



Hong Kong
General Chamber of Commerce

Report
For The Year
1919

REPORT

OF THE

GENERAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1919.

PRESENTED

TO THE MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING,

HELD ON 29th MARCH, 1920.

HONGKONG :

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1920.

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COMMITTEES, 1920.

General Committee.

Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, (Chairman)	Mr. C. S. Gubbay,
Hon. Mr. E. V. D. Parr, (Vice-Chairman)	Mr. C. H. P. Hay,
Hon. Mr. J. Johnstone,	Mr. A. O. Lang,
Mr. G. M. Dodwell,	Mr. J. A. Plummer,
Mr. G. T. Edkins,	Mr. N. J. Stabb, O.B.E.
Mr. E. G. Jamieson, (Honorary)	

Arbitration Committee.

Hon. Mr. J. Johnstone,	Mr. A. O. Lang,
Mr. C. S. Gubbay,	Mr. J. A. Plummer,
Mr. G. T. Edkins,	

Correspondence Committee.

The Chairman,	Hon. Mr. J. Johnstone,
The Vice-Chairman,	Mr. N. J. Stabb, O.B.E.

Metal and Sundries Sub-Committee.

Mr. J. A. Plummer,	Mr. E. Humphreys,
Mr. E. F. Carrall,	Mr. D. K. Moss,
Mr. E. Grant Smith,	Mr. T. E. Pearce.
Mr. J. Owen Hughes,	

Trade Marks Sub-Committee.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley	Mr. W. L. Pattenden,
Mr. A. O. Lang,	Mr. W. Sinclair.

Insurance Sub-Committee.

Mr. C. H. P. Hay,	Mr. A. W. Hughes,
Mr. G. H. Elliott,	Mr. H. M. Webb.
Mr. F. C. Hall,	

Piece Goods Sub-Committee.

Mr. J. A. Plummer,	Mr. B. D. C. Morgan,
Mr. F. G. Herridge,	Mr. K. S. Morrison,
Mr. G. M. Lakin,	Mr. W. Sinclair.

Inland Trade & Language School Sub-Committee.

Mr. D. K. Moss,	Mr. F. A. Perry,
Mr. K. S. Morrison,	Mr. N. L. Watson,
Mr. W. Nicholson,	Mr. O. T. Breakspear.

Legal Sub-Committee.

Mr. J. Scott Harston,	Mr. E. J. Grist.
Mr. H. J. Gedge,	Mr. F. B. L. Bowley

LIST OF MEMBERS, 1919.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 MR. G. K. HALL BRUTTON | 14 MR. G. P. LAMMERT |
| 2 SIR C. P. CHATER, C.M.G. | 15 " LO CHEUNG SHIU |
| 3 MR. H. A. CARTWRIGHT | 16 " W. LOGAN |
| 4 " W. DUNBAR | 17 " G. C. MOXON |
| 5 " JOHN FURER | 18 " H. M. H. NEMAZEE |
| 6 " A. G. GORDON | 19 DR. J. W. NOBLE |
| 7 " GEO. GRIMBLE | 20 HON. MR. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C. |
| 8 " R. HANCOCK | 21 MR. A. G. DA ROCHA |
| 9 " J. SCOTT HARSTON | 22 " M. S. SASSOON |
| 10 HON. MR. HO FOOK | 23 " J. T. SHAW |
| 11 SIR ROBERT HO TUNG | 24 " F. SMYTH |
| 12 DR. G. P. JORDAN | 25 " F. T. TALATI |
| 13 SIR ELLIS KADOORIE | |
| | |
| 26 MESSRS. A. B. THE SWEDISH TRADING Co., IN CHINA, LTD. | 58 MESSRS. COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE Co., LTD. |
| 27 " ALVES, J. M. & Co. | 59 " COMPAGNIE DES MES-SAGERIES MARITIMES. |
| 28 " APCAR, A. V. & Co. | 60 " CONNELL BROS. & Co. |
| 29 " ARCULLI BROS. | 61 " COOPER & Co. |
| 30 " ARNHOLD BROS. & Co., LTD. | 62 " CURRIMBOY & Co., LTD. |
| 31 " ASIATIC PETROLEUM Co., LTD. | 63 " DAIRY FARM Co., LTD. |
| 32 " BANKER & Co. | 64 " DAVID, S. J. & Co. |
| 33 " THE BANK LINE LTD. | 65 " DEACON, LOOKER, DEACON & HARSTON |
| 34 " BANK OF TAIWAN, LTD. | 66 " DENNY & BOWLEY |
| 35 " BANQUE DE L'INDO CHINE | 67 " DODWELL & Co., LTD. |
| 36 " BEAUMONT, E. A. & Co. | 68 " DONNELLY & WHYTE |
| 37 " BOTELHO BROS. | 69 " DOUGLAS S. S. Co., LTD. |
| 38 " BRADLEY & Co., LTD. | 70 " EASTERN ASBESTOS Co. |
| 39 " BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO Co., LTD. | 71 " EASTERN EXTENSION AUSTRALASIA & CHINA TELEGRAPH Co., LTD. |
| 40 " BRUNNER MOND & Co., LTD. | 72 " FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF H'KONG |
| 41 " BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE | 73 " FORD, WALTER & Co. |
| 42 " CALDBECK MACGREGOR & CO. | 74 " FUNG TANG |
| 43 " CANADIAN PACIFIC OCEAN SERVICES, LD. | 75 " GANDE PRICE & Co., LTD. |
| 44 " CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE LTD. | 76 " GENERAL ELECTRIC Co. OF CHINA LTD. |
| 45 " CARMICHAEL & CLARKE | 77 " GERIN DREVARD & Co. |
| 46 " CARVALHO & Co. | 78 " GETZ BROS. & Co., OF THE ORIENT, LTD. |
| 47 " CAWASJEE PALLANJEE & Co. | 79 " GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co. |
| 48 " CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA AUSTRALIA & CHINA | 80 " GILMAN & Co., LTD. |
| 49 " CHINA & JAPAN TELEPHONE & ELECTRIC Co., LTD. | 81 " GODDARD & DOUGLAS |
| 50 " CHINA BORNEO Co., LTD. | 82 " GREEN ISLAND CEMENT Co., LTD. |
| 51 " CHINA FIRE INSURANCE Co., LTD. | 83 " GREGORY, T. M. & Co. |
| 52 " CHINA LIGHT & POWER Co., LTD. | 84 " HANCOCK, A. & S. |
| 53 " CHINA MERCHANTS STEAM NAVIGATION Co. | 85 " HANDELMAATSCHAPPY "TRANSMARINA" |
| 54 " THE CHINA MUTUAL LIFE INS., Co., LTD. | 86 " HANNIBAL, W. A. & Co. |
| 55 " CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN & MORTGAGE Co., LTD. | 87 " HASTINGS HODGE & Co., LTD. |
| 56 " CHINA SUGAR REFINING Co., LTD. | 88 " HOGG KARANJIA & Co., LTD. |
| 57 " CHUN ON FIRE INSURANCE Co., LTD. | 89 " HOLLAND CHINA TRADING Co. |
| | 90 " HOLLAND PACIFIC TRADING Co. |
| | 91 " HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT Co., LTD. |
| | 92 " HONGKONG & CHINA GAS Co., LTD. |
| | 93 " HONGKONG ELECTRIC Co., LTD. |

LIST OF MEMBERS,—Continued

94	Messrs. HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE Co., Ltd.	135	Messrs. NETHERLANDS INDIA COMMERCIAL B'K
95	HONGKONG IMPORT & CHINA PRODUCE EXPORT CO.	136	NEW ZEALAND INSURANCE Co., Ltd.
96	HONGKONG & KOWLOON WHARF & GODOWN Co., Ltd.	137	NEWALL & CLAXTON
97	HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY Co., Ltd.	138	NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA
98	HONGKONG MERCANTILE Co., Ltd.	139	NORTHWEST TRADING Co., Ltd.
99	HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING Co., Ltd.	140	ORIENT TOBACCO MANUFACTORY
100	HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.	141	OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA
101	HONGKONG TRAMWAY COMPANY, LTD.	142	PATELL & Co.
102	HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK Co., Ltd.	143	PENTREATH & Co.
103	HUGHES & HOUGH	144	PERCY SMITH, SETH & FLEMING
104	HUMPHREYS, J. D. & SON	145	REISS & Co.
105	HUMPHREYS, W. G. & Co.	146	ROBERT DOLLAR Co.
106	HUTCHISON, J. D. & Co.	147	ROBERTSON, WILSON & Co.
107	INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION	148	ROCHA, J. M DA & Co.
108	JACK, W. C. & Co., Ltd.	149	ROSS, ALEX. & Co.
109	JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.	150	ROYAL INSURANCE Co., Ltd.
110	JAVA CHINA JAPAN LIJN	151	RUDOLF WOLFF & KEW, Ltd.
111	JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER	152	THE RUSSIAN VOLUNTEER FLEET.
112	KAILAN MINING ADMINISTRATION	153	RUSO-ASIATIC BANK.
113	LANE CRAWFORD & Co.	154	SASSOON, DAVID & Co., Ltd.
114	LAPICQUE, P. A. & Co.	155	SASSOON, E. D. & Co.
115	LEIGH & ORANGE	156	SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.
116	LINSTEAD DAVIS & Co.	157	SHUI ON S.S. Co., Ltd.
117	THE LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE Co., Ltd.	158	SILVA-NETTO & Co.
118	LOWE, BINGHAM & MATHEWS	159	SKOTT, H. & Co.
119	LOXLEY, W. R. & Co.	160	SOARES & Co.
120	MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & Co.	161	DE SOUSA & Co.
121	MACDONALD & Co.	162	SOUTH BRITISH INSURANCE Co., Ltd.
122	MANNERS & BACKHOUSE, LTD.	163	STANDARD OIL Co. of NEW YORK
123	MARINE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG	164	STEPHENS, H. & Co.
124	MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA LTD.	165	STERN, D. S. Co.
125	MICHAEL, J. R. & Co.	166	STEWART BROS.
126	MING KEE HONG	167	TAI SHING PAPER MANUFACTURING Co., Ltd.
127	MITSUBISHI SHOJI KAISHA	168	THE TEXAS Co.
128	MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA Ltd.	169	THOMAS COOK & SON
129	MODY, N. & Co.	170	THOMAS W. SIMMONS & Co.
130	MOSES, N. S. & Co.	171	THORESEN & Co.
131	MOLLER & Co., LTD.	172	TOYO KISEN KAISHA
132	MUSTARD & Co.	173	UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON
133	NESTLE ANGLO SWISS CONDENSED MILK Co.	174	UNION TRADING Co.
134	NETHERLANDS TRADING SOCIETY	175	UNION WATERBOAT Co., Ltd.
		176	UNITED ASBESTOS ORIENTAL AGENCY LD.
		177	VACUUM OIL Co.
		178	WARREN, C. E. & Co.
		179	WATSON, A. S. & Co., LTD.
		180	HARRY WICKING & Co.
		181	WILKINSON, HEYWOOD & CLARKE, LTD.
		182	WILKINSON & GRIST
		183	XAVIER, P. A. & Co.
		184	YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK LTD.
		185	YUEN HOP HONG

Officers of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

From date of Formation in 1861 to 1920.

Year	Chairman	Firm	Vice-Chairman	Firm	Secretary
1861	Alexander Percival	Jardine Matheson & Co.	W. Walkinshaw	Turner & Co.	J. Johnson
1862	James MacAndrew	do.	C. W. Murray	Birley & Co.	J. C. Baldwin
1863	J. J. Mackenzie	Dent & Co.	C. F. Still	Lyall, Still & Co.	J. C. Baldwin
1864	H. B. Gibb	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	H. B. Lemann	Gilman & Co.	J. C. Baldwin
1865	H. B. Lemann	Gilman & Co.	G. B. Gibb	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	J. C. Baldwin
1866	John Dent	Dent & Co.	P. Ryrie	Turner & Co.	Edward Norton
1867	P. Ryrie	Turner & Co.	W. Nissen	Siemssen & Co.	Edward Norton
1868	P. Ryrie	do.	G. J. Helland	J. Burch & Co.	J. W. Wood
1869	W. J. Bryans	do.	G. J. Helland	do.	J. W. Wood
1870	W. Keswick	Jardine Matheson & Co.	J. B. Taylor	Smith, Archer & Co.	A. Noel Blakeman
1871	P. Ryrie	Turner & Co.	A. Zimmerman	Reiss & Co.	A. Noel Blakeman
1872	P. Ryrie	do.	L. Kahn	do.	Ed. Baker, Acting
1873	P. Ryrie	do.	L. Kahn	do.	A. Noel Blakeman
1874	P. Ryrie	do.	James Grieg	Hongkong & S'hai Bank	A. Noel Blakeman
1875	P. Ryrie	do.	James Grieg	do.	A. Noel Blakeman
1876	P. Ryrie	do.	W. Keswick	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	N. B. Dennys
1877	W. Keswick	Jardine Matheson & Co.	H. H. Nelson	Chartered Mercantile	H. L. Dennys
1878	W. Keswick	do.	H. L. Dalrymple	do.	E. George
1879	W. Keswick	do.	H. H. Nelson	do.	E. George
1880	W. Keswick	do.	H. H. Nelson	do.	E. George
1881	W. Keswick	do.	P. Ryrie	Turner & Co.	E. George
1882	F. B. Johnson	do.	H. L. Dalrymple	Birley & Co.	E. George
1883	F. B. Johnson	do.	P. Ryrie	Turner & Co.	E. George
1884	W. Keswick	do.	P. Ryrie	do.	H. M. Baily
1885	W. Keswick	do.	P. Ryrie	do.	H. M. Baily
1886	P. Ryrie	Turner & Co.	A. P. MacEwen	Holiday Wise & Co.	H. U. Jeffries
1887	P. Ryrie	do.	A. P. MacEwen	do.	H. U. Jeffries
1888	P. Ryrie	do.	J. Bell Irving	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	F. Henderson
1889	P. Ryrie	do.	J. Bell Irving	do.	F. Henderson
1890	E. Mackintosh	Butterfield & Swire.	A. P. MacEwen	Holiday Wise & Co.	F. Henderson
1891	E. Mackintosh	do.	J. J. Keswick	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	F. Henderson
1892	E. Mackintosh	do.	J. J. Keswick	do.	F. Henderson
1893	J. J. Keswick	Jardine Matheson & Co.	A. G. Wood	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	Adam Lind, Acting
1894	J. J. Keswick	do.	E. Mackintosh	Butterfield & Swire.	F. Henderson
1895	A. G. Wood	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	A. McConachie	Gilman & Co.	F. Henderson
1896	A. McConachie	Gilman & Co.	Herbert Smith	Butterfield & Swire	R. C. Wilcox
1897	R. M. Gray	Reiss & Co.	Herbert Smith	do.	R. C. Wilcox
1898	R. M. Gray	do.	Herbert Smith	do.	R. C. Wilcox
1899	R. M. Gray	do.	A. McConachie	Gilman & Co.	R. C. Wilcox
1900	R. M. Gray	do.	J. J. Keswick	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	R. C. Wilcox
1901	Sir Thomas Jackson	Hongkong & S'hai Bank	C. S. Sharp	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	R. C. Wilcox
1902	C. S. Sharp	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	E. A. Hewett	P. & O. Steam Nav. Co.	A. R. Lowe
1903	E. A. Hewett	P. & O. Steam Nav. Co.	D. R. Law	Butterfield & Swire.	A. R. Lowe
1904	E. A. Hewett	do.	D. R. Law	do.	A. R. Lowe
1905	E. A. Hewett	do.	A. G. Wood	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	A. R. Lowe
1906	E. A. Hewett	do.	A. G. Wood	do.	A. R. Lowe
1907	E. A. Hewett	do.	A. G. Wood	do.	A. R. Lowe
1908	E. A. Hewett	do.	A. G. Wood	do.	A. R. Lowe
1909	E. A. Hewett	do.	J. R. M. Smith	Hongkong & S'hai Bank	E. A. M. Williams
1910	E. A. Hewett	do.	J. R. M. Smith	do.	E. A. M. Williams
1911	E. A. Hewett	do.	H. Keswick	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	E. A. M. Williams
1912	E. A. Hewett, C.M.G.	do.	N. J. Stabb	Hongkong & S'hai Bank	E. A. M. Williams
1913	E. A. Hewett, C.M.G.	do.	C. H. Ross	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	E. A. M. Williams
1914	E. A. Hewett, C.M.G.	do.	J. W. C. Bonnar	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	A. R. Lowe, Acting
1915	E. A. Hewett, C.M.G.	do.	J. W. C. Bonnar	do.	E. A. M. Williams
1916	D. Landile	Jardine Matheson & Co.	J. W. C. Bonnar	do.	A. R. Lowe, Acting
1917	G. T. Edkins	Butterfield & Swire	S. H. Dodwell	Dodwell & Co., Ltd.	E. A. M. Williams
1918	P. H. Holyoak	Reiss & Co.	S. H. Dodwell	Dodwell & Co.	E. A. M. Williams
1919	P. H. Holyoak	do.	S. H. Dodwell	Dodwell & Co.	E. A. M. Williams
1920	P. H. Holyoak	Dowell & Co.	E. V. D. Parr	P. & O. S. N. Co.	E. A. M. Williams
		Reiss & Co.	E. V. D. Parr	Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co.	E. A. M. Williams
					D. K. Blair, Acting

CHAMBER'S REPRESENTATIVES IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

<i>Date of Election</i>	<i>Name of Representative</i>	<i>Firm</i>	<i>How Elected.</i>
1884	Thomas Jackson.....	Hongkong & Shanghai Bank..	Elected 2nd January
1886	Alexander Palmer MacEwen..	Holiday, Wise & Co.....	Elected 27th April, Mr. Jackson on leave.
1887	Alexander Palmer MacEwen..	do. do.	Elected 17th September, on retirement of Mr. Jackson.
1888	Bendyshe Layton	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	Elected 22nd May, Mr. MacEwen on leave
1890	Thomas Henderson Whitehead	Chartered Bank of I.A. & China	Elected 18th September, on resignation of Mr. MacEwen.
1894	Alexander MacConachie	Gilman & Co.	Elected 9th June, Mr. Whitehead on leave.
1896	Thomas Henderson Whitehead	Chartered Bank of I.A. & China	Re-elected 19th September, on expiry of term.
1900	Herbert Smith	Butterfield & Swire	Elected 30th April, Mr. Whitehead on leave.
1900	John Thurburn.....	Mercantile Bank.....	Elected 18th June, on resignation of Mr. H. Smith.
1901	Thomas Henderson Whitehead	Chartered Bank of I.A. & China	Returned from leave, 12th July, 1901.
1902	Robert Gordon Shewan.....	Shewan, Tomes & Co.	Elected 5th June, Mr. Whitehead on leave.
1902	Robert Gordon Shewan	do. do.	Elected 3rd October, on expiry of term.
1903	Henry Edward Pollock, K.C. ..	Barrister at Law.....	Elected on 12th August, Mr. Shewan on leave.
1904	Robert Gordon Shewan	Shewan, Tomes & Co.	Returned from leave, 12th July, 1904.
1906	Edbert Ansgar Hewett.....	P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.	Elected 25th April, Mr. Shewan resigned.
1908	Murray Stewart	Stewart Bros	Elected 17th March, Mr. Hewett on leave.
1908	Edbert Ansgar Hewett.....	P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.	Returned from leave, 15th October, 1908.
1912	Edbert Ansgar Hewett, C.M.G.	do. do.	Re-elected 25th April, 1912, on expiry of term.
1912	Murray Stewart	Stewart Bros	Elected 25th May, 1912, Mr. Hewett on leave.
1912	J. W. C. Bonnar	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	Elected 10th September, 1912, Mr. Murray Stewart resigned.
1913	Edbert Ansgar Hewett, C.M.G.	P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.	Returned from leave 19th December, 1912.
1915	Percy Hobson Holyoak	Reiss & Co.	Elected on death of Mr. E. A. Hewett, C.M.G.
1917	Stanley Hudson Dodwell	Dodwell & Co., Ltd.	Elected 29th May, Mr. P. H. Holyoak on leave.
1917	Percy Hobson Holyoak.....	Reiss & Co.	Returned from leave 31st October, 1917.
1918	Percy Hobson Holyoak	do.	Returned from leave 24th September, 1918.
1919	Edward Victor David Parr....	Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co....	Elected 13th May, Mr. P. H. Holyoak on leave.
1920	Percy Hobson Holyoak.....	Reiss & Co.	Returned from leave 24th March, 1920.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

(CONFIRMED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 19TH MAY, 1903.)

I. The Society shall be styled "The Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce." Name.

II. The objects 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 references to be recorded for future use or guidance. Object.

III. All Mercantile Firms, and persons engaged or interested in the trade of Hongkong or China, shall be eligible for admission as Members in the manner hereafter described, and on payment of \$60 for Firms, and \$25 for single individuals for the current year of their election, and a like annual subscription thereafter, payable on 1st January. Membership and sub-
scription.

IV. Candidates for admission must be proposed by one Member, and seconded by another, and elected at the Annual General Meetings by a majority of the votes of the Members there present entitled to vote. They may also be elected by the Committee in the interval between such Annual General Meetings, but subject to confirmation at the next Annual General Meeting.

V. The business and funds of the Chamber shall be managed by the Committee.

VI. The Committee shall consist of ten Members, all of whom shall be British or Representatives of British Firms, to be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Chamber, and they shall hold Office for one year. Vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled by the Committee. Management.

The Committee shall enter upon office as soon as the Annual Meeting has been held, and shall remain in office until their report and accounts have been accepted and passed by the Chamber and their successors assume office.

At the first meeting the new Committee shall elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who shall hold office for the year.

VII. In the event of the Representative of the Chamber of Commerce in the Legislative Council not being a member of the Committee, he shall, ex-officio, have a seat on the Committee.

Committee Meetings.

VIII. 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 consider expedient. In case of the non-attendance of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, a chairman shall be chosen by the Member of the Committee present.

IX. At Meetings of the Committee, four Members shall form a quorum, and in case of an equality in voting the Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his own.

Sub-Committees.

X. The Committee shall have power to appoint Sub-Committees for such purposes as may be deemed advisable.

By-laws.

XI. The Committee shall have power 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 after such confirmation, such By-laws shall be binding on all Members equally with these Rules.

XII. The Funds of the Chamber shall be paid into one of the Banks under an account to be opened by the Committee, and may be invested in such manner as may be considered advisable.

Accounts.

XIII. All cheques shall be signed by the Secretary of the Chamber, and countersigned, by the Chairman, or Vice-Chairman, or in their absence by one of the Committee. All disbursements shall be sanctioned by the Committee at their ordinary Meetings.

An Account, duly audited by two Members of the Chamber, shall be laid before the Annual General Meeting.

XIV. A Yearly Report of the proceedings shall be prepared, which, after being approved at the Annual General Meeting, shall be printed and circulated.

Annual Report.

XV. A paid Secretary shall be appointed by the Committee, such appointment to be subject to confirmation at the next ensuing Annual General Meeting.

Secretary.

XVI. The Annual General Meeting of the Chamber shall be held in the month of February (or as soon thereafter as may be convenient) of each year for the purpose of receiving the Committee's Report, of examining and passing the Accounts of the previous year, of electing the Committee for the ensuing year, and of transacting general business.

Annual and Special General Meetings.

All important questions affecting the Port, and its commercial relations with the Empire of China, or with other States, may be discussed at the Annual Meetings or at Special General Meetings convened for the purpose in the manner provided for by Rule 17.

XVII. The Committee may, whenever they think fit, or shall upon a requisition made in writing signed by at least five Members of the Chamber, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Chamber. Any such requisition shall state the objects of the Meeting proposed to be held, and upon receipt of such requisition the Committee shall forthwith call an Extraordinary General Meeting, to be held within ten days subsequent to the receipt of such requisition.

Extraordinary General Meetings.

XVIII. At least five days' notice, either by Advertisement or printed Circular, shall be given of each Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, and in the case of the latter the notice shall state the nature of the business for which the Meeting is called.

XIX. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless there be personally present at the time the Meeting proceeds to business ten or more Members.

Quorum.

XX. Voting by Proxy, or by Members whose subscriptions are in arrear, shall not be allowed, nor shall more than one Member of the same Firm be entitled to vote for such Firm on the same occasion.

Voting.

XXI. In the absence from the Colony of all the partners in a Firm, their representative by Power of Attorney shall be entitled to vote.

Expulsion of
Member.

XXII. In case the conduct of any Member shall in the opinion of the Committee be injurious to the character or interests of the Chamber, the Committee may, after due enquiry, and after opportunity of making his defence has been afforded to such Member, pass a Resolution for the expulsion of such Member from the Chamber, and such Resolution shall take effect after it has been communicated to the Members, and been passed at a General Meeting by a majority of not less than two-thirds of those present and qualified to vote at such Meeting.

Alteration of
Rules.

XXIII. The Rules of the Chamber shall not be repealed, added to, or altered except by a majority of Members present at a General Meeting (called for that purpose) and after at least ten days' notice has been given of the proposed changes.

XXIV. The Rules and By-laws shall be printed and a copy thereof shall be furnished every Member.

XXV. Any Member who is the subject of a nation, between which and Great Britain a state of war exists shall *ipso facto* cease to be a Member.

BYE-LAWS.

(CONFIRMED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 19TH MAY, 1903.)
AND AMENDED AT A GENERAL MEETING HELD 28TH APRIL, 1914.

I. The Office shall be open daily from noon to one 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.

Office hours.

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 Subscriptions and obtain Statistics of Trade, prepare Statements of Trade, conduct and keep copies of correspondence, and attend to such other duties as may be required by the Committee.

Secretary's
duties.

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

Correspondence.

IV. No documents belonging to the Chamber shall be removed, nor shall any minute of its proceedings be made public without an order of the Committee and no Member shall be entitled to view any unpublished correspondence or records of the Chamber except at the discretion of the Committee.

Documents
not to be
Removed.

V. Notice of any proposition or business to be brought by Members before the Yearly General Meeting shall be given to the Secretary at least five days before the Meeting, who, in the circular or advertisement calling such Meeting, will state the business or proposition, and by whom to be brought forward.

General
Meeting Notice.

VI. In addition to the Subscriptions as provided for by Rule III., funds for the requirements of the Chamber may 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, or for Certificates for any Commercial matters, by the issue of telegraphic or other information of general interest, and by voluntary gifts and contributions either in money, maps, books or anything which may be useful to the Society.

Revenue
other than
Subscriptions.

Corresponding
and Arbitration
Committees.

VII. The Committee shall appoint every year from their number a Corresponding Committee to supervise all matters connected with the correspondence of the Chamber, and an Arbitration Committee to conduct and decide cases submitted to the arbitration of the Chamber. The functions of the Arbitration Committee shall continue so long as any business submitted to them during their period of service remains undecided.

Appointment
of outside
Arbitrators.

In cases of dispute relating to matters of a technical nature the Arbitration Committee may appoint one or more persons other than of their number to examine and/or arbitrate in the matter at such fee or fees as the Committee may decide.

Arbitration
Fees.

VIII. If the dispute be of such a nature as to, in the opinion of the General Committee, require the service of the Arbitration Committee, each Member thereof shall be entitled to a Fee—in addition to a Fee for the Chamber.

The amount of such Fees 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.

Terms of
Arbitration
Committee
to enforce.

X. The Arbitration Committee shall appoint its own Chairman and confine its functions to cases where 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 and other Members of the Public who may have occasion to resort to the Chamber for Arbitration.

The parties to an Arbitration or Survey need not necessarily be Members of the Chamber, but in cases where neither party is a Member of the Chamber the General Committee may decline to arbitrate or hold a Survey.

Construction
of By-laws.

XI. 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.

RULES TO REGULATE
PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS
HELD FOR THE NOMINATION OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
CHAMBER IN THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(CONFIRMED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING HELD 19TH MAY, 1903.)

1. On receipt of a request from the Government to nominate a representative of the Chamber in the Legislative Council, a General Meeting of the Members shall be called by the Committee, notice of which shall be given by advertisement in the public Press at least five days before the holding of such Meeting.

Notice of
Meeting.

2. Notice in writing of the names of Candidates, and of their proposers and seconders, to be lodged with the Secretary at least 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the General Meeting.

Proposal of
Candidates.

3. If only one Candidate, the Voting to be by show of hands; if more than one Candidate, the Voting to be by Ballot.

Voting.

4. In the case of a Ballot, Scrutineers to be appointed by the Meeting.

5. In the case of a Ballot, a voting paper to be handed to each Member entitled to vote attending the Meeting, and when the Poll takes place, the voting papers, with the names of the Selected Candidates filled in to be placed in a receptacle (to be indicated by the Chairman of the Meeting) at the place of Ballot; the Scrutineers (or Secretary) to register the name of the Voters as the voting papers are so deposited.

6. After a Candidate has been proposed and seconded, Members may speak to the proposal before the Meeting.

Order of
speeches.

7. When all the Candidates have been proposed and seconded, the Candidates may address the Meeting in the order in which their names have been submitted to the Meeting.

8. Thereafter no further addresses may be made and the Ballot shall take place.

Result.

9. After the Scrutineers have reported in writing to the Chairman of the Meeting the result of the Ballot, the Chairman shall declare the same to the Meeting.

Case of equality
of votes

10. In the case of an equality of votes between the Candidates standing highest in the Poll, the Ballot as between these Candidates shall be held over again at a further Meeting to be called on a date to be decided on by the General Committee, such date to be not later than ten days after the first Meeting.

SCALE OF COMMISSIONS AND BROKERAGES.

*Adopted by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
at the Annual General Meeting held 19th May, 1903.*

To be charged to Buyer and Seller.

COMMISSIONS.

Purchasing or selling Tea,	2½	per cent.
" " Raw Silk,	2½	" "
" " Cotton,	2½	" "
" " Opium,	2	" "
" " all other Goods and Produce,	3	" "
" " Ships and Landed Property,	5	" "
" " Stocks and Shares,	1	" "
Inspecting Tea,	2	" "
" Silk,	1	" "
Guaranteeing Sales	2½	" "
" Remittances,	1	" "
Drawing or endorsing Bills of Exchange,	1	" "
" or negotiating Bills of Exchange without recourse,	½	" "
Purchasing or realising Bullion or Bills of Exchange,	½	" "
Remitting the Proceeds of Bullion or Bills of Exchange,	½	" "
Paying and receiving Money in Current Account,	1	" "
" Ship's Disbursements,	2½	" "
Collecting Freight	2½	" "
Obtaining Freight or Charter,	5	" "
" " and collecting same Freight	6	" "
Adjusting Insurance Claims on Amount Recovered,	2½	" "
Effecting Insurance, on the Insured Amount,	½	" "
Prosecuting or defending successfully Claims, either at Law or by Arbitration,	5	" "
Prosecuting or defending unsuccessfully,	2½	" "
Managing Estates and collecting Rents (on Gross Receipts),	5	" "
Transshipping or forwarding Jewellery, and Bullion,	½	" "
Forwarding or transshipping Cargo,	1	" "
Transshipping or forwarding Opium,	\$2	per chest
Goods withdrawn or re-shipped,	½	Commission
Granting Letters of Credit,	1	per cent.
For doing ship's business when no inward or outward Commission 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,	½	per cent.	Payable by Seller
Produce and General Merchandise	½	"	" "
Fire Arms,	1	"	" "
For negotiating and completing Charters and procuring Freight,	1	"	by ship.
For negotiating sale or purchase of Landed Property	1	"	"

HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE.

TARIFF OF CHARGES.

To be charged to Buyer and Seller.

BANKS—		DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS—	
Hongkong & Shanghai	....\$2.00	Hongkong & Whampoa Dock	\$0.50
INSURANCE—		Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf	.50
Canton	..... 1.00	REFINERIES—	
China Fire	..... .50	China Sugar	..... .50
Hongkong Fire	..... 1.00	Malabons Sugar	..... .35
Union	..... 3.00	MISCELLANEOUS—	
LAND & BUILDINGS—		China-Borneo	..... .10
Central Estates	..... .50	China Light & Power	..... .10
Hongkong Land Investment	..... .50	China Provident	..... .10
Humphreys' Estate	..... .10	Dairy Farm	..... .25
Kowloon Land Investment	..... .35	Green Island Cements	..... .10
West Point Building	..... .50	Hongkong Electric	..... .35
HOTELS—		Hongkong Ice Co.	..... .75
Hongkong Hotel	..... .50	Hongkong Rope	..... .25
STEAMSHIPS—		Hongkong Tramway	..... .10
Hongkong, Canton & Macao	..... .20	Steel Foundries	..... .10
Indo-China, Preferred	..... .35	Watson & Co.	..... .10
Do. Deferred	..... .50	Wm. Powell	..... .10
Douglas Steamship Co.	..... .50		
Star Ferry	..... .35		
Union Water Boat Co.	..... .20		
MINING—			
Raub	..... .05		

When the prices of Stocks fluctuate, the above Tariff is subject to alterations as follows:—

Stock value.		Brokerage.	
At or over	\$900	Brokerage to be	\$3.00 per Share.
"	700	"	2.00
"	500	"	1.50
"	300	"	1.00
"	200	"	0.75
"	60	"	0.50
"	35	"	0.35
"	25	"	0.25
"	15	"	0.20
"	12.50	"	0.15
"	3.00	"	0.10
"	under 3.00	"	0.05

N.B.—This scale do not apply to non-local stocks, brokerage for which will be adjusted from time to time as occasion may demand.

By order of the Committee.

EDWARD M. RAYMOND,
Secretary.

N.B.—This List is to come into force from this date and cancels all previous issues.

Hongkong, 15th January, 1917.

HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE.

TARIFF OF CHARGES

ON

STERLING AND STRAITS DOLLAR STOCKS

To be charged to BUYER and SELLER.

Value of Stock.	Brokerage.
Under 5/-	1½d.
5/- and over	3d.
20/-	6d.
60/-	9d.
100/-	1/-
150/-	1/6
200/-	2/-
300/-	2/6
400/-	3/-

Under \$ 2	5 cents.
\$ 2 and over	10 "
\$ 10	25 "
\$ 30	40 "
\$ 60	50 "
\$100	75 "
\$300	\$1.00 "
\$500	\$2.00 "
\$700	\$3.00 "

By order of the Committee.

EDWARD M. RAYMOND,
Secretary.

N.B.—This List is to come into force from this date and cancels all previous issues.

Hongkong, 15th January, 1917.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, 1920.

Extract from the Holidays Ordinance 1912.

SECTION 3.—GENERAL HOLIDAYS.

1920 HOLIDAYS.	
Every Sunday .....	.....
The 1st day of January, or if that day should be a Sunday then the following day	Thursday, 1st January.
Chinese New Year's Day, or if that day should be a Sunday then the following day. Provided that if the Chinese hereafter adopt the Gregorian Calendar then the first two week days in January	Friday, 20th February.
Good Friday	Friday, 2nd April.
The day following Good Friday	Saturday, 3rd April.
Easter Monday	Monday, 5th April.
Whit Monday and Empire Day	Monday, 24th May.
The Birthday of His Majesty The King, unless it shall be ordered by the Governor, by an order published in the Gazette, that His Majesty's Birthday is to be kept on some other day, and then, such other day	Thursday, 3rd June.
The First Monday in August	Monday, 2nd August.
The Second Monday in October	Monday, 11th October.
The Monday which falls on or nearest to the 9th November	Monday, 8th November.
Christmas Day, or if that day should be a Sunday then the following day	Saturday, 25th December.
The 26th day of December, or if that day should be a Sunday then the following day, unless Christmas Day falls on a Sunday then the Tuesday following Christmas Day	Monday, 27th December.

Section VIII.—It shall be lawful for the Governor-in-Council by notification in the Gazette to appoint any day to be observed as a general or as a Public Holiday in addition to or in substitution for any day mentioned in Section 3 or in Section 4 and thereupon the provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to such added or substituted day and shall cease to apply to any day for which another has been so substituted.

MINUTES of a Special Extraordinary General Meeting of Members of the HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE held in the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ROOM, CHARTERED BANK BUILDING, on Tuesday, 15th April, 1919 at 4 p.m. for the purpose of considering and, if thought desirable, passing the following Resolution:—

“That it is the desire of the merchants of Hongkong that this Colony adopt the Daylight saving System to the extent of one hour, from 1st May next until 30th September next, and that the Government be approached with a request to introduce the system by putting forward the clock one hour at 12 midnight on 30th April.”

The Chairman of the Chamber, the Hon. Mr. S. H. Dodwell, presided and was supported by the following members of the Committee:—The Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, the Hon. Mr. D. Landale, and Messrs. E. V. D. Parr, N. J. Stabb, O.B.E., C. S. Gubbay, A. O. Lang, J. A. Plummer, and R. Ross Thomson with E. A. W. Williams (Secretary). The following firms were represented:—J. M. Alves and Company (J. M. Alves); Arculli Bros. (E. el Arculli); Asiatic Petroleum Co., Ltd. (N. L. Watson and W. H. Bell); Bradley & Co., Ltd. (J. A. Plummer); Butterfield & Swire (R. Ross Thomson); Canadian Pacific Ocean Services, Ltd. (J. H. Wallace); Canton Insurance Office, Ltd. (D. G. M. Bernard); China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd. (C. W. Beswick); Commercial Union Assurance Co., Ltd. (G. Dumbarton); Dodwell & Co., Ltd. (Hon. Mr. S. H. Dodwell); Donnelly and Whyte (D. E. Donnelly); Douglas S.S. Co. (H. P. White); Fire Insurance Association of Hongkong (D. K. Blair); Walter Ford & Co. (J. X. Batalha); Gibb, Livingston & Co. (A. O. Lang and G. M. Lakin); Gilman & Co., Ltd. (W. L. Pattenden); W. A. Hannibal & Co. (John Robertson); Holland China Trading Co. (A. W. van Andel); Hongkong and China Gas Co., Ltd. (G. P. Curry); Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd. (F. Graham); Hongkong Mercantile Co., Ltd. (R. H. Kotewall); Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (N. J. Stabb); Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd. (R. M. Dyer); Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd. (Hon. Mr. David Landale); Java China Japan Lijn (J. Jonckheer); Lane, Crawford & Co. (R. L. Bridger); Leigh and Orange (A. E. Griffin and W. L. Leask); Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co., Ltd. (J. de B. Lancaster); W. R. Loxley & Co. (B. Tennant); Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd. (E. L. Sim); Mustard & Co. (J. H. Scott); Macdonald & Co. (Donald Macdonald); Mr. G. C. Moxon; Nestle-Anglo Swiss Condensed Milk Co. (A. G. Coppin); New Zealand Insurance Co., Ltd. (J. Stackhouse); Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. (E. V. D. Parr); Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Reiss & Co. (Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak); Alex Ross & Co. (D. K. Moss); J. M. da Rocha & Co. (J. M. da Rocha); Royal Insurance Co., Ltd. (B. Tennant); E. D. Sassoon & Co. (C. S. Gubbay); David Sassoon & Co., Ltd. (E. Ezra); H. Skott & Co. (G. E. Wetton); De Sousa & Co. (E. V. M. R. de Souza); Standard Oil Co. of New York (W. B. Walker); Stewart Bros. (E. A. Ormiston); Union Trading Co. (S. M. Churn and V. Barretto); Wilkinson and Grist (C. F. H. Beavis); Harry Wicking & Co. (A. Forbes).

The Secretary having read the Notice convening the Meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, the calling of this meeting was not due to any sudden impulse on the part of your committee to thrust a daylight saving scheme upon the Colony. The matter was brought up because Shanghai adopted a daylight saving scheme to the extent of advancing the clock one hour, commencing on the 12th of April last and finishing on the 30th of September. Certain interests approached your committee to ask their opinion, stating that for some institutions, such as the banks, it might be somewhat inconvenient if there was such a large difference in time between here and Shanghai. Your committee felt that an opinion on such an important point could not possibly be given without calling a full meeting of the Chamber. Daylight saving, in spite of serious opposition at first, is, I believe, now popular at Home and in America, and I believe, also, in India and other places. Perhaps, therefore, it is as well that we should endeavour to decide, once and for all, whether it is worth while making any representation in this respect to the Government of this Colony. The resolution before you is in no way the outcome of the considered opinion of your committee. It is merely a resolution based on what has been adopted in Shanghai and put forward as a basis for discussion. We had very short notice of Shanghai's intention and as their change came into force on the 12th of this month it seemed desirable that this meeting should be held at the earliest possible moment. The draft of the resolution was, perhaps, somewhat hurriedly made out and I have heard some criticism of the use of the word merchant. To those of you who are not merchants and do not look upon the use of the word as a compliment, I tender my apologies. (Laughter). Although it may be desirable, for some reasons, to have the same time here as in Shanghai I think it would be a mistake to adopt a similar measure if it does not suit our amount of day-light and sun-shine because we must bear in mind that in any extra daylight we should get a good deal of it would be accompanied with very hot sunshine. Shanghai would appear to think that it is quite immaterial whether we are on the same footing or not for the simple reason that they have not taken the trouble to consult us, but this may be due to the fact that they originally intended only to alter their business hours and not their clocks. Therefore, I suggest we should not allow Shanghai's independence in this matter to warp our better judgment. As you are well aware the reasons for which the Daylight Saving Bill was introduced at home were, firstly, to save artificial light, and, secondly, to give workers a longer period of recreation in the evening. The first reason cannot be said to exist to any great extent out here. It may possibly exist in some degree. The second reason, from our point of view, is by far the more important one. In fact, I think it is the one we have mainly to consider in coming to a decision because out-door exercise and recreation, in a climate such as ours, are particularly essential for the maintenance of fitness and efficiency in work. During the last few days I have carefully studied all the available data in the Colony on this subject. I have listened to the views of staunch adherents of the scheme and also of those of bitter opponents, and at the risk of appearing to seek popularity by trying to please both sides I must say I have come to the conclusion that a compromise would suit us best. The extra hour of sunshine for the summer months would undoubtedly mean starting out in very hot sun-shine for our recreation. An extra

hour in the winter would be a great blessing but it would mean that we should get up in the dark and the docks and industries would have to start work in the dark during too long a period. But I believe if we split the difference and made it half an hour all the year round it would be found in practice that this would work out very well indeed. I have heard it argued in the Colony that we do not work by the clock, that we work as the ships and jobs turn up. That is so even in the best organised concerns and more so, of course, in the badly organised ones, if there are any. But I submit that the larger proportion of the European population do pay some attention to the clock and that a little longer evening daylight would benefit the majority, if not on all the days of the week, at any rate on most of them. There would also be the advantage in the summer of getting to the office at an earlier, and consequently cooler part of the day, while in the winter months I assume that the extra half hour would just enable workers to engage in some out-door recreation instead of frequenting billiard rooms and bars and indulging in other indoor pastimes, which I am sure would make for the well-being generally of the Colony. (Laughter). In fact the only hardship I can find, from the point of view of recreation if we adopt the scheme all the year round, would fall on that little band of enthusiasts who run ponies, in the training season, and they, I think, chiefly consist of the much maligned *taipan* who has no time sheet to sign when he arrives at the office. There is one other advantage which may not have occurred to you. In ordinary times when cables are working normally—Heaven knows, gentlemen, whether that will ever come again—I remember that cables dispatched in Hongkong between 5 and 6 o'clock invariably arrived in our London office just too late in the afternoon for them to be attended and replied to the same day. The advance of the clock, even to the extent of half an hour, would be very useful in that respect. A study of the hours of sun-set and sun-rise shows that in November the sun would rise, if you add 30 minutes on to our present time, at 7.6 a.m., in December at 7.25, in January at 7.36, in February at 7.25 and in March at 7.2. Those are the worst months of the year. Official day, during the war, commenced about twelve minutes before sun-rise, so that I presume about twelve minutes before the times I have mentioned there would be more or less day-light. Sunset in May, adding 30 minutes, would be at 7.26 p.m., in June 7.38, in July 7.41 and in August 7.25, so that dining at 8 o'clock in the longest months of the year would hardly be dining in daylight, in fact I do not think it would be. In December sunset would be at 6.11 p.m., in January at 6.29, in February at 6.49 and in March at 7.3. If it is not dark until approximately 10 minutes after sunset I think these times confirm what I have said that the half an hour change would just enable out-door recreation to be taken during these months. We approached the Chinese Chamber of Commerce on the matter and they unanimously decided to support the draft resolution which this meeting was called to consider. Personally, while I think that a difference of one hour between the time here and in Shanghai might be inconvenient, I do not think half an hour all round would matter very much, and I am sure if the Government adopted any recommendation we might see fit to make that they would do their utmost to get the neighbouring ports to adopt a similar scheme. We have written to the Canton British Chamber of Commerce but, so far have had no reply. Well, gentlemen, I do not propose to put forward

the resolution which was advertised. I have another resolution to put before you, but if any member of the Chamber or any member of the Committee—because the Committee are quite divided in their opinions—would like to propose the original resolution as advertised he has, of course, perfect liberty to do so.

Mr. BEAVIS said that he was opposed both to the resolution as advertised and to the proposals of the Chairman and he asked for guidance regarding the method of procedure he should adopt.

The CHAIRMAN—As no one wishes to propose the resolution as advertised, I will propose my resolution:

“That it is the desire of the members of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce in this Colony to give a trial to the Daylight Saving system to the extent of half an hour from 1st May next to 30th April, 1920, and that the Government be approached with a request to introduce the system by putting forward the clock half an hour at mid night on April 30th next.

Hon. Mr. HOLYOAK—I rise to second the resolution which has been proposed by the Chairman and in doing so I must confess to a perfectly open mind on the matter. I second the resolution because, so far as my own thought upon the subject goes, I think it will be to the general benefit of the Colony as a whole. It will be of benefit in the summer time because during the hottest part of the year the offices will commence their work at an earlier hour, and I think it is the common knowledge of all of us that the best work is invariably done during the earlier part of the day. When the cable system becomes normal once again we shall be able to do the important part of the work embodied in the cables before the real heat of the day sets in and, after office hours on a very hot day, although it may be perfectly true that it will be too early for exercise owing to the heat of the sun, we shall at any rate cease for the most part the active operation of the brain under very trying conditions. So much for the summer. During the autumn and winter much will be gained by the Colony through the fact that sufficient time will be left open for out-door exercise as opposed to indoor pastimes which, of course, will be good for the office staffs and will mean more efficient work. The Chairman has already explained to you that the Committee itself is divided upon this subject. We have no desire to force a resolution on this meeting. Far from it. We want the fullest and freest discussion of the whole subject so that it may be decided, once and for all, whether it will be wise to make any change or not, and, if so, to what extent. For that purpose I second the resolution.

A PLEA FOR THE CHILDREN.

Mr. BEAVIS said he opposed the resolution which had been put to the meeting, so far as it applied to the summer months, for one special reason. The reason, he thought, would probably be new to most of them. It had been suggested to him and previously he had not considered it. The alteration which had been suggested would, in his opinion, be prejudicial, possibly to the health, and certainly to the comfort and con-

venience, of the European children of this Colony. He had three small children himself so he was in a position to judge in this case. The summer months bore very hardly on the children and he thought they would all wish to avoid, as far as possible, making the time harder for them. During the summer months the children's hours of exercise in the afternoon were regulated by the sun's heat. The children went out for their exercise in the afternoon as soon as the weather was cool enough to allow them to do so and that hour was roughly about 4.45 p.m. or 5 o'clock. Children had to get to bed in order to get their full night's rest by 7 or 8 o'clock. It was difficult enough for them to get their exercise, their evening meal, etc., finished by 7 or 8 o'clock as it was. If they altered the time by an hour or even half an hour it would make the task more difficult still. If the time was altered the household would go by the clock and they could not expect the children to remain an hour longer in bed in the morning to make up for losing an hour at night when the members of the household were out and about. He knew that those members who had children would appreciate these points and he trusted that all of them would give this matter consideration. There was another point which was perhaps not so important but it did conduce to the comfort of the children. The children derived a good deal of amusement, and he imagined healthy recreation, from bathing parties. The children went to those bathing picnics at the earliest convenient hour and that hour was regulated by the heat of the sun. They returned to their houses just in time for bed. Shanghai was in a slightly different position because the summer was a short one and a further consideration, he fancied, was that most of the people who had a say in the matter sent their children away from Shanghai during the hot season. He did not wish to move any amendment to the resolution proposed. For the reasons he had given he was opposed to it.

Subsequently, at the suggestion of the Chairman, Mr. Beavis said that he would move, as an amendment to the resolution, that the alteration of time should not be extended to the summer months.

Major Macdonald seconded the amendment. He pointed out that in the summer we had a very even day. Some of them might remember that their clock was put forward 27 minutes in order to bring them into zone time with Peking. When that was done they felt that they lost a certain amount of daylight in the morning. If they put forward the clock another hour they would seriously interfere with the business of the Colony. The working men would not start work in the morning while it was dark; they would simply sit down and wait about until it was bright daylight.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that if Major Macdonald was in favour of Mr. Beavis' amendment his argument was wrong. Mr. Beavis' amendment suggested that the clock might be put forward in the winter and not in the summer.

NO CHANGE.

Major MACDONALD then remarked that he was against any alteration at all and he moved as an amendment that the clock be not touched

Mr. R. M. DYER seconded this.

Mr. C. W. BESWICK said he thought there was very little to support the alteration in the ordinary way but he would like to know whether we should be at any disadvantage in relation with Shanghai owing to the difference in the times. Unless there were reasons why we should keep in line with Shanghai he would support Major Macdonald's amendment that there should be no change.

Mr. N. J. STABB pointed out that of course the two ports worked very much together and there was an advantage in being closely connected as far as time was concerned. But it was not a matter of very material importance in the summer months except that they would be practically cut off from the Shanghai market in the afternoons for three or four months. It would be 3 o'clock here and 4 o'clock there, and they would not be able to get into touch with them by telegram. He thought, however, the greater part of the business was done in the morning. He did not think half an hour mattered very much one way or the other.

Major MACDONALD's amendment that there should be no change was then put to the meeting.

Twenty-three voted for it and twenty-one against, and, therefore, by a majority of two votes, the Chamber of Commerce decided that Hongkong should keep to its present time-table.

MINUTES of a General Meeting of the Members of the HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE held in the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ROOM, CHARTERED BANK BUILDING, on Tuesday, 13th May, 1919, at 4 p.m. for the purpose of electing a Member as the Chamber's nominee to fill the place on the Legislative Council of the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak on temporary leave from the Colony.

The Hon. Mr. S. H. Dodwell presided, and was supported by the following members of the Committee:—Messrs. E. V. D. Parr, J. Johnstone, R. Ross Thomson, J. A. Plummer, A. O. Lang, C. H. D. Hay and H. J. Brett, with Mr. E. A. M. Williams (secretary). The following firms were represented:—Messrs. Bradley & Co. (Mr. J. A. Plummer), Butterfield & Swire (Mr. R. Ross Thomson), Cawasjee, Pellanjee & Co. (Mr. R. B. Cooper), China Borneo Co. (Mr. G. M. Lakin), China Mutual Life Insurance Co., Ltd. (Mr. B. W. Tape), China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd. (Mr. C. W. Beswick), Dodwell & Co., Ltd. (Mr. S. H. Dodwell), Eastern Asbestos Co. (Mr. K. S. Morrison), Fire Insurance Association of Hongkong (Mr. D. K. Blair), Gibb, Livingston & Co. (Mr. A. O. Lang), Gilman & Co. (Mr. W. L. Pattenden), Hongkong Electric Co. (Mr. F. Graham), J. D. Humphreys & Son (Mr. H. Humphreys), W. G. Humphreys & Co. (Mr. W. M. Humphreys), J. D. Hutchison & Co. (Mr. T. E. Pearce), Jardine, Matheson & Co. (Mr. J. Johnstone), Linstead & Davies (Mr. F. Maitland), Lowe Bingham and Matthews (Mr. E. A. M. Williams), N. Mody & Co. (Mr. N. Mody), Mr. G. C. Moxon, Nestle's Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. (Mr. A. G. Coppin), Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co. (Mr. E. V. D. Parr and Mr. P. L. Knight), H. Stephens & Co. (Mr. H. Stephens), South British Insurance Co., Ltd. (Mr. S. G. Newall), Union Insurance Society of Canton (Mr. C. H. P. Hay) and Harry Wicking & Co. (Mr. J. O. Hughes).

The Secretary having read the Notice convening the Meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, this meeting has been called as the result of the following letter from the Government which, I think, it is customary to read at such meetings.

The CHAIRMAN then read the letter in which H.E. the Officer Administering the Government requested the Chamber to take the necessary steps to nominate a representative of the Chamber on the Legislative Council during the absence of the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak.

Continuing, the CHAIRMAN said:—The proposal in this case is very simple as there is only one nomination—that of Mr. E. V. D. Parr, who has been proposed by Mr. A. G. Coppin and seconded by Mr. W. M. Humphreys. The voting will merely be by show of hands.

Mr. A. G. COPPIN: Mr. Chairman, I have much pleasure in proposing that Mr. E. V. D. Parr be appointed to act as this Chamber's representative on the Hongkong Legislative Council during the absence on leave of the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak. The fact that his is the only nomination is clear proof to my mind of the unanimous desire of members

of the Chamber that Mr. Parr be appointed to this position. Mr. Parr is so well known to you that he needs no introduction. He has been resident in the Colony for a considerable number of years, during the whole of which time he has been connected with the shipping and general commercial interests of the Colony. I confidently recommend him to your suffrages, being assured that he will be found to be imbued with many of the ideas of his predecessor, the late Mr. Hewitt, who for so many years ably represented this Chamber. (Applause).

Mr. W. M. HUMPHREYS: I feel sure Mr. Parr has the confidence of the members of the Chamber and of the commercial community generally. I beg to second the nomination.

Mr. PARR: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, in offering myself as a candidate to represent you on the Legislative Council, while my friend Mr. Holyoak is at Home on leave, I am prepared to do my utmost to further in every possible way that I can, generally, the interests of the commerce of this Colony. I first came to Hongkong twenty-three years ago, and since that time I have been stationed in Shanghai, Japan, and India, and, on each occasion of my return to Hongkong, I could not help being impressed with the progress that the Colony's trade had made, its vast and evergrowing importance to China, to the world generally, and to the great commercial chain of the British Empire. I am one of the many who believe there is a great future for Hongkong. The late Mr. Hewitt, whose good work for this Chamber Mr. Coppin very aptly referred to, was, I know, very strongly of that opinion. I have had the privilege, gentlemen, of being on your Committee for some three to four years now, and in seeking election to the Legislative Council I have no ulterior motives. It is an honour I look upon as coming from you, and I will do any best to voice your wishes to that Body, for the general good of the Colony. (Applause). I do not propose to detain you with a long speech, but I should like to thank my friend, Mr. Coppin, and my friend, Mr. Humphreys, for the trouble they have taken in bringing my name before you. With these few remarks, I have the pleasure of placing my services at your disposal. (Applause).

The proposition was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN having intimated to Mr. Parr that he had been elected:

Mr. PARR said: Gentlemen, I thank you very much for the confidence you have placed in me. If, as is no doubt true, the credit or otherwise of a place is reflected in its public men I deem it a great privilege to be amongst that number now in Hongkong, which, I think, may be considered up to this time to have been very fortunate in the choice of its public men. (Applause).

Mr. PARR received the congratulations of those present, and the gathering dispersed.

MINUTES of a General Meeting of Members of the HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE held in the OLD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ROOM, CITY HALL, on Tuesday, 3rd February, 1920 at 5 p.m., when the Commission Organizing the First Aerial Derby Around the World consisting of Commodore Louis D. Beaumont, President, Major Charles J. Glidden, U.S.A., F.R.G.S., Executive Secretary, and Mr. Benjamin Hillman, Treasurer, addressed the Meeting.

The Hon. Mr. S. H. DODWELL, Chairman of the Chamber, presided, and amongst others present were: Sir Arthur Whitten Brown, Mr. N. J. Stabb, O.B.E., the Hon. Mr. John Johnstone, the Hon. Mr. E. V. D. Parr, the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Commodore Gurner, R.N., Mr. R. Ross Thomson, Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar, Mr. C. H. P. Hay, Mr. C. S. Gubbay, Mr. J. Reid and Mr. E. A. M. Williams.

The CHAIRMAN said:—I have much pleasure in introducing to you to-night the Special Commission organising the first Aerial Derby round the world under the rules of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale. The object of the Commission is to create a world-wide interest in aeronautics with a view to exploiting without undue delay the possibilities of aerial transport in relation to commerce and travel. During the war the old adage that necessity is the mother of invention was proved up to the hilt, and extraordinarily rapid strides were made in the construction of aeroplanes and dirigible air-ships, chiefly, of course, for war purposes. Now that hostilities have ceased there is a danger that international effort and interest in this great question may slack off to some extent. I think, therefore, that the heartiest welcome is due to the Commission, who are giving freely of their time and of their money towards an object which cannot but eventually prove of the greatest benefit to mankind generally.—(Applause.)—Hongkong as one of the largest shipping ports in the world—the transshipping centre for the South of China—must leave no stone unturned in the endeavour to ensure that what she is to those who go down to the sea in ships she will become to those who in the future go up in the air in ships. There may be difficulties in the way from the practical point of view, but if there are it is up to us to do our utmost to surmount them and so ensure that the aerial services of the future throughout the South of China may radiate from this Colony. We are extremely fortunate to-night in having present with us not only the commission, who are devoting their time and money to aerial development, but also many representatives of the other side of the proposition—the practical side—men who have fought our battles for us in the air. One of them Sir Arthur Whitten Brown has kindly consented to address the meeting. He is too well-known to you all in his association with the late gallant Sir John Alcock in their flight across the Atlantic to need any introduction from me.—(Applause.)—The Commission consists of Commodore Louis D. Beaumont (President), Mr. Benjamin Hillman (Treasurer), and Major Chas. J. Glidden (Secretary), and I will now call upon Commodore Beaumont to address the meeting.—(Applause.)

GREAT FLIGHTS ORGANISED IN AMERICA.

