



Hong Kong  
General Chamber of Commerce

Report  
For The Year  
1890



REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FOR THE

*Year ending 31st December, 1890,*

PRESENTED TO THE MEMBERS

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 20th MARCH, 1891.



HONGKONG:

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

1891.

72152.

15 NOV. 1944



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## COMMITTEE, 1891.

(Elected 20th March, 1891.)

E. MACKINTOSH, Esq., *Chairman.*  
HON. J. J. KESWICK, *Vice-Chairman.*  
F. DE BOVIS, Esq.  
W. H. FORBES, Esq.  
R. M. GRAY, Esq.

C. J. HOLLIDAY, Esq.  
H. HOPPIUS, Esq.  
ST. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.  
HON. P. RYRIE.

F. HENDERSON,  
*Secretary.*

## ARBITRATION COMMITTEE, 1891.

W. H. FORBES, Esq.  
R. M. GRAY, Esq.  
HON. J. J. KESWICK.

E. MACKINTOSH, Esq.  
ST. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.

## CORRESPONDING COMMITTEE, 1891.

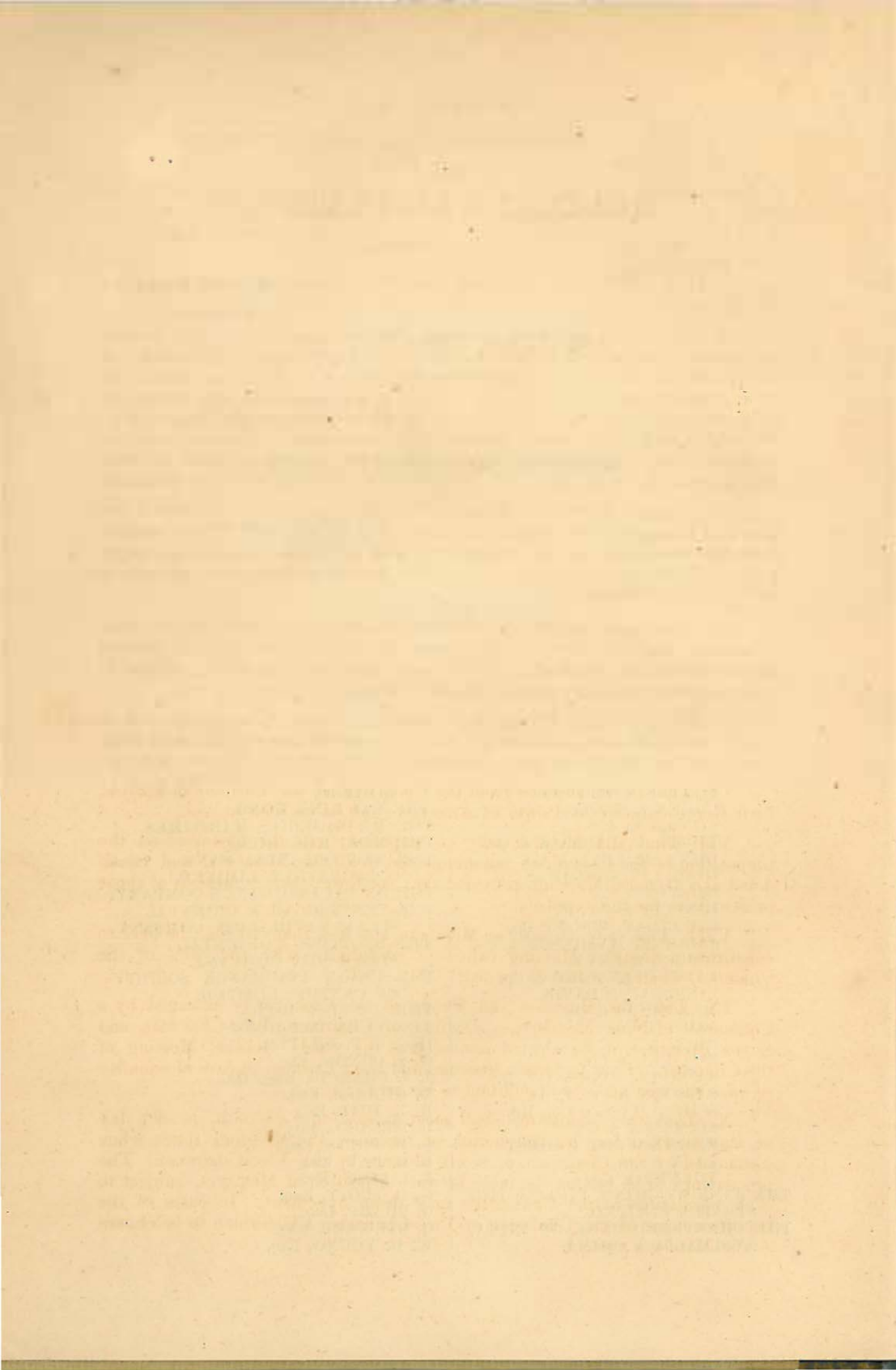
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C. J. HOLLIDAY, Esq.  
H. HOPPIUS, Esq.  
ST. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.  
HON. P. RYRIE.

## LIST OF MEMBERS, 1891.

Messrs. ADAMSON, BELL & Co.  
" ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co.  
" BELLIOS & Co.  
" BIRLEY, DALRYMPLE & Co.  
" BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.  
" CARLOWITZ & Co.  
" CAWASJEE PALLANJEE & Co.  
" CHATER & VERNON.  
" COHEN & GEORG.  
" COXON, E. & S.  
" DOUGLAS, LAPRAIK & Co.  
" DENN, MELBYE & Co.  
" GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.  
" GILMAN & Co.  
" HEWETT & Co., W.  
" HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.  
" JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.  
" JOSEPH & LEVY.  
" LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.  
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" MODY & Co.  
" REISS & Co.  
" RUSSELL & Co.  
" SASSOON, SONS & Co., D.  
" SASSOON & Co., E. D.  
" SCHELLHASS & Co., ED.  
" SIEMSEN & Co.  
" STOLTERFOHT & HIRST.  
" TATA & Co.  
" TURNER & Co.  
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STRAITS, LIMITED.  
THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA,  
AUSTRALIA & CHINA.

THE CHARTERED MERCANTILE  
BANK OF INDIA, LONDON &  
CHINA.  
THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI  
BANKING CORPORATION.  
THE HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO  
STEAM-BOAT COMPANY.  
LIMITED.  
THE LAI HING HONG.  
THE MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.  
THE MING KEE HONG.  
THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK  
CORPORATION, LIMITED.  
THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY.  
THE PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL  
STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.  
THE SCOTTISH & ORIENTAL  
STEAM-SHIP COMPANY.  
THE UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY  
OF CANTON, LIMITED.  
THE WY SING HONG.  
THE YUEN FAT HONG.  
HON. C. P. CHATER.  
G. S. COXON, Esq.  
J. J. FRANCIS, Esq., Q.C.  
D. GILLIES, Esq.  
H. Z. JUST, Esq.  
L. MENDEL, Esq.  
G. H. POTTS, Esq.  
E. C. RAY, Esq.  
T. I. ROSE, Esq.  
G. D. SCOTT, Esq.  
G. SHARP, Esq.  
G. STEWART, Esq.  
W. H. YOUNG, Esq.



## 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.

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## BY-LAWS.

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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, .....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
" or selling Opium, .....	2	"
" or selling all other Goods and Produce, Ships and Real Estate, .....	5	"
" and selling Shares or Stocks, .....	1	"
Inspecting Tea or Silk, .....	1	"
Guaranteeing Sales, .....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
" Remittances, .....	1	"
Drawing or endorsing Bills of Exchange, .....	1	"
" or negotiating Bills of Exchange without recourse, ..	$\frac{1}{2}$	"
Purchasing or realising Bullion or Bills of Exchange, .....	$\frac{1}{2}$	"
Remitting the Proceeds of Bullion or Bills of Exchange, ...	$\frac{1}{2}$	"
Paying and receiving Money in Current Account, .....	1	"
" Ship's Disbursements, .....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Collecting Freight, .....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Obtaining Freight or Charter, .....	5	"
" " or " and collecting same Freight, ..	6	"
Adjusting Insurance Claims on Amount Recovered, .....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Effecting Insurance, on the Insured Amount, .....	$\frac{1}{4}$	"
Prosecuting or defending successfully Claims, either at Law or by Arbitration, .....	5	"
Prosecuting or defending unsuccessfully, .....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Managing Estates and collecting Rents, .....	5	"
Transshipping and forwarding Jewellery, and Bullion, .....	$\frac{1}{4}$	"
Forwarding or transshipping Cargo, .....	1	"
Transshipping or forwarding Opium, .....	\$2	per chest.
Goods withdrawn or re-shipped, .....	$\frac{1}{2}$	Commission.
Granting Letters of Credit, .....	1	per cent.
For doing ship's business when no inward or outward Com- mission is earned, .....	20	cents per Register ton.

The conversion into Hongkong currency of sterling freight inward to Hongkong, 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, .....	$\frac{1}{8}$	per cent.	Payable by Seller.
Produce & General Merchandise, .....	$\frac{1}{2}$	"	" "
Fire Arms, .....	1	"	" "
For negotiating and completing Charters and procuring Freight, .....	1	"	by Ship.
Shares $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the amount of money changing hands in the trans- action, .....			Payable by both sides.



*MINUTES of the Yearly General Meeting of the HONGKONG  
GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, held on the 20th March,  
1891, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Committee  
and passing the Secretary's Accounts for the year ending 31st  
December, 1890.*

*Present:—*

MR. E. MACKINTOSH (Chairman), Honourable J. J. KESWICK. (Vice-Chairman) Honourable P. RYRIE, Honourable T. H. WHITEHEAD, MESSRS. W. H. FORBES, R. M. GRAY, H. HOPPIUS, St. C. MICHAELSEN (COMMITTEE), G. DE CHANPEAUX, G. SHARP, C. A. TOMES, G. WIELEB, J. POESNECKER, H. W. DICK, and F. HENDERSON (Secretary).

The minutes of the last annual meeting and of the special meeting held for the election of a member of the Legislative Council were taken as read and were confirmed.

The election of the following as members of the Chamber was confirmed:—Messrs. The Bank of China, Japan and the Straits Limited, CHATER and VERNON, W. H. YOUNG, E. and S. COXON, COWASJEE PALLANJEE & Co., MING KEE HONG, WY SING HONG, YUEN FAT HONG, COHEN and GEORG, JOSEPH and LEVY, H. Z. JUST, G. H. POTTS, E. C. RAY, T. I. ROSE, and G. D. SCOTT.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, we have met to-day to receive the report of your Committee for the last twelve months. It is a document that does not possess many features of very great interest. Still, there are some subjects which I think merit attention at your hands. The first subject is the Convention between the Chinese Government and the Telegraph Companies. This Convention, I am happy to say, is, I think, not only scotched but killed. We see from the public prints that it is contemplated a line of cable should be laid between America and Japan *via* Honolulu. This will help, I hope, to cheapen the rates that are charged for telegraphic messages, but I hardly think we shall be on an economical platform as regards cost of messages until we have the land lines between China and Europe. With these I think we should be fairly safe, in consequence of the competition we might expect, and also owing to land lines being less expensive and less costly to keep up. The next subject we deal with in our report is the

Additional Articles in the Chefoo Convention and the opening of Chungking. The fiasco, as I may call it, that has developed from this Convention is a matter for the deepest regret. I think, however, it is no use to blame Her Britannic Majesty's Minister for the want of success, for no doubt he has instructions from the home Government and has to follow them. Still, after the privilege of open trade to Chungking had been granted it seems very regrettable that it should be whittled down to trade in native boats, or if in foreign owned boats, still boats of native pattern I do not think the outcome of their diplomacy redounds at all to the credit of the British Government. My own opinion is that the special privileges we are supposed to have acquired by this Convention will amount to very little, and that they will not tend much to develop the trade of that particular district, of which we were so hopeful. It also appears to me that the Imperial Government of China have little ability to control Chinese officials at a distance from Peking, for owing to obstacles apparently thrown in the way by these native authorities at a distance the possibility of trade on the Upper Yangtze has been destroyed. It strikes me, however, that if the British Government had shown greater firmness in this matter with the Central Authorities we should have obtained the rights and concessions that were originally granted by the Chefoo Convention. I must say I feel strongly in the matter, and I think you will agree with me that the British trade of China was not built up by such a vacillating and weak policy as has been displayed in this instance. However, the matter is finished and we must just accept the inevitable. The next point the Committee refer to in the report is the Ordinance to amend the law relating to the registration of trade marks and the Ordinance relating to fraudulent marks on merchandise. Notwithstanding the recommendation of your Committee the Government thought fit to pass a law relating to fraudulent marks on merchandise, although they have no machinery to carry out this particular law; they have no power whatever to enforce it, and it appears to me a considerable waste of energy to encumber the statute book of this Colony with laws that are inoperative. The next subject is the emigration of coolies from Swatow to British North Borneo. This paragraph touches an explanation due to the Consul at Swatow. In the correspondence published with the last report we touched on this subject, and what was said appears to have given the Consul a certain amount of umbrage, or rather he took exception to it. I may say that notwithstanding this so-called free emigration from Swatow not a single native can be despatched to British North Borneo under the



British flag, though the Dutch Government have secured the privilege, presumably under some agreement with China, for regular departures to take place from Swatow to Sumatra. One would think that under the favoured nation clause Great Britain was entitled to the same privilege, but apparently it is not given; the officials appear to be unable to obtain any such facilities for British North Borneo, though the country is clamouring for this particular class of labour, and I think the Government of British North Borneo would gladly accept any of the restrictions or regulations that have been applied in the case of the emigration to Sumatra in order to obtain similar privileges. We now come to the Lighthouse Board. This is a subject that has engaged the attention of your Committee for some time and has been a matter of representation to several successive Governors. And now I must trouble you with some statistics that will present the matter in a practical form. From returns furnished by the Government we find that from the 1st January last year to the 31st March, a period of three months, light dues were collected to the amount of \$8,119.99. On the 1st April the dues were increased on account of the Gap Rock Light, and from the 1st April to the 30th November the dues collected amounted to \$56,117.64 making a total of \$64,237.63 for eleven months. There is one month more wanted to complete the year, which may be estimated at \$7,000, so that in round numbers we may say the total collection of light dues for the year amounted to \$71,000. On a similar basis we may take it that each twelve months that these increased dues are in force a revenue of \$85,000 will be collected, so that at the end of 1892, and including last year, the total receipts will amount to about \$241,000. That is in three years. Now if we refer to another report, also furnished by the Government, we find that the cost of the upkeep of the present lighthouses is about \$6,600 a year. For three years that would make a disbursement of \$19,800. I do not suppose the Gap Rock lighthouse will be finished and in working order until February or March next. If we add to that the expenditure for the upkeep of the Gap Rock Light, say \$4,200 which should be ample, and add further the capital cost of that light, which is not stated, but put it at \$160,000; and add further the cost of the cable which we recommend, say \$70,000; and we have a total disbursement of \$254,000. The whole of that will be recouped to the Government by the additional levy at the end of February or March 1893. I think I need hardly point out that the success, prosperity, and well-being of this colony depends solely upon its shipping; in fact it is its life-blood.

Our landed property, our revenues from rent, and everything else is subservient to the shipping. Our very hopes of becoming a manufacturing centre in the future depend upon our shipping. Each vessel that passes through this harbour adds to the income of the commercial community of this place to an extent that would hardly be credited by a casual observer. I maintain therefore that it is the first duty of every colonist to attract as far as he possibly can and not repel the shipping of this colony. If possible we should do away with all official charges of every kind, not only light dues, but dues of every kind, and make the place so that it should be widely known throughout the world as absolutely free. (Applause.) Shipping then would see this was a useful centre, when we gave all these facilities, and it would increase beyond what it now is. Our contemplated manufacturing industries would benefit by our capacity to receive raw products and ship the manufactured article to every port in the world at cheap rates. The amount received from the levy of these light dues is ear-marked as distinctly as any fund can be. The dues are levied for a specific purpose; to collect more than is absolutely necessary for the capital cost of these lighthouses and for their upkeep is distinctly bad. It is not ordinary revenue. At home I think I am right in stating, they have endeavoured as far as they possibly can to assimilate the income to the expenditure. In fact I believe that every year an independent Board makes a calculation of what the probable income will be, based on the previous year's receipts, and if the receipts exceed the expenditure a reduction is made, so as to bring about equilibrium. And I have seen it stated that there is a strong movement at home to abolish the collection of light dues altogether and throw the cost of maintaining the lights on the imperial revenues of Great Britain. So we see what the feeling at home is on this subject.

Honourable P. RYRIE—In America I believe there are no light dues.

The CHAIRMAN—That I don't know. Perhaps Mr. FORBES can tell us.

Mr. FORBES—I don't know.

The CHAIRMAN—Well, what have we done? We have levied these dues, and the amount collected from 1875 to 1889 has been not only sufficient to extinguish the capital cost but we have piled up a fund which if invested would be sufficient to pay for the upkeep of all the lighthouses in perpetuity. This fund, I am sorry to say, has been merged in the general revenues of the colony, so that it is lost to the community, lost in the sense that it cannot now be used to grant to the shipping those facilities for



which I strongly contend. His Excellency the Governor asked that it should be pointed out to him wherein a Lighthouse Board could do better than the Government. It is herein that the Government has done ill. A Board such as your committee propose would have brought forcibly to the notice of the Government the diversion of the fund that has been going on for the past sixteen years; they would, more persistently than has been done in the past, have shown the unwisdom of this proceeding; they would have impressed on each successive Governor that the original levy was made on the distinct understanding that when the original cost of the lighthouses was recouped the dues were to be reduced or were to cease. Recently, on the imposition of the Gap Rock light dues, the question was again raised, and His Excellency for himself recognised the justice of a reduction in the amount as soon as the lighthouse was paid for. Will his successor recognise it? At whose suggestion were these lighthouses built? Not at the suggestion of the Government, but that of the commercial community.

Honourable P. RYRIE—The Chamber of Commerce.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, the commercial community represented by the Chamber of Commerce. The Government if left to itself would have done nothing. Surely the presence of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council as advisers to His Excellency is a sufficient parallel for the necessity of an advisory Board to advise His Excellency on this subject; and I hope we shall see a further development from this Board and that it will take the shape of a Harbour Board also. Of course we cannot find any fault with the officials. I have not found any fault with them. How can they be expected to know accurately the wants of the Colony? I have dealt with this subject at some length and I hope the new committee will take it up, as I consider it is one of the first importance to the Colony. The next question mentioned in the report is that of direct cable communication with Gap Rock. I think it goes without saying that when we get this valuable lighthouse it will be absolutely necessary and essential that we should have direct communication with it. Survey of the coast of China.—This, I think, we may consider in rather an unsatisfactory state. We appear to go by fits and starts. At one time the Navy give us vessels, at another time they take them away, just as seems to suit them, but I think the community would be glad to see a continuous survey until the survey of the coast was complete. The Pinnacle Rock Fund follows the question

I have just spoken on. This fund, which is a valuable one I think for helping and assisting the survey, has not been touched upon for want of any vessels to carry out the survey. With regard to local weather signals we have endeavoured, as you will see, to make them more suitable to the Colony, and by the courtesy of Commodore Church we have been enabled to obtain certain privileges by which warnings are in future to be hoisted on the *Victor Emanuel*. The reduction of postal rates to Europe.—It appears this Colony will have to stand the loss, if there should be one, consequent on the reduction of postal rates. We tried to see, as far as we could, on whom the loss should fall, but in the absence of any accounts that are of any value we were unable to arrive at any distinct conclusion, but in our reply to the Government it was distinctly pointed out that the Continental countries through which the letters pass should bear their quota; but no doubt you will have seen, as I have seen, that there is a rumour that the Continental countries have declined to give up one single farthing of what is paid them for the privilege of passing through their countries. The action taken by the Government in this matter I think is rather a leap in the dark. It appears to have been forced on them by the home Government in such a way that they had to come to some decision rapidly. This seems rather regrettable, for if more time had been allowed we should have been able to discuss the matter thoroughly and have seen, as regards the revenue of this Colony, where the loss should fall. As a matter of benefit for the commerce of this Colony I think there is no doubt the more we reduce postage the better. I now come to the Sunday labour question in the harbour of Hongkong. I think there is very little to add on this subject; in fact it has been threshed threadbare. The opinions of the Committee, and I think of the members, of this Chamber are well known; at least, when I say all the members, I mean we took upon ourselves to consult with those members directly interested to ascertain their views, and they assented to the position your committee took up. Personally I may say that after that interview we had with a deputation from the Mercantile Marine Officers' Association many firms instructed the captains of the regular coasting steamers that if at any time any of their officers should apply to be relieved from the supervision of cargo on Sunday in this harbour their application was to be granted at once, to be freely accorded, and if the owners of the other lines of coasting steamers were approached I do not think they would hesitate in according the same privilege. But as bearing upon the question of hardship to individual employes I would



like to say a word. I would remind those who are agitating the question that the men who work on Sunday do not work every Sunday. They are not residents, and it may and does happen that numbers of them, a large percentage, of those who pass through this port are not called upon to work on a single Sunday throughout the year; in fact I doubt if the number of those officers who do work on Sundays in Hongkong greatly exceeds, if it exceeds at all, the number of those who are compelled to labour at home on Sunday on what are considered absolutely necessary works, taking into account of course the difference in the number of the population. In Hongkong the officers seldom have a chance of being called upon to work on Sunday, while at home the stationary character of the employé gives no such relief. My remarks must be taken simply as touching on the hardship to individuals. As to the whole question, I thoroughly concur in the statements made by the committee of this Chamber. We now come to the Merchant Shipping Amendment Act (No. 2) Bill. There is really nothing in this that interests us; it is a subject that refers more directly to the home trade than to this Colony. The Sharebrokers' Association of Hongkong is an institution which I have reason to believe will be very useful to that part of the community, and I think we may wish them every success. We have had one election to the Legislative Council, that of Mr. WHITEHEAD; and I think the Chamber's election, if I may be allowed to say so, has been justified by result. One subject is omitted from the report, and that is the *Namoa* piracy. No mention is made of this simply because it has never been brought before the Committee officially, but speaking for myself I think if the powers of the Executive were enlarged so that rendition to the Chinese authorities of native criminals, not political, might be made easier and less expensive than at present we should do much not only to rid the Colony of a class of inhabitants that are a danger to the community, but we should also save a very considerable expense, and I think some system surely could be devised that would enable us to weed out these bad characters without trenching on the liberties of *bonâ fide* residents and the good and true men of the Colony. I think if we pursue some such course we should induce the Chinese authorities to take up more heartily than they have hitherto done the suppression of piracy in Chinese waters. At present if a man in Hongkong is wanted by the Chinese authorities all manner of formalities have to be gone through and great expense incurred. This disheartens and disgusts the Chinese authorities and possibly causes them to be more

lethargic in their action when we place any measure before them required for the suppression of piracy in their waters. I may say precautions taken by shipowners are all very well up to a certain point, but there are limits to such precautions, and when you get beyond these limits you cannot depend upon any effective remedy being applied by the shipowner. I don't know whether it is the custom on these occasions, but perhaps I may be allowed to say a few words on what I may call the legitimate trade of this Colony for the past year. From the native point of view it has been exceedingly bad. They have suffered a bad harvest; their tea and silk industries also have not paid. The tea trade appears likely to become a thing of the past. Unless some remedy be applied by the Imperial Government of China to stop the decay that is going on the tea trade appears to me almost a hopeless institution. There is only one remedy, and that is the abolition of the lekin. If that course were adopted by the Government of China no doubt we should see the tea trade revive, for although there is, no doubt, a certain fashion in tea drinking at home still the main question that underlies the whole matter is the question of cost. If we cannot lay down teas at a price equal to those of the free countries of Ceylon and India we may as well shut up. With regard to foreigners, trade I am afraid has partaken very much of the nature of gambling. The unprecedented and alarming fluctuations of exchange have upset the calculations of the most far-sighted, and I think neither foreigners nor Chinese would care to see a repetition of 1890. I think it would be well for us also to avoid such inflation as we have seen, inflation of ideas I may say. When we take stock of our status and prospects we are apt during each sanguine period to mistake the shadow for the substance, which is not only misleading to those who listen but hurtful to ourselves, for if taken at our word the consequences are serious. Better therefore for us not to brag but take the measure of our state from the legitimate business of the Colony and not those questionable adjuncts which really add nothing to our commercial prosperity. Gentlemen, that is all I have to say except that the accounts appear to be satisfactory and call for no remark. I will now move the adoption of the report and accounts and will ask one of you to second it, but before putting it to the meeting I will be glad to hear any remarks you may have to make.

Honourable P. RYRIE--I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts.



