.

I should be glad if you would, as on former occasions, consult the local Chamber of Commerce on this point; but you will no doubt in any case let me know what is the shortest stoppage required for landing and embarking the mails.

The question has been raised whether the future terminal point of the imperial subsidized mail service with the Far East might not be Hongkong instead of Shanghai, the arrangements for the conveyance of the mails between Hongkong and Shanghai being left to your Office, on this point also I should be glad to receive your remarks. Of course, for such conveyance of mails from Europe your Office would be entitled to a mileage proportion of the Union sea rates.—I am, &c.,

S. WAYSON.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,
HONGKONG.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 6th January, 1896.

SIR,—The present serves merely to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed communication of 20th ultimo and to state that, as the Committee are desirous of placing the points raised in connection with the next Mail Contract before the general body of members, some little delay may occur before your above favour can be fully replied to.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary,
HONGKONG.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 13th January, 1896.

DEAR SIRS,—In anticipation of the expiration of the present Mail Contract terminating in January, 1898, and before entering into fresh arrange-

S

ments for the carriage of Mails to the Far East after that date the Post Office Authorities in London have, through the local Government, requested to be favoured by the Chamber with its views regarding certain points.

Under existing arrangements the stoppages of Mail Steamers at Hongkong are fixed at 24 hours for the outward, and 48 hours for the homeward voyages, the terminal point for the Imperial Subsidised Mail Service being Shanghai, and in connection therewith the points raised by the Post Office Authorities and on which they wish to obtain the views of the Chamber are :—

1. Whether it would be possible to shorten the stoppages at Hongkong.
2. What is the shortest stoppage required for landing and embarking the Mails.
3. Whether the future terminal point of the Imperial Subsidised Mail Service might not be Hongkong instead of Shanghai, the arrangements for the conveyance of Mails between Hongkong and Shanghai being left to the discretion of the Postmaster at Hongkong.

The successful working of the Mail Service is a question of so much importance to the Colony that the Committee think it very desirable the general body of members should have the opportunity of expressing their opinions, and request that you will be good enough to state on the annexed form your views on the foregoing points.

Kindly return your answer at your earliest convenience and oblige,
—Yours, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 17th January, 1896.

SIR,—In the accompanying correspondence having reference to present Mail Contract, terminating in January 1898, the question is asked by the Post Office Authorities, London, in connection with other suggested alterations, whether the terminal point of the Imperial Subsidised Mail Service to the Far East might not be made Hongkong instead of Shanghai.

S

The point raised must necessarily be of interest to you, and as it may not have been otherwise brought to your notice I have much pleasure in handing you copies of the correspondence above referred to for the information of your Chamber.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

DRUMMOND HAY, Esq.,
Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
SHANGHAI.

SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
SHANGHAI, 7th February, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of 17th ultimo enclosing copy of a despatch from the General Post Office, London, and other correspondence, from which it appears that the British Government contemplates the possibility of Hongkong being made in the future the terminus for the P. and O. Mail Contract instead of Shanghai as at present. It is of immense importance to Shanghai, which is the centre of the enormous and ever increasing trade of North China, that there should be no delay nor irregularity in the delivery of mails, and therefore in the general interests of this great trade the Committee of this Chamber emphatically protest against any alteration in the Mail Contract such as the despatch from the General Post Office indicates.—I am, &c.,

A. P. MACEWEN, *Chairman*.

The Chairman, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 17th February, 1896.

SIR,—Adverting to your letter of the 20th December last in reference to the Imperial Subsidised Mail Service, asking for an expression of the views of the Chamber as to—

- (1) The possibility of shortening the stoppages of the mail steamers at this port,
- and (2) Whether or not it would be desirable or convenient to constitute Hongkong the terminal point of the service instead of Shanghai,

S

my Committee deemed it advisable to refer these important points to the members of the Chamber.

I am now instructed to state that in the opinion of this Chamber it would be possible to shorten the stoppage homewards to twenty-four hours.

The Chamber are further decidedly of opinion that no change should be made in the terminal point, not alone in the interests of the communities, but also because the French and German mail steamers both run direct to Shanghai.—I have, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary*.

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary*.

T

Alteration in hour of departure homeward of French Mail.

No. 217.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 3rd February, 1896.

SIR,—I am directed to invite the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce in regard to the new arrangement notified in the attached copy of a letter from the Acting Agent for the Messageries Maritimes Company to the Postmaster General.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary*.

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HONGKONG, 31st January, 1896.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that the departure of the homeward French Mail steamers has been slightly altered and will take place in the future every second Wednesday at 10 A.M. instead of at noon.

This change will be in force from the 19th February, s.s. *Caledonien*.—I have, &c.,

C. TOURNAIRE, *Acting Agent*.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,
HONGKONG.

T

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 7th February, 1896.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 3rd instant enclosing copy of one received from the Acting Agent of the Messageries Maritimes Company announcing an alteration in the hour of the departure of the French Mail steamers, and inviting the Chamber's opinion on the impending change.

I am directed by my Committee to state that they are of opinion a change of departure from noon to 10 a.m. would be very inconvenient, and they hope the Messageries Maritimes Company will reconsider their decision in the matter.—I have, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary*.

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary*.

No. 270.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 12th February, 1896.

SIR,—With reference to my letter No. 217 of the 3rd instant and to your reply thereto of the 7th idem, I am directed to transmit for the information of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copy of a further letter from the Local Agent of the Messageries Maritimes Company relative to the impending change in the hour of departure of the French mail steamers.

The decision of the Directors of the Company will be communicated to the Chamber in due course.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary*.

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HONGKONG, 11th February, 1896.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday enclosing copy of one received from the Chamber of Commerce regarding the alteration in the hour of the departure of the French mail steamers.

I take note that the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce find the change of departure from noon to 10 A.M. inconvenient. I will not fail to let my Directors know the Chamber's opinion and I will ask them to reconsider their decision in the matter if possible.—I have, &c.,

C. TOURNAIRE, *Acting Agent*.

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

T

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 15th February, 1896.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th inst. transmitting for the information of this Chamber copy of a further letter from the Acting Agent of the Messageries Maritimes Co. relative to the impending change in the hour of departure of the French mail steamers, and to thank you for your courtesy in the matter.—I have, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary.*

The Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 27th April, 1896.

SIR,—With reference to previous correspondence, I am directed to transmit, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, the enclosed copy of a letter from the Acting Agent of the Messageries Maritimes Company stating that from the 29th instant the homeward French Mail packet will leave at noon instead of at 10 A.M. as at present.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
&c., &c., &c.

HONGKONG, 27th April, 1896.

SIR,—Referring to my letter of the 11th February, No. 357, I have the honour to inform you that this Company's Directors have reconsidered their decision regarding the departure from Hongkong of the homeward French Mail steamers.

A telegram received yesterday advised me that, according to the wishes of His Excellency the Governor and the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, they reverted to the former hour, and our steamers will, in future, leave this at noon on Wednesday instead of 10 A.M.

The departure of the S.S. *Farra* will, consequently, be fixed at noon on Wednesday next.—I have, &c.,

C. TOURNAIRE, *Acting Agent.*

The Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary,*
HONGKONG.

T

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 29th April, 1896.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 27th instant enclosing copy of a letter from the Acting Agent of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, stating that from the 29th instant the homeward French Mail packets would leave at noon instead of at 10 A.M., the hour latterly fixed for their departure.

My Committee desire to express their great satisfaction at the change, and their appreciation of the prompt and courteous recognition of the wishes of the Chamber and community shown by the Directors and Acting Agent of the Messageries Maritimes Co. in so readily reverting to the former hour of despatch of the homeward mails.—I have, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary.*

To Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

U

Chinkiang Chamber of Commerce.

CHINKIANG, 7th February, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to inform you that a Chamber of Commerce has been established at this port for the purpose of the general advancement of trade, and also the safeguarding of mercantile interests.

The office-bearers for the current year are :—

Mr. E. STARKEY, Chairman, and Mr. F. K. GREGSON, Honorary Secretary.

The members desire to express their willingness to co-operate with your body, to the mutual advantage of both Chambers, and I shall be glad to learn that this is agreeable.—I am, &c.,

F. GREGSON, *Hon. Secretary*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,
Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG.

U

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 15th February, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge your letter of the 7th inst. announcing the establishment of a Chamber of Commerce at Chinkiang to promote the trade and safeguard the mercantile interests of the settlement.

This Chamber learns with satisfaction that this important step has been taken, and will be glad to co-operate with the new Chinkiang Chamber at all times in matters affecting their mutual interests or to advance the interests of foreign trade in China generally.—I am, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary*.

F. K. GREGSON, Esq.,

Hon. Secretary, CHINKIANG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

V

Telegraph Rates.

THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
LONDON, E.C.
29th August, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—The attention of this Chamber and of its East India & China Trade Section having been called to the question of the cost of telegrams between this country, India and the East, and to the desirability of existing tariffs being reduced, I am directed to communicate with your Chamber on the matter.

In the opinion of the London, Liverpool, Madras and Bengal (Calcutta) Chambers of Commerce the present rates are very high, while there has been little reduction per word in the charge for Indian messages for the past twenty years. It is submitted that the lines could carry a much larger number of messages than they do at present and that a reduction of the tariffs would assuredly be followed by a considerable increase in the traffic. It is further contended that the Telegraph Companies concerned are in a sufficiently strong position, financially and otherwise, were they so disposed, to undertake the risk of a possible loss of revenue under reduced rates, but the large increase of traffic which may be confidently expected, would ultimately more than recoup them for any concessions made.

V

In recent years reductions have been made in the rates for telegrams between this country and Australia and other countries with the result that the increase in traffic following the reduction has, it is believed, been satisfactory to the Companies. Again, (according to the Madras Chamber) on the reduction of the minimum chargeable for messages between Europe and India in 1876 from ten words to one word, a considerable increase in the traffic took place.

In view of the International Telegraph Conference to be held next year, I am to invite the co-operation of your Chamber in such measures as may be found desirable to secure an adequate reduction in the rates.

Awaiting the favour of your early reply,—I am, &c.,

KENRIC B. MURRAY, *Secretary*.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 23rd October, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge your favour of the 29th August calling attention to the cost of telegrams between the United Kingdom, India, and the East, and to the desirability of existing tariffs being reduced.

My Committee fully concur in the opinion held by your Chamber, and those of Liverpool, Madras, and Calcutta, that the present rates are very high and that the Telegraph Companies might safely make a reduction in the tariff without experiencing the loss of revenue they seem to apprehend, inasmuch as the increased traffic would at once undoubtedly go far to balance any temporary decline in receipts that might take place, and would ultimately more than recoup them.

This Chamber is therefore ready to co-operate with your Chamber in any measures that may be found desirable to influence the International Telegraph Conference to be held next year, to bring about a reduction in the rates.

My Committee will be glad to hear from you what specific form of action you would like them to take, so as to assist the attainment of the object in view.—I am, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Acting Secretary*.

KENRIC B. MURRAY, Esq.,

Secretary, LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (Incorporated).

V

THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
LONDON, E.C.

24th January, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to my circular letter of the 29th August last and to the replies received in response thereto, this subject has again been considered by the East India & China Trade Section of this Chamber who after considerable discussion are inclined to the opinion that no practical good is likely to result from an appeal to the Government or to the Telegraph Companies at the present time.

I am directed to say that in their view the object desired would be more likely to be accomplished if the several Colonial Governments in question would adopt the course which has been adopted with success by the Governments of Australia and South Africa, and give a guarantee to the Telegraph Companies to make good any loss of revenue which they might sustain in the event of their making a reduction in their tariff.

My Committee will therefore be glad if your Chamber will kindly consider this view of the question and if approved will place it before your Government in order to ascertain whether they would be disposed, in the interests of trade, to give the necessary guarantee to the Telegraph Companies, and to use their best endeavours to effect a reduction on this basis.

Awaiting your reply,—I am, &c.,

KENRIC B. MURRAY, *Secretary*.

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, CHINA.

At the ordinary meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce held on the 13th November, the following matters relating to the Far East came up for consideration:—

Telegraph Charges to the Far East.—In view of the International Telegraph Conference to be held next year at Buda-Pesth, the India, China, and Colonial Committee had had under consideration the high charges at present levied by the telegraph companies for messages between Great Britain and India and the Far East. Following up previous representations from this Chamber, it had been agreed that a letter should be addressed to the Government asking that its influence should be used in favour of effecting a reduction of the present rates. The Board approved this course.

V

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.
HEAD OFFICE.

HONGKONG, 30th December, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to the recent reduction in telegraphic rates between Europe and Hongkong to \$2, I beg to suggest that your Committee should endeavour to procure a reduction in the rate per word between here and Yokohama; the charge is only 20 cents a word to Shanghai and the cost for the land line from Nagasaki must be small, as I think I am correct in stating that, about 10 words go for a dollar in Japan, therefore the bulk of the present charge of \$1.40 is practically for the short cable connection between Shanghai and Nagasaki.—Yours, &c.,

GEO. W. F. PLAYFAIR, *Chief Manager*.

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 6th March, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—The question of the rates charged for telegraphing between this port and Japan, the Straits Settlements, and India has for some time occupied the attention of this Chamber. The rates seem to my Committee excessive and to constitute a serious burden on trade, tending to restrict its natural expansion in some directions.

The rate to Nagasaki from hence is \$1.26, to other ports of Japan \$1.40, and to Penang \$1.80 per word as compared with \$2.00 per word to European countries. When it is considered that the messages to the first named places pass only over the Companies' cables (with the exception of some small payment to Japanese land lines in the case of that country), while those to Europe have to pass over other cables to which out-payments to other administrations have to be paid, the difference between the rates becomes strikingly apparent.

A further comparison may be noted in the case of Shanghai, the rate to which port is only 20 cents per word. This tariff is the result of the competition between the Companies' cables and Chinese land lines. Yet the distance to Nagasaki, to which \$1.26 per word is charged, is not more than 300 miles greater than that to Shanghai.

V

My Committee are of opinion that these rates might be materially modified without impairing the earning power of your Companies, or in any way pressing unduly upon them. A reduction in rates would probably be attended by such an increase in business as would prevent any falling off in receipts.

I am also instructed to call attention to the rates to Europe, which my Committee think are still too high, notwithstanding the reduction recently made.

Trusting that these representations will meet with favourable consideration from your Companies,—I am, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary*.

To L. WEBSTER, Esq.,

Acting Superintendent,

EASTERN EXTENSION, AUSTRALASIA AND CHINA TELEGRAPH, CO. LD.
GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH CO.

THE EASTERN EXTENSION AUSTRALASIA & CHINA
TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LD.

THE GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH
COMPANY OF COPENHAGEN.

HONGKONG STATION, 9th March, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th instant regarding the telegraphic rates charged by the above Companies, and to state that the matter will have due consideration.—I am, &c.,

L. WEBSTER, *Acting Manager in China*.

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 8th April, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24th January in which you state that after considerable discussion the East India and China Section of your Chamber are inclined to the opinion that no practical good is likely to result from an appeal to the Government or to the Telegraph Companies for a reduction in rates at the present time. Your

V

Committee therefore recommend that the course adopted by the Governments of Australia and South Africa, namely, to give a guarantee to the Telegraph Companies to make good any loss of revenue which they might suffer in the event of their making a reduction in their tariff, might be followed here.