COMMODORE LOUIS D. BEAUMONT said:—As President of the Special Commission in charge of organizing the First Aerial Derby Around the World, it gives me the pleasure to greet you in the name of the Aero Club of America and the Aerial League of America, and to extend to you a hearty invitation to participate in the important and epoch-making work of opening the airways of the world. You will be glad to know that your Colony holds the distinction of being on the new official wall map of the world's airways, prepared by the Aeronautic Maps Association of New York, which was prepared especially to show the possible airways and air routes in relation to the world traffic and commerce, where aircrafts can solve difficult problems of transportation. The one great purpose of the Aerial Derby around the world is to open the world's airways. It will be an historic event which will rank in importance with the discovery of America by Columbus, the completion of the Panama Canal and the marvellous flights across the Atlantic of Commander A. C. Read, Sir John M. Alcock and Sir Arthur W. Brown, and the double cruise across the Atlantic of the British dirigible, R.34. In inviting you to participate in organizing the important First Aerial Derby around the world we are bringing to you an opportunity to become closely connected with the aeronautic movement as a whole, which, as you know, is a marvellous movement with tremendous possibilities. The aeronautic movement is extending its usefulness to every branch of human endeavour and every person, young or old, man or woman, has much to give and much to receive from it. Through the tremendous strides forward of aeronautics there are wonderful possibilities for the employment of ingenuity, genius and skill, and business opportunities as great as were opened by the railroad, automobile and telegraph industries. And there are problems of engineering as huge as were solved by Goethels and other builders; problems of transportation to be solved by the application of aircraft as complex as ever have confronted economists. The aviators and passengers who will participate in this Aerial Derby around the world are the forerunners of the millions who will, in the years to come, travel by the permanent aerial transportation lines which are to come in the near future, sooner than we expect. And the pioneer countries which have assisted in organizing this event and have established airports, will be the terminals of scores of air lines and for hundreds of aircrafts which will come from every part of the world. To-day your participation in this event will give your Colony world-wide prominence; in the near future it will bring aerial mail lines, and there will be followed by aerial commerce and other important developments which will be valuable assets. Few people could have foreseen or believed eight months ago that over 1,000 individuals in the United States alone would purchase aeroplanes ranging in price from \$3,500 to \$25,000 each, to use for sport, pleasure and transportation. But such is the case and the canvass taken among the 10,000 members of the Aero Club of America and the Aerial League of America shows that we may expect by next spring that thousands of people will order planes to use for pleasure, sport and transportation. Over fifty aerial transportation lines have been established or are being established and hundreds will no doubt be organized in the coming twelve months. The Aero Club of

America and the Aerial League of America are organizing the following events:—

1.—*The Aerial Derby Around the World*, being organized under the auspices of the Aero Club of America and the Aerial League of America, with the assistance of the forty aero clubs affiliated with the Aero Club of America in the United States, for which efforts are being made to secure prizes amounting to \$1,000,000.

2.—*An Aerial Derby Across the American Continent* is being organized by the Aerial League of America and is to be held next June or July. The prizes are expected to amount to \$100,000 and the event is to be an international one and open to aviators holding the pilot certificate issued by the national aero clubs of the world affiliated with the International Aeronautic Federation.

3.—A prize of \$25,000 has been offered by Mr. Raymond Orteig, a member of the Aero Club of America, for the first flight made from New York to Paris.

4.—There are half a dozen additional contests proposed, with prizes ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 being organized under the auspices of the Aero Club of America and the Aerial League of America.

All these events and other events taking place in different countries are held under the rules of the International Aeronautic Federation which is an organization founded in 1905 and is composed of the national clubs of different countries and makes all the regulations for contests and sporting events.

AERIAL POST IN AMERICA.

The Office of Information Post Office Department, Washington, D.C., on December 2nd, communicated the following:—All load carrying airplane records were broken to-day when a twin motor De Havilland four plane devised by and manufactured for the Post Office Department covered the distance between the air mail field at Washington and that at Belmont Park, New York, a distance of 218 miles in one hour and thirty-four minutes with a mail load of nearly 30,000 letters weighing 630 pounds. The speed was at the rate of 138 miles per hour. The best previous record was on September 19th when a single motor De Havilland carried 300 pounds of mail from Washington to New York at a speed of 123 miles per hour and the third best record was on October 1st when a Curtiss plane carried 348 pounds of mail from New York to Washington at a speed of 118 miles per hour.

Our mission should, and I am sure will, stimulate aviation in all countries, as much enthusiasm is shown everywhere. We hope to draw the countries of the world into closer communication and association with one another and a possibility of world experience in the horror of four or five years of the recent war, will not again be probable. To control the air is a grand sign of peace.

THE PLAN OF THE DERBY.

Major CHARLES J. GLIDDEN, the Executive Secretary, made the following statement of the general plan of the Derby:—

The first Aerial Derby around the world will be in the nature of a touring contest in which any person may participate. They may use both aeroplanes and dirigibles for air travel and are permitted to use ships, railways, automobiles and other means of transportation to make connections between countries, but the fastest average air mileage wins the master prizes.

The period of time allotted for the journey will not be less than six months and the zone of travel will be between sixty north latitude and fifteen south latitude. Contestants living outside the zone may fly by any route into the zone and continue on their journey within the prescribed limits. The contestant may consume the entire time allotted to make the trip and fly or engage passage for flight under conditions agreeable to aerial travel. That is he may fly from one point to another on one day, continuing at his pleasure on to the next point his time being officially taken by referees at the point of starting and stopping. The contestant will be under the absolute control and direction of the referees appointed, who must be citizens (native preferred) of the country in which the contestant is travelling. It will not be necessary for the contestant to own an aeroplane, flying boat or dirigible, as he is privileged to engage passage in any aircraft available, and it is hoped the Commission may be able to arrange aerial transportation across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans whereby several contestants may go together. The object of the Commission is to create a world-wide interest in aeronautics and air travel, the building of safe landing fields and airports, the establishing of controls and appointment of referees to check contestants in and out and to collect data to enable the establishing of permanent aerial lines throughout the world.

The Commission requests all commercial bodies to co-operate with the Aero Associations of their City, State or Country (and if none exist to organize an association) and to make an entry in the First Aerial Derby Around The World, and to be foremost to push forward aviation so that aerial lines may be speedily established to all parts of the world. The Commission travelled 7,300 miles in the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific, stopping at 24 large cities, and addressing over ten thousand members of Chambers of Commerce and business associations. Delegations from other chambers came as far as 1,000 miles to meet the Commission. The Press of the entire country co-operated by giving much space to the work of the Commission, illustrated by photographs. Officers stationed at Army and Naval stations rendered valuable service to the Commission, accompanied by expressions tending to encouragement and inspiration. The Ministers of State, Army, Navy, Governors and Governor-Generals, prominent business and professional men have received the Commission and endorsed their work in all countries visited to date, namely:—Japan, Korea, China, Philippines, the Colonies of Macao and Hongkong. The Press throughout have given unlimited

space locally and editorially to the work of the Commission, and through this medium millions have had their attention called to the object of the Commission's visitation. The notices of progress made by the Commission have been, and are being, sent for distribution to twenty thousand papers throughout the world, over thirty thousand words having been forwarded to date, and the Commission have over forty countries yet to visit or to receive communications from, in all of which a Commissioner will be appointed with whom contestants or pilots of aircraft in the future may communicate for instruction and guidance when flying over a foreign colony and country. A high compliment was paid to Commodore Beaumont, the organizer and leading spirit of the proposed Derby, by the Director of the Air Service of Japan who said: "Commodore Perry opened the door of Japan to the World. Commodore Beaumont has opened the door of Japan to aviation."

WHAT THE AERIAL DERBY MEANS.

While the Commission is organizing the First Aerial Derby Around the World the aviators of Great Britain have flown from London to Australia and British aviators are flying London to Cape Town; the aviators of Italy are flying from Rome to Tokyo; and the aviators of France are flying from Paris to Saigon. A regular mail service by the air route has been established between London and Delhi. A complete route has been charted from Cairo to Cape Town, and the Commission has completed its charting of three routes around the world, the minimum distance being 22,207 miles. "Orientia," the Goddess of Oriental Progress, from the highest peak in the Himalayas, waves her wand over all Asia and Islands of the Pacific and says: "Can ye not discern the signs of the times?" The little Filipino with his bright sparkling eye, says: "Give me a chance and I will fly." His Excellency the Governor of the Philippines says: "We will educate two men for the contest, and I will recommend a general aerial service for the three thousand islands of the archipelago." General Aguinaldo, the famous Filipino who in the early days caused Uncle Sam considerable annoyance, to say the least, as he lay on his cot in the General Hospital at Manila, said; "Can we have only two Filipinos in the contest," and when told "Yes, the more contestants the better" a smile went over his face and he said: "The commercial use of aircraft will open up the Philippine country one hundred times faster than it is possible to do it by any other method." Hon. W. H. Eustis, formerly Mayor of Minneapolis, Minn, said: "For thou buildest better than thou knowest. For the mission means the establishment of permanent peace." Marquis Okuma, formerly Premier of Japan, said: "The success of your mission means perpetual peace to the world." Viscount Kaneko, His Majesty's Privy Councillor, said: "The Commission is sowing the seed of international friendship upon the entire world" and "You are doing a noble magnanimous work." Baron Sakatani, formerly Minister of Finance: "I know America well and that America is great in many things, but the organization of the First Aerial Derby Around the World is the greatest of all things as it will bring the peoples of all lands closer together and make for perpetual peace." Mr. E. W. Frazer, Commissioner of the Derby for Japan and Korea, said: "The true dove of peace is the Aeroplane." Dr. John C. Ferguson, advisor to the President of China, and Commissioner for the Derby for

China, in accepting the position as Commissioner, said: "This is the most important position I have ever held." After consultation with many of the leading statesmen of Japan, Government Officials, Military and Civilian, the Commission sent the following cable to the President of the clubs in New York: "Universal co-operation assured"; and from China: "Heartily endorsed"; from the Philippines: "Wonderful reception"; from Korea: "Approved." From the little Portuguese Colony: "Aerial Service organized." I read in the issue of the *Daily Press*, published in your City, on January 30th. a two-column report on the Imperial Air Routes, the White Paper of the Advisory Committee on Civil Aviation of Great Britain, the strongest article and recommendations for aviation ever published. And what message has Britain's great Colony in the Orient, Hongkong, to give the Commission to send around the world to assist in the advancement of aviation?

PROGRESS OF AVIATION IN THE STATES.

Mr. BENJAMIN HILLMAN said:—Flying for sport, pleasure and transportation is developing by leaps and bounds in the United States. The following data were gathered by our Commission during our visit to twenty cities on our way to San Francisco. We found that in one section of the United States alone, since June this year, there had been sold 1,000 aeroplanes. These planes are all used for passenger-carrying and transportation, and everywhere the Commission was told that people ready to buy aeroplanes were held back by inability on the part of manufacturers to make prompt deliveries and supply larger aeroplanes equipped with several motors to use for long distance transportation and flying boats to use on waterways. Aeroplane dealers in various cities stated that they could have sold ten times as many aeroplanes this year if the manufacturers had been able to supply them. In some places large automobile dealers have taken up the aeroplane business and state their readiness to place order for 100 machines of each type next year. One dealer who bought one hundred aeroplanes last year in June, sold them all within sixty days and then bought forty more which he sold, and could dispose of two hundred more if he could get deliveries. A Chicago dealer sold \$750,000 worth of air-craft parts and supplies. The extensive use of planes for transportation, surveying, passenger-carrying and other useful purposes in the middle and north-west was a revelation even to the aeronautic authorities in the party, who, for the past ten years, as leaders of the aeronautic movement, have at times been considered over-optimistic. We know that when the Atlantic City Aeronautic Convention started in May, all the aeroplanes were owned by the Army and Navy, and it took several months for the manufacturers to liquidate their Government orders and secure release of aeroplanes for private use. Now that the restrictions are removed a great aeronautic boom has started which has practically no limit, except a possible failure on the part of manufacturers to produce suitable aircraft in large enough quantity. Great Britain has some of the best air ports in the World. In deciding the size of a landing field for land aeroplanes it is well to consider the size required by the largest aeroplane to-day. A field with a runway of 1,500 feet in the direction of the prevailing winds is sufficient for the average two large passenger-carrying aeroplanes like the 20-passenger Lawson Aerial Pullman which recently flew from Cincinnati to New York

and from New York to Chicago. This plane, like the large Handley-Page, Caproni and Farman passenger-carrying planes, can land on a field of less than 2,000 feet runway, but it is a risky practice. The field should afford a runway of 3,000 feet in the direction of the prevailing winds. You will never regret having made allowances for large planes. You will find them landing on your field as soon as you have the field, and permanent mail and transportation air lines will be running from your City to other cities. And seaplanes will land at your airports. The British dirigible R-34 came to the United States on the invitation of the Aero Club of America because we secured a good airport for it. This dirigible is to be followed by dirigibles many times larger, one being under construction, which has ten million cubic feet hydrogen capacity and will lift 303 tons, of which 100 tons will be cargo, and will be capable of navigating the air for 25 days or 36,000 miles without stopping, at a speed of 60 miles an hour, reducing the time from London to Hongkong to about 5 days.

FROM HONGKONG TO LONDON.

Sir ARTHUR WHITTEN BROWN said that, after listening to the Commission for all round the world Derby, he was sure he felt that the next best thing to do would be to rush off and start the air service right away and take a passage to London in five days. Certainly the time was coming when that could be done. He was as enthusiastic as possible, but where transport was concerned he did not think that it was a thing to be rushed. They could start a line. Transport lines would be started, but only where there was a sufficient volume of traffic to show a return on the enormous capital which must be invested. Now, to run a line from Hongkong to London, the invested capital to carry on an aerial service would not be less than about £2,000,000 to £2,500,000, and to show a return on that capital the passage charged per passenger would be approximately from £150. to £200. Mails would be carried at from 6d. to 9d. an ounce. The machines to carry on such a service would have to take a minimum load of 15 tons. That was as far as a small airship was concerned, but the airships would be larger in the future. Would there be 15 tons passengers a week to be carried between Hongkong and London? If there were, then such a service would be carried on. If there were not, then there was no hope whatever of having such a service. At the present moment Great Britain had aeroplanes for short distance and high speed work and dirigibles for long distance and moderate speed work. During the last great railway strike dirigibles were used for the carrying of mails and aeroplanes for passengers. Here in Hongkong they had practically no ground available for an aerodrome, and in the New Territories it would be an expensive business to provide an aerodrome suitable for big machines. One of the speakers had just told them that a 1,500 feet run would be needed for a large machine. He knew of a big Handley-Page machine which had to struggle along for half a mile before it got going. With a smaller machine 500 to 600 feet of a clear run was absolutely necessary—and more than that, if possible, to allow opportunities for pulling, etc. So that here they would be confined to the flying boat. They were constructing now for the Government two large machines of 5,000 horsepower and 240 feet span which would not require a landing ground but merely a tower standing at a height sufficient for

an airship to swing round and get clear of any building. That would suffice as a landing stage. For landing purposes a special pier could be erected near the town, whereas for aeroplanes an aerodrome would have to be built some distance away from town. Of course a floating boat must go near the wharf, so that whilst there was the greatest possible future for air transport and whilst air transport showed great advantages over every other means of transport, he asked them to exercise caution in approaching the subject. They must remember that it was always a question whether any line instituted was going to have the necessary number of passengers after the pleasure-seekers had finished with it. The idea of a race round the world was excellent, but unfortunately—if he might criticise it—it had been made a race for individuals with abundance of money, and the prize mentioned, G. \$50,000, would not cover the expense of carrying out that flight. The race would have to be won by someone who was in a position to spend more money than the prize or one who had financial backing. If a man had £100,000 at his disposal he could start in two minutes with a dirigible which could be constructed in England and which would cover the world with not more than three stops. If it were not for the expense he would have liked to compete himself.— (Applause.)

AVIATION CLUB IN HONGKONG.

The CHAIRMAN then said:—We have all listened with deep interest to the instructive words spoken by the commission and Sir Arthur Brown, and on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce I would like to express our thanks to them for addressing us to-night. I think however that our thanks should take a more concrete form—a form more likely to appeal to them in that they will feel that their efforts have been rewarded. Whatever views you held before this meeting, I feel sure now that you are convinced we ought to take some practical step, as it were, to place ourselves on the map aeronautically, and I am consequently going to propose a resolution committing us to the opinion that an aviation club should be formed as soon as possible in the Colony.—(Applause.)—The Chamber of Commerce can, of course do a great deal towards the encouragement of aviation, but I am sure that somebody with practical experience in flying on the Committee would be able to co-operate with the Chamber of Commerce, giving advice and assistance and also co-operate with the Government in any aerial transport question which affected the interests of the Colony. I, therefore, beg to propose:—

“That in the opinion of this Meeting an Aviation Club be formed in Hongkong having for its object the encouragement and expansion of commercial aviation in general, and its application to this port in particular.”—(Applause.)

The Hon. Mr. E. V. D. Parr, in seconding, said: I quite agree with the remarks our Chairman has made and our thanks are due to the gentlemen who so kindly came here to-night to speak on this most interesting subject of aeronautics, which, I think, has vast possibilities in the future. Nothing has been said about the possibilities of opening up China and helping her by aeronautics. I believe it is one of those

things that will help China to open up, not only for her own benefit but for the benefit of the world, and the results must be far-reaching.— (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

SIR A. W. BROWN'S LECTURE AT THE HONGKONG UNIVERSITY.

Sir Arthur Whitten Brown, who took part in the non-stop Atlantic flight, delivered an interesting lecture, dealing with the historic flight, at the Hongkong University, yesterday morning. Professor Brown presided, and there were present the Professors of the Institution and the students.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing the distinguished lecturer, said he was proud to claim that the lecturer was not merely of the same clan as himself but was a fellow townsman of his. The lecturer went to Manchester, and for many years worked as an engineer. In 1914 when the war broke out the lecturer joined the Air Force, and after a very thrilling and successful career on the Western front had the misfortune to be made a prisoner of war as a result of his machine, which was flying over Germany, being shot down. After two years' miserable existence in the hands of the Germans he was repatriated, and his spirit of adventure not being killed he took further risks in the air, and early last summer he undertook the extraordinary feat of flying over the Atlantic Ocean in a non-stop flight for the first time.—(Applause.)

Sir A. WHITTEN BROWN, who was greeted with applause, said that no doubt they all knew that there was a prize offered by Lord Northcliffe, the owner of the *Daily Mail* and other papers, for a nonstop flight between the Continent of America and the British Isles, the flight to be completed at a given number of hours and without a stop. The shortest distance over the Atlantic was between Newfoundland and Ireland, and that was 1,680 nautical miles or 2,000 land miles. With the instruments they carried there was sufficient weight for the fuel to cover a distance of 2,350 miles. That gave them an excess of 350 miles, and this was necessary as they had to make certain deviations and to make allowance for head winds, which would increase the distance. Winds going at the rate of forty miles an hour were met on the ocean and they had to be extremely careful. As the wind at the season was blowing from West to East it was thought better to fly from Newfoundland to England rather than the other way. The machine, in which the flight was undertaken, was built by Vickers, a firm which not only built warships and machine guns but, during the war, thousands of aeroplanes. The machine used was a Vimy, a biplane, 60 feet span, 48 feet in length with two Rolls-Royce engines. The lecturer next gave minute details of the machinery of the plane and stated that there was sufficient fuel to last for 25 hours at a speed of 90 miles an hour. After trial flights in England the machine was taken to pieces and packed, and with a staff of mechanics the party left for Newfoundland where they found that there was no suitable ground to build an aerodrome. The part of Newfoundland on which they were was very similar to Hongkong and had many hills and very little flat land. They required at least 500 feet of level ground, and after some difficulty managed to purchase five fields which were converted into an

aerodrome. They had no covering for the machine except a tarpaulin and as there was rain at the time they were rather nervous about the magnetos. The machine was completed on the 11th. of June, and they made their first trial trip the same day. The most important thing for the journey, of course, was the equipment and means for navigation. In connection with navigation they had wireless telegraphy fitted on the plane for the purposes of finding out the direction. Secondly they made observations of the sun and the stars, and, thirdly, in conjunction with the other two, they had a system of dead reckoning. When about to start the receiving apparatus was found to be useless, and they determined not to use it. They had to make allowance for the wind; that is to say, if an aeroplane was travelling at 100 miles an hour and there was a pressure against it of 40 miles, they would be only travelling at the rate of sixty miles an hour, and they would have to make up the lost speed by increasing it. When an aeroplane was travelling at 150 miles an hour it was difficult for the observer to find out the directions, because observations by the sun and stars usually took 25 minutes to make up and then the plane would be 50 or 60 miles away from the point where the observations commenced. The direction was also taken by means of the compass, the speed by the peto-tube and the height by the barometer. The second trial was made on June 12th., and they wanted, if possible, to start on June 13th. They were not able to do that, however, because they found that the petrol filters, which purified the supply of petrol to the engines, were becoming choked with some curious deposit, which was discovered to be a sort of sulphur. They determined to obtain pure petrol and as a result could not start till June 14th. Allcock and himself turned out at the aerodrome early in the morning ready to start but found the weather so bad, with a wind running at 40 knots an hour, that they had to give up the idea. At noon the same day, however, they decided to start on the journey. Their food consisted of hot coffee in Thermos flasks, sandwiches and chocolates. They also had emergency food in the shape of malted milk and compressed food. They started at 4.12 p.m. Greenwich time. The wind was blowing strongly, and Allcock had a big problem to face in order to get the machine into the air. It was really a super-human piece of piloting. Allcock was one of the finest pilots England ever had. They started all right, went up to a height of 800 feet, and then turned in the direction of St. John's. They crossed the coast land at 4.28 p.m., and the lecturer obtained sufficient data to ascertain what speed they were going at. They had not left the coast for ten minutes when they encountered a bad fog below and a cloud above. The cloud prevented them from making solar observations and the fog below prevented them from seeing the ocean, thereby making it difficult to discover the direction in which they were steering. They climbed up still higher very slowly for fear of straining the engines, and after going up to a height of 1,500 feet the wireless went out of order, cutting off communication with all the stations. An hour after that the inner exhaust pipe burst, and the flames were continually playing over the cross-wires making it red hot. Fortunately the wires did not give way. At 8.30 a.m., they passed through the lower cloud, only to find a second cloud 7,000 feet high. There was, however, a glimpse of the sun and they were able to find out the direction in which they were flying. After flying for some distance, they ran into a thick cloud at 3 p.m. and as a result their senses became somewhat confused. The aeroplane com-

menced to swing around and developed a spin, and by means of the barometer they discovered that they were only 300 feet above the ocean. Allcock managed to right the aeroplane just about 50 feet above the water, and then they commenced climbing up again and reached a height of 11,000 feet only to find another cloud which stretched from 300 feet above the water to 11,000 feet. They gave up trying to get out of that cloud, and, continuing a straight course, managed after an hour's flight to reach the Coast of Ireland. They wanted to land at Galway where there was an aerodrome, but when they reached Clifton, where there was a wireless station, they found the clouds extremely low. As on leaving Clifton they had to negotiate a hilly country they decided to land there, instead of proceeding to Galway. Unfortunately the field they alighted in turned out to be an Irish bog and the machine was tilted. There might have been a crash if the front part of the fuselage was not made of steel. The people at the wireless station helped them and they managed to get off and telegraph their safe arrival.—(Applause).

Dr. G. P. JORDAN, in proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer, stated that he thought they were extremely fortunate to have had first-hand information of the marvellous feat that had been performed.—(Applause).—In a very few words, Sir Arthur Brown had drawn a picture which would remain in their mind for all times. Such events as the Atlantic flight had made the history of the world.

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE held in the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ROOM, CHARTERED BANK BUILDING on Monday, 29th March, 1920, for the purpose of receiving the report of the Committee and passing the Secretary's Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1919.

The Hon. Mr. E. V. D. Parr, Vice-Chairman, presided and there also present the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, the Hon. Mr. N. J. Stabb, the Hon. Mr. John Johnstone, Messrs. R. Ross Thomson, J. A. Plummer, C. H. P. Hay, J. W. C. Bonnar, C. S. Gubbay (Committee), with E. A. M. Williams (Secretary), and Messrs. J. M. Alves (Messrs. J. M. Alves & Co.), B. Monteith Webb (Messrs. Arnhold Bros. & Co., Ltd.), Lindsay Wood (Messrs. Banker & Co.), L. Berindoague (Messrs. Banque de l'Indo Chine), J. A. Plummer (Messrs. Bradley & Co., Ltd.), R. Ross Thomson (Messrs. Butterfield and Swire), R. B. Cooper (Messrs. Cawasjee Fallanjee & Co.), J. L. Crockatt (Messrs. Chartered Bank of India, A. & China), B. W. Tape (Messrs. China Mutual Life Insurance Co., Ltd.), G. M. Shaw (Messrs. China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.), G. H. Elliott (Messrs. Commercial Union Assurance Co., Ltd.), R. Rodenfuser (Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes), G. M. Dodwell (Messrs. Dodwell and Co., Ltd.), L. M. Whyte (Messrs. Donnelly and Whyte), G. W. Barton (Douglas S. S. Co., Ltd.), T. W. Hill (Messrs. Eastern Asbestos Co.), C. Bond (Messrs. Gande Price & Co., Ltd.), J. W. C. Bonnar and A. O. Lang (Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co.), W. A. Hannibal (Messrs. W. A. Hannibal & Co.), J. Arnold (Messrs. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd.), F. Graham (Messrs. Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.), L. N. Leefe (Messrs. Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.), S. W. Ho (Messrs. Hongkong Mercantile Co., Ltd.), N. J. Stabb (Messrs. Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation), W. E. Roberts (Messrs. Hongkong Tramway Co., Ltd.), A. de Sousa (Messrs. Hongkong Import and China Produce Export Co.) T. F. Hough (Messrs. Hughes and Hough), H. D. Hutchison (Messrs. Hogg, Karanjia & Co., Ltd.), John Johnstone (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.), D. K. Blair (Marine Insurance Association of Hongkong), C. L. Sandes (Messrs. Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd.), W. Joseph (Messrs. J. R. Michael & Co.), G. C. Moxon, A. G. Coppin (Messrs. Nestle and Anglo Swiss Condensed Milk Co.), J. W. Stackhouse (Messrs. New Zealand Insurance Co., Ltd.), H. P. Smith (Messrs. Percy Smith, Seth and Fleming), P. H. Holyoak (Messrs. Reiss & Co.), J. M. da Rocha (Messrs. J. M. da Rocha & Co.), C. H. W. Kew (Messrs. Rudolf Wolff & Kew, Ltd.), A. G. da Rocha, C. S. Gubbay (Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co.), G. E. Wetton (Messrs. H. Skott & Co.), H. Stephens (Messrs. H. Stephens & Co.), F. P. Talati, S. M. Churn (Messrs. Union Trading Co.), C. H. P. Hay (Messrs. Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.), W. C. Shiner (Messrs. United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Ltd.), P. A. Xavier (Messrs. P. A. Xavier & Co.) S. Leung (Messrs. Yuen Hop Hong) and W. Dunbar.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—The report and accounts have been in your hands for some days and we will, with your permission adopt the usual course and take them as read. It will be observed that

the correspondence during the year has again been exceptionally heavy, and I will now refer to those questions which appear to deserve special mention as briefly as possible.

THE CABLE DELAYS.

Telegraphic delay has been the subject of a voluminous correspondence more or less throughout the year, and the following detailed information on this subject, which has come to hand since this report was printed, will no doubt be of interest. The London Chamber of Commerce informs us, in reply to our advices, that the question of telegraphic delay has been constantly before the Home Chambers, practically ever since the Armistice. At the outset, efforts were concentrated upon the abolition of the so-called Government messages and the re-establishment of the unrestricted use of codes, registered telegraphic addresses, deferred rates, etc. It was anticipated that when this was effected a considerable amelioration would result, but in the latter months of the year things went from bad to worse and continual correspondence both with the London Post Office and the Cable Companies resulted. The primary causes of the delay are as follows:—The length and number of the cables despatched at the present time is largely in excess of normal, the number of words dealt with in 1918 was 180 millions, as compared with 64 millions in 1913. Certain lines such as the Indo-European, interrupted from the beginning of the war, are not yet in operation. The Indo-European and Great Northern, the latter still interrupted, *via* Russia and Germany, carried a large proportion of the Far East and Indian traffic before the War. The whole of the telegraphic business between the East and the United Kingdom has, therefore, to be carried by the Eastern and Associated Telegraph Companies. Then it has not been possible to maintain the cables in a proper state of repair during the War years, exposed as they were to the full blast of the enemy's submarine and mine warfare, although, like all the other brave members of the Mercantile Marine, the repairing ships of the Eastern Telegraph Company were at work, we are informed, practically night and day.—(Applause.)—Owing to the enormous demand, manufacturers are unable to promise delivery of material for new cables. In their own interests, as well as the Telegraph Company's and ours, the present unsatisfactory position will no doubt be regulated as expeditiously as possible. We are further advised that a new cable is being laid between the United Kingdom and Gibraltar, and orders are being given for the manufacture of a cable to provide a new fast speed line to the East, *via* the Mediterranean, Red Sea, Bombay, Madras, and Singapore. A large quantity of new apparatus is also on order, which, it is stated, will tend to increase the capacity of the existing cables. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the time which must elapse before the whole of these requirements are met will be as short as possible, and that the speed of transmission of telegrams, and comparative freedom from errors on which the Telegraph Companies justly prided themselves before the War, will be resumed with the least possible delay.—(Applause.)—I regret to have to mention, however, that in some cases the delays to particular telegrams are inexplicable and it is difficult to believe that the local system is not at fault somewhere when messages for firms not five minutes walk from the Telegraph Office take 45 minutes in delivery, also when a message from Singapore to

Hongkong takes 90 hours one day, and one immediately before or after is delivered in under 24 hours. Cases of this kind are serious handicaps to trade and may cause great inconvenience and the loss of large sums of money. With reference to the much discussed subject of "urgent" rates, it is to be hoped the Telegraph Company will soon be able to make such arrangements as will reduce to normal the too frequent present necessity of having to pay three times the tariff rate for what, it is feared, has too often proved a doubtful advantage. I mention these matters in the true interests of the Telegraph Co. and of trade generally.

THE OUTWARD MAILS.

The delay to the outward mails, also referred to in our report, has been curtailed during the year by shipment per Indian mail steamers *via* Marseilles, Bombay, Negapatam, and Singapore which, however, necessitates a wait at the latter port for a direct steamer for China. That is the reason, gentlemen, why some mails arrive more quickly than others, the time in transit necessarily depending upon the wait at Singapore for the first most expeditious steamer for Hongkong. It will be readily understood that the first steamer leaving may not be the quickest; therefore discrimination on the part of the Post Office at Singapore may sometimes be necessary. I understand the Postmaster-General is making enquiries regarding the possibility of forwarding Homeward mails also by this route, when a more direct service is not available. Some merchants, indeed, already forward letters for Europe, etc. to their friends in Singapore to be reposed by the weekly mails thence *via* Negapatam and Bombay.

REGISTRATION OF FIRMS.

The question of the registration of firms, trading under names other than their own, has been very carefully considered by the Chamber's Legal Sub-Committee, and legislation to counteract practices often misleading was proposed to the Government. The Committee acknowledge with grateful thanks the time and trouble taken over the legal aspect of the matter by Messrs. C. D. Wilkinson, H. J. Gedge and J. Scott Harston, and regret that it has not, up to the present, been found practicable to pass the proposed legislation. Older members may remember that a Royal Commission sat and reported to the Government on this subject some years ago. It would appear that merchants must protect their own interests by making any enquiries concerning their correspondents they may deem necessary, through the Chamber of Commerce at the port concerned, the leading banks or other ordinary channels.

THE CHAMBER'S PUBLICATIONS.

The Committee desire to acknowledge the gratifying support to the Chamber's "Daily Bulletin" and hopes for your continued assistance to enable this special issue to subscribers to be carried on without loss to the Chamber as hitherto. Apart from the value of the cables and the commercial information the "Daily Bulletin" presents in a form very handy for reference, the existence of this little journal has enabled us to initiate a service of news to the vernacular papers which I hope, in

time, will be considerably extended. Moreover, it will be a subject for the consideration of your Committee whether, by the inclusion of market reports and prices current and in other ways, the scope of the "Bulletin" cannot be widened until it becomes more representative of the trade of this port and we can utilise it as the official journal of this Chamber.

I would also mention here the Shanghai British Chamber of Commerce Journal as interesting reading for merchants and a useful medium for mercantile advertisement. The Secretary of the Chamber in Shanghai will be glad to learn of any new developments of interest to general trade, in connection with firms at this port.

SCHOOL FOR THE STUDY OF CHINESE.

I would like to refer particularly to this Chamber's School for the study of Chinese, which has done such good work in the past, but fell away somewhat as was to be expected with the depleted staffs during the war. With the return of our brave defenders to their former spheres of commercial usefulness we look for full classes, and it is hoped all firms here will encourage in every possible way their employees to join the school in their own as well as the firm's interest. The Committee have once again to acknowledge the ability, carefulness and zeal with which the Director, the Rev. T. W. Pearce, L.L.D., continues to conduct this work for the advancement of the Colony's Commerce.—(Applause.)—The Committee also desire to place on record their appreciation of the services of the late Mr. N. G. Nolan, Chief Interpreter of the Supreme Court of Hongkong as Examiner of the School and to express sincere sympathy with his family in their recent bereavement.

THE PROPOSED SHANGHAI MINT.

The shortage of dollars in Shanghai in December last caused great inconvenience to trade and at one time it was not possible to obtain sufficient for the Paymaster at Tsingtau to meet requirements in connection with repatriated coolies. There was strong evidence that the Nanking Mint was holding up dollars with the object of keeping the price at a level very much above minting cost. The result of representations through the British Consul-General at Shanghai and the Minister at Peking was the proposal by the Chinese Minister of Finance to establish a branch of the Nanking Mint at Shanghai. Your Committee fully endorse the opinion of the Shanghai Chamber that this proposal to establish a branch of the Nanking Mint in Shanghai is no more than a move to strengthen the already powerful hold of the mint interest and to block reform, and that what is required is a Central Government Mint open, as the resolution passed at the recent Conference of Chambers there stated, to the free coinage of dollars, with adequate guarantees for the maintenance of the fineness and weight of the coins.

STORM SIGNALS AND TIME BALL.

The question of storm signals has been before your Committee as in previous years and after further mature consideration, and as a result of extensive expert enquiry, the Chamber advised the Government, that

although some Shipping Masters were in favour of the Hongkong system, as against the China Coast system, which others preferred, they practically all favoured uniformity, to secure which it appeared necessary to adopt the China Coast system, and the Shipping Community are indebted to the Government for falling in with and adopting these views. The China Coast system will, therefore, now be in use in these waters.

The Time Ball is also now dropped at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. except Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays, instead of at 1 p.m. and Time Wireless Signals flashed at 9 p.m. daily. The thanks of the Shipping are due to the authorities for carrying out these suggestions also.

THE COLONY'S ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

At the request of the Colonial Secretary, your Committee proposed the names of certain gentlemen to serve on a Committee of enquiry into the economic resources of the Colony. This Committee of enquiry has now been appointed and is sitting under the chairmanship of Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., and it is hoped the result of its labours will prove of the greatest benefit to this Colony. The Committee has been divided into various Sub-Committees whose reports will be forwarded in due course to the Government and from time to time.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

Government Notifications Nos. 399 and 550 regarding Imperial Preference will not have escaped you, and their importance to the trade of this Colony has doubtless been carefully considered.

Probably few, if any of our present exports, owe 75 per cent. of their total value to Colonial labour and material, but with its growing industries, the Regulations under Notification No. 550 may prove of the utmost importance to the Colony.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS.

During the year your Committee have, in conjunction with the Government, formed the first two scholarships at the Hongkong University for Yunnanese students. The Chamber's commitment is \$1,000 per annum for 5 years, and I am sure you will agree with the policy aimed at in this connection of spreading the desire for Western education among the Chinese, so far as may be possible with the limited funds at our disposal.—(Applause).

BILLS OF LADING.

With regard to the steps taken to obtain an increased valuation on Bills of Lading it is understood the leading lines have advanced the value limit up to £10 per foot and £200 per package respectively. This arrangement does not apply to all trades but shippers who have raised this question, chiefly those interested in Manchester goods, have, it is understood, been notified that claims will be dealt with on this basis.

"TON FOR TON."

The Chamber's previous representations on the "Ton for Ton" Policy have been courteously acknowledged by the Government. By the terms of the Peace Treaty Germany has recognised:—

"The principle of replacement ton for ton and class for class of all the merchant Shipping and Fishing Boats lost or damaged in the War. She is to cede to the Allies all German merchant ships of 1,600 tons gross and upwards, one half of the ships between 1,000 and 1,600 tons gross and one quarter of her steam trawlers and fishing boats and to build merchant ships for account of the Allies up to 200,000 tons gross annually for five years from May, 1919."—(Applause).

Gentlemen, whatever "wait and see" politicians may say about writing off enemy indemnities as bad debts it will take many years to expunge the memory of Germany's diabolical and cowardly practices of firing on defenseless women and children in open boats and leaving helpless men on their submerging submarines to drown. I see no reason to alter the views this Chamber has expressed in no uncertain manner from the beginning of the enemy submarine frightfulness, views well known to coincide with the London and other leading Chambers, regarding the "Ton for Ton" policy.—(Applause.)

THE RICE SITUATION.

My speech would not be complete without some reference to the rice situation so far as this affects Hongkong. The question may be divided into two parts, namely, the rice sifting and transshipment trade of Hongkong, and the rice consumed proper of Hongkong. As regards the former, a reference to the report will reveal to members that much time has been given by this Chamber in collaboration with the Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong in arriving at an agreement for grading certain qualities of rice with the Rice Association of California. Copy of the agreement will be found on page 268.

This agreement has been signed by practically every Hongkong firm interested in the export of rice, and is undoubtedly of great value in regulating the relations between the merchants of this Colony and the rice importers of California. As regards the rice consumed in the Colony, I can say that the Government are very much alive to the situation and in the event of a shortage it is hoped it will be possible to deal with it in such a manner as will in nowise interfere with the delicately poised transshipment trade of the Colony.

CROWN AGENTS SYSTEM.

A considerable correspondence will be noted in the report on the question of indenting for supplies through the Crown Agents referred to previously in 1917 and the Committee is in entire sympathy with the action taken by the Singapore Chamber, with a view to Government allowing local firms the

opportunity to compete for this business, and it is hoped that the matter which has again been referred to the Secretary of State will receive favourable consideration. The Government have here an opportunity of assisting local British firms which it cannot be said it went out of its way to do before the war. It will be noted it is not suggested that the rate-payer should suffer, but merely that local British firms should be given the opportunity to compete for the business, which appears to be in the rate-payers' interests.

TRIBUTES.

We have to acknowledge the good work of Professor Middleton Smith while he was at home in calling attention in the Press and elsewhere to the importance of China as a field for the development of trade and we do not doubt that what he was able to do in that respect will be for the advantage of trade of the Colony.

The Committee learned with deep regret of the sudden death in November last of Mr. C. H. Ross in England. Mr. Ross' valued assistance to this Chamber, when he was in Hongkong, will be remembered by many present members, and his willing and cordial services continued to be ever at our disposal, after he left China to assume charge of his firm's affairs in London. Only last June, gentlemen, as will be seen from the report, we were further indebted to him for so efficiently representing this Chamber at the Imperial Council of Commerce in London.

As usual there have been changes in our Committee during the year. We are again indebted to Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar for his valuable assistance and, as he is retiring and shortly leaving us, we wish him long life and every happiness in the Old Country. (Applause.)

I would also like to record the masterly manner in which the Hon. Mr. Dodwell has led and conducted the Chamber's affairs, as its Chairman during the year, and I can speak for him that he greatly regretted having to leave for home before this annual meeting could take place. Our thanks are also due to him and the Hon. Mr. John Johnstone for so ably representing this Chamber at the first of the proposed Conferences held in Shanghai last autumn, when matters of common interest to all merchants in China and Hongkong were fully discussed and have been referred to in the Press. (Applause.) It is intended and hoped that this Conference will be held annually at some central Port (Shanghai would appear to be indicated in this respect), and that such Conferences will prove of inestimable value to trade and have far-reaching beneficial effects on the foreign trade of China.

I cannot close this address without associating this Chamber with the many good wishes expressed on all sides to the retiring British Minister to Peking, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Jordan. I explained to Sir John that we should like to have shown our appreciation of his great services in China, by entertaining him on his way home, but his brief stay in the Colony and the day being Sunday rendered this impracticable. Our wishes are none the less sincere for his health and happiness in his well-deserved retirement and we hope he may long be spared to

place his intimate knowledge of affairs and vast experience in the Far East, at the service of His Majesty's Government at Home.—(Applause.)

With these remarks I beg to move the adoption of the Report and Accounts, and when seconded I shall be pleased to answer any questions to the best of my ability.—(Applause.)

Mr. G. MISKEN said:—Sir: It is my pleasant duty to rise and second the motion before the meeting. Our Chairman has already covered the principal features of the report very exhaustively and there is little that I can add to the excellent address to which we have just listened. I am sure, however, that I am giving expression to the feelings of the members of this Chamber, when I offer our very hearty thanks to the Committee and to their extremely energetic Secretariat for the substantial work they have done on our behalf during the year under review. (Applause.) One point, to which our Chairman has already given prominence cannot, I think, be too strongly emphasized. The greatest drawback with which merchants have at present to contend is undoubtedly the extremely poor cable service, and until this service is improved a great many opportunities and a great deal of good business must of necessity be lost. In the matter of repairs of cables, the Telegraph Companies appear to be doing all that is possible and it is, of course, unreasonable to expect any immediate speeding up of the time taken by cables in transit. I cannot help thinking, however, that more might be done by the Telegraph Companies to prevent mutilation. At present it is the exception rather than the rule to receive a telegram containing no mutilated words.

On Page 29 of the report before you, you will have read of the action taken on December 12th, 1918 by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce for the exclusion of German subjects from trading in that Colony. You will, most of you, recall the unanimity which prevailed in this Chamber when a similar resolution was adopted in 1917. It is extremely gratifying and encouraging to find how very general has been the endorsement in other Colonies of the timely action taken by the Hongkong British Chamber of Commerce at that time. Gentlemen, I have pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts. (Applause.)

The Report and Accounts were adopted.

HONGKONG'S TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

Mr. H. PERCY SMITH: I want to say one word. I want to know whether the Chamber can take any notice or any action as regards the extremely unsatisfactory and inefficient telephone service of this Colony.—(Applause.) I spoke some time ago to one of your officials and I was assured that there was general agreement with my view, but he said: "Why don't you go to the Chamber and talk about it?" I fancy, Sir, you can ask the incoming committee to consider the matter, and see whether anything can be done possibly to change the system altogether. We have, I know, an old-fashioned system. I have seen two systems at work comparatively recently and they were entirely different to ours and infinitely superior.—(Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Smith, that is a matter which has not been distinct improvement, for there is not the slightest doubt that improvement will take any necessary steps that may appear desirable in this matter. I may say, however, that Mr. Parker Nees, the Director of the Oriental Telephone Company, is in the Colony specially on this subject at the present time, and we trust that the result of his visit will be a distinct improvement, for there is not the slightest doubt that improvement is required, as you so justly point out.—(Applause.)

THE COMMITTEE.

On the proposition of Mr. J. L. Crockatt, seconded by Mr. B. Monteith Webb, the following Committee was elected for the ensuing year:—The Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, the Hon. Mr. E. V. D. Parr, the Hon. Mr. J. Johnstone, the Hon. Mr. N. J. Stabb, O.B.E., Messrs. A. O. Lang, C. S. Gubbay, C. H. P. Hay, J. A. Plummer, R. Ross Thomson, and G. M. Dodwell.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members were elected, on the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak: Messrs. Brunner Mond & Co., Ltd., Messrs. E. A. Beaumont & Co., Messrs. Cooper & Co., Messrs. Walter Ford & Co., Messrs. Getz Bros. & Co., of the Orient, Ltd., Messrs. Hastings, Hodge & Co., Ltd., Messrs. Holland Pacific Trading Co., Messrs. Hongkong Import and China Produce Export Co., Messrs. Mitsubishi Shoji Kaisha, Messrs. Rudolf Wolff and Kew Ltd., Messrs. D. S. Stern & Co., Messrs. Silva-Netto & Co., Messrs. Thomas W. Simmons & Co., Messrs. P. A. Xavier & Co.

MINUTES of a General Meeting of Members of the HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE held in the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ROOM, CHARTERED BANK BUILDING, on Tuesday, 20th April, 1920 at 5 p.m. for the purpose of forming a Committee to carry on the Proposed Hongkong Aviation Club.

The Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak presided and was supported by the Committee of the Chamber, including Messrs. E. V. D. Parr, A. O. Lang, J. A. Plummer, C. H. P. Hay, G. M. Dodwell, and E. A. M. Williams (Secretary). The attendance was rather poor and chiefly composed of returned Airmen.

The Secretary having read the Notice convening the Meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—that it would be in the recollection of all of them that on the occasion of the visit of the American Aerial Commission in February last, a meeting was held on February 3rd in the City Hall at which the following resolution was unanimously and enthusiastically adopted:—"That an Aviation Club should be formed as soon as possible," and in consequence of which the present meeting had been called.

He was not prepared to say, nor was he qualified to do so, what probability there was in the near future of commercial flying becoming a paying proposition, not whether the developments would come upon the lines of "Aircraft" or "Seaplanes," in these parts, which to the layman seemed more probable, but he did say that startling developments were so imminent that it behoved them to prepare for them by forming such a Club as that for which that meeting was called. One had already been so formed in Shanghai and he prophesied that it would not be long before they were linked all along the coast of China.

IMMENSE COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES.

It was obvious, Mr. HOLYOAK said, that in any defence scheme of the future in connection with this Colony, aircraft must play no small part, and in addition to that there would be increasing commercial attempts to demonstrate in the near future the possibility of circling the globe including Hongkong *en route*. One such attempt had already been organised by America, called the First Aerial Derby Round the World, which, he believed, included Hongkong as a port of call. Nor did it need any considerable stretch of imagination to realise the immense commercial possibilities of flying between here and Canton and between here and Shanghai. The practical possibility of using aircraft for mail purposes and for the conveyance of fairly heavy material was amply demonstrated during the recent railway strike in England, and he himself had witnessed a great deal of what was done. That had brought it not only within the realm of practical politics but also of imminent realisation, and it seemed to him that it was quite within reasonable probability—granting that they were prepared to pay what extra cost might be demanded for the rapid conveyance of mails, between here and Shanghai particularly—to make the commercial proposition a paying one. The possibility of com-

munication between here and Shanghai by passenger flight in twelve or fourteen hours made it also a question which was seriously engaging attention. Because of all this, it was desirable that there should be formed an Association or Club consisting of men in this Colony who were pilots or flight commanders, and who had had practical experience of flying on the different fronts and were now stationed here or resident here, and who, by their association with a Club, would be known and would be able to assist the Government by giving practical advice on flying and who, by reason of the association, would also be able to organise such preparations as would be necessary from time to time in connection with flights round the world. For that reason the Chamber had called the meeting in the hope that some practical result might follow. It was perfectly evident to anyone who had followed the labours of the Chamber and the work done by it that it would be impossible for the Chamber to father this scheme. The Chamber was merely a practical means for bringing the men together with the idea of forming the Club, and if it could render practical assistance it would be glad to do so. He suggested, therefore, that those present should select a committee which would organise a Club as suggested, and from that proceed to practical results. He suggested that they name from amongst their number, or even from amongst those not present, but whom they knew of, a number of names to form the practical committee, and that committee should elect its own chairman and so proceed to the formation of the Club. The following names were then suggested and were approved. Capt. T. Arthur (Convener). Messrs. Lamplugh, Turner, G. K. Chatham, Farrell, A. A. Burnie, and R. M. Smith.

The CHAIRMAN next suggested that those mentioned be the Committee with power to add to their number as they found men who would be useful, and the Committee to elect its own Chairman and Secretary. He said that he had in his possession a copy of the rules of the New York Aero Club which he would be pleased to hand over for their assistance.

The meeting then terminated.

REPORT

OF THE

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Report of the General Committee of the HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, for the year ended 31st December, 1919, presented to the Members at the Annual Meeting held in the Chamber Room, Charter Bank Building, on Monday, 29th March, 1920, at 4 p.m.

Correspondence dealt with during the year has again been exceptionally heavy and certain subjects, on account of their confidential nature, do not appear among the following which have engaged the attention of your Committee.

VISIT OF MR. E. F. CROWE COMMERCIAL ATTACHE
FOR JAPAN TO THE COLONY.

Mr. E. F. Crowe, Commercial Attache for Japan, was to have met the Committee on his way through to England but owing to delays to his boat was unable to do so. (Appendix A).

TELEGRAPHIC DELAY TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

This subject which had the attention of your Committee during 1918 has again been before the Chamber. Correspondence between the Superintendent of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Co., The Government, Tientsin Chamber of Commerce, etc., and this Chamber will be found under (Appendix B).

DEMOBILISATION.

Copy of a telegram from the secretary of State for the Colonies dealing with the application for the demobilisation of volunteers from this Colony will be found on (Appendix C).

DELAY TO INWARD MAILS.

Correspondence between the Post Master General Hongkong and this Chamber whereby representations were made to the Home Authorities will be found under (Appendix D).

COMMERCIAL ATTACHE FOR SOUTH CHINA.

The Home Government approved the creation of the post of a Commercial Attache for South China to which position Mr. H. J. Brett was appointed. (Appendix E).

EXCLUSION OF GERMANS FROM CEYLON.

For correspondence and Resolution passed by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce see (Appendix F).

SERVICE DOLLAR.

An application was received from the Indian Ranks of the British Army requesting this Chamber to bring their case, to be put on an equality with the British Troops regarding the Service Dollar, before the proper authorities. Correspondence with General Officer Commanding, The Colonial Secretary and D.A.A. Q.M.G. appears under (Appendix G).

SHORTAGE OF DOLLARS IN SHANGHAI.

Steps were taken by the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce to alleviate the shortage of Dollars by protesting to H. B. M. Minister in Peking of the action of the Director of the Nanking Mint in wilfully withholding silver dollars from Shanghai. Your Committee supported the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce in the action taken by them. (Appendix H).

SOME WORDS AND STATISTICS ABOUT THE
RUSSIAN CO-OPERATION.

Propaganda brochures on this subject were received from Mr. A. Petroff. (Appendix I).

YANGTZE CONSERVANCY.

In conjunction with Shanghai Chamber of Commerce pressure is being brought to bear on the River Conservancy Bureau and Maritime Customs Authorities to find a solution of the problem of the silting up of the Yangtze opposite the British Concession at Chinkiang. (Appendix J).

INCREASED VALUATION ON BILLS OF LADING

Information was received from Shanghai Chamber of Commerce that the limit of cargo values had been raised to £200 per package or £10 per cubic foot by the Homeward Freight Conference. Your Committee are of the opinion that this arrangement should be general and in consequence are pursuing the matter further. (Appendix K).

TRADE STATISTICS OF THE COLONY.

The Superintendent of the Imports and Exports Office requested this Chamber through its members to assist his work in preparing Statistics of cargo arriving for transhipment on through Bills of Lading. (Appendix L).

SPECIFICATION FOR SOUTH CHINA WOOD OLD.

Information regarding "Browne" heat test for wood oil was requested by the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce and referred to the Association of Exporters and Dealers. (Appendix M).

THE "HELIOS" AND "EL ORIENTE"
CIGAR FACTORIES.

Correspondence and certificates substantiating the fact that the above Factories are purely American and have no enemy interests was received from the American Consul General Hongkong. (Appendix N).

DUTCH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

Further reading matter with reference to this Fair was received from the Dutch Consul-General. (Appendix O).

INTERRUPTION TO TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION
BETWEEN THIS COLONY AND CANTON.

Intimation was received in the early part of April from the Post Master General Hongkong that he was willing to arrange for letters to be sent to Canton by the afternoon Express, thus overcoming to a large degree the inconvenience caused by the severance of telegraphic communication. (Appendix P).

INCREASE IN FREIGHT ON C.I.F. SHIPMENTS.

This Chamber's opinion was sought by Messrs. Fung Tang and Messrs. Percy Smith Seth and Fleming as to whether increase of freight on C.I.F. shipments should be borne by the buyer or shipper. (Appendix Q).

SHANGHAI BRITISH CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE JOURNAL.

Intimation was received from the above Chamber of its intention to issue its Journal to the public. (Appendix R).

CALCUTTA TRANS-PACIFIC CONFERENCE.

The action of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. in withdrawing from the above Conference was brought before this Chamber. (Appendix S.)

SIR HENRY MAY, K.C.M.G.

A telegram of regret was sent to Sir Henry May, K.C.M.G. on hearing of his illness. (Appendix T).

RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTATIONS OF LINSEED
AND CASTOR SEED AND OILS.

A reply was received from the Government to this Chamber's letter contained in last year's report, advising that licenses to export the above produce will be freely granted. (Appendix U).

TRADE OF THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF SIAM.

The Chamber is indebted to H.B.M. Consul at Senggora for a report on the Trade of the Southern Provinces of Siam. (Appendix V).

HOLIDAYS.

Your Committee supported the application to the Government by the Exchange Banks to have the following days gazetted as general holidays:— 3rd February, 1st July, 27th December 1919 and 2nd and 3rd January 1920. (Appendices W. D1. Q2. R2).

PROPOSED ALTERATION TO HOURS OF
POSTAL DELIVERIES.

The opinion of this Chamber was sought as to the desirability of certain alterations in the hours of mail deliveries in the Colony. (Appendix X).

COAL SUPPLY FOR THE EAST.

Quotations were received for New South Wales Coal. Your Committee have given publicity to this matter and have expressed their readiness to transmit enquiries. (Appendix Y).

SWATOW BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Report on the Trade of Swatow for the year 1918 will be found in this Chamber's library. (Appendix Z).

HEWETT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS.

A request was received from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts of Hongkong University for financial assistance on behalf of one of the Students. This application received the favourable consideration of this Chamber. Further a resolution passed by the Senate of the University deciding to recommend that Mr. Ngan Shai Leung should be deprived of his scholarship was received and was supported by this Chamber. Subsequently the vacant scholarship was awarded to Mr. Tse Man Lung. (Appendix A1).

ABOLITION OF TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP.

On the abolition of the Telegraph Censorship it was found that certain anomalies existed as regards private codes owing to the regulations in force in certain countries to which messages were despatched. Correspondence dealing with this matter will be found under (Appendix B1).

QUARTERLY TRADE RETURNS.

The Trade Return for the First Quarter 1919 was published in slightly different form to that of 1918. This Chamber intimated to the Superintendent of Imports and Exports that the new form should be continued. (Appendix C1).

ROYAL ENGINEERS OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION.

The president of the China Command Branch of the above association applied to this Chamber for assistance in finding employment as skilled artificers for members of the Corps of Royal Engineers whose term of service with the colours was nearing completion. An assurance was given that anything that the Chamber could do would be done. (Appendix E1).

THE BRITISH IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF COMMERCE.

Intimation was received that a Special Business Conference of the above council would be held in London on the 4th of June 1919 and the late Mr. C. H. Ross the Chamber's representative on the council at the time was invited by telegraph to represent the Chamber at this meeting. A letter to Mr. Ross advising him as to the points of special interest to the business community of this Colony will be found under (Appendix F1). A full report of the proceedings may be seen in the Chamber's library.

FEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRIES.

Copies of the above Federation's Bulletin were received and were distributed amongst those of the Chamber likely to be interested. (Appendix G1).

FLOUR SHIPMENTS FROM AUSTRALIA.

The attitude of the Australian Government in requiring Hongkong importers of Australian Flour to give an undertaking that such cargo should not be transhipped to the Philippines, Straits Settlements and Dutch Indies received the attention of your Committee. (Appendix H1).

ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE.

The offer of representation at home by the above Institute in matters of Imperial interest affecting this Colony was gratefully accepted. Also a letter offering agencies for certain Manufactures to British Merchants was received and details will be found under (Appendix I1).

CLAIM FOR LOSS IN CONNECTION WITH A BREACH
OF TIME CHARTER—S.S. "CHOFU MARU."

Information so far as could be obtained of market freight rates on various commodities was supplied to the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha Ltd. (Appendix J1).

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM.

The Chamber is indebted to the European Association of Ceylon for its report setting out a comprehensive scheme for constitutional reform in Ceylon. (Appendix K1).

MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

At the request of the above Ministry application forms for securing the services of demobilised soldiers on the ministry's register were circulated amongst the members of the Chamber. (Appendix L1).

WAR RISK INSURANCE.

A suggestion that a new War Risk Clause should be inserted in Selling Contracts was not supported by your Committee. (Appendix M1).

REQUISITION OF THE C.P.O. SERVICE SHIPS.

The intervention of this Chamber was instrumental in alleviating the disorganisation caused by the Home Government requisitioning the above Company's ships. (Appendix N1).

THE PUBLIC SERVANTS LIABILITIES ORDINANCE 1917.

Representations to the Government to have the above Ordinance made applicable to Mercantile as well as Public Servants raised practical objections which have not been overcome. (Appendix O1).

TON FOR TON POLICY.

An acknowledgment to the Chamber's representations dealt with in last year's report was courteously passed to the Chamber by the Government informing us that the matter was one of the subjects being dealt with at the Peace Conference. (Appendix P1).

PROHIBITION OF EXPORTATION OF
SALTPETRE TO CANTON.

The efforts of this Chamber were instrumental in obtaining permits to export saltpetre to Canton. (Appendix Q1).

ARMED HIGHWAY ROBBERY AT SWATOW.