Honourable J. J. KESWICK—Gentlemen, before the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts is submitted to the meeting I should like to express my appreciation of the very interesting remarks made by the Chairman on this occasion. He has touched on a great many points which are of the utmost interest to the members of this Chamber and the community at large. I will not follow him through his long address, but I think I will be echoing the feeling of the members when I say we all agree in the note of warning he gave us to abstain from undue inflation, and to avoid in periods of inflation mistaking the shadow for the substance. I am sure there has been a great deal of that in Hongkong and we would do well to husband to the best of our ability those sources of legitimate trade profit that we have.

Mr. SHARP—Sir, I think we are all of one opinion in reference to the concluding words of your address. I think we are now suffering the anticipated reaction to which we have been looking forward for three years past. There has been in this Colony a spirit of gambling and inflation which has been very much deplored by some, especially those of us who on account of our seniority have seen these things again and again in other parts of the world. There is only one outcome to that spirit of unfair and untruthful, utterly untruthful, inflation which has marked the last three years, and the influence of which I consider has not been limited in its disastrous bearings to the trade of this place, for I think it has had a most disastrous influence also upon the character of a large number of people. I think we are responsible for the mad and headlong career of the Chinese in the gambling, the sheer gambling, of the last three years. It could not have taken place if we all had exercised proper influence, especially those of us who are from our years entitled to exercise it, and if we had in an independent and truthful manner spoken what we believed and spoken loud enough to be heard. We have whispered it again and again among ourselves, and we have smiled and—pocketed the money! We have smiled and pocketed the money, and that contrary to warning from one and from another. I think that we have lost character at home and throughout Europe, and I think the weakness and depression from which we are now suffering has been the natural, the legitimate, and the right outcome of our doings. I hope and trust the young men of Hongkong will learn a lesson from the present state of things to avoid that which has been the cause. I have seen these things again and again since 1844, when banks were bankrupted in England by the railway mania, I have seen these

manias in India and here in Hongkong repeatedly, and I think nothing could be more astonishing than the protracted period during which this gambling was sustained. It lasted for fully three years. I think we must not be astonished at the present state of things. But I for one do not doubt the future of Hongkong by any means. I believe the trade of the place exists as it has done from the beginning and it is bound to increase. Our steamer lines are constantly increasing and I look forward with confidence to a large accession of interest in this place from the arrival of travellers from all parts of the world, which will be beneficial in one way and another. We have now abundance of hotel accommodation and house accommodation, and I think it is well for the Colony; in fact that is one of the consolations we have for the past inflation. Nothing but the past inflation would have produced such accommodation as we have to offer to our visitors, whom we are expecting in a few days, the first instalment of 170 passengers by the *Empress of India*, and I hope they will take away a good account of this place and send 1,700 more. I think we have to thank you, sir, for having drawn our attention to the most important point referred to in the report.

The CHAIRMAN—If there are no further remarks I will now put the motion for the adoption of the report.

Carried *nem. con.*

The next business was the election of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN—said he was rather diffident about making the suggestion that the Committee should be elected *en bloc*, because it looked like presenting a ticket, but it would save a great deal of time. The old Committee had consented to serve, if elected, with the exception of Mr. T. JACKSON and Mr. A. P. MAC EWEN, who were absent, and in their places Mr. F. DE BOVIS and Mr. C. J. HOLLIDAY had consented to serve.

Honourable P. RYRIE—said he thought it would be a good thing to adopt the suggestion and this course was agreed upon.

The following were then unanimously elected as the new Committee:—Messrs. W. H. FORBES, R. M. GRAY, H. HOPPIUS, F. DE BOVIS, Hon. J. J. KESWICK, C. J. HOLLIDAY, E. MACKINTOSH, St. C. MICHAELSEN, Hon. P. RYRIE.

Honourable T. H. WHITEHEAD—I have great pleasure in proposing that Mr. MACKINTOSH be asked to serve as Chairman of this Chamber for

the ensuing year. He has rendered valuable services and we could not do better than re-elect him.

Carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I feel very highly gratified by the compliment you have paid me. If I have succeeded in doing my duty to your satisfaction it has added very much to my pleasure. I shall have much pleasure in doing what I can to assist the commerce of this Colony, which has been a kind of hobby of mine since I have been here.

Mr. SHARP—I beg to propose that Mr. KESWICK be elected Vice-Chairman.

Honourable P. RYRIE—seconded.

Carried.

Honourable J. J. KESWICK—Gentlemen, I am very much obliged to you. There is really very little left for any one else to do with Mr. MACKINTOSH in the chair, but what there is I shall be glad to do.

Honourable T. H. WHITEHEAD—Before we separate, I think perhaps the Chamber might do something in the way of strengthening the hands of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council in connection with the monstrous injustice of the Imperial Government on the subject of the military contribution. A good deal was said on the subject yesterday, so I will not trouble you with any more to-day, but I think possibly the Chamber might call the public meeting which has been suggested by Mr. RYRIE.

The CHAIRMAN—I think the question you have brought to our notice is worthy of every consideration, but as it is a matter that will require a little thought, I think a meeting of the new Committee had better be held as soon as possible to consider the whole question, and then they will give you their views as to what course should be pursued.

The meeting then terminated.





*Report of the Committee of the HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE, for the Year ending 31st December, 1890,  
presented to the Members at the Annual Meeting, held on  
Friday, the 20th March, 1891.*

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**Convention between the Chinese Government and  
the Telegraph Companies.**

The position of affairs as regards the much discussed action on the part of the Telegraph Companies has not materially changed since last year inasmuch as up to the present time the Convention remains unratified. Your Committee considered that probably the most effective manner of opposing the Convention would be a direct appeal to Her Majesty. A Petition was accordingly drawn up, and an invitation to other Chambers in China and Japan to co-operate met with a ready response. The Petition prayed that Her Majesty would be graciously pleased to withhold her sanction to the ratification of the Convention, and among other contentions prominence was given to the fact that any approach to granting a monopoly or exclusive privileges was calculated to endanger the rights conveyed by the "most favoured Nation" clause in the existing Treaties between Her Majesty and the Emperor of China. The Chambers of Amoy, Foochow, Hankow, Hiogo, Shanghai, Tientsin and Yokohama supported the Petition which was widely circulated and, as shewn in annexed copies of correspondence, generally approved of. The Petition was forwarded through the Local Government and duly acknowledged eliciting the following remarks from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies as detailed in the Colonial Secretary's letters of 29th October, and 22nd November "That the question of the Convention between China and the Telegraph Companies is now in abeyance, "and the representations of your Chamber on the subject will be considered "by Her Majesty's Government," and "That the question of the Convention "made in 1887 between the Chinese Government and the Telegraph Com-

panies is now in abeyance, and that the presentations of the Petitioners "will be considered by Her Majesty's Government." (Appendix *A.*)

## Additional Articles in the Chefoo Convention

### (Opening of Chungking).

The advantages that might naturally be expected to follow the opening of another Port to foreign trade promise to be greatly minimized by the restrictive conditions with which the trade of Chungking is hampered, the employment of steamers not being permitted. The Committee when corresponding with London on the subject strongly deprecated relinquishing the right of free navigation of the Upper Yangtze, and regretted that Her Majesty's Minister at Peking was, apparently, not instructed to oppose the vacillating and temporising policy of the Chinese Government whose persistent obstructiveness at every stage of the proceedings secured them a diplomatic victory which will certainly not smooth the way for further negotiations at a future date. Your Committee also regret that the invaluable rights which were conferred by the Chinese Government under the Chefoo Convention that the Port of Chungking should be open to foreign commerce on a steamer being able to enter that Port should have been so lightly abandoned by the British Government. (Appendix *B.*)

## Ordinances to amend the Laws relating to the registration of Trade Marks, and to Fraudulent Marks on Merchandise.

The Committee in replying to a request by His Excellency the Governor to express their views on the above Ordinances stated, as regards the first they were inclined to think increased legislative powers in that direction hardly necessary. It appeared to them that to carry out the objects contemplated in the Ordinance with perfect efficiency would require the maintenance of a Staff and involve an expenditure incompatible with the trade requirements of the Colony. An elaborate system of registration in the United Kingdom gives protection to the owners of Trade Marks who can further protect themselves here by registration under the existing Ordinance, and there are at present no local productions that appear likely to seek special

protection. As regards the second Ordinance they considered it also aimed at an increased scope of legislative power which in the present position of the trade seemed hardly required. (Appendix C.)

### Emigration of Chinese Coolies from Swatow to British North Borneo.

Her Britannic Majesty's Officiating Consul drew the attention of the Chamber to an apparent misapprehension that had arisen regarding the emigration of Chinese Coolies from the above Port to British North Borneo by British Steamers. He pointed out that at his request official notices had been posted by the Taotai informing the Natives "that they were at perfect liberty to emigrate to that Country in Steamers employed by any British Merchants in Swatow." Notwithstanding this permission no emigration has, as yet, taken place from Swatow. (Appendix D.)

### Lighthouse Board.

The Committee have continued to impress upon the Government the desirability of the appointment of such a Board, arguing that any proposal calculated to promote the interests of Shipping business in Hongkong was deserving of every consideration. The Committee assumed that among other duties devolving upon the Board would be the supervision of Lighthouses, the regulation and collection of dues, and their appropriation to the specific purposes for which they are levied. It was suggested that the Board should comprise of two Members appointed by the Government, one of whom should always be Chairman, and two others appointed by this Chamber. The importance of the figures involved is shewn in the following Returns obtained from the Government by the Honorable PHINEAS RYRIE on behalf of the Chamber.

Between 1875 and 1889 both years inclusive the amount of light dues collected was.....	} \$341,676.17
Against expenditure for original cost of Lighthouses and upkeep during that period .....	} 161,738.57
Leaving a balance of Revenue over Expenditure of.....	\$179,937.60



The question of a Board was first mooted in the Legislative Council on 12th February, 1890, and favourably commented on by His Excellency the Governor whose opinions, apparently, have since materially altered as in reply to a question put by the Honourable T. H. WHITEHEAD (the Chamber's Representative) in the Legislative Council on 5th instant His Excellency stated—

“I will answer that question myself. In reply to the first part I may say that no steps have been taken. I have also to say that the Government have no proposals and that they have no intention at present of taking any steps in the matter. I can only take up the subject when it is clearly shown to me—which has not been shown yet—that some work of the Government is ill done which a Lighthouse Board could do better. I have only had suggestions made to me, but when I am convinced it will be my duty to take the matter up fully. I am not yet convinced, and I cannot see that there would be any immediate advantage by doing things in the way you suggest.” (Appendix E.)

#### Direct Cable Communication with Gap Rock.

The attention of the Government was called to the desirability of connecting the Gap Rock Lighthouse with Hongkong either by telegraph, or if practicable by telephone. Such a connection would possess the double advantage of keeping up communication between the Authorities and their employés at such times as the weather rendered ordinary intercourse dangerous, or impossible, and of affording early information of the approach of Vessels from the South. The expenditure would be considerable but the Committee think the ends aimed at would justify a large outlay, the funds for which might be easily raised if such a course was found desirable. From information received from Mr. JUDD, Manager of the Eastern Extension Australasian and China Telegraph Company, it appears that the most suitable description of Cable would cost £11,550, while one of lighter construction could be obtained for £9,650. (Appendix F.)

#### Dangers to Navigation close to Gap Rock.

A Notification appeared in the *Government Gazette* of 6th September last calling attention to the existence of several dangers close to the Gap

Rock and warning Shipmasters not to approach on either side closer than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Cables length. The Committee addressed Commodore CHURCH on the subject and were informed that he did not consider the rocks referred to as dangerous to navigation. (Appendix G.)

### Survey of the Coast of China.

The Survey was renewed on the return of H. M. S. "*Rambler*" in September when she resumed operations for a short time in the Chusan Archipelago. She has since left the station, but will, it is reported, be replaced by H. M. S. "*Egeria*" on her return from the South. (Appendix H.)

### Pinnacle Rock Fund.

The short time the Surveying Vessel remained on the Station during the past year hardly admitted of any further distributions from the Fund, and no calls were made upon it. (Appendix I.)

### Local Weather Signals.

The present system of Typhoon Warnings displayed at Kowloon having proved inefficient the Committee put themselves in communication with Commodore CHURCH in the hope that he might have it in his power to supplement the present system by a display of Day and Night Signals from H. M. S. "*Victor Emanuel*" indicating the approach of bad weather. Commodore CHURCH in reply stated that he had no objections to repeating the weather day signals which might be made from the Observatory but he could not undertake to show any night signals from his vessel as she is specially charged with making certain signals at night which together with Typhoon warnings would lead to confusion. His Excellency the Governor has already expressed to the Chamber his dissatisfaction with the working of the Observatory as regards Storm Warnings, which the Committee think ought to be the Director of the Observatory's first care. (Appendix J.)

### Reduction in Postal Rates to Europe.

The Committee were asked for an expression of opinion regarding a proposed reduction in postages to Europe (which has since come into operation)



and stated that they approved of the change, on principle, as a benefit to trade and doing away with the anomaly of heavier rates of postage being charged by English mails than by those of other Countries. With the meagre information in their possession they were not in a position to express any decided opinion as to the probable effects of the proposed change on the revenue of the Colony's Postal Department. It was suggested as a means of, in a great measure, obviating the loss or profit on exchange to alter the value of the local stamps for homeward postages from "local currency" to "Sterling." The necessity of reduction in the present allowances to other countries through which letters from Hongkong pass was also referred to. (Appendix K.)

### Sunday Labour in the Harbour of Hongkong:

The question has been carried considerably beyond the limits of discussion arrived at when first brought to the notice of the Chamber by the Rev. Mr. GOLDSMITH two years ago. A deputation from the British Mercantile Marine Officers' Association advocating the total stoppage of Sunday work in the Harbour waited upon the Committee. They in their reply stated while fully sympathising with those who were endeavouring to abolish Sunday labour they were unable to agree with their contention that the question under existing circumstances was one for settlement by legislative enactment. The interests involved are, in the opinion of the Committee, too varied and extended to admit of the general application of any law abolishing Sunday labour. (Appendix L.)

### Merchant Shipping Amendment Act (No. 2) Bill.

The above Bill having reference to the shipment of Deck-loads of Timber, the treatment of live cattle as Cargo, and Bulkheads for Iron Vessels was referred to the Committee. As Deck-loads of Timber, and Shipment of live cattle, in no way affect the trade of the Colony, on these points, the Committee had no remarks to offer, but as regards Bulkheads in Iron Vessels they thought the requirements of the Act would be sufficiently cared for by the local Surveyors in the ordinary course of their duties when reporting on the condition of vessels trading with this port. (Appendix M.)

**Sharebrokers' Association of Hongkong.**

The tentative efforts at organisation referred to in last year's Report have culminated in the establishment of the above Association. The Committee have had the opportunity of congratulating the Members on having formed themselves into a co-operate body, and also of expressing an opinion regarding the proposed Scale of Brokerages which they consider are equitable and suitable to the existing share business in Hongkong. (Appendix *N*.)

**Correspondence having reference to the undernoted  
Subjects is annexed hereto.**

**Commercial Convention between Great  
Britain and Egypt.**

(Appendix *O*.)

**Provisional Commercial Agreement between the  
Governments of Great Britain and Servia.**

(Appendix *P*.)

**Suggested Telegraph Line between Calais and Calcutta.**

(Appendix *Q*.)

**Rights of Commercial Travellers.**

(Appendix *R*.)

**Legislative Council.**

The Honourable A. P. MACLEWEN having resigned on his leaving the Colony the Honourable T. H. WHITEHEAD was nominated as his successor and elected at a General Meeting of Members held on 18th September to represent the Chamber in the Legislative Council. (Appendix *S*.)

### Committee.

Mr. JACKSON succeeded Mr. NOBLE on the latter's departure for Europe, and Mr. JACKSON on his departure was succeeded by Mr. DE BOVIS.

### Members.

During the past year Mr. W. G. BRODIE resigned, and the names of MESSRS. THE BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN & THE STRAITS LIMITED, CHATER & VERNON, W. H. YOUNG, E. & S. COXON, COWASJEE PALLANJEE & CO., MING KEE HONG, WY SING HONG, YUEN FAT HONG, COHEN & GEORG, JOSEPH & LEVY, H. Z. JUST, G. H. POTTS, E. C. RAY, T. I. ROSE, G. D. SCOTT, DUNN MELBYE & Co. and HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED, have been added to the list of members.

### Finance.

The Accounts have been audited by Mr. J. THURBURN and Mr. E. W. RUTTER.

The Balance at the credit of the Chamber was \$213.48, exclusive of \$5,250 on fixed deposit, and \$2,357.25 at credit of the "Pinnacle Rock Fund" also on fixed deposit, both amounts being in the hands of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum.

The usual statistics of Trade together with the Annual Reports of the Postmaster General and Harbour Master are appended.



Dr.

## THE HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE SECRETARY.

Cr.

1890.	To Rent, 12 months, .....	\$ 600.00		1890.	By Balance from last Account, .....		\$ 226.21
Jan.	„ Secretary's Salary, Oct./Dec. '89 and Jan. {	1,375.00		Jan.	„ Subscriptions of Members—1890, .....	\$2,235.00	
to	/ Aug. '90, .....			to	„ Sales of Circulars including Postages, .....		
Dec.	„ Clerk's Salary, .....	575.00			From 1st Oct. to 31st Dec., 1889, \$ 285.24		
	„ Servants' Wages, .....	104.00		Dec.	.. 1st Jan. to 30th Sept., 1890, \$ 955.04		
	„ Auditors' Fees, .....	40.00				1,240.28	
	„ Printing Circulars, &c., .....	980.60			„ Subscriptions to Political Telegrams, .....	4,082.04	7,557.32
			3,674.60		„ Fixed Deposit repaid by HK. & S'hai Bank, .....		5,250.00
	„ Fixed Deposit—re-deposited, .....		5,250.00		„ 12 months' interest on same at 5 % .....		262.50
	„ Reuter's Political Telegrams, .....	3,600.00			„ Interest on Current Account, .....		17.67
	„ Printing and Circulating same, .....	120.00	3,720.00				
	„ Subscriptions to Newspapers, .....	109.18					
	„ Advertising, .....	36.40					
	„ Telegrams, .....	37.97					
	„ Postage and Receipt Stamps, Stationery } and Petties, .....	172.07					
			375.62				
	„ Lawyer's Fee, .....		100.00				
			\$13,100.22				
	Balance to New Account, .....		213.48				
			\$ 13,313.70				\$ 13,313.70



DEPENDENCIES AT DEBIT :—

Secretary's Salary, .....\$ 500.00

By Balance brought down, .....\$ 213.48

DEPENDENCIES AT CREDIT :—

For Circulars for quarter ending 31st Dec., 1890,.....\$ 345.25

By Fixed Deposit with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking }  
 Corporation at 5 % .....\$ 5,250.00

“ PINNACLE ROCK ” FUND :—

By Fixed Deposit with Hongkong and Shanghai }  
 Banking Corporation at 5 % .....\$ 2,245.00

12 months' interest on same at 5 % ..... 112.25

\$2,357.25

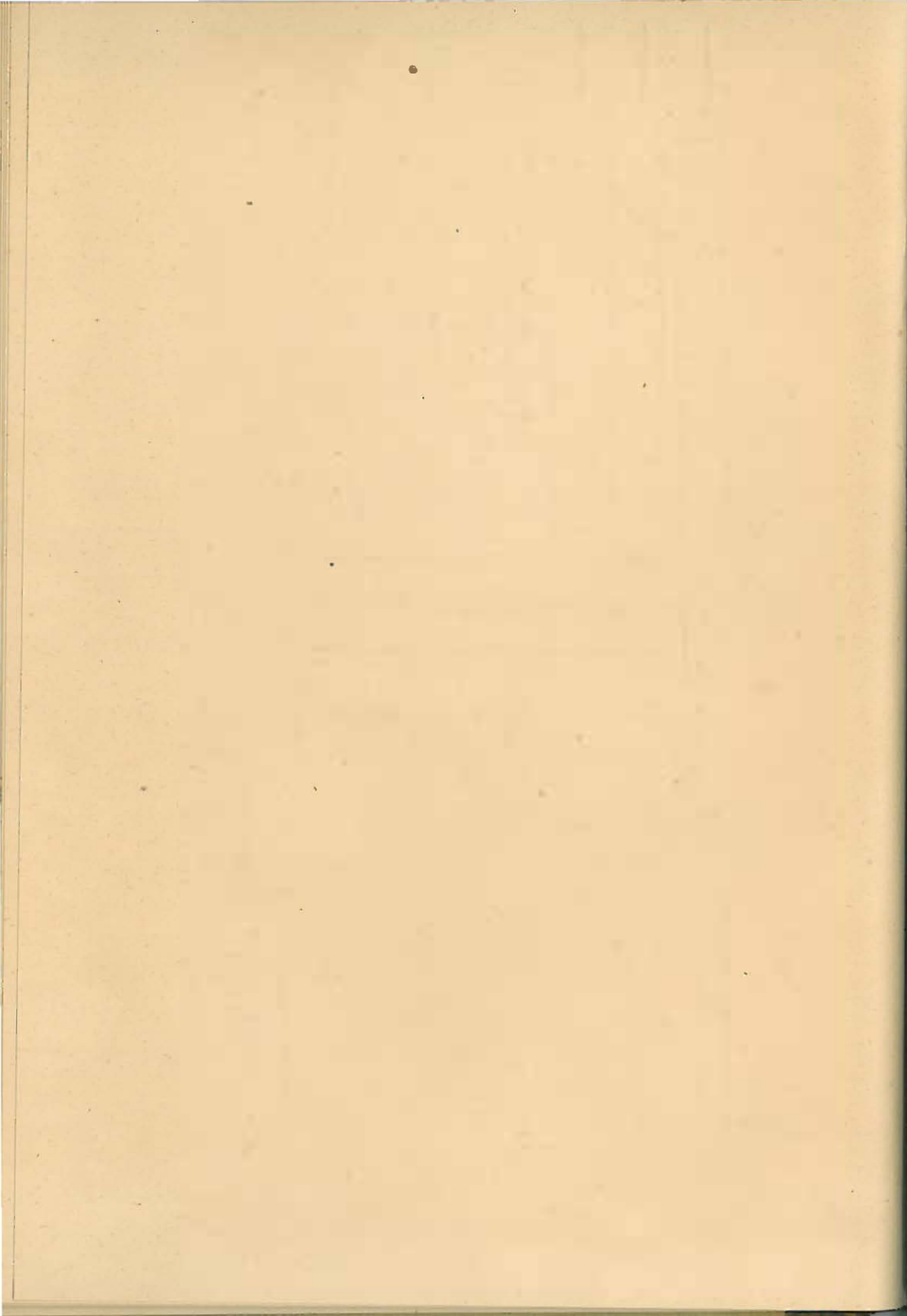
*L. & O. E.*

Hongkong, 31st December, 1890.

F. HENDERSON,  
*Secretary.*

Examined and found correct.