My Committee have carefully considered this proposal, but cannot see their way to adopt it. The circumstances of the Colonies in Eastern Asia are so wholly different from those of Australia, and the funds at the disposal of the local Government so limited, that it would be useless to approach them on the subject.

Further representations have, however, been addressed to the Telegraph Companies, more particularly with reference to the rates charged hence to Japan and the Straits Settlements, and my Committee are in hopes that some reduction on these rates will be conceded.

With apologies for delay in replying to your last letter,—I am, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary*.

To KENRIC B. MURRAY, Esq., *Secretary*,

LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE EASTERN EXTENSION AUSTRALASIA & CHINA
TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LD.

THE GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH
COMPANY OF COPENHAGEN.

HONGKONG STATION, 2nd May, 1896.

SIR,—With reference to previous correspondence, I am pleased to inform you that the question of reduction of local tariffs has been for a long time under consideration, and that a decision has been come to which will involve considerable reductions of rates on certain local traffic, affecting at present only the cable system South of Hongkong; and it is hoped that later the same principle may be extended to certain classes of local traffic affecting other Telegraph Administrations with whom negotiations are now proceeding.

I shall address the Chamber further when fuller details are to hand.
—Yours, &c.,

J. M. BECK,

For Manager in China,

E. E. A. & C. Telegraph Company.

R. C. WILCOX, Esq., *Secretary*, HONGKONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.



The Coolie Strike.

PUBLIC MEETING IN THE CITY HALL.

(Extract from the "Daily Press" of 29th March, 1895.)

Yesterday afternoon a public meeting convened by the Chamber of Commerce was held at the City Hall to consider the crisis caused by the coolie strike. The room was crowded. The Hon. J. J. Keswick was unanimously voted to the chair.

The CHAIRMAN—As you have seen from the notice, this is a meeting called by request of those who are interested in the employment of labour in the colony. It is not, I assume, the wish of any gentleman here present either by word or act to say or cause to be done anything which will in any respect weaken the hands of the Government as against the strong combination on the part of the labourers which is now taking place. (Applause.) There can be no question that it is an exceedingly grave occurrence which is at the present time taking place, as it is impossible to say how it may end, and the daily losses are extensive. I think that everyone who may address the meeting will be anxious to make suggestions as to what steps should be taken to provide labour in the face of the position of the labourers properly belonging to the colony. I therefore hope that all speakers will moderate, as far as possible, their remarks in order to strengthen the hands of the Government and weaken the hands of the combination. (Applause.) I may remark that it is a singular thing that these labourers who are now on strike are absolutely unaware of why they have taken this stand. As a matter of fact they have been misled entirely by the head men and other persons who are on strike without the smallest knowledge of what they want.

Mr. E. MACKINTOSH—There is no doubt that the present occasion is a very grave one in the history of the colony; I may say, as far as the money making interests are concerned, far graver than the plague we passed through last year. The combination that we have to meet and which some consider is weak is, I am afraid, particularly strong. These men have really no grievance. If they are properly tackled, if they are examined as to the various causes which caused them to knock off work, they will be found to have absolutely no answer. But there is at the back of



these men the guilds. These are the people—the strings—that are working the whole concern, and as long as we have guilds in this colony which are not supervised or in any way regulated by the Government we shall have a recurrence of these disasters. (Applause.) I am not prepared to censure the Government. The Government's proposition is a reasonable one, and is for the benefit of the coolies themselves. But the Government had not grasped the subject. I am not speaking of the unofficial members of the Council—and I do not say they are wrong. I think they were right from a philanthropic point, as the coolies are huddled and crowded together in a most shameful fashion in their dwellings. But they have been accustomed to this for years, and I do not think the colony is worse off in its overcrowding than it was 20 years ago. I do not want to hinder the Government, but I want to see how we are going to cope with the difficulty. We are in a trouble now which will shake the foundations of the colony unless it is met. There is only one way of meeting this combination, and that is by combination. Are you prepared to combine against this Chinese combination or are you not? It must not be a half-hearted combination, which you may stick to to-day and throw away to-morrow. It must permeate the whole colony. Unless you do that you had far better retire from the struggle. (Applause.) Unless we take steps to combat this evil—steps that shall be powerful enough to break once for all this series of strikes which the colony has been subjected to during the last ten or twenty years—we may as well give up our profession here. (Applause.)

Mr. D. GILLIES—I have listened with very great interest to the remarks that have fallen from the Chairman and Mr. MACKINTOSH. There can be no question that this is a very serious time that the colony is passing through at present, but whether the line of procedure that has just been given to us by Mr. MACKINTOSH is a proper one is questionable. It is perhaps better that we should look a little further into the matter, and see whether or not we are able to arrive at some settlement with the Chinese. There has been no effort to come to some arrangement with the men on strike. No doubt they have an idea that the Government wish to increase the revenue by taxing them, by putting on them a poll tax and by taxing them in various other ways, and I think if these matters were properly explained to the Chinese and their wishes obtained as to what they would like, we should arrive at some satisfactory settlement. To-day I had a conversation with several of the head men who were at the Docks, and so

W

far as they are concerned they have no grievance, but they say they are afraid of the coolies in Hongkong, and if they continue to work their lives may be in danger. There is no doubt that they wish to help the people in Hongkong, but at the same time they do not wish to lose their employment at the Docks. I questioned them as far as I could to find out what it was they would like the Company to do in order that they might not go out on strike. They said they had no grievance and nothing they wished to receive from the Company. They are on a different footing from the coolies in Hongkong, as the Lodging House Act does not affect them, as the Docks are not in Hongkong, so they did not feel its provisions so acutely as the coolies in this place. I would suggest for the consideration of this meeting that a Committee be appointed to meet a representative Committee appointed by the Chinese and see what the grievance is and if it cannot be righted. I think the Chinese are not unreasonable. In many cases they are stupid and ignorant, but when the true facts of the case are laid before them I have no doubt they will willingly accept some little advice and do what is wanted. (Applause.)

Hon. R. M. RUMSEY.—I must ask the meeting in the first place to accept my remarks with a certain amount of allowance. I am in an official position, but as this is a public meeting I have taken the opportunity of appearing at it, because this is a matter in which it might be considered—and I think rightly in my opinion—that I might have some interest, and I have a very great interest in it. I did not happen to be here when the meeting opened, but I heard a few remarks that were passed, and the conclusion I came to was that in the opinion of the speaker the Government was at fault. Well, as I commenced by saying I have no business to be here in an official capacity, and it may be that I shall have to answer to my superiors for having the audacity to address this meeting at all; but I hope that those who are here will understand that I beg them to allow me to address them in an unofficial capacity—if I can be in the colony in an unofficial capacity. (Applause.) There is no question that the position of affairs in the colony must be a very grave one, but I think it is hardly fair that by-issues should be brought into the question as to what the idea of the Government is in attempting to enforce the law relating to the licensing of lodging houses. I do not think that has anything to do with the question. We are all agreed the coolies have no real grievance. There is something below this. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I say the people

W

we wish to get hold of are the influential Chinamen of whom we have heard a good deal. But when the time comes when they can be of some practical assistance to the Government, where are they. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Business men in this place know far more about the matter than I do, but I would say, make a suggestion to the Government. No suggestion has been made at this meeting that I know of, and if you will permit me I suggest that there should be an importation of coolies—coolies who could come down here—and why not get 1,000 or 2,000—whatever number might be required—and ask the Government to find accommodation and protection for them whilst they are here. Half the number that came down here could be taken from ship to ship by those who have ships constantly in use and the remainder might be housed by arrangement, and allowed out by the Government. It is no good sitting down and saying “Oh, the Government are a poor lot.” (Laughter.) Well, perhaps they are, but give them some practical suggestion. Practical men, practical suggestion. Let us go to the Government and hear what they have to say about it.

Mr. DODWELL.—I am glad to hear what Captain RUMSEY has brought our attention to. The Government can do more than we as individuals. As Mr. MACKINTOSH said, we must have a strong combination to meet a strong combination. If the Government can be persuaded to import labour, those who are employers of labour will be expected to guarantee to take their labour from the Government at certain fixed rates. But if this strike is affecting the colony surely it is the colony that should pay for it and not individuals. Most of us are agents only and not principals. We are working for other people, and for other peoples' ships, and very few of us for our own property, and I think the loss which would otherwise fall on us individually should really fall on the colony. The coolies are not working our ships or carrying our cargo and this will be a great loss to the colony. Shipowners will avoid the place, and therefore we must do everything we can to get coolies to take the place of the coolies now on strike. There are many places from which coolies can be got, but the trouble is there would be great delay. We want to get them quickly. The strike has been on four days now and it would certainly be a week or ten days before we could get relief from any other parts. My own opinion is that Japan is the best place to apply to for immediate help. I know there are many difficulties in the way, especially at the present time, but

W

it seems to me that to bring Chinese here would only be putting off the evil day. If we bring Japanese here the Chinese will see that we can do without them. As to what should be done to prevent a recurrence of this, I do not advocate Japanese labour being here permanently, but I think Indian labour would be very useful here. It would be of very great service to the colony to have two or three thousand Indian labourers here should we at any time be involved in war. We know in that case the Chinese would not help us, but the Indians would be of vital assistance to our army and navy. The question now is whether all the employers of labour would be prepared to promise that the whole of the labour they required should be taken from the Government importations. If there was a guarantee given to the Government surely they might then telegraph for labour. I believe that if the Chinese know that the Government is telegraphing for labour you will very soon see a different state of affairs. (Applause.)

Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP—I think we are very much indebted to the Government, to the military, and to the police for the measures they have taken at this crisis. There is no doubt whatever that it was the best thing that could possibly be done, and it has been very well done. The fall in the temperature of 10 degrees within the last 24 hours has been greatly in our favour. Europeans can work at 65 degrees Fahrenheit; at 75, at which the temperature was the day before yesterday, they found it very laborious work. At 85 it will be simply impossible to work. Europeans cannot do physical work in the summer in Hongkong, and therefore, however satisfactory the present position may be, it cannot be permanent. In England strikes continue. There is no law against strikes. I think our condition in Hongkong is a little different. The Chinese labourers here do not belong to the British nationality. They are here by invitation and by favour, and therefore I think there might be some slight difference in the way offences are regarded. The offence of striking might be treated in Hongkong differently from striking in London. But in England, at any rate, the Government has set its foot most firmly upon the subject of intimidation and violence, and if the position had been fully realised on Saturday when the coolie was caught red-handed in the violent treatment of another coolie, when he struck and knocked his baskets off his shoulder, and threw the bamboo into the sea, I think the case might have been treated differently from what it was. I regard, sir, the punishment that was

W

inflicted, which no doubt was prescribed by Ordinance, as an absolute favour to put upon a recalcitrant coolie, who will go to Gaol to have one quarter of the work and double the "chow" to which he has been accustomed. This can be regarded as no deterrent punishment at all. (Applause.) I am afraid there is no justification for the Magistrate having acted otherwise, but if he had been empowered—and perhaps it might be desirable to obtain some powers—if he had been empowered to have ordered the coolie to be caned with his clothes off, as we in school used to be caned with our clothes on—(laughter)—given 29 strokes, and then sent into the street showing his blue and red back, I believe the strike would have been at an end. Much time has been lost. I am very thankful that the Harbour Master, Captain RUMSEY, has said what has been on my mind for many years, namely, that the leading Chinese, the men of wealth, the men of standing in this place, are answerable for a great deal of our trouble here. (Applause.) Asiatics do not love Englishmen except when they are strong, and as long as they are strong and no longer. Englishmen love the weak; the Chinese love the strong, and I think it would be a very mistaken attitude for us to adopt in the present emergency to consult with the Chinese at all. (Applause.) I think it would be undesirable to import a number of Japanese at the present time, and especially under our recent enlightenment with regard to Japanese. Japanese are Asiatics, and I do not think the Japanese are very fond of us. Then it has been suggested that Indians should be engaged, but the fact is that the Chinese are the men we want. The Chinese are the only men that can carry; Indians and Japanese cannot carry. It is the shoulder that is the power of the Chinese coolie, and that is what we want and what we must obtain. I think, sir, that we might represent to the Government our feeling upon the matter in regard to the responsibility for this state of things. I am quite sure that these poor men are not the men who are responsible. As the Chairman has stated, they are led by others. Let it be clearly stated by the Government that they hold the leading Chinese responsible for the state of the place. This might seem to our British ideas unsuitable, but the Chinese will not regard it as unsuitable. It is entirely in keeping with their system. The Government should say—"We make you responsible for this matter and if you do not mend we shall take some steps against you with regard to it." We have been too lenient in the past. When I first came to Hongkong every Chinese coolie doffed his cap and stood on one side to allow you to pass. When do you see a

W

coolie do that now? We do not exercise our undoubted superiority. We must rule by power, and it is this we must assert in Hongkong, and by which we must carry the day. (Applause.)

Mr. C. S. TAYLOR—The Chinaman is imbued with his own notions of the Government, and he gains sufficient knowledge of our laws to know that so long as he does not break the laws we do not interfere with him. But he perhaps does not know that on an emergency the Government has power to suspend the law. The present crisis may not be regarded by Western nations as an emergency, but Western nations do not live in Hongkong, and do not look at the matter in the same light as we do. I understand that we meet here to-day to advise the Government. I suggest that the Government should give notice "that unless this strike is finished on Monday we proclaim martial law." (Hear, hear, and applause.) During Sunday the Government could make its arrangements. (Applause.)

Mr. DENNYS—Mr. GILLIES, as I understand him, said that he thought it might be advisable to approach the Chinese representatives of the strikers in order to find out what they wanted. If the coolies were striking for higher wages I for one would say find out what the Chinese want. I have had considerable experience with the Chinese, and I say that they simply take this stand and say to the Government—"If you do not do what we want coolies shall strike, the coaling coolies first, then the merchant coolies, then the house boys, and so on, including ricksha and chair coolies." It begins with labour. If that is not found sufficient shops will be closed. It is the aim of certain people to enforce their ideas by threatening the Government, and therefore I think that every Englishman, every European, living in this colony ought to back up the Government as far as possible during this crisis. (Applause.)

Mr. DODWELL asked what had been done by the Registrar General's Office.

Mr. MACKINTOSH—During the period that the Registrar General has held office no action has been taken. But we have explained deliberately and clearly personally to the head coolies of the colony the various operations of the law. They were filled with all manner of inconsistencies, as Mr. GILLIES has mentioned. They said they were to be fined and poll taxed. They were told that this was all an illusion. Over three thousand placards were printed and circulated amongst the whole of these men explaining how the matter stood. In my own case I have had before me the heads of

W

the different departments, representing three thousand men, and first of all they said the Government would impose a poll tax. I said—"I will pay the poll tax; there will be no poll tax." Then they said there was a registration fee. I said—"We will pay the registration fee." Then they said they were threatened by men, who would come down and kill them. I said—"There are three thousand of you. How many men are coming down here? Why you would eat them up." I also told them that they would have protection from military and police. They replied—"We might be beaten on leaving the premises." I said—"You will not be beaten, but if you do go away from the premises and get beaten and if you will produce the man that beats you I will give \$200 to each man." (Applause.) Underlying all this is the wire-puller at the back. Who he is I do not know, and I wish we did. There is a secret fund which is supporting these men, and whether it comes from the guilds we do not know. The Government are unable to find out. Detectives have been sent out, but they have not succeeded in arresting anyone. The men themselves are perfectly passive and indifferent, and the only reply I can get from them now is: "If you will get the Hongkong coolies to go in we will go in also."