The attention of the Chamber was called to the action of the Chinese Military Authorities under Chan Kwing-ming in seizing by force certain cases of unsigned bank notes in custody of a British firm at Swatow. What appeared to your Committee as nothing more nor less than Highway Robbery was brought to the notice of the Government who took action in the matter. (Appendix R1).

DAYLIGHT SAVING.

Daylight Saving having been instituted at Shanghai it was thought desirable to put the clock forward in Hongkong so as to maintain a uniform standard time in this zone during the summer months. Canton was consulted on the subject but did not favour an alteration and subsequently at a meeting of members of this Chamber the matter was discussed in all its aspects and it was finally decided to make no change. Correspondence on the subject will be found under (Appendix S1).

RETURN TO THE COLONY OF LOCAL VOLUNTEERS.

The matter of the return of local volunteers which was the subject of correspondence in last year's report is closed by the receipt of an assurance from the London Chamber of Commerce that everything possible to obtain the early return of Far Eastern Commercial men was being done. (Appendix T1).

SAMPLING GODOWNS.

The disabilities under which sampling of export cargo is conducted by the Government Analyst having been brought to the notice of the Chamber the matter was referred to the Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong for investigation with the request that that body communicate its views direct to the Government. Copy of the Association's letter to the Government which points out the impracticability of the establishment of a public godown will be found under (Appendix U1).

MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

Publicity to the advantages held out by the above association was given in a circular issued to all members of the Chamber. (Appendix V1).

CLAIM FOR DAMAGE BY FRESH WATER.

The services of the arbitration committee were offered to a member on the question of a claim for damage to cargo by fresh water where the Steamship Company were offering considerably less than Invoice value in settlement. (Appendix W1).

TELEGRAPHIC CHARGES.

Correspondence with regard to telegraphic charge for the prefix "Urgent" necessary in urgent messages formed the subject of correspondence in (Appendix X1).

TYPHOON SAFETY MEASURES.

As the result of damage to cargo and cargo lighters and the serious loss of life occasioned by the scarcity of tugs and launches available for towage purposes during typhoon weather a Committee on which the

Chamber is represented has been formed by the Government to evolve a scheme for better protection. This Committee is now at work and it is hoped that the result of their deliberations will be manifested in some concrete form before the next Typhoon Season sets in. (Appendix Y1).

THE LEAGUE OF THE EMPIRE.

A letter from the Government covering copies of letters from the Honorary Organiser of the League of the Empire was considered by your Committee to come more directly within the sphere of the Director of Education. (Appendix Z1).

STORM SIGNALS.

This question which has been before your Committee in previous years was again brought up with a view to bringing the Hongkong Code into line with the China Coast System. Correspondence from the Colonial Secretary and the Director of the Royal Observatory will be found under (Appendix A2).

TIME BALL SIGNAL.

Representations from this Chamber resulted in the arrangement that the Time Ball should be dropped at 10 a.m. daily and 4 p.m. on all days except Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays and also that wireless signals should be flashed at 9 p.m. daily. (Appendix B2).

ECONOMIC RESOURCES OF THE EMPIRE.

As the result of a despatch received from the Secretary of State your Committee at the request of the Colonial Secretary put forward the names of certain gentlemen to form a Committee of Enquiry into the Economic Resources of this Colony. (Appendix C2).

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

Your Committee brought to the notice of the Colonial Secretary that owing to it being impossible to claim that goods manufactured here owed 75% of their total value to the labour expended upon them in the Colony and materials produced by the Colony Hongkong would not come within the scheme for Imperial Preference. (Appendix D2).

PILFERAGE CLAIMS.

Two members of the Chamber brought to the notice of your Committee the action of certain shipping Companies in considerably reducing claims on the grounds that ad valorem freight should have been paid. (Appendix E2).

REQUEST FOR STEAMSHIP LINES FOR AUSTRALIA TOUCHING PAPUA.

A request was received from Papua that a new freight service to Australia via Papua should be inaugurated but this Chamber's enquiries in that direction were not successful. (Appendix F2).

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

Notice was received of the intention to hold a British Empire Exhibition in 1921. Your Committee assured the promoters that they would do everything possible to assist this scheme. (Appendix G2).

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND FURTHER THE LAW RELATING TO COMPANIES.

As the result of a copy of the above being put before your Committee by the Registrar of Companies certain suggestions were made which will be found in (Appendix H2).

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YUNNANESE TO STUDY AT HONGKONG UNIVERSITY.

This matter which was under the consideration of the Chamber last year resulted in a scheme being drawn up and two students being admitted to St. Stephen's College after passing the Scholarship Examination. (Appendix I2).

CHAMBER'S LETTER OF APPRECIATION TO MAJOR CASSEL O.B.E.

On his departure from the Colony a letter of appreciation was sent to Major Cassel, O.B.E. (Appendix J2).

LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Chamber feeling the necessity for a Sub-Committee to deal with Legal questions put this matter before certain members who expressed their readiness to serve on such a Committee. (Appendix K2).

DEPOSITS WITH CABLE COMPANIES.

Objection was taken by one of the members to the action of the Cable Companies in demanding a deposit against monthly credit accounts. (Appendix L2).

CIRCULARS ISSUED BY THE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OFFICE.

Circulars issued from time to time by the Superintendent of Imports and Exports with reference to Import and Export trade as affected by war conditions will be found under (Appendix M2).

TRADE WITH GERMANY.

Application was made to this Chamber to define the position of merchants in this Colony with regard to Trade with Germany. The Committee are at present awaiting a definite expression of opinion from the Local Government (since published in the Local Press.) (Appendix N2).

BRITISH INDUSTRIES' FAIRS.

A letter from the Commercial Secretary of the Legation was received offering to supply tickets of admission to the British Industries Fairs to be held in 1920. (Appendix O2).

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS.

As a result of information put before this Chamber the local Government was approached with reference to the necessity for making regulations governing the installations of Electric Light Plants. (Appendix P2).

VANCOUVER HARBOUR.

Through the courtesy of the Colonial Secretary a letter from Vancouver Harbour Commissioners was passed to your Committee for their opinion and suggestions as regards the possibilities of Vancouver Harbour in connection with the Trans-Pacific Service. At the time of going to Press this matter is engaging the Committee's attention. (Appendix S2).

TESTINGS OF WOOD OIL.

A report made by the Government Analyst on the testings of Wood Oil was passed to the Association of Exporters and Dealers as it was considered that this matter should be dealt with by them. (Appendix T2).

DYES.

A letter was addressed to the Colonial Secretary with reference to Government notification No. 554 concerning Dyes and Dye-Stuffs. (Appendix U2).

PEAK HOSPITAL.

A scheme for reorganising and enlarging the Peak Hospital did not receive this Chamber's support as it was considered to be a matter that was outside the province of a Chamber of Commerce. (Appendix V2).

REPATRIATION OF ASSYRIANS.

Owing to the fact that funds did not exist for the purpose your Committee were unable to assist in the above matter. (Appendix W2).

RICE SHIPMENTS TO U.S.A.

The question of standardisation of foreign rice sold on the San Francisco Market which was engaging the attention of the Chamber last year was brought to a successful issue this year. Correspondence showing the agreement arrived at will be found under (Appendix X2).

CROWN AGENTS.

The question of indenting for supplies through the Crown Agents referred to in 1917 was again the subject of correspondence with the Chambers of Commerce in Malaya and also the authorities here. (Appendix Y2).

EMBARGO ON AND CONFISCATION OF RICE

SHIPMENTS FROM HONGKONG.

The question of an embargo on Rice Shipments to the U.S.A. during July 1919 was the subject of telegraphic correspondence with the Rice Association of California. On reference to the local Government it was found that there was no foundation for this report. Later it was found necessary by the local authorities to purchase compulsorily a small stock of rice consigned to the U.S.A. in order to provide for local needs. (Appendix Z2).

HONGKONG DEFENCE CORPS.

At the request of His Excellency the Governor this Chamber put forward the name of one of its members to sit on the Committee being formed to consider the drafting of a new ordinance for the regulation of the Volunteer Corps. (Appendix A3).

CHAMBER'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Owing to the departure from the Colony of the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak on leave at the beginning of May, the election of a Member of the Chamber of Commerce to serve on the Legislative Council became necessary, and the usual steps were taken to secure nominations. Mr. Edward Victor David Parr, Vice-Chairman of the Chamber was the only nomination and at a General Meeting held for the purpose he was unanimously elected and duly appointed by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government subject to His Majesty's pleasure (Appendix B3).

MEMBERSHIP.

During the year under review Maison A. R. Marty ceased membership, while the following new members were elected and their election requires the usual confirmation:—

Messrs. Brunner Mond & Co., Ltd.
 „ E. A. Beaumont & Co.
 „ Cooper & Co.
 „ Walter Ford & Co.
 „ Getz Bros. & Co. of the Orient, Ltd.
 „ Hastings, Hodge & Co., Ltd.
 „ Holland Pacific Trading Co.
 „ Hongkong Import and China Produce Export Co.
 „ Mitsubishi Shoji Kaisha.
 „ Rudolf Wolff and Kew Ltd.
 „ D. S. Stern & Co.
 „ Silva-Netto & Co.
 „ Thomas W. Simmons & Co.
 „ P. A. Xavier & Co.
 Mr. A. G. da Rocha.
 „ J. T. Shaw.
 „ John Furer.

The Membership at 31st December stood at 186, viz 161 firms, and 25 individual members.

FINANCES.

Your Committee has pleasure in recording a very satisfactory year. Income has more than doubled itself due principally to increased membership and fees from surveys, while there is a corresponding increase in expenditure chiefly due to fees paid to surveyors and the extraordinary expenditure detailed. A surplus of \$567.86 has been carried to General Reserve Account which now stands at \$24,853.98.

CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL.

The Accounts of the Chinese Language School show a deficit of \$1,978.40 necessitating the absorption of a Fixed Deposit of \$2,000 shown in 1917 Accounts.

This deficit is due to falling off in attendance of students due to war conditions and the consequent reduced income from School Fees.

Towards the end of the year students became more numerous, and every hope is entertained that 1920 will again place the School on a sound financial basis.

The Director again reports good results of Test Examinations held from time to time, while the following students have passed the Final Examination and secured the Chamber's Certificate of Proficiency in Cantonese Vernacular:—

Mr. F. Bevington,
 „ D. K. Moss,
 „ K. S. Morrison,
 „ A. Mackenzie,
 „ A. W. Smith,
 „ R. D. Wilks.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1919.

1918.				1918.			
General Account	Chinese Language School.	General Account.	Chinese Language School.	General Account.	Chinese Language School.	General Account.	Chinese Language School.
\$1,455.12	\$1,274.40						
4,200.00	1,800.00	RENTS—Offices & Telephones	\$1,432.67	\$1,337.20		MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS:—	
—	—	SECRETARY'S SALARY	4,200.00	—		160 Firms at \$60	\$9,600.00
—	—	EUROPEAN DIRECTOR	—	1,800.00		25 Individuals at \$25	625.00
1,200.00	—	EXAMINER'S FEES	—	100.00			\$10,225.00
—	1,175.00	CLERK'S SALARY	2,400.00	—		CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL:—	
271.40	187.50	CHINESE DIRECTORS	—	1,125.00	520.00	Students' Fees—January	\$200.00
100.00	—	SERVANTS' WAGES	297.95	171.00	460.00	do. February	200.00
		AUDIT FEE	100.00		400.00	do. March	180.00
				\$8,430.62		do. April	240.00
						do. May	180.00
704.68	—	MARKET REPORT—(Cost of Publication)..	716.02	—	360.00	do. June	240.00
—	—	MARKET REPORT—Bad Debts	18.04	—	340.00	do. July	260.00
640.00	—	ANNUAL REPORT—(Cost of Publication)..	640.00	—	360.00	do. August	200.00
795.00	—	FEES TO SURVEYORS	15,203.02	—		do. September	300.00
339.60	—	BOOKS AND NEWSPAPERS ...	214.35	—		do. October	440.00
54.36	—	DONATION NEWSPAPERS FOR THE FLEET..	—	—	240.00	do. November	520.00
363.67	212.30	PRINTING, ADVERTISING AND STATIONERY	810.80	149.30	220.00	do. December	420.00
430.14	40.86	POSTAGES AND PETTIES	513.88	44.10			
592.66	—	TELEGRAMS	585.77			MARKET REPORT SALES	991.94
11.93	—	SUBSCRIPTION—BRITISH IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF COMMERCE	12.06	—	927.39	SURVEY FEES COLLECTED	17,045.52
		DEPRECIATION:—			1,035.00	ANNUAL REPORT SALES	13.50
250.46	45.78	20 per cent on Safe and Furniture..	211.47	42.57	7.50	INTEREST ACCOUNT:—	
						Interest on Hongkong Hotel	
						Debentures	\$630.00
		EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE:—	\$27,356.03	\$4,769.17	630.00	Interest on Hongkong Club	
625.00	—	University Prizes etc.	1,590.00	—	480.00	Debentures	480.00
—	—	New School Room	—	600.35	135.00	Interest on H'kong & S'hai	
—	—	Peace Celebrations	169.75	34.45	128.87	Bank Fixed Deposits	135.00
						Interest on H'kong & S'hai	
						Bank Current Account	162.68
\$12,034.02	\$4,736.84		\$29,115.78	\$5,403.97			1,407.68
		BALANCE: Surplus of Income over Expenditure transferred to General Reserve Account	567.86	—	100.00	Interest on Chinese Language School Fixed Deposit	62.74
739.74	—					Less Interest on Chinese Language School Current Account	17.17
							45.57
							\$3,425.57
						CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL:—	
						Balance—Excess of Expenditure over Income deducted from Reserve Account	1,978.40
\$12,773.76	\$4,736.84		\$29,683.64	\$5,403.97	\$12,773.76	\$4,736.84	\$29,683.64

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER, 1919.

LIABILITIES.		\$	\$	ASSETS.		\$	\$
SUNDRY CREDITORS (General)			959.57	GENERAL FUNDS:—			
HEWETT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FUND per contra				Hongkong Hotel 6 per cent. Debentures	10,500.00		
1916, 94 Subscribers @ \$10.00	\$940.00			Hongkong Club 6 per cent. Debentures	8,000.00		
1917, 93 "	930.00			Hongkong and Shanghai Bank 4½% F/Ds	3,000.00		21,500.00
1918, 93 "	930.00						
1919, 92 "	920.00			HEWETT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FUND:—			
Add Interest Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Current Account	\$ 42.31	3,720.00		H'kong & S'hai Banking Corporation Current Account			1,105.27
" Interest Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Fixed Deposit (now retired)	200.00	242.31					
Less Amount paid University of Hongkong for 3 Scholarships 1916/19	\$2,850.00	3,962.31		CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL:—			
" Postage and Petties	7.04	2,857.04		Furniture and Fittings	425.77		
				Less Depreciation	42.57		
CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL:—				Add Purchases	383.20		
Reserve Account as per contra at 31st Dec., 1918	2,382.92		1,105.27		44.92		428.12
Less Excess Expenditure over Income as per Statement	1,978.40			FURNITURE AND FITTINGS:—			
				At 31st December, 1918	1,057.35		
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Overdraft	43.60			Less Depreciation	211.47		
				Add Purchases	845.88		
GENERAL RESERVE ACCOUNT:—					67.50		913.38
At 31st December, 1918	24,403.12			STOCK STATIONERY:			150.00
Less Extra Cost 1918 Annual Report	117.00						
				SUNDRY DEBTORS:—			
Add Surplus Income over Expenditure as per Statement	567.86			Shroff's Imprest	100.00		
				Office Boy's Imprest	20.00		
				Market Report Subscriptions	87.80		
				Surveys	179.80		
				Board of Trade Intelligence Department	30.00		
				Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation:—			
				Interest on Hongkong Club Debentures for quarter ended 31st December, 1919	\$ 120.00		
				Interest Accrued on F/Ds	110.14	230.14	
							647.74
				CASH:—			
				Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation			2,602.43
							\$ 27,346.94

E. A. M. WILLIAM,
Secretary.

We have compared the above Statement with the Books, Vouchers and Securities and find the same to be in accordance therewith.

C. L. SANDES,
H. B. L. DOWBIGGIN, } Auditors.

Hongkong, 9th February, 1920.

Year	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	
...

APPENDIX

AVISIT OF MR. E. F. CROWE, COMMERCIAL ATTACHE FOR
JAPAN TO THE COLONY.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 9th January, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to forward, at the request of Mr. E. F. Crowe, Commercial Attache for Japan, the enclosed letter addressed to you by him.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Office of H.M. Commercial Attache
British Consulate General,
23rd December, 1918.

Sir,—I am shortly proceeding home, partly on furlough and partly with a view to carrying on my work as Commercial Attache for Japan at the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence) which is the new combined Department of the Foreign Office and Board of Trade; I shall also be visiting the Chambers of Commerce in the United Kingdom in order to discuss with manufacturers and merchants at home all sorts of questions connected with trade between Great Britain and Japan also between parts of the British Empire and Japan.

As the trade between Hongkong and Japan has developed very largely during the 4 years of war and as many problems connected therewith, especially questions relating to Trademarks and Import and Export restrictions may have arisen, I think it is possible that some of the British firms in your Colony may wish to seize this opportunity of my passing through to discuss such questions, and I would be glad to have a chance of learning their views. On the other hand, owing to the shortness of the stay of steamers in port, I cannot be certain that I shall have any length of time at my disposal, and I am writing this therefore as a tentative idea in case there should be anybody who wants to see me.

I shall be travelling by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha s.s. "Mishima Maru" which is due to arrive in Hongkong on the 7th February, 1919, and leaves on the 8th February and should there be anyone who would like to interview me, I would be very much obliged if either you, or the Chamber of Commerce would send me a wireless telegram to the steamer to that effect, 24 hours or so before she is due, saying whether there is anybody who wants to see me, and if so at what time, or alternatively that there are no questions of importance which need be discussed.

As my stay will be short and the hours of arrival and departure of steamers are indefinite, it may be impossible or inconvenient to make any arrangements, and I am most anxious not to cause any trouble to any one, but I should be sorry afterwards if I had passed through and had missed an opportunity of perhaps discussing some important question.

I have sent this letter to you through the courtesy of the Colonial Secretary who is therefore acquainted with its contents, and I beg that you will be so good as to consult with him as to whether you wish me to take any action.—I have, etc.,

E. F. CROWE.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 8th February, 1919.

Sir,—In continuation of my letter numbered as above of the 9th January, I am directed to enclose for your information a copy of a letter from Mr. E. F. Crowe, Commercial Attache for Japan.—I am, etc.,

J. A. E. BULLOCK,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Office of H.M. Commercial Attache
British Consulate General,
Yokohama, 22nd January, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to my letter of the 24th December last informing you that I would be arriving on the s.s. "Mishima Maru," I have the honour to inform you that the departure of the vessel has been postponed and that she will leave from a week to 10 days behind her scheduled time. I cannot tell you definitely when she will sail, but the Nippon Yusen Kaisha Agents at your port will probably have had telegraphic advice by the time this reaches you.

I would be very much obliged if you could kindly communicate the above information to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at your port in case the Chamber have decided that any of their Members wish to see me in connection with business.—I have, etc.,

E. F. CROWE.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 18th February, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letters Nos. 3555/1919 of 9th ult., and 8th inst., advising the arrival of Mr. E. F. Crowe, H. B. M. Commercial Attache for Japan, by the s.s. "Mishima Maru" which is not now due until the 20th inst.

I am directed by my Committee to thank you for enclosures to your letters, and to state that arrangements are being made to meet Mr. Crowe.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong, 18th February, 1919.

Wireless message to Mr. Crowe.

"Committee Hongkong Chamber Commerce honoured meet
"you tiffin Hongkong Club Thursday discuss commercial matters
"generally. Governor's Aide will meet Steamer."

WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 19th February, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to confirm my wireless message despatched yesterday and reading.

"Committee Hongkong Chamber Commerce honoured meet
"you tiffin Hongkong Club Thursday discuss commercial matters
"generally. Governor's Aide will meet Steamer."

WILLIAMS, Secretary."

I have been in communication with the Honourable Colonial Secretary who informs me that should your steamer arrive before noon the Government launch "Victoria" will come alongside and take you off.

It is I understand the intention of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to interview you on arrival after which my Committee hope that you will be able to meet them at the Club about 1 p.m.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

E. F. Crowe, Esq., C.M.G.
H. B. M. Commercial Attache for Japan.

21st February, 1919.

Williams
Secretary Chamber Commerce
Hongkong.

Many thanks telegram just received account accident arrive Sunday morning owing races Monday, wish inconvenience nobody will visit committee at their offices Monday morning.

CROWE.

Mishima Maru, 1st March, 1919.

Dear Mr. Holyoak,—I would like to thank you and the Members of your Committee for the kind hospitality which you would have extended to me had it not been for the vagaries of this boat. She is keeping up her reputation of arriving in port on Saturdays or Sundays. She has done it in Singapore and will do it again in Colombo.

I had an interesting meeting with the Committee of the Singapore Chamber who also kindly invited me to lunch and I was much surprised to find that although they are confronted with the Japanese imitation of trade marks problem they have no trade marks legislation in the Straits so there is nothing they can do.

I shall be very interested to see if your Chamber agrees with the action proposed by the Shanghai British Chamber of Commerce.

I hope we may soon meet at home. Please be so good as to convey to the Members of your Committee my appreciation of the courtesy they showed to me and assure them that I shall always be delighted to work in co-operation with them in regard to any measures which they may propose with regard to Japanese competition.—Yours, etc.,

E. F. CROWE.

TELEGRAPHIC DELAY TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
17th January, 1919.

Dear Sir,—With reference to previous correspondence on the above subject, I am directed by my Committee to state that so far from any improvement to the service having been effected the condition of affairs seems to have gone from bad to worse.

My Committee understand that according to the Telegraph Convention, Commercial Telegrams take precedence over Press Telegrams, but it does not appear from a comparison of dates of telegrams received in the Colony during the past few months that this priority is being observed, and while a suspension of this rule may have been appreciated during the anxious months of the past year, my Committee consider that the time has now come when the priority accorded to non-deferred commercial telegrams should be re-established, especially over some of the feeble press telegrams we receive now-a-days.

My Committee will much appreciate it if you will again take up the matter with your Head Office with a view to obtaining as early as possible some relief from the present unsatisfactory service.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

J. Kennedy Gibson, Esq.,
Superintendent,
Eastern Extension Australasia and China
Telegraph Company, Limited,
Hongkong.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and
China Telegraph Co., Ltd.
Hongkong, 20th January, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have received your letter, dated January 17, on the subject of telegraphic delay to the United Kingdom and shall communicate to the Head Office your Committee's views respecting Press Telegrams.

I may, however, observe that the number of Press Messages per diem is insignificant in comparison with the overwhelming bulk of Commercial traffic, and that the general delay to the latter will be practically unaffected by any treatment which may be accorded to the former.

I take this opportunity to inform you that three cable steamers have, for a long time, been on the scene of the cable interruptions in European waters, and are still awaiting favourable weather to effect restorations, which are expected from day to day. Another cable ship has, for several days, been at work on the repair of the Commercial Pacific Company's cable.

Your Committee may rest assured that no effort is being spared to restore normal communication, and that every available means is being used to maintain a telegraphic service in spite of unprecedented difficulties.—Yours, etc.,

J. KENNEDY GIBSON,
Superintendent.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 24th January, 1919.

Sir,—In view of the continued and very serious delay in the telegraphic services, I have the honour to enquire if His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government will take up with the Telegraph Companies the matter of wireless communication and whether or not some arrangement cannot be arrived at whereby the Stonecutters wireless installation could be utilised for transmitting commercial messages during the present emergency.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 18th February, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 24th January, I am directed to state that this Government is informed by the Naval Authorities that owing to the very full programmes at the Stonecutters and Seletar Wireless Telegraph Stations no facilities can be given for commercial traffic.

I am to request that you will be so good as to inform me what proposals the Chamber wish to have made to the Telegraph Companies regarding wireless communication.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 10th March, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 550/1919 of 18th February having reference to the utilization of wireless system of telegraphy to relieve the pressure and consequent delay to commercial traffic.

My Committee understand that the Great Northern and the Eastern Extension Telegraph Companies jointly hold a concession from the Chinese Government for the installation of the wireless system on the China Coast, and it is known that the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company have a wireless station at Singapore.

My Committee is of opinion that the Telegraph Companies have been rather lax in the matter of the establishment of wireless commercial communication, and consider no time should be lost in the establishment of wireless communications. Any proposal, therefore, which Government may make to the Telegraph Companies which may tend to secure this, will be much appreciated by my Committee.

I am to add that the heavy delay in the transmission of telegrams is still so very serious as to be paralysing business.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Tientsin General Chamber of Commerce,
Tientsin, 3rd March, 1919.

Sir,—I beg to inform you that this Chamber has recently, after corresponding with the Telegraph Administration, made representations through the Consular Body to the Diplomatic Corps in Peking, regarding the serious delays in telegrams from Europe and America, which has for some months been so gravely hampering the trade of all Foreign merchants in the East.

At the suggestion of the Consular Body, I am laying the matter before you, with a view to securing practical measures for the elimination of the inconvenience, and in order to ensure co-ordination and joint action, which will carry more weight and effect than isolated representations from one Chamber.

From enquiries at the local Telegraph Office it appears that the delays are not caused at this end of the lines, but somewhere in Europe and in America respectively, the local offices as far as they are concerned, being capable of effecting the despatch and delivery of messages with the usual regularity. It would thus appear that the congestion apparently happens at some points in Europe and America.

It appears to the Committee of this Chamber that the following measures would greatly reduce the percentage of words in commercial telegrams, and now that most enemy subjects have been repatriated from China, there would seem to be no great danger of the misuse of the lines:—

1. Permission to use code-addresses to Europe as is permitted to America.
2. Permission to send telegrams in private, as well as authorised codes.

It would further seem that the inconvenient method of having telegrams vised by the respective Consulates might be abolished.

Trusting that we shall have the co-operation of your Chamber, if you have not already made representations on the matter.—I am, etc.,

W. A. MORLING,
Chairman.

The Chairman,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 2nd April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of 3rd March with reference to the grievous telegraphic delays between Europe, America and the Far East has duly been laid before my Committee.

This is a question which has seriously occupied the attention of this Chamber during the past year, and a voluminous correspondence between the Chamber, the Telegraph Companies, and the Government here is on file, although very little, if any satisfaction has been derived therefrom. The usual explanation has been that the delay is due to depleted staffs on account of war conditions, influenza epidemic, and breakdown of cables which it has been impossible to repair owing to enemy action, while the Great Northern's Siberian and the Indo-European Routes have so far not been restored.

With regard to your proposed Measure No. 1 regarding code addresses, no difficulty is experienced in this Colony as such are permissible to Europe, as well as the United States, while with regard to Measure No. 2 this Chamber is at the moment addressing the Hongkong Government with the request that the matter of acceptance of private codes be referred to the Home Authorities, and it is hoped that if the Censors will accept copies of these private codes the delay will be much reduced.

I am desired to enclose for your information copies of this Chamber's latest correspondence with the Government calling for the utilisation of wireless telegraphy on the China Coast and I shall be glad to advise you of whatever improvements may result through this Chamber's efforts.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Tientsin General Chamber of Commerce,
Tientsin.

Nestle and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co.,
Hongkong, 19th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—In view of the great delay in the Cable Service and the fact that hostilities have ceased, may we suggest that a letter from the Chamber to the Censor may be instrumental in getting removed the embargo on the use of Private Codes, subject of course, to satisfactory arrangements being made with the Censor respecting the use of Private Codes, e.g., his being handed, or having free access to, a copy of such. This would have the effect of reducing the number of words cabled, thereby relieving the pressure on the Service, whilst the saving to senders would be very considerable.

The suggestion is put forward, of course, in the absence of our having any information as to what steps, if any, have already been taken by the Chamber in this direction.—Yours, etc.,

A. G. COPPIN,
Manager for Hongkong
and South China.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 1st April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to again address you on the subject of heavy Telegraphic delay to the United Kingdom and even to India, communication with which is occupying something like ten days.

My Committee would much appreciate it if H. E. the Officer Administering the Government would take the matter up with the Home Authorities direct and suggest that private code messages be accepted, if not generally in any case by reputable British firms, which if agreed to, my Committee is of opinion would materially reduce the delay by reason of the lesser number of words requiring to be transmitted.

If this suggestion is acceptable the Chamber is advised that local commercial houses will probably put their private business codes at the disposal of the Censor.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Eastern Extension Australasia and
China Telegraph Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong, 2nd April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—As there appears to be a misconception regarding the particular cables that are interrupted, if I may judge from the Chairman's speech at the recent General Meeting, I wish to state that the interruptions are in cables which land in Cornwall.

I enclose a copy of two recent Expresses which relate to the question of telegraphic delay.—Yours, etc.,

J. KENNEDY GIBSON,
Superintendent.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

—
The Eastern Extension Australasia & China Telegraph Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong Station,
TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATION.

The heavy pressure of Government traffic continues, and the interruption of the Commercial Pacific Company's Cable has added to the congestion on our Cables. We have been compelled to post from Gibraltar to London ordinary telegrams from China, which are now subject to a delay of about ten days. The delay on deferred telegrams is proportionately greater.

Five Cable-Ships are now in the neighbourhood of the broken cables in European waters, the repair of which is still delayed by bad weather.
Hongkong, 11th March, 1919.

J. KENNEDY GIBSON,
Superintendent.

—
The Eastern Extension Australasia & China Telegraph Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong Station,

TELEGRAPHIC DELAY.

Owing to the interruption of lines between Alexandria and Suez some additional delay to Telegrams is unavoidable. Other means of communication between these points is being employed.

J. KENNEDY GIBSON,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 24th March, 1919.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 9th April, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st April, 1919, on the subject of the continued delay in the transmission of telegrams between the Colony and the United Kingdom.

It is understood that the delay is largely due to cable faults which are rapidly being corrected, while new cables are being laid. There is no prospect that the Authorities in England will make a concession as regards the use of private codes in favour of this Colony alone; and as the Imperial Authorities are fully aware of all the circumstances it is considered that no useful purpose would be served by addressing them further.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

—
Northwest Trading Co.,
Hongkong, 12th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—The attached paragraph referring to the Press Bureau censorship appeared in the Hongkong Press of April 5th. Will you kindly let me know whether or not you have learned whether this applies to censorship of cables, and if so whether or not the censorship will be relaxed in this Colony on the same date. If this is the case will permission be allowed to use private codes.—Yours, etc.,

P. P. Northwest Trading Co., Ltd.
E. C. DINGMAN.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

—
THE OFFICIAL PRESS BUREAU.

Closing Down at End of April.

London, April 2nd

The Press Bureau states:—

Unless an emergency arises, the official Press Bureau closes on April 30th. The censorship and all its other functions will cease from that date.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 14th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have for acknowledgment your letter of 12th instant, in reply to which I am to inform you that this Chamber has no official information that cable censorship will cease on the 30th April.

With regard to the use of private codes, this Chamber has recently requested the Government to take up the matter with the Home Authorities and a reply has just been received from which the following is an extract:—

“There is no prospect that the Authorities in England will make a concession as regards the use of private codes in favour of this Colony alone; and as the Imperial Authorities are fully aware of all the circumstances it is considered that no useful purpose would be served by addressing them further.”—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

E. C. Dingman, Esq.,
Messrs. Northwest Trading Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 14th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have for acknowledgment your letter of 19th ult., dealing with the question of telegraphic delay, which has so long been engaging the attention of this Chamber, and suggesting the use of private telegraph codes as a means of reducing the delay by reason of a reduction in number of words necessary to be cabled.

I am directed to state that the Government was requested by this Chamber to make representations to the Home Authorities with a view to obtaining this concession, and a reply has just been received, from which the following is an extract:—

“There is no prospect that the Authorities in England will make a concession as regards the use of private codes in favour of this Colony alone; and as the Imperial Authorities are fully aware of all the circumstances it is considered that no useful purpose would be served by addressing them further.”—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

A. G. Coppin, Esq.,
Messrs. Nestle & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co.,
Hongkong.

Extract of letter to Messrs. Moxon and Taylor from their London Agents.

CABLE DELAYS:—We would draw your attention to the article on page 12 of “The Times” of the 1st April. From the prominence given to this matter, it is hoped that drastic steps will soon be taken to remedy the present very serious position.

Our Mr. Souter happened to meet a few days ago one of the Managers of the Eastern Telegraph Company, who has just been demobilised and has returned to his old employment. He informed Mr. Souter that the broken ends of two cables had been found in the Bay of Biscay, and that they were already “buoyed” with the Repair Ships in attendance waiting for favourable weather to repair them. He went so far as to state that in all probability something approaching a normal Cable Service would be restored by the end of April, as the Company was now doing everything in its power to repair the broken cables as rapidly as possible. The damage, too, from depth bombs seems to have been very much more serious than was realised at first.

We would like to congratulate your Chamber of Commerce on the very spirited action they took in regard to this all-important matter; in fact, we understand that it was entirely due to them that “The Times” gave so much prominence to this question in their issue of the 1st April.

3.11.19.

Telegram to
Stanley Dodwell,
Care Dendrite Shanghai.

General cable delays worse than ever conference action might alleviate.
WILLIAMS.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 26th November, 1919.

Dear Sir,—It cannot but be the experience of your Members that notwithstanding all the protests that have been lodged the cable services continue to be deplorable, and very little better than since the signing of the Armistice.

It seems useless to complain to local Superintendents who can only repeat the excuses served out for public consumption by the Central Organisation.

Sometimes depth charges have done a lot of damage, on other occasions the Companies are short staffed and are waiting for demobilised men. It has also been said that Government messages blocked the lines and it is well known that many futile and totally unnecessary messages have been scattered broadcast by Whitehall.

Whatever the reason for the disorganisation may be, my Committee feels that it is necessary to keep on registering protests, and to this end would be glad if each British Chamber will write to the London Chamber of Commerce asking it to again bring the state of affairs to the attention of the Imperial Authorities.

The pronouncements of Statesmen concerning the necessity for increased production are so much vapor if every possible obstacle be placed in the way of British Merchants in the East seeking to sell British Products.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Letter sent to:—

Shanghai, Hankow, Tientsin, Newchwang,
Chefoo, Swatow, Canton British Chambers of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 26th November, 1919.

Dear Sir,—It cannot but be the experience of your Members that notwithstanding all the protests that have been lodged the cable services continue to be deplorable, and very little better than since the signing of the Armistice.

It seems useless to complain to local Superintendents who can only repeat the excuses served out for public consumption by the Central Organisation.

Sometimes depth charges have done a lot of damage, on other occasions the Companies are short staffed and are waiting for demobilised men. It has also been said that Government messages blocked the lines and it is well known that many futile and totally unnecessary messages have been scattered broadcast by Whitehall.

Whatever the reason for the disorganisation may be, my Committee feels that it is necessary to keep on registering protests, and to this end would be glad if your Chamber will bring the state of affairs to the attention of the Imperial Authorities.

The pronouncements of Statesmen concerning the necessity for increased production are so much vapor if every possible obstacle be placed in the way of British Merchants in the East seeking to sell British Products.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Letter sent to:—

Manchester, Glasgow, Liverpool,
Bradford, Birmingham, Edingburgh Chambers of Commerce.

The Eastern Extension Australasia & China
Telegraph Co., Ltd.

The Company regret that owing to accumulation caused by cable interruptions, they cannot satisfactorily cope with the increasing traffic, and urge senders in their own interests to reduce the number and limit the length of their telegrams. The Company also particularly ask that Christmas and New Year greeting telegrams should not be sent.

D. de H. FARRANT,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 27th November, 1919.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 28th November, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to enclose a copy of a letter this Chamber has addressed to all British Chambers in China and also to the principal ones in the United Kingdom.

I must confess to a feeling of hopelessness as I write. So much has already been said without apparent result and it is so impossible to discover what really stands in the way of improvement. I attach a recent advertisement which apparently means that the service is going from bad to worse.

of course, the Cable Companies may be doing their best to improve matters but it is difficult to escape the conviction that, bloated with profits largely due—at least for some months after the Armistice—to the assistance given by a Bureaucratic Government who shared in the plunder in the shape of excess profit Tax, they are really indifferent to the pressing needs of commerce.

A point to excite curiosity as regards the present delay of days in ordinary messages is the fact that if money is no object (except to the Cable Company) one can get an "urgent" message through in a comparatively short time by paying three times the ordinary rates.

One wonders what competition would do if such were only possible.

My Committee will appreciate any steps which you may take towards the amelioration of an almost intolerable burden to British Eastern Commerce.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
London Chamber of Commerce.

The British Chamber of Commerce,
Swatow, 2nd December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 26th ulto re the unsatisfactory condition of the cable services is duly to hand and same will be laid before the members of this Chamber at the next meeting.

From this port there is very little direct cabling home and some firms send their telegrams by post to Hongkong and have them sent from there. This is caused by the still most unsatisfactory condition of the land line service on which this port is solely dependent, and as you will have seen from the report of the Conference of British Chambers of Commerce in China recently held at Shanghai, this Chamber put forward a Resolution about this matter, which was duly passed, and from which we hope some satisfactory outcome will materialise and that we shall have this port linked up with the outside world by submarine cable in the future. That at the moment is our chief consideration here.—I am, etc.,

FOR BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
E. THORNTON,
Hon. Secretary

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Telegram from Tientsin British
Chamber of Commerce.

In reply to your letter of 26th day of November my committee fully approves but we think letter not quick enough suggest request Associated Chamber send at once urgent telegram if you can arrange we will agree.

MOUNSEY.

British Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai, 8th December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of November 26 and to inform you that at the last meeting of my Committee (held on December 4) it was decided that the question of the cables was one which the Association of Chambers might well take up. I am, accordingly, sending you a copy of a letter addressed to each Chamber and will inform you of the result.—Yours, etc.,

E. M. GULL,
Secretary.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

British Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai, 8th December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to enclose a copy of a letter received from the Hongkong Chamber.

The subject is felt by my Committee to be one in which the Association should take action by cable and I should accordingly be glad to know whether your Chamber approves of the suggestion of a protest to be cabled home in the name of all Chambers. If your own Chamber feels disposed also to write independently to the London Chamber so much the better, for you would doubtless be able to furnish local illustrations of the vexation and difficulties caused by the present state of things. If your Chamber decides to write will you please send me a copy of the letter.—Yours, etc.,

E. M. GULL,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
British Chamber of Commerce.

Tientsin British Chamber of Commerce,
Tientsin, 12th December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 26th November on the subject of the cable delays and in reply telegraphed to you in the following sense which I now confirm:

"In reply to your letter of the 26th November my Committee fully approves but we think letter not quick enough, suggest, request associated Chamber send at once urgent telegram, if you can arrange, we will agree."

I have to-day received a copy of your letter from the Shanghai Chamber and in their covering letter have stated that they feel the subject be one in which the associated Chamber should take action by cable and ask my Chamber's approval. I am to-day writing to the Secretary in Shanghai informing him of my Chamber's approval and co-operation.—Yours, etc.,

K. W. MOUNSEY,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

C

DEMOBILIZATION.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 17th January, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to forward for your information a copy of a telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding demobilization.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Translation of Code Telegram.
From Secretary of State, London.
To Governor, Hongkong.
Date 13th January, 1919.

January 13th Demobilization. Limited numbers of estate owners and managers and members of commercial firms overseas will be released as pivotal men. Application should be made only on behalf of men whose return urgently required within 6 months and where important that business should be carried on in interests of Colony or of British Trade overseas. Essential to state rank, name, numbers, unit, and when possible expeditionary force or command.

LONG.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 17th January, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to forward for the information of your Chamber the enclosed copy of a telegram from the Officer Administering the Government to the Viceroy, India.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

C

Translation of Code Telegram.
From H.E. the Officer Administering the Government,
Hongkong.
To H.E. the Viceroy, India.
Date 16th January, 1919.

It is understood that eight men sent by the Hongkong Military Service Commission remain at Kirkee. I would urge that these and any other members of the contingent now in India may be sent back to Hongkong at the earliest possible date. They are urgently required in interests of British Far Eastern trade.

SEVERN.

D

DELAY TO INWARD MAILS.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 24th January, 1919.

Sir,—In view of the fact that the P. and O. s.s. "Nore" which left London on the 7th December, brought no mail to the Colony, the last mail delivered here previous to her arrival being dated London, 22nd November, I am directed by my Committee to inquire if you will be good enough to telegraph to the Post-master General, London, suggesting that mails might now be sent via Suez, instead of the Atlantic and Pacific routes.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Post-master General,
Hongkong.

General Post Office,
Hongkong, 7th February, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that I telegraphed to the London Post Office on the same day and asked them to send all mails by Suez, when that route would be quicker than the trans-Pacific route.

I have already informed you of this by telephone.

I delayed replying to your letter until I had been able to make some enquiries as to whether the mails by the "China" had been delayed by the Japanese authorities.

I find that this was not the case. The China left Nagasaki on the 20th January and arrived here on the 1st February.

The Nikko arrived here on February 2nd and brought a Nagasaki mail dated January 29th.

The Japanese could not have forwarded the China mails by any quicker vessel.

I will however report to your Chamber any cases which may occur in future in which the Japanese are responsible for the delay of our mails.—I have, etc.,

S. B. C. ROSS,
Post-master General.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

General Post Office,
Hongkong, 27th February, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 24th January, I have the honour to forward for the information of your Committee copies of telegrams exchanged between myself and the London Post Office.—I have, etc.,

S. B. C. ROSS,
Post-master General.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

From Postmaster, Hongkong.
To Post Office, London.

Chamber of Commerce urges transmission mails for Hongkong and Southern Agencies via Suez by all steamers. Mails by Pacific route very irregular at present and much delayed.

25/1/1919.

From Postmaster General, Hongkong,
To Post Office, London.

Latest London mails received here dated 21st December via Pacific, 9th January via Suez. Will you act my telegram 25th January.

24/2/1919.

From London Post Office,
To Postmaster, Hongkong.

Your telegram 24th February mails have been sent by Suez since 13th February.

27/2/1919.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 8th March, 1919.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge and to thank you for your letter of 27th ult., covering copies of telegrams exchanged between the Postal Authorities here and at London with reference to the somewhat present unsatisfactory inward Mail Service.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

S. B. C. Ross, Esq.,
Postmaster General.

General Post Office,
Hongkong, 26th March, 1919.

Sir,— With further reference to your letter of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to forward for the information of your Committee copies of telegrams exchanged between His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government and the Secretary of State for the Colonies.—I have, etc.,

S. B. C. ROSS,
Post-master General.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Translation of Code Telegram.
From Governor, Hongkong.
To Secretary of State, London.
Date 10th March, 1919.

Grave inconvenience is being caused to Banks and business generally by the delay in mails. Last mail received here was dated January 6th. Should be glad to learn by telegraph whether report is accurate that mails from January 6th to January 23rd are detained in London.

Translation of Code Telegram.
 From Secretary of State, London.
 To Governor, Hongkong.
 Date 19th March, 1919.

Your telegram 10th March. Reports that mails were detained in London in January is not correct; mails were despatched via North America 7th January 18th January 22nd January; delay is due to present irregularity of sailings on Pacific have since been sent via Suez.

MILNER.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
 Hongkong, 24th April, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to acknowledge and to thank you for your letter of 26th ult. covering further telegraphic correspondence exchanged between His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government and the Secretary of State for the Colonies with reference to the mail service from home.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
 Secretary.

S. B. C. ROSS, Esq.,
 Postmaster General.

General Post Office,
 Hongkong, 22nd April, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to a conversation which I recently had with the Chairman of your Committee, I have the honour to inform you that I have sent the following telegram to the General Post Office, London:—

“Your telegram 14th April British Chamber of Commerce
 “ask me to telegraph as follows. Begins, send mails via Suez and
 “include Blue Funnel Line. Send also via Vancouver if certain
 “that connection with an Empress Boat will be made. Do not
 “send via U.S.A.”

I hope that this will meet the wishes of your Committee—I have,
 etc.,

S. B. C. ROSS,
 Postmaster General.

The Secretary,
 Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
 Hongkong, 1st May, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to acknowledge and to thank you for your letter of the 22nd ult., setting out copy of a telegram despatched by you to the Postal Authorities at Home regarding China Inward Mails.

My Committee would suggest as an alternative route, the weekly Marseilles, Bombay, Negapatam, Penang, Singapore service, if connection from, and to Negapatam can be arranged, and would be obliged if you will communicate by telegraph with London, this suggestion.

There is, as you are of course aware, a frequent service of steamers from Singapore to Hongkong and Shanghai and back.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
 Secretary.

The Postmaster General.

General Post Office,
 Hongkong, 6th May, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 1st May, I have the honour to inform you that I have sent a code telegram to Postmaster General, London, of which the decode is as follows:—

“My telegram 17th April. Chamber of Commerce ask me to
 “telegraph as follows. (Begins) Suggest an alternative route
 “weekly service via Marseilles, Bombay, Negapatam, Penang, Singa-
 “pore if Controller can release ships so as to make this service a
 “weekly service. A regular weekly service via Negapatam would
 “be of greatest value to British trade in South China.”

I trust that this telegram will meet the views of your Committee.—
 I have, etc.,

S. B. C. ROSS,
 Postmaster General.

The Secretary,
 Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

General Post Office,
 Hongkong, 10th June, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to my letter of 6th May and previous correspondence, I have the honour to send for information of your Committee copy of decode of telegram just received from Postmaster General, London.

“Blue Funnel Line providing weekly services leaving every
 “Thursday. I understand that average time to Hongkong 5 weeks.
 “Telegraph whether letter mails would arrive earlier if sent direct
 “with parcel post instead of to Bombay as at present.”

In view of the fact that there is no regular service between Negapatam and Singapore and as a regular service can now be supplied by the Blue Funnel service I propose to send the following telegram:—

“Your telegram 7th June. Send by Blue Funnel every Thurs-
 “day unless you can make certain of regular weekly service via
 “Bombay Negapatam.”

I shall be glad to know the views of your Committee. I would of course telegraph to London and ask that mails be sent via Marseilles Bombay Negapatam as soon as a regular service can be guaranteed. In the mean time I believe that the Blue Funnel will be the more regular service.—I have, etc.,

S. B. C. ROSS,
Postmaster General.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 12th June, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge and to thank you for your letter No. 3331/19 of 10th instant on the subject of DELAY TO INWARD MAILS, which letter only reached me at 3.35 p.m. yesterday.

My Committee is of opinion that the proposals contained in your letter are the best possible under the circumstances, and approve your draft telegraphic reply to the Postmaster General's telegram of 7th instant.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
secretary.

S. B. C. ROSS, Esq.,
Postmaster General.

E

COMMERCIAL ATTACHE FOR SOUTH CHINA.

Office of H.B.M. Commercial Attache in China.
Shanghai, 20th January, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that H.M. Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has decided that the designation of the Commercial Attache (First Grade) in China shall be altered to Commercial Counsellor of Legation. In the same way the title of the Assistant Commercial Attache for South China, who is about to be appointed, will be changed to Commercial Secretary of Legation.

My headquarters will continue for the present to be at Shanghai where my Office will henceforth be known as Office of the Commercial Counsellor to H. M. Legation, Peking.—I have, etc.,

HARRY H. FOX,
Commercial Counsellor of Legation.

The Chairman,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 5th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—At a Meeting of the Committee of this Chamber held yesterday, a letter announcing your appointment from Mr. H. H. Fox, C.M.G., Commercial Counsellor of Legation at Shanghai, was read by the Chairman.

I was directed to extend to you a hearty welcome to the Colony, and to advise you that it has been unanimously decided to elect you an Honorary Member of the General Committee of the Chamber.

The Chamber Room, my Committee have much pleasure in placing at your disposal until your permanent office has been arranged, and I shall be glad to give you every assistance in my power.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

H. J. Brett, Esq.,
Commercial Secretary of Legation,
Hongkong.

Office of H.M. Commercial Secretary for South China,
Hongkong, 6th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, wherein you inform me that your Committee have done me the honour of electing me an Honorary Member of the General Committee of the Chamber.

I shall be obliged if you will convey my thanks to your Committee for this act of courtesy on their part, and also for their kindness in placing the Chamber Room at my disposal as a temporary office.

I am at the same time most grateful for your personal offer of assistance, of which I shall not fail to avail myself.—Yours, etc.,

H. J. BRETT,
Commercial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

British Legation,
Peking, 28th February, 1919.

Sir,—In my letter of September 12th last I informed you that His Majesty's Government had approved in principle the creation of the post of Commercial Attache at Hongkong, and that recommendations had been telegraphed to London in regard to the appointment of a suitable officer.

I have now pleasure in informing you that arrangements have been made whereby the post will in all probability be filled by Mr. H. J. Brett, of His Majesty's Consular Service in China, an officer of whose ability I entertain a high opinion, and whose selection will, I feel confident, be welcomed by the mercantile community at Hongkong.

Mr. Brett, who is at present at Shanghai where he has for some time past been engaged on special work in connection with the Tariff Revision Conference, will leave for Hongkong in a few days time, and will on arrival take an early opportunity of putting himself in touch with your Chamber.—I am, etc.,

J. N. JORDAN.

The Chairman,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 15th March, 1919.

Your Excellency,—I have the honour to acknowledge and to thank you for your letter of 28th ult., advising the appointment of the Commercial Secretary of Legation for South China.

Mr. Brett who has now arrived and taken up his duties, has been welcomed by the Chamber, and made an Honorary Member of the General Committee.

I enclose for your Excellency's information, a copy of the Chamber's letter to Mr. Brett, and his reply.—I have, etc.,

P. H. HOLYOAK,
Chairman.

Sir J. Jordan, G.C.I.E., K.C.B., K.C.M.G.
H. B. M. Minister,
Peking.

EXCLUSION OF GERMANS FROM CEYLON.

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 21st December, 1918.

TRADING OF ALIENS FROM LATE ENEMY COUNTRIES.

Dear Sir,—For the information of your Committee I enclose herewith two copies of the resolutions adopted at a Meeting of this Chamber held on the 12th instant, together with two copies of the complete proceedings of such Meeting.—Yours, etc.,

A. DUNCUM,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

THE CEYLON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.
CIRCULAR.

Copy of Resolutions adopted at the Emergency Meeting of
Members of the Chamber of Commerce, held on
Thursday, the 12th instant, at 3 p.m.

1. That no subject of any Enemy Country, nor subject of an Enemy Country naturalized in any Neutral Country, shall, in future, be allowed to trade in this Colony either as principal or employee, or to own or lease property.
 2. That no imports from, or exports to, any Enemy Country shall be permitted except through subjects of, or firms controlled by subjects of, Great Britain, her Allies, or the United States of America.
- Colombo, 11th December, 1918.

BANISH THE HUN FROM CEYLON.
IMPORTANT RESOLUTION BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Exhaustive Speech by the Chairman.

An emergency meeting of the members of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce was held at their rooms on Thursday the 12th December, 1918, at 3 p.m. Mr. Jas. Lochore, Chairman, presided. Members present were: Messrs. Atkinson, W. H.; Bacot, G. R.; Bibby, H. C.; Blande, N. R.; Bois, Herbert; Boys, Arthur; Brodie, W. C.; Brown, R. J.; Bure, P. De;

Cary, M. J.; Chalk, F. W.; Clark, E. S.; Claves, L. des; Collett, A. S.; Darby, R. F.; Dulling, H. H.; Durrant, C. C.; Evans, R. W.; Fea, W. S.; Forbes, O. B.; Gibbs, F. C.; Gill, Geo.; Gordon, C. V.; Gordon, R.; Griggs, C. H.; Hanscomb, H. J.; Hawkes, F. J.; Hayley, S. P.; Hayward, E. J.; Hill, H. V.; Jolliffe, F. E.; John, E.; John Reginald; Jones, S. Oxtan; Keell, W.; Lawrence, E. H.; Leefe, B. W.; Leefe, L. O.; Lubbock, A. E.; Mackay, W. R. T.; Mackie, Copland; Mackwood, F. O.; Magoris, J. A.; Martin, A. J.; Masters, E.; Mathews, L.; Mathews, R. L.; McCallum, W. R.; McGillivray, J. A.; McIntyre, E. S.; McLatter, P.; Meaden, R.; Mel, H. L. de; Mitchell, F. S.; Mitchell, W. E.; Montgomery, J. B.; Parsons, P. J.; Patterson, J. S. M.; Patterson, A. F.; Philpott, R. S.; Philips, W.; Price, Geo.; Rice, E. C.; Ridge, J. A.; Ross, W. Sutherland; Saalfeld, R. S.; Simpson, C. G.; Skrine, A. D.; Southwood, R. E.; Spill, L.; Street, F. F.; Tarrant, Herbert; Tatham, T. H.; Tarry, A. F. Wallace; Trevanion, C. C.; Turnbull, G.; Wagner, T. E.; Waldock, A. P.; Waldock, F. W.; Watson, D. W.; Wellard, C. H.; Wittering, F. C.; Yeats, F. H.; Young, C. T.; and A. Duncum, (Secretary.)

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting after which the Chairman addressed the meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

The Chairman said: After four years of the greatest and most bitter struggle the world has ever known, hostilities have at last ceased, and we all fervently hope will never be resumed. A month ago our greatest enemies were compelled to seek an armistice, but before granting their request the Allies imposed terms, the acceptance of which amounted practically to unconditional surrender and the collapse of the cursed military system of Germany which has menaced the world for so many years. (Applause). At the Peace Conference which will shortly commence its sittings many questions will have to be settled, prominent among which is one that is now forcing itself before the public, namely, the question as to whether we shall admit German and other enemy subjects into India and our Colonies, after a peace has been arranged, for trading or other purposes. Your committee decided to summon this meeting in order that the members of this Chamber should have an opportunity of expressing themselves on this highly important question, and join in voicing the public opinion which has already found such emphatic expression in other quarters. Gentlemen, I think I voice your opinion and the opinion of the other members of the mercantile community unable to be with us to-day, when I say that we do not desire the Germans back in our midst again.

WE WOULD RESENT THEIR REAPPEARANCE

in this Colony most bitterly. For over four years the rest of mankind has beheld with horror the manner in which their nation has conducted a war aimed at the achievement of world dominion. Their absolutely brutal disregard of the rights of small nations, their barbarous cruelty and cold blooded murder of women and children, dastardly submarine

attacks on hospital ships, causing the death of wounded soldiers and defenceless women, and the terrible tortures to which wounded and helpless prisoners of war have been and are still being subjected (of which we read every time we open a newspaper) constitute a record of shame impossible for us ever to forget (Hear hear). No indications of repentance have, so far as I am aware, yet appeared, nor regret for the misdeeds which have outraged humanity, and we must refuse to associate with the members of such a race. To allow them to trade in this Colony would be to open the door for the introduction of all the old methods of business with which we are so familiar. Their return to Ceylon would be inimical to British trade which they would undoubtedly make every effort to undermine by all the ingenuity at their command. We know how the piece goods trade was built up here by the Germans in pre-war days, how an ever increasing hold was being obtained on the local plumbago industry whereby the Germans were in a position to provide their country with an article so necessary for the making of munitions with which they hoped to utterly destroy the British nation. Every German here in pre-war days

WAS A POTENTIAL SPY,

and if allowed back is sure to be one in the future. It is impossible for us to consider with equanimity a return to the old order of things and calmly look on without protest at the return of the Germans. None of them who traded here before war has been missed in the past four years, on the contrary, I venture to suggest that conditions of trade have been healthier and sounder since they departed. The pernicious system of credit which they encouraged was undermining British trade in this Colony, the bounty system of their country giving them an undoubted advantage. All Germany's Colonies have been wrested from her and those who have recently spoken for Great Britain and her Dominions have declared in most emphatic terms that it is unthinkable that any one of them will be restored to an enemy who has failed to realise what honour, justice and mercy mean, and who has deliberately ignored those principles of humanity which civilised nations are expected to observe and respect in War as well as in Peace. Can one imagine for a moment that the unfortunate inhabitants of those late German Colonies would, if the decision were left to them, desire to be again placed under a yoke from which they have so recently been delivered? Emphatically No! British statesmen have in the last few days said that all Germans interned in Britain will be repatriated at the conclusion of Peace and that no others will be allowed to come in, and that is what we desire for Ceylon. As a nation, we British are very ready to forgive and, perhaps, too prone to forget, but it is to be hoped there will be no forgiveness by us of the German people for their share in this terrible war. The crimes they have committed

CAN NEVER BE FORGOTTEN BY THIS GENERATION.

Doubtless most of you have read the letter addressed to the Government of India by the Madras Chamber of Commerce which

appeared in the "Times of Ceylon," on the 9th of December. The Madras Chamber referred to the very great anxiety amongst the members of the commercial community at the prospect of the re-admission of enemy subjects and pressed strongly for legislation prohibiting their return to India under any conditions whatsoever for a lengthy period of years after the war. They alluded to the preferential treatment in comparison with British firms accorded foreign firms, partners of which have been naturalised as British subjects, many instances of which had been brought to the notice of that Chamber. They also pointed out that for four years the Allied Governments have held up the enemy peoples as an example of all that is contemptible, and the Chamber maintained that the complete eradication of enemy influence from business throughout India was of paramount importance. The Bombay Chamber of Commerce recently addressed a letter to this Chamber stating they had heard a rumour that the commercial section of the German prisoners of war interned in India were about to petition the Viceroy, praying to be allowed to remain in India and to continue their business. The Bombay Chamber ask us to support their representations that similar action should be taken in India to that contemplated in Britain, and that all Germans in India should be repatriated as soon as possible without being allowed to break from their present confinement.

In that I think they can well be assured they have our fullest support. The emphatic protest which has been made in the adjoining Continent of India and in other quarters should be re-echoed in Ceylon and in this Chamber with all the power at our command. Gentlemen, I beg to propose the following resolution:—

THE RESOLUTION.

- (1.) That no subject of any enemy country, nor subject of an enemy country naturalized in any neutral country, shall, in future, be allowed to trade in this Colony either as principal or employee, or to own or lease property.
- (2.) That no imports from, or exports to, any enemy country shall be permitted except through subjects of, or firms controlled by subjects of, Great Britain, her Allies, or the United States of America.