JOHN J. THURBURN, }  
 E. W. RUTTER, } *Auditors.*



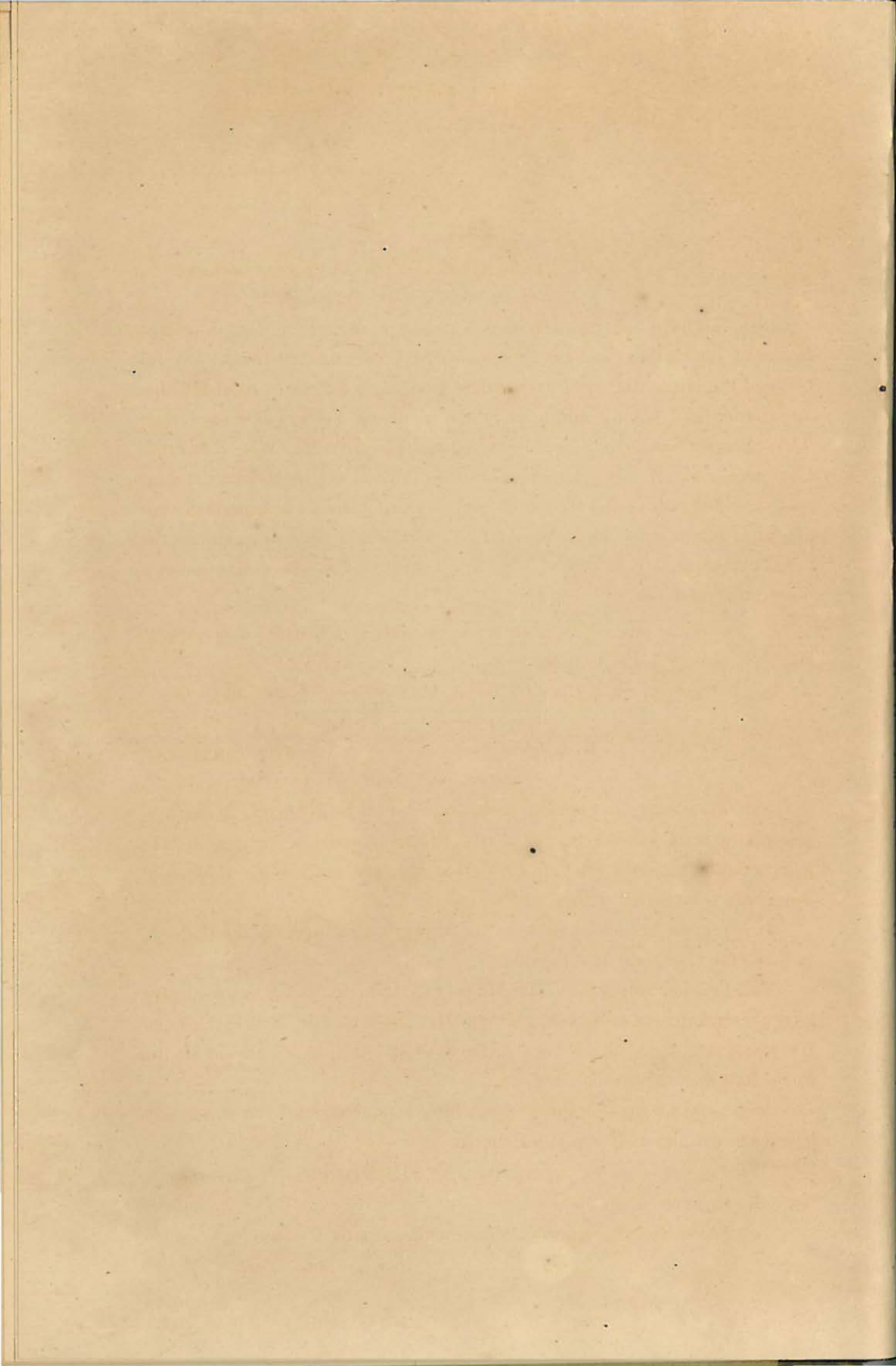
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A P P E N D I X .

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 24th February, 1890.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favour of 14th instant, and am directed by my Committee to thank you for Copy of the interesting letter to which it gave cover addressed to the China Association and having reference to the proposed Telegraph Convention. This Chamber has already been in correspondence with Mr. WM. KESWICK, Chairman of the Association, and also with the London Chamber on the same subject which will not be allowed to drop. Our Chairman has received, unofficially, information which comes from a reliable source and confirms the belief expressed in your favour under reply that the Convention has not yet been ratified.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

GEO. R. CORNER, Esq.,  
*Secretary, SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 14th March, 1890.

SIR,—Reverting to your esteemed favour of 14th February, I am now directed by my Committee to ask if your Chamber would be inclined to take joint action in presenting a Petition to Her Majesty against the threatened Telegraph Convention therein referred to.

It is proposed to ask the other Chambers in China to join in the Petition, and also the Chambers in Japan.

The Petition presented to Her Majesty in the matter of the extraordinary privileges granted to subsidised Foreign Mail Steamers in British Colonial Waters seems not to have been ineffective, and it is hoped similar results would follow in the present case.

As prompt action is desirable I shall feel much obliged if you will kindly favour me with an early reply.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

GEO. R. CORNER, Esq.,  
*Secretary, SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

## A.

SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
SHANGHAI, 24th March, 1890.

SIR,—I am duly in receipt of your letter of 14th March with reference to a proposed Petition from the joint China Chambers of Commerce to Her Majesty against the threatened Telegraph Convention which has been submitted to my Committee who desire me to express their entire concurrence with the views expressed in the proposed Petition but they are of opinion that as a General Chamber of Commerce it is not within their province to join in a Petition to any one Power and that in addressing the Diplomatic Body in the first instance on the subject and after unsatisfactory replies, placing the matter before the influential Mercantile Associations at home asking for their assistance in preventing the completion of the arrangement they have taken the best means in their power to place the position of affairs before the constituted authorities.—I am, &c.,

GEO. R. CORNER, *Secretary*.

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary*, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 25th March, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by my Committee to address you in reference to a proposed Convention between the Telegraph Companies and the Chinese Government which, as no doubt you are aware, has been in course of negotiation during the past two years, but is supposed to be not yet ratified. The object of the Convention apparently is to obtain a monopoly of telegraph business in China, which would, in all probability, result in a long continuance of the present high scale of charges. The Committee propose addressing a Petition to Her Majesty against the threatened Convention and I am directed to ask if the question presents sufficient interest or so materially affects the trade of Japan as to induce your Chamber to take joint action in petitioning Her Majesty. On previous occasions petitions have been found to be not ineffective, and the Committee would be hopeful of similar results in the present case.

Awaiting the pleasure of your reply—I remain, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

O. KIEL, Esq.,

*Secretary*, GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, YOKOHAMA.

## A.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

HONGKONG, 26th March, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—My Committee being of opinion that addressing Her Majesty the Queen would probably prove effective in opposing the proposed Convention between the Telegraph Companies and the Chinese Government I am directed to enquire if your Chamber would be inclined to take part in a joint Petition from this and the other Chambers in China and also in Japan.

The Convention apparently having for its object a monopoly of telegraph business in China and which, if successful, would, in all probability, result in a long continuance of present extreme rates has been so generally discussed and deprecated that it seems unnecessary to further refer to it herein, and as prompt action seems desirable I have only to ask that you will kindly favour me with an early reply.—I remain, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

E. P. W. SKRIMSHIRE, Esq.,

*Secretary*, GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AMOY.

Similar letters to—WERNER KROHN, Esq.,

*Secretary*, General Chamber of Commerce, Foochow.

ALEX. PRICE, Esq.,

*Secretary*, General Chamber of Commerce, Hankow.

I. M. MUR, Esq.,

*Secretary*, Hiogo and Osaka, General Chamber of Commerce.

JAMES WILSON, Esq.,

*Honorary Secretary*, General Chamber of Commerce, Tientsin.

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AMOY GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

AMOY, 3rd April, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of 26th ultimo came safely to hand and has received the careful attention of the Chairman and Committee and I am instructed to say that all the Members of this Chamber are willing to take



## A.

part in any Petition that you may make opposing the Convention between the Telegraph Companies and the Chinese Government.

Awaiting your further news on this subject with interest,—I remain, &c.,

E. P. W. SKRIMSHIRE, *Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

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FOOCHOW GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

FOOCHOW, 11th April, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 26th ultimo, and have now pleasure in informing you that this Chamber will be much pleased to take part in a joint Petition to Her Majesty the Queen in order to oppose the proposed Convention between the Telegraph Companies and the Chinese Government which, as you remark, would result in a monopoly of telegraph business in China, and in a long continuance of present extreme rates.—I remain, &c.,

WERNER KROHN, *Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

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YOKOHAMA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

YOKOHAMA, 26th April, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—Your esteemed Communication of 25th ultimo has been duly received and placed before my Committee, who have directed me to inform you that, although this Chamber is aware that proposals have been made for a Convention between the Telegraph Companies and the Chinese Government, nothing definite has come to its knowledge to enable it to take any action in the matter.

If you would, however, be good enough to give us some more light on the subject and let this Chamber know how it can join the Hongkong Chamber in what it proposes to do, this Chamber will be glad to second its efforts.

Awaiting the pleasure of your reply,—I am, &c.,

O. KIEL, *Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

## A.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

HONGKONG, 18th June, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your esteemed favour of 26th April to which I have delayed replying until in a position to send you copy of the Petition against the Telegraph Convention which this Chamber has decided to forward to Her Majesty the QUEEN, and which I have now the pleasure to hand you herein. It is hoped that the contents will meet with the approval of your Committee, and they may see their way to endorse the opinions expressed therein.

My Committee regret that they are unable to furnish you with any positive information regarding the actual terms of the Convention, but though the facts assumed in the Petition have not officially been made public those appear to them to be sufficiently well established to justify the action taken. Since your letter was written the existence of a Convention, as doubtless your Committee will have noticed, has been freely admitted and discussed in the House of Commons.

It may be even if the Petition is found to be in accordance with the views of your Committee there may still be some objections on their part to sign (as has been the case in another instance) as the representatives of a body composed of different nationalities a Petition addressed to any one Power, and should such prove to be the case my Committee venture to suggest as an alternative that they be good enough to obtain the signatures of the English Firms in Yokohama who are willing to attest their approval of the action taken.

Convinced of the desirability of opposing in every direction a Convention aiming at monopoly and a long continuance of high rates my Committee have little hesitation in soliciting the good offices of your Committee, which they are hopeful will be readily accorded, in endeavouring to further the aims of the Petition.

If your Committee are induced to follow the suggestion herein contained they will no doubt elect to forward the Petition direct, but should they desire it this Chamber will be happy to follow the course adopted when petitioning against the Status accorded to Foreign Mail Steamers, which was to forward the Petition, in triplicate, through His Excellency the Governor.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

O. KIEL, Esq.,

*Secretary, YOKOHAMA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

A.

HANKOW GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HANKOW, 28th April, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your favour of 15th instant I have much pleasure in stating that this Chamber will take part in a joint Petition with your Chamber and other Chambers in China and Japan in opposing the proposed Convention between the Telegraph Companies and the Chinese Government.—I remain, &c.,

ALEX. PRICE, *Secretary*.

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary*, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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HIOGO & OSAKA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HIOGO, 1st May, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—Your favour of 15th April is at hand, and the Committee of this Chamber instruct me to say in reply, that all attempts made by your Chamber and others to defeat the object of the Telegraph Companies referred to, meet with their entire approval, and they will give hearty support to all measures brought forward, having in view the suppression of the monopoly sought to be established.—I remain, &c.,

I. M. MUR, *Secretary*.

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary*, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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TIENTSIN GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
TIENTSIN, 2nd May, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 15th ultimo intimating that your Committee being of opinion that addressing Her Majesty the Queen would probably prove effective in opposing the proposed Convention between the Telegraph Companies and the Chinese Government; and enquiring whether this Chamber would co-operate with the other Chambers in China and Japan in a joint Petition having the above object in view.



## A.

In reply, I am directed to say that a General Meeting of this Chamber held on the 30th ultimo, your letter was laid before the Members, and it was duly proposed, seconded and unanimously carried, that this Chamber will give its support to the joint Petition in question and hope their united action will prove effective in frustrating the proposed scheme.—I am, &c.,

JAMES WILSON, *Hon. Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 18th June, 1890.

SIR,—Begging reference to my letter of 14th and to your reply to same of 24th March, both having reference to the Telegraph Convention, I have now the pleasure to hand you herewith copies of the Petition against that movement which the Committee of this Chamber has decided to forward to Her Majesty the Queen.

Keeping on view the expressed objections of your Committee, as the representatives of a general body, to take part in a Petition addressed to any one Power my Committee beg to suggest as an alternative, should the Petition herewith meet with their approval, that they be good enough to obtain the signatures of such of the English Firms trading in Shanghai as may be found willing to attest their approval of the action taken.

Fully convinced of the unanimity of feeling as regards the desirability of opposing in every direction the threatened compact my Committee have little hesitation in soliciting the good offices of your Committee which they are hopeful will be readily accorded, in endeavouring to further the aims of the Petition.

If your Committee are induced to follow the suggestion herein contained they will probably elect to forward the Petition direct but should they desire it this Chamber will be happy to follow the course adopted when petitioning against the Status accorded to Foreign Mail Steamers, which was to forward the petition, in triplicate, through His Excellency the Governor.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

GEO. R. CORNER, Esq.,

*Secretary, SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

## A.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 18th June, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—Begging reference to my letter of 26th March and to your esteemed favour of 3rd April in reply both having reference to the Telegraph Convention I have now the pleasure to hand you, herewith, copies of the Petition against that movement which this Chamber has decided to forward to Her Majesty the Queen—and which it is hoped will secure the approval and signature of your Committee.

It is not impossible that even if the Petition is found to be in accordance with the views of your Committee there may be some objections on their part to sign (as has been the case in another instance) as the representatives of a body composed of different nationalities, a Petition addressed to any one Power and should such prove to be the case my Committee venture to suggest as an alternative that they be good enough to obtain the signatures of the English Firms in Amoy who are willing to attest their approval of the action taken.

Fully convinced of the unanimity of feeling as regards the desirability of opposing in every direction the threatened compact my Committee have little hesitation in soliciting the good offices of your Committee, which they are hopeful will be readily accorded, in endeavouring to further the aims of the Petition.

If your Committee are induced to follow the suggestion herein contained they will no doubt elect to forward the Petition direct but should they desire it this Chamber will be happy to follow the course adopted when petitioning against the Status accorded to Foreign Mail Steamers, which was to forward the Petition, in triplicate, through His Excellency the Governor.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

E. P. W. SKRIMSHIRE, Esq.,

*Secretary*, AMOY GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 18th June, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to thank you for your esteemed favour of 1st May, to which I have delayed replying until in a position to wait upon you with a copy of the Petition against the Telegraph Convention which this Chamber

## A.

has decided to forward to Her Majesty the QUEEN, and which I have now the pleasure to hand you herewith.

My Committee hope the contents may meet with the approval of your Committee that they may be able to endorse the opinions therein expressed, and support the Petition with the signature of your Chamber.

It may be even if the Petition is found to be in accordance with the views of your Committee there may still be some objections on their part to sign (as has been the case in another instance) as the representatives of a body composed of different nationalities a Petition addressed to any one Power, and should such prove to be the case my Committee venture to suggest as an alternative that they be good enough to obtain the signatures of the English Firms in Hiogo and Osaka who are willing to attest their approval of the action taken.

Convinced of the unanimity of feeling as regards the desirability of opposing in every direction the threatened compact my Committee have little hesitation in soliciting the good offices of your Committee, which they are hopeful will be readily accorded, in endeavouring to further the aims of the Petition.

Should your Committee be induced to follow the suggestion herein contained they will no doubt elect to forward the Petition direct, but should they desire it this Chamber will be happy to follow the course adopted when petitioning against the Status accorded to Foreign Mail Steamers, which was to forward the Petition, in triplicate, through His Excellency the Governor.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

L. M. MUR, Esq.,

*Secretary, HIOGO & OSAKA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

Similar letters to

TIENTSIN, HANKOW AND FOOCHEW CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 26th June, 1890.

SIR,—On 18th and 21st October last I had the honour, on behalf of the Committee of this Chamber, to forward to you, for the information of His Excellency the then Governor, copy of a letter addressed to Her Britannic



## A.

Majesty's Minister to China, and also copies of telegrams, having reference to a rumoured Convention between the Chinese Government and the Telegraph Companies.

The Convention, as His Excellency the Administrator is no doubt aware, is still pending and as the Committee of this Chamber share in the general opinion that its fulfilment would prove highly detrimental to commercial and other interests in China and Japan they have drawn up a Petition to Her Most Gracious Majesty the QUEEN praying that Her Majesty, with the advice of Her Ministers, may be pleased to oppose the ratification of the Convention. Similar steps are about to be taken by other Chambers of Commerce in China and Japan.

I have the honour, on behalf of the Committee, to hand you herewith the the Petition, in triplicate, with the request that His Excellency the Administrator will be good enough to forward same by the outgoing mail.—I have the honour, &c., &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Hon. W. M. DEANE, M.A., C.M.G.,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

To

Her Most Gracious Majesty

THE QUEEN, EMPRESS OF INDIA.

&c.,

&c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,—

We, Your Majesty's most loyal and devoted servants, residing and carrying on business as Merchants, Shipowners, Bankers, Professional Men and Traders in Your Majesty's Colony of Hongkong and in divers ports and places in the Empires of China and Japan, most humbly represent to Your Majesty as follows, that is to say :—

1. We are, individually and as the Agents and Representatives of Merchants, Shipowners and others residing and carrying on business in all parts of Your Majesty's Dominions, very largely interested in the Foreign Trade of China and Japan.

## A.

2. That trade is of an enormous and increasing annual value, of which it may be estimated seventy per cent, or thereabouts, is in the hands of Your Majesty's faithful subjects and carried on under the British flag. A vast capital is employed therein and a considerable revenue accrues to Your Majesty therefrom.

3. The Foreign Trade of China and Japan with Your Majesty's Dominions and with Your Majesty's subjects is carried on under and is regulated by the provisions of certain Treaties made between your most Gracious Majesty and the Emperors of China and Japan respectively, and by these Treaties certain well-defined rights are secured to the subjects of Your Majesty trading in and to China and Japan.

4. Of these rights the most valuable are those which secure to Your Majesty's subjects all the benefits and advantages of any privilege or concession which may be, at any time, granted by China or Japan, to the subjects of any other nation, and those which forbid the creation by China or Japan of any monopoly or exclusive privilege in favour either of their own subjects or of any foreign nation to the prejudice of the rights and privileges granted to Your Majesty's subjects.

5. Your Petitioners are apprehensive for the reasons hereinafter stated that their rights and privileges under "the most favoured nation" clauses in the Treaties between Your Majesty and the Emperor of China are in danger of being infringed, and that there is about to be created in China a monopoly which will operate most injuriously to their interests, and which will, at the same time, inflict on Your Majesty's ally, the Emperor of China, and on his people very heavy losses and grave inconveniences in the future.

6. Your Petitioners most humbly represent to your Majesty that the successful conduct of their commercial operations depends in these days, very largely, on telegraphic communication, and that it is essential that that communication be regular, effective and cheap, and that as many different lines of communication be opened and kept open as possible.

Your Petitioners are now in communication with Europe by means of two separate telegraphic lines, one in the hands of "The Eastern Telegraph Company" and "The Eastern Extension Australian and China Telegraph Company Limited," starting from Shanghai in the Empire of China and passing South by Foochow, Hongkong, Saigon and Singapore to Australia and

## A.

British India ; the other, under the management of a Danish Corporation, "The Great Northern Telegraph Company," going North from Hongkong *viâ* Amoy, Shanghai, Nagasaki (in Japan) and Vladivostock (in Siberia).

Your Petitioners can only communicate with America, by telegraph, through Europe.

7. Your Petitioners have not derived from the existence of these two separate and independent lines of telegraphic communication all the advantages that they ought to have obtained, because since the year 1875, or thereabouts, the above-mentioned companies have, to the great injury of trade, been working in combination, and have by agreement between themselves established and maintained a rate of two dollars or over six shillings a word between Hongkong and Europe, and a proportionately higher rate from other ports and places in China and Japan, and have refused to reduce that rate, in spite of the vast increase in the number of messages transmitted over their lines, and of the many improvements in the means of sending and recording messages and in telegraphy generally.

8. For many years past Your Petitioners have anticipated important and valuable additions to their means of telegraphic communication with Europe, by the completion and opening of lines in the hands of the Chinese Government connecting all parts of the Chinese Empire with each other and with the lines of the Russian Government at Kiachta on the north-western frontier of China, and through them with the general European system, and by the entrance of China into the Union created by the International Telegraphic Convention of the Tenth of July 1875.

Your Petitioners are also looking forward to the early connection of the Chinese lines with the British Indian System through Burmah, and to the possibility of a cable from San Francisco or from Your Majesty's Colony of Vancouver, and seeking a landing place on the shores of the Chinese Empire.

9. The connection of the Chinese lines with the lines of the Russian Government at Kiachta would open for your Petitioners the most direct line with Europe, and the cheapest. Telegraphic Rates on the Russian Lines are phenomenally low, and the Chinese lines, wherever they come into competition with the lines of the existing cable companies, as in the south through Annam and Tonking in connection with the French lines, charge



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less than one half the rate per word now charged over the same distances by the Great Northern and Eastern Extension Companies.

10. Your Petitioners are well assured that if the Chinese lines are connected with those of the Russian Government at Kiachta and are thrown freely open to the public, unhampered by any secret Convention or Agreement with the competing companies already named, the cost of a telegram to Europe from China or Japan would be at once considerably reduced, to the immense gain of your Majesty's subjects, to the great advantage of British Trade in the East, and to the profit and advantage of Your Majesty's friend and ally the Emperor of China and his subjects.

11. But, unfortunately, as Your Majesty and Your Majesty's Ministers are aware, a Convention between the Chinese Government, the Great Northern Telegraph Company and the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company has been entered into and signed as far back as August 1887, by which the Chinese Government bound itself, subject to the approval of Your Majesty's Government and of the Imperial Government of Russia, to charge, over its lines to Kiachta, a fixed sum of \$2 per word on all messages to Europe, and not except with the consent of the Companies to reduce or alter that rate. The Chinese Government further bound itself to maintain that rate until the year 1903, and to apply it over any line whatever that might in the meanwhile be opened, whether through British Burmah, with India and Europe or through America, by any cable that may be laid.

12. That Convention has not yet been made public, and Your Petitioners speak with all deference when they submit to Your Majesty, that that Convention is publicly stated and believed to contain a provision establishing a differential rate largely in favour of Russian subjects in China, sending messages over the Chinese lines to Europe, and therefore in violation of the provisions of existing Treaties securing for Your Majesty's subjects in China rights and privileges equal to those granted to the subjects of any other nation.

It is further stated and believed publicly that the said Convention secures to the existing Companies, the Great Northern, and the Eastern Extension, the monopoly of all messages despatched from Shanghai, Amoy, Foochow and Hongkong, by far the larger and more important portion of the traffic and that in which Your Majesty's subjects are most largely interested.

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13. If the Chinese lines, when completed, were thrown open freely to the public unhampered by this or any similar convention, the greater portion of the traffic from the above-named ports would flow naturally to the Chinese lines as the most direct, to the very great gain of the Chinese Government.

14. Your Petitioners most humbly thank Your Majesty for having refused your assent to the Convention and to any modification of it, and for Your Majesty's most gracious assurance, through Your Ministers in the Commons House of Parliament, that no consent will be given to the Convention without full consideration of all the interests involved and without consultation with the representatives of British Commerce.

15. Your Petitioners most respectfully represent to Your Majesty that the ratification of the Convention of the 10th August 1887, between the Chinese Government and the Companies hereinbefore mentioned, would be a serious injury to the future of Telegraphic Communication in China and throughout the world, would seriously hamper trade and especially the trade of Your Majesty's subjects in the East, and would be, they humbly conceive and represent, in breach, if not of the precise words, certainly of the spirit of the International Telegraphic Convention entered into by Your Most Gracious Majesty at St. Petersburg the 16/22 of July 1875, and especially of clause 19 of that convention.

16. Your Petitioners beg further most respectfully to represent that the continued existence of the Convention, the subject of this Petition, and of the negotiations for its approval or modification, is an impediment to all improvement in Telegraphic Communication between the East and Europe, and in particular prevents the Chinese Government from completing its telegraphic system and connecting it with the general network of Telegraphic communication throughout the world *viâ* Kiachta.

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray Your Majesty—

1. To refuse your assent to the Convention or to any modification of it.
2. To represent to the Imperial Chinese Government, through Your Majesty's Minister at Peking, that any such Convention would be in violation of the spirit of existing Treaties.
3. To represent, further, to the Chinese Government that to enter into any such Convention would be detrimental to their own best interests.

A.

4. To move His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of China, to put an end definitely to the Convention as having failed to attain Your Majesty's Assent.
5. To move His Imperial Majesty, to join the International Telegraphic Convention and connect the Chinese Lines with the general European System.
6. To move the Governments, parties to the International Telegraphic Convention of 1875, having representatives at Peking, to instruct their Ministers to co-operate with your Majesty's Minister to the same end.

And Your Majesty's obedient and dutiful servants will ever pray.

On behalf of the Committee of the

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

E. MACKINTOSH, *Chairman.*

26th June, 1890.

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 7th July, 1890.

SIR,—By the direction of my Committee I have the pleasure to hand you herewith copy of a Petition which this and other Chambers in China and Japan have been induced to present to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, praying that She may be pleased to oppose the ratification of a pending Convention between the Chinese Government and The Eastern Telegraph Company and the Eastern Extension, Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Limited.

The Convention, which has for its object the monopoly of telegraph business between China and the outer world, and the long continuance of present extreme rates for the transmission of messages, if allowed to be successfully carried out, must prove detrimental to Commercial and other interests generally.

Though more immediately connected with the business of China and Japan, the question has a wider and more general bearing and merits the attention of all those interested in the spread of cheap and universal telegraph communication.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*



A.

AMOY GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
AMOY, 27th June, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of 18th instant and copies of Petition against the Telegraph Convention were placed before a general meeting of the Chamber held on the 25th instant, and contents were thoroughly discussed.

It was unanimously resolved that the Committee should sign the Petition in triplicate and return same to you, as suggested in your letter, to be forwarded by your Chamber through His Excellency the Governor.