The CHAIRMAN—I would suggest as a practical measure that a Committee of five or seven gentlemen be elected by the meeting to deliberate upon this grave question and to put themselves in connection with the Government.

Mr. FENWICK—I beg to second that.

The following Committee was thereupon appointed:—Hon. J. J. KESWICK, Messrs. MACKINTOSH, D. GILLIES, N. A. SIEBS, G. B. DODWELL, H. L. DENNYS, and St. C. MICHAELSEN.

The CHAIRMAN—If that Committee meets with general approval I propose that it be authorized to add to its number if necessary. (Applause.)

The suggestion was approved.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of this meeting, which I hope will not have been in vain. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing on behalf of the meeting the very great obligation I consider the public are under to the military and to the navy for the great services they have rendered in the unparalleled emergencies of the colony. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

W

(Extract from the "Daily Press" of 2nd April, 1895.)

THE COOLIE STRIKE.

RETIREMENT OF THE PUBLIC COMMITTEE.

A public meeting summoned by the Committee appointed at the meeting on Thursday last was held yesterday morning in the City Hall. The Hon. J. J. KESWICK presided, and among those present were—Messrs. E. MACKINTOSH, St. C. MICHAELSEN, N. A. SIEBS, G. B. DODWELL, D. GILLIES, H. L. DENNY (Committee). Hon. A. McCONACHIE, Captain RUMSEY, Messrs. C. C. PLATT, J. S. MOSES, J. D. HUTCHISON, W. DANBY, G. MURRAY BAIN, J. H. COX, W. MACBEAN, G. T. VIETCH, C. INCHBALD, G. C. C. MASTER, J. S. EZEKIEL, J. B. COUGHTRIE, C. PALMER, J. GOOSMANN, E. C. RAY, D. E. BROWN, G. SHARP, H. SKÖTT, D. R. SASSOON, R. SHEWAN, Rev. G. J. WILLIAMS, Captain TILLET, Messrs. A. SHELTON HOOPER, S. G. BIRD, W. MATHISEN, W. A. DUFF, E. JONES HUGHES, H. SMITH, Ho TUNG, J. WHEELLEY, A. FINDLAY SMITH, S. L. DARBY, H. J. HOLMES, F. W. WATTS, F. WALKER, J. WATSON, H. E. WODEHOUSE, C. A. TOMES, DOUGLAS JONES, A. H. RENNIE, E. GOETZ, F. HENDERSON, &c., &c.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the Committee have summoned you together in order to state that they, having done all that lies in their power to assist in terminating the present labour strike, now relinquish all further responsibility, and hope the Government will be successful in bringing the unhappy state of affairs to a speedy conclusion. The Committee individually and collectively may see fit to adopt independent action towards terminating the trouble, but in any case they intend in the future, as in the past, to give their loyal support to the Executive. (Applause.) Matters now are just where they were, and the only thing to do, I fear, is to tire the coolies out, which is a long and expensive process. The costs entailed are enormous, but as a matter of course the Government will gain the day in the long run. There ought to be laws in the colony making striking illegal, so that on any recurrence of such strikes they could be put an end to without the enormous losses entailed by a process of exhaustion. (Applause.) The best thing this meeting can do is to leave the difficulties and responsibilities in the hands of the Government to deal with (applause);

W

and I would repeat that, so far as this Committee is concerned, its public functions terminate, although it may endeavour to give individual and collective private assistance. (Applause.)

There was a pause of two or three minutes, at the end of which

Mr. D. E. BROWN said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I do not think that at the present juncture of the strike, having assembled here to-day, we should permit this meeting to be adjourned now. We, I think—I at least—came here to-day to listen to some further suggestions from the members of the community who were possibly not present at the meeting on Thursday. I think by adjourning now we would very materially weaken the hands of the Government. We should be here to-day to demonstrate to the strikers that the community is working in perfect accord with the Government and that we are willing to continue our exertions on behalf of the Government. (Applause.) I think it would be a very great mistake to let this meeting terminate now. Before the meeting on Thursday—and I might say that has all along been the desire on the part of the community—it was considered advisable that the shipping community should unite and formulate amongst themselves some scheme that would prove of assistance to the Government in quelling what I do not consider a strike but a rebellion. (Applause.) A strike in its proper sense, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I consider is one in which the employed have a grievance against the employer of labour; in this case, it is clearly demonstrated the strikers have no grievance against their employers. They are satisfied apparently with the wages they are getting and the treatment they receive at the hands of the employers; but because a certain number of the Chinese community see fit to disagree with and become disgusted with the laws enacted by our Government, I do not think we Europeans should countenance any action on their part with that end in view. We Europeans have to conform with the laws; why should not the Chinese? (Applause.) I did not intend to speak and I do not think I should had there not been a possibility of the meeting being declared closed; and I hope anything I have had to say will be taken kindly and will have good effect. My company stands prepared to join the other shipping firms in the colony in devising some scheme either to bring in foreign labour or any other means that will assist the Government in putting down this rebellion. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Ho TUNG—Gentlemen, if you will allow me I have a few remarks

W

to make. Furthermore, if my English is not sufficient to express my views I hope you will make me every allowance. On Friday last, when the Chinese deputation came to meet the Committee, it appears to my mind that there were only two things to be done. One was for the Government to be very firm and to take all consequences, and the other was to see whether we could modify so as not to lose the credit of the Government, but at the same time to induce the strikers to terminate. The deputation distinctly said that nothing would be done before the Governor's proclamation, but unfortunately the Governor was afloat, and the Colonial Secretary was interviewed and our suggestions were laid before him. I have no hesitation in saying that if any gentleman here had been here on Friday, being over anxious at the loss which he had already sustained, he would have come to no conclusion but the one that the Committee and the deputation did come to. The circular was nothing, it was merely a publication of what actually took place and nothing more. You see, gentlemen, it is very easy to criticise after what has been done, but when you come and work it is quite a different matter. Personally I strongly admire the Government for being firm, because I must strongly condemn the strikers, but I have no hesitation in saying that the Government might have adopted better and more proper preparations, so as to provide the mercantile community with sufficient labourers. They anticipated the strike months ago, and they could have adopted some better preparations so as to avoid the throwing away of thousands of dollars every day by the mercantile community. It is very easy for some gentlemen to say that the leading Chinese are at the bottom of this strike, or that they have been sympathising with the strikers. Well, gentlemen, I appeal to you, as successful business men, to think what benefit or what good the leading Chinese derive from this strike, considering the very heavy losses which they have already sustained. They are not exaggerated, and if you were to go through the figures, I would be able to prove that so far we have lost if not more, at least as much as the Europeans. I further appeal to the Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, who is in close contact with the leading Chinese, and I wonder whether he can in one instance show that the leading Chinese have not given him the most loyal support whenever they have been called upon to do so. You know, gentlemen, Chinese are a very quiet people—the leading Chinese—(hear, hear) they are law abiding; they are afraid of the Government, and would never interfere with what the Government

W

would do because they are afraid of the officials, the same as they are afraid of the officials of their own country, and they would never dare to interfere or disobey the orders of any Government, no matter where they are. (Hear, hear.) Now, gentlemen, I thought the whole of last night, and it has been in my mind the whole time, what led to all this trouble, these strikes, and all these unfortunate occurrences. It is all through misunderstanding between the Government and the Chinese—the Europeans I say. This misunderstanding is due to the private meetings between Government officials and the leading Chinese. I think these meetings ought to be held in public so that both the European community and the Chinese will know exactly what has taken place between the Government officials and the Chinese. (Applause.) As it is now, if my information is correct, the Government officials send for a select few of the leading Chinese, or perhaps the District Watchmen's Committee, to consult on some things. Well, when they have met—whether when they meet is known to the public I do not say—at least I have not heard—but when they meet the Government officials, if the views of the Chinese do agree with the officials, the credit of the case goes to the head of the department, but on the other hand, if their views do not agree with the officials, their views are disregarded. For example, I read only the other day when the strike commenced that the District Watchmen's Committee made two suggestions to the Government. One was to have the landlords registered instead of the head coolies, and after a few months to get the head coolies to register. The second point was to get the Government to measure the floor so as to see how many coolies the floor can accommodate, because the coolies being ignorant of the law did not know what 300 or 400 cubic feet meant. They think it is a room for one man. I do not think the Government will take these views, but still before the law was passed, and after the views were properly presented to the Government and the Sanitary Board, the whole Committee might have considered whether their views were good or not; whether practicable or not. But this action was entirely disregarded and nobody knew until the last meeting. Gentlemen, I think I am one of the largest property owners, and one of the largest business men in this colony; still I have never had the honour of being consulted by the Government. The reasons I do not know; it is a mystery to myself. (Laughter.) A gentleman made some remarks to me yesterday, and said "Now why don't you leading Chinese come and help the Government and start coolies

W

hongs yourselves?" It is very easy to say that, but you know the leading Chinese have to study their own business, and consider that by starting coolie houses they would be degrading themselves; besides, they consider they take away the right of labour from other people. Therefore it is impossible for them to start coolie houses. But, gentlemen, it appears to me that the only thing to stop any future trouble of this kind is for the Government to make the Chinese and the officials come in closer contact with each other, bring them closer together and make all the meetings public. If they have anything to say, let it be said in public and not privately, whether they are Government officials or Chinese. That will stop all future misunderstanding or strikes of this nature. I shall be most happy to assist the Government or any gentlemen who may form the Committee to terminate the strike, and if any gentleman has any suggestions to make I would be very happy to support them and to support the Government as well. (Applause.)

Mr. SHARP—I am sure we are indebted to Mr. BROWN for having proposed that this meeting should not be immediately dispersed. We do not meet here simply to go away, and there are one or two things which I think may fairly be expressed for the benefit of all. (Applause.) I think we are all convinced that the principal Chinese—the Chinese merchants—have nothing whatever to do with this strike (applause); that I am sure is well known; but there is another class, a class of middlemen, a dangerous class in this colony, and a class which for many years past has made itself very injurious here, taking to itself rights which it does not in any way possess, and exercising authority and power over the humbler classes in Hongkong, a state of things which ought not to be allowed. It is an occult and powerful influence, and this strike is not a new thing. We have seen this over and over again, that it is owing to the influence of the bad over the good. As a rule the bad should be afraid of the good; in Hongkong the good are afraid of the bad. I think it would be a most terrible thing if what may be called the worst feature of the advanced civilisation of Europe were imported into China—that contest with jealousy, that war—for it is nothing else—between capital and labour which threatens to reduce our country to a very low state. I hope we shall never see it successfully introduced here. Our hope in this colony is to derive advantage from the employment of Chinamen, the employment of the millions of China; the direct and indirect employment of them;—the direct employ-

W

ment, as the large manufactures of sugar and others do, and the indirect employment of them as the merchants do by buying the products and exporting them to Europe. If that hope is interfered with by the springing up of these jealousies it will dash the anticipation that we have of curing Hongkong of the difficulties of our present position. We have manufactures springing up here and there, such as rattan preparations, glass works, and we have many other things springing up here; but the main difficulty is the ruling of the Chinese. I never shall forget the answer of a tobacco manufacturer here. I do not remember his name, but his house is next to the Harbour Master's office. I asked him many years ago, "Why do you have your large manufactory in Macao and have to run backwards and forwards, instead of opening a factory here?" He said, "Sir, I would gladly do it, but we cannot control our workmen here, and therefore I am obliged to carry on my work in Macao." He employs some thousands of men. In England it has recently been found necessary to interfere between contractors and their workmen. It may be necessary, if these guilds hold on in their injudicious and mischievous course to have some legislation of that kind here in order to insure that a larger share of the enormous sums paid by the military, naval and civil authorities for labour shall go into the hands of the men themselves, and is not abstracted by cunning idlers, and that is the description which might fairly be attached to many of these men. With regard to dealing with the strike, the Chinese, no doubt, are children. But parents do not discuss with children; they simply say that this or that is to be done, and they insist upon its being done. I think we may fairly do that with regard to the recent legislation of the Sanitary Board. There is no doubt whatever that the present position is, as has been mentioned by Mr. BROWN, one of rebellion; it is war. The existence of a body of 20,000 coolies—lusty coolies—in Hongkong, disaffected and armed with their formidable bamboo poles (laughter,) I say, gentlemen, is a distinct menace to the colony. I think, gentlemen, we may many of us take a different view with regard to the action of the Government in many matters, but in this matter we must all try and carry out the suggestion that Mr. MACKINTOSH made at the last meeting, that we stand shoulder to shoulder and present an uncompromising front. (Applause.) There may be methods by and by of meeting in some way the difficulties which have arisen. For instance, you know, some of you very well, the absurd idea of attaching these conditions to the occupation of the house, which has

W

been referred to in the public press, and then making gentlemen who actually have nothing to do with it responsible for it. But there is no doubt that these things are necessary, and if the householders object to bear them let some concession be made to them in this way. Supposing the coolie house to be exempted from the 13 per cent. taxation. It might be considered by the Government perhaps, and it would be one way to meet what is undoubtedly a difficulty. No landlord in Hongkong wants coolies in his house; they are the most objectionable tenants that any landlord can possibly have. (Applause.) Then, again, I hope it will not be necessary, but the idea cannot but have occurred to everybody, that the quarterly night passes expired last night and perhaps the Government may see fit to hesitate reissuing them, and I think that would be felt to be a powerful stimulus to any who have the power of reconciling the present differences. I think this is a sedition; it is a dangerous position in the colony with 20,000 idle Chinese coolies, or within a quarter of that number, in their houses with nothing to do. I think, gentlemen, it would be quite lawful—I do not know whether the Ordinance would empower it—to go into the houses and give the men the option of being deported by the Canton steamer that evening, or being turned out to work. (Applause.) And, gentlemen, I am sure they would go to work. They only want an excuse for refusing to obey these men who rule them with a rod of iron. Give them an excuse and they will go to work. (Applause.) I would ask the Chairman's permission to move this resolution, which I have just prepared for this meeting:—"That this meeting desires respectfully to express its approval of the firm attitude maintained by H.E. Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON and the Government in connection with the present coolie strike, and to record its conviction that by such means alone can the present difficulty be overcome and its recurrence prevented." (Applause.)

Mr. R. SHEWAN seconded the resolution. With all due deference he thought the meeting was a mistake. He refused to believe that a British community was incapable of dealing successfully with Chinese coolies. They as loyal subjects had only to give ready and loyal support to the Government. It would be time enough to offer assistance to the Government when they were asked for it. The Government was perfectly able to put this strike down (applause), and he asked them to show these coolies that the Government was fully capable of putting down this rebellion of Chinese. (Renewed Applause.)

W

Mr. H. SMITH—It is very comforting of Mr. Ho Tung to come here and assure us that the leading Chinese have no influence, directly or indirectly, over the strikers. Perhaps I might ask him how it was that after the leading Chinese had met the Committee the other day, as if by a wag of the finger, all the coolies went to work again, and now, after these deliberations, the arrangements proposed fell through, and as if by another wag of the finger the coolies again ceased work? Can you explain that?