THE SECONDER'S REMARKS.

Mr. Herbert Bois in seconding the resolution said that after the exhaustive and forcible remarks made by the Chairman, he did not think it necessary to address them at any length, but he would like, however, to point out to them what the effect of the resolutions would be and why the Committee of the Chamber had thought it necessary to draft them in that form. The first resolution dealt with two factors, the first being freedom of trade and the second the right of ownership. As regards freedom of trade prior to the commencement of the war, they extended to all the men of the world, the privileges exactly the same as were accorded to themselves. There was no favour shown to anybody, but to their bitter disappointment they had learnt in the last few years that those privileges

which were accorded so willingly, had in many cases been abused and advantage taken to aim direct at the heart of British trade. As regards the question of ownership of property, he thought it must strike them all that in view of the abominable behaviour of their enemies it was highly desirable that they should not enter into bonds of ownership or have any right to any property in Ceylon, which should be accorded to decent people. (Hear, hear.) The second part of the resolution deals with the question of inter-change of commodities between Ceylon and enemy countries. This resolution was a very wise one and the reason for thinking so was that unless they safeguarded themselves by a resolution couched in these or similar terms they were certain to have established in this City firms who, though neutral on the surface in name, would really be nothing less than direct representatives of the very people whom they desired to exclude. (Hear, hear.) He, therefore, thought it most important to take steps to exclude that possibility. As of interest to those present he read the terms of the resolution which had been passed by the Singapore Chamber of Commerce. It was to the following effect: In view of the fact that the war was indisputably due to German intrigue, and as a protest against the gross barbarity with which the German Army and Navy had conducted it and the apparent acquiescence of the German people to such methods the Committee of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce was of opinion that it recommend to Government that no German subject should be permitted for ten years after the settlement of peace, to land, reside or trade within the Colony of the Straits Settlements. (Hear, hear.) They all emphasized very thoroughly that resolution, but he saw one fault. It assumed that after ten years the Germans were going to be fit to share with the Colonials of the Straits Settlements, their rights and privileges. "Gentlemen, I doubt that and say that Germany is an absolutely unrepentant, immoral, debased race and I very much doubt that even ten years will teach them that it is better to run straight in trade than force right over right. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, I think, that our resolution is wiser and better than that proposed and passed by the Singapore Chamber of Commerce." (Hear, hear.) In conclusion Mr. Bois said that there should be no limitations as regards time. (Hear, hear.) There was another point he wished to touch upon and that was this. It was hardly possible for the Government at home to formulate exactly what was going to be done as regards the general question of world trade. But he thought that the members of the Chamber by passing a resolution of this nature could indicate what their feelings and sentiments were and that indication would be of value in helping the bigger authorities to determine their course of action. He trusted the members of the Chamber present would pass the resolution unanimously, because by so doing they would do something towards avoiding contamination if enemy subjects were allowed to land on these shores. (Hear, hear.) He begged formally to second the resolution proposed by the Chairman.

MR. CARY SUPPORTS.

Mr. M. J. Cary, in supporting the resolution, said: In the absence of the Vice-Chairman, I have been asked to support the resolution on

behalf of the Committee. We are fortunate in this Colony in having entirely eradicated enemy influence in business and the necessity of safeguards being taken against the recurrence of this malign influence, in future, has not been lost sight of. The resolution is in two parts, the first which has been dwelt on by the previous speaker prohibits any subject of our late enemies from ever again trading either as principal or employee in this Colony and from being allowed to buy or lease land. Your Committee is strongly of opinion that the first resolution alone is insufficient. The militarism of Germany to crush which our Empire has sacrificed its sons has not, as we all know, been limited to the action of the enemy's armed forces. It has entered into every phase of their national life, in diplomacy and in commerce. We know that before the war the policy of peaceful penetration had enabled our enemies to get an octopus-like grip upon the commerce of the world. We must take steps in conformity with other parts of the Empire to prevent such renewed aggression on the part of the Central Empires and to reduce, or eliminate, the powers of such aggression at any rate until such time as the leopard changes his spots, and the Hun and his partners realise that commerce cannot again be built up as the result of dishonest competition and trickery, but only by fair dealing with mutual respect and co-operation. On the subject of unfair and dishonest competition, I could say a good deal from personal experience. I will give one instance. About 5 years ago, I was discussing business with a partner, in a large enemy firm and the question came up as to what another firm was quoting. "That, of course, we, I said, cannot know as they will not tell you, when I got this reply: "For a few rupees you can always find out what is going on any office in Colombo and I make it a point of doing so." We must, however, frankly realise that after peace is signed a certain amount of trade, I hope strictly limited, with the Central Powers must be resumed. It is obvious that Great Britain and her Allies will not monopolise the world's supply of those minerals, raw materials and tropical products which they now control and which are vital to the existence of our enemies as well as to the Allied nations. We in this Colony do not desire to prevent our late enemies from getting, in due time, a share of the Island's produce, neither is it in the interest of the Colony itself to prohibit the import from enemy countries of such goods as they can supply and we need for agriculture and business. Further, if all opportunities of trading with the Allies are denied to the Central Empires, it will be impossible for them to meet the indemnities, build the shipping or fulfil the other obligations which we confidently expect to see imposed by the terms of peace, but in renewing trade we must see that it goes through only such channels as we may be sure are not likely to come under the influence and domination of enemy intrigue and it is for this reason that the second part of the resolution has been drafted limiting trade in future with enemy countries to British and Allied firms. In an interview with Sir L. Worthington Evans published in the papers a week or so ago, he explained how overwhelming was the temptation of financial profit to those neutral countries near Germany to supply her illicitly with the articles of food and other commodities which she so vitally needed and it was this that made the rationing of neutrals necessary. We may be sure that the pressure put upon neutrals

to foster the trade of the Central Empires will be not less inestimable when peace has been signed and our enemies are in a position to resume trading with outside countries. What is to prevent, under existing conditions, enemy subjects from acquiring the control of some neutral firm already established among us or even from establishing new neutral firms and not paying a copper of our Imperial taxation but working entirely for Germany's interests. Such danger is largely eliminated when trade must pass through the hands of Great Britain or her Allies. We know quite well that our enemies will spare no intrigue to enable their agents under various guises to again exploit British Colonies and the pressure on neutral nations to permit German born aliens to become easily naturalised as their subjects and thus engage in trade in Great Britain's Colonies is a factor that has to be faced. No enemy country now controls capital or credit in Great Britain and Allied countries, but such an enemy capital and credit exists in neutral countries, and the second part of the resolution is drafted to prevent such financial resources being used to establish German trade in this Colony and thus work up a business for the Germans at the time when the present restrictions against German trade may be lessened or removed. There are difficult and critical times ahead of the "barque of British commerce," but we are confident that she will win through all storms and adverse currents if the British Government protects her from the menace of the sinister and hidden submarine of German intrigue, and business methods. The resolutions are not worded in exact legal phraseology, but they correctly interpreted the considered views of not merely the Chamber of Commerce but of all mercantile interests in this Island. A copy will be sent to the local Government with a request that it be sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies after they have been unanimously carried as I feel sure they will be by this meeting.

FRENCH OPINION.

Mr. P. de Bure, rising amidst applause, said he did not want to speak on the resolution itself as it was not for him to interfere with the politics of this country but he must give the Chamber some information which might be useful. When in 1871 Germany took from France her two Provinces of Alsace and Lorraine the population were in the difficult position of choosing whether they were to remain French or become German citizens. Those who chose to remain French were not allowed to remain in the country and they migrated in their hundreds and thousands and enlisted in the famous Foreign Legion. Many thousands of Alsatians, therefore, escaped from Germany in order to serve under the French flag. That explained the hatred and the vehement language used in the German Press against those fine troops of the Foreign Legion. The population that remained thought that by so doing they were there for a useful purpose, that some French blood might yet remain in the country. There were families where the sons had migrated and remained French and the old men who remained in Alsace were thus cut away from their own. Those who had chosen to remain French were not allowed to remain in the country. The traders were not allowed to openly have name boards in French, their children were

not permitted to be taught French. And what was worse a time when no passports were used in any part of the world, strict passports were required of Frenchmen to come over to Alsace and Lorraine and no vexation was spared the population. He had known of instances of sons being refused to go to the death bed of their father or mother because they had chosen to remain French. Of course, they were not supposed to imitate German methods. The measures the Allies deemed fit to impose against German invasion of our colonies and countries would seem to be very light when compared with German methods. (Applause.)

CEYLON BRITISHER'S OPINION.

Mr. H. L. de Mel, C.B.E., said he should not like to give a silent vote on so important a resolution. The Chairman and the seconder had so ably put their considered thoughts that it needed little support from him as a Ceylonese Britisher (Cheers.) As a Britisher of Ceylon and in Ceylon he felt he was voicing the sentiments of his countrymen whether they are engaged in industry or commerce, or whether they looked upon the enemy from a social or moral point of view. Most of them during the last two decades knew to their cost what the peaceful penetration of the enemy was. The generosity of the British allowed them to share the privilege which was the birth-right of the Britishers. It was time that they emphasized with all the power that they could command that the proposal before the house should go before the Secretary of State and those leaders who were shortly going to the Councils in France to regulate and reconstruct the destiny of the world in future. He need say very little more except that the resolution as it was submitted to the house was broad in principle, it was just in conception and was protective in design. He had great pleasure in associating himself and supporting the resolution, which had been put forward from the chair. (Applause.)

A VOTE OF WARNING.

Mr. F. J. Hawkes said that they were thankful to the Chairman and the Committee for bringing that resolution forward. He was sure there was not a single man in the mercantile community who would not welcome this opportunity of voicing his sentiments about what the enemy had done for the past four and a half years. At the last general meeting of the Chamber he ventured to point out the peaceful penetration of the enemy in their commercial circles. He ventured to warn the community that that peaceful penetration or penetration without peace was not finished and that it continued. He really believed that to-day in their midst there was the foundation laid upon which their enemy hoped to build a monument of commerce in this centre. They had got to watch him more to-day than they watched him in the past. They knew how clever the enemy was, how ambitious, how cunning. Let them watch the enemy and keep him out and defend themselves in the future.

A very clever writer once said that "If there is one thing worse than the war it was the influence of the conscientious objection to defend one's self." He hoped that influence was not found here and that the enemy would be properly watched and kept out. There was one weakness possible. It was the possibility of singling out individuals and saying "well so and so was a very good man though he was a German." (Laughter.) There was no good German—(laughter)—and as a British soldier puts it, the only good German was a dead one. (Laughter.) They were going to support that resolution with no idea of kicking a fallen foe, but in order that they might be doubly careful in the future. Trade there must be and will be between them and every country, in raw materials and manufactured articles. The object of the resolution was to try and retain the fruits of victory which had been gathered for them by the brave army and navy of Great Britain and her Allies, and not throw them away. For the sake of those who had fallen and in their memory they should all support the motion and stand by it for ever. (Loud applause.)

A NEUTRAL VOICE.

Mr. T. E. Wagner said that as one of the members who would be affected adversely by the passing of the resolution, the second part of it, he thought it was unfair to neutral nations. As Great Britain had entered the war in the interest and for the protection of small States and he belonged to one of the small States of Europe, he thought the resolution would operate unfairly against them. He suggested the deletion of the second part of the resolution.

The Chairman after a pause announced that there being no seconder to Mr. Wagner's amendment, it fell through. He then put the resolution to the house which was carried with acclamation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FRENCH.

Mr. A. P. Waldock desired to propose a vote of sympathy and congratulation with the French nation on their re-entry into Alsace and Lorraine. (Applause.) They had read in the papers recently of the stirring occasion when President Poincare entered Metz and Strassburg and the magnificent doings in connection therewith. He would therefore ask the Chamber to record a vote of sympathy and congratulation with "our gallant Ally France" on her re-entry into the lost Provinces of Alsace and Lorraine—(loud and continued applause)—and that the same be forwarded to President Poincare through the French Consul.

The vote was carried with acclamation.

This concluded the meeting.

C

SERVICE DOLLAR.

Peking, 20th January, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have learnt with pleasure that your efforts to help the soldiers and sailors to get the service dollar fixed by the Government at two shillings have crowned with success and it is gratifying to know that you are still trying to get this concession granted from 1st January 1918 and I am sure that if you will work as you have lately done the success is sure and certain and I congratulate you for this.

I think you are perhaps not aware of the fact that the Indian ranks stationed at Hongkong which are the part of the British army have not been included in the concession granted by the war office and they are still labouring under the same difficulties and unless you use your good offices to help them I think they will not gain much.

The Indian army as you are fully aware has done their best to uphold the dignity of The British Empire, and the Indian people in India and abroad have spared neither men nor money to offer for the services of the Empire at the very trying times and thus they have proved themselves equally responsible with their rulers for the safety of mankind. Is it not, now, un-British like to exclude them of the concession sanctioned by the war office for all the troops in the Hongkong Brigade? I hope you like true Briton exercise your influence to see that the Indian troops are included in the concession so kindly granted.

The Indian military men are very quiet and submissive and they dont know how to voice their feelings, I therefore on their behalf approach you with a request that you will please do your best to get the service dollar concession made applicable to the Indian as well as all other troops.—I am, etc.,

J. SINGH.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 7th February, 1919.

Your Excellency,—I have the honour to enclose for your information copy of a letter received by this Chamber from Peking having reference to the question of the Service Dollar.

It would appear to my Committee that if the Indian troops have a legitimate grievance, this should have immediate and serious consideration by the Authorities.

G

A copy of the letter has also been forwarded to Government.—
I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

His Excellency,
Major General F. Ventris,
General Officer Commanding,
China Command.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 7th February, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose for your information copy of a letter addressed to His Excellency Major General Ventris, and a copy of an enclosure received by this Chamber from Peking with reference to the question of the Service Dollar.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Headquarters, China Command,
Hongkong, 10th February, 1919.

Sir,—In reply to your letter DKB/AC of 7th February addressed to the General Officer Commanding, I am directed to say that there is no objection to informing you that the case of the Indian Troops has been strongly recommended to the Government of India and the War Office whose decision has not yet been communicated.—I have, etc.,

L. CASSEL,
Major,
Deputy Assistant Adjutant and
Quarter Master General
China Command

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 10th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have for acknowledgment your letter of 20th January bringing to the notice of this Chamber the fact that the Indian Troops in the China Command are not receiving the benefit of the two shillings exchange, recently conceded to other arms of the Service.

I am to advise you that your representations have been sympathetically transmitted to the Authorities here, and the case for the Indian Troops has, I understand, been strongly recommended to the Government of India, and to the War Office.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

J. Singh, Esq.,
c/o. Bulsara Bros.,
Hatamen Street,
Peking.

H

SHORTAGE OF DOLLARS IN SHANGHAI.

Shanghai,
8th December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am instructed to lay before you a matter of considerable importance which has arisen here.

On November 21st this Chamber asked Mr. J. W. Jamieson, C.M.G., H. M. Consul-General (Officiating), to forward the following telegram to H. M. Minister in Peking:

“Shortage of dollars in Shanghai is serious and likely to cause trouble in money market (stop) foreign banks cannot obtain sufficient dollars to cover their note issue and it is becoming impossible to supply Paymaster Tsingtao with sufficient amount to meet requirements of repatriated coolies (stop) there is strong evidence that Director Nanking Mint is wilfully holding dollars from Shanghai market with object of forcing up price and increasing his profit (stop) dollars are selling already at seven per cent over cost price and may go higher unless present position is remedied (stop) please urge Government to compel Nanking Mint to expedite coinage and supply Government banks in Shanghai with dollars for the sycee they are shipping to Nanking daily (stop) matter is very urgent and emphasizes need of public mint recommended at Conference.”

On November 24th H. M. Consul-General wrote to this Chamber stating that the Diplomatic Body had authorized him to make representations to the Chinese Government in the sense above indicated and that H. M. Minister would at the same time point out that the Nanking Mint should not be allowed to charge more than the usual seigniorage upon its coinage and that it should not dispose of its coinage at market rates.

On November 28th H. M. Consul-General wrote to this Chamber enclosing a copy of the following telegram received from H. M. Minister:

“Minister of Finance states that Nanking Mint has been ordered to work from 6.30 a.m. to midnight coining dollars only which should result in a coinage of 300,000 a day; that Tientsin and Hankow Mints have been also ordered to work to full capacity in coining dollars; that all mints have been ordered in future to charge only seigniorage and that immediate steps will be taken to establish a branch mint in Shanghai.”

At a general meeting of this Chamber held on Thursday, December 4th, this reply was carefully discussed and it was decided that while the steps taken to insure to this community an adequate supply of dollars were satisfactory the proposal to establish a branch of the Nanking Mint in Shanghai was one which this Chamber, acting in conjunction with all the other Chambers, should oppose for the reasons set out in the following letter addressed to H. M. Consul-General on December 8th:

“I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 2nd and to inform you that it was discussed, in connexion with your letters of November 24th and 28th, at a meeting of my Committee held last Thursday.

“My Committee has been greatly gratified by the promptitude with which H. M. Minister dealt with this subject and feels sure that the situation complained of in my letter of November 21st will as a consequence be remedied.

“In regard, however, to the establishment of a branch of the Nanking Mint at Shanghai my Committee feels exceedingly dubious. What is required here is a Central Government Mint under foreign supervision, open, as the resolution passed at the recent Conference of Chambers stated, to the free coinage of dollars. The establishment of a branch of the Nanking Mint will, it is feared, only strengthen the hold of the Mint interest—an exceedingly powerful one—over the currency of the country and make reform, on the lines suggested at the Conference, very difficult. Indeed, my Committee goes so far as to think that the proposal to establish a branch of the Nanking Mint is a clever move made by the Mint interest with a view to safeguarding its position and blocking reform. While asking you, accordingly, to convey to H. M. Minister the Chamber's deep sense of obligation to him for the promptitude with which he has assured to this community an adequate supply of dollars, I have the honour to request you to represent to Sir John Jordan in the strongest possible terms the dangers attendant upon the establishment here of a branch of the Nanking Mint.”

This matter is felt here to be one of vital importance to the future of the whole currency question. The Mint interest is an exceedingly powerful one and there can be little doubt that this proposal to establish a branch of the Nanking Mint here in Shanghai is no more than a move to strengthen the hold of that interest and to block reform.

It is suggested, accordingly, that further representations in the sense indicated above should be made by the Association of Chambers and I am

to ask you whether your Chamber is in agreement with this one in the matter and if so whether it approves of further representations being made in the name of the Association.—Yours, etc.,

E. M. GULL,
Secretary.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 15th January, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 8th ult. dealing with the question of Shortage of Dollars in Shanghai.

My Committee entirely concur with the steps taken through the medium of the Consul General and H.B.M. Minister at Peking to obtain an adequate supply of silver dollars and agree in opposing the establishment of a branch of the Nanking Mint at Shanghai.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

E. M. Gull, Es.,
Secretary,
Association of Chambers of Commerce,
Shanghai.

I

SOME WORDS AND STATISTICS ABOUT THE
RUSSIAN CO-OPERATION.

Vladivostok, 15th January, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—We beg to send you under separate cover 5 copies of the brochure of our Mr. Arcady N. Petroff "Some Words and Statistics about the Russian Co-operation" translated in Chinese.

We politely ask for your assistance in propagation of this pamphlet among those institutions that according to your opinion may be interested in the Russian Co-operation.

Trusting you will kindly look at the contents of the said brochure.—We are, etc.,

A. PETROFF.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Vladivostok, 16th January, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—Yesterday we sent you 5 copies of Chinese translation of the brochure of our Mr. Arcady N. Petroff "Some Words and Statistics about the Russian Co-operation" and now we beg to forward you 5 copies of English translation of the same brochure.

Asking for your kind assistance in propagation of the same.—We are, etc.,

A. PETROFF.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 10th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to acknowledge receipt of your letters of 15th and 16th January, and also the 5 copies of the Pamphlet "Some Words and Statistics about the Russian Co-operation." I am to thank you for this work and to state that copies have been distributed to Members of my Committee.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

A. Petroff, Esq.,
Union of Siberian Co-operative Unions,
Vladivostok.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 10th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to enclose for your information a copy of "A few words and Statistics about the Russian Co-operation," copies of which have been received by the Chamber and distributed to Committee.

It is thought that this Book may be of some interest to you in view of your early departure for Siberia as Trade Commissioner.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Prof. W. J. Hinton, M.A.,
University of Hongkong.

YANGTZE CONSERVANCY.

British Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai, 10th December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I enclose herewith copy of a letter received from the Chinkiang Chamber. In view of the resolution passed at the Conference in connection with Yangtze Conservancy, it is thought that this is a matter on which the Association should make representations.

I enclose also copies of correspondence which has taken place between the Chinkiang Chamber and the Chinkiang Chinese Chamber of Commerce, from which it would seem that there is hope of getting something done if the Association moves in the matter. Kindly let me know whether your Chamber approves of this being done.—Yours, etc.,

E. M. GULL,
Secretary.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

British Chamber of Commerce,
Chinkiang, 28th November, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to advise you that the following River Notification No. 47 was issued by the Custom House, Chinkiang, on the 21st, of November 1919:—

CHINKIANG DISTRICT.

"Notice is hereby given that a recent sounding of the Harbour between the Cheng Jen Chow Spit and the Hulk "Shanghai" shows that the patch off the Hulk has extended. The least water found on the patch was 9 feet with the Chinkiang River Gauge showing 7 feet."

"DIRECTIONS:—Vessels going alongside the Hulk "Shah" should pass the Hulk "Shanghai" at a distance of about 250 feet. The least water found by following the above directions was 22 feet with the Chinkiang River Gauge showing 7 feet."

The extension of the patch referred to means that at no very distant date the British Concession in Chinkiang will, at any rate during the low water season, be entirely cut off from communication by river steamer. As this is a matter which probably affects a good many of the members of your Chamber you will, no doubt, bring it to their attention.

This Chamber is calling H.B.M. Consul's attention to the matter and suggesting that the strongest pressure possible be brought to bear on the Chinese Authorities to immediately undertake steps to ameliorate the condition of the port.—I am, etc.,

For the British Chamber of Commerce
(Chinkiang),
(Sgd.) E. G. MASTERS,
Chairman.

9th December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to thank you for your letter of the 8th inst. advising me that you are sending copies of our letter of the 28th of November to the other Chambers, with a view to representation being made in the name of the Associated Chambers.

For your further information, I am sending a translated copy of letter from this Chamber to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce (Chinkiang) and a translated copy of their reply.—I am, etc.,

For the British Chamber of Commerce
(Chinkiang),
(Sgd.) E. G. MASTERS,
Chairman.

The Secretary,
British Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai.

British Chamber of Commerce,
Chinkiang, 28th November, 1919.

Dear Sir,—For many years the people of the port of Chinkiang have been suffering increasing inconvenience and hinderance to their trade by the formation of the Chin Jun Chow Spit. The Chin Jun Chow Spit grows bigger every year and is slowly, but surely, strangling the life of Chinkiang as a port and unless the matter is dealt with, there is little doubt but that the spit will extend along the whole of the port frontage to Consular Bluff and thus completely kill the port and all its trade. Everyone who lives in a port is affected by the trade which is done. If Chinkiang ceases to be a port, it will affect everyone living in Chinkiang: therefore, everybody in Chinkiang should make an effort to keep the port alive. All this is, of course, well known to you and we trust you will forgive us for calling your attention to a matter which is obvious. We do so because in asking you to place the matter before your members, we wish to make it quite clear that it is a matter which affects everyone, both Chinese and Foreigners, who reside in or have any interest in Chinkiang as a port. We, the British Chamber of Commerce, wish to do what we can to bring pressure to bear on the authorities concerned to take this matter in hand at the earliest possible moment and the object of this letter is to ask you, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, to cooperate with us as we fear that without your valuable support we cannot successfully pursue our object.

I am, therefore, instructed to ask you to kindly place this matter before your members at an early date and if they are of the opinion that the question is a serious one and needs immediate attention, I shall be glad to receive their assurance that they are in sympathy with our opinion that every means shall be taken to bring strong pressure to bear on the authorities to at once undertake measures to ameliorate the present conditions of the port and prevent it from being entirely cut off from the river.

Assuring you of our desire to at all times discuss this matter and all other matters affecting our mutual interests.—I am, etc.,

For the British Chamber of Commerce
(Chinkiang),
(Sgd.) E. G. MASTERS,
Chairman.

The Chairman,
Chamber of Commerce,
Chinkiang.

The Chamber of Commerce,
Chinkiang, 8th December, the 8th Year
of the Chinese Republic,

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter stating that since the formation of the Chin Jun Chow Spit, it has been growing bigger every year and that if it is not attended to, it will extend to the Consular Bluff, which will affect the commerce and inhabitants of Chinkiang and proposing to request the Authorities to take measures to ameliorate the conditions. This letter is deeply appreciated by us.

Yesterday we assembled the members of this Chamber and they are all in sympathy with your opinion. We assure you that we shall be very glad to co-operate with you in this matter.

We have written to the River Conservancy Bureau and the Superintendent of the Maritime Customs on the subject.—I am, etc.,

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce
Chinkiang,
WU CHIAO YIN,
Chairman.

E. G. Masters, Esq.,
Chairman,
The British Chamber of Commerce,
Chinkiang.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 15th January, 1920.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10th ult. and enclosures dealing with the subject of the silting up of the Yangtze opposite the British Concession at Chinkiang.

This is a matter which, if not at once attended to, would appear to threaten much inconvenience to China Coast Shipping Companies, and I am to state that this Chamber gives its whole-hearted support to the efforts being made to bring pressure to bear on the River Conservancy Bureau and Maritime Customs Authorities to immediately take the matter in hand.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

E. M. Gull, Esq.,
Secretary,
Association of Chambers of Commerce,
Shanghai.

K

INCREASED VALUATION ON BILLS OF LADING.

British Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai, 9th December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—In connection with the resolution passed at the recent Conference:—

“That in view of the world wide increase in rates of freight and cargo values, this Conference is strongly of the opinion that the utmost pressure should be brought to bear on all Shipping Companies to increase the ordinary cargo valuation to something more commensurate with present day value.”

I enclose herewith a letter just received from Mr. K. D. Stewart, formerly a member of the Piece Goods Sub-Committee of this Chamber, who on leaving Shanghai last July was asked to interview Messrs. Alfred Holt & Co. on the matter.—Yours, etc.,

E. M. GULL,
Secretary.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Manchester, 13th October 1919.

Dear Sir,—Before I left Shanghai the Committee requested me to interview Messrs. Alfred Holt and Co. to see whether anything could be done to alter the present rule that they do not hold themselves responsible for loss on packages exceeding £100 in value. No doubt the Com-

mittee know that this matter has been cleared up; commencing from the "Oanfa" the limit is raised to £200. per package or £10. per cubic foot, which I think will prove quite satisfactory.—Yours, etc.,

(Sgd.) K. D. STEWART.

The Secretary,
British Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 19th January, 1920.

Dear Sir,—I am to acknowledge your letter of December 9th dealing with increase in rates of freight and cargo values, and conveying the information that the limit has been raised to £200 per package or £10 per cubic foot.

This is satisfactory, but it is understood that such arrangement only applies to the Homeward Freight Conference, and not generally. If this be so, it appears to be necessary to pursue the matter further.

I shall be glad to hear from you further as to this.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

E. M. Gull, Esq.,
Secretary.
Association of Chambers of Commerce,
Shanghai.

L

TRADE STATISTICS OF THE COLONY.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 11th January, 1919.

STATISTICS OF TRANSHIPMENT CARGO.

Dear Sir,—You will remember that at a recent meeting of a Sub-Committee of your Committee, at which I was present, I agreed to abandon the analysis of cargo arriving for transhipment on through Bills

of Lading. This decision was subsequently notified in my Circular No. 60. On further consideration, however, I think it is desirable that this not unimportant side of the Colony's trade should not pass altogether out of record and I shall be glad if you will consult those likely to be concerned, as to the possibility of stating on each transhipment application the "quantity" of each lot of goods in terms of the basis on which freight is charged for that article, i.e. actual weight, measurement, value or other denomination as the case may be.—Yours, etc.,

D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 27th January, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 11th instant dealing with statistics of Transhipment Cargo, has duly been considered by my Committee and the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the question of "Trade Statistics of the Colony."

I am directed by my Committee to state that there would appear to them to be no difficulty in supplying the information required on each transhipment application.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Superintendent,
Imports and Exports,
Hongkong.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 28th January, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to my letter No. 1 Confidential of the 3rd January, I have the honour to forward the enclosed extract from a telegram received from the Secretary of State.

2. You are therefore at liberty to treat as public any information contained in the returns transmitted in my letter under reference except that appearing under the head of "Treasure," which must remain Confidential and which will be altogether omitted from the Annual Returns now in preparation.—I am, etc.,

D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Telegram
From Secretary of State, London.
To Officer Administering the Government, Hongkong.
Date 23rd January, 1919.

You need not maintain any longer restrictions on publication of statistics Imports and Exports trade in respect of any commodities except specie and bullion.

Imports and Exports Office.
Hongkong, 14th February, 1919.

Dear Sir,—The Statistical Office of this Department is much hampered in its work by the number of Import Permits which have to be endorsed—"Full particulars to be given when known."

Even if the missing information is forwarded immediately on arrival, (which is unfortunately not always the case), the monthly and quarterly records have to be kept open for its inclusion much longer than is desirable.

The Chamber of Commerce will doubtless have realised that the value of trade returns decreases rapidly with delay in publication and I shall therefore be glad if they would consider whether means cannot be devised to reduce the number of these "floating" permits.

It appears from an article in a recent issue of the Board of Trade Journal that cargo arriving in the United States must be cleared through the Customs within 48 hours or be treated as unclaimed. Presumably therefore the invoices of cargo for the United States usually travel with the goods. Could not similar arrangements be made for goods shipped from the United Kingdom, which are the chief offenders in this matter?—
Yours, etc.,

D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 10th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have for acknowledgment your letter S.I.E. No. 20/19 No. 68 of 14th ultimo. with reference to the delay in the supply of particulars of Imports, which circumstance is hampering the compilation of Statistics.

My Committee while agreeing that these "floating" permits constitute great inconvenience to your Department and also to Shippers, do not see how the matter can be remedied so long as the present unsatisfactory Inward Mail service exists.

This Chamber has records of instances where cargo has been taken delivery of under "Letter of Guarantee" many weeks ago and shipping documents are still not yet to hand.

My Committee would welcome any steps the Post Office Authorities can take to ensure our inward mails being sent by the quickest route. They would point out that cargo by fast "Blue Funnel" ships via Suez invariably arrives here many weeks before documents sent by mail via America, and they suggest you approach the Postal Authorities here, requesting them to suggest to the Home Authorities the use of "Blue Funnel" steamers for the mails.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

D. W. Tratman, Esq.,
Superintendent of Imports and Exports.
Hongkong.

M

SPECIFICATION FOR SOUTH CHINA WOOD OIL.

British Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai, 30th December, 1918.

Dear Sir,—My Committee understand that exporters in Hongkong have been supplying the American market with Wood Oil under the "Browne" heat test—a process of analysis inaugurated by Mr. Frank Browne, F. I. C., Hongkong, Government Analyst.

I am instructed to ask whether you could enlighten us as to the principle upon which this analysis is based. My Committee will be pleased to have as full information as possible in regard to this matter. Awaiting the favour of your reply.—I am, etc.,

ERNEST BURNIP,
Secretary.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 15th January, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in enclosing herewith copy of a letter received from the Shanghai British Chamber of Commerce with reference to the specification of Wood Oil issued by your Association in 1913.

My Committee will be glad if you will deal direct with Shanghai in this matter.—Yours etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

N

THE "HELIOS" AND "EL ORIENTE" CIGAR FACTORIES.

American Consular Service,
Hongkong, 7th March, 1919.

Gentlemen,—At the request of Messrs. Walter F. Olsen and Company of Manila, an American concern, I have pleasure in sending herewith copy of a letter from that firm with two enclosures which explain themselves.

I trust that these will serve to remove any unfavorable impression which may exist in regard to this firm among members of your chamber.

Thanking you for giving what publicity may be possible to the information contained therein.—I am, etc.,

GEORGE E. ANDERSON,
Consul General

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Manila, 18th February, 1919.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Governor-General of the Philippine Islands has received the following self-explanatory letter from Mr. Douglas M. Moffat, Managing Director for the Philippine Islands of the Alien Property Custodian of the United States of America:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR IN THE PHILIPPINES

MANILA

12th February, 1919.

Dear Sir,—At the request of Walter E. Olsen and Company, I beg to advise you that the El Oriente Cigar Factory and business as a going concern was sold by me, as representative of the Alien Property Custodian of the United States, at public sale, to the Walter E. Olsen Company, the highest bidder therefor. The sale has been confirmed by the Washington office of the Custodian and the Olsen Company has paid the purchase price, and is now in possession of, and operating, the factory and business. The Olsen Company is a corporation organized under the laws of the Philippine Islands and all of its stockholders are American

N

citizens. The enemy interest should, therefore, be considered as eliminated and the business entitled to the same consideration as other American businesses.—Yours, etc.,

(Sgd.) DOUGLAS M. MOFFAT,
Managing Director for the Philippine Islands.

The Governor-General
Manila, P. I.

I hereby certify to the authenticity of the signature of Mr. Douglas M. Moffat, Managing Director for the Philippine Islands of the Alien Property Custodian, on the original of the above-quoted letter which is on file in this office. I further certify that the records of the Division of Archives, Patents, Copyrights, and Trade-Marks of the Philippine Government show that Walter E. Olsen and Company is a Philippine corporation duly organized under the laws of the Philippine Islands and that all of its stockholders are citizens of the United States of America.

By authority of the Governor-General,

(Sgd.) J. L. IRWIN,
Secretary to the Governor-General.

Manila, P.I. 27th February, 1919.

Dear Sir,—We are enclosing you a letter from the office of The Governor-General of the Philippine Islands confirming our purchase of the Oriente Cigar Factory and stating that we are an American Firm and entitled to the same consideration as are other firms of a like status.

We acquired by purchase from the Alien Property Custodian two factories "Helios" and "El Oriente" which before the War were operated and owned by enemy subjects. In some quarters there has been a suspicion that we were either being financed or assisted by the late owners, impressions which are absolutely erroneous and which are causing us considerable annoyance and damage.

This firm was established in February, 1904, and is and always has been the only purely American firm engaged in the tobacco business in the Philippine Islands. The capital which we secured to enable us to finance these purchases is local and there is not a single stockholder in this corporation who is not an American.

We are forwarding you this letter from the Governor-General's office in the hope that you will use your efforts to acquaint the dealers and importers in your district with the fact that we are, always have been, and always will be purely an American firm and that we are in no way whatsoever connected with Enemy subjects.

In addition, if you will kindly take this matter up officially with the British and French Authorities in your district you will further assist us, as it will acquaint them with our exact status should the question of ownership of these factories be referred to them.

Thanking you in anticipation for your efforts in our behalf, we are.—Yours, etc.,

WALTER E. OLSEN & CO.,
By
President.

George E. Anderson, Esq.,
Consul United States of America,
Hongkong, China.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 15th March, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge and to thank you for your letter of 7th instant, covering enclosures regarding the firm of Messrs. Walter E. Olsen and Company of Manila, the information contained in which has duly been communicated to my Committee.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

G. E. Anderson, Esq.,
Consul-General for the U.S.A.
Hongkong.

O

DUTCH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

Consulaat-General der Nederlanden voor Zuid-China,
Hongkong, 27th March, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 7th December last I have the honour to forward herewith some more reading matter concerning the Third Annual Dutch Industries Fair.—I have, etc.,

HAMEL,
Consul General.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 23rd April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge and to thank you for your letter of 27th ult. together with reading material regarding the Third Annual Dutch Industries Fair, which has duly been circulated to my Committee.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Consul General for the Netherlands,
Hongkong.

P

INTERRUPTION TO TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION
BETWEEN THIS COLONY AND CANTON.

General Post Office,
Hongkong, 2nd April, 1919.

Sir,—In order to obviate inconvenience as far as possible due to the severance of telegraphic communication between this Colony and Canton, I am prepared to send letters by the afternoon express. All such letters should reach this Office not later than 2.30 p.m.

I do not consider that any convenience would be effected by sending by the morning express, as any letter posted over night would arrive earlier in Canton if despatched by the night boat.

This is however a matter on which I should like the opinion of your Committee and if it would be any convenience letters can also be sent by the morning express.—I have, etc.,

S. B. C. ROSS,
Postmaster General.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

NOTICE.

The Postmaster General informs the Chamber that during the interruption to telegraphic communication between the Colony and

Canton, he is prepared to accept letters for express despatch to Canton daily, if posted not later than 2.30 p.m., and stamped in the usual way.

By Order,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 3rd April, 1919.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

NOTICE.

The Chamber is in receipt of information that telegraphic communication between the Colony and Canton is now restored.

By Order,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 4th April, 1919.

Q

INCREASE IN FREIGHT ON C.I.F. SHIPMENTS.

6, Queen's Road Central,
Hongkong, 11th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—We shall be much obliged if you will please be so good as to give us your opinion on the following matter.

Last year we sold some cargo to a Firm in New York on C.I.F. basis. When shipment took place, we paid all the freight (both Ocean and Overland) and obtained the Bill of Lading in the usual course. This Firm now writes to claim from us an increase in the overland railroad freight from the Pacific Coast to New York, which increase became effective *after* our shipment had left Hongkong and could not be provided for by us. We are in doubt as to whether we are liable for the payment of the increase in overland freight, effective *after* shipment was made, or it should be borne by the buyers and we should therefore be glad to be favoured with your views.

An early reply will oblige.—Yours, etc.,

FUNG TANG.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 22nd March, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—Your letter of 11th instant with reference to a claim against you for increase in Overland railroad freight from the Pacific Coast to New York on cargo sold by you c.i.f. to New York last year, has duly been laid before my Committee.

My Committee is aware of many similar instances of claims and whilst sympathising with Exporters generally, is of opinion that they are liable, unless at the time your contract was made a special clause was introduced protecting seller against rise in freight or rail rates.

My Committee suggest that you should approach your New York friends with a proposal to share the increased cost of freight with them. Having, however, sold C.I.F. it is their opinion you are liable unless the Bill of Lading contained wording which protected you.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. Fung Tang,
Hongkong.

Hongkong, 26th May, 1919.

Dear Sir,—One of our clients received an offer to sell to them certain goods from Java, c.i.f. Hongkong which they accepted. When the goods were actually shipped the freight between Java and this port had risen and the seller claims for the difference in freight between the date the offer was accepted and the date of shipment. Our clients contend that any increase in freight must be borne by the seller because the offer and acceptance was C.I.F. Hongkong.

We shall be obliged if you will kindly let us know whether your Chamber has decided a similar point, and if so, what the ruling was.—Yours, etc.,

PERCY SMITH, SETH & FLEMING.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 29th May, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—I have for acknowledgment your letter of 26th instant with reference to a claim for difference in cost of freight between Java and this Port on a shipment of goods sold C.I.F. to Hongkong.

This Chamber had recently before it an instance of a similar nature and gave it as its opinion, that the seller on C.I.F. Contract is liable, unless at the time the contract was made, he had protected himself against a possible rise in freight by the introduction of a special clause in the Contract.

In the case my Committee considered, it was suggested that although the seller was believed to be legally liable, these abnormal cases frequently called for reasonable compromise.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,

Secretary.

Messrs. Percy Smith, Seth and Fleming,
Hongkong.

R

SHANGHAI BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE JOURNAL.

British Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai, 16th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—At a recent meeting of my Committee, as made known by the Chairman at the annual general meeting held on March 20th, it was decided to enlarge the Journal and to throw it open to public subscription. Certain features of the old Journal will be preserved, but several new features will be introduced, special articles written by experts, comments on topical commercial subjects and a wider range of contents.

In the past several of the affiliated Chambers have assisted in the publication of the Journal by contributing articles, and we would specially ask that your Chamber gives what assistance it can in this respect. Nothing that is of general commercial interest, however brief it may be, will come amiss, and I should be particularly glad to learn of any new developments made in connection with firms in your port. "Promotions, Leaves and Transfers" will be the heading of a column which will provide personal news of great interest and we should be glad to receive from you as much information about such changes in your port as possible. In fact it is hoped to make the Journal as fully representative of the affiliated Chambers as hitherto it has been of the Shanghai Chamber.

My Committee would also be pleased to receive advertisements from Members of your Chamber. The value of an advertisement in the Journal will be better understood when I inform you that we have received hundreds of applications from home firms to put in touch with agents here. This work has been done through the medium of the trade enquiry column, which, now that the Journal is to be made public will reach a much wider circle of readers. The Journal will be extensively circulated at home, and advertisements brought before home manufacturers, importers and exporters, and will certainly result in profitable business. I would call the serious attention of your Members to this, and also to the fact that Shanghai firms are readily availing themselves of this new opportunity.

In conclusion I should like to give you a few particulars of the Journal. In size it will be similar to the Board of Trade Journal and will contain 32 pages (or more if necessary).

Advertising rates are as follows:—

Per page per year	Tls. 200
" $\frac{1}{2}$ "	" 120
" $\frac{1}{4}$ "	" 75
Per page per issue	" 20
" $\frac{1}{2}$ "	" 12.50
" $\frac{1}{4}$ "	" 7.50

Special rates for special positions.

Subscriptions \$5 per year.—Yours, etc.,

E. M. GULL,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 8th May, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have for acknowledgment your circular letter of 15th ultimo having reference to the enlargement of your Journal, etc.

Copies of your letter have been reproduced and distributed to all Members of this Chamber, and I enclose for your information one such copy.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Shanghai British Chamber of Commerce.

British Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai, 23rd June, 1919.

Dear Sir,—The opportunities for trade development which China as one of the great neutral markets of the world will offer at the conclusion of peace all point to unusual activities throughout this country.

Having this in mind, the Committee of this Chamber of Commerce decided a few months ago to convert what was formerly a private publication, circulating only among its members, into a public print which should circulate throughout the English speaking quarters of the world.

I am therefore forwarding to you under separate cover copies of the first and second issues of the Journal referred to in its public form. I also enclose a pamphlet herewith descriptive of the aims and objects of the Journal and containing all particulars as to subscriptions and rates for advertisements: 10 further copies of this pamphlet will reach you for distribution among firms with whom you are in touch and who may be interested. My object in doing this is (1) the furtherance of British Interests in China (2) to increase the number of merchants who are in touch with China (3) to obtain subscriptions to the Journal.

We would be very much obliged if you could indicate in your reply what number of copies of the Journal your office may be prepared to subscribe for, and also if you would let us have any suggestions that may occur to you in the direction referred to above.—I am, etc.,

E. M. GULL,
Secretary.

E. A. M. Williams,
Chartered Bank Building,
Hongkong.

S

CALCUTTA TRANS-PACIFIC CONFERENCE.

Calcutta-Trans-Pacific Conference,
Hongkong, 4th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to hand you herewith a copy of a letter addressed to the Agent of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. here in connection with that Company's action in withdrawing from this Conference without giving proper notice as called for in the Conference Agreement, with the request that same may be laid before your Committee for their information.—Yours, etc.,

H. E. HAYWARD,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference,
Hongkong, 5th February, 1919.

J. Oram Sheppard, Esq.,
Acting Agent,
Pacific Mail S. S. Co.,
Hongkong.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 31st ulto., addressed to the Agent of the Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference, was submitted at a meeting of members held on the 4th inst., when the following minute was unanimously agreed upon:—

"The Members of the Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference have received with profound surprise and regret the following notice from the Pacific Mail Steamship Co:—

Hongkong, 31st January, 1919.

To the Agent,
Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference,
Hongkong.

"Dear Sir,—Please note that we are in receipt of the following telegram from our San Francisco Office:—

"Serve notice Calcutta Conference our immediate withdrawal."

"It will be noted that we are instructed to give notice of immediate withdrawal from the Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference from which it is to be understood that our membership will cease from this date, but in order to make sure we have telegraphed our principals asking if this is the correct interpretation of their instructions."—Yours, etc.,

Pacific Mail Steamship Co.,
(Sgd.) J. ORAM SHEPPARD,

Acting Agent.

"Assuming that the intention of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company is correctly interpreted in the notice given by its local Agent, the members desire to place on record their unqualified opinion that the action of the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. in withdrawing from the Agreement without due notice as called for therein constitutes a deliberate and flagrant breach of the undertaking given by the Company in their letter of May 19th, 1916.

"In this connection the following letters are quoted having reference to the application of the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. for re-instatement as members of the Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference:—
(Copy of letter from the Pacific Mail S.S. Co., to the Agent, Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference, dated May 8th, 1916.)

Hongkong, 8th May, 1916.

J. Oram Sheppard, Esq.,
Agent,
Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference,
Hongkong.

"Dear Sir,—In view of the contemplated early resumption of business by the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., I hereby beg to make request for re-instatement to membership in the Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference."

"I will thank you to place this application before the members at your earliest convenience, in order that I may cable result to my principals at San Francisco."—Yours, etc.,

Pacific Mail Steamship Co.,
(Sgd.) J. ST. C. HUNT,
Agent.

(Copy of letter from the Agent, Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference, to Pacific Mail Steamship Co., dated May 18th, 1916.)

Hongkong, 18th May, 1916.

J. St. C. Hunt, Esq.,
Agent,
Pacific Mail S.S. Co.,
Hongkong.

"Dear Sir,—Referring to your letter of 8th inst. I have pleasure in advising you that your application for the reinstatement of the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. as a member of this Conference has been approved, it being considered that such membership shall date from the beginning of the current month, providing you agree to abide by the rules and decisions of the Conference on any question coming within its jurisdiction."

"Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter and confirm the above understanding.—Yours, etc."

(Sdg.) J. ORAM SHEPPARD,

Agent.

(Copy of letter from the Pacific Mail S.S. Co., to the Agent, Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference, dated May 19th, 1916.)

Hongkong, 19th May, 1916.

J. Oram Sheppard, Esq.,
Agent
Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference,
Hongkong.

"Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 18th and note the approval of our application for re-instatement to membership in the Trans-Pacific Conference. We are very glad to accept all the terms and conditions to the same extent as they may apply to all other members.—Yours, etc."

Pacific Mail Steamship Co.,

(Sgd.) J. St. C. HUNT,

Agent.

"The present action of the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. is the more unaccountable having in mind the very tolerant attitude adopted by the Conference in connection with the direct loadings of that Company from Calcutta, as briefly detailed hereunder:—"

(1) "In June/July 1917, on the distinct understanding that it was in order to relieve a difficult situation brought about by scarcity of tonnage due to British Government requisitioning, special permission was asked for and readily granted to the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. to load the s.s. "Santa Cruz" and s.s. "Colusa" for one voyage only from Calcutta to San Francisco."

(2) "During the months of July, August and September, 1917, numerous enquiries were addressed to the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. asking them to define their position as regards their reported regular direct service, and the matter was specially and very fully discussed at the Meeting of the Conference held on 20th September, 1917, as a result of which a telegram was addressed to the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. in San Francisco to which no direct reply has been received."

(3) "On 4th October, 1917, a letter was addressed to the Agent of the Conference by the Indo-China S.N. Co., one of the Calcutta Lines who are members of the Conference, drawing attention to information received from Calcutta—also certain printed data to hand—all serving to show that in spite of the previous understanding come regarding the loadings of the "Santa Cruz" and "Colusa," a permanent service of the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. was anticipated between Calcutta and San Francisco in violation of the terms of the Conference Agreement."

"In the letter referred to a strong protest was lodged against the action of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company and their apparent disregard of the terms and conditions of the Conference Agreement. The Pacific Mail were asked to give a definite undertaking that they fully realised that permission was only granted to the "Santa Cruz" and "Colusa" for one trip each, and that they had no intention of taking advantage of the concessions, made by the Conference, to inaugurate a regular service, and that it was their intention both in spirit and letter to act in accordance with their letter to the Secretary of the 20th June, 1917."

"In view of the action now taken by the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. the members of the Conference desire to quote in full the letter of June 20th, 1917, just referred to, in order that the intentions of the Pacific Mail Co., then given in connection with the direct loadings, may be placed on record:—"

Hongkong, 20th June, 1917.

J. O. Sheppard, Esq.,
Agent,

The Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference.

S.S. "SANTA CRUZ."

"Dear Sir,—This Company has chartered the s.s. "Santa Cruz" and, in view of the present situation with respect to the Calcutta trade, our Principals raised the question whether the Conference will give permission for her to call at Calcutta for one trip, in order to permit this Company to fulfil its obligation to consignees, and in order to assist the trade generally. It is not suggested that the "Santa Cruz" will make regular calls at Calcutta, but it is deemed advisable that she should call, in order to relieve the situation, and, to some extent, counteract the present developments in the charter trade from that port. We take this opportunity of pointing out that it is in the interests of all Lines connected with the Trade, but more especially to the Calcutta Lines, to allow steamers operated by Members to call at

Calcutta during the present abnormal situation, rather than have competitors building up what may prove to be a permanent service between Calcutta and the Pacific Coast direct. Ships operated by members of the Conference direct from Calcutta would, it would be understood, be operated only during the present conditions, and only with the consent of members—Yours, etc.”

The Pacific Mail Steamship Co.,
(Sgd.) R. C. MORTON,

General Agent.

“Since the letter of 4th October, 1917, was written, no satisfactory reply has been forthcoming. On 16th November, 1917, at a Meeting of the Conference, Mr. Morton who represented the P.M.S.S. Co. was again requested to define his Company's intentions regarding the new service, as to keep the members absolutely in the dark was not considered to be fair treatment or in any way observing the spirit of the Agreement.”

“In reply Mr. Morton stated the new service had been stated in co-operation with the U.S. Government and was now being operated under their orders, and that it was on that account that the Company had been unable to give any information. The U.S. Government were of the opinion that cargo from Calcutta and Singapore required for War purposes was not coming forward quickly enough and the line had been started in consequence of this.”

“This information was subsequently confirmed, in writing by Mr. Morton, at the request of the Conference Agent, dated 20th November, 1917, in which it was distinctly indicated that the service of the P.M.S.S. Co. was in every way intended purely as a war measure and of a temporary nature only, inaugurated to relieve the congestion in India and ports en route of cargo urgently required in connection with the prosecution of the war.”

“It is true that in the letter of 20th November, 1917, referred to, the Pacific Mail Co. stated that it was “quite possible that the Company might decide to make the service permanent,” but they concluded this sentence with the words—

“in which case the Conference will be duly notified and it will then be necessary for members to consider whether they will consent to the service being included in the Conference, or that this Company should withdraw from the Conference.”

“It is quite clear from the foregoing that the Pacific Mail Co. at that time fully recognised that they, as Members of the Conference, were under obligations of a binding nature, and that they also fully recognised the unquestionable right of the Conference to give its consent or otherwise to the proposed new service.”

“Nothing further in the nature of a definite pronouncement has been made by the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. despite repeated requests, both written and verbal, made to them. The fact remains, however, that the “Santa Cruz” in the following January 1918 entered into competition in the established trades of the Indo-China S. N. Co. and the British India S.N. Co. (two of their co-members) as between India and the Straits, a fact which was brought to the notice of the Pacific Mail

“S. S. Co. in a letter to the Conference Agent dated 28th January 1918. From that time until now the local Agent of the P. M. S. S. Co. has led the Members to understand that he has repeatedly brought to the notice of his Principals the terms and conditions of the Agreement and the urgent necessity of a clear declaration of the intentions of the P. M. S. S. Co., but without acknowledgment whatsoever to either cables or letters.”

“The Members of the Conference feel that the foregoing will suffice to emphasize their spirit of tolerance and willingness to give every opportunity to the P. M. S. S. Co. to observe and carry into effect the terms and conditions of the Conference Agreement. They further desire to record their regret at the utter disregard on the part of the P. M. S. S. Co. of the latter's undertakings when readmitted to Membership, which has resulted, as it must, in a most unfavourable impression being left in their minds that undue advantage has been taken, under the cloak of the U. S. Government's demands, of concessions willingly granted at a time of great international emergency.”

“Finally, the Members of the Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference wish to state that pending a reply to the telegram despatched by the local Agent of the P. M. S. S. Co. to his Head Office and referred to in his letter of 31st January last, they intend taking such steps as may be considered necessary to protect their interests in meeting the present situation.—Yours, etc.”

H. E. HAYWARD,

Acting Secretary.

Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 11th April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose for your information copy of a letter received from the Secretary, Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference covering correspondence with the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. here regarding that Line's withdrawal from the Conference.

It would appear that the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. withdrew without giving the requisite notice required by the Agreement, and it is stated that the explanation they now give, after a long delay is, that their withdrawal is due to United States Government's action, and consequently beyond their control.

My Committee will be glad if the Government can see its way to take this matter up with the Consul General for the U.S.A., as it is one of the utmost importance to British Shipowners generally. It appears to my Committee that American Steamship Lines running under an agreement with British Lines, should abide by the conditions of that agreement, terminating it as provided by the terms thereof, notwithstanding the fact that the American Government may see fit to dictate a different policy for the future.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS.

Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

S

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 26th April, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 11th April, I am directed to enclose for your information a copy of a letter from the Consul-General for the United States of America, regarding the withdrawal of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company from the Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference.—
I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

American Consular Service,
Hongkong, 23rd April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your No. 2212/1919 of 17th April, 1919, with respect to the withdrawal of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company from the Calcutta Trans-Pacific Conference.

I can report that I have taken this matter up with the government at Washington as far back as the 8th March, 1919, but have received no information bearing upon the subject. Until I receive instructions from the Department of State in the premises it is hardly seemly for me to pass an opinion upon the matter but I have full confidence that when the instructions are finally received they will afford full satisfaction to all concerned.

I shall be glad to communicate with you further when instructions are received.—I have, etc.,

(Sd.) GEORGE E. ANDERSON,
Consul General.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

T

SIR HENRY MAY, K.C.M.G.

Hongkong, 19th March, 1919.

Gentlemen,—It has been suggested that it would be a graceful thing to telegraph to Sir Henry May our deep regret on hearing of his illness and sincere wishes for a speedy recovery.

I enclose the following telegram for your consideration to be forwarded through the courtesy of the Government here:—

T

“Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong to Sir Henry May,
“K.C.M.G. The Chamber of Commerce, on hearing of your illness,
“desire to express their sincere regret and send greetings to
“yourself and Lady May with best wishes for a speedy recovery.”
Please Comment on proposal and telegram.—Yours, etc.,

P. H. HOLYOAK,
Chairman.

To,
The Committee of
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 19th March, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to request that you will be good enough to submit to His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government the following telegram, which it is the desire of my Committee should be forwarded to Sir Henry May, K.C.M.G., and the cost thereof debited to this Chamber.

“Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong to Sir Henry May,
“K.C.M.G. The Chamber of Commerce, on hearing of your illness,
“desire to express their sincere regret and send greetings to
“yourself and Lady May with best wishes for a speedy recovery.”—
Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 21st March, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th March, 1919, asking that a telegram should be sent on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce to Sir Henry May, and to inform you that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has caused the telegram to be sent as requested.

The Government does not desire that the Chamber of Commerce should defray the cost.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Telegram from Sir F. H. May, K.C.M.G. 29/4/19.
 Chamber Commerce Hongkong.
 Warmest thanks yourselves and Governors. MAY.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
 Hongkong, 2nd May, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose for your information copy of a telegram of thanks received from Sir Henry May in reply to the telegram which H. E. the Officer Administering the Government was kind enough to despatch at the request of the Chamber on the 20th ult.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
 Secretary.

The Honourable
 The Colonial Secretary.

Buenn Vista Hotel,
 Cowichan Bay B.C., 8th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I was much distressed to find to-day in my coat pocket a telegram which I had never answered, apparently sent from Hongkong on the 24th March to the following effect:—

“The Chamber of Commerce on hearing of your illness desire to express their sincere regret and send greetings to yourself and Lady May with best wishes for a speedy recovery.”

This telegram I found in an envelope containing another telegram, and the only explanation of my oversight seems to be that I read the second telegram which I well remember receiving, and that I omitted to notice the first telegram which was signed by you.

I very much regret my oversight and I would ask you to accept my apologies and to tender them also to the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

I am to-day cabling to you as follows—
 “Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.
 Warmest thanks for kind message.
 May.”

And I trust that you will now understand why your telegram was not acknowledged earlier, and that in thanking the Chamber of Commerce on my behalf for their very kind message which I greatly appreciate, you will explain to them the delay in answering it.

I am starting with my family for England on the 15th inst.
 With kindest remembrances from Lady May and myself.—Yours,
 etc.,

F. H. MAY.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
 Secretary,
 Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTATIONS OF LINSEED AND
 CASTOR SEED AND OILS.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
 Hongkong, 15th April, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 13th January relating to the export of Linseed etc., from India, I am directed to forward for your information a copy of a telegram on this subject which has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies.—I am etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
 Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
 Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Translation of Code Telegram.
 From Secretary of State, London.
 To Governor, Hongkong.
 Date 5th April, 1919.

In view of altered circumstances while prohibition of exportation of oleaginous produce from India is to be maintained licenses will be granted freely exportation colonies applications need not be submitted through Colonial Office importers can now make own arrangements obtain supplies in ordinary course of trade.

MILNER.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
 Hongkong, 24th April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 15th instant covering copy of a telegram on the subject of export of Linseed, etc. from India, and I am directed to request that you will be good enough to convey to His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government my Committee's thanks for the information contained therein.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
 Secretary.

The Honourable
 The Colonial Secretary.

TRADE OF THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF SIAM.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 11th April, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to forward for your information the enclosed copy of a report on the trade of the Southern Provinces of Siam for the year 1918, compiled by His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Senggora.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

SENGGORA CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Trade in the "Southern Provinces" of Siam during 1918. These remarks on the trade of the Southern Provinces are confined to the three Monthons of Suralt, Nakawn Sritammarat and Patani. A short note is also added on the port of Kantang in the Trang district as no resume of the trade of these Provinces would be complete without reference to their only outlet on the West coast of the Peninsula.