Herein I beg to hand you three copies of Petition duly signed with which please do the needful.—I am, &c.,

F. P. W. SKRIMSHIRE, *Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

No. 2,203.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
HONGKONG, 28th June, 1890.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, enclosing a Petition to Her Most Gracious Majesty the QUEEN drawn up by the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce praying that Her Majesty may be pleased to oppose the ratification of the Convention which it is reported is about to be entered into between the Chinese Government and the Telegraph Companies.

The Petition will be transmitted as requested to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to be laid before Her Majesty. I have, &c.,

W. M. DEANE, *Acting Colonial Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 2nd July, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I had the pleasure of addressing you on 30th October last in reference to a reported Convention between the Chinese Government and Telegraph Companies which this Chamber have every reason to believe



## A.

would, if ratified, prove highly detrimental to commercial and other interests in China and Japan.

The Convention is still pending and I beg to hand you herewith copies of a Petition this Chamber has presented to Her Majesty the QUEEN praying that she may be pleased to oppose its ratification. The Petition has also been adopted by other Chambers both in China and Japan.

It has within the last week been somewhat positively asserted that the Convention has fallen through, but the report is not sufficiently well substantiated to justify the Chamber in relaxing its efforts towards opposing the attempted ratification.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

KENRIC B. MURRAY, Esq.,

*Secretary*, LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 2nd July, 1890.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of this Chamber to hand you the accompanying copies of the Petition which they have presented to Her Most Gracious Majesty the QUEEN, praying that she may be pleased to oppose the ratification of the Telegraph Convention.

I am further directed by my Committee to offer you their best thanks for the valuable assistance you have given in opposing the Convention, and also for sundry telegrams containing interesting information which you were good enough to send to the Chamber through Mr. J. J. KESWICK.

A statement, perhaps no more reliable than the many vague and contradictory rumours that have preceded it, appeared last week in the *North China Daily News* to the effect that His Excellency LI HUNG CHANG had positively stated that the Convention is dead.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

WM. KESWICK, Esq.,

*Vice-Chairman*, THE CHINA ASSOCIATION, LONDON.

A.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 3rd July, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your Chamber's Report for 1889, and have much pleasure in reciprocating by now handing you this Chamber's Report for the same period.

I have the further pleasure of handing you herewith copy of a Petition addressed to Her Majesty the QUEEN protesting against the ratification of a pending Convention between the Chinese Government and the Telegraph Companies having for its object a monopoly of telegraph business between China and Europe.

The telegraphic tariff is referred to in your Report now acknowledged, and it may prove interesting to you to know what has been done here in opposing a Convention which, if successfully carried out, would no doubt result in a long continuance of the present extreme rates.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

ALEX. GENTLE, Esq.,

*Secretary, SINGAPORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 4th July, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by my Committee to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favour of 27th June returning, duly signed, three copies of the Petition against the Telegraph Convention, and further to offer your Chamber their best thanks for its cordial co-operation towards opposing the above Convention.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

E. P. W. SKRIMSHIRE, Esq.,

*Secretary, AMOY GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

Similar letter to WERNER KROHN, Esq.,

*Secretary, FOOCHOW GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

A.

FOOCHOW GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
FOOCHOW, 5th July, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to thank you for your valued favour of the 19th ultimo, and have now the pleasure of returning you enclosed the Petition against the Telegraph Convention which is to be forwarded to Her Majesty the QUEEN, duly signed in triplicate by the Chairman of this Chamber.

Our Committee will be obliged by your kindly forwarding the Petition to its destination.—I am, &c.,

WERNER KROHN, *Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary*, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Similar letter from TIENTSIN GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
SHANGHAI, 14th July, 1890.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge your letter of 18th June covering copies of the Petition to be presented by British residents in China to Her Britannic Majesty on the subject of the Chinese Telegraph Convention and asking for the co-operation of the Committee of this Chamber in furthering the object in view.

I have now the pleasure to return to you three copies of the Petition with the signatures, which it has been possible to obtain, regretting that they are not more numerous; but the general opinion seems to be that the question has already been set at rest by Lord SALISBURY'S reply to the China Association of London on the subject and that further action was unnecessary.—  
I am, &c.,

GEO. R. CORNER, *Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary*, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
SINGAPORE, 17th JULY, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your Chamber's Report for 1889 and also copy of a Petition to Her Majesty the QUEEN, against the ratification of a pending Convention between the Chinese Government and the Telegraph Companies, which has been read with interest.



A.

We have already been in communication with the Government with the view of strong representations being made at the Telegraph Conference against a continuance of present high rates to this part of the world.—I am, &c.,

ALEX. GENTLE, *Secretary.*

*The Secretary,*

GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HONGKONG.

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 14th August, 1890.

SIR,—Begging reference to this Chamber's letter of 26th June requesting that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government would be pleased to forward to Her Most Gracious Majesty a Petition presented by this Chamber against the Telegraph Convention I have now the honour, by the direction of my Committee, to hand you similar Petitions, as noted at foot, with the request that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government will be good enough to forward same by the outgoing mail.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Hon. W. M. DEANE, M.A., C.M.G.,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

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Petitions (in triplicate) against the Telegraph Convention referred to in the annexed letter :—

- From Tientsin signed by Merchants and others.
- „ Hankow signed by the Secretary of the Hankow General Chamber of Commerce.
- „ Shanghai signed by Merchants and others.
- „ Foochow signed by Chairman of the Foochow General Chamber of Commerce.
- „ Amoy signed by Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Committee and Secretary of the Amoy General Chamber of Commerce.
- „ Hiogo signed by Merchants and others.

## A.

No. 3,036.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
29th October, 1890.

SIR,—With reference to the letter from this Department No. 2,597 of the 16th of August, I am directed by the Officer Administering the Government to acquaint you, for the information of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, that His Excellency is in receipt of a Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the effect that the question of the Convention between China and the Telegraph Companies is now in abeyance, but that the representations of your Chamber on the subject will be considered by Her Majesty's Government.

2. Lord KNUTSFORD at the same time expresses a desire to be furnished for purposes of reference with two further copies of the Petition addressed by the Chamber to Her Majesty, and I am to request you to be good enough to place His Excellency in a position to comply with Lord KNUTSFORD's wishes.—I have, &c.,

W. M. DEANE, *Acting Colonial Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 30th October, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to own receipt of your esteemed communication No. 3,036 of yesterday's date and am directed by my Committee to thank you for the information conveyed therein that the representations of this and other Chambers with reference to a Convention entered into between the Chinese Government and the Telegraph Companies will be considered by Her Majesty's Government.

I have much pleasure in acceding to your request to be supplied with two further copies of the Petition against the Convention, and beg to hand you these herewith.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Hon. W. M. DEANE, M.A., C.M.G.,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

**A.**

No. 3,167.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
22nd November, 1890.

SIR,—With reference to my letter No. 2,597 of the 16th of August I am directed by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to acquaint you, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Petitioners mentioned in your letter of the 14th of August, that the question of the Convention made in 1887 between the Chinese Government and the Telegraph Companies is now in abeyance, but that the representations of the Petitioners will be considered by Her Majesty's Government.—I have, &c.,

F. H. MAY, *for Acting Colonial Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

**B.**

THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INCORPORATED,  
LONDON, 17th January, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—At the last meeting of the East India and China Trade Section of this Chamber I was directed to send you copy of a letter which this Chamber has recently addressed to the Foreign Office in response to an invitation from Lord Salisbury to state its view in regard to the proposed additional article to the Chefoo Convention,—I am, &c.,

KENRIC B. MURRAY, *Secretary.*

*The Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HONGKONG.*

6th January, 1890.

The Most Noble The Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, &c., &c.

MY LORD,—Your Lordship's letter of the 11th December last, relative to a suggested Additional Article to the Chefoo Convention of 1876 regulating the conditions of trade between this country and China, has received the careful attention of the Chamber and its East India and China Trade Section.

In thanking your Lordship for the opportunity afforded this Chamber of expressing its view in regard to the proposals of the Chinese Government,



## B.

and also for the copy of the agreement forwarded for its information, I am to point out that subject to certain modifications, the course proposed meets with the general approval of London merchants concerned in trade with China.

In the first place the Section is of opinion that the proposal that the port of Chungking be opened at once is of immediate importance to British interests and will very greatly stimulate trade with Western China. It is therefore hoped that Her Majesty's Government will accept this proposal, as it confers real and tangible advantages beyond any that navigation of the Upper Yangtze is likely to afford for many years owing to the natural obstacles presented by the river itself. The Section therefore regards as reasonable and acceptable the proposal that British steamers shall have access to Chungking as soon as Chinese steamers are permitted to go there, and that "during the interval the carrying trade shall be done by junks, but "under such a system of facilities and privileges as will as far as possible "assimilate it to that now enjoyed by steamers at the Treaty Ports on the "Lower Yangtze." While approving of this arrangement, however, the Section desires to lay stress upon the importance of securing the rights of British traders (*a*) to charter junks and to generally navigate native vessels under the British flag, and under the command of British subjects; (*b*) to repack piece goods at Hankow or Ichang by halving or quartering the bales for convenience of the up-river voyage (in view of the special storage required) without payment of any extra import duties. In connection with the latter stipulation, I am to point out that under the present Customs Rules foreign goods imported in China can be re-exported coastwise or up-river duty free only if in their original packages with original marks and numbers; and that these rules would have to be modified, in the event of Chungking being opened, in such sense as to allow of repacking at Hankow of goods destined for the new port.

The East India and China Trade Section of the Chamber, while appreciating the benefits that must accrue to British trade on the immediate opening of the port of Chungking, are nevertheless strongly of opinion that the right to navigate the Upper Yangtze—a right which was only conceded by the Chinese Government after great diplomatic pressure—should not be definitely abandoned. They would therefore suggest that it should be waived for a

## B.

period of, say, ten years at the expiration of which it should revert to British traders, who might then be able to take advantage of any possible change in the internal policy of China whereby a survey of the Upper Yangtze river, followed by the adoption of measures to remove the present obstacles to navigation might be permissible; such measures would be extremely important in the event of the Chinese allowing a general improvement of the means of communication by land and water between the inland centres of population and the sea coast, thus affording increased facilities for the distribution of British goods to the large markets of the interior. The willingness of the Chinese Government to grant the concessions involved in the proposed additional article to the Chefoo Convention should certainly be encouraged, but, while securing present advantages, the possibilities of the future should be carefully weighed and provided for in any re-arrangement of Treaty provisions involving rights already acquired.

I am to express the hope that the considerations herein advanced will receive the favourable attention of Her Majesty's Government in the conduct of the negotiations now proceeding with the Chinese Government.—  
I am, &c.,

KENRIC B. MURRAY, *Secretary.*

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 11th March, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favour of 17th January, and I am directed by my Committee to tender you their best thanks for copy of letter addressed to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, having reference to the proposed additional Article to the Chefoo Convention.

My Committee, while in no way wishing to deprecate the advantages likely to accrue to British trade by securing another outlet for her manufactures, scarcely think the opening of Chungking will realise the expectations of those who seem to anticipate a large immediate increase to the volume of trade.

My Committee entirely agree with you in thinking that the right of navigating the Upper Yangtze must not be abandoned. It is to be regretted

## B.

that Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Peking was, apparently, not instructed to oppose the vacillating and temporising policy adopted by the Chinese Government in reference to this question. Persistent obstructiveness at every stage of the proceedings has secured them a diplomatic victory which will scarcely tend to smooth the way for further negotiation at a future date.

Trusting that your suggestions will have received a favourable reception at the hands of the Secretary of State.—I remain, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

KENRIC B. MURRAY, Esq.,

*Secretary, THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, LONDON.*

## C.

No. 2,796.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

HONGKONG, 3rd December, 1889.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor, to transmit to you, for the early observations of the Chamber of Commerce, the annexed copy of a Bill entitled *The Trade Marks Ordinance, 1889*.—I have, &c.,

A. LISTER, *Acting Colonial Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

No. 2,797.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

HONGKONG, 3rd December, 1889.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to transmit to you, for the early observations of the Chamber of Commerce, the annexed copy of a Bill entitled *The Merchandise Marks Ordinance, 1889*.—I have, &c.,

A. LISTER, *Acting Colonial Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

## C.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 26th April, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed letter of 26th instant, requesting to be favoured with a reply to your despatches Nos. 2,796 and 2,797 of 3rd December, and I am directed by my Committee to apologise for the delay in replying which has, however, been almost unavoidable.

The two Bills referred to, Fraudulent Marks on Merchandise, and Registration of Trade Marks Ordinances, are under the consideration of those Members of the Committee most interested in the questions involved and I hope to have the pleasure of forwarding you a reply without much further delay.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Hon. W. M. DEANE, M.A., C.M.G.,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 23rd June, 1890.

SIR,—Begging reference to your esteemed communication of 26th April No. 886 I have now the honour to inform you the two Bills mentioned therein have had the careful consideration of the Committee of this Chamber, and I am directed to state—

That as regards *An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to the Registration of Trade Marks* the Committee are disposed to think that increased legislative powers in that direction are hardly necessary, and it appears to them that to carry out the objects contemplated by the Ordinance with perfect efficiency would require the maintenance of a staff, and involve an expenditure, incompatible with the requirements of the Colony. A complicated and elaborate system of registration in the United Kingdom gives protection to the owners of Trade Marks who can further protect themselves here by registration under the existing Ordinance, and there are no local productions at present that appear likely to seek special protection.



## C.

*An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Fraudulent Marks on Merchandise* also aims at increased scope of action which my Committee consider is in the present state of the trade hardly required.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Hon. W. M. DEANE, M.A., C.M.G.,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

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## D.

BRITISH CONSULATE,  
SWATOW, 25th March, 1890.

SIR,—In the *Daily Press* of the 21st instant a document appears which purports to be a copy of a letter, dated 23rd January, 1890, from you to the Honourable N. G. MITCHELL-INNES, Acting Registrar General of Hongkong on the subject of a proposed revision of the Chinese Emigration Act.

The following passage occurs in the letter :—

“Incidentally it may be mentioned that, at the present moment,  
“emigration is permitted from Swatow to the Dutch Straits  
“Settlements by vessels other than British, while coolies for  
“the Settlements of British North Borneo are not allowed to  
“depart from Swatow in ships flying the British flag.”

Permit me to point out to you that each of these statements is a mistaken one. Having learned in 1888 that the then Governor General at Canton had given formal permission to German steamers chartered by a certain hong to convey passengers from Swatow to Sumatra, I wrote to His Excellency on behalf of British vessels that might wish to engage in the same emigration trade, and their right to do so was fully recognised in a despatch to me of November 30th, 1888. As regards British North Borneo, official notices were at my request posted in Swatow last year by direction of the Taotai, in which the Natives were told that they were at perfect liberty to emigrate to that country in steamers employed by any British Merchant in Swatow.

Emigrants going from Swatow to Sumatra or British North Borneo or elsewhere in a vessel of any nationality must, as is well known, be free passengers and not under contracts of service.

**D.**

No British vessel has as yet attempted to carry emigrants from this Port to Sumatra or British North Borneo—a fact for which good local reasons can be given.—I have, &c.,

A. FRATER, *Officiating Consul.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

HONGKONG, 19th April, 1890.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed communication of 25th March, and would ask you to be good enough to excuse the delay—almost unavoidable—which has arisen in replying to same.

I am directed by my Committee to thank you for having been good enough to draw their attention to some erroneous statements which unfortunately appeared in the Chamber's letter to the Hon. N. G. MITCHELL-INNES of 23rd January last, having reference to some supposed restrictions in the emigration of Chinese coolies from Swatow by vessels flying the English flag.

The notices to which you refer were not, as far as I am aware, made public in Hongkong and may have in consequence escaped the notice of my Committee.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

A. FRATER, Esq.,

*H. B. M.'s Officiating Consul, SWATOW.*

**E.**


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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

HONGKONG, 24th June, 1890.

SIR,—I am directed by my Committee to address you in reference to a proposal made last year in the Legislative Council, and again brought forward yesterday by the Hon. PHINEAS RYRIE at the request of this Chamber, for the establishment of a Lighthouse Board, and I have the honour to request that you will be good enough to bring the subject to the notice of His Excellency the Administrator.

## E.

It may be within the recollection of His Excellency that the subject was referred to at a Meeting of the Legislative Council on 12th December last, when His Excellency Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX remarking thereon stated—

That as the matter had been somewhat hurriedly introduced it would hardly be expected that he would then express a final opinion, but that he had no *a priori* objection. He presumed the first object would be to see that lighthouse money was devoted to lighthouses, and stated that such Boards existed in other Colonies. His Excellency marked his approval of the scheme when stating that it would receive his best consideration, and he dared say would probably form one of those many projects which he hoped to carry out for the good of the Colony.

The shipping business of Hongkong is of such paramount importance to the Colony that my Committee cannot but look favourable upon a proposal, which, if carried out, would tend to foster that branch of its trade.

The Committee have no hesitation in strongly recommending the adoption of the proposal to the very favourable consideration of His Excellency the Administrator.

Among other duties devolving upon the Board would be the supervision of lighthouses, the regulation and collection of dues, and the appropriation of same to the specific purposes for which they are levied. The powers of the Board might be increased as circumstances appeared advisable, and my Committee venture to suggest that tentatively its Members should comprise: Two Members appointed by the Government, one of whom should always be Chairman with a casting vote, and two others to be appointed by this Chamber.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

Hon. W. M. DEANE, M.A., C.M.G.,

*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

No. 2,212.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

HONGKONG, 30th June, 1890.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 24th instant I have the honour, by direction of the Officer Administering the Government, to inform you that there was no Meeting held of the Legislative Council on the 12th December last.

## E.

2. His Excellency has read the account in the *Daily Press* newspaper of the Meeting held on the 18th December last and does not find that anything then said by His Excellency Sir G. WILLIAM DES VŒUX amounts to what is stated in your letter now under answer. His Excellency would therefore be glad if the Chamber of Commerce would be good enough to inform him where the proceedings, in which Sir G. WILLIAM DES VŒUX expressed his approval to establish a Lighthouse Board stating that the subject should receive his best consideration, can be found.—I have, &c.,

W. M. DEANE, *Acting Colonial Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

HONGKONG, 30th June, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed communication of this date and in reply to same beg to state I very much regret that in this Chamber's letter of 24th instant on the subject of a proposed Lighthouse Board the Legislative Meeting therein referred to was inadvertently stated to have taken place on 12th December, 1889, instead of 12th February of this year.

For the information of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government I beg to hand you the annexed extract from the Report of the Legislative Council Meeting of 12th February last taken from *Hongkong Daily Press* of 13th February.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

Hon. W. M. DEANE, M.A., C.M.G.,

*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

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*Extract from "Hongkong Daily Press" 13th February, 1890.*

"With reference to the first question put by Mr. MAC EWEN I may say that within the last few days a proposition was made to me with reference to a Lighthouse Board. The matter has come upon me too suddenly, and I have therefore not considered it sufficiently as yet. The gentleman who proposed it I don't think I need have any hesitation in saying is Mr. MAC EWEN, and he will hardly expect me to give a final opinion on it now. Suffice it



**E.**

to say I have no *a priori* objection to it. I conceive its first object is to see that lighthouse money is devoted to lighthouses. I don't know whether there are any other objects, although there probably are other objects, and I know there are such Boards in other Colonies; all I can say at the present moment is that it will have my best consideration, and I dare say may form one of those many projects as yet not carried out which I hope to carry out for the benefit of the Colony. Beyond that I can't say anything, as I really have not had time to consider it. I have also this satisfaction in putting it off for six months, that this happens to be the time when there is least reason to complain about any balance of revenue over expenditure on lighthouses, because I expect that the expenditure of this year and the end of last year will cover all the difference between revenue and expenditure for a good many years past. Therefore the present is the time when there is least ground on that point for a change. Still I think a Lighthouse Board might be a very good thing for other reasons, and therefore I shall be happy to give it my best consideration and I am sure my *locum tenens* on my left (the Colonial Secretary) will also do so.

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COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

HONGKONG, 22nd July, 1890.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 30th June, and adverting to previous correspondence, I have the honour, by direction of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, to inform you that the Government will, when next year's estimates are being dealt with, consider how far it is possible to separate the Lighthouse Dues from the General Revenue of the Colony.—I have, &c.,

W. M. DEANE, *Acting Colonial Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

**F.**

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY,

HONGKONG, 22nd September, 1890.

GAP ROCK.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to direct the special attention of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to a Notice to Mariners published in the *Hong-*

## F.

*hong Government Gazette* of the 6th instant, which states that several dangers have been discovered in the vicinity of the Gap Rock and Shipmasters are warned not to approach the Rock on either side nearer than one-and-a-half cables.

I would venture to suggest that the Government be asked to take steps to ascertain more definitely the nature and extent of the dangers in question, and if practicable, to remove them entirely or adopt such means as may be considered advisable to render the navigation near the rock as safe as possible.

When the Gap Rock Light is exhibited vessels will doubtless approach much closer to the rock than they do at present and as the obstructions are reported to be about a quarter of a mile distant on either side of the rock a miscalculation by a Commander of half a cable or so, due to atmospheric influences, would in all probability cause the loss of his vessel.

Therefore unless some precautions are taken to guard against the dangers referred to, it seems to me that the Light will produce an element of risk rather than be a safe guide to Mariners.

Another matter in connection with the Gap Rock also demands the particular attention of the Chamber, *i e.*, the great importance of placing the Lighthouse in telegraphic or telephonic communication with this Colony and the Government should be requested to earnestly consider the advisability of carrying out such a scheme. The present system of signalling from the Peak is antiquated and inconvenient and unworthy of this age of science and advancement.

The completion of Lighthouse would therefore be an opportune time to introduce a more modern and expeditious method of reporting the arrival of vessels and it occurs to me that this could be satisfactorily arranged by placing an office, connected by wire with the Gap Rock in the same building as the Telephone Exchange. Agents or owners could then be at once informed that their vessel has passed the rock. The news could also be posted outside the office for the information of the public generally.

A telegraphic cable for the purpose above mentioned would probably cost between £25,000 and £30,000 and this outlay could be met by a loan

## F.

obtained locally and be paid off in a certain period from the surplus light dues levied at the old rate of one cent per ton.—I am, &c.,

E. L. WOODIN, *Superintendent*.

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary*, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 3rd October, 1890.

SIR,—The Committee of this Chamber have on several occasions had the honour of addressing you in reference to lighting the southern approach to the Harbour of Hongkong when it was finally decided to fix on the Gap Rock as the most suitable site for a Lighthouse.

The Committee consider it would add much to the usefulness of the Lighthouse if it were put in direct communication with Hongkong, and at a recent meeting it was resolved to bring to the notice of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government the desirability of establishing communication either by electric cable, or, should such a course be feasible, by telephone.

It appears to the Committee highly desirable that the Gap Rock should be connected with Hongkong not only for the purpose of keeping up communication between the Authorities and their employés at the Lighthouse at such times as the state of the weather renders ordinary intercourse dangerous or impossible, but also as a means of affording early information of the approach of vessels.

The expense of laying a Cable would of course be considerable but the Committee are very strongly of opinion that any undertaking which promises to encourage and facilitate shipping business—the mainspring of Hongkong's progress—merits liberal expenditure at the hands of the Government.

Should additional funds, to those already voted, be required to carry out the suggestion of the Committee the temporary tax on tonnage now levied could be continued till the additional expenditure was liquidated.

## F.

Requesting that you will be good enough to lay the contents of this letter before His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government for his favourable consideration,—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

Hon. W. M. DEANE, M.A., C.M.G.,

*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

No. 2894.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

HONGKONG, 6th October, 1890.

SIR,—I am directed by the Officer Administering the Government to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, suggesting that communication by telegraph and telephone should be established between the Gap Rock Lighthouse and Hongkong, and to acquaint you for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, that although His Excellency is not at present in a position to make any promise as regards the matter referred to, he will nevertheless give it his careful consideration, and will lose no time in making enquiries as to the cost of effecting the object desired by the Chamber.—I have, &c.,

W. M. DEANE, *Acting Colonial Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

HONGKONG, 22nd October, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favour of 22nd ultimo having reference to the connecting of the Gap Rock Light with Hongkong by Cable, and also to certain dangers to navigation existing in the neighbourhood of the Light referred to in the *Government Gazette* of 6th September.

Both matters have already had the attention of my Committee and have formed the subject of correspondence with the Government and Commodore CHURCH. His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has promised that the suggested connection of the Gap Rock would receive his



## F.

careful consideration and that no time will be lost in making enquiries as to the cost of effecting the object desired by the Chamber. Commodore CHURCH in his reply states that the Chamber's letter will be forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief.

My Committee are entirely of your opinion that it is highly desirable that the Gap Rock Light should be connected with Hongkong by Cable.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

E. L. WOODIN, Esq.,

*Superintendent, PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL S. N. Co.*

No. 3,172.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

HONGKONG, 22nd November, 1890.