Mr. Ho Tung—It is very easily explained. It is just what I said before about the leading Chinese. When we lend our services to the Government, if successful we get no benefits; and if anything goes wrong we get all the blame. The Chinese deputation, when they came here, told the Committee distinctly that they could not get at the head coolies and that they were all out of the colony. The deputation were asked again and again whether they could make any suggestion. They answered that the coolies did not want registration, as they were afraid it would lead to new taxes, and the deputation made the suggestion which was adopted by the Committee, and the Chinese that day fully expressed to the Committee that they did not commit themselves in any way. They did not know if the coolies would go back or not. (To Mr. KESWICK)—Did I not make the remark to you that, in spite of the circular, we were not sure that the coolies would return to work?

Mr. KESWICK—That is a correct statement.

Mr. Ho Tung—But having done that, we thought the coolies would go back. Mr. SMITH asks how is it that by a turn of your finger the coolies turn back? It is because they thought the Government would issue a proclamation. The Government turned back, and did not issue the proclamation. It is easy to say the influential Chinese are at the bottom of this. That is all nonsense. It was the coolies who were aimed at, and they have objected all along. We tried to induce them to go back to work.

Mr. SMITH—I asked if you could explain how it was.

Mr. Ho Tung—Well, I have explained to you how it was.

Mr. ROBINSON said he had listened with much interest to what had been said, and he had not heard one word why the coolies had struck. The Committee had suggested that the householder or houseowner—he had forgotten which—should be registered instead of the head coolies, and that suggestion had been met by the statement on the part of the Government that the suggestion was preposterous, and it was pointed out that

W

the owner could not be expected to see that the bye-laws were carried out, and that they could not be responsible for the cleanliness of each individual house. With that statement of the Government he agreed, and the Committee in proposing this suggestion to the Government were carrying out the Government's own words. If the thing was preposterous it was the Government that had proposed the preposterous regulations by passing the Ordinance. Mr. MACKINTOSH had said that it was a quibble as to words, and Mr. DENNYS had pointed out that under the Ordinance the householder is *ipso facto* responsible. The Government said that the head coolies had no grievance, but did the coolies strike without a grievance? The Committee had acted diplomatically in advising the Government to accept the registration of the householder instead of the tenant of the house or the head coolie, who received a few cents more a day for preparing the rice for the other coolies. It argued penury of resource on the part of the administration that it could not obviate this registration difficulty. If insisted on the law would become a dead letter; it was unworkable, impracticable. He maintained there was something more behind this in the shape of a grievance. Mr. HO TUNG, without meaning it, had given them a clue, and he had heard it from a gentleman of great experience in this colony—a gentleman who was present but whose name Mr. ROBINSON did not think he would be justified in giving. It was not merely the pains and penalties that would be exacted in a perfectly legitimate manner when the head coolie—the man who bought the rice for small batches of men and became responsible to the retail dealer for the payment—had to appear at the Magistracy, but it was most certainly the fear of an illegal exaction that had induced these men to strike. Every man in his own country stood in fear of his own officials, and every Chinaman in this colony stood in fear of the Chinese officials in the colony. Every lukong would levy his tax, and it was characteristic of the Chinese that they dare not tell the Government. But Mr. HO TUNG, unintentionally, had told them why. The officials in the colony could make a Chinaman say anything, but they could not make him speak the truth. (A laugh.) It was moral courage that was wanting, and every head coolie knew, just as the gambling house keepers and totally different classes of people in this colony knew, that he would have to pay bribe money. Every head coolie who got his 10 cents per diem knew that something would have to go out of his pocket into that of the lukong or else he would be charged with over-

W

crowding. That was why he would not register. Every man who registered, unless he paid these bribes, would have to go before the magistrate and into gaol. The magistrate could not help himself. He had to take the word of the lukong. In many cases the lukong would be telling the truth; in other cases for certain he would be enforcing his bribe. The head coolie would have to pay the blackmail to the police for ever or give up keeping his boarding house. The householder could not be made to pay a bribe, and it was by making the householder responsible, as suggested by the Committee, that they could find a remedy for the present difficulty. He suggested that as a mode of avoiding the evils of the present Ordinance the Government should see to the cleanliness of the coolie houses by appointing a man to visit the houses and see that the Ordinance was carried out. This man would be responsible for the houses being kept clean. He (Mr. ROBINSON) submitted that if the Government resorted to force, it would not be the Government that would have to pay the piper, but the mercantile community, who ought to be consulted and who ought to call the tune because they paid the piper. (Applause.)

Mr. G. C. C. MASTER—Mr. Chairman, Mr. SHARP some time ago put a resolution to the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. SHEWAN. Mr. ROBINSON has addressed the meeting and has put no amendment. I propose that that the resolution be now put—Mr. SHARP's resolution. This meeting was called for to-day, and one of the chief objects, I understand, was to see if any suggestions could be made to put down the strike. As to what the Government may do in the future about sanitation &c., that takes some time. This meeting either supports the Government in the present crisis or not. If Mr. ROBINSON—or any other gentleman—has no amendment to put of want of support, I propose that the resolution be now put, and although this Committee has retired I would ask Mr. KESWICK to put the resolution to the meeting. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

The CHAIRMAN put the resolution to the meeting and it was carried *nem. con.*

The CHAIRMAN—I do not know whether that may be taken as the termination of the meeting, but assuming that it is, I am expressing the opinion of every one present when I say that the meeting has not been called in vain. We have had an expression of opinion from various speakers, who have thrown some light on the present difficulty. For the Committee, I am sure, I may say, as I said in my few opening remarks, they are most anxious to

W

give the Government every support in their power. Their public functions now cease, but by suggestion and every way in their power, they will do their best to uphold the hands of the Government. (Applause.) Of course, in a great difficulty such as this, as I have already said at the opening of the meeting, the Government is bound to be successful. No person, I am sure, for a single moment doubted when the strike commenced that the Government must eventually prevail, but the question is what is to be the cost. If they are going to gain the day over the coolies by the process of exhaustion, the loss will be enormous, and I do not think the Government would sacrifice any dignity at all—far be it from me to recommend anything of the kind, but I do say if the suggestion made by the Committee is considered a bad one, an unwise one, let us calmly consider whether there is any other suggestion which will put this difficulty at an end at an early date. The loss entailed among the gentlemen present, and probably to many gentlemen who are not here, is unseen and undreamt of. This strike is felt enormously by the Chinese themselves, I am told—I have not gone, but if any of you have gone along the west end of the town you will have seen that there is very little business being done where ordinarily the 20,000 coolies out on strike would have been working to provide for the wants of 260,000 people. The business of the Chinese as well as the foreign community is practically at a stand-still. If I may venture to speak on behalf of the Committee as well as myself, I would say I express no resentment with respect to the criticisms passed on the Committee. As stated in their letter, the registration of the owners instead of tenants is a subject upon which opinions may well differ. But is that any reason for the condemnation? One may well entertain that conviction. I am sure the Government by stating its adherence to its original design to quell this strike by its own strong arm will succeed as certainly as I am addressing you now, but the outcome, by way of loss to this colony, will be huge. I cannot tell you, gentlemen, how soon good common sense may prevail for these labourers; I trust it may be to-morrow—I trust it may be to-day—so much the better. I would be the first—I and my colleagues on the Committee would be the first to congratulate the Government upon the termination of the difficulty which at the present time I do not see the end of. With these remarks—and I know they are most inadequate but they are the very best I can make on the spur of the moment—I wish the Government every success, and I beg if any gentleman has a practical

W

suggestion to make to the Government he will make it without delay. (Applause.)

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. MACKINTOSH, brought the proceedings to a close.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Hongkong, 2nd April, 1895.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to state for the information of the Chamber of Commerce and for communication to the representatives of the shipping firms in the Colony, that the following facts have been brought to his knowledge in connection with the present coolie strike.

(1). That several firms have had offers from one or more Chinamen to supply them with 3,000 coolies at the usual stevedore rates, provided that permanent employment as stevedores for a period of years was guaranteed to the maker or makers of the offers.

(2). That such offers have in each case been declined owing to the reluctance of the firms concerned to dispense with the services of their present employés despite the fact that those employés refuse to work and to comply with the law.

(3). That several firms have a clause in their agreements with their compradores to the effect that the latter bind themselves to supply coolies to work cargo at a certain rate per ton at any time and in any numbers that may be necessary.

(4). That in no instance does it appear that any of the firms in question have taken the necessary steps to enforce by law the clause referred to above, although their compradores have failed to fulfil the terms of their agreements.

From the above facts it appears that although many of the leading firms have had it in their power to take steps calculated to put an end to the present strike by engaging persons who are willing and ready to obtain labour, or by resorting to legal measures, they have remained passive, and desire to cast the entire responsibility in bringing matters to a satisfactory termination upon the Government.

Whilst not desiring to avoid any responsibility that may rightly fall upon the Government, H. E. the Governor cannot but regard the inaction referred to above as inconsistent with the public professions of loyalty to

W

the Government and with the promises of strong support and hearty co-operation in the present crisis which have been made by the community, and His Excellency would therefore appeal to the representatives of the commercial firms of this Colony to give practical effect to those professions of loyalty and promises of co-operation by no longer hesitating to employ persons who are willing to obtain labour and by taking the other steps indicated above not only in protection of their own interests, but in support of the Government.

I have, etc.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 10th April, 1895.

SIR,—I am instructed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant and to inform you that, by request of the Committee, I forwarded a copy of it to the firms in the Colony connected with shipping with the accompanying letter, and I have now the honour to enclose replies from the following, viz.:—

Messrs. ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co.

„ BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

„ DODWELL, CARLILL & Co.

„ GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.

„ JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.

ALF. WOOLLEY, Esq.

Messrs. MELCHERS & Co.

„ MEYER & Co.

„ SIEMSEN & Co.

„ SHEWAN & Co.

„ MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA.

D. E. BROWN, Esq.

The Committee are of opinion that a perusal of these letters will remove any doubt which may exist as to the general inaccuracy of the information upon which your letter appears to have been written, and serve to refute statements (1), (2), (3) and (4) of your favour under reply.

W

The Committee cannot concur in the opinion that the leading firms had it in their power to put an end to the strike by the adoption of the means enumerated in your letter, and they do not know upon what grounds these firms can be charged with any desire to cast the entire responsibility of ending the labour strike on the Government.

The exact contrary seems to be the fact, for the whole community, without exception, were anxious to assist the Government by every possible means to bring to a termination, as speedily as possible, a state of affairs which to the shipping and local interests was extremely costly.

In conclusion, and with special reference to the last paragraph of your letter, the Committee cannot but view with regret the charges of insincerity directed in your letter against members of the community, and they consider it contrary to the public interest that in a serious labour crisis a spirit of discord should be introduced, where instead moderation of language and calm judgment are eminently required.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

No. 729.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 10th April, 1895.

SIR,—I am directed to transmit to you for the information and consideration of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copies of letters (2) from Her Majesty's Consul at Amoy relative to the importation of coolies from that port into Hongkong.

The Consul has been informed that the crisis appears to be now over, but the information contained in the above letters may be of use to the Chamber.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

No. 66.

H. B. M. CONSULATE,
AMOY, 2nd April, 1895.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt last night of a telegram from you asking me whether coolies were procurable here for Hongkong, and if so, how many, and in what time, and stating terms of contract.

W

After enquiries made last night and this morning I wired to you to-day to the effect that about forty coolies were procurable immediately on six to seven dollars a month.

That in time thousands of coolies could be got here. That they fully understand the position in Hongkong, and stipulate for protection from coolies of Kwangtung province.

The men of this region have long looked with envy at the big wages earned in Hongkong by the coolies from Kwangtung, but they are afraid of endeavouring to compete with them for fear of oppression by them. If they were assured of protection they would go to Hongkong in thousands, as they go to Singapore, without its being necessary to make any contracts with them, but this will take time, as the coolies who emigrate to Singapore from this live two or three days' journey from Amoy, and the only coolies at once available are those of Amoy, who, being already in employment, cannot, of course, be induced to proceed to Hongkong except on high wages, and whose numbers are necessarily limited.

I would venture to suggest that I should only send you a few coolies at first, and that the Hongkong community should obtain such further coolies as they require from this region through the men I send. In time any amount of men could be obtained, and the competition between the Fokien men and the Kwangtung men would prevent such combinations as the Colony is now suffering from. The Amoy coolies are anxious to obtain permanent employment in Hongkong, and it is only fear of the Kwangtung men, who have obtained a monopoly, as it were, that deters them.

It is as well to inform you that the Amoy men are neither as strong nor as industrious as the Kwangtung men.—I have, &c.,

C. T. GARDNER, *Consul*.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Esq., *Acting Colonial Secretary*,

&c., &c., &c.,
Hongkong.

No. 67.

H. B. M. CONSULATE,
AMOI, 3rd April, 1895.

Sir,—In continuation of my letter of yesterday's date, I beg to enclose for your information a document handed me in original by the heads of

W

the Coolie Guild here. This document was handed me spontaneously, and I deemed it best to make no comment on it, but simply to tell them I would forward it to Hongkong.

The heads of the Guild whom I saw this morning inform me they can get about 200 men to proceed to Hongkong in a day or two after notice, and thousands in time if there is a prospect of permanent employment in Hongkong. For the first batch they would require a small advance. There would be no difficulty in getting security for this advance and no danger of their taking the advance, and then not proceeding to Hongkong. Their idea is to endeavour to extend the coolie supply system in the Straits, with which they are familiar, to Hongkong, and to share with the men of Kwangtung in the lucrative labour market of Hongkong. The question of immediate wages does not interest them as much as the hope of obtaining a permanent footing in the Colony. Unless guaranteed Government protection they dare not attempt to enter into competition with the men of Kwangtung in the Hongkong labour market.

As the matter seems urgent I venture to give you a rough translation of the coolies' memo.

1. The Consul must guarantee that the Chinese coolies shall not be mal-treated by the Kwangtung men who are in Hongkong. If any of the coolies should be killed by them the British authorities shall pay a solatium to the relatives of each Amoy man so killed on a scale hereafter to be agreed on.

2. The coolies now engaged are engaged for the shipment and discharge of cargo, &c. They are not to be made soldiers of. If they do not suit, or if they do not wish to remain in Hongkong, they are to be given a passage back to Amoy.

3. Each man shall receive dollars a month wages. In every hundred men there shall be two headmen who shall supervise the coolies, but shall not be called on to do other work. The wages of the headmen shall be dollars a month.

4. If the coolies work badly the headmen shall change them for others. It is necessary to know if the employment will be permanent.

5. It should be agreed as to when the wages shall commence, also whether any advance should be made, and what shall be given in the way of travelling expenses.

W

6. If it is necessary to bring coolies down from the interior, it will be desirable to give a small sum for the expense of bringing them to Amoy."—I have, &c.,

C. T. GARDNER, *Consul*.

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
Hongkong.

X

Sir Claude MacDonald and the Chamber of Commerce.