Railway Matters.

The most important date in the Commercial History of the Peninsula for many years past is July 1 1918, the day on which regular trains began to run between Siam and the Federated Malay States. At present trains run every other day and the service is run on the mixed passengers and goods system though, once a week, there is a through goods train carrying rice from Bangkok to the frontier. There is also talk of trying the experiment of running fish cars from Chumporn to the Malay States.

Mainly owing to War conditions and the consequent shortage of rolling stock, the volume of trade carried is not large. The shortage of rolling stock is so great that neither system dares to allow its truck to cross the frontier. Everything has therefore to be transhipped, a proceeding involving loss of time and money. Owing to its reputation as unhealthy there is some difficulty in securing a sufficient Labour force to reside at the frontier station.

The line has now been run over for some time and it is to be hoped that it will soon be found feasible to speed up the timing of the passenger service. The distance from Senggora to Penang is about 140 miles but the journey takes just over 13 hours one way and just under 11 the other

way. The service has only been interrupted for 2 days since its inauguration and has been run with commendable punctuality. The restaurant service which runs from Bangkok to the frontier and back again once a week seems to be quite satisfactory though at the beginning it came in for a lot of criticism which was possibly unnecessarily harsh.

There are many inconveniences attached to travelling by rail in Siam and amongst them one may cite the following, closing of the first class booking offices, difficulty of access to the platforms until about five minutes before the train starts, total absence of any porter service or luggage vans, great danger of loss of luggage by theft, lack of any system of notifying consignees of the arrival of the goods.

The Port of Kantang.

Before the opening of through railway communication with the Malay States a large volume of trade passed through this small port on its way to Penang etc. The port has however reached and passed the hey-day of its prosperity. Signs are not wanting that the railway, in addition to the export of tin ore, is attracting more and more trade away from the steamers calling at Kantang. As rolling stock becomes more plentiful and the Railway Administrations are able to offer their clients better facilities, the amount of trade that goes to Kantang for shipment to Penang will become less and less. The port must, however, retain a certain amount of importance as being the mainland terminus of the Puket Ferry service and as the only port of the West Coast with any railway communications behind it.

Changes in the Commercial Centres of Gravity.

Before the era of railways the commercial centres of the Southern Provinces naturally gravitated to the Sea coast e.g. Chumporn, Bandon, Nakawn Sritammarat (Ligor), Senggora (Songkhls) Patani and Bangnara. In the two Northern Monthons there is a marked tendency to move away from the coast and concentrate nearer the Railway Line: in Monthon Patani little change is noticeable though Jala is growing rapidly in importance. Most of the above are described as ports, though strictly the term can only be applied to Senggora, where steamers actually anchor in sight of the town. TUNGSONG, the junction for the Trang branch, has sprung up rapidly into a market town of some importance. It occupies a central position on the railway system and all travellers have to spend a night there. It is a very convenient centre for the Mining Community. The Eastern Smelting Co. of Penang and the Straits Trading Co. of Singapore have opened ore-buying agencies there. The Railway Administration have given these firms certain loading and storing facilities in the station yard. The Siam Commercial Bank, if it has not actually opened a branch at Tungsong, will shortly do so. Tungsong thus seems likely to increase in importance especially for the necessities of the Mining Labour Force. Nakawn Sritammarat, hitherto the most prosperous town in Southern Siam, has suffered most from this transition.

In the opinion of many competent persons, including the Director General of the Provincial Revenue Department (Mr. F. H. Giles), Tung-seng is not however the future commercial capital of the Southern Provinces but the village of Hat Yai. This opinion I fully share.

HAT YAI is at present merely a village with a large weekly market and headquarters of a Divisional Officer. It is one of the principal centres of the cattle trade. It is situated by road about 22 miles from Senggora. It is a station on the mainline about 1½ miles South of Utapao (the junction for Senggora) and is the actual junction of the Patani-Kelantan, Kedah-Penang and the Main Line to Bangkok. The railway administration is laying out a large reserve with many buildings for officials. The prospective site of the town and its streets have been planned, a proceeding which will obviate the difficulty so often experienced in Siam of having to lay out roads after the land has been already promiscuously built over.

Senggora must retain some importance as the Administrative Capital of the Southern Provinces and the only safe anchorage on the whole coast during the height of the N. E. Monsoon but it is unlikely to increase in size or importance. There is one way in which it might possibly regain some of its old predominance in the trade of the Peninsula, namely: if as the country develops some enterprising steamship line were to run a direct steamer between Hongkong or Swatow and Senggora carrying Coolies for the Mines and the numerous assorted goods which they consume. It might even be possible to send China cargo to Penang by this combined sea and land route.

Industries.

At Bandon the East Asiatic Co. (Danish) have large timber concessions and a steam saw mill. They are reported to be doing well though lack of freight has curtailed their expected output. The various small rice mills in the towns of Bandon, Nakawn Sritammarat, Patalung and Songkhla have increased their export trade. A certain amount of rice has been sent to Estates in Kedah and the Federated Malay States. The greater quantity has been shipped by sea to Kelantan, Trengganu and Singapore. It is difficult to see how they can expand their trade much more as they have no reserves of labour in the hinterland to open up land now lying fallow.

New Developments.

The advent to Southern Siam of the two big Smelting Companies and the Siam Commercial Bank has been mentioned above. During the year the following firms sent European Representatives to enquire into the possibilities of trade.

Messrs. Adamson Gilfillan
 " Sandilands Buttery
 " The Anglo-Siam Corporation
 " The Great Eastern Life Insurance
 " The Anglo-Swiss Milk Company
 " Singer Sewing Machines

The Dutchman who represented the Insurance Company made a tour through the Peninsula and is reported to have received many applications for insurance, mainly from the Chinese Community.

The two big Oil Companies (Messrs. The Asiatic Petroleum and The Standard Oil Co. of New York) possess agencies in most of the bigger towns in charge of Chinese Compradores and periodically send round Europeans to inspect them. The agent for the Sewing Machines is believed to have sold more machines than he ever thought possible.

The Anglo-Siam Corporation have gone further than any of the other firms as they have decided to open a branch in Patani under European supervision. It is understood that they hope to interest themselves in Mining, the Timber trade and General Agency Business.

Cattle and Live Stock Trade.

It is astonishing to see the quantities of Pigs, Chickens, Ducks and Eggs etc. that are exported from the district partly by rail to Penang and partly by sea to Singapore. This draining of the resources of the country has caused the cost of living to rise about one hundred per cent during the last two years. For some years past Singapore has steadily drained the coast districts of these commodities. With the opening of the railway system, Penang has commenced to draw upon the resources of the areas touched by the railway.

The export trade in cattle and buffaloes is one of the main sources of revenue of the natives of the whole Peninsula. The cattle are either shipped to Singapore from the East Coast or else to Penang from the West coast mainly from Kantang. The greater proportion however are driven overland to Kedah and Perlis. A certain number are driven across the peninsula to Setul whence they are transferred into sailing lighters to Penang and Klang. A certain number also cross overland into Upper Perak from Patani via Jala, Betong and Kroh.

The trade is practically confined to Indians, the Mohammedan Southern Indians specialising in the buffalo trade and the Pathans from Northern India in the cattle trade. The traders generally own to having experienced a profitable year but one and all lament the depredations of thieves along the roads. For some months the road from Hat Yai to Kedah via Sadao was practically abandoned owing to the number of cattle lost by thefts. A favourite device of these marauders seems to be let off squibs and crackers amongst the tethered herds at night. In the resultant confusion it is comparatively easy for the thieves to collect one or two of those that have broken loose and drive them off along some little known side-path. One often begins to wonder whether the Government is alive to the numbers being exported and whether one day in the near future the country will not have to face a serious shortage in the breeding stock.

Mining.

The mineral wealth of the Southern Provinces is at present largely unknown. Many prospectors of varying qualifications have visited the district and made cursory examinations. There are but few instances of large areas being applied for on lease as distinct from Prospecting

Licenses. Gambling on properties and options thereon has been rampant. A great deal of ground has been taken up in small areas, to which the owners attach fabulous values though their only claims to value often consist in the remark that someone "is said to have found tin quite close." Attempts to work or prospect these areas are only made in rare instances. Tin and Wolfram are the main minerals known to exist. A find of oil is recently reported. Owing to the drop in prices at the end of the year many of the mines are either closing down or reducing their staffs. There is reported to be no market at all for wolfram. Reports are continually being heard that rich finds are being made in the Ronglek and Sichawn areas N. of Nakawn Sritammarat. While there is little doubt that tin and wolfram are found there in payable quantities, one must not accept too readily the optimistic statements that they are second "Kinta Valleys." While the country is open to European enterprise, practical experience in the Peninsula does not show that Europeans are given any encouragement or assistance in prospecting their business.

Piece Goods.

The cost of clothes has increased enormously during the past three years. Markets that used to be gay with many multicoloured cloths are now very bare. Japanese piece goods are beginning to predominate but complaints as to their quality are rife. Their cost is also quite equal to the pre War prices of much better European piece goods.

Direction of Trade.

Singapore practically monopolises the export and import trade of Patani.

Trade in Monthon Nakawn Sritammarat is in a state of flux. Traders still obtain many of their supplies from Singapore but the trade with Penang is rapidly increasing and that with Bangkok falling off.

The Monthon of Suraht continues to do most of its trade with Bangkok though the Bandon traders are commencing to import small quantities of goods by rail from Penang.

(Sd.) K. G. GORTON.

H.B.M. Consulate, Senggora,
February 20, 1919.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 24th April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 11th instant covering a report on the trade of the Southern Provinces of Siam for the year 1918, compiled by His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Senggora.

Your letter with enclosure was duly laid before my Committee at its last monthly Meeting, when I was instructed to request you to be good enough to convey to His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government their thanks for submitting the Report to the Chamber and to state that printed copies are being prepared and will be duly distributed to British firms who are members of the Chamber.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

W

CHINESE NEW YEAR BANK HOLIDAY.

Chartered Bank of India Australia and China,
Hongkong, 14th January, 1919.

Dear Sir,—The Exchange Banks are unanimous in suggesting that Monday, the 3rd February, be declared a Bank Holiday, in addition to Saturday, the 1st idem, and we have accordingly applied to the Government for their sanction. We shall feel obliged if the Chamber will give its support to our application.—Yours, etc.,

T. C. DOWNING,
Manager.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 14th January, 1919.

Sir,—In connection with the application of the Exchange Banks to have 3rd February declared a Bank Holiday, I have the honour to state that this Chamber supports the application.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

X

PROPOSED ALTERATION TO HOURS OF POSTAL DELIVERIES.

General Post Office,
Hongkong, 1st May, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that, I am considering the question of some rearrangement of the hours of delivery and should be much obliged if your Committee would give me their advice as to the times which would be most useful to the mercantile community.—

The present hours of delivery are as follows:—

Ordinary Letters	Registered Letters.
8.30 a.m.	9.00 a.m.
10.00 a.m.	10.30 a.m.
12.00 noon	12.00 noon
2.00 p.m.	2.00 p.m.
4.00 p.m.	4.00 p.m.
5.30 p.m.	

I propose to make the first delivery of ordinary letters at 8.00 instead of at 8.30, this latter hour was decided upon after war broke out as ships were detained by the Examination Service and an earlier delivery was not possible. I am doubtful if the delivery at 5.30 is of much use in the business portion of the town.

I am also doubtful if the 4.00 p.m. delivery of registered letters is of much use.

I shall however be glad if you will give me the opinion of your Committee on the question.—I have etc.,

S. B. C. ROSS,
Postmaster General.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 8th May, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 1st instant, advising the Chamber of pending alterations to the times of local postal deliveries.

My Committee is of opinion that with the exception of the 4 p.m. delivery of registered matter, which delivery they prefer should be continued, the other alterations would not materially affect the Commercial Community.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Postmaster General,
Hongkong.

Y

COAL SUPPLY FOR THE EAST.

Commercial Commissioner in the East, Government
of the State of New South Wales,
Kobe, 22nd December, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to advise in view of the high prices ruling for coal in the East that I took the matter up with my Government in order to ascertain, if New South Wales coal owners would cater for the East and establish depots.

I am now in receipt of a reply as follows:

“Northern (Newcastle) coal owners are prepared to negotiate supplying coal Eastern markets, present prices f.o.b. Newcastle are as follows:—Best Maitland and Borehole large 17s. 9d., small 13s. 9d.; Teralba (word mutilated) 13s. 3d.; unscreened 12s. 9d., and small 11s. 3d.”

“Southern owners unable to quote for coal if delivered Hongkong, but could make delivery Port Kembla. Present prices ex-Jetty Chutes being 17s. 6d. per ton best screened coal.”

In view of the undoubted excellent quality of the Newcastle coals, I commend the above to your favourable notice, and shall be glad to have your views on the matter as also probable requirements and conditions generally.—I have, etc.,

J. B. SUTTON.

The Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 21st January, 1920.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 22nd ult. with reference to Newcastle Coals which was laid before my Committee at its last Monthly Meeting.

The prices quoted are low, but the difficulty would appear to be the scarcity of tonnage. The matter has been referred to in the Chamber's last Monthly Report, copy of which I enclose for your information.

I shall be glad to transmit to you in due course any enquiries the Chamber may receive.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

J. B. Sutton, Esq.,
Commercial Commissioner in the East,
Government of the State of New South Wales,
Kobe.

SWATOW BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The British Chamber of Commerce,
Swatow, 12th May, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I now have the pleasure to enclose herewith for your perusal and reference the following publications just issued by this Chamber:—

Report on the Trade of Swatow for the year 1918.
Committee Report of the Chamber for the year ending 30th April.—
I am, etc.,

GEORGE THORNTON,
Hon. Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 20th May, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge with thanks your letter of 12th instant covering copy of Report on the trade of Swatow for the year 1918 and your Committee's Report of the Chamber for the year ended 30th April 1919, both of which communications have been circulated to my Committee.—Yours. etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Swatow British Chamber of Commerce.

HEWETT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS.

The University,
Hongkong, 10th June, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I wish to bring to your notice the position of Mr. Wong To On who holds one of the Hewett Memorial Scholarships generously founded by your Chamber. This student is greatly handicapped by pecuniary difficulties. Since entering the University he has supplemented his scholarship by teaching. In term time he has taught for four hours a week for the sum of \$10 per month, and in the vacations for ten hours a week for \$20 per month. Even so he has been in want of money. He informs me that it will be very difficult for him to continue at the University next year unless he can secure some financial assistance, and he is at present seeking commercial employment during the vacation. I therefore venture to ask on his behalf whether it would be possible for your Chamber to grant him an additional \$150 in order to facilitate his studies at the University until he obtains his degree.

This student has been in the Faculty of Arts for 2½ years, and has an excellent record. He is intelligent and a hard worker, and is in every way worthy of assistance.—Yours, etc.,

J. D. WRIGHT,
Dean, Faculty of Arts.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong, British Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 19th June, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of 10th instant regarding the Scholarship held by Mr. Wong To On came up for consideration by my Committee at a Meeting held on Monday, 16th instant.

My Committee sympathise with this student in the circumstances in which he finds himself, and I am instructed to enclose a cheque for \$150 to enable him to tide over his difficulties and pursue his studies until the expiration of the Scholarship.

I am to add that this contribution is to be considered as special and is to be in no way taken as a precedent for similar cases that may arise.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Prof. J. D. Wright,
Dean, Faculty of Arts,
University of Hongkong.

University of Hongkong,
Hongkong, 27th June, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst. and the enclosed cheque for \$150, the special grant from the Hewett Scholarship Fund. I wish to thank you for the trouble you have taken in the matter, and your committee for the consideration they have shown to Mr. Wong To On.—Yours, etc.,

J. D. WRIGHT,
Dean, Faculty of Arts.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

University of Hongkong,
Hongkong, 4th July, 1919.

Sir,—I beg to apply for the sum of \$900 in payment of the Hewett Memorial Scholarship for 1919 in respect of the following scholars:—

Wong To On
Ngan Shai Leung
Chan Kwan Po

with many thanks,—I am, etc.,

N. TEESDALE MACKINTOSH,
Registrar.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 8th July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 4th instant, I beg herewith to enclose Cheque for \$900.—covering Third Year's Tuition fees for Messrs. Wong To On, Ngan Shai Leung and Chan Kwan Po. Kindly acknowledge receipt and oblige.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Registrar,
University of Hongkong.

University of Hongkong,
Hongkong, 3rd October, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to ask you to bring the following resolution made by the Senate of this University at its 59th Meeting held on Tuesday, September 30th, before the notice of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce:—

“The Senate decided to recommend to the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce that the Hewett Scholar, Mr. Ngan Shai Leung, be deprived of his Scholarship in view of the unsatisfactory nature of his work, and in view of the fact that he could not now qualify for his degree in the period of 4 years for which the Scholarship was awarded.”

In explanation of this resolution, I am directed to inform you that this student entered the University in January 1917 as a Hewett Memorial Scholar. He took the Intermediate Examination in May and again in September 1918, and on both occasions failed. As under these circumstances, the Scholarship which was only tenable for 4 years would not enable him to complete the full Arts Course, and as the Faculty of Arts considered his work to be so unsatisfactory, he was instructed to take the Commercial Course; at the same time, he was warned that if he did not pass in the Sessional Examination in May 1919 the Faculty would recommend the withdrawal of his Scholarship. Notwithstanding this warning, Mr. Ngan Shai Leung did not sit for his examination in May of this year.

The Warden of his Hostel also reports that this student has been able to raise sufficient money to pay his own fees and as the Scholarship is awarded only to poor students who would otherwise be unable to enter the University, the Senate feels this to be an additional reason to recommend the withdrawal of his Scholarship.

I shall be grateful if you will kindly inform me whether the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce will agree to this recommendation from the Senate.—I am, etc.,

N. TEESDALE MACKINTOSH,
Registrar.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 18th October, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant conveying to this Chamber a Resolution made by the Senate of the University with reference to the Hewett Memorial Scholarship awarded to Ngan Shai Leung in 1917.

My Committee agree with the action taken by the Senate and very much regret that the student in question was not deprived of his Scholarship earlier in his University career.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Registrar,
University of Hongkong.

University of HONGKONG,
8th December, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to ask you to place before the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce a recommendation from the Senate of this University that the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce Scholarship which is now vacant through the deprivation of Mr. Ngan Shai Leung shall be awarded to Mr. Tse Man Lung.

This student entered the University in September, 1918, in the Faculty of Arts, and is thus due to spend two years and two terms more at the University. The Scholarship held by Mr. Ngan Shai Leung was awarded in January, 1917, tenable for four years, and therefore would naturally expire in January, 1921; so that in its present state it would only carry Mr. Tse Man Lung through half of the time still in front of him here.

The Senate, however, begs to call your kind attention and generosity to the case of the student, who is exceedingly well spoken of by the Dean of his Faculty, by his Tutors and by the Warden of his Hospital.

Hitherto he has been supported by a brother in Australia but now owing to the financial difficulties connected with farming, and owing to the present high rate of exchange, his brother has been obliged to withdraw his support. In consequence, Mr. Tse Man Lung will have to leave the University, unless some help is forthcoming.

The Scholarship which the Chamber of Commerce has generously founded is specially awarded to poor students, who are otherwise unable to enter the University, and this therefore seems a case which the Chamber of Commerce may be specially willing to help.—I am, etc.,

N. TEESDALE MACKINTOSH,
Registrar.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 15th January, 1920.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 8th ult., containing reasons for the recommendation that Mr. Tse Man Lung be awarded the Hewett Memorial Scholarship rendered vacant through the deprivation of Mr. Ngan Shai Leung.

My Committee have carefully considered the recommendation and approve the award, which information can be conveyed to Mr. Tse Man Lung.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Registrar,
University of Hongkong.

ABOLITION OF TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP.

Attorney General's Chambers,
Courts of Justice,
Hongkong, 22nd July, 1919.

My dear Williams,—As there seems to be a little misapprehension as to the meaning of the recent Notification to the effect that "The censorship of international telegrams whether by cable or by wireless, will be abolished as from midnight, 23rd—24th July, 1919;" I am writing to let you know that this means that all censorship will be abolished at the said time and that from that time onwards the business community are at liberty to make use of Codes for telegrams whether to foreign countries or the United Kingdom or other British territory in the same way as they did before the war.—Yours, etc.,

H. E. POLLOCK,
Attorney General.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Nestle & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co.,
Hongkong, 22nd July, 1919.

RE ABOLITION OF TELEGRAPH CENSOR.

Dear Sir,—Upon enquiry at the Telegraph Office we are advised that they have received no official authority to permit the use of Private Codes, and are therefore, at present, unable to tell us whether the use of Private Codes will be immediately allowed. They intimate that when they are "officially" advised, presumably, they will send a circular stating that the regulations requiring the use of specific Codes, will be withdrawn.

We suggest that steps be taken to have them "officially" advised, so as to prevent any unnecessary delay in the use of Private Codes. May we suggest therefore that you take the necessary steps?—Yours, etc.,

Nestle & Anglo-Swiss Condensed
Milk Co., London
Hongkong Office,
A. G. COPPIN.

Manager for Hongkong & South China.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Holland Pacific Trading Co.
Hongkong, 24th July, 1919.

Gentlemen,—We understood from a letter addressed to yourselves by the Hon. Attorney General, which appeared in the Public Press recently, that all restrictions on international telegrams had been removed as from midnight 23-24 July.

This morning early a code telegram was presented to the Eastern Extension Telegraphs for Holland and refused, the Company's clerk stating that his current instructions were as follows:—

From Midnight 23rd Censorship restrictions withdrawn on all telegrams for all places in British Territory (except Egypt).

To all other countries present restrictions continue (except China, Philippines, Dutch Indies, U.S.A., Brazil, Bolivia, and Spain).

Further, it was stated that telegrams must still be signed.

Now, Gentlemen, it is needless to point out the very striking discrepancy between the two statements; we take leave to think that the position merits your immediate attention in view of the continuance of a very serious position if the Company is right and the A.G. is wrong. May we hope to hear from you on the subject to-day?—Yours, etc.,

VAN GENNEP LUHRS,
Managing Partner.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 24th July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have for acknowledgment your letter of date with reference to the Cable Censorship restrictions.

This morning's "Daily Press" contains two advertisements by the Telegraph Cos. having reference to the withdrawal of censorship to certain countries in which Holland is not included.

It would appear that the Honourable the Attorney General's announcement refers to the censorship from the point of view of the station of despatch, and if telegrams in Private Codes are refused, it is apparently the case that the censorship regulations of Holland herself have not been lifted. My Committee would suggest that you communicate with your Consul on this point.

If too wide a significance has been attached to the Attorney General's communication to this Chamber, my Committee much regret it, but the letter was published as received, with the sole object of putting the members of this Chamber in full possession of the latest official pronouncement upon a point of high importance to the Mercantile Community.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. The Holland Pacific Trading Co.,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 24th July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of 22nd inst. with reference to the abolition of Telegraph Censorship has duly been laid before my Committee, and I am now desirous to draw your attention to two advertisements by the Telegraph Cos. appearing in this morning's issue of the "Daily Press," from which you will learn that censorship has been removed to countries within the British Empire with the exception of Egypt, and also to certain other countries.

It would appear that the Honourable the Attorney General's announcement refers to the censorship from the point of view of the station of despatch, and if telegrams in private codes are refused, it is apparently the case that the censorship regulations of the addressees' country have not been lifted.

If too wide a significance has been attached to the Attorney General's communication to this Chamber, my Committee much regret it, but the letter was published as received, with the sole object of putting the members of this Chamber in full possession of the latest official pronouncement upon a point of high importance to the Mercantile Community.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Manager,
Messrs. The Nestle and Anglo Swiss
Condensed Milk Co. (London)
Hongkong Branch.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 11th September, 1919.

Dear Sir,—In connection with the use of "Private Telegraphic Codes," this Chamber is reliably informed that there exists between Bangkok and Hongkong and also between the Argentine and Hongkong an anomalous condition of affairs which would seem to require some immediate explanation.

It appears that while Bangkok and Buenos Ayres can make use of "Private Codes" to Hongkong, this Colony is debarred from the privilege of using these codes to Bangkok and Buenos Ayres, "Public Codes" and plain language only being accepted for Bangkok while for Buenos Ayres only plain English is accepted.

My Committee has now before it two cases in one of which private code was refused to Bangkok with the explanation that only public codes could be used, and the sender's name must be inserted, and in the other, the refusal to accept private code to the Argentine on the 2nd instant was accompanied by the explanation that only plain English may be used, whereas in May this year Bentley's Code has already been used to Buenos Ayres, and during July and August code messages had been received from the same place.

Hongkong, in matters of this kind, appears to be placed at an extraordinary disadvantage, and my Committee will be glad to learn, as early as possible, the reason for this state of affairs, and if uniformity

in the use of Codes to and from the places mentioned may be expected in the near future.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Superintendent,
Eastern Extension Australasia & China Telegraph Co.,
Hongkong.

The Eastern Extension Australasia & China Telegraph Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong, 13th September, 1919.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter dated 11th inst., with reference to telegrams to Siam and the Argentine, I would beg to point out that telegrams for Bangkok, via the Normal route, *i.e.* Saigon, owing to traversing French territory, come under that Country's Censorship restrictions and would be required to conform to the regulations hitherto in force. Inquiries made concerning these, elicited the reply, from the Saigon Authorities, that the restrictions concerning codes, languages, and signatures of senders, were maintained. The contention that "private codes" are in use from Bangkok would point to a lenient view being taken by the French Authorities but there can be no question but that such a view is in direct contravention to their own regulations. It is our duty clearly to point out to clients just what regulations remain in force but we are quite willing to take "private," or any other codes, strictly at the risk of the sender. With regard to the Argentine, I much regret that any one should have been told that telegrams could only be written in "plain English." The authorized codes have been accepted since October, 1915, and are still acceptable, although, owing to that country's Censorship restrictions being still in force, "Private Codes" are not.—Yours, etc.,

D. de H. FARRANT,
Superintendent.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

C 1

QUARTERLY TRADE RETURNS.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 13th June, 1919.

Sir,—I sent you yesterday five copies of Trade Returns for the First Quarter of 1919. You will observe that the publication is in slightly different form to that of 1918. I should be glad to have your views as to which form is the most desirable.—I have, etc.,

C. W. BECKWITH,
Superintendent.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 24th June, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13th instant covering five copies of Trade Returns of the Port for the first quarter of 1919.

Replying to your enquiry, my Committee is of opinion that the publication as now produced by your Department is better than that of 1918, and consider it most desirable that the new form should be continued.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Superintendent,
Imports and Exports,
Hongkong.

D 1

BANK HOLIDAY, 1st JULY, 1919.

Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,
Hongkong, 10th June, 1919.

Dear Sir,—As on former occasions, the Exchange Banks are desirous of making Tuesday, the 1st July, 1919, a Bank Holiday, and we have accordingly applied to the Government for their sanction. We shall feel obliged if the Chamber will give its support to our application.—I am, etc.,

J. L. CROCKATT,
Manager.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 11th June, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to the application of the Exchange Banks to the Government to have Tuesday, 1st July, declared a Bank Holiday, I am directed by my Committee to state that the application has the support of this chamber.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Colonial Secretary,
The Honourable

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 19th June, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 11th June, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government-in-Council has appointed Tuesday, the 1st July, 1919, to be observed as a General Holiday.

A notification will be published in the Hongkong Government Gazette to this effect.—I am, etc.,

A. D. BALL,
p. Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 20th June, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 10th instant, I am directed to inform you that this Chamber has supported the application to the Government of the Exchange Banks to have Tuesday, 1st July, declared a General Holiday, and I now am in receipt of information that the request has been approved by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government-in-Council.

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Manager,
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,
Hongkong.

E 1

ROYAL ENGINEERS OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION.

Royal Engineers Old Comrades' Association,
R. E. Office,
Hongkong, 4th June, 1919.

Gentlemen,—We beg to bring to your notice that, in connection with this Association, a Labour Department has been formed to assist good men to obtain suitable employment on their return to civil life after they have completed 12 or 21 years of service, or when transferred to the Army Reserve after short periods of service.

This Association is the only one dealing solely with members of the corps of Royal Engineers; and these men are in a different category to those offered by other institutions of a similar nature, as a large percentage of them upon entering the Corps were qualified tradesmen and have

been regularly employed at their trades during their service. A great many of them have received special training in the most technical details of their trades.

A list showing the classes of men this Association is desirous of assisting, together with their trades and special qualifications, is attached.

Capable and reliable men of good character only will be recommended for employment. It is, therefore, hoped that in the event of vacancies occurring in your establishment you will be good enough to give this Association an opportunity of submitting candidates.

Candidates would, if possible, be selected from men serving in the China Station who are about to return to civil life, but there are not many here now and should none be available, any application received would, if desired, be immediately submitted to Head Quarters in London.

The Secretary of the China Command Branch would be glad to render every assistance to Employers of Labour to find suitable candidates, who, we feel sure, if given a place, would prove their worth and give satisfaction, as many ex-Royal Engineers are now doing where firms have been good enough to give them an opening.—I am, etc.,

J. R. YOUNG,
Colonel,

President, China Command Branch, R.E.O.C.A.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

SPECIALISTS, who have been :—
Military, Foremen of Works.

Remarks.

Suitable for employment as :—
Clerks of Works, Estate Managers (upkeep and management of property), Estimating Clerks, Surveyors Clerks, General Foremen, Experts in Sanitation.

Military Machinists.

These men are experts in :—
Mechanical Engineering, Steam and Hydraulics, Electricity, (telephone, telegraph, wireless and electric light installations), Instrument Repairing.

Engineer Storekeepers.

Men who have had long experience in connection with the proper care of large stocks of valuable stores, and of store accounts.

Engineer Clerks. (*)

Estimating, Quantities, Finance, Secretarial Duties, Typewriting and Shorthand.

Engineer Draughtsmen. (*)

Architectural, Mechanical, Skilled in use of Surveying Instruments, Theodolites, Levels, etc.

Instructors in Field Works.

Experts in Explosives, Organising and Supervising large gangs of men, Specialists in temporary Engineering Expedients, and suitable for positions of responsibility in large institutions.

Surveyors (Land and Quantity).

Men who have had considerable experience in Survey work both at home and abroad.

(*) In some cases these qualifications are combined.

Besides the above there are men of all branches of the building, engineering, printing and most other recognised trades who would be suitable as foremen, overseers, or other positions of trust.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 19th June, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of 4th instant with reference to the Labour Department of your Association, which has been formed with the object of obtaining suitable employment for tradesmen and other skilled time-expired men of the Royal Engineers, has been duly laid before my Committee.

I am directed to state that my Committee will render every assistance to your Association in its endeavours to obtain positions for recommended men should reference be made to the Chamber by employers of labour in this district.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,

Secretary.

Col J. R. Young,
President,

China Command Branch,
Royal Engineers Old Comrades' Association,
Hongkong.

R.E. Office,

Hongkong, 21st June, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by the President, China Command Branch, Royal Engineers Old Comrades' Association, to express the thanks of the association for the promise of assistance conveyed in your letter of 19th June, 1919.—Yours, etc.,

C. E. LINTOTT, Q.M.S., R.E.,

Hon. Secretary.

The Secretary,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

THE BRITISH IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF COMMERCE.

The British Imperial Council of Commerce,
1, 2 & 3, Oxford Court, & 87, Cannon Street,
London, E.C. 4.
London, 7th February, 1919.

BUSINESS CONFERENCE, JUNE 4TH, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am desired to inform you that the Executive Committee of the Council have recently met to consider the question of resuming the series of Congresses interrupted by the War.

The Committee were unanimously of opinion that from practical considerations it would not be possible to organise a successful Congress this year, whether in England or abroad, and they, therefore, propose that the Ninth Congress should take place in Toronto about September, 1920, subject, of course, to this being convenient to our friends there.

In the meantime there are certain matters which call for consideration and discussion and the Committee have therefore decided, following the precedent of last year, to hold a special Business Conference on the day of the Annual Meeting, viz., June 4th, 1919. This Conference will not be strictly confined to the appointed members of the Council, but will be open to any properly accredited representatives of Empire Chambers, whether resident here or on visit.

In these circumstances I beg that you will send me as soon as possible, and by cable if necessary, any notices of motion which your Chamber (or Board) may desire discussed at the Conference and inform me whether you wish to have any additional representatives, beyond, that is to say, your permanent nominee on the Council.

I take this opportunity of informing you that the Executive Committee recently adopted for publication in the Press the following resolutions:—

League of Nations.

"That the Executive Committee takes cognisance of the statements made by responsible Authorities in regard to the establishment of a League of Nations as an outcome of the Peace Conference, and is of opinion that the ultimate settlement should provide for the admission of all nations, including the Overseas Dominions on such terms as will allow of their present independence subject to effective guarantees being furnished by all the nations participating in the proposed League."

Restitution and Reparation by the Enemy.

"That in the opinion of this Committee no peace terms will be satisfactory which do not provide for the payment by enemy countries of all costs incurred as a direct or indirect consequence of the war by Great Britain, the Dominions, and the Allies."

Freedom of the Seas.

"That this Executive Committee having regard to the undoubted fact that the power of the British Navy has been a most potent factor in securing the safety and freedom of the civilised world, strongly urges His Majesty's Government through its representatives at the Peace Conference, to accept no definition of the term "Freedom of the seas," which will weaken the relative power of the British Navy, upon which the security of the British Empire depends."—Yours, etc.,

CHARLES E. MUSGRAVE,
Secretary.

Telegram to Mr. C. H. Ross.
Ross care Matheson
3, Lombard Street London,

23.4.19.

Greatly appreciate your representing us Imperial Council Commerce June Fourth reiterating desirability our remaining free port also pressing Trade Marks Convention between Britain China after consulting Crowe Commercial Attache Japan now home.

DODWELL,
Chairman.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 28th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to acknowledge receipt of your circular letter of 7th February advising the decision of your Council to hold a Special Business Conference on 4th June next.

A telegram has been despatched to this Chamber's representative, Mr. C. H. Ross, who, it is hoped, will be able to attend.

My Committee cordially approve the resolutions adopted for publication in the Press by your Executive Committee, more especially the third, having regard to the "Freedom of the Seas."—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
British Imperial Council of Commerce,
London.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 22nd April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—At a Meeting of my Committee held to-day, a Circular letter from the British Imperial Council of Commerce dated 7th February, copy of which is enclosed, advising the decision of the Council to hold a Special Business Conference on June 4th next, was discussed, when it was decided in view of the near approach of the date of the Meeting to despatch to you the following telegram:

"Greatly appreciate your representing us Imperial Council Commerce June 4th reiterating desirability our remaining free Port also pressing Trade Marks Convention between Britain China after consulting Crowe Commercial Attache Japan now home."

My Committee is strongly of the opinion that Hongkong should remain a Free Port and think it desirable to again press this point. The answers given to questions regarding preferential tariff contained in the Chamber's letter to you of 21st March, 1916, copy of which I enclose, fully convey the reasons, of which you are well aware, why this should be so.

Another important matter which requires serious attention is the growing competition of Japanese and American Shipping and the coast-wise shipping of the United Kingdom, India, etc., where the Japanese and American Shipowner can use his vessels without allowing British owned vessels a similar privilege in Japan and America.

The Indian Coastal trade has undoubtedly assisted the Japanese merchant to establish himself and penetrate to all parts of the interior of India.

Recent flagrant infringements of British Trade Marks by the Japanese, which have been submitted to this Chamber show the necessity for a recognised registration of all Trade Marks in China and Japan on the basis of priority of usage.

Mr. E. F. Crowe, C.M.G., British Commercial Attache in Japan, writing to this Chamber from Singapore on his way home appears to have discussed this important subject with the Chamber of Commerce there. He states:—

"..... I was surprised to find that although they are confronted with the Japanese imitation of trade marks problem they have no trade marks legislation in the Straits so there is nothing they can do."

"..... I shall always be delighted to work in co-operation with the Hongkong Chamber in regard to any measures they may propose with regard to Japanese competition."

I enclose copy of some very interesting correspondence on the Trade Marks question, received from Mr. H. J. Brett, Commercial Secretary of Legation here, all of which is in the possession of Mr. Crowe, who is familiar with this subject from all its different aspects. My Committee hope that you may be able to meet Mr. Crowe, as they feel that a short discussion with him would enable you to strongly represent to the Council the urgent necessity for immediate action by the Imperial Authorities in the manner indicated as a protection to British Trade Marks on the China Market.

Thanking you in anticipation for the trouble the Chamber is putting you to.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

C. H. Ross, Esq.,
Messrs. Matheson and Co., Ltd.,
3, Lombard Street,
London.

17/5/19.

Telegraphic reply from Mr. C. H. Ross.
Dodwell, Hongkong.
Will act as requested.

ROSS.

The British Imperial Council of Commerce,
1, 2 & 3 Oxford Court, & 97, Cannon Street,
London, E.C. 4, 14th June, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have only to-day received your letter of April 28th in regard to the Special Business Conference which took place on June 4th.

I would only say at the moment that Mr. C. H. Ross was present on your behalf and that a full report of the proceedings is to be printed, and copies will, of course, be forwarded to all the Chambers concerned in due course,—I hope within the course of the next week or two.—Yours, etc.,

CHARLES E. MUSGRAVE,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Oxford Court, and 97, Cannon Street,
London, E.C. 4, 22nd October, 1919.

NINTH CONGRESS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF
THE BRITISH EMPIRE, TORONTO, 1920.

Dear Sir,—I am instructed by the Executive Committee to inform you that definite arrangements have now been made to hold the Ninth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire, the first since that held in London in 1912, at Toronto, commencing on Tuesday, August 24th, 1920. This date, however, is provisional.

I enclose herewith a copy of the Congress Rules, adopted by the Council in 1914, which govern the Congress and which, *inter alia*, deal with the question of representation, voting power, and resolutions for the programme.

Your special attention, at the moment, however, is called to the last point only, namely, resolutions for the programme. The Rules, you will see, provide that copies of the final programme, in the actual form, that is to say, in which it will be laid before the Congress, must be circulated at least eight weeks before the day on which the Congress opens, in order that all Chambers, including those situated in the remote portions of the Empire, may have ample time in which to instruct their

delegates as to voting. In accordance with this rule will you please note that final resolutions must reach me say three months before the date of the Congress. It has been the practice, however, to circulate a first draft of the programme some months earlier, and it is intended to follow this custom and to issue a first draft in February or early March, 1920.

In order that there may be no misunderstanding, I would also refer you to Congress Rule 13 which allows of emergency resolutions, which do not figure on the printed programme, being admitted on a three-fourths majority of the delegates present.

Resolutions for the programme should, as far as possible, be such as are of direct interest to the Empire as a whole or a considerable portion thereof.

The Committee realise the difficulty of submitting resolutions so far in advance of the meeting, but it is necessary that this early notice should be given in order that the most distant points of the Empire may be reached and replies received in time to print and circulate the first draft of the programme.

It is usual, as a reminder, to append to the first formal notice of the Congress a list of the subjects dealt with at the previous Congress. I am following this course, although, owing to the War, so many years have elapsed since the Eighth Congress that many of the questions then considered may be out of date: I am adding, also, a reference to the subjects discussed at the Business Conference held in 1916, and the special meetings in 1918 and 1919.

I would express the hope that you will bring this notice forward for early consideration by your Chamber, and that I may hear from you by, say, the beginning of February, 1920.

No doubt the appointment of delegates will have your attention in due time.—Yours, etc.,

CHARLES E. MUSGRAVE,
Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS CONSIDERED BY: THE EIGHTH CONGRESS, 1912.

All Red Route
Assimilation of Mercantile Laws
Association of British Commercial Employees
Balance Sheets of Government or Municipal Undertakings
Bills of Lading
British Empire Trade Mark
Commercial Arbitration
Commercial Education
Commercial Relations between the Mother Country, her Colonies and Dependencies
Company Law
Co-ordination on Commercial Objects
Date of Easter and Calendar Reform
Daylight Saving
Declaration of London
Emigration

Excise Duty on Cotton Cloth Manufactured by Indian Power
Looms
Gibraltar Coaling Trade
Imperial Consular Service
Importation of Canadian Cattle
Income Tax
Jail Manufactures (India)
Merchandise Marks
Merchant Shipping
National Defence
Naturalisation of Aliens
Ottoman Lights
Ottoman Sanitary Dues
Panama Canal
Parcel Post
Penny Postage
Reciprocity between the West Indies and Canada
Remedies for Labour Disputes
Sea Carriage of Goods
Standard Gauges
Taxation of Commercial Travellers
Taxation of Corporations
Telegraphic Communication
Trade Misrepresentation and Misdescription
Validity of Arbitration Awards and Judgments
Venezuelan Import Duties
Weights, Measures and Currency
West Indian Telegraphic Communication

THE BUSINESS CONFERENCE, 1916:
(Members of the Council and Others.)

Arbitration Awards, Enforcement of
Banking Facilities, Increase of
Capital, New Issues of
Commercial Law, Assimilation of
Decimal System of Weights, Measures and Currency
Double Income Tax
Fiscal Questions
Inter-Imperial Co-operation
Licences to Trade, &c.
Naturalisation
Patents, Designs and Trade Marks
Prohibition of Contracts in Restraint of Trade
Registration of Aliens
Scientific Research and Industrial Development
Shipping
Trade Commissioners
Trade Exhibitions

SPECIAL MEETING HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANNUAL
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, 1918.

Empire Resources Development Committee
Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy
Changes of Name by Aliens
Enemy Trading After the War
Naturalisation of Aliens
Double Income Tax
Enemy Shipping
Date of Easter

SPECIAL MEETING HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANNUAL
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, 1919.

Export Restrictions and Cable Delays
Empire Raw Materials: Peace Terms
Shipping
Imperial Preference
Postal and Telegraphic Rates
Imperial Wireless Service
Trading of Subjects of Enemy Origin
Enemy Aliens
Double Income Tax
Passports
Unification of Laws within the Empire

CONGRESS RULES

(Adopted by the Council on 27th April, 1914).

General Conditions.

1. The Congress shall, as heretofore, be known as "The Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire."
2. The object of the Congress shall be to give expression to Imperial commercial opinion on matters directly or indirectly affecting commercial and industrial affairs.
3. The Congress shall be held triennially, alternately in London and the overseas Dominions, and in the latter case the Congress itself shall, at the preceding meeting, decide upon the precise locality. If circumstances, however, do not permit of this, the decision shall rest with the British Imperial Council of Commerce.

4. The organisation of each successive Congress shall be entrusted to a Committee appointed by the British Imperial Council of Commerce, which may or may not coincide as to membership with the Executive Committee of the Council.
5. The Officers and Organising Committee of the Congress shall be appointed by the British Imperial Council of Commerce as provided in Rules 10, 11 and 23 of that body. The Secretary of the British Imperial Council of Commerce shall act as Secretary of the Congress.
6. All British Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, and Associations thereof throughout the world, recognised by resolution of the Organising Committee, whether affiliated with the British Imperial Council of Commerce or not, may be represented at the Congress and may forward resolutions for discussion thereat within the limitations herein provided.

Delegates.

7. Representation at the Congress, except as otherwise determined by the Council in any particular case, shall be on the following scale, viz., Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade having:

Not exceeding 250 members	2 delegates.
" 500 "	3 "
" 1,000 "	4 "
" 2,500 "	5 "
Exceeding 2,500 "	6 "

 Associations of Chambers of Commerce and/or Boards of Trade shall be entitled to 3 delegates.
8. The Organising Committee shall have absolute power to refuse to accept the nomination of any delegate without being called upon to give a reason for such refusal.
9. Each duly nominated delegate shall pay, in advance, a registration fee of One Guinea (£1 1s. 0d.).
10. The members of the Organising Committee shall be *ex officio* delegates at the Congress.

Voting.

11. Voting shall be taken in the first instance by a show of hands and each delegate present shall be entitled to one vote, but a vote by Chambers, Boards of Trade and Associations thereof, shall be taken at the request of not less than 25 delegates. In a vote by Chambers, except as otherwise determined by the Council in any particular case, organisations having:

Not exceeding 250 members shall be entitled to 2 votes.	
" 500 "	3 "
" 1,000 "	4 "
" 2,500 "	5 "
Exceeding 2,500 "	6 "

 Associations of Chambers of Commerce and/or Boards of Trade shall be entitled to 3 votes.
12. The Chairman shall have an original and also a casting vote.

Resolutions.

13. The Agenda paper containing the Resolutions to be proposed at the Congress shall be despatched to all Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, and Associations thereof, within and without the Empire, at least eight weeks before the date of the Congress, in order that every facility may be given to Chambers, Boards and Associations to instruct their delegates in regard to voting.
14. A definite date by which resolutions must reach the Organising Committee shall be fixed by that body, which date shall be at least twelve weeks before the date of the Congress.
15. In order to allow of emergency matters being discussed, the Congress may itself, by a three-fourths majority of those present, temporarily suspend Rules 13 and 14.
16. The Organising Committee shall have full power to refuse to include any resolution which, in their opinion, does not come within the scope of the Congress.
17. The order of the discussion of the resolutions shall be provisionally fixed by the Organising Committee, but it shall be in the power of the Congress itself to modify such order by vote subject to the provisions otherwise laid down.
18. In the event of resolutions of a similar nature being placed upon the Agenda paper, the delegates from the various Chambers proposing them shall arrange amongst themselves to amalgamate such resolutions; failing such arrangement, the matter shall be left in the hands of the President.
19. Proposers of resolutions shall be allowed not more than fifteen minutes, and subsequent speakers ten minutes. The President may, however, permit a speaker to continue, if in accordance with the evident desire of the Congress.
20. It shall be permissible for any Chamber of Commerce or Board of Trade or Association thereof or delegate to issue, at their own cost, through the Secretary of the Council, any statement, which it may be desired to submit, bearing upon any resolution on the Congress programme.
21. A verbatim Report of the proceedings shall be taken for subsequent publication.
22. Any points not provided for in the foregoing Rules shall be determined by the Organising Committee.
23. The foregoing Rules shall not be modified except at the Annual Meeting of the British Imperial Council of Commerce, and not less than three months' notice shall be given of any proposed modification.

By Order,

CHARLES E. MUSGRAVE,
Secretary.

October, 1919.

FEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRIES.

Federation of British Industries,
London, S.W. 1, 8th May, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am forwarding to you, under separate cover, six copies of the current issue of the Bulletin published by this Federation, and propose sending subsequent issues, in the hope that this journal may prove of interest to the members of your Chamber. In the event of your desiring to reciprocate I need hardly say that the Federation will be extremely glad to receive a copy of your Journal, and any other literature you may publish for distribution.

Under the same cover I am including six copies of the most recently compiled list of the members of the Federation of British Industries, from which you will be able to form an idea of the comprehensive character and the general aims of the Federation.

I would like to take this opportunity of saying that in view of the very great importance of China as a market for the products of British industry the Federation are making a close study of the conditions of that market, and will, wherever possible, bring their influence to bear in the proper quarters on questions in which British interests are vitally concerned. May I venture, therefore, to suggest that your Chamber, in the close watch they are able to exercise over trade developments, may care to take note of the Federation's policy in this respect.

The Federation is always glad to bring to the notice of its members, through the medium of a confidential supplement which is published weekly with the Bulletin, information regarding reliable firms abroad who are desirous of undertaking agencies for British goods. Communications from any of your members who may wish to take advantage of this service will therefore be welcomed.—I am, etc.,

HENRY HOBDEN,
Overseas Trade China Section

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 31st July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have for acknowledgment your letter of 8th May advising the despatch of copies of the Federation's Bulletin, which have since arrived, and have been distributed to members of the Chamber to whom your publication is likely to prove of interest.

I am to state that your name has been added to the list of recipients of this Chamber's "Fortnightly Price Current and Market Report," and any other publications of trade interest issued by the Chamber from time to time will in due course be forwarded to you.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Federation of British Industries,
Overseas Trade,
China Section,
39, St. James's Street,
London, S.W. 1.

FLOUR SHIPMENTS FROM AUSTRALIA.

Hongkong, 14th July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—We recently booked a certain quantity of Flour through our Agents in Sydney, and the transaction was duly confirmed from both sides. On the 11th instant we received a telegram from our Sydney Agents dated the 10th inst. reading as follows:—

"Authorities require undertaking your order Flour will not be transhipped Philippines, Strait Settlements, Dutch Indies. Cable "us you agree."

Naturally, having sold the goods, we had to wire that we agree, but we are really unable to exercise such supervision over what our customer ultimately does with the goods. Moreover, we consider this a promise simply wrung from us by force.

We do not know what the circumstances are leading to the Australian authorities adopting such arbitrary methods, but it looks to us like another case of the Labour Government in Australia endeavoring to interfere in the usefulness of Hongkong as a transshipping centre. We would be glad if you could do anything to stop such proceedings in future, as we are writing this more in the general interest of the Port than in consideration of the inconvenience we are put to. We suggest that this is a matter that Mr. Brett might care to delve into, in his official capacity, and we would be willing to give him full particulars of the transaction.—Yours, etc.,

ALEX. ROSS & CO.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 31st July, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—Your letter of 14th instant with reference to the attitude of the Australian Authorities regarding the importation of flour to this Colony has duly been laid before my Committee.

Mr. H. J. Brett, Commercial Secretary of Legation, has written to the Commercial Commissioner for New South Wales in Tokio asking for further information in connection with this required guarantee by the Australian Government as to ultimate destination of flour imported into this Colony.

I hope to be able to communicate to you the result of Mr. Brett's investigations at an early date.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. Alex. Ross & Co.,
Hongkong.

ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE.

Royal Colonial Institute, Northumberland Avenue,

Dear Sir,—My Committee have under consideration a number of the questions relating to the development and regulation of industry, trade and shipping, after the war, and as these matters are doubtless being considered by your Chamber of Commerce so far as they affect the special interests of those of your Dominion, I shall be glad to learn whether there is any matter in which this Committee can be of assistance to your organisation.

My Committee, as you are probably aware, have for many years striven to promote Empire Unity by the development of the Empire's resources and trade, and to bring about a closer community of interest, and it is now more than ever necessary that their energies as a central body should be devoted to the promotion of a definite economic policy for the Empire in regard to the treatment of industrial, commercial, shipping and financial matters of common concern.

An examination of the Reconstruction proposals bearing on post-war industry and commerce now being considered by such bodies show remarkably divergent views on questions of the greatest importance, and it is thought that the examination of such views by a representative Committee such as this, seeking as it does for the greatest measure of agreement on questions of vital importance, might result in reducing the conflict of ideas that prevails and assist in the evolution of some common policy.

Competition for the world's trade will undoubtedly call for a much higher standard of organisation in production and distribution, and we shall enormously increase the economic efficiency of the Empire if we can establish a common policy that will regulate the flow of raw materials of industry, equitably distribute our shipping tonnage, and always give preference in finance and trade to Empire interests.

I should be glad to receive a statement of the questions in which your Association is particularly interested, and I am authorised to state on behalf of my Committee that they will welcome the opportunity to consider any matter submitted to them with a view to rendering any assistance in their power.—I am, etc.,

BEN. H. MORGAN,
Chairman.
Trade and Industry Committee.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 28th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Your undated circular letter inviting questions relating to the development and regulation of industry, trade and shipping, after the War, was duly laid before my Committee at its last monthly meeting.

My Committee direct me to thank you for the offer of assistance in the representation through proper channels matters of Empire interests with particular reference to this out-post of the British Empire.

At the same Meeting a letter from the British Imperial Council of Commerce advising its decision to hold a Business Conference in London on June 4th, was considered, and a telegraphic request was sent to Mr. C. H. Ross, this Chamber's representative on the Council requesting him to attend the Meeting in the interests of this Chamber.

I enclose for your information, a copy of this Chamber's confirmatory letter to Mr. Ross, with enclosures, which will convey to you the attitude of my Committee regarding Post War Trade.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Chairman,
Trade and Industry Committee,
Royal Colonial Institute,
Northumberland Avenue,
London, W. C. 2.

Royal Colonial Institute, Northumberland Avenue,
London, W.C. 2, 27th June, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am obliged by your letter addressed to the Chairman of my Committee dated 28th April. I am communicating with Mr. C. H. Ross and will discuss the questions mentioned in your letter with him, with a view to considering any action which may seem advisable. I will then submit the matter to my Committee.—I am, etc.,

HAROLD T. POOLEY,
Secretary.

Trade and Industry Committee.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 9th January, 1920.

Dear Sir,—Would you kindly lay before the Chamber of Commerce Committee the enclosed letter of the 25th October from the Hon. Secretary of the Midland Branch of the Royal Colonial Institute, and let me know what answer your Committee would wish me to send to that letter, re suggested agencies in this Colony.—Yours, etc.,

H. E. POLLOCK.

E. A. M. Williams Esq.,
Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce.

Royal Colonial Institute,
Birmingham, October 25th, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have the opportunity of placing a number of good agencies in the Colonies. They cover the following manufactures:—
Railway Carriages and Wagons.
General Rolling Stock.
Railway Equipment of all descriptions.
Forgings.

Smiths' work.
Cast Steel Castings.
Cast Iron Castings.
Oils, Lubricants, Paints and Varnishes.
Springs for Motors and Road Vehicles of all descriptions.
Springs for Railway Rolling Stock.
Mining Equipment and over-head gear.
Light Railway Rolling stock and equipment.
Belting Leather, Balata, etc., and transmission supplies.
Steel Sections and Bars.
General Constructional Engineering.

It struck me that an agency for one or more of these lines might interest you, or there may be a member of the Institute to whom such an agency would be useful. Would you be good enough to drop me a line.

The whole of the firms concerned are firms of the highest reputation, and the work they carry out is of an important nature, and under the severest tests and inspection.—Yours, etc.,

E. P. BOOTH,
Hon. Sec. of the Midland Branch of the R.C.I.
and Member of Council.

H. E. Pollock, Esq.,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 21st January, 1920.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of 9th instant covering copy of a letter from the Royal Colonial Institute having reference to certain agencies of which the Institute has the disposal was duly laid before my Committee at its last Monthly Meeting.

The Manufactures enumerated in the enclosure to your letter have been reproduced in the Chamber's Monthly Report, copy of which I enclose herewith, and I shall be glad to transmit to you any enquiries which the Chamber may receive.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS.
Secretary.

Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C.,
Hongkong.

CLAIM FOR LOSS IN CONNECTION WITH A BREACH
OF TIME CHARTER—S.S. "CHOFU MARU."

Hongkong, 11th August, 1919.

CURRENT RATE OF FREIGHT.

Dear Sir,—We beg to inform you that we are claiming the loss which incur with us in connection with the breach of the time charter of S.S. "Chofu Maru" to the charterer at Bangkok and have to prove the actual loss of the following voyages. We shall be greatly obliged if you will kindly certify that the under mentioned rates of freight were the rates ruling at the time of the fixture:—

Date of Fixture	Voyage	Cargo.	Rate of Freight
22nd April, 1919.	Hongkong/Bangkok.	General cargo	\$6.00 per ton.
	Bangkok/Hongkong.	Rice	45 per picul (outside bar)
			55 per picul (inside bar)
11th May, 1919	Wuhu/Canton.	"	55 per picul
30th "	Hongay/Hongkong.	Coal	4.75 per ton.
4th June, 1919	"	"	4.50 "
13th "	"	"	3.50 "
27th "	"	"	3.50 "
9th July, "	Hongkong/Bangkok.	General cargo.	6.00 "
10th "	Saigon/Kobe.	Rice	1.00 per picul

We are etc.,

per pro. Mitsui Bussan Kaisha Ltd.
T. SUMII,
Sub-Manager.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 19th August, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have circularised your letter of the 11th instant among the members of my General Committee, who direct me to reply that, it is not considered that the matter referred to comes rightly within the province of this Chamber.

My Committee could only express an opinion based upon information obtained from ship-brokers, and it is considered that you can equally well obtain such information direct from either Messrs. Ray, Grimble or Edgecumbe.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Ltd.,
Hongkong.

Hongkong, 21st August, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Acknowledging the receipt of your letter dated the 19th inst., we beg to state that we are able to obtain the certificate referred to in our letter of the 11th inst. direct from the brokers as you have suggested but a certificate issued by or through such an organisation as yours carries more weight than the one made by the brokers and we shall be greatly obliged if you will kindly see your way to issue us the said certificate, which, we mean, to be obtained from different brokers and given to us by your goodself.

Thanking in anticipation for your kindness.—We are etc.,

per pro. Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Ltd.
T. SUMII,
Sub-Manager.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 22nd August, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—I should be glad if you will supply me with copies of your freight circulars for 22nd April, 11th May, 30th May, 4th June, 13th June, 27th June, 9th July and 10th July, 1919.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. Geo. Grimble & Co.,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 22nd August, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—I should be glad if you will supply me with copies of your freight circulars for 22nd April, 11th May, 30th May, 4th June, 13th June, 27th June, 9th July and 10th July, 1919.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. Ray and Falconer,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 22nd August, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—I should be glad if you will supply me with copies of your freight circulars for 22nd April, 11th May, 30th May, 4th June, 13th June, 27th June, 9th July and 10th July, 1919.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. Snowman & Co.,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 27th August, 1919.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 21st instant, I now take pleasure in enclosing Freight Circulars supplied to me by Messrs. Geo. Grimble & Co. and Messrs. Ray and Falconer, which cover the dates quoted in your letter of the 11th instant.

They do not appear to contain quotations for General Cargo and Rice, and I understand that the Freight Rate for Rice during the months under review have very considerably fluctuated.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Manager,
Messrs. Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Ltd.,
Hongkong.

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CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS.

The European Association of Ceylon,
Colombo, 8th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—As we understand there is no European Association in Hongkong, I am instructed by my Council to send for your information two copies of a Report, recently submitted by the Committee of this Association and adopted by a General Meeting of that Body, on the question of Constitutional Reforms.