SIR,—I am directed by the Officer Administering the Government with reference to my letter No. 2,894 of the 6th ultimo, to transmit to you, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, a copy of a letter from Mr. JUDD with a memo thereon by the Surveyor General on the subject of the cost of the proposed cable to the Gap Rock Lighthouse.

His Excellency will be glad to receive any observations the Chamber may have to make, but I am to suggest that it should be considered whether or not it would be better to defer taking steps with regard to the laying of a cable until the completion of the lighthouse.—I have, &c.,

W. M. DEANE, *Acting Colonial Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

Copy.

HONGKONG, 28th October, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I have received the following from my Head Office:—

“The Companies are prepared to supply and lay on behalf of the Hongkong Government a cable 33 knots in length between Gap Rock Lighthouse and Hongkong and would recommend type E (7-ton cable) being used throughout as most suitable, having regard to the shallow water, anchorage risk, &c., &c.” The Companies have not sufficient cable of this type in stock but could send it out from England delivered at Hongkong within about

F.

five (5) months from the date of the contract for £11,550 (eleven thousand five hundred and fifty pounds). The core would be 130lbs. of gutta percha and 130 lbs. of copper per knot, protected against teredo by a brass ribbon.

If the Government require lighter cable, it could be supplied from stock in China, eight knots of type E (7 tons) and twenty-five knots type B (3.4 tons), core 200 by 200lbs. per knot, protected with brass ribbon for £10,700 (ten thousand seven hundred pounds), or these could be supplied from Singapore similar lengths and types, core 130 by 130lbs. protected with brass ribbon for £9,050 (nine thousand and fifty pounds). The cable ship would be £100 (one hundred pounds) additional for each day she was employed upon the work, including the voyage to and from Singapore or Shanghai, which are the headquarters of the Companies' ship.

The land line between the town and Deep Water Bay would cost £500 (five hundred pounds) extra.

The route for the cable would be from Deep Water Bay, following the course of our cable to Haiphong.

Little is at present known as to the practicability of working telephones over such a length of cable, and although experiments are now being carried out in England, the Companies are not able to make any positive statement on the subject.

Should a telephone, however, be practicable, the cost of the necessary apparatus would be £75 (seventy-five pounds).

The cost of telegraph apparatus would be £150 (one hundred and fifty pounds).

SUMMARY.	£
A. 33 knots type E delivered in Hongkong. Core 130/130 } brass ribbon, - - - - -	11,550
B. 8 knots type E 25 knots B delivered in Hongkong. Core } 200/200 brass ribbon, - - - - -	10,700
C. 8 knots E 25 knots B delivered in Hongkong. Core } 130/130 brass ribbon, - - - - -	9,050
Ship £100 per day including voyage to and from headquarters.	
Apparatus Telephone, - - - - -	£ 75
,, Telegraph, - - - - -	£150

**F.**

We shall be glad to obtain any further information required by the Government.—I am, &c.,

WALTER JUDD, *Manager in China.*

Honourable S. BROWN, *Surveyor General.*

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MINUTE BY THE SURVEYOR GENERAL.

From the information contained in the letter from Mr. JUDD attached I estimate the cost of establishing Telegraphic Communication with the Gap Rock at from £10,000 (\$60,000) to £13,000 (\$78,000) according to the type of cable employed. I am of opinion taking all the conditions affecting this case into consideration that it would probably prove the most economical course in the long run to lay the heavier and more costly cable.

S. BROWN, *Surveyor General.*

HONGKONG, 30th October, 1890.

---

**G.**

(Copy.)

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

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GAP ROCK.

The operations in connection with the Establishment of the Gap Rock Lighthouse have disclosed the fact that there are several dangers close to the Rock.

Shipmasters are therefore advised not to approach the Rock on either side nearer than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cables.

R. MURRAY RUMSEY, Ret. Com., R.N.,  
*Harbour Master, &c.*

Harbour Department, Hongkong, 2nd September, 1890.

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 3rd October, 1890.

SIR,—The attention of the Committee of this Chamber has been directed to a notification which appeared in the *Government Gazette* of September

## G.

Gth, stating that several dangers had been disclosed in the neighbourhood of the Gap Rock, and warning Shipmasters not to approach on either side nearer than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cables.

In connection with this Notification I have been instructed to address you on behalf of the Committee who will feel greatly obliged if you can kindly inform them, if it is in your power to do so, if any steps will be taken to carefully survey and lay down on the Charts these dangers which extending as they do to a considerable distance on both sides of the Gap Rock are a serious menace to shipping and may, if allowed to remain unsurveyed, render the Lighthouse a danger rather than a safe guard to vessel travelling in these waters.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

Commodore EDMUND J. CHURCH, R.N.

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H.M.S. *Victor Emanuel,*

HONGKONG, 6th October, 1890.

SIR,—I am directed by the Commodore to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, stating that several dangers have been reported as existing in the neighbourhood of the Gap Rock.

2. In reply I am to inform you that your letter will be forwarded by the first opportunity, for the consideration of the Commander-in-Chief.

3. At the same time the Commodore wishes the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to observe that the programme of work to be carried out by the Surveying Vessels, is under the direction of the Hydrographer of the Navy and that the *Rambler* is at present employed on a survey of the Chusan Archipelago.

4. I am further to add that before the lighthouse on the Gap Rock is completed, the position of the Rocks in the neighbourhood will undoubtedly be fixed.—I am, &c.,

GEORGE W. WHILLIER,

*Secretary to the Commodore.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary,* HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.



## G.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 23rd October, 1890.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed communication of 6th instant, in reply to the Chamber's letter of 3rd having reference to a Government Notification of dangers to navigation existing in the neighbourhood of the Gap Rock Lighthouse and further to thank you for the information conveyed in the above favour and also for your kindness in promising to forward the Chamber's letter to the Commander-in-Chief.

The statement on the third paragraph of your letter that the programme of work to be carried out by the surveying vessels is under the direction of the Hydrographer of the Navy and that the *Rambler* is at present employed in survey of the Chusan Archipelago suggests possible difficulties in the way of immediately fixing the position of the dangers above referred to.

In connection with this remark my Committee beg to point out that in the course of correspondence with the Commander-in-Chief with reference to the discovery of Pinnacle Rocks he stated when writing from Yokohama, 26th September, 1889, that should Pinnacle Rocks be reported any of Her Majesty's Vessels under my command are fully capable of fixing their position accurately.

That the exact position of these dangers, situated as they are in the direct track of vessels approaching or leaving Hongkong, should be at once ascertained seems to my Committee to be of the utmost importance and they beg to request that you will kindly bring the matter to the early notice of Vice-Admiral Sir NOWELL SALMON with the object that should he see fit to do so one of Her Majesty's Vessels under his command might be detailed for this special service without delay.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

Commodore EDMUND J. CHURCH, R.N.,  
H. M. S. *Victor Emmanuel*.

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H.M.S. *Victor Emmanuel*,  
HONGKONG, 27th October, 1890.

SIR,—I am desired by the Commodore to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant which suggests that one of Her Majesty's

**G.**

ships, not being a surveying ship, should fix the position of the rocks in the vicinity of the Gap Rock, and to inform you that he does not consider the rocks alluded to as being dangerous, in the sense urged in your letter, for they are situated so close to the Gap Rock as not to be in the track of vessels approaching or leaving Hongkong.

I am further directed to acquaint you, that the Commodore had already requested the Commander of the *Rambler* to fix the position of these rocks on his arrival here.

I am to add with reference to the last paragraph of your letter that the ships on the South China Division are at the immediate disposal of the Commodore for any service that he considers necessary, without reference to the Commander-in-Chief.—I am, &c.,

GEORGE W. WHILLIER, *Secretary to the Commodore.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

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**H.**

H.M.S. *Victor Emanuel,*

HONGKONG, 8th September, 1890.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, I beg to inform you that Commander DAWSON intends to leave Shanghai in the *Rambler* on the 12th instant, for Ting-hae, to carry out surveying duties in the Clusan Archipelago.—I am, &c.,

GEORGE W. WHILLIER, *Secretary to Commodore.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

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**I.**

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

HONGKONG, 9th September, 1890.

SIR,—I beg to thank you for your communication of yesterday kindly furnishing me with the information asked for regarding the intended movements of H.M.S. *Rambler.*

## I.

I have already had the pleasure of addressing Commodore CHURCH in regard to the Pinnacle Rock Fund and for his information now beg to enclose an open cover for Captain DAWSON having reference to the same subject.

I shall feel much obliged if you will be good enough to forward the cover to its destination.—I remain, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

GEORGE W. WHILLIER, Esq., R.N., *Secretary to Commodore.*

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 9th September, 1890.

SIR,—During your stay in Hongkong I had the pleasure of bringing to your notice the existence of what is known as the Pinnacle Rock Fund, and I now beg to ask your attention to the accompanying printed copies of correspondence, &c. having reference to the same. The object of the Fund is—as you are aware—to reward fishermen or others supplying information regarding the position of Pinnacle Rocks and other dangers to navigation.

Having kindly expressed your willingness to assist in the distribution of the Fund I have now the pleasure to inform you that this Chamber has arranged a credit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Shanghai for \$500, which will be available, when opportunity offers, in payment of rewards, defraying expenses in making known the existence of the Fund or any other expenses that may be incurred in carrying out the objects for which it was instituted. As it is understood the *Rambler* may shortly be recommissioned the credit has been made out in favour of *The Officer Commanding H. M. S. Rambler*, and should such a change take place, my Committee will feel greatly obliged if you will kindly enlist the good offices of your successor in carrying out the objects for which the Fund was originated.

Orders drawn under the credit above referred to will be cashed in presentation to the Bank in Shanghai.

I may point out that only one payment was made from the Fund before the *Rambler* last left the station, but as it had then been only a very short time in existence the fact does not in any way reflect on the probably future

## I.

usefulness of such a system of remunerations. The amount paid was only sixteen dollars but the circumstance under which the reward was made may have rendered a larger remuneration uncalled for.

Thanking you in anticipation for any assistance you may be good enough to render in forwarding the objects of the Fund—I remain, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

Captain I. S. DAWSON, R.N.,  
H. M. S. *Rambler.*

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H. M. S. *Victor Emanuel*,  
HONGKONG, 10th September, 1890.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, enclosing an open cover for transmission to Commander DAWSON of the *Rambler* containing information on the subject of the Pinnacle Rock Fund.

The contents of the cover have been read by the Commodore, and they will be forwarded on to Commander DAWSON this evening.—I am, &c.,

GEORGE W. WHILLIER,  
*Secretary to the Commodore.*

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

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**J.**

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 4th October, 1890.

SIR,—Learning from the Chairman, Mr. MACKINTOSH, that on the subject of Weather Signals having been brought to your notice you had been good enough to express your willingness to assist in making such signals more public than they are at present my Committee have instructed me to address you in reference to this matter on their behalf.

The Committee consider that if some arrangement could be conveniently arrived at by which Weather Signals would be hoisted night and day from Her Majesty's Ship *Victor Emanuel* such an arrangement would prove a very great public convenience.



J.

The present system of signals displayed at Kowloon only is inadequate to the requirements of the Port and any efforts you may be good enough to make towards improving the present state of things by additional signals would be much appreciated.

Should the proposal meet with your approval the mode in which it would be carried out will, I presume, be referred to by you later.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

Commodore EDMUND J. CHURCH, R.N.,  
H. M. S. *Victor Emanuel*.

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H. M. S. *Victor Emanuel*,  
HONGKONG, 8th October, 1890.

SIR,—I am directed by the Commodore to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, on the subject of Weather Signals, and to inform you that a reply to the same shall be forwarded as soon as the Commodore is able to give the matter full consideration.—I am, &c.,

GEORGE W. WHILLIER,  
*Secretary to the Commodore*.

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

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 16th January, 1891.

SIR,—The Committee of this Chamber has already had the pleasure of addressing you in reference to a suggested display of Weather Signals from Her Majesty's Ship *Victor Emanuel*—a matter which you were good enough to say would receive your attention, and be further referred to when you had the opportunity of fully considering the proposal.

I am directed by my Committee to state that they will be much pleased to learn how far the suggestion met with your approval, and if it appeared to you, on further consideration, capable of being carried out.

J.

It is scarcely necessary to again refer to the rather inadequate system at present in operation at Kowloon, or how very great a boon to the Colony would be a timely display of storm warnings from your vessel.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

Commodore EDMUND J. CHURCH, R.N.,  
H. M. S. *Victor Emanuel.*

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H. M. S. *Victor Emanuel,*  
HONGKONG, 19th July, 1891.

SIR,—I am desired by the Commodore to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant on the subject of Weather Signals.

I regret to inform you that the Commodore is indisposed and unable to deal with the matter just at present, but that it shall have his early attention on his return to duty.—I am, &c.,

GEORGE W. WHILLIER,  
*Secretary to the Commodore.*

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

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H. M. S. *Victor Emanuel,*  
HONGKONG, 5th February, 1891.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of 16th January, I am directed by the Commodore to inform you that he has no objection to repeating the weather day signals, which might be made from the Observatory, but he cannot undertake to show any night signals from the *Victor Emanuel* as they might be misleading.

The *Victor Emanuel* is specially charged with making certain signals, at night, which together with typhoon signals would lead to confusion.—I am, &c.,

GEORGE W. WHILLIER,  
*Secretary to the Commodore.*

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

**K.**

No. 3,074.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
HONGKONG, 10th November, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour by direction of the Officer Administering the Government to transmit to you copy of Despatch received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies respecting a proposed diminution of the Rates of Postage, together with copy of a report thereon by the Acting Assistant Postmaster General. His Excellency would be obliged if the Members of the Chamber of Commerce would be so good as to favour him with their views on the subject.—I have, &c.,

F. H. MAY, *for Acting Colonial Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary,* HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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No. 3,266.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.  
HONGKONG, 11th December, 1890.

SIR,—With reference to my letter No. 3,074 of the 4th instant I am directed by the Officer Administering the Government to acquaint you, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce that His Excellency has received a telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies stating that Her Majesty's Government proposed to adopt the reduced postal rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}d.$  on the 1st of January and enquiring whether this Colony is prepared to inaugurate a similar arrangement with regard to the homeward mail leaving about that date.

Lord KNUTSFORD having requested a reply by telegraph His Excellency would be much obliged if the Chamber would favour him with their views on the question as soon as possible.—I have, &c.,

W. M. DEANE, *Acting Colonial Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary,* HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 13th December, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed communications of 10th November and 11th December having reference to a



## K.

suggested reduction in postal rates, and requesting His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government might be furnished with the views of the Committee of this Chamber with regard to the proposed change.

My Committee desire me to state, with reference to the contemplated diminution of rates of postage by the mails between this and Europe, that in principle, as being a benefit to trade, and doing away with the existing anomaly of heavier rates of postage being charged by the English mails than those of other countries, the alteration is one that commends itself for adoption. At the same time my Committee, with the meagre information before them, are unable to express an opinion upon the policy of the change as it will affect the finances of the colony. The colony's postal establishment appears to leave a small profit, while the calculations submitted as the result of the contemplated reduction of postage would probably sweep away the profit and result in loss in this branch of public revenue. Again the payments with which this particular item of postal revenue is saddled, say 'Contribution towards P. & O. Subsidy' and 'Share of other Countries,' would seem to show that the colony is already more heavily burdened than it should be for the pecuniary benefits derived from these particular mails. It also strikes my Committee that some rectification should take place in the payments as stated in the Assistant Postmaster's Report, paragraph No. 17, which shows that each letter by English mails charged postage at the rate of *5d.* per half-ounce contributes from that amount *3.09d.* to the various countries through which it passes, leaving a positive loss to this colony which it will have to bear, not for its own mail matter only, but also for that of the Treaty Ports in China, if rates are reduced. It seems reasonable to expect that the whole of the loss caused by the postage reduction should not attach to this colony, but that a modification of the sums paid

to Egypt .....	<i>0.22d.</i>
Italy .....	<i>0.53d.</i>
France .....	<i>0.37d.</i>
United Kingdom .....	<i>1.67d.</i>

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*3.09d.*

should if possible form part of the scheme when the proposed reduction is discussed. Without some reduction in the present charge, even if it be



## K.

possible only from the Imperial share, the whole onus of the contemplated reduced postage scale will fall upon this colony. The policy of other nations, who, with far less trade interests in China than Great Britain, and who subsidise mails to the East, appears to be to bear the entire cost of such mail communications themselves.

My Committee would also suggest that the face value of the present postage stamp could—as a temporary measure—be altered to accord with any unit that may be decided upon by simply printing on the stamps at present in use, in bold black figures, the new value that may be decided.

It may perhaps be worth considering whether, in the future, the denomination of the stamps for European mails should be altered from local currency to sterling. This would, in a great measure, overcome the loss or profit from exchange fluctuations falling upon the Government and cause that incidence to lie with those who are mainly interested.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Hon. W. M. DEANE, M.A., C.M.G.,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

---

**L.**

BRITISH MERCANTILE MARINE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION.

HONGKONG, 22nd September, 1890.

SUNDAY LABOUR QUESTION.

SIR,—I am directed to hand you the enclosed copy of a special resolution which was adopted at a meeting of this Association held last Friday night, and in so doing have to say that this Association trusts you will be pleased to accede to its desire for a conference (either public or private, the former preferred) in the hope that some *modus vivendi*, as the outcome of our joint deliberations, may be happily arrived at in connection with this important question.

I am further instructed to assure you that this Association desires to move, in respect to this much-vexed question, in concert with shipowners and not—as some may conjecture or aver—in antagonism to employers generally.

L.

Hoping your honourable Chamber will favour this request for a conference with its kind consideration and assuring you of our deep esteem,—I have, &c.,

CHESNEY DUNCAN, *Honorary Secretary*,

E. MACKINTOSH, Esq.,

Chairman, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HONGKONG.

RESOLUTION.

“That in view of the fact that official and general opinion sets forth that the cessation of labour on board ships on Sunday in Hongkong can be effected only by the Chamber of Commerce, this Association decides that special representations should be made to the Chamber of Commerce with a view to bringing about a conference between delegates of this Association and the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.”

CHESNEY DUNCAN, *Honorary Secretary*,

B. M. M. O. Association.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

HONGKONG, 11th October, 1890.

SIR,—In answer to your favour of 22nd ultimo, which I have not had the opportunity of replying to earlier, I am directed to state that the Committee of the Chamber will be happy to receive a deputation from the British Mercantile Marine Officers' Association to consider the Sunday Labour Question on Friday, the 17th instant, at four p.m. which hour it is hoped will prove convenient.—I am, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

CHESNEY DUNCAN, Esq.,

*Hon. Secretary*, BRITISH MERCANTILE MARINE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, HONGKONG.

BRITISH MERCANTILE MARINE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION,

HONGKONG, 14th October, 1890.

SIR,—In reply to your esteemed favour of the 11th instant, I have to say that the day and hour fixed for the reception of a deputation of this As-

## L.

sociation by the Committee of your honourable Chamber will, as far as I know at present, suit admirably.

I take this opportunity of tendering to you the thanks of the Association for the favour of your good offices in respect to the arrangement which you have so kindly effected.—I am, &c.,

CHESNEY DUNCAN, *Honorary Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HONGKONG.*

No. 2,828.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

HONGKONG, 25th September, 1890.

SIR,—I am directed by the Officer Administering the Government to transmit to you, to be laid before the Chamber of Commerce, the enclosed copy of a Circular Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and to state that His Excellency would be obliged if the Chamber would be good enough to furnish him with any information in their power regarding queries Nos. 2 and 3 contained therein.—I have, &c.,

F. H. MAY, *for Acting Colonial Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HONGKONG.*

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

HONGKONG, 7th October, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your valued communication of 25th ultimo, and am directed to state in reply to certain enquiries contained in a Circular Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To query No. 2—Whether there is in fact any labour on Sundays in the docks or on the wharves of the ports of the Colony under your Government? Yes.

## L.

To query No. 3.—Whether such Sunday labour is practically stopped by Rules or Regulations of public bodies or by combination of workmen against it? No.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Hon. W. M. DEANE, M.A., C.M.G.,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 31st October, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—The Committee of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce have given most careful consideration to the subject of Sunday Labour in this harbour which your deputation brought so forcibly to their notice at the interview held on the 17th instant. To assist them in coming to a conclusion based on the widest views the principal Members of the Chamber interested in the Shipping of the Colony, were invited to meet the Committee to discuss the subject.

The unanimous opinion of those present was it would be impolitic to ask the Government, as you desired, to legislate specially to stop Sunday work in this harbour, the restriction being applied to vessels of all nationalities.

The Committee are of opinion that the Government could not legislate for the complete suppression of Sunday labour in this harbour as the questions involved are very serious and would affect injuriously all the shipping interests of the Colony, and particularly the large Chinese population connected therewith. Indeed if such a recommendation was formulated by the Chamber of Commerce, the Committee are of opinion the Government would not legislate in the direction sought by your body.

The Committee look upon the question as one that rests solely between employers and employed. But they are pleased to state that during the discussion which ensued at the meeting a strong opinion was evinced that all European supervision for the loading and discharging of cargo during Sundays, by vessels engaged in the local Coast trades, could be dispensed with if the officers elected. It therefore rests with individual officers on the Coast trade to seek that privilege from their respective employers.



## L.

With regard to Ocean steamers as distinguished from Coast, the matter appears to the Committee to be somewhat different. The incidence of Sunday work on officers in those services is less frequent than with the Coast. They may, and no doubt frequently do, escape Sunday in this port. While on the average duration of an Ocean voyage say four months, an occasional Sunday work in Hongkong does not appear to the Committee to present an intolerable burden to officers. With Ocean vessels touching at Hongkong the working of cargo in port on all days must be considered one of the incidents of the voyage. Hongkong presents some peculiarities: it is not a terminus, the bulk of its Ocean traffic ends at Shanghai where "bar" obstacles are met and the loss of a day in Hongkong might lead to most serious pecuniary sacrifice to shipowners.

The question therefore appears to the Committee to be reduced to the smallest proportions.

The Coast trade officers can obtain without doubt on individual application to their respective employers freedom from supervising cargo work on Sundays, while officers' of Ocean steamers remedy rests also with their employers. The latter while considering the officers' application for relief will doubtless bear in mind the infrequency of the incidence of Sunday work occurring in this port, and the probable great loss they incur from delays in prosecuting their voyages if they concede the Sunday in this harbour to their employees.

The Committee desire me to thank you for having brought the matter to their notice and hope their efforts will result in the settlement of a question that has for some time troubled a section of the community.—I remain, &c.,

E. MACKINTOSH, *Chairman.*

Captain S. ASHTON, *President,*

BRITISH MERCANTILE MARINE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, HONGKONG.

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HONGKONG, 10th November, 1890.

SIR,—In acknowledging the receipt of and thanking you for your letter of the 31st ult., I have to state that this body considers your proposition quite impracticable, for the following reasons:—In the first place, no in-

## L.

dividual officer is independent enough to make application to individual owners for exemption from duty on Sunday. We consider that in doing so he would be running a personal risk which is undesirable. Secondly, some owners might graciously grant his request, while others might object. For instance, owners of foreign steamers and British Chinese-owned steamers in the Straits or other trade might be very likely to object. In case of these objections, we can only view with alarm difficulties between individual officers and individual owners which we as an Association wish studiously to avoid. In conclusion, I may add that the British mercantile marine officer is a man who would not stand by disinterestedly while foreign interests were gaining an advantage over those of his employers. We take pride in our ships and in our work; and we would rather work on Sundays or any other day than see our employers suffer. But it is not necessarily admitted that either public or private interests would be prejudiced were labour totally suspended on board ships in this port on Sunday.—I have, &c.,

S. ASHTON, *President,*

B. M. M. O. Association.

To E. MACKINTOSH, Esq.,

*Chairman,* CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

No. 3,222.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

HONGKONG, 2nd December, 1891.

SIR,—I have the honour by direction of the Officer Administering the Government with reference to previous correspondence to transmit to you for the consideration of the Chamber of Commerce a copy of a letter from Commander DAWSON, R.N., to the Colonial Office on the subject of Sunday Labour in the Harbour of Hongkong.

As this communication has been sent to His Excellency for consideration and report, I am to state that His Excellency will be obliged to your Chamber for any observations thereon which they may desire to make.—I have, &c.,

W. M. DEANE, *Acting Colonial Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary,* HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

L.

(Copy.)

11, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND,  
LONDON, W.C., 14th October, 1890.

## SUNDAY LABOUR IN HONGKONG HARBOUR.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to enclose a copy of the *China Mail* of September 8th, 1890, containing a very temperate address by the President of the Mercantile Marine Officers' Association on the working of cargoes on Sundays in Hongkong Harbour, which discredits the British flag and the Government of a Crown Colony, and by which the officers of ships, who presented a numerously signed petition to the Governor, are the chief sufferers.