At a special meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 11 a.m. on the 4th April, in the Chamber of Commerce Room, His Excellency Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, K.C.M.G., the newly appointed British Minister to Peking, having courteously consented to meet them, there were present:—Mr. A. McCONACHIE (Chairman), Messrs. J. J. BELL-IRVING, N. J. EDE, R. M. GRAY, T. JACKSON, N. A. SIEBS, T. H. WHITEHEAD, and R. CHATTERTON WILCOX (Secretary).

The members having been introduced to the Minister,

The CHAIRMAN said—Your Excellency, I desire to express the pleasure with which the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce now make your personal acquaintance. We are more than likely in the future to have occasion to address you from time to time on commercial matters, and the present interview which you have so kindly accorded to us, and for which I thank you, will, I trust, establish a mutual understanding. There are three main questions of the greatest, if not indeed vital, importance to the future prosperity of this Colony to which I desire briefly to direct your special attention and to solicit the aid of your great influence towards their attainment. These are:—The opening of the West River to foreign trade and steamer navigation; the removal of official obstruction to the working of trade with the interior under transit pass; and the extension of the boundaries of the Colony. I have no doubt you are well aware that the question of opening up the Si Kiang or West River, one of the great waterways of the Kwang provinces, to steamers

X

of all nations, and the cities of Wuchow-fu, Tsun Chow, and Nan-ning-fu to foreign trade, has for many years engaged the attention of the Chamber. The advantages that would accrue from the opening of this great river to foreign commerce generally, as well as to Hongkong in particular, would certainly be very great. This Colony, situated as it is at the mouth of the Canton river, would not only become a larger distributing centre than at present, but it would benefit greatly by the increased passenger traffic that would necessarily follow upon increased facilities of transport. The opening up of the West River would also prove of great advantage to the Chinese population in the district. It would secure to the Chinese Government an increased revenue through the Customs stations in the several ports opened; it would give an impulse to production in the interior by bringing produce within reach of a market; and it would augment and enrich the population of the villages and towns along the course of the river. In short, regarded from every point of view, whether foreign or native, official or mercantile, the object sought is a most desirable one. The second point to which I have to refer is the question of the trade under Transit Pass. By Article XXVIII. of the Tientsin Treaty, as you are aware, the privilege is granted to foreign merchants to send goods to the interior from any Treaty port on payment of the usual import duty and a lekin charge of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. *ad valorem*, for which a transit pass is issued, which pass, to quote the treaty, "shall exempt the goods from all further inland charges whatsoever." In the central and northern provinces of China a large trade has been done under transit passes, more particularly at the Yangtze ports; but in the southern provinces, and specially in the Two Kwang, the officials have made a determined stand against this privilege being exercised, and have contrived to practically render it a dead letter. Your Excellency's predecessor took great interest in this question, and urged the importance of securing proof of the obstruction of the officials, but for a long time this seemed impracticable owing to the timidity of the Chinese merchants. A case has recently occurred, however, which fully supplies the desired evidence, and it has been laid before the noble lord the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Briefly, the facts are as follow. Some three months ago Mr. ANDREW, a British merchant, left Canton in a native boat laden with piece-goods, for which, after paying the usual import duty, he had duly taken a transit pass, first paying the lekin charges, and proceeded up the West River to Wuchow-fu. On arrival there he exhibited

X

his pass to the local authorities, and then opened business, quickly disposing of part of his goods to native traders. The next day, however, these buyers informed Mr. ANDREW that they dare not take delivery of the goods. They had evidently been intimidated, and said they could not complete their purchases unless a proclamation were issued by the authorities authorising them to do so. Representations to the British Consul at Canton followed, who in turn promptly laid the case before the Viceroy. That official flatly denied the intimidation, but would do nothing whatever to assist the British merchant. The case was then carried to Peking, where the efforts of Mr. BEAUCLERK were successful in securing some action, for on the 17th February the Prefect of Wuchow issued a proclamation nominally permitting the native dealers to trade with Mr. ANDREW, but the document was so worded that not one of the native traders would venture to take a single package, it being stated in the proclamation that after the goods had been transferred to the Chinese merchants then lekin taxes and Customs dues would be charged. Further representations from the Consul only evoked from the Viceroy the rejoinder that this was done in accordance with the instructions of the Tsung-li Yamên, and he contended that, once transit pass goods have reached the destination mentioned in the pass and had been sold to the Chinese, foreigners cannot interfere, no matter what dues are levied upon them. This contention, if allowed, would of course nullify the provisions of Article XXVIII, and could not be admitted. This Chamber telegraphed to Lord SALISBURY, and meantime the British Chargé d'Affaires has been in active communication with the Tsung-li Yamên, with, we hope, successful results. The case, however, strikingly illustrates the obstructive tactics of the provincial officials. The third subject to which I would invite your attention is one of very great local importance. I refer to the question of the extension of the boundaries of this Colony. This matter is, I believe, engaging the attention of the Imperial Government at the present moment, their notice having been specially drawn to it by representations from the civil, military, and naval authorities here. When the island was first acquired it was only sought as a place where British ships could careen and refit and British trade be conducted free from interference. When later its unprotected condition was noted and fortifications were constructed provision was only made for guns carrying a far shorter distance than at present, and the political situation was wholly different. It is now necessary, we are assured by experts, in

X

order to provide for the adequate protection of the port, to secure a considerable extension of the territory on the other side of the harbour, setting back the boundary in fact to Mirs and Castle Peak Bays, and to acquire several of the islands to the South. Not only is this extension of the Colony necessary for strategic reasons, but it is eminently desirable for others of a social, commercial, and industrial nature. The Chinese city of Kowloon, the other side of our waters, affords a regular Alsatia for criminals, and is a constant resort of gamblers from this side. The fantan shops have several times been closed after remonstrances from the Hongkong Government, but they invariably re-open and render nugatory the efforts of the Hongkong Police to put down gambling. The existence of facilities on the other shore for eluding justice is also an incentive to robbery and all kinds of crime. Then we need room for expansion, both in the matter of recreation and for industrial purposes, as well as land for raising vegetables and cattle. The Chinese population, too, and more especially the merchant class, would like to obtain cheap sites on which they could erect homes and bring their families to reside under the British flag instead of being, as at present in some measure, at the mercy of the mandarins, who can reach them through their relatives. The Colony has progressed steadily so far as its trade is concerned; but the population is still for the most part of a very transitory description. The enlargement of its boundaries would, we confidently believe, tend to the building up of more permanent interests, the establishment of more industries, and the general increase of trade and population. If your Excellency could, without divulging any state secrets, give us any definite information on the subjects I have referred to, it would be of great interest to members. I may mention that a telegram was received here about the middle of last month, through Reuter's Agency, to the effect that an Edict had been signed in Peking sanctioning the opening of the West River, but that the actual opening thereof awaits the conclusion of an agreement with regard to the Yunnan frontier. Since that date we have received no further news on the subject.

His EXCELLENCY replied as follows:—Gentlemen, it gives me the greatest pleasure to meet you and to discuss questions which are of so important and momentous a character for the future well-being of the Chinese community in general and Hongkong in particular. It also gives me very great pleasure to make your personal acquaintance and to hear your personal

X

views on these subjects, which views are so much better put forward at an informal meeting of this description than by lengthened correspondence. You ask me whether, if without divulging any state secrets, I can give you any definite information regarding the three points to which your Chairman has referred. I shall be very pleased to give you such information as lies in my power respecting these points, but you will kindly remember that I left England on the 28th February, since when I have been on my travels, and have had no business communications either with London or Peking, and therefore my information will be limited, but if it will interest you to hear how matters stood when I left London I shall be very glad to inform you. In the first place considerable delay had arisen with regard to negotiations respecting the matters you have mentioned and others, owing to the severe illness of His Excellency KUNG TAJEN, Chinese Minister in London, who had been laid up for some four months and quite unable to attend to business. Some few weeks before I left His Excellency recovered his health and two meetings had been held at the Foreign Office; at the latter I was present and details respecting the opening of the West River were under discussion and seem to tend to a favourable issue, which the intimation conveyed in Reuter's telegram would appear to confirm. In a private letter which I received at Brindisi I was informed that the meetings, which had been ably presided over by Mr. BERTIE, Head of the Eastern Department of the Foreign Office, were now, owing to this gentleman's severe indisposition, under the direct superintendence of Mr. GEORGE CURZON, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whose personal knowledge of China and the Far East is well known to you. During the negotiations, great assistance had been rendered and valuable information obtained from the Committee of the China Association in London. You will see, therefore, that Her Majesty's Government are fully alive to the great importance of the questions under discussion and are giving them every possible consideration and attention. To treat with the points your Chairman has brought to my notice in detail: The opening of the West River to trade would appear to be to all intents and purpose definitely decided upon, and I hope that this may include the opening up of its affluents and entrances, but on this point I cannot of course speak definitely. There appears to be a general opinion that the opening of these important waterways will be of little use unless the provisions of Article XXVIII. of the Tientsin Treaty are carried out

X

in the same manner as they are in the Central and Northern Provinces, and this brings me to the second point to which your Chairman has referred, namely, the question of trade under Transit Passes. Until my arrival yesterday in Hongkong I was not aware that a test case had been obtained, and as the case of Mr. ANDREW is, so to speak, *sub judice*, I cannot of course give an opinion; but with regard to the entire question of Transit Passes, which question is of the utmost and most vital importance to the trade of Hongkong and the opening of the Western waterways, I may tell you that I held several long conversations in London on this subject with Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR, who impressed its great importance upon me. Conversant as you are, gentlemen, with Chinese officialdom, I need not remind you that millions of this official class will be affected by any change in the present method of collecting and subsequently disposing of the "lekin" and other dues. That they would eventually be so affected for their own material benefit I, for one, am convinced, but I am afraid that it will not be in our time that they will be so convinced. However, you may rest assured that this question will receive my most constant and earnest attention, and I hope that some solution may be arrived at before long by which the present hindrances to trade may at any rate be considerably ameliorated. The third point that your Chairman has touched upon, the extension of the Colony, is certainly of the most vital importance to the future well-being of your community, principally for the reasons you have mentioned, but also on sanitary grounds. The typhoon of 1874, as you are aware, caused very great loss of life amongst the Chinese population, and I am informed that the burial of several thousand corpses in a part of the island which at one time was used as a Sanatorium by the European residents caused the locality to become very unhealthy and unfit for habitation. The recent plague has drawn attention to the great necessity of an extension for sanitary purposes of the Colony's boundaries. The remedy would appear to lie in the direction of obtaining a sufficiently attractive *quid pro quo* to induce the Central Government to grant the concessions set forth in your Chairman's remarks. (In reply to a member, Sir CLAUDE was understood to say that cases of purchase of territory by one State from another have occurred from time to time.) In conclusion you may rest assured that the matters you have mentioned will receive my close attention and that I shall take an early opportunity of bringing them to the notice of the Central Government.

Y

The proposed Reconstruction of the Sanitary Board.

No. 565.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
10th April, 1896.

SIR,—I am directed by the Governor to request the Chamber of Commerce to be good enough to state whether the opinion of the Chamber on the subject of the Sanitary Board remains the same as that expressed in the letters of the Chairman, Mr. KESWICK, dated 19th October and 12th November, 1894, and by Mr. MCCONACHIE when he was representing the Chamber in the Legislative Council in his minute attached to Mr. KESWICK's letter of the 12th November, 1894, or whether the opinion of the Chamber has changed and is now the entirely divergent view expressed by Mr. WHITEHEAD, who at present represents the Chamber in the Legislative Council.

His Excellency understands that the purely British Members of the Chamber amount to about fifty, and he will be glad to know, whether Mr. WHITEHEAD has received any mandate from those members as a body to oppose the views expressed by the Retrenchment Committee, the Unofficial Members of which were Mr. KESWICK, Mr. CHATER, and Mr. JACKSON, all Members of the Chamber of Commerce, and by Mr. MCCONACHIE, when representing the Chamber in the Legislative Council.

If a change has taken place in the views formerly held by the Chamber, His Excellency will be obliged if you will be good enough to state for his information the reasons which have led to the change.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG, 22nd April, 1896.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. requesting the Chamber to state whether the opinion expressed by the then Chairman (Mr. J. J. KESWICK) on the subject of the Sanitary Board in letters dated 19th October and 12th November, 1894, and by Mr. MCCONACHIE when representing the Chamber on the Legislative Council in a minute attached to the last named letter, is that now held by the Chamber, or

Y

whether it has changed to the view expressed by Mr. WHITEHEAD, the present representative of the Chamber in the Legislative Council. The Committee understand that His Excellency the Governor desires an expression of opinion on the question of the re-constitution of the Sanitary Board only, and not on all the various points raised in Mr. KESWICK's letter of the 19th October, 1894.

In reply, I am directed by my Committee to state that, as no expression of opinion by the Committee on the question of the re-constitution of the Sanitary Board could be final, it would be necessary, if His Excellency the Governor wishes it, to obtain the opinion of all the members of the Chamber.

With reference to the question whether Mr. WHITEHEAD has received any mandate from the British Members of the Chamber on the subject, I am instructed to say that no mandate has been given, and that there is no record in the Chamber's books of any precedent in respect of the Chamber or any section of its members ever having issued a mandate to any one of the gentlemen who have previously represented the Chamber in the Legislative Council.—I have, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, *Secretary.*

The Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, *Colonial Secretary.*

HONGKONG, 16th April, 1896.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to hand you copy of a letter of this date addressed by me to His Excellency the Governor in part reply to a communication dated 10th instant from the Colonial Secretary to the Secretary of the Chamber.

You will observe that I have ventured to question the assumption contained in the Colonial Secretary's letter that in political matters I am the representative of the Chamber in the sense in which the word "represent" is used in the Colonial Secretary's letter. In all matters affecting trade and commerce I have always consulted the Committee and the Members of the Chamber of Commerce, and striven to represent their views, and I shall always do so. On matters outside the scope and objects of the Chamber of Commerce, as is the question of the constitution of the Sanitary Board, I submit that I represent the community at large, and I endeavour to the best of my ability to ascertain the opinions of the bulk of the residents, and to

Y

put them forward, reserving, however, my own complete freedom of opinion. I deny the existence of any "mandate" as un-British and unconstitutional.

I much regret that the Chamber's late Chairman, Mr. KESWICK, should have pledged the Chamber to any expression of opinion on a purely Municipal question *without first submitting the matter to the Members of the Chamber for their deliberation and consideration, and first obtaining their views.* At the same time his course is defensible, as the Chamber might fairly claim a right to call the attention of the Government to the grave injury that had been done the Colony and its trade by defects in Sanitary Legislation and Administration generally. The question has, however, ceased to be a general one, and the Bill now before the Legislative Council is simply one for the reorganisation of the Sanitary Board and as to the number and class of members by whom it is to be composed.

I humbly submit for your consideration that the course for the Committee to adopt will be to reply to the Government that in the present form in which the question of the Sanitary Board is now before the Council, the Committee has no opinion, and it is not, as a purely commercial and cosmopolitan body, qualified to express any opinion on a question of purely Municipal concern.

As to the suggestion that you should report on the opinions and actions of the British Members of the Chamber that, of course, is impossible, as you can only speak for the Association as a whole, foreigners and British alike. If the Government desires to obtain the opinion of the British subjects in the Colony, it can very easily convene a public meeting.