The greater part of the Report is of course only of interest to this Colony, although perhaps its perusal will be of interest to you. Our main intention, however, in addressing you is to direct your attention to the remarks on Page 1 Para 2, Page 8 Para 12, Page 12 Para 16, with reference to the Colonial Office.

It is the opinion of my Council that it is more than likely that the other Crown Colonies share our views, and in case that may be so with your Community, I have to intimate that our President, the Hon'ble Mr. W. H. Figg is travelling to Hongkong by the s.s. "Dunera," on his way to Europe, and hopes to arrive between April 12th and 17th, and should you care to discuss that portion of the Report with him, he will be very happy to do so.

A letter addressed care of the Chartered Bank, Hongkong, will reach him on arrival.—I am, etc.,

A. DUNCUM,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON.

Constitutional Reforms in Ceylon.

THE REPORT of the Committee appointed by the Council of the European Association on the 15th of October, 1918, to collect information and to formulate a scheme for submission to the Council

1. The Proceedings of the Committee.—In accordance with suggestions made at the Meeting of the Council which appointed the Committee, we originally contemplated the ascertainment of the opinions of Europeans in general, and possibly of leading members of other communities, by personal interviews. We soon realized, however, from the amount of time required for our own deliberations, that such a course would greatly delay the completion of this report and thereby diminish its usefulness in the present circumstances. We considered it preferable, therefore, to content ourselves with the information afforded by published reports of speeches, newspaper articles, memorials and conversations which individual members had chanced to have with persons interested in the subject of reform. The views expressed in this report are accordingly those of the Committee alone. They may, however, be taken as representative of several different lines of thought, not only because our conclusions are the result of long argument and interchange of ideas, but also because individual members held, at the outset, considerably divergent opinions and the concurrence of all was not obtained without a careful examination of different points of view. A bare statement of our proposals would be of comparatively little value without an explanation of the reasoning which led us to adopt them; we have, therefore, indicated the chief difficulties which we encountered in deciding the principles to be followed and have also outlined the present constitution of the Government of the Colony, although by so doing we may have touched upon matters of common knowledge. We have directed our attention chiefly to the devising of a constructive scheme, in order to provide a basis for any action which the Association may at any time consider necessary. No complete review of the situation, however, can ignore the proposals put forward by others and notably those contained in a memorial dated the 15th December, 1917, sent by the Ceylon Reform League and the Ceylon National Association to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. We have subjected these proposals to a careful scrutiny unaffected by the extravagance of language or argument with which they are from time to time supported.

2. The present system of Government.—Colonial affairs have always been under the supervision of the Sovereign, who still retains, in most cases, the power of legislating directly by Orders in Council. Since 1854 they have been in the sole charge of a principal Secretary of State, who, in accordance with constitutional practice, relinquishes his office on the resignation of the Government of which he forms a part. To the Colonial Office are assigned one parliamentary under-Secretary, one permanent under-Secretary, three assistant under-Secretaries, a chief clerk, a legal adviser and a clerical staff. This Office has to supervise the

affairs of all the Colonies. It is divided into three departments:—The Dominions Department, the Crown Colonies Department and the General Department, which deals with the legal and general routine business of the office, with all personal questions arising in the Crown Colonies, and with such matters common to all as currency, banking, the post and telegraph services, education, medical and sanitary questions, pensions, patronage, etc. Each department is under the immediate control of an assistant under-Secretary. The Crown Colonies Department, entrusted with all the administrative and political business of the Crown Colonies and Protectorates, divides its work according to groups of Colonies, of which there are several, Ceylon, Mauritius, Seychelles, Hongkong, Weihaiwei, Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States and the Protected States of Sarawak and North Borneo forming one group, in the immediate charge of one principal clerk, one first class clerk and two second class clerks. It will be seen therefore that, so far as concerns the permanent officials, who alone can have a detailed and continuous knowledge in matters administrative and political, the group of which this Colony forms a part has a fractional share of the attention of an assistant under-Secretary and the whole attention of four clerks. There is no provision for the presence of any person who has a direct personal knowledge of the Island or any other Colony. The authority of the Crown, exercised through the Secretary of State is (subject to the right of Parliament to legislate) absolute. A large part of the control of all the Colony's affairs is in fact kept in the hands of the Secretary of State. The Governor is strictly bound by the directions formulated in the letters patent of his appointment and the instructions issued to him. In the administration of local affairs the Governor is assisted by an Executive Council, composed of five *ex officio* members and such other persons as he may appoint on instructions from the Crown.¹ He alone is entitled to submit questions to the Executive Council. He is not bound to follow its advice, although when he acts in opposition to the Council he must state his reasons for so doing.

The Legislative Council, as now constituted, consists of the Governor, who presides, seven *ex officio* members, four official members nominated by the Crown, six unofficial members nominated by the Governor² and four elected unofficial members.³ There is therefore a permanent official majority. The Governor has no power to make laws except with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council. The Crown may veto any ordinance passed by the Legislative Council, and ordinances affecting certain matters may not take effect until the assent of His Majesty is signified. Such matters include the increase or diminution in the number, salary or allowances of public officers; the currency or issue of bank notes; and the imposition of differential duties. Only

¹ The members so appointed are at the present time the Government Agents of the Western and Southern Provinces.

² One Mohamedan, two Tamils, one Kandyan Sinhalese and two Low-Country Sinhalese.

³ One European urban member, one European rural member, one Burgher member and one Ceylonese member.

the Governor may propose or permit the proposal of any ordinance, vote, resolution or question, the object or effect of which may be to dispose of or charge any of the revenue.

It will be seen that any similarities between the respective functions of the Governor, the Executive Council and the Legislative Council and those of the King, the Cabinet and Parliament, are superficial. There is no real analogy between the Ceylon constitution and that of Great Britain. The Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council can only advise: being in a minority they have no power in competition with the Officials, whose vote is at the command of His Excellency. The Executive Council is not responsible to the Legislative Body nor can it resign. The Governor is not bound to follow the advice of the Executive Council, nor is he (if his position be regarded as analogous to that of the Prime Minister) responsible to the Legislative Council. He is responsible immediately to the Secretary of State who in turn is responsible to Parliament, which is controlled by the British electors. Ultimately therefore the administrative Government in Ceylon is controlled by the British electorate and not by the inhabitants of the Colony.

The method of conducting the affairs of the Colony, as above described, is the typical and usual form of Crown Colony Government. In some of the older Colonies, the Bahamas, Barbados and Bermuda there still exist legislatures composed of two houses, the lower of which consist wholly of elected members. This form of Government, resembling more closely the British Constitution, appears to have been set up originally in several other Colonies, such as Jamaica, British Honduras, Grenada, and St. Vincent, in all of which it was apparently so unsatisfactory that the local legislatures abolished themselves and requested the Crown to frame new constitutions on such lines as should seem to it most desirable. As indicative of the position of Ceylon in comparison with other Crown Colonies, it may be noted that, with the exception of the large African Colonies, Nigeria, Uganda, Nyasaland Protectorate, and the East Africa Protectorate, no other Colony has a population amounting to one million as against a population of over four millions in Ceylon.

3. Is any change desirable?—Europeans will naturally ask themselves, in the first place, whether they, as a Community, admit the necessity for any alteration of the Constitution. There can be no doubt that we have, from time to time, reason to be dissatisfied with the administration of the Colony and the causes of dissatisfaction may be classified under three main headings:—

- (a) Official mismanagement of Government enterprises.
- (b) Official apathy to the needs of the public.
- (c) Official indifference to the point of view of the public and neglect to enquire how new proposals will be received.

Many of the subjects of complaint arise from the attitude of this or that Official. In so far as the system may be to blame, the defects noted above probably have their origin in the lack of responsibility to the public on the part of permanent officials who cannot be controlled by any adverse vote or censure, and are ordinarily supported in their acts by the Colonial Office, which has no first-hand knowledge of the Island.

Now an increase in the responsibility of the Government and its servants means an increase in their responsibility to the public at large. We must recognize it as an axiom that whatever enhancement in the power of the public may be effected, it will involve a diminution rather than an increase in the power of Europeans. Bearing this fact in mind, and regarding the matter for the moment entirely from the point of view of our own interests, can we say that a change of the Constitution, directed towards an increase in the control of the Government by the people, is likely to benefit us? To the question in this simple form many will return a negative answer. There is however a wider point of view. We have encouraged the education of the Ceylonese on Western lines. Year by year numbers of the young men go to England and acquire Western habits of thought and political ideas. On their return to the Island they find few openings for their activities outside the professions of Law and Medicine which are already crowded. It is inevitable that some should turn to Politics and should realize the defects in the administration which are patent to us. That realization has led to a desire to have a share in the Government of the Island and the desire, once conceived, has spread to a considerable portion of the thinking classes, has been encouraged by the Government, and has drawn a stimulus from the wave of democratic feeling which has passed over the world during the War. The desire to take part in the administration of the affairs of their own country is a natural one and, even should the admission of Ceylonese to a substantial share in the Government lead to some diminution in the efficiency of the administration, yet, if such admission will make them more contented without substantially prejudicing the prosperity of the Island, we should be prepared to support their demands to whatever extent may be safe and reasonable. There is moreover an important factor which must not be overlooked. On August 20th, 1917, the Secretary of State for India announced that it was the policy of His Majesty's Government to promote the increasing association of Indians in every branch of the administration and the gradual development of self-governing institutions, with a view to the progressive realization of responsible Government in India as an integral part of the British Empire. In pursuance of this policy Mr. Montagu visited India and, after enquiry, he with the Viceroy issued a report, recommending immediate reforms on a large scale, which, if adopted, will provide for the representation of the natives to an extent far in advance of the system prevailing in Ceylon. No such announcement has been made with regard to Ceylon and it may well be doubted whether an identical policy is possible in the case of a small Colony, but events in India are closely followed by the Ceylonese and have given an immense impetus to their aspirations. The importance attached to the proposed reforms on the neighbouring continent is well illustrated by the fact that Dr. Fernando, First Low Country Sinhalese Member (if correctly reported) speaking in the Legislative Council on December 11th, put the words of the Secretary of State for India into the mouth of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The policy of the British Government with regard to India may be right or it may be wrong: it may meet with our approval or our disapproval: but it has been made and it will be put into effect, and its

inevitable result is to cause a persistent demand in Ceylon for progress of a like nature, a demand with which it is difficult not to sympathize.

4. The attitude of Europeans.—The question then arises, what is to be the attitude of the Europeans with regard to the proposals for reform which are now being considered by the Governor? Although some of us may be of opinion that European interests alone do not demand any drastic alteration of the existing Constitution, yet we think that the matter should be regarded from a broader point of view, with due recognition of the legitimate aspirations of the people of the Island to a larger share in its Government. We should accordingly accept the general principle that change is necessary, endeavour to formulate our own scheme, and admit our willingness to support the Ceylonese to such extent as we are able, while at the same time opposing any extravagant demands.

5. The Memorial of the Ceylon Reform League and the Ceylon National Association.—Before proceeding to the discussion of our own suggestions, it may be well to indicate shortly the demands put forward in the Memorial of December 15th, 1917, which do not materially differ from the claims made by various speakers at the recent Reform Conference in Colombo.

The scheme formulated deserves serious consideration even when it is supported by fictions such as the statement that the "historical records testify that under her own native kings for two thousand years the Island enjoyed a popular Constitution resting on a representative basis." The following are the chief features of the scheme—

(a) THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

12 Official Members.

21 Elected Members distributed as follows:—

Western Province (excluding Colombo) ...	3
Colombo	1
Southern Province	2
Central Province	2
Northern Province	3
Eastern Province	1
Uva	1
Sabaragamuwa	1
North Western Province	2
North Central Province	1
To represent racial minorities:—	
Europeans	2
Burghers	1
Mohammedans	1

The Council to have an elected President instead of the Governor.

(b) THE ELECTORATE to consist of:—

Colombo, all races.

The Provinces, all except Burghers, Mohammedans and Europeans (*i. e.* in effect only Sinhalese and Tamil.)

(c) THE FRANCHISE. Qualification to be literacy in English, Sinhalese or Tamil, with a small property qualification, varying according to the conditions of each province.

The Memorialists do not further particularize the franchise, but a Memorandum by the Ceylon Reform League and the Ceylon National Association, dated the 29th October, 1917, gives the following details of qualifications for electors:—

- I. Male British Subject of not less than 21 years.
- II. Able to read and write English, Sinhalese or Tamil.
- III. Resident for not less than one year in the electoral area.
- IV. (a) Annual income or salary of not less than Rs. 600.
or (b) Occupation, either as proprietor or tenant, of a house in the electoral area of the annual value or rent of Rs. 200 (if in a rural area) or Rs. 400 (if in an urban area).
or (c) Ownership of landed property in the electoral area in his own or his wife's right of the value of Rs. 1,000.
- V. The owner of landed property of the value of not less than Rs. 6,000 to have a vote in the electoral area in which such property is situated though he may not be resident therein.

(d) THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

- 2 Officials, exclusive of the Governor.
- 2 Unofficials, to be elected by the members of the Legislative Council.

As the various questions raised by these suggestions are discussed at length below we need not pause to examine the proposals here, but we may state that the Memorialists make no attempt to explain how the difficulties to which their scheme gives rise may be overcome.

6. The Main Problems.—The elaboration of details for any scheme, such as the one just described, is a comparatively easy matter when once the principles to be followed have been made clear. It is in the correct appreciation and definition of principles that difficulties arise and it is to them that we devoted most of our Labours. The chief questions are:—

- (a) Whether unofficial members of the Legislative Council should be nominated or elected.
- (b) Whether there can be an unofficial majority in the Legislative Council.
- (c) The constitution of the electorates.
- (d) The nature of the franchise.
- (e) Whether there can be elected members on the Executive Council.
- (f) Whether any improvement in the constitution of the Colonial Office is possible.

We propose to deal with each of these topics in turn.

7. Election or Nomination.—It is easy to advance arguments in favour of either system. In a country in which a large proportion of the population is without any political experience and perhaps incapable of making the best use of a vote, nomination provides for the elimination of the merely self-interested professional politician and enables the Governor to select councillors who may be expected to support the claims of agriculture and commerce and other interests which will otherwise have no direct mouthpiece. Nomination is the practice in most Crown Colonies and all unofficial members were nominated in Ceylon prior to 1910, when provision was made for the election of a Ceylonese, a Burgher and two European members, with the result that there is not in the Council to-day a single member with special commercial knowledge. The Ceylonese however assert that the nomination of members has from time to time been abused by the Government and that men have been selected with a view to their subservience to official wishes, or as a reward for past services, and without reference to their capacity to represent the people on whose behalf they are supposed to advise. There may be truth in this assertion. Whether that is so or not, it is beyond question that the Sinhalese and Tamils, at all events, are strenuously opposed to nomination and regard its continuation as one of their most serious grievances. Whatever doubts may be entertained concerning the capacity of the population as a whole to exercise the vote intelligently (and we do not believe that there is any sort of general demand for the franchise) a considerable number of educated Ceylonese are quite capable of deciding by whom they wish to be represented. We consider that, if only for the purpose of removing the grievance which is now felt and to avoid the offence which is continually given, when new nominations are announced, the principle of election should be conceded in all cases, unless a particular community prefers nomination.

8. The Official Majority in the Legislative Council.—We devoted much time to a consideration of this subject and were to some extent divided at first in opinion. It is beyond question that the automatic out-voting of the unofficials by official members who often take no part in the discussion, and may not even approve of the policy which they are required to support, is open to objection. The unofficial members may express their views, but the free expression of opinions must be continually hampered by the feeling that, in the end, the automatic vote of the officials renders argument of little avail. The Urban European member strongly expressed to the Committee his own objection to the system. When however the suggestion that there should be an unofficial majority is examined carefully it appears to be an impossibility—at all events in a form of government such as ours now is. The objection may be explained in a few words. In Parliamentary government, such as that obtaining in England, the administration which is responsible for the actual governing of the country, is always supported by a majority in the popular chamber. Legislation which it requires it can obtain and no legislation to which it objects can be passed. When it ceases to have the necessary majority, it must resign. In Ceylon the administration consists of a fixed body of officials who cannot be allowed to resign. They must therefore have control of the legislative machine for the

purpose of enforcing their decisions. Now if the elected unofficial members have a majority in the legislative body, they may at any time refuse to provide the legislation and funds which the Government requires, or may themselves pass ordinances which the Government cannot or will not enforce. The whole machine of Government is in danger of finding itself reduced to impotence. The experiment of an unofficial majority was tried in Malta, with the result that the legislature refused to vote supplies and a dead-lock resulted to remove which the British Government was forced to intervene by reinstating the official majority—a fact which has caused continuous illfeeling and friction.

The memorial to which we have referred furnishes no evidence of reasoned thought concerning the constitutional results of such a government nor any suggestion as to the manner in which it can be conducted. The chief argument in its favour appears to be one drawn from analogy with the Provincial governments in India. The apparent resemblance between the position of the Ceylon legislature and that of the Indian Provincial governments is however superficial and the analogy is a false one. The Provincial governments are subordinate bodies, under the control of the Government of India, the chief officer of which, the Viceroy, is responsible to the Secretary of State, who in turn is responsible to Parliament. While it is possible to grant to subordinate legislatures a great measure of freedom, subject to safeguards which provide for the passing of essential legislation notwithstanding the opposition of the legislative chambers, it is constitutionally impossible for the supreme government of a country to be carried on if the executive cannot compel the enactment of legislation which it considers necessary. This fact is clearly recognized in the Montagu-Chelmsford report as the reason which made it impossible to grant an unofficial majority in the supreme Indian Legislative Council, without the establishment of a second chamber (which the report recommends) in which the Governor General shall have a majority at his command.

Commenting on a similar proposal by the Indian National Congress the report says (par. 167): "We find then in these proposals no connecting rod between the executive and legislative wheels of the machine which will ensure that they will work in unison.....We must anticipate divergence and the only question is whether that divergence will be fatal to good Government.....Legislation is a necessary attribute of Government, because it is the means by which Government secures fresh powers, when it feels the need of them, for attaining its ends. But in the hands of the assembly it may become a weapon to paralyse the Government.....This is a position into which no parliamentary government ever allows itself to be forced; and it would be an impossible position for a nominated Government of India.....Wherever, as in Canada or Malta, attempts have been made to set up an irremovable executive and a popular assembly, acute conflict has ensued and has resulted in either an advance to popular government or a return to autocracy. Parliamentary Government avoids dead-locks by making the executive responsible to the legislature. Presidential government limits dead-locks because all the organs of the State must ultimately submit to a superior tribunal, the electorate of the nation. But a legislature elected by the people, coupled with a Governor appointed by a distant power, is

a contrivance for fomenting dissensions and making them perpetual..... We can see no prospect whatever ahead, along the road which we are invited by the Congress-League to take but embittered and dangerous dead-lock; to be resolved, when it arose, only by a plunge forward into parliamentary government at once, or by reversion to autocratic methods." Again the report says (par. 170): "If we compel the executive to carry out instructions from the legislature we bring the government to an end by destroying its right of action. No government can consent to remain in office and to put into effect orders of which it disapproves.....If it is to be held responsible for Government it must govern; and if it is not to govern it must give way to those who can."

Now the Ceylonese reformers appear to have lost sight of the fact that the Ceylon Government is in the position not of a subordinate body but of the supreme government, with a permanent nominated executive responsible to the Secretary of State, who in turn is responsible to Parliament. Any analogy which can exist between Ceylon and India must be an analogy between the Ceylon Government and the Government of India, not the Provincial Governments. How is the executive government of the Colony to be carried on, if the legislation and votes of supply, which are considered essential, may be refused by the elected legislative council or if that council enacts measures which the executive considers it impossible to enforce? The Government cannot resign. There is no intermediate body to which it can appeal. The Secretary of State, Parliament, or His Majesty in Council cannot, in practice, be expected to have the necessary knowledge of detail to enable one of them to intervene, and even if any of them could, such a procedure would necessarily be inadvisable. To these questions the memorialists offer no reply: of them they do not even make mention; and if, with all the liberal and progressive purpose which Mr. Montagu brought to bear upon the subject in India, he could find no reasonable solution, we may safely assume that none is forthcoming.

It is of course the Government both here and in England that will point out constitutional objections such as these, but it would be futile for the Europeans to approve a scheme which from its very nature is impossible of fulfilment.

We have carefully considered whether, by any satisfactory means, the necessary power of the executive can be maintained while allowing an unofficial majority in the Legislative Council. The first expedient suggested was the creation of an upper house by which the acts of the lower chamber would be revised. In the upper house the government would have control. The ultimate effect of such a constitution is of course to vest the final authority again in the government, but the system has the advantage of giving freedom to the popular assembly not merely in discussion but in the actual recording of its opinion, a matter of considerable importance. Under the present system the council can never reject a measure which the executive has decided to pass. In a two chamber government the lower chamber could actually throw out a bill, a proceeding which would necessarily have an influence on the policy of the executive even if the bill could be re-introduced and ultimately carried. For the creation of such an upper house, however, it is necessary to find a sufficient number of men of not only outstanding position and

mature views but also of political or administrative experience. We do not think it would be possible to find such men in a small Colony like this at the present time, and that our opinion is endorsed by a section of the Press associated with the Reform League is evidenced by the following quotation: "Ceylon is much too young to have definite, permanent, established and accepted leaders. Many take up the *role* and are gaily confirmed in it—for a season. They play their part and are forgotten, leaving no permanent impression or lasting mark."

It was suggested, as an alternative, that some system should be devised by which the Governor could have the power of certifying beforehand that a bill was an essential measure, in which case it would be passed into law even if the majority voted against it. The Committee however is of the opinion that great difficulty would be experienced in defining the nature of the measures which the Governor might so certify and that if, as is probable, a large number of bills were in practice certified, the helplessness of the unofficials would appear greater than it is even now and continual exasperation would result. We are therefore of opinion that an unofficial majority in the Legislative Council, without a second chamber or other safeguards, is constitutionally impossible and we do not believe that a second chamber can at the present time be constituted so as to be both efficient and valuable, or that satisfactory safeguards can be devised.

While fully realizing the disadvantages of the official majority we are unable to recommend that it should be abolished.

9. The Constitution of the Electorates.—Two main questions arise in connection with this subject, namely, whether the representation is to proceed upon a racial or a territorial basis and, if the latter, whether provision is to be made for the special representation of racial or other minorities. We think that so far as is practicable true progress lies in the direction of eliminating racial distinctions in public matters and that the territorial basis should be adopted. In view of the fact however that the several races have still very distinct interests and feelings, provision must be made for the special representation of those communities, the European, the Burgher and the Mohammedan, which being in a minority are not likely to have any representative returned for the territorial divisions. It will be remembered that the memorial above-mentioned, after approving of the territorial system, excludes Europeans, Burghers and Mohammedans from the provincial electorates on the ground that they are to have a separate representation. The committee most strongly opposes the acceptance of this suggestion which on examination appears to result in pure racial representation. The franchise in such a scheme is confined to the Sinhalese and Tamils and, as the two races are grouped in well defined areas, Tamils will ordinarily be returned for two provinces and Sinhalese for all the others; that is to say that, out of the twenty-one elected members, at least twelve are to be Sinhalese elected only by the Sinhalese without the possibility of any influence or interference by other races. When, in addition to this, it is remembered that the memorialists ask for two unofficials on the Executive Council, to be elected by the Legislative Councillors, and therefore in all probability also Sinhalese, it is difficult to avoid the suspicion that the scheme outlined in the memorial may be a definite attempt to acquire the practical administra-

tion of the country by one section of its inhabitants. We are supported in this view, by the Mohammedan member who said in the Legislative Council, on December 11th, during the debate on the reform proposals: "Let there be no doubt, Sir, that we are in favour of a large increase in the number of representatives, provided the territorial representative basis is election and not dependent on nomination and provided also that the electorates are not confined to the Sinhalese and Tamil constituents only, but embrace Europeans, Burghers, Mohammedans and others of every electoral area. If this is not done, the principle of territorial representation would reduce the form to an absurdity and would result in the unjust preponderance of voting power in the hands of the Sinhalese and Tamil communities." We regard it as essential to real territorial representation that all persons within any electoral area should have the right of voting, nor do we consider that the separate additional representation of minorities should in any way affect this fundamental requirement.

10. The Nature of the Franchise.—The extent of the franchise is from the point of view of the various religions, a matter of peculiar importance in Ceylon, where so many of the educated classes are Christians while the majority of the peasantry are Buddhists or might result in the return chiefly of Christians while a wide franchise would probably secure a council composed of Buddhists and Hindus. We have not, however, considered the matter from the point of view of religious interests but merely from that of the general capacity of electors to exercise a wise choice and escape the influence of possible corruption. On the one hand it may be argued that the peasantry is not yet capable did not include a military adviser, a legal adviser, a financial adviser and a general administrative and revenue adviser. We think that there should be two unofficial members of the Executive Council, but consider that the proposal to vest the choice of them in the Legislative Councillors Hindus. A narrow franchise, practically confined to educated persons, of appreciating the value of a vote and may be subjected to improper influences. On the other hand the view may be entertained that the average villager is by no means without common sense where his own interests are concerned and will soon learn the importance of a secret ballot, while from the point of view of possible corruption there may be safety in large numbers. As a compromise between these two views we suggest that the proposals of the Reform League in this respect should be adopted with such modifications as will be mentioned below, when we discuss our scheme in detail.

11. The Executive Council.—We agree with the memorialists that the present Executive Council is too large and that the presence of Government Agents of Provinces, whose official administrative acts may at any time become the subject of comment or investigation by the Council of which they are themselves members, is undesirable. We cannot however approve of the reduction of the official members to two. It seems to us that there would be no practical value in a Council which is based on a failure to appreciate the constitutional difficulties involved. The suggestion was made in India and is discussed in the Montagu-Chelmsford report which exposes its impracticability. Whether or not the members of the Executive are officials or unofficials, Europeans or

Ceylonese, they must stand together as one government and take collective responsibility. If some of them are responsible to an independent electorate, how are they to act in a conflict of views between the permanent government and that electorate? Personally they might no doubt resign; but that course would offer no solution when their successors would be chosen by the same body and, presumably, be expected to voice the same views. Ultimately, therefore either the Legislative Councillors are to govern the country against the will of the Governor, who nevertheless is responsible to the Secretary of State, or else the Governor is to be in the position of having to rule in conjunction with Executive Councillors whose wishes he may be continually forced to over-ride. Dealing with the suggestion of elected Executive Councillors the Montagu-Chelmsford report says (par. 161); "Election would deprive the Governor of all discretion in making recommendations as to his colleagues. . . . When ability in administration ought, generally speaking, to be the test, nomination by those who are in the best position to judge must be far more satisfactory. . . . Further, the scheme involves the association of individuals in the government who, while sharing in the same degree the same responsibilities, yet derive their authority from different sources, being responsible to the Secretary of State in the one case and the Legislative Council in the other; and hence, in the event of a divergence of view, there is no way of securing the unity of action required." We therefore advise that the unofficial members of the Executive Council should be nominated by the Governor.

12. The Colonial Office.—As stated before, the constitution of this Office does not make any provision for the association with the officials in England, of any one having a personal knowledge of the Colony and we believe that in practice no such person is consulted. It appears on the face of it impossible for the affairs of any country to be controlled satisfactorily by men living six thousand miles away who have never seen either the country or the people whom they control. We are of opinion that the blunders which are made from time to time, in important matters, might be avoided, if there were associated with the Secretary of State persons having long personal acquaintance with the Colony. The Secretary of State for India has a council of which nine members must have had long and recent service or residence in British India. We are further strongly of opinion that it is necessary to press for a reform of the system under which Colonial affairs are handled in London and in particular that the affairs of this Colony should be directed by a Council, presided over by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, composed of officials and unofficials with experience of Ceylon. We are not at present in possession of sufficient information to enable us to make detailed proposals. They may be framed at a later date, after consultation with persons more intimately acquainted with the affairs of the Colonial Office. We would however suggest that subordinate officials in London should be drawn from the various Colonies and that such senior officers as may be recalled from Ceylon for service in England should, after five years' service there, retire on full colonial pension and so make way for new men. In this manner the Secretary of State would be supplied with a staff of officers having an intimate knowledge of the Colony's affairs and needs.

13. Summary of General Principles.—Having explained the chief problems which presented themselves for solution and the manner in which we approached them, we think that, before setting out the particulars of our proposals, we should summarize briefly the conclusions at which we have arrived, for unless those conclusions are accepted, the scheme detailed below must necessarily fail to meet with approval. The general lines of policy on which we are agreed and which we put forward for acceptance by the Council may be stated in the following propositions:—

- (a) Some reform of our Constitution directed towards an increase of popular control is desirable.
- (b) Europeans should be prepared to support such demands as are reasonable and should be ready with proposals of their own.
- (c) The Colonial Office should be brought more closely into touch with the Colony which it controls.
- (d) There should be unofficial members of the Executive Council, the official members of which should be reduced in number but not to the extent suggested by the Ceylon Reform League.
- (e) The unofficial members of the Executive Council must be nominated and not elected.
- (f) The unofficial members of the Legislative Council should be elected, except those required to represent particular interests.
- (g) The official majority in the Legislative Council must be maintained.
- (h) The distribution of seats should be based on full territorial representation.
- (i) Special provision must be made for the representation of small communities and important interests.
- (j) The franchise should be wide enough to include all those who can reasonably be expected to appreciate the value of a vote and the responsibility involved in exercising it.

14. Suggested reforms.—

(a) THE COLONIAL OFFICE

We have already indicated the lines on which we think an improvement in the efficiency of this office should be effected.

(b) THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

This should consist of the following members:

- His Excellency the Governor.
The Officer Commanding the Troops.
The Colonial Secretary.
The Attorney General.
The Treasurer.

Two unofficial members nominated by the Governor of whom one should be a European and the other a Ceylonese.

(c) THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The size of the Council is necessarily dependent upon the number of officials who can be spared from their duties to attend its meetings.

As it is improbable that government will be able to spare twenty-two officials, the number of unofficials suggested by the Reform League must be reduced. We can see no necessity for the election of several members to represent the views of any one area. We suggest that there should be one member for each of the following provinces, namely the Western Province, the Central Province, the Northern Province, the Southern Province and the Eastern Province, while the North-Central and North-Western Provinces should together return one member, and Uva and Sabaragamuwa another. The following table shows the population, at the last census, of each of these electoral areas and the race which is in numerical preponderance:—

ELECTORAL AREAS.	TOTAL. POPULATION.	PREDOMINATING RACE.
Western Province ...	1,106,321 ...	Low Country Sinhalese.
Central Province ...	672,258 ...	Kandyan Sinhalese.
Northern Province ...	369,651 ...	Tamil.
Southern Province ...	628,817 ...	Low Country Sinhalese.
Eastern Province ...	183,698 ...	Tamil.
North-Central Province	520,392 ...	Kandyan Sinhalese.
North-Western Province		
Uva	625,213 ...	Kandyan Sinhalese.
Sabaragamuwa		

This division of the country gives a fairly even distribution of seats. The Northern and Eastern Provinces have sufficiently distinct interests to warrant separate representation in spite of their smaller populations and the under representation of the Western Province will be corrected by providing a separate member for Colombo. If, as is highly probable, the predominating race in each electoral area secures the return of one of its own members, there will be two Tamil members, three Kandyan Sinhalese and two Low Country Sinhalese, but all races will be included in the electorates. There is no means of foretelling to what race the Colombo member will belong. As it is highly improbable that a European, or Burgher or Mohammedan will be returned for any of the provincial seats, we recommend that each of these communities should have one member, to be returned by its own electorate for the whole Island, or nominated if any community so desires. There still remain the special claims of commerce and agriculture. We regard it as a serious defect in the present constitution of the Council, and one fraught with real danger to the prosperity of the Island, that there should be no commercial member and that agriculture should be dependent upon the return of a planter for the rural European seat. Interests of this nature should be represented by members selected by bodies which have acknowledged authority. We recommend therefore that there should be three extra members to be nominated respectively by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, the Ceylon Planters' Association, and the Low-Country Products Association. A Council so constituted will provide a substantial beginning for territorial representation thereby leading to a diminution of racial distinctions which may in the distant future permit of the total disregard of race and the mutual acceptance of each other by all classes of persons as citizens with the same political needs, in the meanwhile and until that ideal is

realized it will satisfactorily safeguard the special views of the various races, each of which has at the present time strongly differentiated interests and prejudices to ignore which would be mere folly. The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the Planters' Association will be certain to return Europeans. It need not for a moment be pretended that there is any probability of their taking any other course. So long as the Europeans have invested in Ceylon agriculture and commerce the vast capital which they control at the present day, they are clearly entitled to representation in excess of their proportion as gauged by mere population. The reduction of the European members in 1910, without any reference to the Community, has always been regarded as a serious grievance and one which appears to have had no more valid cause than a weak attempt to give an appearance of system to a reform which had in reality no logical system whatever. The scheme which we suggest is logical in this respect, for while we make no secret of the fact that three Europeans will be elected in all, yet the Planting member and the Commercial member will not be elected as Europeans but as men specially qualified to protect planting and commercial interests. Should the Europeans, at any future time, fail to maintain the lead which they now have in these spheres of activity then the Chamber of Commerce and the Planters' Association will probably nominate Ceylonese. Nor is either of these bodies even now exclusively European. Each of them has some Ceylonese members who will be entitled to take part in the selection of the member to be nominated. We have so far made provision for the protection of communities and interests which obviously require special representation. It is impossible to foresee whether there may not, at some time, arise some community or separate body which is without a voice in the Council yet is of sufficient importance to have a member to speak for it. We think it advisable to make provision for such an eventuality and accordingly recommend that two seats should be placed at the disposal of the Governor, to be filled by him, should occasion arise, with the sanction of the Secretary of State.

The Legislative Council which we propose will then be composed of the following members:—

Elected by the provincial areas	7
Colombo Municipal area	1
Europeans	1
Burghers	1
Mohammedans	1
Nominated by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce ...	1
Ceylon Planters' Association	1
Low Country Products Association	1
Governor with the sanction of the Secretary of State if occasion arises	2
Total of Unofficial Members	16
Officials	17
Total of the whole Council	33

If the Governor has not exercised his power of nomination to either of the extra seats, the numbers will be, Unofficials 14, Officials 15—total 29.

The question then arises whether the Governor should preside at the meetings of the Council. In favour of a continuation of the present system, it may be argued that, although His Excellency represents His Majesty the King, his position as the chief executive officer of the administration in Ceylon, ultimately responsible for the Government of the Island, is analogous rather to that of the English Prime Minister and therefore demands his presence in the Legislative Council. On the other hand it has been contended that it is more in accordance with the dignity of his office that the Governor should be above and apart from the necessity of keeping order in debate and further that his presence may tend towards a restriction of the freedom of discussion. After a consideration of both these views, we recommend that His Excellency should not preside, but that the President should be an official member nominated by him.

Before leaving the subject of the Legislative Council we wish to refer to a matter which at the present time is a frequent source of public irritation, namely the sudden launching of Government measures, without any previous warning, and in many cases without any attempt to sound public opinion on the principles of the proposed enactments. We believe that the Government frequently courts opposition by its failure to take the unofficial members into its confidence, when previous discussion and explanation of its views would avoid the indignation which a surprised public sometimes exhibits. We think that this mistaken procedure could be prevented by the appointment of standing committees of the Legislative Council, of an advisory nature, to assist the executive on questions relating to various important branches of the administration, and that bills should be discussed in such committees before being submitted to the Council.

(d) THE FRANCHISE.

As stated before we think that the qualifications for electors suggested by the Reform League are, with slight modifications, acceptable. We suggest that the ownership qualification should be Rs. 5,000.00 instead of Rs. 1,000.00, which latter sum bears no logical relation either to the income qualification of Rs. 600.00 per annum or to the occupation qualification of Rs. 200.00 annual value in the country or Rs. 400.00 in a town. We also think that the plural voting provided for in qualification V. of the Reform League's memorandum should be greatly restricted. While there is good reason in allowing a person who has substantial proprietary interests, in an area other than that in which he resides, to have an extra vote in respect of that property, we cannot accept an interest to the value of Rs. 6,000.00 as being sufficiently substantial to justify plurality of voting, which is always recognized as a somewhat undemocratic institution. With a qualification of only Rs. 6,000.000, a moderately wealthy resident of Colombo might obtain a vote in every province and it is not impossible that, with a restricted electorate, the richer classes in Colombo, or in the Western Province, might in effect control the elections throughout the whole Island—a proceeding which would obviously be highly undesirable. We think therefore that the amount should be at the least Rs. 30,000.

We recommend therefore that every elector for a territorial area should be:—

1. A male British subject, not less than 21 years old.
2. Able to read and write English, Sinhalese or Tamil.
3. One who has resided in the electoral area for not less than one year, unless he owns property in the electoral area of the value of not less than Rs. 30,000, in which case he need not have so resided.
4. (a) In receipt of an annual income or salary of not less than Rs. 600.
or (b) In occupation either as proprietor or tenant of a house in the electoral area of the annual value or rent of Rs. 200 in a rural area, or Rs. 400 in an urban area.
or (c) The owner of landed property in the electoral area in his own right or that of his wife of the value of not less than Rs. 5,000.

(e) QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES.

We recommend that a candidate for election for a territorial area should be:—

- (1) A male British subject not less than 25 years old.
- (2) On the list of voters for the territorial area to represent which he is nominated as a candidate, provided that he must have resided in such area for not less than three years, whether or not he owns property therein of the value of Rs. 30,000.
- (3) Able to read, write and speak English.
- (4) Not in the service of the Crown.

Qualifications numbered (1), (3) and (4) are the same as those suggested in the memorandum to which we have referred. For No. (2) the memorandum proposes the following:—

“On the list of voters in any electoral area in the Island.” We strongly deprecate the adoption of such a proposal, which would render it possible for every seat to be occupied by members of some clique, who would have no special knowledge of the provinces which they were supposed to represent. The authors of the memorandum offer no comment or argument in its favour. If it is intended to reproduce the English system, according to which a Parliamentary candidate can be returned by a constituency with which he has no personal connection, it results from a failure to appreciate the different position of the English elector who casts his vote for the representative of a party rather than for a person who is to advocate his local needs. In Ceylon there are at present no parties other than perhaps the officials on the one hand and the unofficial members on the other. The former are sent to the Council without election. The Ceylon elector therefore will have a choice only between candidates of the same party, with rival claims to be specially qualified to represent his views on local requirements. If the members returned have no knowledge of the provinces which they represent, territorial representation is of little value, and is in danger of degenerating into an instrument for furthering the ends of self-seeking demagogues. Those who complain of the present system of nomination and demand a larger council urge as one of their main contentions that a member who resides,

say, in Colombo cannot be expected to know the desires of the inhabitants of distant provinces. The mere fact that a Colombo man has persuaded the voters of some distant province to elect him will not equip him with any greater knowledge of the conditions of life in that province than he would have if nominated by the Governor.

15. Municipal Councils and Local Boards.—We have hitherto made no mention of local government inasmuch as it did not directly affect the general reforms which we have been considering. We think that great importance should be placed upon the political education of the people by entrusting them with a large amount of self-government in local areas. We recommend that, subject to such safeguards as the government may think requisite for protecting its financial interests, Municipal Councils should be wholly elected and should elect their own chairman. A commission was appointed in 1916 to consider the question of local government generally exclusive of the areas dealt with by the Municipal Councils. We support the recommendations made by the commission in its report (see Sessional Paper No. VII of 1917) and consider that steps should be taken to give effect to them.

16. General Remarks.—It did not fall within the scope of the matters submitted to us to make suggestions as to the course which the Council or the Association should take with regard to the expression of views or the part to be played in the political arena of the present day. We would like to suggest, however, that if the reorganization of the Colonial Office which we have recommended is approved, steps should be taken to communicate with other Crown Colonies with a view to obtaining co-operation in pressing our demand for reform. Should other Colonies be willing to join with us, the advisory board which we wish to see constituted might be enlarged into a general council of members from all the Colonies with separate Committees to deal with the affairs of each several Colony.

We wish to make it clear that in framing a scheme which involves the approval of many of the demands of the Ceylon Reform League, we must not be thought to associate ourselves in any way with the extravagant language in which some of the local reformers indulge from time to time. We have not overlooked the fact that proposals, which in themselves seem acceptable, may be supported by persons who are actuated only by motives of self-interest or who obtain satisfaction from any opportunity to gird at the British. We have endeavoured not to allow the realization of that fact to over-cloud our outlook. That the mass of the people are yearning for, or have any understanding of self-government we do not for a moment believe. We are firmly convinced that the prosperity of the Island can be maintained only by a preservation of British rule and by the fostering of the notions of integrity and efficiency, which is connoted by the participation of the British in the affairs of the country, and which constitutes a more vital factor in the capacity of a people to rule either itself or others than mere intellectual progress. Where we have advised reforms which do not specifically affect the interests of our own community, we have done so on the assumption that they are desired by loyal subjects genuinely anxious to further the welfare of the Colony. We believe that there are many such men and that co-operation with them in removing the grievances of which they complain will be for the benefit of all.

(Signed) V. A. JULIUS,—*Chairman*
 „ W. H. FIGG.
 „ J. GRAEME SINCLAIR.
 „ HERBERT BOIS.
 „ J. THOMSON BROOM.
 „ F. A. HAYLEY.
 „ R. HUYSHE-ELIOT.
 „ B. W. LEEFE.
 „ A. J. MARTIN.
 „ E. R. WILLIAMS.
 „ A. DUNCUM,—*Secretary*.

The above Report was duly adopted by the Council of the Association at a meeting held on the 23rd January, 1919.

(Sgd.) V. A. JULIUS,
 Chairman.

(Sgd.) A. DUNCUM,
 Secretary.

Colombo, 23rd January, 1919.

The above Report was duly adopted by the Association at the Annual General Meeting held on the 8th February, 1919, at which the following Resolution was passed:—

“That this Association approves of the principles stated, and the scheme of reform outlined, in the Report of the Council dated 23rd January, 1919, and authorizes the Council to take such steps as it may deem necessary for giving expression to the views of the Association in accordance with that Report, subject to such modification in matters of detail as may at any time seem desirable to the Council, but in so far as this Report deals with the Representation of the Sinhalese and Tamil Communities in the Legislative Council, the question as to whether such Representation should be on a Territorial or Communal basis be left to the decision of the Council after consultation with the leading Members of the other Communities who have more intimate knowledge of, and who are more vitally concerned in this question than the European Community.”

(Sgd.) W. H. FIGG,
 Chairman.

(Sgd.) A. DUNCUM,
 Secretary.

Colombo, 8th February, 1919.

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K 1

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 28th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to acknowledge and to thank you for your letter of 9th ult. enclosing copies of a Report of your Association with reference to the question of Constitutional Reforms.

The Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, late Chairman of this Chamber, and the Hon. Mr. S. H. Dodwell, our new Chairman, have since had the pleasure of meeting your President the Hon. Mr. W. H. Figg and discussing with him the necessity for some reform of the Colonial Office, and more particularly the desirability of this Office always having in its service one official personally acquainted with the conditions obtaining in the various Colonies. Any representations made with a view to this much needed reform would have the wholehearted support of my Committee.

Our late Chairman, the Hon. Mr. Holyoak is also on his way to Europe and will be at home about the same time as the Hon. Mr. Figg, whom he hopes to meet in London in the early Autumn.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
European Association of Ceylon,
Colombo.

—
The European Association of Ceylon,
Colombo, 7th June, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have to thank you for your letter of the 28th April, and my Council note with satisfaction that any representations made with a view to the reform of the Colonial Office which would provide for one official having personal acquaintance with the conditions obtaining in the various Colonies, will receive the whole-hearted support of your Committee.—Yours, etc.,

A. DUNCUM,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

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L 1

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

—
District XII. Appointments Department,
(Ministry of Labour)
Gresham House, London, E. C.

Sir,—The Appointments Department has been recently formed under the Ministry of Labour mainly for the purpose of giving to officers and educated men every possible facility for finding employment on their demobilisation.

No. XII District of the Appointments Department deals solely with appointments in the British Empire overseas; and it is probable that the number of officers will be large who will prefer or be obliged to seek openings abroad.

It will be impossible for the Appointments Department to fulfil its purpose without the co-operation of individual firms who have employment to offer. With this object in view I should be glad if you would be so kind as to supply me with a list of the firms on your membership, with their addresses. For your information I beg to enclose a draft copy of a form I intend asking employers to fill in.—I am, etc.,

C. R. BATHURST,
Major,
Director District XII.,
for the Comptroller General.

The Secretary,
British Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

—
POST SCRIPT.

In order to save time I beg to enclose copies of the forms referred to, and request that, if approved, they may be distributed among the principal firms on your membership.

Should you require more I shall be pleased to send them.

—
The Appointments Department has been formed for the purpose of finding employment for officers and men of good education on their Demobilization, and employers are invited to fill in the attached form showing particulars of any posts they may be disposed to offer.

It should be noted that many of these men have high technical qualifications and commercial experience.

Appointments Available.

APPLICATION BY EMPLOYER.

1. Character of Appointment available.
2. Locality (name of town and district or province.)
3. Nearest point of access by sea and rail.
4. Nature of Climate.
5. Approximate age most suitable.
6. If suitable for married man.
7. Disabilities disqualifying for appointment.
8. Qualifications essential
9. Approximate :—
 - (1) Immediate remuneration.
 - (2) Future prospects.
 - (3) Other conditions, payment of passage, etc.
10. When required.
11. Agent in England to interview applicant.
12. Employers' references.
Personal and Commercial.
13. Signature of Employer.
14. Postal Address.

District VII.

Appointments Department,
(Ministry of Labour)
Gresham House,
London, E.C.
England.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 28th April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your circular undated letter enclosing forms of application for mercantile assistance to be drawn from demobilized officers who are anxious to seek employment abroad.

I have to thank you for the supply of these forms which have duly been distributed to commercial houses in this Colony.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Comptroller General,
District XII,
Appoints Department,
(Ministry of Labour),
Gresham House,
London, E.C.

WAR RISK INSURANCE.

Hongkong 31st March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Although this has at present fallen to an almost nominal rate, there is still the risk of Mines, and if a ship were lost in this manner, the rate would go up. Not only this, but there might be other Wars at any time which would force the rates up, and importers here would again have to face the same difficulties that were apparent in the early stages of the Great War.

To avoid this, we wonder whether your Committee would consider formulating some such clause as the following :—

“War Risk based on current rate of day on which sale is made; if, when goods are shipped, the rate exceeds that on date of sale by more than 1%, such difference over and above 1% shall be paid by buyer. In the same manner if the rate is more than 1% less than that on date of sale, then anything beyond such rate (less 1%) shall be credited to buyer.”

The above could be placed on all contracts with Chinese or others, and would protect both buyer and seller to some extent.

If your Chamber gave approval to some such clause, it would become standard, and we have to point out that the world still seems to be in a very topsy-turvy condition, and we can hardly expect China to be without its own little wars in the future, so that it appears to us, if we are to learn the lessons of the Great War, everything should be done to take advantage of them, and importers here would then not be left (as they were in 1914) with contracts for which they had to pay the entire increase in War Insurance out of their own pockets.—We are, etc.,

ALEX ROSS & CO.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 28th April, 1919.

WAR RISK INSURANCE.

Dear Sirs,—Your letter of 31st ult. having reference to the above subject, was duly laid on the table and considered by my Committee at its last monthly meeting.

My Committee take the view at present that your submission is not really a matter which calls for a Chamber of Commerce Clause, but one which should be dealt with by individual firms.

They are assisted to this opinion by a belief that any attempt to introduce such a clause would lead to a considerable amount of friction with the Chinese Dealers, and that unless a general desire exists for it, it would be better to leave each firm to make their own arrangement in accordance with their views on the war risk situation.

It is admitted that there is sound reasoning in your suggested Clause and if a general desire manifests itself among importers for the innovation, the Committee would be quite willing to re-open the question and endeavour to carry out the wishes of the general body of the members of the Chamber. I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. Alex Ross and Co.,
Hongkong.

N 1

REQUISITIONING OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC
OCEAN SERVICES SHIPS.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 1st April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to confirm our conversation this morning with reference to the withdrawal of the "EMPRESS" steamers, and to express the satisfaction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce that the Government have already telegraphed to the Secretary of State protesting against what will undoubtedly prove a very great hardship to the residents of this Colony and others for reasons with which you are familiar.

My Committee further feel that the present tonnage situation does not warrant this wholesale withdrawal of passenger ships, and that by the use of first class cargo steamers for the transport of the Canadian troops from Vladivostock, some, if not all, of the "Empress" boats could be allowed to fulfil the passenger arrangements already made. Perhaps you may not be aware that the freight situation at the present moment is anything but good; merchant steamers are having great difficulty in getting cargoes in many directions, and my Committee are of the opinion that this state of affairs will continue for some months. My Committee therefore respectfully request you to telegraph again to the Secretary of State, urging upon him the use of first class cargo steamers for the troops so far as is possible, and it might assist matters if you mentioned the name of two steamers that I have every reason to believe would be available for the purpose; the "SLAVIC PRINCE" ready in a day or two in this port, and the "LOWTHER CASTLE" ready in Shanghai. Both these steamers, my Committee are given to understand will have to wait some weeks at any rate for a cargo, so that their owners are not likely to put obstacles in the way, if it should be found that they can relieve the situation.—
I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) S. H. DODWELL,
Chairman.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 1st April, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 1st April, I am directed to forward the enclosed copies of two telegrams which have been addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding the requisitioning of the Canadian Pacific Ocean Services' Ships.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Chairman,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Translation of Code Telegram.

From Officer Administering the Government, Hongkong.
To Secretary of State, London.
Date 31st March, 1919.

Canadian Pacific Ocean Services' agent reports that their four sailings from Far East to Vancouver during April and May being cancelled owing to requisition for troops. These vessels are fully booked by passengers travelling for reasons of business or health who have been kept in the East during the war, and no available accommodation by other lines. Approximately 1,000 Europeans involved. I most strongly urge that steps should be taken to provide other vessels for troops.

SEVERN.

Translation of Code Telegram.

From Officer Administering the Government, Hongkong.
To Secretary of State, London.
Date 1st April, 1919.

My telegram 31st March. Arrangements could be made almost certainly locally to provide shipping for troops in place of Canadian Pacific Ocean Services' vessels. Slavic Prince will be ready in a few days here and Lowther Castle is ready in Shanghai both likely to be delayed for cargo for some weeks and additional tonnage could be no doubt chartered freight situation is very dull and likely to remain so. I would urge strongly that authority may be given to requisition or charter suitable vessels in Eastern waters in place of Canadian Pacific Ocean Services' vessels the taking of which will cause grave dislocation of passenger and business traffic.

SEVERN.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 28th April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 1st instant covering copies of telegrams despatched to the Secretary of State for the Colonies urging the continuance of the Canadian Pacific Ocean Services sailings between the Far East and Vancouver.

My Committee desire me to request that you will be good enough to convey to His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government their appreciation of the prompt and productive measures he has taken to relieve the situation created by the requisitioning of this service for conveyance of troops when other suitable steamers were available on the berth.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

O 1

THE PUBLIC SERVANTS LIABILITIES ORDINANCE 1917.

HONGKONG.
No 10 of 1917.
I assent to this Ordinance.
F. H. MAY,
Governor.

L.S.

30th March, 1917.

An Ordinance to protect certain Public Servants from
Legal Proceedings in respect of certain Liabilities.
[30th March, 1917.]

BE it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with
the advice and consent of the Legislative Council there-
of, as follows:—

Short title

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Public
Servants Liabilities Ordinance, 1917.

Interpretation.

2. In this Ordinance:—

“Action” includes legal proceedings and
process of every description other than
criminal and includes proceedings in
bankruptcy.

“Public servant,” means any person holding
any permanent appointment the emolu-
ments of which are wholly or in part
directly derived from the revenues of
the Colony.

3.—(1.) No action shall be maintained against
a public servant:—

(a) upon any promise express or implied
to repay money paid or advanced to
him or to another person at his request;

(b) upon any promise express or implied to
be answerable for the debt or default of
another person; or

(c) upon any bond, bill of exchange, pro-
missory note, or other like instrument
made, drawn, accepted, endorsed, or
given by him.

(2.) This section shall not apply to any public
servant whose substantive pay, at the date when the
liability sought to be enforced, exceeds two hundred
dollars a month, exclusive of any allowances.

(3.) This section shall not apply to any liability
contracted before the commencement of this Ordinance.

(4.) Nothing in this section contained shall affect
the right of the holder of any security to realize the
same by sale or foreclosure.

4. All proceedings and documents in or
incidental to an action in contravention of this Ordinance shall be absolutely null and void for all purposes, whether the Ordinance be raised as a defence or not.

Passed the Legislative Council of Hongkong, this
29th day of March, 1917.

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Clerk of Councils.

Assented to by His Excellency the Governor, the
30th day of March, 1917.

CLAUD SEVERN,
Colonial Secretary.

Actions not to lie
against public
servants in certain
events.

Proceedings in
contravention of
this Ordinance
to be void.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 10th April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour by direction of my Committee to approach you with reference to Ordinance No. 10 of 1917, which was enacted to protect certain public servants from legal proceedings in respect of certain liabilities.

My Committee have noted with much concern cases in recent years of young local mercantile assistants coming before the Bankruptcy Court, having been forced there by the extortions of money-lenders.

To give a junior mercantile assistant the same protection as is afforded to junior public servants would act as a deterrent to the activities of money-lending sharks, and assist in maintaining a higher standard of efficiency among such assistants, and to this end Ordinance No. 10 of 1917 might usefully be extended to include all persons receiving a salary of less than \$200 per month.

My Committee will be glad to learn the Government's views regarding the practicability of this suggestion.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 28th April, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 10th April, I am directed to enclose for your information a copy of the Hongkong Hansard report of the Legislative Council proceedings held on the 29th March, 1917, relating to the Public Servants Liabilities Ordinance, 1917, and to direct your attention in particular to the speech of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government on the Second Reading of the Bill.

I am to state that, if the Chamber of Commerce can devise legislation which will bar certain money lending contracts and not others in the general community, this Government will be glad to consider it.

Civil Servants form a body of persons who are not allowed to engage in business, and therefore have no need to borrow money under legal contracts, and it was a comparatively simple matter to legislate in their case.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

(Extract Hongkong Hansard Report of Legislative Council
proceedings held 29th March 1919).

LIABILITIES OF PUBLIC SERVANTS.

The Attorney-General moved the second reading of the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to protect certain Public Servants from Legal Proceedings in respect of certain Liabilities."

The Colonial Secretary—Sir. As I have been in a measure responsible for initiating the proposal to enact in this Colony the somewhat unusual legislation embodied in this Bill, I should like to explain briefly to the Council the principle involved. In the rules of the Public Service it is laid down that serious pecuniary embarrassment, from whatever cause, will be regarded as a circumstance which necessarily has the effect of impairing the efficiency of a Public Servant, and of rendering him less valuable than he would otherwise be, and that the mere fact, under whatever plea, of becoming a party to accommodation bills, whether for his own purpose, or for another person, will subject a Civil Servant to certain disciplinary measures. These rules have not proved sufficient in practice to prevent Government Officers borrowing money and signing promissory notes, and a good many years ago, in the F.M.S., laws were enacted on much the same lines as the Bill now before you. My experience of the working of those laws in the F.M.S. was entirely satisfactory. The need for a similar law is just as urgent, or even more urgent in Hongkong. The records of the Courts show that the rate of interest charged in this Colony in money lending transactions is, to say the least, unconscionable, and it often happens that the original transaction does not come to light in the course of the proceedings. I have said that this legislation is unusual in its character, and it is so particularly in that it has as its object the protecting of a particular class of the community, namely, officers on the permanent establishment of the public service in the Colony. At first sight it may seem unreasonable that the same protection should not be accorded to other persons whose salaries are limited and who are equally liable to become the prey of rapacious money lenders. The borrowing of money by means of promissory notes, with or without security, is, however, often necessary in commercial life, and it would be a matter of great difficulty to devise a law which would lay down exactly in what circumstances money borrowed on a promissory note should be irrecoverable by the ordinary process of law. In the case of public servants the same difficulty does not arise. Colonial Regulation 40 is as follows:—"Salaried public officers whose remuneration is fixed on the assumption that their whole time is at the disposal of the Government are prohibited from engaging in trade, or employing themselves in any commercial or agricultural undertaking." Another point to which I desire to draw attention in discussing the principle of the Bill is that it does not make it an offence for a subordinate public servant to borrow money on a promissory note. He may do so and the fact may never come to light. It may also be urged as an objection that the money-lender may hold over the borrower the fear of discovery in order to extort a high rate of interest. All this was thoroughly gone into in

the F.M.S., and in actual practice it was found that the threat of discovery had no substantial basis, with the obvious result that money-lenders ceased to lend to the protected class of Government servants. It would hardly be wise for me to indicate how this result was brought about, but I can assure Hon. Members that it is a problem easy of solution, or I should never have advocated the adoption of this Bill. Lastly, I would point out that the Bill is not retrospective in its action, but, in addition to approving of the introduction of this measure, the Secretary of State has also approved of advances being made to subordinate officers to enable them to pay off existing debts. It is proposed to appoint a small committee to investigate the circumstances of each case of debt brought to its notice, and make such offers to creditors as appear just. I do not anticipate that in any case a reasonable offer in cash down will be refused in favour of a judgment of the Court involving repayment of an inflated sum by small monthly instalments spread over a series of years. I feel, Sir, that if the Council will pass this bill a great blow will be struck at the unconscionable bargains made by many money-lenders in this Colony. I have little doubt that the cases which come before the Courts are only a small fraction of their number, and I commend the Bill to your favour in the full assurance that it will have the effect of relieving many members of the subordinate branch of the public service from what has hitherto constituted a very serious drawback to their efficiency and self-respect.