The *China Mail* from time to time states that the public opinion of the Colony is in favour of reasonable restriction on compulsory Sunday work afloat. The Chamber of Commerce, who are said to be opposed to such restrictions as exist in the Australian and other Colonies, do not represent in any way either the general public of Hongkong or their own personal opinions on this matter; but act as the agents and consignees of absentee shipowners and merchants in England and Scotland, who would not dare to do at home what they compel their officers to do at Hongkong.

The restrictions prayed for by seamen could do no harm to the trade of Hongkong, as there is no other port in the China seas to which ships could resort.

Nor could such restrictions injure shipowners or merchants, as they would simply do as in Anstralia, viz., time their steam-ships, which are the chief offenders, to arrive at Hongkong in the beginning of the week instead of on Saturday or Sunday.

Seamen ask your Lordship to enact at Hongkong what has worked well at Bombay for eight years, where the coolies are heathen as at Hongkong, the Bombay Standing Order No. 1,802 of 23rd August, 1882, merely altering the word "rupees" into "dollars."

The Order runs thus :—

"Sunday working on board steamers in the harbour shall be permitted on payment, in addition to the ordinary fees at present levied, of a fee equal to one day's demurrage, subject to a minimum charge of 50 rupees and a maximum charge of 200 rupees, for each ship on board of which work is carried on." Demurrage for this purpose to be calculated at the rate of 6¼ annas per ton of registered tonnage."



L.

Voluntary action on the part of some shipowners would place them at a disadvantage in competing with rivals in trade whether foreigners or English, so that a general measure would be fair to all alike.

With very cordial thanks to your Lordship for the very kind attention you have so freely given to this great grievance of seamen,—I have, &c.,

WM. DAWSON, *Commander, R. N.*

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 15th December, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 3,222 of 2nd instant, handing copy of a communication from Commander DAWSON, R.N., on the subject of Sunday labour in this harbour on which you desire my Committee's views.

It may be within your knowledge that this matter has recently been the subject of careful consideration by this Chamber. The labour-side of the question having been forcibly put before the Members of the Committee at an interview with the delegates of British Mercantile Marine Officers' Association held on the 17th October.

After careful consideration of the case in all its bearings the enclosed letter dated 31st October was addressed by the Chairman of this Chamber to the President of the British Mercantile Marine Officers' Association. To that letter the reply attached dated 10th November was received. From these communications you have in full detail the opinions of the Committee and the present position of the matter.

I am to add that Commander DAWSON and those who take the labour-side of the question—from the way in which they discuss the subject—would appear to suggest that the alleged grievance of Sunday labour is one that affects such members of a particular body continuously every Sunday in the year the same as if that section of the community were resident in Hongkong and on them fell each seventh day the labour of which they complain. Such is not the case and it is questionable if the Members of the British Mercantile Marine Officers' Association, who are chiefly, if not solely, engaged in the Coast trade of the China seas, do not in a majority of instances escape all Sunday work while those on whom it has fallen in the past are only called



## L.

upon to supervise cargo on a very small percentage of the Sundays in the year. My Committee, you will see, have suggested means by which the local trade officers could entirely escape the labour to which they object, and I am informed that one line of Coast steamers has voluntarily instructed their Commanders to release their officers from supervision of cargo on Sundays on board its vessels. But the Committee's suggestions do not appear to suit the views of the British Mercantile Marine Officers' Association.

Commander DAWSON's recommendation that departures should be timed by shipowners and agents to avoid the necessity for the arrival in Hongkong on Sundays is not practicable in the great majority of cases, for weather considerations on long routes prevent the adoption of such measures becoming operative. I would further add there is a considerable body of local shareholders interested in the Coast trade fleets and that home interests do not predominate to the extent Commander DAWSON intimates.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

The Hon. W. M. DEANE, M.A., C.M.G.,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

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**M.**

CIRCULAR.

DOWNING STREET,  
6th September, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you, for any observations your Government may have to offer, an extract from a letter from the Board of Trade, enclosing a copy of the Merchant Shipping Act Amendment (No. 2) Bill, which was introduced into the House of Commons last Session, and which proposes to amend the law in respect of timber deck loads in winter, bulkheads in iron vessels, and the landing of live cattle in the United Kingdom.

As the measure may possibly be re-introduced next Session, I have to request that I may be favoured with the observations of your Government at their early convenience.—I have, &c.,

KNUTSFORD.

*The Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong.*

## M.

## A BILL

TO

Restrict the Deck-loading of Timber and Live Cattle,  
and to provide Water-tight Bulkheads.

**B**E it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

Amendment  
of law as to  
timber deck-  
loads in  
winter.

1. From and after the *thirty-first day of October one thousand eight hundred and ninety* the twenty-fourth section of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1876 (which relates to timber deck-loads in winter), shall be amended as follows:—

(i.) In sub-section (c) the words "to a height exceeding three feet above the deck" shall be repealed;

(ii.) Any wood goods carried in contravention of the said section as hereby amended shall be treated as smuggled goods, and be forfeited to Her Majesty, and may be seized and detained by any officer of Customs or officer of the Board of Trade without prejudice to any prosecution or other proceeding for a penalty.

Bulkheads—  
iron vessels.

2. It shall be lawful for the Board of Trade from time to time by notice published in the London Gazette and otherwise as they think fit to declare that the regulations as to water-tight bulkheads for the time being required by the Committee of Lloyd's Register of Merchant Shipping to be observed in the construction of iron vessels shall (with or without any general or special exceptions or modifications) be applied in the construction or alteration of iron vessels to be registered as British ships after such date or dates as may be specified in any such notice.

If a British ship to which any such regulations are so applied, and which is not constructed and maintained in accordance with the same, proceeds to sea from any British or foreign port, and is lost or wrecked, the master and every owner thereof shall be jointly and severally liable to pay to the Board of Trade on demand the sum of *three hundred pounds* for every person on board such vessel, unless the master or owner proves as regards any such person that he is alive, or that the contravention of the said regulations did not contribute to the loss or wreck of the ship.

## M.

Any sum so paid shall be applied as the Board of Trade direct for the benefit of the family or relations of persons on board the ship whose lives are lost.

For the purposes of this section a certificate of the Board of Trade that a ship is presumed lost shall be evidence of the loss.

3. Live cattle shall not after the *first day of January one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one* be landed at any port in the United Kingdom from any ship, whether British or foreign, from any port or place west of the twelfth parallel of west longitude. Any cattle so landed in contravention of this section shall be forfeited to Her Majesty, and may be seized and detained by any officer of Customs or of the Board of Trade.

Landing of  
live cattle.

The Board of Trade may from time to time make regulations exempting from this section any description of cattle not imported for the purposes of sale for food.

4. This Act may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (No. 2) Act, 1890. Short title.

(Copy.)

No. 597.

HARBOUR DEPARTMENT,

HONGKONG, 15th November, 1890.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of 8th instant transmitting for my observations documents received from the Secretary of State referring to the amendment of the law respecting Deck-loading of Timber, and Live Cattle, and Water-tight Bulkheads, I have the honour to report that I have no observations to offer with reference to the two former subjects, but with reference to Bulkheads I forward a minute by the Government Marine Surveyor on the subject, with which I concur.—I have, &c.,

R. MURRAY RUMSEY, *Harbour Master*.

Hon. W. M. DEANE, C.M.G.,

*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

(Copy.)

GOVERNMENT MARINE SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

HONGKONG, 14th November, 1890.

“*Re BULKHEADS.*”

SIR,—The instructions say that Surveyors are to see that all sea-going vessels are fitted with a collision bulkhead and a water-tight compartment over the stern tube, and not to refuse a declaration if other bulkheads are not fitted unless he thinks the ship is not seaworthy. I think it should be distinctly understood that Bulkheads should be fitted at the fore part of

**M.**

boiler room and after part of engine room at least, these bulkheads are fitted as a rule, although the instructions do not enforce them.—I have, &c.,

G. PEEBLES, *Government Marine Surveyor.*

THE HARBOUR MASTER.

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 30th December, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed communication, No. 3,160, of 20th November handing copy of Merchant Shipping Amendment Act (No. 2) Bill and asking an expression of opinion from the Chamber as to the requirements of the Act in respect to Deck-loads of Timber in winter, the landing of Live Cattle in the United Kingdom, and Bulkheads for Iron Vessels.

I have now the pleasure to inform you that the above letter was laid before the Committee at their last monthly meeting when I was directed to thank you for having brought the Act to their notice, and to state in reply to your request, that as shipments of Deck-loads of Timber, and the treatment of Live Cattle do in no way affect the trade of the Colony my Committee, on these points, have no observations to offer.

With regard to Bulkheads in Iron Vessels my Committee are of opinion that the requirements of the Act will be sufficiently cared for by the local Surveyors in the ordinary course of their duties when called upon to report on the condition of vessels trading with this Port.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

Hon. F. FLEMING, C.M.G.,

*Colonial Secretary.*

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**N.**

SHAREBROKERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG,  
12th January, 1891.

SIR,—I am desired by the Committee to bring to your notice, for the information of the Chamber, that the Sharebrokers of Hongkong have formed themselves into "The Stockbrokers' Association of Hongkong."

In this connection I have the honour to enclose a copy of a scale of charges for brokerages which has been agreed upon by the General Com-



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mittee of the Association, who trust that the same will meet with the support of the Chamber.—I have, &c.,

W. H. YOUNG, *Honorary Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

THE STOCKBROKERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG.

TARIFF OF BROKERAGES

To be charged to *Buyer and Seller.*

Banks, .....	50 cents.	Straits Fire, .....	25 cents.
Do. New Issue, .....	50 do.	Straits Marine, .....	25 do.
New Oriental, .....	50 do.	Union, .....	50 do.
Brown & Co., H. G. ....	50 do.	Yangtze, .....	50 do.
Campbell, Moore & Co., ...	10 do.		
China Borneo, .....	25 do.	LAND & BUILDING.	
China Sugar, .....	50 do.	Hongkong L. Investment, ..	50 do.
Chinese Loan '84 C, .....	} 1/8 %	Kowloon L. Investment, ...	25 do.
Chinese Loan '86 E, .....		Peak Building, .....	25 do.
Cruikshank & Co., .....	25 do.	Humphreys' Estate, .....	50 do.
Dairy Farm, .....	25 do.	West Point Building, .....	50 do.
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ....	25 do.	Luzon Sugar, .....	50 do.
Gordon & Co., A. G. ....	25 do.		
Green Island Cement, .....	50 do.	MINING.	
Hongkong Brick & Cement, 25	do.	Balmoral Gold, .....	25 do.
Hongkong & China Bakery, 50	do.	Charbonnages, .....	\$2.50
Hongkong & China Gas, ...	50 do.	Imbris, .....	10 do.
Hongkong Electric, .....	10 do.	Jelebn, .....	10 do.
Hongkong H.-L. Tramways, 50	do.	Punjom, .....	10 do.
Hongkong Ice, .....	50 do.	Raub, .....	10 do.
Hongkong & K. Wharf & G., 50	do.	Selama, ... ..	10 do.
Hongkong Rope, .....	50 do.	Do. ....	10 do.
H'kong & Whampoa Dock., 50	do.		
		PLANTING.	
HOTELS.		East Borneo, .....	10 do.
Austin Arms, .....	25 do.	Labuk Planting, .....	25 do.
Hongkong Hotel, .....	50 do.	Lamag Planting, .....	10 do.
Peak Hotel, .....	25 do.	Songei Koyah, .....	10 do.
Shameen, .....	25 do.		
		STEAMSHIP COMPANIES.	
INSURANCES.		China & Manila, .....	50 do.
Canton, .....	50 do.	Douglas S. S. Co., .....	50 do.
China Fire, .....	50 do.	H'kong, Canton & Macao, ..	25 do.
China Traders', .....	50 do.	Indo-China S. Navigation, 50	do.
Hongkong Fire, .....	\$1.00	Steam Launch, .....	25 do.
North China, .....	\$2.50	Trust & Loan Co., .....	15 do.
Singapore, .....	25 do.	Do. Founders', .....	\$5.00
		Watson & Co., A. S. ....	15 do.

For the Committee,

W. H. YOUNG, *Honorary Secretary.*

12th January, 1891.

## N.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 30th January, 1891.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed communication of 12th instant to which I have delayed replying to admit of its being laid before the Committee at the usual monthly meeting.

Your letter and the scale for brokerages by which it was accompanied have had the careful attention of my Committee and as it was brought to their notice—presumably with the object of eliciting some expression of opinion on their part—they venture to suggest some alterations, indicated in the list returned herein, which in their opinion might perhaps be more advantageously adopted than those named by the Sharebrokers' Association.

My Committee are much pleased to have the opportunity of congratulating the Members in having formed themselves into a co-operate body, and they hope the Sharebrokers' Association will be found to fully answer the ends for which it was established.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

W. H. YOUNG, Esq.,  
*Honorary Secretary,*

SHAREBROKERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG.

	Submitted by Sharebrokers' Association.	Proposed by Sub-Com- mittee of Chamber of Commerce.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.,.....	\$2.50	\$1.00
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd., .....	25 cents.	10 cents.
Straits Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., .....	25 do.	10 do.
Singapore Insurance Co., Ltd.,.....	25 do.	10 do.
Geo. Fenwick Co., Ltd., .....	25 do.	10 do.
A. G. Gordon Co., Ltd., .....	25 do.	10 do.
Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., .....	50 do.	25 do.

## N.

	Submitted by Sharebrokers' Association.	Proposed by Sub-Com- mittee of Chamber of Commerce.
Douglas Steam-ship Co., Ltd., .....	50 cents.	25 cents.
Steam Launch Co., Ltd., .....	25 do.	10 do.
Kowloon Land Investment., .....	25 do.	10 do.
Austin Arms, .....	25 do.	10 do.
Peak Building, .....	25 do.	10 do.
West Point Building, .....	50 do.	25 do.
Shameen Hotel, .....	25 do.	10 do.
Balmoral Gold Mining Co., .....	25 do.	10 do.
China Borneo Co., .....	25 do.	10 do.
Labuk Planting Co., .....	25 do.	10 do.
H. G. Brown & Co., .....	50 do.	25 do.
A. S. Watson & Co., .....	15 do.	10 do.
Hongkong Brick & Cement, .....	25 do.	10 do.
Green Island Cement Co., .....	50 do.	10 do.
Dairy Farm, .....	25 do.	10 do.

SHAREBROKERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG,  
4th February, 1891.

SIR,—I am desired by my Committee to express to the Chamber of Commerce their appreciation of the good wishes for the success of the Stockbrokers' Association, conveyed in your esteemed letter of the 30th ultimo.

The alterations suggested in the scale of brokerages will be submitted to my Sub-Committee for their careful consideration, and in this connection I shall have pleasure in writing you later on.—I have, &c.,

W. H. YOUNG, *Honorary Secretary.*

F. HENDERSON, Esq.,

*Secretary, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

SHAREBROKERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG,  
February, 1891.

SIR,—In further reference to your esteemed letter of 30th ultimo, I now have the honour to inform you that my General Committee have, with a few

N.

exceptions, altered their scale of charges for brokerages in accordance with the suggestions of the Chamber of Commerce.

I now beg to enclose for the information of the Chamber the revised scale of charges.—I have, &c.,

W. H. YOUNG, *Honorary Secretary.*

	Altered from	To
Dairy Farm, .....	25 cents.	10 cents.
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ....	25 do.	10 do.
Gordon & Co., A. G. ....	25 do.	10 do.
Green Island Cement Co., .....	50 do.	25 do.
Hongkong Brick & Cement,.....	25 do.	10 do.
Shameen Hotel,.....	25 do.	10 do.
North China Insurance Co., .....	\$2.50	\$1.00
Peak Building, .....	25 do.	10 do.
Steam Launch Co., .....	25 do.	10 do.

O.

No. 1,090.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

HONGKONG, 30th May, 1890.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Acting Governor to transmit to you for the information of the Chamber of Commerce the documents specified in the annexed schedule.—I have, &c.,

F. H. MAY, *for Acting Colonial Secretary.*

*The Chairman, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

No.	Date.	Description of Documents.
	1889-1890	Copy of correspondence respecting a new Commercial Convention with Egypt.



## O.

*Commercial Convention between Great Britain and Egypt.—**Signed at Cairo, October 29th, 1889.*

The Undersigned, Sir Evelyn Baring, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Minister Plenipotentiary, Agent and Consul-General of Her Britannic Majesty in Egypt, and His Excellency Zoufkar Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of His Highness the Khedive of Egypt ;

Duly authorized by their respective Governments, and so far as Egypt is concerned within the limits of the powers conferred by the Imperial Firmans, have agreed to the following :—

## ARTICLE I.

There shall be reciprocal freedom of commerce and navigation between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Egypt. British subjects in Egypt, and Egyptians in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, shall have liberty freely to come, with their ships and cargoes, to all places and ports in the other country to which natives are or may be permitted to come, and shall enjoy respectively the same rights, privileges, liberties, favours, immunities and exemptions in matters of commerce and navigation as are or may be enjoyed by natives, without having to pay any tax or impost greater than those paid by the same.

## ARTICLE II.

No other or higher duties shall be imposed on the importation into the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland of any article, the produce or manufacture of Egypt, from whatever place arriving, and no other or higher duties shall be imposed on the importation into Egypt of any article, the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, from whatever place arriving, than on the like article produced or manufactured in any other foreign country ; nor shall any prohibition be maintained or imposed on the importation of any article, the produce or manufacture of either of the Contracting Countries, into the other, from whatever place arriving, which shall not equally extend to the importation of the like article being the produce or manufacture of any other foreign country.

This last provision is not applicable to the sanitary and other prohibitions occasioned by the necessity of protecting the safety of persons or of cattle, or of plants useful to agriculture.

## O.

Tobacco of all kinds, tobacc, salt, saltpetre, natron, hasheesh, arms of every description, ammunition, gunpowder, and explosible material, are excluded from the stipulations of the present Convention.

## ARTICLE III.

No other or higher duties or charges shall be imposed in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland or in Egypt respectively on the exportation of any article to the other Contracting Country than such as are or may be payable on the exportation of the like article to any other foreign country; nor shall any prohibition be imposed on the exportation of any article from either of the two Contracting Countries to the other which shall not equally extend to the exportation of the like article to any other foreign country.

## ARTICLE IV.

The Contracting Governments agree that in all matters relating to commerce and navigation, any privilege, favour, or immunity whatever which one Contracting Party has actually granted, or may hereafter grant, to the natives of any other State shall, on the demand of the other Contracting Government, be immediately and unconditionally extended to the natives of the other Contracting Party, which shall, by the simple fact of such demand, assume, as regards Administrative Regulations of Customs, Coast-Guard, and Police, all the obligations incumbent on the State with which it demands assimilation.

## ARTICLE V.

British ships shall, in Egypt, and Egyptian vessels shall, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, from whatever place arriving, and whatever may be the place of origin or destination of their cargoes, be treated in every respect as national ships.

The preceding stipulation applies to local treatment, dues and charges in the ports, basins, docks, roadsteads, and harbours of the two countries, pilotage, and generally to all matters connected with navigation.

All vessels which, according to British law, are to be deemed British vessels, and all vessels which, according to Egyptian law, are to be deemed Egyptian vessels, shall, for the purposes of this Convention, be respectively deemed British or Egyptian vessels.

## O.

The coasting trade and interior navigation, however, are excepted from the preceding stipulations, and remain subject to the respective laws of the two countries.

All articles, from whatever place arriving, and whatever may be their place of origin, may be imported or exported in the vessels of the Contracting Parties without being liable to any other restriction or higher duties in the other country than if the articles were exported or imported in native vessels, or in those of any other State.

## ARTICLE VI.

The undermentioned goods, the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, shall pay, on importation into Egypt, duty not exceeding 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, viz. :--

1. Metals, raw, partially manufactured and wholly manufactured, including machinery and parts thereof, agricultural machines and implements, railway and tramway carriages and engines, hardware, and all articles of which metals (except gold or silver) are the principal component.

2. Cutlery, ordinary, that is to say, with handles of any material except gold, silver, pearl, or tortoiseshell.

3. Yarns, threads, cordage, and cables, nets, velvets, and all other fabrics, plain, open-work, or fancy, unbleached, bleached, printed or dyed, manufactured from any vegetable fibre, such as cotton, jute, flax, hemp, rhea, palm, aloe, or the like.

4. Yarns and fabrics as enumerated in Class 3 manufactured from wool, worsted, mohair, vicuna, camel-hair, or any animal fibre except silk.

5. Mixed fabrics of the materials enumerated in Classes 3 and 4, and also with an admixture of silk or waste silk not exceeding 20 per cent. in weight of the whole fabric.

6. Coal.

7. Indigo.

8. Rice.

9. Oil-seeds.

The Egyptian Government preserves an absolute right respecting the taxation of all other articles. The Regulations and tariffications of such other articles shall be applicable to British subjects under the same conditions as to natives or to foreigners the most favoured in that respect.

## O.

The duties *ad valorem* levied in Egypt on goods the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland shall be calculated on the value at the place of shipment or purchase of the object imported, with the addition of the cost of transport, including insurance, necessary for the importation into Egypt as far as the port of discharge.

For the levying of these duties the importer shall make a written declaration at the Custom-house, stating the description of the goods imported and their value at the port of discharge.

The Customs may further, in contested cases, insist on the production of all the documents which should accompany consignments of merchandize, such as invoices, policies of insurance, correspondence, &c.

If the Custom-house authorities shall be of opinion that the declared value is insufficient, they shall be at liberty to take the goods on paying to the importer the price declared by him, with an addition of 5 per cent. This payment, together with the restitution of any duty which may have been levied upon such goods, shall be made within the fifteen days following the declaration.

The said authorities shall also have the right of taking the duties in kind. In order to take the duties in kind the Customs shall have the right of selecting the articles according to their declared value until the amount due to them shall be reached.

## ARTICLE VII.

In order to establish for a fixed period the value at the port of entry of the principal articles taxed *ad valorem*, the Administration of the Egyptian Customs shall invite the principal merchants interested in the trade of the said articles to proceed in common with them to establish a Tariff for a period not exceeding twelve months.

The Tariff thus fixed shall, until a Chamber of Commerce representing the entire trade of Alexandria shall have been created, be communicated by the Egyptian Customs to the British Consulate of Alexandria, and shall be considered as officially recognized, as regards British produce and subjects, if the Consulate makes no formal opposition during the fortnight following this communication.



## O.

## ARTICLE VIII.

Export duties may be levied in Egypt at the rate not exceeding 1 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The value of articles exported shall be determined by the Customs, who will, as far as possible, cause periodic Tariffs to be established.

The Egyptian Government reserves the right to insist on the exporter of the articles producing proof of the payment of the special internal taxes to which the articles in question may be liable; if the said proof is not furnished, the exportation of the articles may be prohibited.

Merchandise to be transhipped, whether directly or after having been conveyed by rail across Egyptian territory, or placed in bonded stores, is free from all import or export duty. But articles intended for the use of the vessels which ship them are liable to a duty equivalent to the export duty, *i. e.*, 1 per cent. *ad valorem*.

## ARTICLE IX.

If one of the Contracting Parties shall impose an excise tax, that is to say, an inland duty, upon any article of home production or manufacture, an equivalent compensatory duty may be imposed on articles of the same description on their importation from the territories of the other country, provided that the said equivalent duty is levied on like articles on their importation from all foreign countries.

In the event of the reduction or suppression of excise taxes, that is to say, inland duties, a corresponding reduction or suppression shall at the same time be made in the equivalent compensatory import duty on the produce or manufactures of British or Egyptian origin, as the case may be.

The Regulations concerning special taxes and accessory customs duties, such as, dues for porters, warehousing, deposit, dues for quays, cranes, sluices, "tamkin," leading, permits to pass, declarations, weighing, measuring, and all other, shall be applied by the Customs of the two Contracting Countries to the natives and merchandise of the other as to their own natives and merchandise.

The preceding stipulations in nowise affect the right of Municipalities and Communes to levy, for their profit, octroi and excise duties on beverages and liquids, provisions and fodder, combustibles and building materials on

## O.

their introduction into the Municipality or Commune for consumption therein even in case articles of a similar description should not exist in Egypt.

## ARTICLE X.

Articles liable to duty, serving as patterns or samples, which shall be introduced into the United Kingdom by Egyptian commercial travellers, or into Egypt by commercial travellers of the United Kingdom, shall be admitted free of duty, subject to the following formalities requisite to insure their being re-exported or placed in bond :—

1. The officers of Customs at any port or place at which the patterns and samples may be imported shall ascertain the amount of duty chargeable thereon. That amount must either be deposited by the commercial traveller at the Custom-house in money, or ample security must be given for it.