Please note that I will send a copy of this correspondence to the local Press, for the information of the Members of the Chamber of Commerce and the community.—I am, &c.,

T. H. WHITEHEAD.

To the Committee of the HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONGKONG.

HONGKONG, 16th April, 1896.

SIR,—As a member of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have seen the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 10th instant addressed to the Secretary of the Chamber in which, by your Excellency's direction, the Committee of the Chamber is requested to state whether its opinion on the

Y

subject of the Sanitary Board remains the same as that expressed in certain letters of Mr. KESWICK's dated the 19th October and 12th November, 1894, and by Mr. MCCONACHIE in a minute attached to one of Mr. KESWICK's letters, or, whether the opinion of the Chamber is now in accordance with the views expressed by me, who, in the words of the Colonial Secretary's letter, "*represent at present the Chamber in the Legislative Council.*" The Committee of the Chamber, in the same letter, is further requested to state whether I have any *mandate* from the purely British members of the Chamber as a body to oppose the views expressed by the Retrenchment Committee (the Unofficial Members of which were Mr. KESWICK, Mr. CHATER and Mr. JACKSON, all members of the Chamber) and by Mr. MCCONACHIE when representing the Chamber, and to state their reasons for any change of opinion, if there has been any change.

I have no doubt that your Excellency will receive from the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, in due course, a reply to your request for information as to the present attitude of the Chamber with reference to the Sanitary Board and its reconstitution, although there may be some delay, as the Committee will, doubtless, feel bound now to call a general meeting to consider the matter, a precaution which Mr. KESWICK and Mr. MCCONACHIE do not seem to have taken before addressing the Government in October and November, 1894.

As to your Excellency's request for information as to whether I have any *mandate* from the purely British members of the Chamber to oppose the views expressed as to the Sanitary Board by the Retrenchment Committee, and Mr. KESWICK, Mr. CHATER, Mr. JACKSON, and Mr. MCCONACHIE, I think it better, after very full and careful consideration, to reply to you myself direct as I am afraid that the constitution of the Chamber does not afford any facilities for obtaining the opinion of a section of its members, and on a purely municipal and not a commercial question, and as, moreover, your request seems to be based on certain assumptions to which I cannot at all give my assent and on which I may have to ask your Excellency to obtain the opinion of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Permit me to point out that I do not, in the sense in which the expression is used in the letter now under reply, "represent" the Chamber of Commerce in the Legislative Council. It is a convenient way of designating me, in compliance with the Parliamentary rule that forbids the use of names in

Y

debate, to speak of me as the Representative of the Chamber of Commerce, and although I am elected and nominated by the Chamber of Commerce, I am appointed by the QUEEN, and I represent on the Council, together with my colleagues, the general interests of the community and not of any particular section of it. I am no more the representative of the Chamber on the Council than Messrs. BELL-IRVING and BELILIOS are the representatives of the Government on the Council, because they are selected and nominated for the honour by your Excellency.

Neither has the Government, at any time, recognised the Member of Council, nominated by the Chamber, as representing it, or entitled to speak on its behalf. When the Government has desired, for any purpose, to ascertain the opinion or obtain the advice of the Chamber it has invariably addressed itself by letter to the Chairman or to the Committee of the Chamber.

As to your Excellency's reference to a "mandate," and your request to be informed if I have a "mandate" from the British members of the Chamber of Commerce to oppose the Sanitary Board Bill, may I be permitted to remind your Excellency that only the Chamber as a whole—British and foreigners combined—could give me a mandate, if such a thing were possible, and that I could not be the *mandataire* of a section of the Chamber. But there is no such thing as a mandate known to English Parliamentary practice. It is a foreign invention, and Members of Legislatures in Great Britain and her Colonies have always refused to be the *mandataires* of their electors. They have always claimed, no matter by whom elected, to exercise their own intelligence on all questions coming before the Legislative Bodies of which they were members and to act according to the best of their judgment for the interests of the entire community and not according to the views of their immediate electors.

As to the general question, my own opinion is that if the community was fairly canvassed on the subject, a considerable majority of the British residents would be found to be in favour of a popularly-elected Sanitary Board, *with adequate powers and an efficient staff*, in preference to any Board on which there was an official majority, and I should be very glad indeed to co-operate with your Excellency in obtaining a *plebiscitum* on the subject. It will be an immense step in advance in the methods of Colonial Government, should your Excellency think well to apply it.

As to my own opinions I have expressed none as yet in Council on the

Y

subject except in so far as I have said, what I think the Government admit, that it is a retrograde step to have to change back from the popularly constituted Board, established in 1888, to the older form of Sanitary government by a Department or by a Board with an official majority unless there are very grave reasons to justify the step. Your Excellency has expressed yourself as favourable to popular forms of government where possible. I am open to conviction, and if the Government, or the gentlemen who advocate the views and opinions of the Government, are able to satisfy me on reasonable evidence that the presence of an unofficial majority on the Sanitary Board was the cause of its failure, if it did fail to perform the responsible duties entrusted to it, I am prepared to vote for its reconstitution on the lines of the present Bill or any other the Government may introduce, but I can find no evidence to that effect. The statement of objects and reasons attached to the Bill now before the Council refers to the experience of the Plague year as justifying the proposed alteration, and as the basis of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. I was not in Hongkong during the greater portion of that year, but from what I then read in the public journals, from my letters, and from what I have learned since my return, I gather that the Sanitary Board rendered during that period most efficient service, and that, if never before, it then fully justified the highest hopes that had ever been placed on it. It grappled with the plague most promptly, most vigorously, and most effectively.

I have been seeking, ever since my return to the Colony, for the evidence on the other side, and I can find none. Your Excellency refuses to produce the official reports and correspondence on the subject, and even the Secretary of State's letter approving of the draft Bill. You have only put forward in support of the Bill the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee, and the letters and memoranda of Mr. KESWICK, Mr. CHATER, Mr. BELILIOS and Mr. MCCONACHIE. These are mere expressions of opinion wholly unsupported by facts. They are, to my mind, completely countervailed by Dr. HO KAR's very full and very able memorandum issued with the other papers. As to the recommendation of the Retrenchment Commission I can only say that however valuable the opinions of the individual Members who concurred in it may be, it ought not to carry any such weight as attaches to the opinion of a public Committee investigating a matter properly before it. It seems to me to have been entirely outside the scope of their commission and, *what is far*

Y

more important, on a matter on which they had not taken evidence. I have had the Blue Book report most carefully searched, and I can only find six pages of evidence with reference to the working of the Sanitary Board, as distinguished from the expenditure under the head of Sanitation, and the Committee had actually no evidence before it at all as to the work done by the Sanitary Board during the plague nor as to its constitution. The only clear expression of opinion on the subject is by Mr. CROOK at page 167, and he was decidedly in favour of the Board. Such defects as were indicated and such opinions as were given seemed to point more to want of executive power in the Board and to want of a sufficient staff through want of funds, than to any need for the reconstitution of the Board. The only reform your Excellency now proposes is the reduction in the number of unofficial members on the Board, and I want some evidence that the presence of an unofficial majority was the cause of its failure, if it did fail.

As to Mr. KESWICK's letter in the name of the Chamber of Commerce I have already pointed out that it was written without consulting the Chamber as a whole in any way. I find that the movement was initiated by Mr. KESWICK himself, that there was, apparently, no discussion of the matter at any meetings of the Committee, and that the letter, drafted by Mr. KESWICK, was simply sent round to members for their individual approval, was disapproved of by Mr. MACKINTOSH for one, received but a half-hearted and lukewarm support, and hung fire for a couple of months before it could be got away. Being a purely political and municipal question it was not, it seems to me, within the competence of the Chamber to discuss. The Chamber had the right to call the attention of the Government to the grave injury done to trade by the insanitary state of the Colony, but it is hardly within its competence as a cosmopolitan body to advise the Government as to the constitution of any of the departments of the Government, or as to the best methods of getting the Government work done.—I have, &c.,

T. H. WHITEHEAD.

His Excellency SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT QUOTATIONS

DURING THE YEAR 1895.

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT EXCHANGE AND

QUOTATIONS.	On London Bank, 4 months' sight.	Telegraphic Transfers.	Private Credits, 4 months' sight.	Docu- mentary, 4 months' sight.
Fortnight, ending 2nd January,	2/0 $\frac{3}{4}$	2/0	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 16th January,	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 30th January,	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 13th February,	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/0
Do., do. 27th February,	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/0	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 13th March,	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 27th March,	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 10th April,	2/2	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$
Do., do. 24th April,	2/2	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$
Do., do. 8th May,	2/2	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$
Do., do. 22nd May,	2/2	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$
Do., do. 5th June,	2/2	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$
Do., do. 19th June,	2/2	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$
Do., do. 3rd July,	2/2 $\frac{1}{8}$	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$
Do., do. 17th July,	2/2	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$
Do., do. 31st July,	2/1 $\frac{3}{4}$	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 14th August,	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 28th August,	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 11th September,	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 25th September,	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 9th October,	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/3 $\frac{1}{4}$	2/3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Do., do. 23rd October,	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/3	2/3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Do., do. 6th November,	2/2 $\frac{5}{8}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{5}{8}$	2/3
Do., do. 20th November,	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{5}{8}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 4th December,	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2 $\frac{3}{8}$	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 18th December,	2/1 $\frac{3}{4}$	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/2	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$

BULLION QUOTATIONS DURING THE YEAR 1895.

On France, 4 months' sight.	On Bombay, Demand.	On Calcutta, Demand.	Bar Silver.	Sycee.	Clean Mexican Dollars.	Gold Bars, 98 touch.	Gold Leaf, 100 touch.
Fcs. 2.57	Rs. 187 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 187 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ % pm.	7 % pm.	1 % pm.	\$49.30	\$50.50
Fcs. 2.53	Rs. 189	Rs. 189	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " "	8 " "	1 " "	\$49.90	\$51.00
Fcs. 2.53	Rs. 187	Rs. 187 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " "	8 " "	1 " "	\$50.60	\$51.70
Fcs. 2.51	Rs. 184 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 184 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 " "	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	\$50.75	\$52.00
Fcs. 2.52	Rs. 182	Rs. 182	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	\$50.25	\$51.50
Fcs. 2.53	Rs. 184	Rs. 184	10 " "	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " "	3 " "	\$50.25	\$51.40
Fcs. 2.67	Rs. 189 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 189 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 " "	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	\$48.25	\$49.80
Fcs. 2.67	Rs. 191 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 191 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	\$47.30	\$48.50
Fcs. 2.76	Rs. 193	Rs. 193	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	9 $\frac{3}{8}$ " "	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	\$46.05	\$47.20
Fcs. 2.76	Rs. 196	Rs. 196	10 " "	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " "	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	\$46.80	\$48.00
Fcs. 2.76	Rs. 194 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 194 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " "	4 $\frac{3}{8}$ " "	\$46.55	\$47.80
Fcs. 2.76	Rs. 193 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 193 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " "	6 " "	\$46.55	\$47.80
Fcs. 2.76	Rs. 195 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 195 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	9 $\frac{3}{8}$ " "	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	\$46.70	\$48.00
Fcs. 2.77	Rs. 196 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 196 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	\$46.70	\$47.80
Fcs. 2.76	Rs. 196	Rs. 196	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	\$46.60	\$47.80
Fcs. 2.74	Rs. 196	Rs. 196	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	\$46.50	\$47.70
Fcs. 2.77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 196 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 196 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	9 $\frac{5}{8}$ " "	4 " "	\$46.40	\$47.60
Fcs. 2.80	Rs. 197 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 197 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 " "	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	\$46.20	\$47.50
Fcs. 2.80	Rs. 194 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 194 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	9 $\frac{5}{8}$ " "	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	\$46.10	\$47.40
Fcs. 2.80	Rs. 195 $\frac{1}{4}$	Rs. 195 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 " "	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " "	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " "	\$46.10	\$47.30
Fcs. 2.85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 194	Rs. 194	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	9 $\frac{3}{8}$ " "	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " "	\$45.50	\$46.70
Fcs. 2.84 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 194	Rs. 194	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " "	9 " "	4 " "	\$46.05	\$47.10
Fcs. 2.83 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 191 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 191 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	8 $\frac{7}{8}$ " "	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " "	\$46.10	\$47.20
Fcs. 2.81	Rs. 191 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 191 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	\$46.30	\$47.50
Fcs. 2.78	Rs. 189	Rs. 189	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	9 " "	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	\$46.20	\$47.20
Fcs. 2.74	Rs. 184	Rs. 184	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	4 " "	\$46.90	\$48.00

THE HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT.

No. 110.

HARBOUR DEPARTMENT,
HONGKONG, 26th February, 1896.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward the Annual Returns for this Department for the year ending 31st December, 1895.

SHIPPING.

2. The total tonnage entering and clearing amounted to 15,632,113 tons, an increase of 1,383,443 tons over the previous year.

3. There were 36,908 arrivals with a tonnage of 7,827,398 tons, and 36,853 departures of 7,804,715 tons.

4. The increase in European constructed tonnage amounted to 1,056,404. Of this a large proportion is to be found under the British flag, partly owing to a new river steamer, the *Wing Tong*, which during the year made 114 round trips and thus accounted for 21,888 tons, partly to the transfer to the British flag during the year of certain vessels usually flying the "Dragon flag;" but 638,631 tons of this increase, (or 8%), represented *bonâ fide* increased British tonnage.

5. An increase of 245,163 tons is found under foreign flags, chiefly German. Here again the temporary transfer of the ships of the belligerents plays an important part, but here again 147,249 tons, (or 5%), are represented in the more direct manner.

6. The junk trade also shows a very satisfactory increase of 201,576 tons in the Foreign trade and 125,463 tons in the local trade; about 86,000 tons of the former is owing to an additional departmental regulation, the remaining 115,000 tons, however, represents increased trade.

7. The following statement shows how this amount of shipping is apportioned:—

Comparative Shipping Return for the Years 1894 and 1895.

	1894.		1895.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British.....	6,022	7,778,396	6,626	8,589,637	604	811,241	...	...
Foreign,	2,430	2,690,786	2,463	2,935,949	33	245,163	...	...
Junks in Foreign Trade,	45,861	3,482,124	53,027	3,683,700	7,166	201,576	...	...
Total,	54,313	13,951,306	62,116	15,209,286	7,803	1,257,980	...	...
Junks in Local Trade,	8,478	297,364	11,645	422,827	3,167	125,463	...	...
Grand Total,...	62,791	14,248,670	73,761	15,632,113	10,970	1,383,443	...	...
NET,.....					10,970	1,383,443	...	...

8. It is an interesting statistical fact that the total tonnage entering and clearing at Hongkong last year (exclusive of local trade) exceeded the 1894 tonnage entering and clearing at London (exclusive of coasting trade) by 775,706 tons, also that, excluding our junk trade altogether, the tonnage entering and clearing in 1895 exceeded the 1894 tonnage at Liverpool (exclusive of coasting trade) by 1,036,008 tons, and at Cardiff by 1,047,195 tons; while at Hongkong in 1895, British tonnage alone exceeded the British and Foreign tonnage (exclusive of coasting trade) at Newcastle (the next port in the United Kingdom) by 3,641,524 tons.