Hon. Mr. Pollock—I think, Sir, that we are all agreed, or we shall be agreed, that a good case has been made out for protecting Government servants in the way indicated. But, Sir, my point is this: I do not see why equal protection should not be extended to other members of the community who are not public servants. If money-lenders take advantage of public servants earning a comparatively small salary and charge usurious rates of interest, it seems to me that it is only right that people who are not Government servants, and who are also charged considerable rates of interest, also require a measure of protection in addition to public servants. It seems to me that a measure of this sort should be extended to others besides public servants.

Hon. Mr. Holyoak—I desire to support my colleague's remarks in that respect. In the first place I object to the Bill because it is a distinct form of class legislation which cannot but have an unfortunate effect on the Colony. In the second place, if the argument be true that public servants whose salaries are limited are likely to get into debt, it is equally true of the small salaried commercial assistant. And if the object of the Bill is to prevent money being lent to such people as are classed, it is surely equally desirable that it should be made applicable to the Colony as a whole, and so prevent the system of money-lending, which is acknowledged to be an universal curse.

His Excellency,—I am sorry I cannot accept the suggestions of non. members. It is very necessary to protect public servants in this manner, for the success of the whole Government administration depends on the integrity of its public servants. It is a very serious matter for public servants to owe money and it ought to be prevented by all possible means. It might be argued that it is undesirable for clerks in mercantile firms to owe money, but that does not affect the administration of public

affairs, as it would in the case of a public servant owing money. It is a difficult thing, I think, to pass such wide legislation as suggested, and I think the Council will be justified, and I hope the unofficial members will take that view in, at any rate, taking the first step to protect the most important section of the community which is in our midst. I therefore ask Hon. Unofficial Members to pass this Bill. I need hardly say that it is not a Bill that one would like to see passed without the full concurrence of the unofficial members.

The Colonial Secretary seconded the second reading of the Bill, and it was passed a second time.

Council then went into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

On sub-section 1C., of Clause 3,

Hon. Mr. Pollock moved that the word "like" should be inserted so as to make it clear as to what was really meant by the section. He thought the insertion of the word would remove any possibility of ambiguity in construction; the word "like" to come after the word "instruments," which had a very wide meaning.

The amendment was accepted, and the Bill passed through Committee with this amendment.

On Council resuming,

The Attorney-General moved that the Bill be read a third time.

The Colonial Secretary seconded, and the Bill was then read a third time and passed.

P 1

TON FOR TON POLICY.

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Hongkong, 26th March, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to my letter of the 13th December, 1918, addressed to the Acting Secretary, I am directed to forward for your information a copy of the despatch which has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in answer to the telegram quoted in my letter under reference.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Downing Street,
London, 23rd January, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 12th of December, embodying a message from the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce on the question of obtaining reparation from the Central Powers for submarine outrages, and to ask you to be so good as to inform the Chamber that their views on the subject are being submitted to the Economic Section of the British Delegation to the Peace Conference, and that the question of the confiscation of enemy mercantile tonnage is under consideration, but that no final decision has yet been reached.

It will of course be realised that the immediate replacement of the whole of the British shipping sunk by submarines is not possible.—I have, etc.,

(Sd.) MILNER.

The Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 28th April, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to acknowledge and to thank you for your letter No. 3738/1916 of 26th ult., covering copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in answer to Government's telegram of 12th December last on the subject of Ton for Ton Policy.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Q 1

PROHIBITION OF EXPORTATION OF SALTPETRE TO CANTON.

Hongkong, 29th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—We shall feel highly obliged if you will be good enough to give your kind consideration to the following matter which is commercially of great importance.

We were continually exporting SALTPETRE from Hongkong to Canton for the only use of making Fire Crackers. But from the end of last month, the export of this article to Canton is prohibited by the Hongkong Government as it is used for Gunpowder also.

We have obtained Permit dated the 26th instant from Civil Governor of Canton (which we enclose herewith for your guidance) and it is approved and endorsed by Mr. Jamieson the British Consul in Canton.

As we have made forward contracts, we will have to sustain a heavy loss if we will fail to give delivery in time to the Canton buyers.

We have therefore to request you to place the matter before the Honourable Colonial Secretary, whose sanction is now only required for the recontinuance of our business.

As our cargo is for the sole use of Fire Crackers, we hope that the Honourable Mr. Fletcher will give his kind permission for exporting our cargo to Canton.

Thanking you much in anticipation—We remain, etc.,

N. MODY & CO

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 7th April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose for your information copy of a letter received from Messrs. N. Mody & Co. with reference to the prohibition of export of Saltpetre to Canton as from 1st March, 1919, also a Permit for importation at Canton signed by the Civil Governor and endorsed by the British Consul General.

Messrs. N. Mody & Co. do a large business in Saltpetre and have for years supplied this Chamber with quotations for its Fortnightly Market Report, and my Committee are satisfied with the bona fides of the firm in question.

Forward Contracts have been made for the delivery of Saltpetre to Canton buyers and should the embargo on export from Hongkong to Canton remain in force, this firm will suffer heavily. My Committee will therefore be glad if His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government will take steps to have the restrictions removed so far as concerns exportations which have the approval of H.B.M.'s Consul General.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 15th April, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 7th April, 1919, and to inform you that a permit has been issued for the export of saltpetre to Canton by Messrs. N. Mody and Company.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 15th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—With much pleasure we beg to inform you that, through your very kind efforts, we have succeeded in obtaining Permit from the Hon. Colonial Secretary to export Saltpetre to Canton.

Please accept our sincere thanks for the trouble you have taken to persuade the Government for the resumption of our business.—We are, etc.,

N. MODY & CO.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

R 1

ARMED HIGHWAY ROBBERY AT SWATOW.

Hongkong, 28th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—We beg to enclose for information of the Chamber copy of Correspondence received from our Swatow Office relating to the forcible seizure by Chan Kwing Ming of 26 cases said to contain unsigned Bank Notes, which were in our custody as agents for the Messrs The Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Apart from the indignity and insult offered to our Mr. Robinson for which we seek redress, you will fully realize what the flooding of Swatow and surrounding districts with thousands of worthless Military notes will mean to the trade and commercial welfare of the Port.

Swatow has for months past been systematically pillaged by the arch-robber Chan Kwing Ming, who has even gone so far as to attempt to extort money from European firms, and if this state of affairs is allowed to continue British firms and British trade will be made to suffer to an extent which it is impossible to calculate, while life and property are equally in jeopardy.

If your Committee can take any steps to strengthen the protest which our Swatow office has already lodged with the British Consul in Swatow, we shall feel much obliged.—We are, etc.,

FOR BRADLEY & CO., LTD.,
JOHN A. PLUMMER,

Director.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1919.

SWATOW MILITARY BANK NOTES.

Dear Sir,—Referring to our letter of 28th March, we beg to enclose herewith for information of your Committee copy of a Public Notification signed by practically all the Foreign Firms in Swatow, which speaks for itself.—We are, etc.,

FOR BRADLEY & CO., LTD.,

JOHN A. PLUMMER,

Director.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

The Undersigned Foreign Business Houses having reason to believe that Military Bank Notes are likely to be issued and put into circulation in this market hereby give due notice that same will not be recognised or accepted by us under any consideration whatever if tendered in payment of any account.

This announcement is made in advance as a warning.

Swatow, 1st April, 1919.

Asiatic Petroleum Co., Ltd.
Bank of Taiwan, Ltd.
Bradley & Co., Ltd.
British American Tobacco Co., Ltd.
Butterfield & Swire.
W. G. Humphreys & Co.
Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Ltd.
Alex. Ross & Co.
Standard Oil Co. of New York.
Suzuki & Co.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 10th April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to place before you correspondence submitted to this Chamber by Messrs. Bradley & Co., Ltd., with reference to the recent robbery of 26 cases, said to contain unsigned Bank Notes, which were being handled by Messrs. Bradley & Co., Ltd., as Agents for the Osaka Shosen Kaisha at Swatow.

The enclosures would seem to indicate very high handed action on the part of the Chinese Military Authorities around Swatow, and my Committee would much appreciate any action which His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government might take towards representing the matter to the Peking Authorities with a view to having such a disgraceful outrage thoroughly investigated and the guilty parties punished.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 14th April, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 10th April reporting the seizure of certain cases of Bank Notes by Chan Kwing-ming. This Government has communicated with His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Swatow regarding the matter.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

S 1

DAYLIGHT SAVING.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 8th April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to bring to your notice the following Resolution which it is proposed to put before a Special Extraordinary General Meeting of Members of this Chamber on Tuesday, 15th instant:

"That it is the desire of the merchants of Hongkong that
"this Colony adopt the Daylight Saving System to the extent
"of one hour, from 1st May next until 30th September next, and that
"the Government be approached with a request to introduce the
"system by putting forward the clock one hour at 12 midnight
"on 30th April."

From information received, it would appear that the Shanghai British Chamber of Commerce, the Municipal Council and the Public generally of Shanghai, have agreed that it would be desirable to introduce the Daylight Saving System in this Zone during the summer months, and have approached the Commissioner of Customs with a request that the Custom's Clock in Shanghai be put forward one hour, as from 1st May.

A telegram received in the Colony this morning states that the Commissioner of Customs has agreed and referred the matter to Peking for authority to carry out the wishes of the Shanghai Community.

Should the system be introduced in Shanghai, my Committee is of opinion that similar steps should be taken in Hongkong, and would be glad therefore, if you will be so good as to submit the proposal to His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government so that the Chamber may know the Government's views on the subject as soon as possible.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 8th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—For the information of your Chamber, I enclose herewith copy of a letter to the Government here with reference to the introduction of the Daylight Saving System at Shanghai and Hongkong, regarding which my Committee will be glad to have your views.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
British Chamber of Commerce,
Canton.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 10th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I enclose a copy of a Resolution which it is proposed to put before a Meeting of the Members of my Chamber on 15th April.

My Committee would welcome an expression of opinion of your Committee as to the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed scheme, and whether it would not be a greater advantage in the winter months than in the summer months.

So far as my Committee is able to judge, those who wish to work, those who do not wish to be bound by any particular time, will not be prevented from working to any hour which suits them, whilst those whose daily occupation is embraced between the hours of 9 to 5 will

have the advantage of an additional hour for their own private pursuits.
My Committee would be greatly helped in assisting the Members of this Chamber to come to a conclusion by having before them any objections which can be advanced against the scheme from the point of view of the Chinese members of the Community.
An early reply will be appreciated.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Chinese General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 14th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 10th April on the subject of the adoption of the Day Light System in this Colony was considered by my Executive Committee on the 12th April.

After having carefully considered the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed scheme, as well as the question of having it extended to the winter months or having it adopted for the winter months instead of the summer months, they unanimously decided to support the scheme as embodied in the draft Resolution enclosed in your letter under acknowledgment.—I am, etc.,

IP LAN CHUEN,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

British Chamber of Commerce,
Canton, 15th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to thank you for your letter of 8th inst. on the subject of Daylight Saving which has been perused with interest by the Committee of this Chamber. They are unanimously of the opinion, however, that such a system would not be practicable or desirable in Canton.—Yours, etc.,

G. H. BOWKER,
Honorary Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 9th May, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 8th April, I am directed to state that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has under consideration the question of adopting the 130th. meridian for purposes of time-keeping in Hongkong.

His Excellency will be glad to discuss the matter with the members of your Committee in the Council Chamber on Thursday, 15th May, at 12.30 p.m.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 13th May, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of 9th instant, and I am directed to state that my Committee will be pleased to meet His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government in the Council Chamber on Thursday, the 15th Instant, at 12.30 p.m., and to discuss with him the question of adopting the 130th meridian for the purpose of time-keeping in Hongkong.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
Hongkong.

British Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai, 10th September, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to inform you that after consultation with all the Chambers of Commerce here, with the Consular Body and the Municipal Council, it has been decided to revert to "old" time on September 30th, when the Customs clock will be put back one hour at midnight.—Yours, etc.,

E. M. GULL,
Secretary.

E. A. M. Williams Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 18th October, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to thank you for your letter of 10th ult. advising that on 1st October the Daylight Saving Scheme adopted by the Authorities at your Port during the summer months will be abandoned and a reversion to the old time take place.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
British Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai.

T 1

RETURN TO THE COLONY OF LOCAL VOLUNTEERS.

The London Chamber of Commerce, Inc.,
London, E.C. 4, 31st January, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I write to acknowledge receipt of your cablegram as follows:—

“Please support Hongkong Government’s representations telegraphically despatched Secretary Colonies urging early return from service Far Eastern commercial men.”

and to say that we immediately took steps in accordance with your request and are now informed that the Department of Overseas Trade acting in co-operation with the Colonial Office is making every effort for the release of all commercial men resident in the Far East. The Department point that as every man has to be identified individually, it is impracticable to comply with a general recommendation. You will appreciate, however, that what is possible, is being done.

I understand that the Department has been in communication with the China Association relative to actual cases.—Yours, etc.,

CHAS. E. MUSGRAVE,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

SAMPLING GODOWNS.

Colonial Secretary’s Office,
Hongkong, 19th March, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to forward for the consideration of your Chamber the enclosed copy of a report by the Government Analyst regarding the sampling done in his Department.

It is suggested that the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company or the China Provident Company might be asked to provide the necessary godown space, as proposed by the Analyst, and the goods would be treated in bond in the same way as liquor and tobacco are treated. If it could be arranged that the shipping should be done by the Godown Company concerned, wiring and sealing would perhaps be unnecessary. This arrangement should not prevent the analysis of goods stored elsewhere. The certificates in such cases could be marked “Provisional not to be used for exported goods” or some such cautionary phrase.

I shall be glad to learn the opinion of your Chamber regarding this proposal.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Principal Civil Medical Officer.

The present method of sampling is very unsatisfactory for two reasons: first (A) on account of the unsuitable accommodation in the places where the sampling is performed and second (B) for the fact that the goods after sampling are not protected against tampering.

(A) The sampling takes place in small Chinese shops in which the material is closely stacked in several layers against the walls. The Sampler is hindered from the effective accomplishment of his duties by the impossibility of shifting the goods. So that he has to take samples from the bags (in case of ores) or vats (in case of oil) more at hand, and leave untouched the goods which are in remote parts of the stacks.

A representative sample cannot be obtained in this way, and the fraudulent dealer has the possibility of collecting in the more accessible places goods of much better quality than the rest of the shipment.

(B) After sampling the materials are left in the hands of the dealer, while the analysis is accomplished in this Laboratory. During this time (sometimes a week) the dealer can at his leisure change partially or totally the quality of his goods. It has sometimes happened that goods which were found unsatisfactory at the first analysis could be passed on the results of the second sampling and analysis undertaken at the expenses of the dealer.

The remedies suggested are:—

A. The Government ought to provide a godown of ample area to which the goods could be taken and spread out on the floor for a complete examination and sampling.

B. Pending the Analyst's certificate the goods ought to be stored in this godown under the supervision of the Laboratory Staff, and before being shipped every case or barrel ought to be wired and sealed with the Government Seal.

To allow a suitable and durable wiring the cases and barrels ought to be provided with grooves to protect the wire from tampering and from breakage. No loose material or bags ought to be accepted for sampling. This scheme does not apply to Tin and Essential Oils. These on account of the high value are shipped in small amounts, which can be sampled and sealed in satisfactory manner under the supervision of this staff.

(Sgd.) O. F. LUBATTI,
for Government Analyst.
19.2.1919.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 20th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to enclose for your information, copy of a letter received from the Government with a report by the Government Analyst dealing with the question of Government analysis of exports.

As this is a matter which comes more directly under your province, I shall be glad if your Committee will communicate direct with the Government on this subject.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Association of Exporters & Dealers of Hongkong,
Hongkong, 22nd May, 1919.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your letter and enclosures of 20th March dealing with the question of a Public Godown for the purpose of sampling and analysing exports, I have now pleasure in attaching for your information, a copy of a letter addressed by this Association to the Hongkong Government with enclosures.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

Association of Exporters & Dealers of Hongkong,
Hongkong, 22nd May, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter No. 3139/1914 of 19th March addressed to the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce and enclosing a report by the Government Analyst dealing with the question of establishing a Public Godown for the purpose of sampling and analysing exports from this Colony, and which subject was referred by the Chamber to this Association, I have now the honour to advise you of the action taken by this Association in the matter.

The subject is one which has engaged the attention of my Committee for the past three years, and at the Annual General Meeting held on 26th March last, the matter was again brought to the notice of Members, while a Circular, copy of which I enclose, was issued upon the receipt of your letter.

The consensus of opinion does not favour the establishment of such a Godown which, although most desirable, is not considered practicable, and in support of this view, I attach for the information of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government extracts from two of the replies.

A copy of this reply has been sent to the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Association of Exporters & Dealers of Hongkong.

CIRCULAR NO. 36.

At the Annual General Meeting of Members of this Association held on 26th March, the following letter and enclosures from the Chamber of Commerce was read by the Chairman, and it was decided that the correspondence should be circulated to all Members of the Association for an expression of their views.

Members are particularly requested to state whether or not they are in favour of a public godown for the purpose of Government sampling and analysing, and should the scheme find favour, the Committee will be most pleased to give careful consideration to any suggestions that may be forthcoming.

Members are requested to communicate with me before the 30th inst.

By Order,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 3rd April, 1919.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 20th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to enclose for your information, copy of a letter received from the Government with a report by the Government Analyst dealing with the question of Government analysis of exports.

As this is a matter which comes more directly under your province, I shall be glad if your Committee will communicate direct with the Government on this subject.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Hongkong, 19th March, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to forward for the consideration of your Chamber the enclosed copy of a report by the Government Analyst regarding the sampling done in his Department.

It is suggested that the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company or the China Provident Company might be asked to provide the necessary godown space, as proposed by the Analyst, and the goods would be treated in bond in the same way as liquor and tobacco are treated. If it could be arranged that the shipping should be done by the Godown Company concerned, wiring and sealing would perhaps be unnecessary. This arrangement should not prevent the analysis of goods stored elsewhere. The certificates in such cases could be marked "Provisional not to be used for exported goods" or some such cautionary phrase.

I shall be glad to learn the opinion of your Chamber regarding this proposal.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

GOVERNMENT ANALYST'S REPORT.

Principal Civil Medical Officer,

The present method of sampling is very unsatisfactory for two reasons: first (A) on account of the unsuitable accommodation in the places where the sampling is performed and second (B) for the fact that the goods after sampling are not protected against tampering.

(A.) The sampling takes place in small Chinese shops in which the material is closely stacked in several layers against the walls. The Sampler is hindered from the effective accomplishment of his duties by the impossibility of shifting the goods. So that he has to take samples from the bags (in case of ores) or vats (in case of oil) more at hand, and leave untouched the goods which are in remote parts of the stacks.

A representative sample cannot be obtained in this way, and the fraudulent dealer has the possibility of collecting in the more accessible places goods of much better quality than the rest of the shipment.

(B.) After sampling the materials are left in the hands of the dealer, while the analysis is accomplished in this Laboratory. During this time (sometimes a week) the dealer can at his leisure change partially or totally the quality of his goods. It has sometimes happened that goods which were found unsatisfactory at the first analysis could be passed on the results of the second sampling and analysis undertaken at the expenses of the dealer.

The remedies suggested are:—

A. The Government ought to provide a godown of ample area to which the goods could be taken and spread out on the floor for a complete examination and sampling.

B. Pending the Analyst's certificate the goods ought to be stored in this godown under the supervision of the Laboratory Staff, and before being shipped every case or barrel ought to be wired and sealed with the Government Seal.

To allow a suitable and durable wiring the cases and barrels ought to be provided with grooves to protect the wire from tampering and from breakage. No loose material or bags ought to be accepted for sampling. This scheme does not apply to Tin and Essential Oils. These on account of the high value are shipped in small amounts, which can be sampled and sealed in satisfactory manner under the supervision of this staff.

(Sgd.) O. F. LUBATTI,
for Government Analyst.

Hongkong 19th February, 1919.

EXTRACT (1). from letter of Messrs. Wing Cheong & Co. dated 23/4/19

In response to the invitation contained in the above Circular we beg to state that, although it would be very desirable, in our opinion, it would not be practicable to sample and analyse produce in a Public Godown for the following reasons:—

In the case of Wood Oil and Lard, for instance, the goods would have to be removed from sellers' godown to the Public Godown, and, in the event of their not being found to satisfy standard requirements, the sellers would have to retransfer them to their own godowns to recondition them. This would involve extra expense for coolie hire as well as double handling which would result in breakages. These commodities are dealt with in such large quantities that these objections would prove a serious obstacle to the proposed establishment of a Public Godown.

As regards sampling (as distinct from analysis) of ores, even if a Public Godown be provided for the purpose, we are credibly informed that the Government Analyst does not possess the proper facilities to sample ores as they should be sampled.

The mere fact of having such a Public Godown *might* induce sellers to exercise more care in the first instance to obviate the possible incurrence of extra coolie hire and double handling in retransferring rejected parcels to their own godowns. But we are not sanguine that it would have such a desirable effect.

Inasmuch as the above three items would form the bulk of the produce requiring such circumspect treatment, we are of the opinion that the advantages arising out of the adoption of such a system would be out-weighed by the disadvantages. Moreover, unless buyers abroad would be prepared to accept such sampling and/or analysis regarding quality, etc., as final, it would, we think, be a waste of time and money.

EXTRACT (2). from letter of Messrs. Harry Wicking & Co. dated 17/4/19. Referring to your Circular No. 36, our opinion is that a godown is not necessary for the following reasons:—

- a. The principal lines exported from here are Tin, Wolfram, Antimony, Molybdenum, Essential Oil, Wood Oil and Lard only.
- b. Tin and Essential Oil do not come under the proposed Godown Scheme.
- c. Wood Oil, the bulk of the business is done in Hankow/Shanghai. During the War, owing to tonnage difficulties, in Shanghai freight space was far more difficult to obtain, hence the big demand for Wuchow Oil which is exported from Hongkong. As the tonnage question is now about normal, Shanghai will again enjoy her full share of the business and Hongkong share will not therefore be sufficiently great that would warrant a special godown for the purpose of accurate analysis.
- d. Lard, shipments to S. America as far as we know, the Analysis Certificate is not demanded by buyers. As regards shipments to United Kingdom and Continent it is clearly a War Business and it may continue only for a little time more, until U.S. are again able to meet fully the demands for consumption there as before.
- e. Wolfram, Antimony and Molybdenum, these are practically confined to a couple of firms here specialized in the lines and it rests on them, whether or not to have a godown for the purpose of Analysis and to bear themselves the cost of its upkeep.

Perfumery and Essential Oil Record,
London, W.C., 5th July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—It has been reported to us by the Acting Government Analyst of Hongkong in a letter of May 9 last, that the export of Anise Oil and Cassia Oil is not under Government Control, and that about 10

per cent only of the total amount of essential oils leaving Hongkong is shipped with the Government Certificate.

We understood that arrangements had been made that all such oil would be shipped under certificate, and further that the Government equipped the Hongkong Laboratory for that purpose.

Will you please look into this matter, as the export of adulterated Anise Oil from Hongkong is causing dissatisfaction to London buyers. Could not Government Control be made more stringent so that the oils in question might be allowed to be shipped only after examination in a bonded warehouse?—Yours, etc.,

JOHN C. UMNEY,
Editor.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

1A, Percival Street,
Hongkong, 2nd September, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to our recent conversation I beg to inform you that I have considered the question further and that I have space on the land leased by me at this address for the erection of a Conditioning Warehouse where goods could be received, analysed and sealed and then shipped.

I am willing to proceed with the scheme at once provided I am assured of some financial assistance and of the support of the Chamber of Commerce and of the principal exporters.—I am, etc.,

A. C. FRANKLIN.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 8th September, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I attach for your information and consideration, copy of a letter from Mr. A. C. Franklin, F.I.C. with reference to the subject of a Sampling Godown.

My Committee will be glad to have in due course your views regarding Mr. Franklin's scheme.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters & Dealers of
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
 Hongkong 13th September, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of 5th July on the subject of analysis of Anise Oil and Cassia Oil has duly been laid before my Committee.

The export of these oils has never been under the control of Government, except in the sense of prevention of trading with the enemy, and the question of analysis is entirely one for buyers who should, and in many cases do, stipulate for a qualified Analyst's Certificate which, when required, is always supplied.

The question of a conditioning warehouse into which such oils should be turned, analysed and sealed before shipment, the later taking place direct from the warehouse, has, and is still occupying the attention of this Chamber, and I shall be pleased to keep you posted regarding developments in this connection.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
 Secretary.

The Editor,
 Perfumery and Essential Oil Record,
 8, Serle Street,
 London, W.C.

British Chamber of Commerce,
 Canton, 23rd June, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—My Committee has been approached by Messrs. T. E. Griffith Limited with regard to the matter of Tests by the Hongkong Government Laboratory.

It appears that the above member of our Chamber made a shipment of Aniseed Oil on the 14th November 1918, and the Hongkong Government Analyst examined samples and found the Oil in every way satisfactory, and the goods were shipped on the strength of the Analytical report.

On arrival in London, the Oil was again tested with the result that out of 20 cases, 8 cases were found to be pure Aniseed Oil and 12 were not genuine Oil, the test being conducted by Messrs. Salomon and Seaber (report herewith).

Messrs. T. E. Griffith Limited inform us that they have written to the Government Analyst and complained about the discrepancy.

I enclose copy of the reply from the Government Analyst (also copy of Analytical report) from which it would seem that tests are conducted in Hongkong in a manner different to the tests in London, also, that the Analytical Department is not able to examine separately all the cases of a shipment.

Whilst fully appreciating the difficulties, with a moderate staff, of examining the contents of every case, it would seem to be in the interest of shippers that the tests made by the Government Analyst should be conducted in such a manner as to satisfy the requirements of the London market, where the tests appear to be of a higher figure for refractive index.

My Committee do not know if you are able to interest yourselves in this matter, but they would appreciate any steps you can take to remedy the existing conditions, which do not appear to be wholly satisfactory.

Enclosing correspondence which kindly return in due course and thanking you in anticipation.—I am, etc.,

H. S. SMITH,
 for Secretary.

The Committee,
 Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

British Chamber of Commerce,
 Canton, 22nd July, 1919.

ANISEED OIL.

Dear Sir,—Referring to our letter of the 23rd June re a shipment made to London on the 14th November 1918 by Messrs. T. E. Griffith, Ltd. I should be glad if you would kindly let me have a reply as early as possible.—I am, etc.,

T. S. MATHESON,
 Secretary.

The Secretary,
 Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
 Hongkong, 30th July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I regret I have not before answered your letter of the 23rd June.

The question of the better examination of Exports has engaged the attention of my Committee and also the Committee of the Association of Exporters to whom I was directed to refer a suggestion by the Government Analyst for the establishment of a public godown.

The matter was referred to Members of the Association some of whose opinions I enclose. It will be observed that while the pros were in favour of such a godown merely as a good idea, the cons gave well-considered reasons against, which my Committee could not ignore.

They were forwarded to Government and apparently the matter was dropped.

If upon reading the objections raised by members of the Association you can suggest grounds upon which the matter should be re-opened my Committee is quite prepared to reconsider their attitude in this matter.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Canton British Chamber of Commerce.

ENCLS.—Circular No. 36 of the Association of Exporters.
2 opinions with reference to the proposed godown.
Government Analyst's letter to Messrs. T. E. Griffith, Ltd.
Government Analyst's triplicate certificate.
Report by Messrs. Salaman & Seaber, London.

V 1

MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

The Merchants' Association of New York,
New York, 17th March, 1919.

Gentlemen,—The Merchant's Association of New York, which is the largest and most prominent general commercial organization in the United States, desires to offer its full cooperation to your association in reinstating and enlarging trade between the United States and China.

The Government of the United States is fast removing the temporary obstacles to international business which were necessary during the war. This action, together with the increasing number of vessels available for commercial cargoes, the declining freight rates, the rapid abrogation of restrictions and needs which diverted raw materials from their normal and pre-war channels and uses, all forecast a vigorous resumption of normal trade. Houses in the United States are again anxious to purchase and sell merchandise abroad and the falling of prices to a firm basis daily encourages such business.

The supreme position which New York City occupies as the gateway to American trade is well known, almost one-half of all the goods entering and leaving the United States passing through its harbor. The Merchants' Association of New York is therefore most advantageously located to aid such trade and it offers its services to any of your members, or to any responsible firm in your locality, wishing to buy or sell goods in our country. This Association has a membership of over 5700 of the most prominent merchants and manufacturers of all classes of goods. It employs a permanent staff of seventy-seven persons, eleven of whom devote all their time to fostering the foreign trade of the United States and assisting foreign firms to get in touch with American houses interested in their line of commodities.

We furnish lists of houses in the United States to responsible inquirers who write us regarding their plans and desires, describing in detail the commodities to be bought or sold, and state whether they prefer to deal with manufacturers, wholesalers or commission houses, etc. We will gladly furnish this service to your members and business houses in your country.

Our services are impartial, not being limited to our members. No charge is made to any person for any assistance given, the Association being supported by its annual dues. Our reward comes in the increased foreign business of the United States.

Please give whatever publicity of these facts you deem to be desirable.

With cordial thanks and renewed assurances of our desire to cooperate successfully with you and your members, we are,—Yours, etc.,

The Merchants' Association of New York,
S. C. MEAD,
Secretary.

A. R. Lowe,
Acting Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 17th June, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have for acknowledgment your circular letter of 17th March, and as requested, publicity has been given to contents by means of a reproduction of the letter, which has been circulated to all merchants in this Colony.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
The Merchants' Association of New York,
233 Broadway,
Woolworth Building,
New York.

W 1

CLAIM FOR DAMAGE BY FRESH WATER.

Hongkong, 14th August, 1919.

Dear Sir,—In 1918 we had a shipment of Laces from our London Agents per S.S. "Kaga Maru." The shipment arrived here in a perfectly damaged and unmerchantable condition the damage being caused by fresh water for which when we presented our claim to the Steamship Co., for the full value of the cargo they expressed their willingness to meet it only in part, alleging that the case containing the goods was not tin lined and advalorem freight was not paid thereon. A lot of correspondence was exchanged and finally the Steamship Co., agreed to pay only £70/- in full satisfaction of our claim, which according to the invoice value of the goods amounted to £127 3s. 3d. They further insisted upon the whole case of goods being handed over to them against payment of the agreed amount. To this we object, on the ground that they are paying us for the assessed damage to the goods, and are not buying back the goods, which we have already paid for in full.

The above facts we place with you with the object of having your opinion on the matter, as to whether the Steamship Co., is justified in reducing the amount of our claim from £127 3s. 3d. to £70/- and in the event of our finally agreeing to accept the £70/- offered by them, whether they are right in claiming that the case of goods should be handed to them.—Yours, etc.,

COOPER & CO.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 22nd August, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—Your letter of 14th instant with reference to your claim from Steamship Company for full value of cargo damaged by fresh water, has duly been laid before my Committee.

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to submit your Bill of Lading and the whole correspondence on the subject to the Chamber for examination, after which it may be possible to express an opinion.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. Cooper & Co.,
Hongkong.

W 1

Hongkong, 26th August, 1919.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of 22nd inst. we have pleasure in handing you herewith Bill of Lading and the whole correspondence that has passed between us and the Steamship Company.—Yours, etc.,

COOPER & CO.

The Secretary,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 4th September, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of 26th ult. covering Bill of Lading and correspondence between your goodselves and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha on the subject of a claim for "Damage to Cargo by Fresh Water" has been duly considered by my Committee.

I am directed to inform you that the subject matter involves a large question which in the opinion of my Committee can only be decided by appeal to law or arbitration.

Should you so desire it the Arbitration Committee of the Chamber will be most happy to serve you.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. Cooper & Co.,
Hongkong.

X 1

TELEGRAPHIC CHARGES.

Hongkong, 16th September, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I enclose herewith copy of memorandum received from the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Ltd. On receipt of this I called the manager of the telegraph company and asked him if it was necessary to pay for the word "Urgent." He informed me that the word Urgent would be charged for. As you know cables sent "Urgent" take precedence of other cables on the condition of the sender paying three times the ordinary rate. This makes an extremely high charge. On top of this, this cable company demands that we should pay for a word to indicate to their operators, through whom this message passes, that this is urgent.

It does seem to me that triple rates are quite a sufficient charge for this service, and I submit that your Chamber of Commerce should take a stand against this additional charge, which appears to me to be quite unjustifiable. It seems to me that the cable company should find it an easy matter by means of some signal or other to indicate the kind of message that is being transmitted without imposing upon their clients the necessity of paying for a word to do so.

This charge is pretty annoying because in the United States and in Canada, countries of which the writer is familiar, the practice of public corporations giving preference to whoever will pay the highest rate is strictly prohibited.

As you know, however, merchants here are compelled to take advantage of their neighbours by sending messages at urgent rates when it is necessary to save time, but a company of this sort should not be permitted to allow their facilities for transmitting messages to become so inefficient that their regular service is not sufficiently speedy for all purposes.

I beg you to bring this matter before the proper committee of the Chamber and see if this charge for this extra word cannot be eliminated.
—Yours, etc.,

P. P. Northwest Trading Co., Ltd.
E. G. DINGMAN.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

(Enclosure),

The Eastern Extension Australasia & China Telegraph Co., Ltd.
(Incorporated in England).

In Urgent telegrams (at treble rates) the word URGENT should appear as the first word of the address whether written elsewhere or not. Your kind attention is drawn to this.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 1st October, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—Your letter of the 16th ult. with reference to the acceptance of and charge for urgent cablegrams by the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Co., Ltd., has duly been laid before my Committee.

Much as my Committee might prefer the abolishment of "Urgent Messages" because of the unfair advantages conferred thereby on capital, they are quite certain that any representations this Chamber may make to the Associated Telegraph Companies would meet with little success.

The Telegraph Convention provides for the acceptance of this class of telegram prefixed with the word "Urgent" which word has always been charged for, and this has been the universal custom of acceptance all over the world, with, we understand, the exception of the United States of America, the Telegraph Companies in which country decline to take the responsibility of handling "Urgent Messages."

It is believed that there is a private telegraph signal for the word "Urgent" as there is for the word "Deferred," but as time and labour are required for the transmission of these private signals, the Telegraph Companies contend that the words should be charged for which seems reasonable.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. The Northwest Trading Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong.

Y 1

TYPHOON SAFETY MEASURES.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 29th August, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to forward for the consideration of your Committee the enclosed copies of a letter from the Commodore and of a question asked in Legislative Council by Mr. C. G. Alabaster and the answer thereto.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

"Tamar" at Hongkong,
Hongkong, 22nd August, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that during the night of 21st-22nd August I had no less than four separate applications for the loan of a tug to render assistance to craft in distress in various parts of the harbour. The applications were as under:—

- One from the Rice Commission in the name of the Colonial Secretary.
- One from the Captain Superintendent of Police.
- One from Messrs. Dodwell and Company.
- One from Messrs. Grimble.

2. At the present time I have only one vessel capable of performing the duties of a tug and she is of low power and therefore not fit to handle heavy vessels.

3. This craft (the "CHERUB") during typhoon weather must be retained in the Yard ready to assist any of H.M. Ships in distress. I conclude the same conditions pertain more or less in both the Hongkong and Whampao and the Taikoo Dockyards, as the managers of these establishments are hardly likely to deplete themselves of all means of assistance to craft of their own or in their immediate charge.

4. Under these circumstances I have the honour to suggest to Your Excellency that it would be advisable to have a tug available for harbour work to render assistance to ships and boats of all sorts and sizes when the weather is such that they are incapable of helping themselves.—I have, etc.,

(Sd.) V. G. GURNER,
Commodore.

His Excellency
The Officer Administering the Government,
Hongkong.

Hongkong, 25th August, 1919.

Sir,—I beg to give notice of the following question for the next meeting of the Legislative Council:—I am, etc.,

(Sd.) C. G. ALABASTER.

In order to lessen the loss of life in typhoons and to obviate as far as possible the exploitation of poor sampan people by excessive launch towage charges will be Government arrange with the owners of powerful tugs and launches to render gratuitous towage service to sampans and other craft in difficulties whenever the black signals are hoisted during a flood tide?

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

ANSWER TO THE HONOURABLE MR. C. G. ALABASTER'S QUESTION.

The question will be referred to the Chamber of Commerce. It has been considered on former occasions in connection with the loss of life in typhoons. Launch owners will not as a rule risk their vessels at sea in typhoon weather unless with the prospect of substantial remuneration; and it is hardly practicable to resort to any form of compulsion as the longer a launch is out of shelter, the greater is the risk to itself, and the more difficult it finds it eventually to enter the typhoon shelter which has in the meantime been rapidly filling up. The powerful tugs are owned by concerns having under their charge valuable property for the protection of which the tugs are necessary in typhoon weather.

Hon. Colonial Secretary:

I see a suggestion in the local press which, though it is not new (it has been mooted in years gone by), strikes me as most pertinent and useful. The suggestion is that one or more lifeboats be acquired for service in the Harbour during typhoons for life-saving purposes.

2. There can be no doubt that every typhoon which visits the Colony exacts its toll of loss of life in the Harbour (though I think that the numbers of the victims are generally exaggerated), and this is largely due to the fact that there is no refuge to leeward. But even were there such a refuge, there would still be the loss of life from belated native craft consequent on swamping, capsizing, and collision.

3. A pulling or sailing lifeboat would be of little use, if any. I suggest one, or more, on the lines of the new pattern motor lifeboat in use on the coasts of the United Kingdom. The first one of this design was stationed at Harwick, and commenced work at that port in 1890. In 1891 I had many opportunities of seeing her at work, and went for several trips in her during storms. She is propelled by steam, (later models have a motor instead), and has no propeller or rudder, so that there is nothing to get foul of ropes or wreckage. The method of propulsion is a powerful centrifugal pump, which draws water from the sea through an intake in the keel, and discharges above water through a system of curved pipes on either side, by means of which the boat is not only steered but is propelled, attaining a speed of 13 knots. She is, of course, self-righting and self-clearing.

4. This first boat proved such a success that the National Lifeboat Institution have since built several others, which are operating at various points on the British coast. To the best of my recollection, she cost about £3,000, but this high price was due to her being largely experimental. Later models cost considerably less.

5. It has occurred to me that at a very small additional cost such a boat could be fitted to work as an additional Fire Float.

Harbour Master, etc.

26th August, 1919.

It has been suggested to me that the best way of avoiding these extortionate charges is for the Government to take charge, and employ suitable launches for towage work in the early stages of typhoons, paying them some specific sum per hour. In view of Insurance risks, which the Government should not undertake, it should not be a question of "commandeering," but only such launches as volunteer for the job should be employed. I do not anticipate that there will be any difficulty in getting sufficient volunteers, especially if they are given distinctly to understand that launches towing "on their own" will not be allowed to charge higher fees than those laid down in Table E. The procedure I suggest is this:—The volunteering launches to be permanently warned to assemble at some pre-arranged spot as soon as the No. 1 Typhoon Signal is hoisted, when each will be told off by an officer from this Department for a certain "beat" which it will be her business to patrol and tow thence all craft requiring it to shelter. They are to make no

charge, but shall make a list of the licence numbers of all vessels towed. The lists to be handed in to this office subsequently, and fair towage charges, graduated according to the respective licence fees and the distance towed, will be collected from the vessels concerned, to reimburse the Government for the expense to which they have been put. The payment to be made by the Government to the launches will, of course, be higher than those permitted in Table E.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 13th September, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 3646/1919 of 29th ult. covering copies of a letter from the Commodore and a question asked in Legislative Council by the Hon. Mr. C. G. Alabaster and the answer thereto on the subject of foreign assistance to crafts in distress during typhoon weather.

My Committee is also in receipt of extracts of a letter from the Harbour Master to the Government containing certain suggestions as to towage under typhoon conditions.

As these are questions which require expert consideration, my Committee would suggest that a Committee composed of:—Messrs. C. H. P. Hay, R. M. Dyer, and a representative from Messrs. Butterfield and Swire and Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, Ltd., be asked to assist the Hon. Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher and the Naval and Harbour Authorities in evolving some workable scheme for the protection of life and property in the Harbour, and for the regulation of a scale of charges for launch towage during the Typhoon Season.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 5th December, 1919.

Sir,—Referring to our interview in the matter of the constitution of a Committee "to consider and report upon the question of making provision for the protection of life and property in the Harbour during typhoon weather," my Committee approve of the Government's suggestion that the Committee should consist of the following:—

- A Senior Officer of the Civil Service,
- A Member of the Royal Navy,
- The Harbour Master,
- 2 Representatives of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
- and probably one Chinese.

It is suggested that if the present Harbour Master is to leave the Colony in the near future, his probable successor be appointed to secure continuity.

As regards the nomination of the two representatives of this Chamber, my Committee beg to put forward the names of Mr. C. H. P. Hay and Mr. T. Arthur.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Z 1

THE LEAGUE OF THE EMPIRE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 13th August, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to forward for the consideration of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce copies of two letters from the Honorary Organiser of the League of the Empire, as noted in the margin.

I shall be glad if these enclosures may be returned in due course.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

Enclosures returned.
The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 8th September, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 878/1919 of 13th ult. covering copies of two letters of January and February last from the Honorary Organiser of the League of the Empire, which, as requested, I now return herewith.

I am directed to state that my Committee is of the opinion that the matter is rather outside the province of the Chamber and suggest it should be submitted to the Director of Education for practical suggestions towards securing what is undoubtedly a worthy object.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

A2

STORM SIGNALS.

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Hongkong, 9th May, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to forward for the consideration of your Chamber the enclosed copies of correspondence regarding the typhoon signals.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.



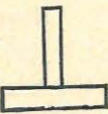





Royal Observatory,
Hongkong, 31st March, 1919.

Dear Father Gauthier,—The opinion has been very generally expressed both here in Hongkong, and elsewhere, that it is desirable to adopt a uniform storm-signal code for China.

You will remember that it was not until all attempts at coming to an agreement had failed and matters were at deadlock, that this Observatory felt obliged to adopt the present Hongkong code, in the hope that those who desired uniformity would adopt it also. For reasons which it is unnecessary now to refer to such uniformity was not reached, but in order that the differences between our code and that in use at the China Coast Stations may no longer continue, I am willing to alter our code as follows:—

- (1) Alter Direction signal No. 3 from "N.E." to "N.E. or E.N.E." and signal No. 5 from "W.S.W." to "S.W. or W.S.W."
- (2) Incorporate an intensity signal in Table III, thus:—
Table No. 3.—Time and Intensity Signals.

Lowest Symbol of Hoist.

	1	2	3	4
Severe.				
	6 a.m. yesterday.	2 p.m. yesterday.	6 a.m. to-day.	2 p.m. to-day.
	6	7	8	9
Intensity unknown.				
	6 a.m. yesterday.	2 p.m. yesterday.	6 a.m. to-day.	2 p.m. to-day.

A 2

I hope that on your part you will have no objection to substituting the velocity signal for the radius signal.

The notes on the two codes would have to be recast.

If you will meet me half way in this matter you will be conferring a lasting benefit on the shipping and the meteorological services of the Far East.

If you consider that further conversation is desirable, I should be glad to discuss the matter with you and the Coast Inspector either at Shanghai or Hongkong.

I should also be glad to know if you consider the attached Local code to be suitable for Shanghai. It is the natural complement of the Non-local code and has been found very satisfactory in Hongkong.—Yours, etc.,

(Sd.) T. F. CLAXTON.








The Rev.
Father H. Gauthier, s.j.

Royal Observatory.

No. 283.—It is hereby notified that new Local and Non-Local Storm Signal Codes will be introduced at Hongkong on 1st July, 1917, in place of the old Local Code, and the China Coast Code.

The principal change in the Local Code is that the new Signals will show the direction from which the gale is expected, whereas the old signals showed the position of the typhoon. The latter will be indicated, as heretofore, by the Non-Local Signals. The new Local Code is given below:—

DAY SIGNALS.

Signal.	Symbol.	Meaning.
1		(Red) A typhoon exists which may possibly cause a gale at Hongkong within 24 hours.
2		Gale expected from the North (N.W. to N.E.)
3		" " " South (S.E. to S.W.)
4		" " " East (N.E. to S.E.)
5		" " " West (N.W. to S.W.)
6		Gale expected to increase.
7		Wind of typhoon force expected (any direction).

Signal No. 7 will be accompanied by three explosive bombs, fired at intervals of 10 seconds at the Water Police Station and repeated at the Harbour Office.

The signals will be lowered when it is considered that all danger is over.

The Day Signals will be displayed at the masthead of the storm signal mast on Blackhead Hill, the Harbour Office, H.M.S. "Tamar," Green Island signal mast, the flagstaff on the premises of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company at Kowloon, the flagstaff on the premises of the Standard Oil Company at Lai-chi-kok, and the flagstaff near the Field Officer's Quarters at Lyemun.

NIGHT SIGNALS. (Lamps).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
WHITE WHITE WHITE	WHITE GREEN GREEN	GREEN WHITE WHITE	GREEN GREEN WHITE	WHITE WHITE GREEN	GREEN GREEN GREEN	RED RED RED

The Night Signals will be displayed, at sunset, on the tower of the Railway Station, on H.M.S. "Tamar," and on the Harbour Office flagstaff. They will have the same signification as the day signals

Signal No. 7 will be accompanied by explosive bombs as above, in the event of the information conveyed by this signal being first published at night.

SUPPLEMENTARY WARNINGS.

When local signals are displayed in the Harbour a CONE will be exhibited at the following stations:—

Gap Rock	Sau Ki Wan
Waglan	Sai Kunz
Stanley	Sha Tau Kok
Aberdeen	Tai Po

to notify the fact to native craft and passing ocean vessels.

Further details can always be given to ocean vessels, on demand, by signal from lighthouses.

The object of the code is to give at least 24 hours warning of a gale (Force 8 by Beaufort Scale, or 40-45 m.p.h., mean velocity by Dines Anemometer) and also warnings of expected changes in the direction and force of the wind. Owing however to the uncertain movements of typhoons and to insufficient telegraphic observations, it will occasionally happen that signals 2 to 5 may be displayed without a gale occurring at Hongkong, or even Gap Rock, but the reverse is not likely to happen, except in the case of typhoons forming in the vicinity and travelling rapidly towards Hongkong, or of a located typhoon increasing its rate of progression abnormally.

Signal No. 1 is intended as a warning to "Stand By" and watch for the next signal. When it is hoisted after a black signal has been displayed it will mean that, on account of a change in the track of the typhoon, or for some other reason, a gale is no longer expected from the direction indicated by the last signal, and that another black signal may possibly be hoisted later.
12th June, 1917.

T. F. CLAXTON,
Director.

Zi-ka-wei le 28 Avril, 1919.

Cher Monsieur Claxton,—Le courrier du 22 Avril m'apporte votre lettre, datee du 31 Mars et expediee de Kowloon le 16 Avril. Je regrette le retard qui semble mettre un mois de delai a ma reponse, et je vais m'efforcer de ne pas prolonger votre attente.

2. Vous entrevoyez, pour la Chambre de Commerce et le Gouvernement de Hongkong, la possibilite d'admettre certaines modifications dans le code de signaux de tempetes actuellement en usage aux semaphores de la Colonie. Vous etes dispose, me dites-vous, en vue du bien de la Marine, a faire quelques sacrifices pour realiser l'uniformite des signaux desiree par tous.

3. Ce sera la, en effet, un grand bienfait pour la navigation, et je serais tres heureux de pouvoir vous faciliter l'accomplissement de ce projet. C'est meme dans ce but que nous n'avons pas hesite, vous le savez, des 1913, a elaborer nous-memes une convention semaphorique supplantant totalement l'ancien "Code de Zikawei."

Malheureusement,—en depit de mon tres sincere desir de vous etre agreable,—je ne vois aucunement pour moi la possibilite de souscrire a quelque modification que ce soit dans le Code des signaux des Mers de Chine.

4. Mais, independamment de mes vues personnelles, fondees sur les necessites de nos cotes et sur les exigences d'une convention de caractere universel, je suis convaincu que ni le Gouvernement de l'Indo-Chine francaise, ni l'Administration des Douanes Chinoises n'admettraient,—apres les decisions prises et les depenses faites recemment, en connaissance de cause,—que nous osions remettre ici en discussion la chose jugee.

5. Les Marins, comme les Compagnies de Telegraphes, se disent fatigues des frequents changements autant que de la diversite des codes: et on vous saura tres grand gre du sacrifice que vous ferez pour adopter purement et simplement une convention en vigueur sur la longue ligne de littoral comprise entre Saigon et Newchwang, tandis que tout le monde nous reprocherait severement des tergiversations inexplicables.

6. En ce qui concerne votre question relative aux signaux locaux je ne refuserais pas, a l'occasion, de considerer en quelle facon nous pourrions adapter votre code local a notre service. Veuillez seulement remarquer qu'il n'est point en projet, pour le moment, de mettre en vigueur ici un systeme de signaux locaux.

7. Nous avons tout un code de signaux locaux existant deja en 1908 et encore parfaitement utilisable. L'Administration des Douanes, experience faite, et sans critiquer le code en lui-meme a juge preferable de ne pas multiplier les semaphores et signaux en vertu de cette raison particulierement valable en Chine que le une faisaient tort aux autres et que la multiplicité engendrait la confusion. Elle a donc supprime les signaux locaux. Une tentative qui a de nouveau ete faite en 1916 a ete abandonnee en 1917.

8. C'est vous dire que, ici encore, independamment de ma volonte, je crois que de nouvelles modifications ne seraient pas accueillies favorablement par les autorites competentes.

Veuillez agréer, cher Monsieur le Directeur, l'expression des sentiments de profond respect et de sincère dévouement avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur de demeurer.

Votre très humble serviteur,
(Sd.) H. GAUTHIER,
Directeur.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 11th July, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 10119/1906 of 9th May, with enclosures on the subject of Storm Signals.

This vexed question was again fully considered at the last Monthly Meeting of the Chamber, when it was ascertained that although much might be said for the present system, China Coast Skippers, for the sake of uniformity, were of opinion that Hongkong should adopt the system of warnings common to Shanghai, Haiphong and Manila.

My Committee desire to express the opinion that in a case like this, where the points of difference are of minor importance when compared with the probable result of uniformity, the Director of the Royal Observatory, however strongly he may hold opinions to the contrary, should fall into line with the majority.

In connection with this question of Storm Signals, considerable inconvenience is experienced in having to visit the Observatory for requisite information, and my Committee understand that Captains of ocean-going steamers would much appreciate a service of wireless typhoon warnings four times daily, and the issuance of the Observatory Bulletin three times daily, with its immediate posting at the Harbour Office, instead of the present daily issue and posting.

My Committee will be glad to learn that these suggested innovations will receive the support of His Excellency.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 1st September, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 11th July, 1919, I am directed to state that, as the typhoon season is well advanced, it is not proposed to make any immediate change in the Storm Signals. The matter will be referred to the Governor.

I attach a copy of a report by the Director, Royal Observatory, regarding the proposals in the fourth paragraph of your letter under reply.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hon. Col. Sec.,

* * * * *

(Dated 11.7.19.)

As regards paragraph 4 of the letter from the Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, observations on which typhoon warnings are based are received twice daily. Nominally they are the 6 a.m. and 2 p.m. observations from 40 stations, which should arrive at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. respectively; but in practice, observations are received from about 20 stations at any time between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and again between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

All available information regarding typhoons is conveyed to the Public by the Hongkong Non-Local and Local storm signals. The former give the estimated position of the typhoon at a stated time, together with the direction and velocity of motion, and the latter give the probable winds which the typhoon will produce at Hongkong. When information justifying a change of signals is received the signals are changed, and the information broadcasted by the Cape d'Aguilar W/T station.

If the Chamber of Commerce would obtain for the Observatory prompt and reliable observations from suitable stations, four times a day, I should be only too glad to issue wireless storm warnings four times a day, and issue a bulletin three times a day as requested.

If the present 6 a.m. and 2 p.m. observations were published separately, the second publication (or bulletin) would not be ready before 8 p.m. as a rule, and sometimes a good deal later.

The preparation, printing and distributing such a bulletin would require arrangement which it seems unnecessary to go into until it is known whether the Chamber of Commerce consider publication at this hour to be of any use.

(Sd.) T. F. CLAXTON,
Director.

8th August, 1919.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 8th September, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2 in 10119/1906 on the subject of Storm Signals.

My Committee note that owing to the fact of the typhoon season being well advanced, it is not proposed to make any immediate change in the Storm Signals, and that the matter is to be referred to H. E. the Governor.

With regard to Paragraph 3 of the report by the Director of the Royal Observatory which is enclosed in the letter under reply, my Committee asked that the available information should be wirelessed to Ocean-going ships 4 times a day instead of twice as at present. Vessels will then be reached more promptly which may have been outside the wireless range of previously issued warnings.

As regards the obtaining of further prompt and reliable observations from suitable stations which may be necessary to improve the service, that appears to my Committee to be a matter for the Government to deal with and if the Director of the Royal Observatory cannot procure the necessary information to enable him to carry out his duties satisfactorily, it is obviously impossible for the Chamber of Commerce to do so.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 18th September, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 8th September, 1919, I am directed to inform you that arrangements have been made at Cape d'Aguilar Wireless Telegraph Station to repeat storm warnings every two hours throughout the day and until mid-night. In the event of later warnings being issued during the day such warnings would be substituted. The daily weather forecasts are repeated at 5 p.m.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 19th January, 1920.

Sir,—My Committee attach great importance to this matter being settled before the commencement of the Typhoon Season.

It is understood that the Government is now in favour of the adoption of the China Coast Code, but that there is a difficulty with regard to the space required for the erection of a mast for the necessary signals.

I am to suggest that the Government appoint a small Committee consisting of the Vice-Chairman of my Chamber, the Hon. Mr. E. V. D. Parr, and the Marine Superintendents of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., Ltd. and Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, whose duties will be to inspect the available ground and make recommendations to Government with a view to the overcoming of such difficulties as are stated to exist.

It is quite possible that many Shipping Masters are in favour of the Hongkong system as against the China Coast system, but the view of my Committee is that uniformity is more desirable than the adoption of any one system, and to secure uniformity, without interminable delays, it appears to be necessary to adopt the China Coast System.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

B2

TIME BALL SIGNAL.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 4th July, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your recent representations on the subject of the dropping of the Time Ball, I am directed to forward the enclosed copy of a minute by the Director, Royal Observatory, for the consideration of the Chamber of Commerce.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable
Mr. S. H. Dodwell.

PROPOSED ALTERATION OF THE HOURS FOR DROPPING THE TIME BALL.

It is not clear why the sailing of vessels before 1 p.m. should necessitate a time signal at 4 p.m.

At Shanghai a ball is dropped at noon and electric lights are flashed at 9 p.m.

If an 8 a.m. signal is seriously desired, the ball can be dropped at that hour, but it should be mentioned that it is *not possible* to get the clock perfectly corrected as early as this, nor to remedy any electrical defects, which of late have been distressingly frequent.

Also, dropping the ball at 8 a.m. would necessitate the attendance of a European Assistant from 7.30 a.m., and a re-arrangement of the office hours of the computers.

If a 4 p.m. signal is seriously desired the ball can be dropped at that hour except on Saturdays, Sundays, and Public Holidays. In the absence of the reasons for selecting 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., I would suggest that the ball be dropped at 10 a.m. and that the wireless signals sent out every night at 9 p.m. be flashed by the proposed typhoon lights on the Observatory wireless mast. The lamp signals would be of considerable interest to the general public, who would have several opportunities of correcting their clocks, between 8.56 and 9.00 p.m., as shown by the attached programme. The additional cost would be trifling.

(Sd.) T. F. CLAXTON,
Director, Royal Observatory.
30. 6. 19.

ROYAL OBSERVATORY, HONGKONG.

Radiotelegraphic Time Signals.

No. 339—Radiotelegraphic land-and ship-stations within range of Cape d'Aguilar, Hongkong, are hereby notified that, beginning with 1st September, 1918, Time Signals from the Royal Observatory, Hongkong, will be transmitted by the Cape d'Aguilar Radio Station between 11.56 a.m. and noon, and between 8.56 p.m. and 9.0 p.m. (120th meridian Time) at the even seconds. The 2nd, 28th, 50th, 52nd, and 54th second of each of the above minutes will be omitted, for the purpose of identifying the signals.

The Time Signals will be preceded by the following warning-signals from Cape d'Aguilar between 11.54 and 11.55 a.m. and between 8.54 and 8.55 p.m. :—

CQ DE VPS HK TIME WAIT

Both Warning-and Time Signals will be sent out on a wave length of 1,000 metres from a 5 kw. spark set. The Time Signals will be dots of about 0.2 second duration.

Radiotelegraphic land- and ship-stations within range of Cape d'Aguilar are required to keep silent between 11.54 a.m. and noon, and 8.54 p.m. and 9.0 p.m. (120th meridian Time) in accordance with Article 45(3) of the Service Regulations appended to the International Radiotelegraph Convention of 1912. Operators are also required to keep themselves provided with the most accurate time available, in order to know when to shut down.

T. F. CLAXTON,
Director.

Hongkong, 30th August. 1918.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 6th August, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2512/1919 of 4th ult. enclosing a minute by the Director, Royal Observatory on the subject of the dropping of the Time Ball.

My Committee, in consultation with the chief Shipping Companies in the port, has given this matter due consideration and is of opinion that the dropping of the Time Ball at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. in addition to flashing of wireless signals at 9 p.m. would meet with general approval, and be most beneficial to the great bulk of the shipping using the Port.

I am directed to point out that complaints have been received that the ball occasionally fails to drop, as on 23rd June, 8th, 27th to 31st July, and my Committee request that the Government will take steps to ensure regularity in this important matter.—I have, etc.,

S. H. DODWELL,
Chairman.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 27th August, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 6th August, 1919, I am directed to state that in view of the fact that dropping the Time Ball necessitates a preliminary test for electrical and other faults on each occasion, which takes up considerable time, this Government suggests that the Ball should be dropped at 10 a.m. daily, and that it should also be dropped at 4 p.m. on all days, except Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.

I should be glad to know whether you concur in this suggestion.