2. For the purpose of identification, each separate pattern or sample shall, as far as possible, be marked by the affixing of a stamp, or by means of a seal being attached to it.

3. A permit or certificate shall be given to the importer, which shall contain :—

(a.) A list of the patterns or samples imported, specifying the nature of the goods, and also such particular marks as may be proper for the purpose of identification;

(b.) A statement of the duty chargeable on the patterns or samples, as also whether the amount was deposited in money, or whether security was given for it;

(c.) A statement showing the manner in which the patterns or samples were marked;

(d.) The appointment of a period which, at the utmost, must not exceed twelve months, at the expiration of which, unless it is proved that the patterns or samples have been previously re-exported or placed in bond, the amount of duty deposited will be carried to the public account, or the amount recovered under the security given. No charge shall be made to the importer for the above permit or certificate, or for marking for identification.

4. Patterns or samples may be re-exported through the Custom-house through which they were imported, or through any other.

5. If before the expiration of the appointed time (paragraph 3 (d) ) the patterns or samples should be presented at the Custom-house of any port or

## O.

place for the purpose of re-exportation or being placed in bond, the officers at such port or place must satisfy themselves by examination whether the articles which are brought to them are the same as those for which the permit of entry was granted. If so satisfied, the officers will certify the re-exportation or deposit in bond, and will refund the duty which had been deposited, or will take the necessary steps for discharging the security.

## ARTICLE XI.

Are alone exempt from all control in Egyptian Custom-houses on importation and exportation, as well as from the payment of duties, articles, and personal effects belonging to Consuls-General, and Consuls in the regular Consular Service ( " Consuls de carrière " ), having no other business, engaged neither in trade nor industry, and neither possessing nor working real property in Egypt.

## ARTICLE XII.

Each of the two Contracting Governments has the right to put into force any Regulations required for the working of their Services and for the suppression of fraud, as well as any measures dictated by reasons of public health or security, on condition that such Regulations are equally applied to the ships and subjects of all other nations.

Such Regulations, including the supervision of ships and the searching for, or pursuit of, contraband goods, as well as the fines and other penalties therein made applicable in case of false declaration; smuggling, or attempting to smuggle, fraud, or attempts to defraud, or any infringement of the Regulations, shall, together with the measures that may be taken in regard to public health or security, be applicable in either of the two countries to the natives of the other under the same conditions as to natives of the country itself.

If, however, the Egyptian authorities should desire to search the dwelling-house of a British subject, or a British ship anchored in an Egyptian port, a duplicate of the search-warrant shall be sent to the British Consular authority, who may at once take part if he thinks proper to do so, without the formality in question delaying the search, and no such search shall be made except between sunrise and sunset.

## O.

It is understood, however, that the preceding stipulation shall not apply to cases in which the search is to be made in a warehouse or depôt, or on board a ship which may have remained in an Egyptian port, for any reason whatsoever, more than twenty-one days. In such cases notification to the British Consular authority will not be necessary.

It is further understood that the Egyptian Government may, without notification to the British Consular authorities, put guard on board any British ship in an Egyptian port or traversing the Suez Canal.

In cases of suspicion of smuggling, the Egyptian Customs officers may board and seize any British ship of less than 200 tons burthen at anchor outside an Egyptian port, or sailing within 10 kilom. of the shore. Ships of less than 200 tons burthen may, moreover, be boarded and seized beyond the 10 kilom. limit, if the pursuit shall have been commenced within such limit.

Except in the cases provided for in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Article, no British ship exceeding 200 tons burthen shall be boarded or seized by the Egyptian Customs officers.

## ARTICLE XIII.

The provisions of the preceding Articles do not apply—

1. To the special arrangement existing, or which may in the future exist, between Egypt and the other parts of the Ottoman Empire, under the direct administration of the Porte, or between Egypt and Persia.

2. To the arrangements which the Egyptian Government may make for the exchange of native or foreign merchandize with the Soudan.

## ARTICLE XIV.

The effect of the alterations of the present Tariff of duties, provided under Article VI, remains suspended until the alterations in question are also applicable to all other interested Powers.

## ARTICLE XV.

The stipulations of the present Convention shall be applicable, as far as



## O.

the laws permit, to all the Colonies and foreign possessions of Her Britannic Majesty, excepting to those hereinafter named, that is to say, except to—

The Dominion of Canada.

Newfoundland.

The Cape.

Natal.

New South Wales.

Victoria.

Queensland.

Tasmania.

South Australia.

Western Australia.

New Zealand.

Provided always, that the stipulations of the present Convention shall be made applicable to any of the above-named Colonies or foreign possessions on whose behalf notice to that effect shall have been given to the Egyptian Government by Her Britannic Majesty's Representative at Cairo, within one year from the date of the signature of the present Convention.

## ARTICLE XVI.

The present Convention shall come into force on the 1st January, 1890, and shall remain in force for ten years from the date. And in case neither of the two Contracting Parties shall have notified twelve months before the expiration of the said period of ten years its intention of putting an end to the present Convention, it shall remain binding until the expiration of one year from the day on which either of the Contracting Parties shall have given such notice.

In witness whereof the Undersigned have signed the present Convention, and have affixed thereto their seals.

Done in duplicate, at Cairo, the twenty-ninth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine.

(L.S.) EVELYN BARING.

(L.S.) ZOULFIKAR.

**P.**

No. 1,091.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
HONGKONG, 30th May, 1890.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Acting Governor to transmit to you for the information of the Chamber of Commerce the documents specified in the annexed schedule.—I have, &c.,

F. H. MAY, *for Acting Colonial Secretary.**The Chairman, HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.*

No.	Date.	Description of Documents.
(C. 5,917.)	Feb. 2 (14) 1890.	Copy of a Provisional Commercial Agreement between the Governments of Great Britain and Servia.

PROVISIONAL COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND SERVIA.

*Signed at Belgrade, February 2 (14), 1890.*

(Translation.)

The Government of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, and the Government of the Regency of His Majesty the King of Servia, both desiring to provisionally regulate from the 6th (18th) May, 1890, the date of the expiration of the Commercial Convention which has been denounced, until the conclusion of a new definitive Commercial Convention, the position of their respective subjects residing in the dominions and possessions of the other party, as well as the commercial relations between the two States, have agreed upon and concluded the following provisions :—

British subjects residing in Servia, and Servian subjects residing in the territories, colonies, and foreign possessions of Her Britannic Majesty, shall enjoy, as in the past, all the rights accorded to the subjects or natives of the most favoured nation ; and merchandize of every kind the produce of the

## P.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or of its colonies or possessions, imported into Servia, and all merchandize the produce of Servia which may be imported into the dominions of Her Britannic Majesty, including the colonies and foreign possessions, shall be reciprocally subjected to the same customs duties of import or export, to the same accessory duties of re-export, of commission, or of warehousing, to the same local duties, and duties relative to all Customs formalities, as the merchandize of the most favoured nation.

It is nevertheless understood that the provisions of the present Act shall not apply to those colonies and foreign possessions of Her Britannic Majesty to which the provisions of the original Treaty of the 26th January (7th February), 1880, did not apply, that is to say, to the Dominion of Canada, and to Her Majesty's colonies in South Africa.

The present Agreement will remain in force from the 6th (18th) May, 1890, until the 1st (13th) January, 1893.

The two Governments engage, if necessary, to obtain assent to the present Agreement by the Legislative Assemblies of their respective States.

In witness whereof the Undersigned have drawn up the present Agreement, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at Belgrade, the 2nd (14th) February, 1890.

The Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary  
of Her Britannic Majesty at Belgrade,

(L.S.) F. R. ST. JOHN.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs for Servia, President  
of the Council of Ministers,

(L.S.) Le Général S. GROUITCH.

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 4th June, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to own receipt of your esteemed communication of 30th May addressed to the Chairman and giving cover to copies of the undernoted documents, and I am directed when acknowledging same to request you to be good enough to convey to His Excellency the Acting Gov-

## P.

ernor the thanks of my Committee for his courtesy in placing these documents at their disposal.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

HON. W. M. DEANE, M.A., C.M.G.,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

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Provisional Commercial Agreement between the Governments of Great Britain and Servia.

Correspondence respecting a new Commercial Convention with Egypt.

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## Q.

LONDON, 12th April, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I have to apologise for the length of time which has elapsed before replying to your note.

Please convey to your Chamber my thanks for the kind offer of assistance made to me. I send by this post a pamphlet which I have recently issued, and with reference to the section on "Telegraphs" in the paper read before the Society of Arts, I would point out that a resolution by the Hong-kong Chamber in favour of establishing telegraphic communication by land from Calais to Calcutta would have great weight here, and would also further commercial interests in the East generally.—I am, &c.,

J. HENNIKER HEATON.

F. HENDERSON, Esq., *Secretary,*

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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## R.

No. 340.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
3rd March, 1890.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, the enclosed copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, accompanied by a letter from the Editor



## R.

of the *British Trade Journal*, enquiring as to the laws and regulations affecting British Commercial Travellers in this Colony.

His Excellency is aware that no regulations of the nature referred to exist in Hongkong, but would be glad to learn if the Chamber over which you preside have any observations to offer on the subject, which might be of service to the Editor of the journal quoted above.—I have, &c.,

W. M. DEANE, *Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Hon. P. RYRIE, *Chairman,*

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

## CIRCULAR.

DOWNING STREET,

6th January, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Editor of *The British Trade Journal* to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, desiring information as to the laws and regulations affecting Commercial Travellers in foreign countries. The Editor addressed to me a similar request, as regards the British Colonies, which I caused to be referred to the Board of Trade, and I transmit a copy of the reply received.

I should be glad if you would supply direct to the Board of Trade for the purpose of publication in the official *Board of Trade Journal*, such information as may be procurable respecting any regulations affecting British Commercial Travellers in the Colony under your Government, and respecting any Customs Regulations in force as to the introduction of Travellers' patterns or samples.—I have, &c.,

KNUTSFORD.

*The Officer Administering  
the Government of Hongkong.*

To the Most Honourable

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, K.G.,

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE,

DOWNING STREET, S.W.

MY LORD MARQUIS,—Inquiries have reached us at various times from

## R.

readers of this journal for information as to the laws and regulations especially affecting Commercial Travellers in foreign countries.

It appears, from letters we have received, that certain countries levy fees, or insist upon Commercial Travellers from abroad taking out licenses. It also appears that, through ignorance or misinterpretation of these regulations, British Commercial Travellers have been subjected to much inconvenience and—in one instance brought to our notice—arrested and fined.

If, therefore, British Consuls abroad could be instructed to send copies of the regulations affecting such Travellers in their respective countries, and if these could be published in a small Blue book, they would, we venture to think, be of great interest and of much practical value to the increasing numbers of gentlemen travelling for business purposes, as representatives of British manufacturers and merchants.—I have, &c.,

The Editor of *The British Trade Journal*.

“The British Trade Journal” Office,  
Cannon Street, E.C.  
October 9th, 1889.

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*Board of Trade to Colonial Office.*

C. 4,644.

BOARD OF TRADE,

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT,

LONDON, S.W.

23rd December, 1889.

SIR,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, transmitting, by the direction of Lord KNUTSFORD, a copy of a letter from the Editor of *The British Trade Journal*, in which application is made for information as to regulations affecting British Commercial Travellers in force in the Colonies, and enquiring whether the Board are aware of the existence of any such regulations, at the same time stating that none such are known to the Colonial Office, but that it is proposed to address a Circular enquiry on the subject to the Governments of the several Colonies.

## R.

In reply, I am to state, for the information of Lord KNUTSFORD, that the Board understand that "Agents of foreign firms" in the Cape Colony are required to take out an annual license (costing £25) and that this term is interpreted to mean "any person other than an importer who sells or offers for sale, by sample or otherwise, goods of a firm whose place of business is not in the Colony." Annual licenses are also, it is believed, required by "Brokers or Agents" in Natal, and by "Commission Agents" in Fiji and Jamaica (Kingston), but it is not known whether these terms are so interpreted as to cover Commercial Travellers.

The information in the possession of the Board being of this fragmentary and uncertain character, they agree with Lord KNUTSFORD in thinking that a request for complete and definite information might desirably be addressed to the Governments of the various Colonies.

The Board would at the same time suggest for his Lordship's consideration that the opportunity might be taken of enquiring as to the Customs Regulations in force in the several Colonies as to the introduction of Travellers' patterns or samples. These are known to be free from import duty in British Guiana and (when "of no intrinsic value") in Barbados, but the Board are unaware how they are dealt with in other Colonies.—I have, &c.,

HENRY E. CALCRAFT.

*The Under-Secretary of State,*  
Colonial Office.

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 10th March, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed communication of 3rd instant, and beg to thank you for the letters to which it gave cover having reference to laws and regulations affecting Commercial Travellers.

As Commercial Travellers, in common with all other Travellers, while in Hongkong enjoy perfect freedom of legitimate action as regards themselves personally and also as regards the transaction of business my Com-

R.

mittee are unable to offer any observations on the subject that could, in any way, be of service to the Editor of *The British Trade Journal*.—I have, &c.,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary*.

HON. W. M. DEANE, M.A.,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary*.

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S.

No. 2,710.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
HONGKONG, 5th September, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour by direction of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to inform you that Mr. A. P. MAC EWEN, the Un-official Member of the Legislative Council who was appointed on the nomination of the Chamber of Commerce, has resigned his seat, and I am to request that the Chamber will nominate another Member to fill his place.

The same course should be pursued as in the case of previous nominations.—I have, &c.,

W. M. DEANE, *Acting Colonial Secretary*.

E. MACKINTOSH, Esq.,  
*Chairman, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE*.

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 5th September, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication of this date informing me of the resignation of Mr. A. P. MAC EWEN and requesting the Chamber to nominate another Member to fill his place in the Legislative Council.

Your request that the same course should be pursued as in the case of previous nominations will receive every attention.—I have, &c.,

E. MACKINTOSH, *Chairman*.

HON. W. M. DEANE, C.M.G.,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary*.



S.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
HONGKONG, 19th September, 1890.

SIR,—Adverting to your esteemed communication of 5th instant, I have the honour to advise you, for the information of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government that, at a Special General Meeting of the Chamber held yesterday at 4 o'clock p.m., Mr. T. H. WHITEHEAD, Manager of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, was selected as their nominee for a seat in the Legislative Council of this Colony, in place of Mr. A. P. MAC EWEN retired.

I now hand you the following papers in connection with the election:—

1. A copy of the notice convening the meeting.
2. A list of the Members present at the meeting.
3. The names of the Candidates with names of their proposers and seconders.—I have, &c.

E. MACKINTOSH, *Chairman.*

Hon. W. M. DEANE, C.M.G.,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

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NOTICE.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

A Special General Meeting of the Members of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce will be held on Thursday, the 18th instant, at the City Hall, at 4 o'clock p.m., to nominate a Member of the Chamber for election to the Legislative Council.

By Order,

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

HONGKONG, 8th September, 1890.

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*List of Candidates proposed at a Special General Meeting of the Chamber held on the 18th September, 1890, to nominate a Member to the Legislative Council, to take the place of the Hon. A. P. MacEwen resigned.*

MR. T. H. WHITEHEAD,

Proposed by Hon. P. RYRIE.

Seconded by Mr. E. MACKINTOSH.

S.

MR. H. L. DALRYMPLE,

Proposed by Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Seconded by Mr. T. JACKSON.

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

*List of Members present at the Special General Meeting of the Chamber of  
Commerce held on the 18th September, 1890.*

The Hon. P. RYRIE.	Messrs. C. J. HIRST.
” ” C. P. CHATER.	HO ANEI.
” ” J. J. KESWICK.	T. JACKSON.
Messrs. E. R. BELILIOS.	E. MACKINTOSH.
G. S. COXON.	A. McCONNACHIE.
S. COXON.	ST. C. MICHAELSEN.
D. CRAWFORD.	D. MUNCHERJEE.
G. DE CHAMPEAUX.	F. E. NICHOL.
CHOW PING.	L. POESNECKER.
T. E. DAVIES.	M. PAQUIN.
H. L. DALRYMPLE.	POON PONG.
H. W. DICK.	C. F. ROWBAND.
N. P. DHALLA,	E. W. RUTTER.
DE WESTLEY LAYTON.	G. STEWART.
F. DODWELL.	C. S. SHARP.
N. J. EDE.	G. SHARP.
M. D. EZEKIEL,	G. STERN.
F. T. P. FOSTER.	F. SEIP.
W. H. FORBES.	T. H. WHITEHEAD.
J. J. FRANCIS.	E. L. WOODIN.
M. GROTF.	W. H. YOUNG.
H. HOPPIUS.	MING KEE.
G. T. HOPKINS.	

F. HENDERSON, *Secretary.*

HONGKONG, 19th September, 1890.

FORTNIGHTLY  
CURRENT QUOTATIONS  
DURING THE YEAR 1890.

## FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT QUOTATIONS

QUOTATIONS.	On London Bank, 4 months' sight.	Telegraphic Transfers.	Private Credits, 4 months' sight.	Docu-mentary, 4 months' sight.
Fortnight, ending 1st January, .....	3/2	3/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/2 $\frac{1}{4}$	3/2 $\frac{3}{8}$
Do., do. 14th January, .....	3/2 $\frac{1}{4}$	3/1 $\frac{1}{8}$	3/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/2 $\frac{5}{8}$
Do., do. 28th January, .....	3/2 $\frac{3}{8}$	3/2 $\frac{1}{8}$	3/3	3/3 $\frac{1}{8}$
Do., do. 11th February, .....	3/1 $\frac{7}{8}$	3/1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Do., do. 25th February, .....	3/1 $\frac{3}{4}$	3/1 $\frac{1}{8}$	3/2	3/2 $\frac{1}{8}$
Do., do. 11th March, .....	3/1 $\frac{3}{8}$	3/0 $\frac{3}{4}$	3/1 $\frac{5}{8}$	3/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 25th March, .....	3/1 $\frac{3}{8}$	3/0 $\frac{3}{4}$	3/1 $\frac{5}{8}$	3/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 8th April, .....	3/2 $\frac{1}{4}$	3/1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3/2 $\frac{1}{4}$	3/2 $\frac{3}{8}$
Do., do. 22nd April, .....	3/2 $\frac{3}{4}$	3/2 $\frac{3}{8}$	3/3	3/3 $\frac{1}{8}$
Do., do. 14th May, .....	3/4 $\frac{1}{8}$	3/3 $\frac{3}{4}$	3/4 $\frac{1}{8}$	3/4 $\frac{1}{8}$
Do., do. 28th May, .....	3/4 $\frac{3}{8}$	3/3 $\frac{3}{4}$	3/4 $\frac{3}{8}$	3/4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 11th June, .....	3/5 $\frac{1}{8}$	3/4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/5 $\frac{1}{8}$	3/5 $\frac{1}{8}$
Do., do. 25th June, .....	3/4 $\frac{7}{8}$	3/4 $\frac{1}{4}$	3/5 $\frac{3}{8}$	3/5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 9th July, .....	3/5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/4 $\frac{7}{8}$	3/5 $\frac{3}{4}$	3/5 $\frac{7}{8}$
Do., do. 23rd July, .....	3/7 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/6 $\frac{7}{8}$	3/7 $\frac{1}{4}$	3/7 $\frac{3}{8}$
Do., do. 6th August, .....	3/7 $\frac{5}{8}$	3/7	3/8 $\frac{1}{8}$	3/8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Do., do. 20th August, .....	3/10 $\frac{3}{8}$	3/9 $\frac{5}{8}$	3/10 $\frac{5}{8}$	3/10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Do., do. 3rd September, .....	3/10 $\frac{1}{8}$	3/9 $\frac{3}{8}$	3/10 $\frac{3}{8}$	3/10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 17th September, .....	3/9 $\frac{3}{8}$	3/9	3/10 $\frac{1}{8}$	3/10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Do., do. 1st October, .....	3/6 $\frac{5}{8}$	3/5 $\frac{5}{8}$	3/6 $\frac{7}{8}$	3/7
Do., do. 15th October, .....	3/5 $\frac{7}{8}$	3/5	3/6 $\frac{1}{8}$	3/6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Do., do. 29th October, .....	3/5 $\frac{3}{8}$	3/4 $\frac{3}{4}$	3/5 $\frac{7}{8}$	3/6
Do., do. 12th November, .....	3/5	3/3 $\frac{5}{8}$	3/5 $\frac{1}{4}$	3/5 $\frac{3}{8}$
Do., do. 26th November, .....	3/5	3/3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/5 $\frac{1}{4}$	3/5 $\frac{3}{8}$
Do., do. 10th December, .....	3/5 $\frac{3}{8}$	3/4 $\frac{1}{8}$	3/5 $\frac{3}{8}$	3/5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do., do. 24th December, .....	3/5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/5 $\frac{3}{4}$	3/5 $\frac{7}{8}$



DURING THE YEAR 1890.

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. 4.03	Rs. 223	Rs. 223	9½ % pm.	8½ % pm.	1½ % pm.	\$32.05	\$33.00
Fcs. 4.05	Rs. 221	Rs. 221	9¼ " "	8¼ " "	1 " "	\$32.65	\$33.60
Fcs. 4.09	Rs. 221	Rs. 221	9¼ " "	8 " "	¾ " "	\$32.65	\$33.60
Fcs. 4.02	Rs. 220	Rs. 220	10¼ " "	8½ " "	¾ " "	\$32.65	\$33.60
Fcs. 4.01	Rs. 220	Rs. 220	10¼ " "	8¾ " "	¾ " "	\$32.85	\$33.80
Fcs. 3.97	Rs. 220	Rs. 220	10 " "	8½ " "	¾ " "	\$32.85	\$33.80
Fcs. 3.97	Rs. 218	Rs. 218	9¾ " "	8¼ " "	¾ " "	\$32.75	\$33.80
Fcs. 4.04	Rs. 220	Rs. 220	9½ " "	8¾ " "	⅞ " "	\$32.30	\$33.40
Fcs. 4.09	Rs. 222	Rs. 222	9½ " "	8¾ " "	1⅞ " "	\$31.30	\$32.50
Fcs. 4.26	Rs. 225½	Rs. 225½	9½ " "	8⅞ " "	1⅞ " "	\$31.60	\$32.60
Fcs. 4.27	Rs. 223	Rs. 223	10¼ " "	8½ " "	2¼ " "	\$31.20	\$32.30
Fcs. 4.35	Rs. 221	Rs. 221	8½ " "	10¼ " "	1½ " "	\$31.10	\$32.20
Fcs. 4.32	Rs. 221½	Rs. 221½	10½ " "	8¾ " "	2 " "	\$31.00	\$32.00
Fcs. 4.39	Rs. 223	Rs. 223	10¼ " "	8½ " "	1¼ " "	\$30.90	\$31.90
Fcs. 4.61	Rs. 223	Rs. 223	9½ " "	8¼ " "	¾ " "	\$29.20	\$30.50
Fcs. 4.66	Rs. 221	Rs. 221	9½ " "	8¼ " "	¾ " "	\$29.40	\$30.40
Fcs. 4.92	Rs. 220½	Rs. 220½	9½ " "	9¼ " "	¾ " "	\$28.90	\$29.70
Fcs. 4.89	Rs. 220½	Rs. 220½	10 " "	8½ " "	¾ " "	\$28.40	\$29.20
Fcs. 4.86	Rs. 221	Rs. 221	9¾ " "	8¼ " "	¾ " "	\$28.70	\$29.45
Fcs. 4.52	Rs. 221	Rs. 221	9¾ " "	8¼ " "	¾ " "	\$29.20	\$30.30
Fcs. 4.44	Rs. 221	Rs. 221	9¾ " "	8¼ " "	¾ " "	\$29.50	\$30.20
Fcs. 4.41	Rs. 221	Rs. 221	9½ " "	8¾ " "	¾ " "	\$30.00	\$30.80
Fcs. 4.36	Rs. 220½	Rs. 220½	9¾ " "	9¼ " "	¾ " "	\$30.10	\$30.35
Fcs. 4.36	Rs. 220½	Rs. 220½	10 " "	9¼ " "	¾ " "	\$30.60	\$31.50
Fcs. 4.36	Rs. 222	Rs. 222	10 " "	9¾ " "	¾ " "	\$30.30	\$31.20
Fcs. 4.39	Rs. 222¼	Rs. 222¼	10 " "	9½ " "	1 " "	\$29.80	\$30.80

## THE POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
HONGKONG, *March 6th*, 1891.

SIR,—In presenting my report on the British Postal Service in Hongkong and China during the year 1890, I feel compelled to advert at the beginning to the heavy loss sustained through the death of the late Postmaster General, Mr. LISTER, who, from the date of his appointment in April 1875 till the day he left Hongkong upon his last and fatal voyage in July, devoted a large portion of his experience and energy to the conduct of Postal matters. By his staff, he will always be remembered for his urbanity, insistence on details and personal capacity for work: whilst the public found in him the embodiment of civility and an officer always ready to redress legitimate grievances, and carry out practical popular reforms and proposals.