9. The actual number of ships of European construction, exclusive of river steamers, which entered the Port during the year was 586, being 336 British and 250 Foreign. They entered in the aggregate 3,051 times making a total collective tonnage of 4,114,403 tons as under:—

FLAG.	SHIPS.	NO. OF TIMES ENTERED.	STEAM & SAIL, TOTAL TONNAGE.
British,	336	1,813	2,639,447
American,	39	51	80,963
Austrian,	6	24	61,116
Chinese,	17	98	115,753
Danish,	6	97	43,623
Dutch,	3	15	12,898
French,	17	123	167,809
German,	91	638	744,811
Italian,	5	14	18,846
Japanese,	18	27	48,884
Norwegian,	33	127	145,369
Russian,	7	9	21,244
Siamese,	1	1	656
Spanish,	4	4	3,844
Swedish,	1	8	7,912
Hawaiian,	2	2	1,228
TOTAL,.....	586	3,051	4,114,403

10 The 336 British ships, exclusive of river steamers, that entered the Port in 1895, carried 2,410 British Officers and 42 Foreigners as follows :—

British,	2,410
American,	16
German,	8
Dane,	4
Portuguese,	1
Chinese,	1
Japanese,	8
Swede,	2
Norwegian,	2

Total, 2,452 Officers.

The proportion of Foreigners in British ships was therefore 1.8 % comprising 8 different nationalities.

The 250 foreign ships that entered in 1895 carried 1,583 Officers, of whom 132 were British as follows :—

In Chinese ships,	98
„ Japanese „	32
„ French „	2

Total, 132 Officers.

The proportion of Britishers in Foreign ships was therefore 8.3 % distributed under 3 different Flags of which the Chinese takes over 6 %.

TRADE.

11. In European constructed vessels the general trade from places other than China and adjacent countries was as follows :—

IMPORTS.

	<i>Vessels with cargo.</i>	<i>Vessels in ballast.</i>	<i>Cargo discharged.</i>	<i>Cargo in transit.</i>
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
British,	1,271,949	11,441	1,070,788	709,757
Foreign,	552,821	19,783	416,094	231,468
TOTAL,	1,824,770	31,224	1,486,882	941,225

From places in and adjacent to China.

	<i>Vessels with cargo.</i>	<i>Vessels in ballast.</i>	<i>Cargo discharged.</i>	<i>Cargo in transit.</i>
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
British,	2,798,639	213,313	884,524	446,707
Foreign,	728,137	174,215	523,822	235,951
TOTAL,	3,526,776	387,528	1,408,346	682,658

EXPORTS.

To places other than China and adjacent countries.

	<i>Vessels with cargo.</i>	<i>Vessels in ballast.</i>	<i>Cargo shipped.</i>	<i>Cargo in transit.</i>
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
British,	930,427	130,718	645,493	77,145
Foreign,	407,501	77,248	224,636	37,102
TOTAL,	1,337,928	207,966	870,129	114,247

To places in and adjacent to China.

	<i>Vessels with cargo.</i>	<i>Vessels in ballast.</i>	<i>Cargo shipped.</i>	<i>Cargo in transit.</i>
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
British,	3,079,046	152,104	457,807	167,001
Foreign,	850,009	126,235	335,071	106,622
TOTAL,	3,929,055	278,339	792,878	273,623

12. 4,450 Steamers, 96 sailing vessels and 26,554 junks entered during the year, giving a daily average of 85 vessels as against 75 in 1894. (It is worthy of note that on one occasion during the year, viz., at 10 a.m. 5th April there were in the harbour 241 trading vessels, viz.:—69 steamers, 8 sailing vessels and 164 junks.)

13. For European constructed vessels the average daily entry would be 12.45 as against 11.57 in 1894, and of the steamers arriving 73.5 % were British including all the river steamers of which the daily entries averaged 4.09.

14. Having been absent from the Colony for about 6 months of the year under review I am not in a position to offer any general remarks as to the influences at work during the period as they appear from the Shipping Returns to affect the general trade of the Colony. It would seem, however, that these influences, whatever they may have been, were disposed favourably towards us.

15. The March quarter of the year showed a net increase over the same period of 1894 in trade as represented by tonnage of 1,333 tons.

The half-year increased this to 224,371 tons.

The nine months ending 30th September brought it up to 845,203, and The year resulted in an increased tonnage credit of 1,383,443.

16. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Trade of the Port of Hongkong for year ending 31st December, 1895.

	TONS.							Pas- sengers Carried.
	No. of Ships.	Dis- charged.	Shipped.	In Transit.	Bunker Coal Shipped.	Total.	Regis- tered Tonnage.	
British,	3,639	1,821,038*	991,477	1,156,464	222,336	4,191,315	5,275,547	309,006
Foreign,	2,463	939,916†	559,707	467,419	143,724	2,110,766	2,935,949	124,606
River Steamers (British), }	2,987	134,274	111,823	...	21,810	267,907	3,314,090	928,825
Total,	9,089	2,895,228	1,663,007	1,623,883	387,870	6,569,988	11,525,586	1,362,437
Junks in Foreign Trade,..... }	53,027	463,888	†1,015,921	...	...	1,479,809	3,683,700	218,177
Total,	62,116	3,359,116	2,678,928	1,623,883	387,870	8,049,797	15,209,286	1,580,614
Junks in Local Trade,..... }	11,645	126,388	26,046	...	...	152,434	422,827	10,459
Grand Total,...	73,761	3,485,504	2,704,974	1,623,883	387,870	8,202,231	15,632,113	1,591,073

* Includes 8,650 tons and 2 cases Kerosine.

† Includes 27,190 tons and 18 cases Kerosine.

‡ Including 17,982 tons of Kerosine.

17. In Returns Nos. I. and II. will be found the number and registered tonnage of all vessels entering and clearing between the Colony and each country with which trade relations exist, and the amount of cargo reported as "shipped," "discharged," and "in transit" to and from these various countries.

18. This Department has now, at an infinite amount of trouble and pains on the part of the officers concerned, succeeded (to an extent limited only by the reliability of the information afforded on application) in producing statistics usually only found at ports which have the advantage for this purpose of a Custom House, and as I remarked on a former occasion "I hope the information may be valued in proportion to the amount of time and trouble expended in its compilation."

19. During the year 9,089 European constructed vessels aggregating 11,525,586 carried 6,569,988 tons, made up as follows:—

Import Cargo,	2,895,228
Export do.,	1,663,007
Transit do.,	1,623,883
Bunker Coal shipped,.....	387,870

6,569,988

The total number of tons carried was therefore 56 % of the total registered tonnage; in the previous year it was 58 %, and in 1893 59 %.

20. IMPORTS (EXCLUDING RIVER STEAMERS).

Steamers,.....	2,955	measuring	4,014,845	tons.
Sailing Ships,	96	"	99,558	"
Total,.....	3,051	"	4,114,403	"

Imported 2,760,954 tons of cargo as under :—

ARTICLES.	1894.	1895.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.
Beans,	3,995	3,848	...	147
Bones,	2,040	2,340	300	...
Coal,	562,909	563,767	858	...
Copra,	10	...	...	10
Coffee, .....	...	500	500	...
Cotton, .....	...	50	50	...
Ebony, .....	...	400	400	...
Flour,	60,250	101,767	41,517	...
Hemp, .....	...	1,200	1,200	...
Kerosine (Bulk), ..	31,462	24,450	...	7,012
Kerosine (Case), ..	68,905	42,601	...	26,304
	(1,929,340 cases)	(1,192,828 cases)		(736,512 cases)
Lead, .....	...	1,350	1,350	...
Oil,	3,804	3,348	...	456
Opium,	2,825	2,464	...	361
Peas, .....	...	1,060	1,060	...
Rattan,	625	...	...	625
Rice,	619,075	764,368	145,293	...
Salt, .....	...	6,250	6,250	...
Saltpetre,	50	...	...	50
Sandal-wood,	1,625	1,262	...	363
Sapan-wood,	1,300	600	...	700
Sulphur, .....	...	500	500	...
Sugar,	170,499	185,616	15,117	...
Tea,	350	20	...	330
Timber,	16,040	26,389	10,349	...
Vermicelli,	170	800	630	...
General,	1,079,676	1,026,004	...	53,672
TOTAL,	2,625,610	2,760,954	225,374	90,030

21. The above table shows that the chief increase in imports during the year were in Flour (41,517 tons), Rice (145,293 tons), Sugar (15,117 tons), and Timber (10,349 tons), while the decrease is shown in 33,316 tons of Kerosine and 53,672 tons under the head of "General."

22. EXPORTS (EXCLUDING RIVER STEAMERS).

Steamers,	2,957	measuring	3,999,745	tons.
Sailing vessels,	94	„	97,348	„
Total	3,051	„	4,097,093	„

Exported 1,551,184 tons of cargo, and shipped 366,060 tons of bunker coal. Compared with last year, this gives 188 ships more, measuring 498,242 tons, carrying 46,374 more tons of cargo, and shipping 32,809 more tons of bunker coal.

23. European constructed vessels imported 1,232,221 tons in excess of exports. Junks exported an excess of 451,691 tons. The excess of imports is thus reduced to 780,530 tons, from this must be deducted 366,060 tons of bunker coal shipped (exclusive of that supplied to Her Majesty's ships and foreign men-of-war), leaving a balance of 414,470 tons consumed, manufactured and in stock in the Colony or unaccounted for.

24. The river steamers, aggregating 3,314,090 tons, imported 134,274 tons of cargo, exported 111,823 tons, shipped 21,810 tons of bunker coal, and conveyed 928,825 passengers, showing an increase under each heading except "passengers," the number of whom carried was reduced by 113,133 for the year.

25. PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

	Arrivals.	Departures.
British ships,	143,490	165,516 including Emigrants.
Foreign „	67,480	57,126
River Steamers,	478,695	450,130
Launches outside waters of Colony,	133,398	125,611
Junks (Foreign Trade), ..	111,026	107,151
	934,089	905,534
Excess of arrivals over departures (Foreign Trade),	28,555	
Junks, Local Trade,	6,665	3,794
Launches, „	1,964,821	1,978,339
	1,971,486	1,982,133
Excess of departures over arrivals (Local Trade),	10,647	
Difference excess of arrivals,	17,908	

From the above it appears that with a passenger traffic amounting to 5,793,242 during the year, the excess of arrivals in the Colony over departures from it, inclusive of all allowances for errors in reporting, amounted to 17,908 or about $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent.

REVENUE.

27. The total Revenue collected by the Harbour Office during the year was \$234,418.29, an increase of \$39,242.67 over 1894. The details are as follow :—

(i) Light Dues,.....	\$107,315.91
(ii) Licences and Internal Revenue,.....	34,479.50
(iii) Fees of Court and Office,	92,622.88
	<u>\$234,418.29</u>

STEAM LAUNCHES.

28. On 31st December there were 139 Steam Launches employed in the Harbour; of these 59 were licensed for the conveyance of passengers, 63 were privately owned, 12 were the property of the Colonial Government, and 5 belonged to the Imperial Government in charge of the Military Authorities.

EMIGRATION.

29. 73,138 Emigrants left Hongkong for various places during the year, of these 58,429 were carried by British ships; 112,685 were reported as having been brought to Hongkong from places to which they had emigrated, and of these 86,663 were brought in British ships.

Returns Nos. XVIII. and XIX. give the details of this branch of the department.

REGISTRY OF SHIPPING.

30. During the year two ships were registered, under the provisions of the Imperial Act, and five certificates were cancelled.

MARINE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

31. 85 cases were heard in the Marine Magistrate's Court; refusal of duty and breach of Harbour Regulations were the principal offences.

EXAMINATION FOR MASTERS, MATES, AND ENGINEERS.

(Under Section 15 of Ordinance No. 26 of 1891.)

32. The following table will show the number of candidates examined

for Certificates of Competency distinguishing those who were successful and those who failed :—

GRADE.	PASSED.	FAILED.
Masters,	17	8
First Mates,	18	5
Only Mates,	1	0
Second Mates,	8	2
TOTAL,	44	15
First Class Engineers,.....	10	8
Second Class Engineers,	26	13
TOTAL,	36	21

MARINE COURTS.

(Under Section 13 of Ordinance No. 26 of 1891.)

33. The following Courts have been held during the year :—

1. On the 19th April, inquiry as to the grounding of the British Steamship *Polyphemus*, Official No. 97,818 of Liverpool, on Jubilee Island (approaches to Hongkong) on the morning of the 8th April, in foggy weather. The Master's (WILLIAM THOMAS CHUBB) certificate of competency was returned to him.
2. On the 14th May, inquiry into the loss of the British Steamship *Peking*, Official No. 95,860 of Hongkong, on the Southern point of Meichen Sound, China Sea, on the morning of the 3rd May. The Master's (GEORGE PARKER) certificate of competency was suspended for six months.
3. On the 31st May inquiry respecting certain charges of misconduct brought against ROBERT CRATHORNE, First Engineer of the British Steamship *Riversdale*, Official No. 68,974 of Sunderland, by EDWARD PECK, Master of the said vessel. The First Engineer's (ROBERT CRATHORNE) certificate of competency was suspended for six months.
4. On the 28th November inquiry respecting certain charges of misconduct brought against DAVID GORDON, First Mate of the British barque *Torrisdale*, Official No. 99,328 of Glasgow,

by ROBERT BUCHANAN, Master of the said vessel. The First Mate's (DAVID GORDON) certificate of competency was suspended for three months.

"SUNDAY CARGO-WORKING ORDINANCE, 1891."

34. During the year 105 permits were issued (exclusive of 42 issued free during the coolie strike) under the provisions of the Ordinance; of these 28 were not availed of owing to its being found unnecessary for the ship to work cargo on the Sunday, and the fee paid for the permit was refunded in each case.

35. 29 Permits were issued free of charge to Mail Steamers.

36. The Revenue collected under this heading was \$11,600; this was \$1,775 less than in 1894, but nearly 50% more than in any other year since the Ordinance came into force.

SEAMEN.

37. 16,278 Seamen were shipped and 17,926 discharged at the Shipping Office and on board ships during the year.

38. 289 Distressed Seamen were received during the year; of these 59 were sent to the United Kingdom, 12 to Calcutta, 12 to Singapore, 1 to Sydney, 1 to Port Said, 8 to Japan, 1 to Shanghai, 9 to Manila, 2 to Bombay, 1 to Saigon, 6 died, 160 obtained employment, 13 remained at Government Civil Hospital, and 4 at Sailors' Home.

\$5,832.73 were expended by the Board of Trade in the relief of these men.

MARINE SURVEYOR'S SUB-DEPARTMENT.

39. Return No. XXIII shows the work performed by this branch of the Harbour Department.

40. The Assistant Marine Surveyor was on leave from 27th May to 20th November.

41. His duties were at first undertaken by the Marine Surveyor in addition to his own. Owing to a breakdown in the health of the latter, it was later on found necessary to engage the service of a local engineer to assist in the work until the return from leave of Mr. MACDONALD.

LIGHTHOUSES.