2. The Department has lost another zealous servant in the person of Mr. A. J. RODRIGUES, the second clerk, who joined the staff in February 1870.

3. During the year, the *personnel* of the Department has undergone considerable change. When I went on leave in April 1890, Mr. T. SERCOMBE-SMITH supplied my place and proved of valuable assistance to Mr. LISTER, who was for the next few months mostly confined to his room and bed. Upon Mr. LISTER's decease, I was appointed Acting Postmaster General with Mr. SMITH as second in command. On the 22nd March the withdrawal from the Colony of Z. M. BARRADAS, the Superintendent of the Money Order Department, led to an investigation of his accounts which shewed heavy defalcations on his part. This officer was later on brought back to Hongkong and at the June Criminal Sessions sentenced to three years hard labour. His successor Mr. H. W. DIXON who was appointed on the 1st May has hitherto satisfactorily performed his duties. The adoption of a new system of checks upon the administration of the Money Order Department has placed the recurrence of frauds similar to those lately enacted beyond the pale of likelihood.

4. The Staff consists of 45 persons comprising:—

- 1 Postmaster General.
- 1 Assistant Postmaster General.
- 1 Accountant.
- 2 Money Order Clerks.
- 3 Marine Officers.
- 2 Chinese Assistants for Marine Officers.
- 11 Clerks.
- 3 Senior Chinese.
- 7 Postmen.
- 3 Peak and Kaulung Postmen.
- 6 Messengers.
- 5 Launch Crew.

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To every officer my thanks are due, but especially to Messrs. ROCHA and MACHADO whose thorough intimacy with the whole range of postal concerns has proved invaluable.

5. The Consular Postal Agents in the various Coast and Riverine Ports have sustained their character for ability and zeal, and it was the most pleasing act of my last year's tenure of office to announce to them that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had yielded to their reiterated requests for an increase of salary.

6. In the course of 1890, the honorary Agency at Hoihow was converted into a salaried Agency, whilst the Agency at Tientsin, on the recommendation of the late Mr. LISTER, was discontinued. The postal matter passing through the hands of the Agent at that Port was inconsiderable, most of the correspondence being transmitted through the Chinese Customs Channels.

7. I had occasion to address the Government upon the often mentioned topic of illicit Chinese Post Offices which flourish in the Chinese parts of Victoria. It will be remembered that I recommended that the right to establish such Post Offices should be farmed out and that I expressed an opinion that no other way of bringing the Chinese under a Postal System approximating to that to which the European Colonists are subject was possible so long as China possessed no Postal Administration of her own. The plan proposed will in no way interfere with the peculiar postal facilities hitherto enjoyed by the sons of Hân, but will secure to



Government a portion of the takings which formerly enriched private individuals.

8. There is another subject to which report after report from this Department has called attention. To no other Department of the Public Service, I presume, is room of more importance than to the Postal Department, yet there is no Department in which there is less space in proportion to requirements. It is only necessary to point to the extensive postal premises at Sydney, with a population of 225,000, at Singapore, with a population of 180,000, and at Durban, with a population of 25,000, to demonstrate that Hongkong with a population of 200,000 is not marching with the times in the matter of a commodious Post Office. The Assistant Postmaster General has to be content with a high stool and a desk in a recess which overlooks a stand frequented by cacophonous chair bearers. When the European and American Mails are despatched on the same morning, the throng of people attempting to buy stamps and post letters has necessitated the stationing of an officer to divert the stream of Chinese to the back of the Post Office where a counter for the sale of stamps has been extemporised. The internal dimensions of the Post Office, which may have sufficed for the necessities of a quarter of a century ago, are now wholly inadequate, as may be seen by any one, who likes to spend an hour contemplating the sorting and disposal of a French Mail.

9. The number of Dead Letters which have to be opened in the Department to discover the sender is considerable. In many cases there is neither an address nor a signature: it then becomes necessary to peruse the body of the communication in search of some indication of the source of the letter. In this way no little time is consumed and much that was intended for a private view comes under the official gaze. Where the letters emanate from mercantile houses, their origin can almost always be traced by the presence of initials stamped on the envelope, and if private individuals would only put their names on the cover of every letter they wrote, they would have the satisfaction of receiving back their undelivered correspondence in an unmutated condition. Soldiers' and sailors' letters always bear the name of the sender on the envelope with the result that the members of Her Majesty's land and sea forces have their dead letters restored to them intact.

10. I have to chronicle the reduction in rates of Postage to the Cape Colony which began on the 23rd of August and by which letters are now carried for 20 cents instead of 30 cents the half ounce.



11. Negotiations are now in progress with the object of establishing a system of Parcels Post Insurance between Hongkong and the United Kingdom, and of instituting a direct exchange of Money Orders and closed Parcels between this Colony and the Dominion of Canada. The Insurance scheme is sure to command public favour whilst the advantages of a direct exchange with Canada by means of the new "Empress" Steamers over the devious route viâ London are palpable.

12. For the benefit of the Peak residents, a new mail signal station has been inaugurated at the Mount Gough Police Barracks, which are in a central position and visible to all houses on the southern slopes, even to those situated at Magazine Gap.

13. Another familiar topic is that of the French Mail and the Marine Sorters. In my report for 1889 I said "a settlement of the question in the direction desired may be expected very shortly." I was guided by a letter from the French Consul dated the 22nd May 1889 to His Excellency the Governor (copy attached). Since then, however, a further letter (copy attached) has been received withdrawing this concession.

14. As I pointed out in my report for 1889, it would accelerate the delivery of mails very much if this Department were placed in direct communication with Cape Collinson and Green Island. The arrivals of steamers could then be telephoned or telegraphed and the launch would at once be despatched to convey the mails on shore.

15. International Statistics to regulate the payments for sea and territorial conveyance of mails during three years were taken during the month of May.

16. The early period of the year at which this report is submitted precludes the possibility of giving a detailed statement of the finances of the Department for 1890.

The Revenue for 1889 was as follows:—

Gross Revenue 1889, .....	\$142,309.11
Deficit, .....	20,818.15
	<u>\$163,127.26</u>
Share of United Kingdom, .....	\$12,136.83
Contribution towards P. & O. subsidy, .....	45,870.31
Share of other Countries,* .....	54,041.89
Conveyance of Mails, .....	7,913.37
Working Expenses, .....	43,164.86
	<u>\$163,127.26</u>

\* \$36,656.29 paid France for 2½ years from April 1886 to December 1888.



APPROXIMATE STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1890.

DESCRIPTION OF CORRESPONDENCE.	INTERNATIONAL.		LOCAL.		TOTAL.	COMPARISON WITH 1889.		
	Des-patched.	Received.	Des-patched.	Received.		Total in 1889.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ordinary paid Letters, .....	641,000	526,700	76,700	81,350	1,325,750	1,283,700	42,050	...
Unpaid and short paid Articles, .....	6,000	15,750	900	150	22,800	39,180	...	16,380
Letters on Postal Business, .....	1,550	3,250	1,800	1,500	8,100	8,350	...	250
Post Cards,.....	11,100	6,800	4,500	1,900	24,300	13,700	10,600	....
Newspapers, Periodicals, Books, Circulars, &c., .....	308,500	565,550	46,500	28,800	949,350	920,000	29,350	...
Patterns, .....	4,250	15,650	50	50	20,000	23,700	...	3,700
Registered Articles, .....	35,000	60,400	9,200	6,000	110,600	96,400	14,200	...
"    with Return Receipts,	150	1,200	50	50	1,450	2,200	...	750
Parcels, .....	6,200	10,000	5,150	3,700	25,050	17,030	8,020	...

(Translation.)

FRENCH CONSULATE,

VICTORIA, HONGKONG, 22nd May, 1889.

SIR,—The French Government have been pleased, in response to the expressed wishes of the Colony of Hongkong, to entertain with favour the delicate proposal made to them of placing a British Mail Agent on board the packet boats of the Messageries Maritimes for the purpose of sorting, between Saigon and Hongkong, correspondence intended for the latter Colony or for transmission to North-China.

Such officer would be taken on board on the following conditions:—

The upper mail room in the “batterie” would be placed at his disposal, and would be fitted up for use as an office, but only between Saigon and Hongkong. The agent would besides have the free enjoyment of a first class cabin from Singapore to Hongkong and *vice versa*, and would be admitted to the same table as first class passengers upon payment of one half of the usual tariff.

Instructions have been sent by the Messageries Maritimes Co. to its agency at Marseilles to effect the necessary alteration on board the packets of the Indo-China line.

I shall be obliged if His Excellency will inform me whether the Colonial Government consents to these terms, and, if it does, from what date they may come into operation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

BEZAURE.

His Excellency

Sir GEO. W. DES VŒUX, K.C.M.G.,

Governor of Hongkong, &c., &c., &c.



(Translation.)

FRENCH REPUBLIC,

PARIS, 5th February, 1890.

SIR,—This Administration has just learned that the Colonial Authorities of Hongkong in the name of your office, have recently taken fresh steps to secure the admission on board the packet boats of the Messageries Maritimes of a British Agent who would start from Singapore and sort correspondence intended for Hongkong.

In its great desire to contribute as much as lay in its power to the improvement of the Postal Service of Hongkong, this Administration had actually taken the scheme into consideration, notwithstanding the very serious inconveniences which might result to the French Service from its adoption.

In consequence however of the abandonment (dénonciation) of the Anglo-French Postal Convention of the 24th September, 1856, it has seemed proper to postpone the carrying out of the works contemplated on board our mail packets till the conditions of the favoured régime which shall be applicable in the future to mail packets touching at the ports of the two countries, shall have been settled by mutual agreement between the Governments of France and Great Britain.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*Director General of Posts and Telegraphs.*

MONEY ORDER BUSINESS.

	No. of orders.	Amount.	Colonial Commission.	Total Commission.
<b>In Sterling.</b>				
		£ s. d.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Hongkong & Shanghai on United Kingdom,	2,641	11,470. 9. 9	452.65	.....
Do. Queensland, .....	12	45.10. 3	1.75	.....
Do. New South Wales, .....	32	165 11. 6	6.30	.....
Do. South Australia, .....	3	15.19. 0	.68	.....
Do. Western Australia	3	50.12.10	5.00	.....
Do. Victoria, .....	28	134.10.11	3.10	.....
Do. Tasmania, .....	1	16. 0.11	.68	.....
<b>Total Outward Orders in sterling,...</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>11,898.15. 2</b>	<b>470.16</b>	<b>470.16</b>
United Kingdom on Hongkong & Shanghai,	682	2,489. 6. 8	145.70	.....
Queensland Do.	194	959. 8. 9	56.17	.....
New South Wales Do.	448	2,178. 9. 6	127.31	.....
South Australia Do.	66	509. 1. 4	29.80	.....
Western Australia Do.	9	43. 7. 8	.....	.....
Victoria Do.	224	1,396.10. 3	81.73	.....
Tasmania Do.	211	1,441. 0. 0	84.36	.....
<b>Total Inward Orders in sterling,...</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>9,017. 4. 2</b>	<b>525.07</b>	<b>525.07</b>
<b>In Dollars.</b>				
		\$ cts.		
Hongkong on Coast Ports, .....	40	492.21	8.00	
Do. Shanghai, .....	144	2,913.56	46.80	
Hongkong and Shanghai on Japan, .....	359	8,369.68	134.20	
Do. Straits Settlements, .....	84	1,684.06	27.20	
Do. Siam, .....	6	45.00	.35	
Do. British North Borneo, .....	5	80.10	.60	
<b>Total Outward Orders in dollars,...</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>13,584.61</b>	<b>217.15</b>	<b>217.15</b>
Shanghai on Hongkong, .....	86	1,785.29	28.60	
Japan on Hongkong and Shanghai, .....	136	2,536.75	1.10	
Straits Settlements Do. ....	226	3,120.54	3.61	
Siam Do. ....	27	825.70	8.26	
British North Borneo Do. ....	24	495.95	4.96	
Honolulu Do. ....	1	2.50	.03	
<b>Total Inward Orders in dollars,...</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>8,786.73</b>	<b>46.56</b>	<b>46.56</b>
<b>In Rupees and Annas.</b>				
		Rs. as.	\$ cts.	
Hongkong and Shanghai on India, .....	730	61,799.13	340.27	340.27
India on Hongkong and Shanghai, .....	128	10,451.13	23.72	23.72
<b>In Rupees and Cents.</b>				
		Rs. cts.		
Hongkong and Shanghai on Ceylon, .....	13	414.44	2.00	2.00
Ceylon on Hongkong and Shanghai, .....	12	231.00	.51	.51
<b>TOTAL COMMISSION, .....</b>				<b>\$1,025.44</b>

## THE HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT.

No. 53.

HARBOUR DEPARTMENT,  
HONGKONG, 5th February, 1891.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward the Annual Returns for this Department for the year ending 31st December, 1890.

## SHIPPING.

2. The Shipping Returns show a marked advancement in the trade of the Colony, the total tonnage of Arrivals and Sailings amounting to  $13\frac{1}{2}$  million tons, the highest figures yet reached and over a million more than in the previous year. There were 32,132 Arrivals with a tonnage of 6,852,588 tons, and 31,855 Departures of 6,823,705 tons, making a grand total of 63,987 vessels, and 13,676,293 tons.

3. The following statement shows how this amount of shipping is apportioned:—

	1889.		1890.		Increase.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British, .....	5,212	6,500,869	5,524	6,994,919	312	494,050
Foreign, .....	2,376	2,471,121	2,695	2,776,822	319	305,701
Junks in Foreign } Trade, .....	45,568	3,417,331	46,686	3,572,079	1,118	154,748
	53,156	12,389,321	54,905	13,343,820	1,749	954,499
Junks in Local } Trade, .....	8,232	283,370	9,082	332,473	850	49,103
Grand Total, ...	61,388	12,672,691	63,987	13,676,293	2,599	1,003,602

4. Compared with 1889, there has been a general increase of British tonnage amounting to 494,050 tons and an increase of Foreign tonnage of 305,701 tons. A comparison also with the average of the last three years shows an increase in 1890 of 136 British ships representing 397,499 tons, and of vessels under Foreign flags an increase of 307 ships and 224,842 tons.

5. The general trade as represented by the amount of shipping from and to the various countries does not show on the whole much alteration,



though there is a general increase in British bottoms most marked with regard to Cochin-China, Japan, The Philippines and Siam. In the case of Foreign vessels, the increase is still greater with Cochin-China and Siam. There is also a considerable revival of the Junk trade.

6. With Great Britain and the Continent of Europe, the amount of trade does not differ materially from 1889, being indeed nearly stationary. There is a slight increase in arrivals under the British flag and a decrease under Foreign flags.

#### JUNKS.

7. As shown in the foregoing tables, the Junk trade for 1890 amounted to 3,904,552 tons being an increase over the previous year of 1,968 Junks and 203,851 tons. The trade with Macao shows a falling off from 1889, but with this exception, the Foreign Junk trade has increased. The chief increase in Junks, however, is in the Local trade (by which is to be understood, the trade between places within the Waters of the Colony) in which the Returns show that it amounts to 850 vessels and 49,103 tons. Compared also with the average of the past three years, the Junk trade of 1890 still shows an increase of 11,758 tons in the Foreign trade and 44,054 tons in the Local trade.

8. The subject of the interference of Chinese Revenue Cruizers with the Junk trade of the Colony was brought somewhat prominently forward during the past year, and more than one report was made from the Out-stations of visits paid by these Cruizers or their boats to the Junk Anchorages on the south side of the Island, also of Junks having been stopped and boarded. In one case from the evidence of the Junk people and the Officer-in-Charge of the Station, it would seem that the interference took place in Stanley Bay, but in others, the exact positions of the vessels being subject to the conflicting evidence of the interested parties, the question of within or outside of British Waters was not provable. During the greater part of the year, a Chinese Cruizer has been anchored off Lamma Island.

9. In September, two armed Junks were found anchored in a small bay on the south side, just out of sight of Aberdeen; they stated that they were on the look-out for smugglers. Acting under my orders, the Officer-in-Charge at Aberdeen seized them and I had them towed round to Victoria where after taking from them certain flags and other articles to be used for the purpose of future identification, they were released and the matter reported.



10. I should be glad to see a regular and systematic patrol of the south coast by armed Government vessels established.

11. 3,989 steamers, 125 sailing vessels and 28,018 Junks arrived during the year, giving an average of 88 vessels daily arriving in the Waters of the Colony. Of the steamers 68 per cent. were British, and of these, 54 per cent. were "Ocean going," of the Foreigners, 9 per cent. were river craft.

#### STEAM-LAUNCHES.

12. On the 31st December, there were 110 Steam-launches in the Harbour, of these, 47 were licensed for the conveyance of passengers, 53 were privately owned, 10 were the property of the Colonial Government. There were in addition 5 launches, the property of the War Department.

#### EMIGRATION.

13. There has been a further falling off in the number of Chinese leaving the Colony for Ports other than those in China and Japan.

1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
64,522	82,897	96,195	47,849	42,066

Chinese Exclusion Acts in America, Australia and the Sandwich Islands, reduced wages, and inability to procure employment in the Straits Settlements, and probably the want of confidence alluded to in my last Report, are the principal causes of the falling off.

14. Direct emigration to Deli is now established and as well understood as to any other port and there has been no repetition of the outbreaks which occurred on board these vessels in 1889.

#### REGISTRY OF SHIPPING.

15. During the year, 7 vessels of 4,071 tons were registered under the provisions of *The Merchant Shipping Act, 1854*, and 8 Certificates of Registry were cancelled. Return No. XVIII shows the remainder of the work done in this branch.

#### MARINE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

16. 81 cases were heard in this Court during the year. Refusal of duty (13), and Assault (11), were the principal offences in the case of ships, and Leaving without Clearance (15), and Breach of Harbour Regulations—"Anchoring in prohibited places" in the case of Junks.

EXAMINATIONS FOR THE POST OF MASTERS, MATES AND ENGINEERS  
UNDER SECTION 15 OF ORDINANCE NO. 8 OF 1879.

17. 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, .....	39	...
First Mates, .....	29	1
Only Mates, .....	3	1
Second Mates, .....	9	...
Total,.....	80	2
First Class Engineers, .....	18	3
Second Class Engineers,.....	33	7
Total,.....	51	10

18. Since 1st January, 1884, when under the Order in Council of 31st December, 1883, Certificates of Competency issued at Hongkong were made of equal value to those issued by the Board of Trade, 610 Certificates of all grades have been issued. The details are shown in the following table :—

GRADE.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	TOTAL.
Master, .....	21	10	6	22	20	25	39	143
First Mate, .....	14	10	17	12	14	31	29	127
Only Mate, .....	5	3	1	0	3	2	3	17
Second Mate, .....	10	10	5	4	10	1	9	49
Total,.....	50	33	29	38	47	59	80	336
First Class Engineer,...	19	22	11	14	21	11	18	116
Second Class Engineer,	23	20	20	15	19	28	33	158
Total, .....	42	42	31	29	40	39	51	274
Grand Total, ...	92	75	60	67	87	98	131	610

## MARINE COURTS UNDER SECTION 13 OF ORDINANCE No. 8 OF 1879.

19. The following Courts having been held during the year :—

1. On the 30th May, 1890. Inquiry as to the stranding of the British Steamship *Felbridge*, Official No. 95,455 of London, on the North Shoal, Paracel Group, on the morning of the 3rd May. The Master's (JOHN RUTHEN) Certificate of Competency was suspended for three months. The time of suspension was shortened by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government by a few days, the Certificate being returned on 13th August, 1890.
2. On the 5th November, 1890. Inquiry as to the loss of the British Yacht *Nyanza*, Official No. 56,809 of Glasgow, on the reef, on the North side of the Island of Ponapé, Caroline Group, on the morning of the 29th July. The Master's (JOHN CARRINGTON) Certificate of Competency was returned to him.
3. On the 8th December, 1890. Inquiry as to the stranding of the British Steamship *Pembrokeshire*, Official No. 85,171 of London, on the Shoal off the Island of Wung Cum near Macao, on the night of the 15th November. The Master's (JAMES DANCASTER) Certificate of Competency was suspended for six months.

## SEAMEN.

20. 10,830 seamen were shipped and 11,022 discharged at the Shipping Office and on board ships during the year, the discrepancy is owing to the number of seamen shipped at the various Consulates of which we have no record.

21. 314 distressed seamen were received during the year. Of these, 73 were sent to the United Kingdom, 37 elsewhere, and 192 obtained employment. On the 31st December, 1890, 10 were in the Government Civil Hospital and 2 in the Lunatic Asylum. \$4,890.99 were expended by the Board of Trade in the relief of these men, and \$42.69 by this Colony. The Colony also paid \$542.54 for the relief at Honolulu of the shipwrecked crew of the Barque *Wandering Minstrel*.

## MARINE SURVEYOR'S SUB-DEPARTMENT.

22. During the past year the Colony has lost the valuable services of Mr. BREWER, Marine Surveyor and Mr. WAGNER, Assistant Marine Surveyor. Mr. BREWER went Home in very bad health in August, 1888, and died in England in December, 1889; and a few months later Mr. WAGNER,



who had been performing the duties of Marine Surveyor, died in Hong-kong. Previous to the arrival from England of the Officers there appointed to fill the vacancies, the duties were performed first by Mr. ANDREW JOHNSTON, and on his leaving for England, by Mr. JOHN W. KINCHORN. In September, the Officers appointed from England arrived: Mr. GEORGE PEEBLES and Mr. ROBERT DIXON. Return No. XXIII shows the work performed in this branch of the Harbour Department.

LIGHTHOUSES.

23. The three Lighthouse Stations have been maintained as usual during the year. The Light-vessel on Kellett's Bank was removed on 1st June, the result of an examination of the bank showing that no silt had taken place over the stone-laden junks sunk as an experiment, and that the Junks had broken up and disappeared in the soft deposit at the bottom.

24. The third Light-keeper's services were dispensed with on account of misconduct, the post is now filled by an Officer on probation. An increased rate of pay having been sanctioned for the Chinese Assistant Light-keepers, I hope to be able for the future to secure a better class of men with increased efficiency to the service.

BOKHARA ROCK.

25. The suggested operations at the Bokhara Rock proving too costly were abandoned, and the danger is still marked with a buoy. It was found necessary during the year to renew the moorings, accordingly two anchors and 60 fathoms of chain were purchased and the moorings relaid at a total cost of \$945.87.

GOVERNMENT GUNPOWDER DEPOT.

26. During the year 1890, there has been stored in the Government Magazine at Stone Cutters' Island.

	No. of Cases, &c.	Approximate Weight, lbs.
Gunpowder, Privately owned, .....	14,139	289,175
„ Government owned, .....	175	3,500
Cartridges, Privately owned, .....	237	62,346
„ Government owned, .....	64	4,800
Explosive } Privately owned, .....	767	44,139
Compounds } Government owned, .....	12	585
Total, .....	15,394	404,545



On the 31st December, 1890, there remained as under:—

	No. of Cases, &c.	Approximate Weight, lbs.
Gunpowder, Privately owned, .....	3,537	74,214
„ Government owned,.....	632	63,323
Cartridges, Privately owned, .....	245	56,314
„ Government owned,.....	147	11,396
Explosive } Privately owned, .....	755	40,800
Compounds } Government owned,.....	12	585
Total,.....	5,328	246,6 2 3

27. The condition of the Magazine is much improved, extensive repairs have been carried out making good ravages of white-ants, &c., but the tiled roof requires to be replaced.

A new Wharf is being built and is nearly completed.

The subject of excluding the public from the precincts of the Magazine is one which, I submit, should receive consideration. At present, this is the only portion of Stone Cutters' Island where the public can land without special "Permit" and when it is considered with what care such like premises are generally guarded, the omission in this case seems to call for remark.

#### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (OPIUM) OFFICE.

28. The Return shows that during the year the amount of Opium reported was as follows:—

Imported, .....	62,463 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{35}{100}$ chests.
Exported, .....	58,023 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{12}{100}$ „
Through cargo reported but not landed,.....	16,004 „

20,444 Permits were issued from this Office being an increase of 1,117 over last year, this is chiefly attributable to removers being now required to state the hour of removal, so that if two chests are to be removed at different hours, two Permits are now required.

A daily Memo. of Export Permits was during the year sent to the Kowloon Customs Office. By this means, we are able to verify that every chest for which an Export Permit is issued has really been exported.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. MURRAY RUMSEY, Ret. Com., R.N.,  
*Harbour Master, &c.*

The Honourable FRANCIS FLEMING, C.M.G.,  
*Colonial Secretary,*  
&c.,            &c.,            &c.

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