42. The amount of Light Dues collected was as follows:—

CLASS OF VESSELS.	RATE PER TON.	NO. OF SHIPS.	TONNAGE.	TOTAL FEES COLLECTED.
Ocean Vessels paying full dues, ..	2½ cents.	3,057	4,097,215	102,430.46
Launches paying full dues,	"	24	718	17.91
River Steamers (night-boats),	¾ cent.	740	723,962	4,825.90
Launches plying exclusively to Macao,	"	127	6,247	41.64
River Steamers (day-boats),	Free.	755	933,933	...
Launches plying to Macao by day,	"	303	13,951	...
TOTAL, .....	...	5,006	5,776,026	107,315.91

43. During the year the Lighthouses have been maintained as usual. The Principal Light-keeper returned from leave; and on the expiration of their 3 years' agreement, the Gap Rock Lightkeepers were permanently engaged on the Fixed Establishment.

44. Advantage was taken of the presence of Mr. MATTHEWS (of the firm of Messrs. COODE, SON & MATTHEWS) at Colombo to engage his services for a report on the Gap Rock Lighthouse and buildings, more especially with reference to the damage sustained by these in the typhoon of 1893. A visit was paid to the Rock and Mr. MATTHEWS furnished the Government with his opinion.

45. On the 8th April the S.S. *Polyphemus* went on shore on Jubilee Island during a fog. From the evidence advanced at the Court of Inquiry it was shown that she must have passed within about a mile of the Gap Rock while the fog signal was going without hearing it.

Investigation with regard to the audibility of the signal was afterwards made by me and the result reported in my letter of 30th April, 1895.

During my absence on leave the "High Explosives" sound signal was abolished in favour of the old-fashioned gun signal.

46. Telegraphic and telephonic communication has been kept up with the Gap Rock and Cape D'Aguilar during the year. From the former station 488 vessels have been reported as passing and in addition 294 messages were received and 2,199 sent including the daily weather report for the Observatory.

From D'Aguilar 968 vessels were reported and in addition 348 messages were sent and 75 received.

47. From the 9th of June the telegraph at Gap Rock has been worked by the Light-keepers in accordance with the recommendation of the Signalling Committee, and 2 Chinese have been engaged as watchmen.

GOVERNMENT GUNPOWDER DEPÔT.

48. During the year 1895 there has been stored in the Government Magazine, Stonecutter's Island :—

	NO. OF CASES.	APPROXIMATE WEIGHT.
		lbs.
Gunpowder, privately owned,	18,481	562,662
Do., Government owned,.....	11	1,188
Cartridges, privately owned,.....	18,986	2,283,722
Do., Government owned,	40	2,508
Explosive Compounds, privately owned,.....	3,151	153,983
Do., Government owned, ..	29	1,470
TOTAL,.....	40,698	3,005,533

On the 31st December, 1895, there remained as under :—

	NO. OF CASES.	APPROXIMATE WEIGHT.
		lbs.
Gunpowder, privately owned,	3,991	106,990
Do., Government owned,.....	11	1,188
Cartridges, privately owned,.....	488	157,641
Do., Government owned,	90	13,382
Explosive Compounds, privately owned,.....	163	12,710
Do., Government owned, ..	25	1,353
TOTAL,.....	4,768	293,264

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (OPIUM) OFFICE.

49. The Return shows that during the year the amount of opium reported was as follows :—

	1894.	1895.	Decrease.
Imported,	41,578	36,609½	4,968½
Exported,	38,978½	36,241	2,737½
Through cargo reported } but not landed, }	22,986	16,190½	6,795½

17,034 permits were issued from this Office during the year, being a decrease of 2,122 as compared with 1894.

A daily memo. of exports to Chinese ports was during the year supplied to the Commissioner of Imperial Maritime Customs at Kowloon.

Surprise visits were paid to 98 godowns during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. MURRAY RUMSEY, Retd. Comd., R.N.,
Harbour Master, &c.

The Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary,
&c., &c., &c.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT FOR 1895.

No. 29.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 26th March, 1896.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward the following report on the British Postal Service in Hongkong and China during the year 1895.

2. The approximate statistics of correspondence received and despatched during the year are given in table A.

These figures are arrived at from actual statistics taken during the first 23 days of October. They indicate an apparent falling off in International Correspondence despatched as compared with the preceding year, but the comparison is vitiated by the fact that the statistics for that year were taken during November, and the statistical period included the dates of despatch of both the Xmas and New Year's homeward mails, as explained in paragraph 3 of my report for 1894.

The International correspondence received shows a considerable increase under all heads, the most important, though not the largest, being—

Ordinary letters,	15 % increase.
Papers and books,	37 % ..
Registered articles,	44 % ..

The large apparent increase in the number of registered articles received is, no doubt, partly attributable to the fact that 3 American mails arrived during the statistical period of 1895 as against 1 in 1894, these mails bringing regularly a very large number of registered letters—usually from 600 to 700.

3. As regards local business the figures indicate a decrease of 20 % and 28 %, respectively, in the number of post cards despatched and received, and a decrease of 13 % in the number of papers received. The principal heads under which increases appear are—

Ordinary letters despatched,	21 % increase.
Papers despatched,	33 % ..
Registered articles despatched,	20 % ..
Registered articles received,	29 % ..

4. Table B shows the monthly amounts of stamps sold at Hongkong during 1894 and 1895.

The amount sold during the last five months of 1895 shows an increase of more than 19 % over the amount sold during the corresponding period of 1894, and as there has been no change in the tariff since August 1894, it is evident that the amount of correspondence despatched has increased remarkably.

5. Table C gives the statistics of parcels received and despatched, and table D gives the comparison with 1894. The figures are exact except as regards those for parcels to and from the Coast Ports, which are estimated from statistics taken during 28 days.

They indicated a steady increase in the popularity and usefulness of the Parcel Post.

6. Table E shows the revenue and expenditure of the department during the year. Increases appear under all heads of revenue except box-holders' fees, the most important item being the receipt from the sale of stamps which shows an increase of nearly 26 %.

The expenditure shows considerable increases under the headings "Share of United Kingdom expenses" and "Share of other Countries," which are attributable partly to increase in business, and also largely to the inclusion of sums disbursed in 1895 in payment for transit services performed in previous years. No trustworthy conclusion as to the increase or decrease in Postal business can be derived from these figures. The contribution towards the P. & O. subsidy is a fixed charge in sterling, and the small decrease is due to a more favourable average rate of exchange. The decrease under the heading "Conveyance of Mails," i.e., gratuities to masters of private ships for conveyance of local mails, does not necessarily indicate a falling off in local business. The masters call for the money at odd times, as suits their convenience, and the amount paid in any year is far from being a sure measure of the amount earned during the year.

The decrease in "Working Expenses" is due principally to the fact that certain promotions were kept open on the retirement of the Messrs. BARRADAS, and were not filled up until the current year, partly also to economies effected in the staff towards the end of 1894.

The total revenue shows the handsome balance of \$50,209 over expenditure, as against \$8,820 for the previous year.

7. Table F shows the numbers of parcels despatched to Europe by the P. & O. vessels, with the amounts of postage and insurance fees collected.

8. The Cape of Good Hope joined the Postal Union on the 1st January, and the postage to that country was reduced in consequence.

9. An arrangement was concluded for the insurance of parcels to India to take effect from 1st January, 1896. The conditions are published in the *Government Gazette* of 7th December, 1895.

10. A Parcels Post to Brisbane *via* Colombo came into force on the 1st July. The conditions will be found in the *Government Gazette* of 29th June.

11. A Parcels Post to Canada *via* Vancouver was also arranged, and took effect from the 1st October. The conditions will be found in the *Government Gazette* of 14th September, 1895.

12. A Parcels Post to New Zealand *via* Colombo is under consideration and will, I hope, shortly be arranged.

13. The present Post Office is utterly inadequate for the requirements of the Colony. So far back as Mr. LISTER's time and frequently during my tenure of office the necessity for a new office has been urged upon the Government. (See Postmaster General's reports for 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891 and 1893.) The work of the office continues rapidly increasing, and it is hoped that the erection of the new office, which I understand is in contemplation, will be pushed forward with all possible celerity. The rate at which the business of the Post Office is increasing also renders it desirable that the dimensions of the new office should be far in advance of actual present requirements.

14. I would draw attention to the extreme inconvenience which is caused by the shortness of the stay made at this port by the outward French mail, which frequently arrives on the same morning that the homeward mail leaves, and leaves again the same afternoon after a stay of from 8 to 10 hours. In that time the homeward mail has to be sorted, the outward mail prepared and despatched, and the Shanghai and Coast and Northern mails sorted. The result is that there is not always time to sort the whole of the Shanghai mail, which has therefore frequently to be despatched only partly sorted. All this inconvenience might be obviated if the French authorities could be induced to allow the mails to be sorted on board the steamer, on her way up from Singapore, by an officer of this department, as is done on the English mail. Such an arrangement was actually completed at one time (see my reports for 1889, 1890 and 1891); but the

French authorities suddenly withdrew the privilege. I think the time has arrived when the question should be re-opened.

15. Messrs. T. and C. BARRADAS resigned their posts on the 24th January.

16. Messrs. A. SILVA and S. MOORE joined the department as junior clerks on the 4th March.

17. The Messageries Maritimes steamship *Melbourne* was detained at Saigon in May on account of fire, and her mails were brought on by the S.S. *Manche*.

18. The Messageries Maritimes S.S. *Yarra* was detained at Colombo in June, and the S.S. *Rosetta* brought her mails to Hongkong.

19. The telegraph office has been transferred to the offices of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company.

20. The Agencies at the Coast Ports have been managed satisfactorily, with the notable exception of Hankow, the Agent at which port has given an infinite amount of trouble by his repeated delay in forwarding his accounts, and neglect to reply to numerous letters from this office on that and other subjects.

21. The question of illicit Chinese Post Offices has again occupied the attention of the Government, and a large number of Chinese who were found to be illegally forwarding correspondence to Manila, Haiphong, Bangkok, and other places were warned that from and after the 1st January, 1896, the law would be rigorously enforced, and the exceptionally large sale of stamps in December would seem to indicate that the action taken has proved efficacious.

22. Since the 5th October the following classes of correspondence have been delivered without extra charge:—

- (a) Correspondence posted on the high seas in the letter box on board a vessel, or placed in the hands of the commander provided the postage is prepaid by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff of the country to which the vessel belongs or by which it is maintained.
- (b) Correspondence posted on board in port, provided the prepayment is effected by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff of the country in the waters of which the vessel happened to be.

Formerly all such correspondence was treated as unpaid and double postage collected from the addressees.

23. Table G. shows the Money Order business for 1895.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ARTHUR K. TRAVERS,
Postmaster General.

The Honourable
Colonial Secretary,
&c., &c., &c.

MONEY ORDER BUSINESS, 1895.

			Numbers of Orders.	Amount.	Colonial Com- mission.	Total Com- mission.
In Sterling.				£ s. d.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports on United Kingdom,			2,751	8,863. 9. 4	306.54	
Do. on Queensland,			168	267.17. 3	16.21	
Do. on New South Wales,.....			46	159.10. 2	3.15	
Do. on Victoria,			77	216. 6.10	2.87	
Do. on South Australia,.....			7	5.16. 4	0.25	
Do. on Tasmania,			6	33. 0. 0	0.86	
Do. on New Zealand,.....			27	117. 5.10	2.16	
Total Outward Orders in Sterling,.....			3,082	9,663. 5. 9	332.04	332.04
United Kingdom on Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports,			1,029	3,294.14. 4	306.31	
Queensland Do., (including also Japan),.....			1,505	10,512.12. 1	970.83	
New South Wales Do.,			690	3,156.14. 9	290.72	
Victoria Do.,			534	3,210. 0. 7	303.92	
South Australia Do.,			166	1,244. 5. 9	114.14	
Tasmania Do.,			157	629. 5. 9	57.51	
New Zealand Do.,			134	734. 0. 3	67.11	
Total Inward Orders in Sterling,			4,215	22,781.13. 6	2,110.54	2,110.54

Carried forward,.....\$ 2,442.58

MONEY ORDER BUSINESS, 1895,—Continued.

		Numbers of Orders.	Amount.	Colonial Com- mission.	Total Com- mission.
In Dollars.			\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
<i>Brought forward, .....</i>		...	...	...	2,442.58
Hongkong on Shanghai,		146	3,013.39	53.12	
" on Coast Ports,		33	570.57	8.20	
Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports on United States of America,		116	812.42	24.34	
Do. on Canada,		48	1,014.14	16.13	
Do. on Hawaii,		1	20.00	0.30	
Do. on Japan (including through Orders from Australia, Straits, &c.),		1,624	85,057.58	142.20	
Do. on Straits Settlements,		107	1,586.49	21.07	
Do. on Siam,		15	334.96	0.99	
Do. on British North Borneo,		48	1,011.94	1.99	
Total Outward Orders in Dollars,		2,138	93,421.49	268.34	268.34
Shanghai on Hongkong and Coast Ports,		88	1,259.05	30.40	
United States on Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports,		177	3,486.00	17.43	
Canada,		125	4,396.15	21.99	
Japan,		325	7,658.41	1.16	
Straits Settlements,		576	14,153.68	84.84	
Siam,		55	894.02	6.00	
British North Borneo,		114	3,190.46	25.00	
Total Inward Orders in Dollars,		1,460	35,037.77	186.82	186.82
<i>Carried forward,</i>					\$2,897.74

[154]

MONEY ORDER BUSINESS, 1895,—Continued.

		Numbers of Orders.	Amount.	Colonial Com- mission.	Total Com- mission.
In Rupees.			Rs. as.	\$ c.	\$ c.
<i>Brought forward, .....</i>		...	...	...	2,897.74
Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports on India,		902	57,035.12	311.85	
Do. on Ceylon,		21	700. 5	0.15	
Total Outward Orders in Rupees,		923	57,736. 1	312.00	312.00
India on Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports,		396	36,686. 6	95.89	
Ceylon on Do.,		7	276.11	0.77	
Total Inward Orders in Rupees,		403	36,963. 1	96.66	96.66
Imperial Postal Orders Payable in the United Kingdom.			£ s. d.		
Sold at Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports,					
{ 10 Orders,		1,305	65. 5. 0	1,253.86	
{ 1/6 "		1,094	82. 1. 0		
{ 5 0 "		860	215. 0. 0		
{ 10 0 "		1,308	654. 0. 0		
{ 20 0 "		2,888	2,888. 0. 0		
Total Sterling Orders,		7,455	3,994. 6. 0	1,253.86	1,253.86
<i>Carried forward,</i>					4,560.26

[155]

MONEY ORDER BUSINESS 1895,— *Continued.*

Local Postal Notes Payable in Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports.		Numbers of Orders.	Amount.		Colonial Com- mission.		Total Com- mission.	
			\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.
<i>Brought forward, .....</i>		...	...	...	...	...	4,560.26	
Sold at Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports, ...	25-Cent Notes,	112	28.00		1.12			
	50 " "	205	102.50		2.05			
	\$1.00 " "	157	157.00		3.14			
	2.00 " "	172	344.00		6.88			
	3.00 " "	141	423.00		8.46			
	4.00 " "	133	532.00		10.64			
	5.00 " "	284	1,420.00		28.40			
	10.00 " "	460	4,600.00		92.00			
Total Dollar Notes,		1,664	7,606.50		152.69		152.69	
					\$		4,712.95	