Wireless signals would be flashed at 9 p.m. daily, as suggested.—
I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable
Mr. S. H. Dodwell,
Chairman,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 8th September, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of and to thank you for your letter No. 2512/1919 of 27th August on the subject of the "Time Ball Signal."

In view of the statement of the Director, Royal Observatory, that it is not possible to get the clock perfectly corrected as early as 8 a.m., my Committee concur with the Government's suggestion that the Ball should be dropped at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily, except Sundays and Holidays, but is of the opinion that on Saturdays it should also be dropped at 1 p.m., and would be glad if arrangements can be made that this may be done.

My Committee note with satisfaction that wireless time signals will be flashed at 9 p.m. daily.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

C 2

ECONOMIC RESOURCES OF THE EMPIRE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 13th August, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to forward for the consideration of your Chamber the enclosed copy of a despatch received from the Secretary of State regarding the question of the development of the economic resources of the Empire.

I am to request that the Chamber will be so good as to advise as to the steps which, in their opinion, could advantageously be taken in this Colony along the lines suggested in the despatch. It is very possible that much could be done to improve existing industries such as glass-making or the treatment of hides, and it is well worth considering whether the introduction of sericulture would be practicable.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Downing Street,
11th June, 1919.

Sir,—At the close of the prolonged struggle of the last four years, and having regard to the depletion of raw materials which has been caused and to the vast financial responsibilities which have been left behind, it is evidently more than ever necessary that the economic resources of the Empire in general should be developed to the uttermost, and I wish to suggest to you that the time is particularly opportune for a review of the activities carried on by or on behalf of your Government in scientific research and economic exploration, and for consideration of all promising schemes, either for new work of this description or for adding to the efficiency or widening the scope of work already in progress.

2. Apart from activities of a primarily scientific nature, such as research in oceanography and meteorology, the field to be reviewed may be very wide and should not be regarded as entirely economic in character. The main portion of the possible field of research may broadly be divided into enquiries relating to sources of mechanical power, agriculture and forestry, geology and minerals, and marine products. In most of these provinces the desirable enquiries may be classified, it is true, without any precise line of demarcation, into enquiries directed to an economic or other practical end which is in sight from the first, and enquiries where the practical aim, though real, is less immediately obvious. I am decidedly of opinion that the latter class of enquiries ought by no means to be neglected, and that if they are well chosen it may be expected that in the long run they will be even more fruitful in results of practical value than enquiries of the former class. The latter class of enquiry, however, demands a scientific staff with higher qualifications, and can scarcely be attacked effectually by a small Colony acting by itself. In such cases possible combination with other Colonies similarly situated should be considered.

3. It is becoming more and more clear that there is scarcely any industry which can develop or even maintain its position without the aid of scientific research, and that it is sound policy that such research should be liberally provided for in the budgets of the firms engaged, although it is frequently necessary that those firms should combine to finance a central research association, or at least closely co-operate in research work in order to cover the whole ground and avoid overlapping. With some assistance from the Imperial Treasury a good deal is being done in this country on these voluntary lines. There will no doubt be certain Colonial firms who can best participate by contributing to the research associations of their industries in this country. But the usual method in the Colonies is for research to be carried on by the scientific departments of the Government, and financed out of the ordinary revenue and out of taxes on particular industries, while a subsidiary but important method is that of contribution to institutions for research and the like, usually situated for convenience in this country, some official, such as the Bureau of Entomology and the new Bureau of Mycology, and some unofficial, such as the research associations referred to above which are organised under the auspices of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

4. Broadly, I would ask you to consider the position of any important industries in the Colony, on whose behalf no research work is at present carried on, and whether this state of affairs does not call for action on the part of the Colonial Government. I would particularly direct your attention to those raw materials required for Imperial trade or defence which are produced within the Empire either in inadequate quantities or not at all, such as flax, hemp, medium stapled cotton, the lighter timbers, ores of aluminium and copper, phosphate rock, potash and mineral oil. The question of the possible establishment or extension of fishing industries for export is also worth attention.

5. The Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy after the War drew special attention to this question of raw materials in paragraph 122 of their final report [Cd. 9035]. Much of the existing deficiency can be supplied by the tropical Colonies and Protectorates if their great potential resources are adequately developed, and one of the most sure and speedy agents in such development is undoubtedly scientific investigation. The War has furnished a striking instance of the correctness of this view. One of the conspicuous examples of material produced to an insufficient extent within the Empire, to which the Committee called attention, was bauxite, the ore of aluminium. At the present time this country is almost entirely dependent on foreign sources of supply, and there is reason to apprehend that these will remain both costly and insufficient. Aluminium is essential to a number of British industries, and the position would be serious if alternative sources of supply had not been found within the Empire. The scientific investigations of the Director of the Geological Survey of the Gold Coast have recently resulted in the discovery of a very large deposit of the mineral in that Colony, and it is hoped that arrangements can be made which will enable it to be worked on a paying basis. Valuable deposits of bauxite have also been found in British Guiana, and are now being developed. Other deposits in the same Colony are now under investigation. If these enterprises are successful, the position of the British industries in question will be greatly strengthened.

This is a solitary instance, but it is typical, and could, if necessary, be supported by others drawn from different parts of the Empire. There can indeed be no doubt that a sound and adequate scheme of scientific investigation would be of the utmost value in developing the resources of the Colonies.

6. Another example of the need of research is furnished by the destructive agencies of various kinds, such as animal and plant diseases, insect pests, etc., which are responsible at the present time for an enormous amount of damage in the Colonies. Such damage can literally be assessed in millions of pounds. Valuable work in this sphere has already been done and continues to be done in many parts of the Empire, but there is undoubtedly great scope for extended research. Such work is likely to prove exceptionally fruitful, since many of these destructive agencies are widely distributed, and scientific discoveries which have been made in one Colony can often be utilised elsewhere. The scale on which this destruction takes place is well illustrated by a recent despatch from the Acting Governor of the East Africa Protectorate reporting that "more scientific and progressive methods must be adopted in dealing with stock diseases in native reserves if the future welfare of the stock industry is to be secured. It would be difficult to estimate the annual

loss from the ravages of stock diseases in native reserves, but if it were placed at the low estimate of twelve per cent. it would easily represent a sum of approximately one million pounds per annum."

7. In Colonies and Protectorates whose financial resources are on a smaller scale than in the one under your government, there has hitherto often been great difficulty in finding the means to carry out investigations in themselves very desirable. I am glad to be able to inform you that, for the benefit mainly of such Colonies and Protectorates, I have obtained the consent of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to the provision of a liberal grant of £20,000 a year from the Estimates of the United Kingdom for 1919-20 and the four following years, to be expended in stimulating scientific research with a view to developing the economic resources of the Colonies and Protectorates. This grant, if it is duly voted, will be administered by a small Committee, to be known as the Colonial Research Committee, which will work in co-operation with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau, the Universities, particularly those of industrial districts, and other existing institutions. In the first instance the members of the Committee will be Mr. H. J. Mackinder, M.P. (Chairman), two Assistant Under Secretaries of State for the Colonies, and Sir Frank Heath, the Secretary of the Department for Scientific and Industrial Research. The grant, liberal though it is, is evidently insufficient for a large number of researches, and the Committee will have to content itself with selecting for investigation a few of the most promising of the subjects which may be brought to its notice. It may sometimes be the case that a research may be required which would be chiefly in the collective interests of the Empire or in the interests of some part of it other than the part in which the research would be carried out. If it were convenient that such a research should be undertaken by a Colonial Government, the fact that that Government is prosperous would not debar it from participating in the grant.

8. To the whole question of research and investigation raised by this despatch I attach the greatest possible importance, and I trust that you will give it your personal consideration, in consultation with your scientific and economic officers, and with suitable members of the unofficial community, and that you will then furnish me with a brief review of the present position of affairs, and with an account of the further steps which in your judgment should be taken in the near future.

9. There is no objection to the publication of this despatch.—I have, etc.,

MILNER.

The Officer

Administering the Government of Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 28th August, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 3527/1919 of 13th instant covering copy of a despatch from Lord Milner on the subject of the development of the Economic Resources of the Empire.

To be able to intelligently reply to the second paragraph of your letter one would have to collect much expert evidence. It would appear to my Committee that Government might appoint a Committee of Enquiry to go thoroughly into the whole question of the development of the New Territories, the encouragement of present local industries and the possibility of establishing new industries.

If the appointment of such a Committee does not appeal to Government it might be considered within the province of the Commercial Secretary of Legation to conduct an investigation with the assistance of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

As regards the mineral development of the New Territories probably no individual knows more of the commercial possibilities of this than the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G.

My Committee feel very strongly that what will prove of the greatest benefit to this Colony is the utmost support of the British Government to British enterprise in opening up mineral resources in the neighbouring provinces of China, which is a commercial proposition of the first importance.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 5th September, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 23th August, 1919, I am directed to state that this Government concurs in your Committee's suggestion that a Committee of Enquiry should be appointed in connection with the question of the development of economic resources of Hongkong.

I am to request that you will be so good as to suggest names of suitable persons who would be willing to serve upon the Committee.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 10th October, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 3572/1919 of 5th ult. with reference to the appointment of a Committee of Enquiry in connection with the question of the development of the Economic Resources of the Colony.

My Committee has sought to obtain the services of members of the Community who might assist Government in considering the development of the Colony's resources, and have been successful in securing the acceptance of those gentlemen whose names appear on the attached list, which is now submitted as the Chamber's nomination for the acceptance of His Excellency the Governor.

My Committee consider that Chinese interests should be represented on the enquiry and not necessarily by the Chinese representatives on the Legislative Council. Agricultural interests might especially be consulted.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE.
SUGGESTED MEMBERS.

SHIPPING:—Hon. Mr. E. V. D. Parr and Mr. R. Ross Thomson.

SHIPBUILDING:—R. M. Dyer and Mr. J. Reid.

LOCAL INDUSTRIES:—Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.'s representative.

LOCAL INDUSTRIES:—Messrs. A. Beattie and A. D. Humphreys.
(NEW).

MINERALS:—Sir C. P. Chater, Kt., C.M.G., and adviser, Mr. Barr (Messrs. W. R. Loxley & Co.) and Mr. A. C. Franklin, F.I.C.

GENERAL:—Sir C. P. Chater, Kt., C.M.G. and adviser, Messrs. J. A. Plummer, J. Owen Hughes and D. K. Moss.

D2

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 9th September, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to approach you with regard to Government Notification Nos. 152 and 278 of the 4th April and 399 of the 20th June, 1919.

It may be said that practically nothing manufactured in this Colony could claim to owe at least 75% of its total value to the labour expended upon it in the Colony and materials produced by the Colony.

therefore this British Colony of Hongkong would find itself in the unfortunate position of not being able to enjoy the privileges of Imperial preference.

It is known to Government that all the materials which form the basis upon which our principal local industries are developed, come from outside the Colony. I am therefore instructed by my Committee to urge upon the Government that it is of the highest importance—indeed of vital importance—to the interests of the Colony that the qualification should be altered so that it will not exclude anything manufactured within the Colony. This would secure for our industries Imperial preference; and would tend to attract new industries and greatly enhance the future prosperity of the Colony.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 27th September, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 9th September, 1919, I am directed to inform you that the representations made by your Committee have been conveyed to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 13th September, 1919.

Dear Sir,—The question has been brought forward in this Colony as to the desirability of imposing a preferential tariff in favour of British and Allied goods as against goods from late enemy countries, but before pressing Government in the matter my Committee are anxious to know whether any steps in this direction are being taken by other British Dependencies in the East, and I should be much obliged if you would advise me as to whether any steps are being taken in this matter by your Chamber.—Yours, etc.,

A. DUNCUM,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 18th October, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of 13th ult. on the subject of preferential tariff was duly considered at the last monthly meeting of the Committee of this Chamber.

My Committee cannot approach this subject from the same standpoint as your Chamber, as business conditions here are entirely different from those pertaining to Ceylon. Hongkong is unique in that, while in itself it consumes only a very small proportion of its imports, the port controls a large import and export business for the Southern Provinces of China, which therefore must be maintained if Hongkong is to exist. It is merely a large transit warehouse.

Other Colonies or Protectorate such as the F.M.S. and Ceylon are by reason of the fact that they are backed by large tracts of country (and their imports are largely for home consumption) may support the imposition of Preferential Tariff.

The position this Chamber takes up on the subject is, therefore, one of "wait and see" and will be subject to the action of the Imperial Authorities. Should it be decided that Hongkong is to remain an open Port to enemy importations, my Committee will urge that whatever business is done with former enemy countries shall be transacted through British Agents here, and they will strongly oppose the return of enemy subjects to the Colony to carry on business on equal footing with British and Allied business houses.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 8th November, 1919.

PREFERENTIAL DUTIES.

Dear Sir,—I am duly in receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo and note the position which your Chamber intend to take up on this subject.

From the replies that have been received, it is apparent that Chambers of Commerce throughout the East are not at all unanimous on the question of imposing preferential duties in favour of imports from the British Empire, and are apparently awaiting a lead from the Imperial Authorities.—Yours, etc.,

A. DUNCUM,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

PILFERAGE CLAIMS.

Hongkong, 4th July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—We shall thank you to put the enclosed file of correspondence between ourselves and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company before the General Committee of the Chamber as a matter of considerable moment to the Merchants of Hongkong, and would appreciate a ruling whether in their opinion they uphold the action of the Royal Mail's Agents in refusing to pay either in full or pro rata a pilferage or total loss on cargo ex their steamer under a clean Bill of Lading because their clause 12 in their contract of Affreightment according to their reading exonerates them.

They contend that a package exceeding in value £100 should pay advalorem freight therefore they are absolved from payment of any claim whatsoever.

We also enclose a legal opinion by Mr. Wilkinson which may be of some interest to the Committee.—We are, etc.,

W. G. HUMPHREYS & CO.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 26th June, 1919.

Dear Humphreys,—With regard to the question you discussed with me this afternoon as to whether or not shipowners, as carriers, are liable for non-delivery of goods contracted to be carried by them, if such goods are of greater value than impliedly represented to be—that is to say, of such value that, if their real value had been disclosed at the time of shipment, higher rate of freight would have been charged than actually was charged, my opinion is that, notwithstanding the clause in the Bill of Lading to which you referred me, the shipowners are liable.

I base my opinion largely on the case of *Lebean v. G.S.N. Co.* L.R. 8 C.P. 88 in which Brett J. (afterwards Lord Esher) referred to the ruling of Lord Wensleydale that “if anything is delivered to a person to be carried, it is the duty of the person receiving it to ask such questions about it as may be necessary; if he asks no questions, and there is no fraud to give the case a false complexion on the delivery of the parcel, he is bound to carry it as it is.”

In the case cited a package was shipped which contained valuable silk stuffs; but, by mistake of the shippers, innocently, and not wilfully, made, the contents were described as linen goods, and a less freight was paid than would have been charged for silk goods. The package was tampered with during the voyage, and certain pieces of silk abstracted. The Court held the shipowners, as carriers, to be liable: although it was strenuously argued for them that “the effect of the untrue representation was to deceive the carriers and to induce them not to bestow on the goods the care and diligence which their value required.”

Bovill C.J. certainly said that “it may be that the plaintiffs might by their statement have been precluded from recovering any greater damages than if the parcel had contained linen,” but this point was not argued, or raised; what was contended was that the shipowners were not liable at all, and, this, the Court held against them.

The case seems to be very much on all fours with your own. There is no suggestion in the present instance that any wilful misrepresentation as to the contents and value of the goods consigned to you was made by the shippers, with a view to being charged a smaller freight. Nor is it suggested that any questions were asked as to the goods by the shipowners or their agents.

Consequently they cannot, in my opinion, repudiate liability for non-delivery of that which they contracted to carry.—Yours, etc.,

(Sgd.) C. D. WILKINSON,

W. M. Humphreys, Esq.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 18th July, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—Your letter of 4th instant with enclosures on the subject of pilferage claims, has duly been considered by my Committee.

Opinion as to liability appears to be about equally divided, it therefore becomes difficult to give a ruling on the point at issue between yourselves and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Mr. Wilkinson's opinion of the case, copy of which the Chamber has taken the liberty of retaining, would appear to my Committee to be sufficient grounds upon which to base an action for payment of your claim.

My Committee will be glad to be kept advised of whatever further action you may take in this matter which is of so much importance to merchants at this port.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs W. G. Humphreys & Co.,
Hongkong.

Hongkong, 3rd October, 1919.

RE CLAIMS ON STEAMERS NEW YORK SERVICE.

Dear Sirs,—We enclose herewith copy of letter received from Messrs. Butterfield and Swire agents for Ocean Steamship Company, Limited, and The China Mutual Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., re above.

The attitude adopted by the above companies is similar to the attitude taken up by the other companies on the New York service and we think such procedure should be brought to the notice of the Chamber.

For the information of the Chamber we attach copy of one of our claims which has been returned to us for amendment by the shipping company concerned.

You will notice that in our claim dated 24th September against the s.s. "Elpenor" the shipping company is prepared to allow us G. \$8.23 for loss in case No. 46 when we are really entitled to \$39.20 local currency.

The case measured approx. 8 cft. and contained when shipped 48 doz. Cashmere Extract Perfume, and on arrival of case it was found to contain 3½ doz. short of No. 25 size and ¼ doz. short of No. 15 size.

The shipping company arrives at G\$8.23 in the following manner. Measurement of case 8 c.ft. = 1/5 of 1 ton which makes them liable for G\$100.00 for loss of whole case. Case No. 46 should have contained 48 doz. but 3½ doz. were pilfered making steamer liable for approx G\$8.00.

We contend that the allowance made is utterly inadequate and grossly unfair.

This is only one of many similar cases with which we have to contend and we presume other consignees are in the same position as ourselves.

We might mention that the value of the case in question was G\$336. F.O.B. New York.

As we received a clean B/L for the shipment we submit that the steamship company is liable.—Yours, etc.,

John D. Hutchison & Co.
C. J. HIGGINBOTHAM,

The Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 24th September, 1919.

EX. S.S. "ELPENOR."

W 32464 H No. 17 To 1½ doz.	Dental pder. sml. glass @ \$1.62 doz =	\$1.75
Hongkong		
32 ,, 3¼ ,,	Vioris soap lge. size ,,	1.55 ,, 5.04
46 ,, 3½ ,,	Cashmere extract no. 25 ,,	10.63 ,, 37.20
46 ,, ¼ ,,	,,	15 ,, 7.98 ,, 2.00
47 ,, 2½ ,,	,,	35 ,, 14.62 ,, 39.90
47 ,, ¼ ,,	,,	15 ,, 7.98 ,, 2.00
		\$ 87.89

E. & O. E.

JOHN D. HUTCHISON & CO.

Hongkong, 26th September, 1919.

S.S. ELPENOR NEW YORK SERVICE.

Dear Sirs,—Reference attached claim, please note that liability of steamer, as "ad valorem" freight has not been paid on cargo, is limited in the proportion of G. \$500 per freight ton.

Total allowance on Cases Nos. 46 and 47 would thus be G. \$103.13 per case, and for your loss G. \$8.23 and G. \$5.16 respectively.

Please amend your claim accordingly and return.—Yours, etc.,

A. D. GALLOWAY,
For B. & S.

Agents.

O. S. Ltd. & C. M. S. N. Co., Ltd.

Messrs. John D. Hutchison & Co.,
Present.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 18th October, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—Your letter of 3rd instant with reference to pilferage claims was duly laid before my Committee at its last Monthly Meeting.

This is a matter which has for some time past been engaging the attention of the Chamber, and, although as matters at present stand, Shipping Companies would appear to be within their rights, your views have the sympathetic support of all Importers who are similarly suffering, and the question of increased valuation on Bills of Lading is to be brought up for discussion at the forthcoming Conference of British Chambers of Commerce to be held at Shanghai.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,

Secretary.

Messrs. J. D. Hutchison & Co.,
Hongkong.

F2

REQUEST FOR STEAMSHIP LINES FOR
AUSTRALIA TOUCHING PAPUA.

Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited,

Hongkong, 24th September, 1919.

Dear Sir,—We beg to enclose for your perusal a letter we have received from Port Moresby, Papua, which speaks for itself. We are not in a position to do anything in the matter, but wish to place this application before you, in the hope that you may be able to recommend the case to some Firm who are willing to avail themselves of the offer.—We are, etc.,

E. E. AUCOTT,

Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.

General Managers.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Port Moresby,
Papua, 16th July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Noticing several of your officials are members of the Overseas Club, I considered I could not do better than bring the following information under your notice.

We the residents of Papua, are in the unfortunate position of only having one line of steamers calling at our Ports, that is the B. P. & Co., Ltd. Sydney, consequently they having the full monopoly to make us pay charges, freights, costs etc. out of all proportion, so much so, that we are gradually drifting into being their slaves.

As instance some of our wholesale prices of goods:—Rice £1 2s. 6d. per 50 lb. bag. Sugar 70 lb. bag 26/-. Tea Inferior quantity 2/3 per lb. Tin Meats 24/- per doz. Trade Fish Tin 18/- per doz. Sardines 12/- per doz. Poorest and inferior quality prints, calicoes from 1/- to 2/6 per yd. Kerosine £1 1s. 0d. per case. Matches 2/6 per doz. Yet we only get for local prices Coprah £28 per ton, Sandlewood £48 per ton.

We employ throughout the Territory on the Plantations 10,000 () labor, each boy's allowance is one 50 lb. bag rice per month, 4 tins meat, consequently an average of 10,000 bags of rice are consumed throughout the Possession per month. Normal price rice 6/3 per bag but it means now to pay £1 2s. 6d. per bag.

If you think there would be an opening for your Company we would do all in our power to further your interests, and I will be only too willing to give any information you require.

There is certainly a good opening for a new line of steamer to open up a trade with the East in produce, furniture &c. and we could give back freight rubber, hemp and coprah, sandlewood timber tanning bark &c.

You could secure the settlers Coprah at Rabaul come round to Papua and on to Australia all in your route.

If you should consider the proposition favourably, cable me Port Moresby to secure orders for rice &c. I would cable you amounts.

If your Company would not be disposed to take the trade, I would esteem it a favour if you would recommend some firm that would like to enter into negotiations with us.

Thanking you in anticipation.—Yours, etc.,

(Sgd.) P. V. CARPENTIER,
H. C. S. Overseas Club for Papua.

To the Manager,
Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.,
General Managers,
Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 18th October, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Your letter addressed to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd. seeking to procure inter island and Australian steamship connection from this Port has been passed on to this Chamber for enquiry.

The Eastern and Australian Steamship Co., Agents, Messrs. Gibb Livingston & Co., Hongkong have been approached, but state that the volume of business to be obtained from the Islands does not warrant a deviation of their steamers.

The only other Steamship Company to Australia operated by a British Firm in Hongkong, is the Western Australian Steamship Line from Singapore, whose Agents here are Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, to whom a copy of your letter is now being passed.

With regard to the necessities of the natives and other residents, which you state you are prepared to import, the prices quoted by you are light compared with prices ruling elsewhere these days, and might be difficult to improve upon.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

P. V. Carpentier, Esq.,
H. C. S. Overseas Club for Papua,
Port Moresby,
Papua.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 21st October, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—I enclose for your information copy of a letter received by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd. from P. V. Carpentier, Papua, and passed on to this Chamber for enquiry, also a copy of the Chamber's reply.

My Committee will be glad to learn your views with regard to the establishment of steamship communication from Hongkong with these Islands.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. Butterfield and Swire,
Agents,
The Western Australian Steamship Co.,
Hongkong.

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E 2

The Ocean Steamship Company, Limited,
The China Mutual Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong, 23rd October, 1919.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your letter of 21st instant, we return herewith copies of correspondence which you sent us from P. V. Carpenter, and would inform you that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. are, we believe, the Agents for the Western Australian Steamship Co.—Yours, etc.,

for Butterfield & Swire.
J. M. McHUTCHEON,
Agents.

The Chairman,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

G 2

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

British Empire Exhibition,
25, Ironmonger Lane.
London, E.C. 4th August, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Your name has been mentioned to me as having influence in Southern China.

I beg to bring to your notice this Great Exhibition and to enquire if you can co-operate with us in bringing buyers to England in 1921, to see the vast trade and resources of the British Empire.

I shall be glad to hear from you when we can go fully into the matter.—Yours, etc.,

S. W. BRADBURY,
Director.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

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G 2

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 21st October, 1919.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your communication of 4th August, I shall have pleasure in distributing advertising matter to merchants in this Colony, or in serving you in any other way with a view to creating an interest in the Exhibition to take place next year.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

S. W. Bradbury, Esq.,
Director,
British Empire Exhibition,
London, E. C.

H 2

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND FURTHER THE LAW
RELATING TO COMPANIES.

The Registry, Supreme Court,
Hongkong, 3rd October, 1919.

Sir,—I enclose a print of a bill which it is proposed to introduce in the near future and shall be glad to consider any suggestions concerning it which members of your Society may have to make.

HUGH A. NISBET,
Registrar of Companies.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 8th October, 1919.

Dear Sir,—The General Committee will be glad of your Committee's advice concerning the attached Proposed Amendments to the Companies Ordinance 1911/15.

So far as my Committee can see from a cursory examination of these, the only ones to which reasonable objection may be taken are 12 and 16 (b).

As regards 12, it does not seem necessary to deprive a creditor or contributory of a separate copy of the Liquidators' receipts and Payments, and oblige him to pay a visit to the Official Receiver's Office, which is not always convenient. Also it may be that the creditor or contributory is resident out of the Colony.

As regards 16 (b), my Committee considers that the proposed amendment would be an unnecessary weakness in the Ordinance, and considers it no hardship for a foreign corporation to be obliged to file a Balance Sheet whether practically a private Company or not. My Committee is of opinion that British hospitality to foreign corporations is already too generous, and if a British private company not registered in Hongkong desires to do business in the Colony, it is no hardship to be asked to file a Balance Sheet.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

C. D. Wilkinson, Esq.,
Hongkong.

A BILL
INTITULED

An Ordinance to amend further the law relating to Companies.

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

Short title and
Construction.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Companies Amendment Ordinance, 1919, and shall be read and construed as one with the Companies Ordinances, 1911, 1913, and 1915, and the said Ordinances and this Ordinance may be cited together as the Companies Ordinances, 1911-1919.

2. Section 4 (2) (b) of the Companies Ordinance, 1915, is hereby amended as follows:—

(i) by the insertion of the words "promoter of an intended" after the word "every" which appears twice in the first line thereof.

(ii) by the insertion at the end thereof of the words "Any promoter who makes default in the sending of any such notice in writing shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars for each day during which the default continues."

3. The Companies Ordinance, 1911, as amended by the Companies Ordinances 1913 and 1915, is hereby amended as follows:

(1.) In section 3 by the insertion of the word "printed" after the words "must be"

Amendment of
No. 58 of 1911, as
amended by No. 22
of 1913, and No. 31
of 1915.
Amendment of
Section 3.

(2.) In section 9—

(a) by the addition at the end of sub-section (1) thereof of the words "Provided that the Registrar may require that the year of its incorporation shall form part of the name of the last incorporated company." Amendment of Section 9.

(b) by the repeal in sub-section (2) thereof of the words "may with the sanction of the Registrar" and by the substitution therefor of the words "shall, within 14 days after the sending by the Registrar to its registered address of a notice requiring it so to do,"

(c) by the insertion in sub-section (3) thereof of the words "or, in the case of a China company, with the approval of the Minister" after the word "Governor."

(3.) In section 10 by the repeal in sub-section (3) thereof of the words "An office" and the substitution therefor of the words "A sealed." Amendment of Section 10.

(4.) In section 18 by the insertion in sub-section (2) thereof of the words "and shall register" after the word "accept." Amendment of Section 18.

(5.) In section 27 by the insertion of the words "and also any letter or communication subject to which the auditors' report is made" after the figures "114" in sub-section (4) thereof. Amendment of Section 27.

(6.) In section 35—

(a) by the insertion of the words "for the first time" after the word "applying" in the first paragraph of sub-section (1) thereof. Amendment of Section 35.

(b) by the repeal of the words "a licence" in the 4th line of the second paragraph of sub-section (1) thereof and the substitution therefor of the words "the first annual licence to a company."

(c) by the insertion of the words "by the transferor" after the word "executed" in subsection (8) (a) thereof.

(7.) In section 64 by the repeal of the Chinese characters 有限英國公司 appearing at the end of sub-section (1) (d) thereof and by the substitution therefor of the Chinese characters 英國有限公司. Amendment of Section 64.

- Amendment of Section 89. (8.) In section 89—
by renumbering sub-section (6) as sub-section (7) and by inserting the following sub-section:—
(6) If a company shall have failed to obtain a certificate to commence business within one year of the date of its incorporation the name of the company shall be struck of the register and the company shall be dissolved.
- Amendment of Section 90. (9.) In section 90 by the insertion of the words “and, in the the case of Chinese allottees other than allottees in a China company, their names, addresses and description both in English and in Chinese characters” after the word “allottees” in the 3rd line of sub-section (1) (a) thereof.
- Amendment of Section 95. (10.) In section 95 by the repeal of the words “in the prescribed manner” in proviso (1) thereto and by the substitution therefor of the words “to the satisfaction of the registrar of companies.”
- Amendment of Section 141. (11.) In Section 141—
(a) by the repeal of the words “by the Court” in sub-section (1) thereof.
(b) by the repeal of sub-section (2) thereof and by the substitution therefor of the following:—
“(2) For the purpose of this Ordinance, so far as it relates to “the winding up of China Companies or Hongkong China Companies by or under the “supervision of the Supreme Court for China, and so far “as it relates to the Voluntary “winding up of China Companies or Hongkong China Companies by liquidators “appointed to act within the “limits of the China Orders-in-Council, the term ‘Official Receiver’ shall mean the person “appointed in that behalf by “the Judge of the Supreme “Court for China.”
- Amendment of Section 150. (12.) In section 150 by the repeal of sub-section (5) thereof.
- Amendment of Section 180. (13.) In section 180 by the repeal of the words “by the Governor” in sub-section (1) thereof.

- (14.) In section 214—
(a) by the repeal in sub-section (4) thereof of all the words after the word “Account.”
(b) by the repeal of the words “into the bank” in sub-sections (5) and (6) thereof.
- (15.) In section 217 by the repeal of the words “at such bank as the Colonial Treasurer may direct” in sub-section (1) thereof and by the substitution therefor of the words “with the Colonial Treasurer or, in the case of a China Company, at a bank.”
- (16.) In section 252—
(a) by the repeal of the words “the prescribed” in sub-section (1) thereof and by the substitution therefor of the words “a reasonable.”
(b) by the addition of the following words at the end of sub-section (3) thereof “Provided that it shall be lawful for the registrar of companies, by notice in writing to the Company, to dispense with the filing of such statement, if, in his opinion, the Company is substantially a private company, although not a private company as defined by the Ordinance.”
(c) by the repeal of the words “in the prescribed manner” in sub-section (6) thereof and the substitution therefor of the words “to the satisfaction of the registrar of companies.”
- (17.) In the First Schedule by the insertion at the end of Part I. and also of Part II. of Table B of the following fees:—
For registering a mortgage or charge created by a company \$10.00
For registering the particulars of a series of debentures created by a Company 10.00
(Note:—These fees include the filing of particulars and the issue to the Company of a Certificate of Registration)
For inspecting the Register of Mortgages and Charges—For each inspection ... 50
For collating a copy required to be certified—per folio of 72 words 10
For initialling alterations in such copy—per alteration 10
For certifying a collated copy 2.00
For inspecting the register or a company’s file 1.00
For filing any document not hereinbefore referred to 3.00

(18.) By the insertion at the end of the Third Schedule of the following forms:—

FORM G

Particulars prescribed under section 90 sub-section (2) filed by Presented for filing by

	\$
(1.) The number of shares, in whole or in part, allotted for a consideration other than cash.	
(2.) If the consideration for the allotment of any shares is services, or any consideration other than that mentioned below in (3), state what such consideration consists of.	
(3.) If the consideration for the allotment of any shares is a sale of property, or the agreement for the sale of property, state fully the consideration for, and other terms of, such sale or agreement for sale.	
(4.) Give full particulars, in the form of the following table, of the property which is the subject of the sale, showing in detail how the total consideration is apportioned between the respective heads.	
Legal and equitable estates, or interest in freeholds and leaseholds, whether in China, Hongkong, the United Kingdom or abroad (which includes hereditaments subject to a legal mortgage.)	
Patents, Licences, Trade Marks and Copyrights ...	
Goodwill	
Fixtures and fittings	
Benefit of contracts	
Books and other debts (including money on deposit at Bank or elsewhere)	
Other property, viz:—	
.....	
Total	\$
(5.) If the consideration payable is partly in respect of a sale of property or agreement for a sale of property, and partly in respect of some other consideration, state fairly how much of the amount of the consideration is attributable to each of the heads of the property sold or agreed to be sold, and how much to other consideration.	
(6.) If the consideration payable consists in the assumption by the purchaser of liabilities to third persons, specify the total amount of such liabilities.	
Total	\$
(Signature)	
(Designation of position in relation to the Company)	
Date	

FORM H

Statement by a Company of the amount or rate paid or agreed to be paid by way of commission in respect of shares.

(Pursuant to section 91 (1) (b))

Name of Company .....	..... Limited.
Articles of Association authorising commission	No.
Particulars of amount paid or payable as commission for subscribing, or agreeing to subscribe, or procuring or agreeing to procure, subscriptions for any shares in the company; or	Paid \$
	Payable \$
Rate of such commission	Rate per cent.
Date of Circular or Notice, if any (not being a prospectus), inviting subscriptions for the shares and disclosing the amount or rate of the commission	Date
Signature of the Directors or of their agents authorised in writing	
Date	

Particulars to be supplied to the Registrar pursuant to section 95 of the mortgage or charge created by Limited.

Presented for filing by

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Date of the instrument creating or evidencing the mortgage or charge and description thereof.	Amount secured by the mortgage or charge.	Short particulars of the property mortgaged or charged.	Names (with addresses and descriptions) of the mortgagees or persons entitled to the charge.	Amount or rate per cent. of the commission allowance or discount (if any) paid or made either directly or indirectly by the company to any person in consideration of his subscribing or agreeing to subscribe, whether absolutely or conditionally, or procuring or agreeing to procure subscriptions, whether absolute or conditional, for any of the debentures included in this return.

FORM J
REGISTER of Mortgages and Charges, and of Memorandum of Satisfaction of Limited.

(1) Date of Registration.	(2) Date of creation of each mortgage or charge and description thereof.	(3) Amount secured by the mortgage or charge.	(4) Short particulars of the property mortgaged or charged.	(5) Names of mortgagees or persons entitled to the charge.	Particulars relating to the issues of Debentures or a series.				(14) REMARKS.				
					(6) Total amount secured by a series of debentures.	(7) Date and amount of each issue of the series.	(8) Date of the resolutions authorising the issue of the series.	(9) Date of the Deed covering the property charged.		(10) General description of the property charged.	(11) Names of the Trustees for the Debenture Holders.	(12) Memorandum of satisfaction. Amount.	(13) Amount of rate per cent of the commission, allowance or discount.
						Date. Amount.							

FORM K.

Statement pursuant to section 97.

Name of Company Limited.
 Name and Address of Receiver or Manager
 Date and description of instrument under which Receiver or Manager is appointed
 Date of taking possession
 Period covered by the Abstract { From
 To
 Presented for filing by

ABSTRACT.

Receipts.		Payments.	
	\$	c.	

Signature
 Date

FORM L.

Notice of Appointment of Liquidator.
Pursuant to Section 180.

Presented for filing by
 To the Registrar of Companies.
 I, the undersigned hereby give notice
 of
 that, by*
 I have been appointed Liquidator of the Company Limited.

Signature
 Date

*State how appointed, whether by Resolution of the Company or how otherwise.

Objects and Reasons.

1. The object of this Bill is to introduce into the Companies Ordinances, 1911-1915, some amendments, which experience has shown to be advisable.
2. The company is not in existence at the time that this notice has to be sent. The promoters are, therefore, the proper persons to send it.
- 3.—(1.) Articles of Association must be printed and it is more convenient that the Memorandum of Association should also be printed.
 (2.)—(a.) In the case of a company taking exactly the same name as that of a company, which has been dissolved or is in course of being wound up, the inclusion of the year of its incorporation in the name of the new company will distinguish it from the old company.
 (b.) At present a company, after registering with a name too nearly resembling that of an existing company, cannot be compelled to change its name. The amendment gives the registrar of companies power to compel such change.
 (c.) In the case of a China Company the British Minister, as defined by section 2 of Ordinance No. 31 of 1915, is the proper person to approve of the change of name.
- (3.) Sealed copies are used in this Colony in the place of office copies.
- (4.) The law at present does not provide for the registration of the Statutory Declaration, although it should form part of the records of the company.
- (5.) For the protection of shareholders and the public it is advisable that any such document should be filed with the registrar of companies so that it may be available for inspection.
- (6.)—(a.) The amendment obviates the necessity for a statutory declaration being filed each year.
 (b.) The amendment removes any doubt as to what is intended.
 (c.) The amendment removes any doubt as to the meaning to be attached to the word "executed."
- (7.) The re-arrangement of the Chinese characters conveys the intended meaning more correctly.
- (8.) The amendment prevents a company, which has never been capable of doing any business, from remaining on the register for more than one year. It is considered that no useful purpose is served by keeping on the register a company which fails to commence business within a year of its incorporation.

(9.) In the absence of these particulars it is practically impossible to trace Chinese owners of shares; the result being that they escape from any liability which may attach to their shares. The shares of China Companies incorporated since the 1st January, 1916, are all fully paid up and no liability for calls attaches to them.

(10.) A prescribed form is unnecessary. It is more convenient that the verification should be to the satisfaction of the registrar of companies.

(11.) In the winding up of China Companies it might become necessary to appoint more than one official receiver in China. The amendment enables this to be done.

(12.) Local conditions render the sub-section unnecessary. Creditors and contributories can always inspect the account in the official receiver's office.

(13.) A prescribed form is now included in the 3rd Schedule.

(14.) This amendment is rendered necessary by the amendment of section 217.

(15.) It is more convenient that all monies in the Companies Liquidation Account at Hongkong should be in the hands of the Colonial Treasurer.

(16.)—(a) It is unnecessary to prescribe a time.

(b.) Many foreign corporations are practically private companies, although not strictly so according to the Hongkong Companies Ordinances. The filing of balance sheets is somewhat of a hardship on such companies.

(c.) A prescribed form of certification is unnecessary.

(17.) These fees are considered reasonable. Some of them were not provided for, because, apparently, the documents and work in respect of which they are charged were not contemplated. The only fee which needs explanation is that for initialling alterations. Its object is to ensure that correct copies are submitted for collating and certifying. In one set of documents, which was sent to the registrar of companies to be certified, over 1,500 alterations had to be initialled.

(18.) These forms are similar to those in use in England.

H. E. POLLOCK,
Attorney General.

September, 1919.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 29th October, 1919.

Sir,—I am now directed to reply to your memo of the 3rd October covering a Proposed Bill to amend further the Law relating to Companies. The Proposed Bill has received the very careful consideration of both the General Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee of the Chamber, and I enclose for your perusal and consideration copies of the following letters:—

1. Letter dated 8th October from the Secretary to the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, after approval of the General Committee.
2. Letter dated 9th October from the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee expressing his personal opinions.
3. Letter dated 16th October from Mr. Gedge, Member of the Legal Sub-Committee expressing his personal opinions.
4. Letter dated 18th October from Mr. J. Scott Harston, Member of the Legal Sub-Committee expressing his personal opinions.

I commend to your special attention the final paragraph of letter (1) and paragraph 4 of Mr. Harston's letter.

Since considering this matter a further point has arisen in connection with a proposal which has been submitted to the Government to introduce an Ordinance for the Registration of Business names. Such proposal has received the support of both the General and Legal Sub-Committees.

It is, that in the new amending Ordinance the names of two of the principal officers of the Company, one of whom shall be the General Manager shall be printed on all trade catalogues, trade circulars, show cards, and business letters on or in which the business names appear, in legible characters.

Cases have recently occurred which demonstrate beyond question to my Committee how very essential it is that there should be some indication on the letter paper, etc. of a Joint Stock Company of the person who is largely responsible for the management thereof.

This is no hardship, which is evidenced by the fact that practically every American Joint Stock Concern adopts this method of announcing to the public the names of the immediate executive, although not so far as I can ascertain, required to do so by Law.

There is no reason however, why Hongkong should not lead the way in improved Legislation, as they were said to have done by a responsible London Journal in several particulars in the original Ordinance.

The wording "two responsible officers" is better than "two of the Directors" as the former are more or less permanent, whilst the latter might change annually involving a concern in considerable expense in alterations to letter headings, etc.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Registrar of Companies,
Hongkong.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YUNNANESE TO STUDY AT
HONGKONG UNIVERSITY.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 26th March, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to my letter No. 831/1918 of the 20th December, I am directed to enclose a letter from His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at Yunnanfu setting out the conditions on which he proposes to offer the scholarships at the University to open competition.

I am to request that the Chamber will confer with the University Authorities and inform me at an early date whether the proposals made by Mr. Ottewill are agreed to.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

H. B. M. Consulate General,
Yunnanfu, 12th March, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to Sir Henry May's despatch Number 831, of the 30th July last, stating that the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce have agreed to the extension of their grant of \$1,000 a year towards a Yunnanese Scholarship Fund for the Hongkong University to five years, and to Your Excellency's despatch, Number 831, of the 20th December last, stating that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had given his approval to a similar grant by the Hongkong Government, I have the honour to inform you that I propose, subject to any remarks which you may desire to make, to offer these two scholarships to open competition at Yunnanfu under the following conditions:—

1. The examination will be held in the month of June.
2. Arrangements for the examination will be made by the

British Consul General who will select a local Committee which will include the local Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and/or other suitable Chinese officers

3. Candidates must be of good moral character.
4. Scholarships will only be granted after a medical examination as to physical fitness.
(Dr. H. G. Thompson has been good enough to agree to examine the successful candidates.)
5. The examination will be open to all Chinese students who have studied and resided in Yunnan Province for a period of at least five out of the seven years preceding the date of the examination.

(The object of the condition is to ensure that the successful candidates have a real interest in the Province, and at the same time to provide that a temporary absence is not a bar to entering for the examination.)

6. Examination papers will be prepared by the Warden of the St. Stephen's College at Hongkong, and will be forwarded to him for adjudication.

(The reason for selecting St. Stephen's College is that it is well known here. For years past students from Yunnan have gone there. The four students having scholarships granted last year have gone to that institution. Precedent being of great value in the eyes of the Chinese, it is thought that the successful candidates should go there to prepare for one year before actually entering the University, and that the preparation of the papers can with great advantage be left in the hands of the Warden. I understand that he has been approached on the subject, and has been good enough to acquiesce in the proposal.)—I have, etc.,

H. A. OTTEWILL,
Acting Consul General.

His Excellency,
Claud Severn Esq., C.M.G.,
Administering the Government of Hongkong,
etc., etc., etc.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 3rd April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—My Committee have been asked to confer with you regarding the conditions upon which H.B.M. Consul General at Yunnanfu proposes to offer the Scholarships at the Hongkong University to open competition.

I enclose a copy of Government's letter to the Chamber with a copy of the enclosure, the conditions contained in which appear to my Committee sound, and I shall be glad to learn from you as early as possible that the proposals are acceptable to you.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Registrar,
University of Hongkong,
Hongkong.

University of Hongkong,
Hongkong, 8th April, 1919.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge, with thanks, your letter of April 3rd and have the honour to inform you that the proposals contained in the enclosures to your letter are being submitted for the approval of the Senate.—I have, etc.,

S. P. de MARTIN,
Deputy Registrar.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

University of Hongkong,
Hongkong, 25th April, 1919.

Sir,—In continuation of my letter of 8.4.19, I have to inform you that yesterday evening the Senate of the University considered the proposals of H.B.M. Consul-General at Yunnanfu regarding the two Scholarships which formed the subject matter of the enclosure in your letter to me dated 3.4.19.

The Senate approved of these proposals but recommends that the Examination be conducted by the University. Though the University always takes upon itself to be responsible for the Prematriculation tuition of Government students, in view of the arrangements already made with St. Stephen's College, the Senate is willing that the Warden be co-opted as an Examiner in the Examination to be held for the award of these Scholarships this year.—I have, etc.,

S. P. de MARTIN,
Deputy Registrar.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 28th April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 821/1918 of 26th ult., enclosing copy of a letter from H.B.M. Consul General at Yunnanfu setting out the conditions on which he proposes to offer the scholarships at the Hongkong University.

The Chamber immediately upon receipt of your letter put the matter before the University Authorities and to-day I am in receipt of a reply from which the following is an extract and with which proposals my Committee is in agreement:—

"The Senate approves of these proposals but recommends that the Examination be conducted by the University. Though the University always takes upon itself to be responsible for the Prematriculation tuition of Government students, in view of the arrangements already made with St. Stephen's College, the Senate is willing that the Warden be co-opted as an Examiner in the Examination to be held for the award of these scholarships this year."—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

H. M. Consulate General,
Yunnanfu, 10th July, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 28th April last to the Colonial Secretary, I beg to inform you that I duly received from the Warden of St. Stephen's College the papers for the examination of candidates for the scholarships which the Government of Hongkong and the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce have been good enough to offer to Yunnan Students.

I now beg to enclose to you copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Warden forwarding the answers given by the candidates to the papers, and requesting him to submit to His Excellency the Governor his recommendations as to the result of the examination and the granting of one or both scholarships.—I am, etc.,

H. A. OTTEWILL,
Acting Consul General.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

(Copy)

H. B. M. Consulate General,
Yunnanfu, 10th July, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 6th ultimo, forwarding examination papers for the Yunnan Scholarships offered by the Government of Hongkong and the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, the receipt of which I have already acknowledged, and for which I take this opportunity of again expressing my thanks, I beg to inform you that the examination took place on the four days, Monday 7th July to Thursday, 10th July, as in the schedule enclosed herewith.

Eight candidates sent in applications for entrance to the examination in due order, namely.

Leigh Byng,	English Language Association.
Li Tang,	do.
Li Chee Jen,	do.
Hsu Ch'ien-kwang,	do.
Siu Si-chang, (Hsu Sai Chang),	do.
Wang Wei,	Y.M.C.A.
Wang Ssu-shun,	120 Erh Tu Kai, Yunnanfu.
Hua Kung,	English Language Association.

I refused to accept the candidature of three students who applied after the date fixed for receiving application, namely 1st July.

The number of candidates being small, the examination was held at this Consulate General, and not at the English Language Association in the Office of the Financial Commissioner, which the latter and the Head of the Education Bureau had been good enough to place at my disposal.

Of the eight candidates the first six in the above list completed the examination, the last two dropping out.

I beg to enclose herewith for adjudication the papers as handed in by the candidates. I shall be obliged if you will be good enough to forward to His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong your recommendations as to the result, and the granting of one or both scholarships.

I shall esteem it a favour if you will forward me a copy, with any remarks you may wish to make, and, in the event of your making a list of marks awarded for each paper, a copy of the list.

I have sent complete sets of the examination papers to the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and the Officer in charge of education in the Province. I beg to return unused papers. Three history papers are in the original covers, and have not been opened.—I am, etc.,

H. A. OTTEWILL,
Acting Consul General.

Rev. W. H. Hewitt,
Warden of St. Stephen's College,
5, Bonham Road, Hongkong.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 14th August, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 28th April, 1919, I am directed to forward for the information of your Committee a copy of a letter addressed by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to the Acting Consul-General, Yunnanfu (with enclosure) regarding the award of the two scholarships at the University to Yunnan students.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Government House,
Hongkong, 14th August, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th July, relative to the examination for the award of two scholarships to Yunnan students at the University of Hongkong.

2. The results of the examination have now been communicated to me by the Warden of St. Stephen's College in a letter of which I enclose a copy for your information.

3. I have much pleasure in awarding the two scholarships to the two candidates whom the Warden has recommended, Messrs. Wang Wei (王瑋) and Li Tang (李當) and I should be glad if you would inform them accordingly and convey to them my congratulations on the success that they have achieved.

4. Copies of this letter and of the letter from the Warden, St. Stephen's College, have been forwarded to the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, and I have informed the University Authorities of my decision in the award of the scholarships.—I have, etc.,

(Sd.) CLAUD SEVERN,

Officer Administering the Government.

His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General,
Yunnanfu.

St. Stephen's College,
Hongkong, 31st July, 1919.

Your Excellency,—I have the honour to submit to you at the request of the Consul-General at Yunnan-Fu the results of the Scholarship Examination held in Yunnan-Fu on the 7th inst.

You will see from the marksheet submitted herewith that only two out of the eight candidates have qualified for a pass on the standard fixed by the Hongkong University Junior Local Examinations. But it should be noticed that the questions in Chinese Literature and Essay were set and marked (by Mr. Lai Tsai Hei) to the Standard of the University *Matriculation*, so that successful competitors for the Scholarship might be able to devote most of their time in their preparatory year to the English side of their work.

The two candidates who have qualified for a pass, Messrs. Wang Wei (王瑋) and Li Tang (李當) as judged by their showing in the examination ought to be able by steady application to pass the University *Matriculation* Examination after another year of study. Mr. Wang has the better knowledge of English and has done the better in Chinese Literature but I should not be surprised if Mr. Li proves himself the more thoughtful and scholarly of the two men.

I have the honour to recommend these two names as worthy to be granted the two scholarships which are offered.—I am, etc.,

(Sd.) Wm. H. HEWITT,

Warden of St. Stephen's College.

To His Excellency,
The Officer Administering the Government,
Hongkong.

YUNNAN SCHOLARSHIP JULY 1919.

T

T

	Hua Kung	Hsu Chien Kwang	Leigh Byng	Li Chee Yen	Li Tang	Siu Si Chang	Wang Ssu Shun	Wang Wei
	華 光	許 謙 光	李 炳	李 致 仁	李 當	脩 世 昌	王 嗣 舜	王 瑋
	A B	A B	A B	A B	A B	A B	A B	A B
1 ENGLISH:—	25	69	60	23	76	45	9	90
Grammar	35	55	43	17	66	43	6	93
Composition	39	65	47	52	81	39	20	87
Dictation	O	88	90	0	80	52	0	90
2 CHINESE:—	O	54	51	64	59	60	48	71
Essay	O	60	65	68	75	58	64	70
Literature	O	48	37	59	43	62	31	71
3 HISTORY	O	12	8	24	73	17	O	40
4 GEOGRAPHY	O	29	58	29	75	17	O	80
5 ARITHMETIC	O	15	20	14	46	51	25	70
6 MATHEMATICS:—	O	11	16	34	74	29	5	60
Algebra	O	21	10	56	74	58	14	88
Geometry	O	12	36	36	82	5	2	60
Trigonometry	O	1	2	10	66	24	0	32
7 PHYSICS:—	O	38	20	38	36	19	0	51
Electricity and Mag.	O	38	18	38	35	28	0	54
Light, Heat and C	O	38	23	38	36	10	0	48
8 CHEMISTRY	O	13	19	15	46	20	0	34
Total	25	241	252	241	485	258	87	496
Per Cent	3.1	30.1	31.5	30.1	60.6	32.2	14.5	62.0
Position	8	5	4	6	2	3	7	1
Result	F	F	F	F	P	F	F	P

Compulsory.

Optional.

A Marks for particular papers.
 B Group Marks—Max: 100.
 O No paper received.
 F Failed in qualifying for Junior Local Standard.
 P Qualified for Junior Local Standard.
 T Recommended for Scholarships.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
 Hongkong, 23rd October, 1919.

Sir.—I am directed to forward your information a copy of a letter received from the Warden, St. Stephen's College, and to enquire whether the Chamber of Commerce are willing to contribute a portion of the Scholarship award as requested.

This Government has agreed to pay \$330 from the sum voted and \$60 for travelling expenses.—I am, etc.,

J. A. E. BULLOCK,
 for Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
 Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

St. Stephen's College,
 Hongkong, 16th October, 1919.

Sir.—In confirmation of my verbal request of the 14th instant, I beg to apply for the payment of a moiety (say one third) of the Scholarships awarded by the Hongkong Government and the Chamber of Commerce to Messrs. Li Tang (李當) and Wong Wai (王瑋) of Yunnan. They have entered St. Stephen's College for their preparatory year before matriculation.

I beg also to bring to your notice that other students holding scholarships from Yunnan have received in addition to their scholarships a grant of \$60. towards travelling expenses from Yunnan to Hongkong, and to request that Messrs. Li and Wong be granted the same allowance.—I am, etc.,

(Sd.) W. H. HEWITT,

Warden.

The Assistant Colonial Secretary,
 Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 30th October, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 831/1918 of 23rd instant, covering a communication from the Warden of St. Stephen's College with reference to Scholarships for Yunnanese to study at the Hongkong University.

My Committee note that Messrs. Li and Wong are now studying at St. Stephen's College preparatory to taking the Matriculation examination, and have pleasure in contributing a portion of the Scholarship award equivalent to the sum provided by the Government.

A Cheque for \$390.00 is therefore being forwarded to the Rev. Mr. Hewitt.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 30th October, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Your letter addressed to the Colonial Secretary with reference to the Yunnanese Scholars Messrs. Li Tang and Wong Wei now preparing at St. Stephen's College for the University Matriculation Examination has been passed on to this Chamber by the Government.

My Committee have pleasure in contributing equally with the Government a third of the Scholarships, and for this purpose I now enclose a cheque for \$390.00, for which I shall be glad to receive a receipt in due course.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Rev. W. H. Hewitt,
Warden, St. Stephen's College,
Hongkong.

CHAMBER'S LETTER OF APPRECIATION TO
MAJOR CASSEL, O.B.E.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 2nd September, 1919.

Dear Major Cassel,—The Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce desire to express to you their appreciation of the assistance and courtesy that the commercial, and particularly the shipping community of the Colony have always received from you during your tenure of the office of D.A.A. Q.M.G.

Many a difficult situation has been rendered less difficult by your tact and willingness to meet the business interests wherever possible, and I feel sure that this expression of appreciation on the part of the Committee is heartily endorsed by all members of the Chamber who have had dealings with your department.

The Committee regret your impending departure, and take this opportunity of wishing you "bon voyage"—Yours, etc.,

(Sgd.) S. H. DODWELL,
Chairman.

Major Cassel O.B.E. D.A.A. Q.M.G.
Headquarter Office,
Present.

No. 107, The Peak,
Hongkong, 4th September, 1919.

Dear Mr. Dodwell,—In acknowledging receipt of and thanking you for your letter of September 2nd, I would ask you to convey to the Members of your Committee my sincere thanks for their letter of appreciation and the kindly thought which prompted it. I assure you that my tenure of office as D.A.A. and Q.M.G. of the China Command was made a pleasant one by the cordial assistance and loyal co-operation which I at all times experienced from the leaders of the Commercial and Shipping Community in Hongkong, a Colony I leave temporarily with much regret.—Yours, etc.,

L. CASSEL.

Hon. Mr. S. H. Dodwell,
Chairman,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

K 2

LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 29th August, 1919.

Dear Sir,—From time to time my Committee, impressed by certain changing conditions of commercial life in the Colony, have made suggestions to Government that legislation should take place with the object of stabilizing commerce. The suggestion of the Chamber is sometimes met with a reply that although the proposed enactment might be desirable, the Law Officers of the Crown, having in mind the peculiar constitution of the population of the Colony, do not see how present conditions may be altered.

It is probably that in most cases the Law Officers of the Crown are correct, but it is possible that in some cases, had my Committee the necessary qualifications, legal ways and means could be pointed out to Government whereby the desired effect could be obtained.

My Committee feel that the usefulness of the Chamber to Commerce, which they naturally desire should rest on as broad a base as is possible, is hampered by the non-existence of a Legal Sub-Committee to the Chamber, and it is proposed, if possible, to form such a Sub-Committee.

I am directed to ask you if you will be good enough to give the Chamber the benefit of your valuable experience by serving on the proposed Committee.

I might mention that the first question which would be referred to the Committee, if formed, would be the important one of Chinese trading under foreign names.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS
Secretary.

Letters to Messrs. C. D. Wilkinson,
H. J. Gedge and J. Scott Harston.

Hongkong, 4th September, 1919.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of last week I beg to state that I shall be pleased to act as a member of a legal Sub-Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.—Yours, etc.,

C. D. WILKINSON.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

K 2

Hongkong, 2nd September, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th August and shall be happy to serve as a member of the Legal Sub-Committee proposed to be formed by your Chamber.—Yours, etc.,

H. J. GEDGE,

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 2nd September, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 29th ultimo, informing me of the proposed formation of a Legal Sub-Committee to the Chamber of Commerce, and enquiring whether I am willing to serve on such Sub-Committee.

In reply I have to say that I shall be pleased to do so.—Yours, etc.

J. SCOTT HARSTON.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

L 2

DEPOSITS WITH CABLE COMPANIES.

Northwest Trading Co.,
Hongkong, 15th December, 1919.

Gentlemen,—We attach herewith copy of letter dated October 27th received from our New York Office in reference to cable deposits. Our head office in Seattle has reported in the same terms.—Yours, etc.,

p.p. Northwest Trading Co., Ltd.

E. C. DINGMAN.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Northwest Trading Co., Ltd.,
New York, Oct. 27th, 1919,
Ref. H.K. 4157,
Subject. Cable Deposit.

Hongkong Office:

Replying to your letter of the 2nd ult. regarding deposit required by the Cable Company at yours, would state that no such deposit is ever required at any point in the United States. The cable companies

here look up a concern's responsibility, just as does any other person selling goods, and if their reputation is sufficiently good credit is extended without question. As a matter of fact, the telegraph companies will extend to almost anyone and it certainly appears as though the action on the part of the cable company at yours is most unusual and very shortsighted.—Yours, etc.,

W. R. ROBINSON.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 30th December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 15th inst. covering copy of a letter from your New York Office on the subject of Deposits with Cable Companies.

The information contained in the enclosure is indeed startling, and displays a simple confidence which is rarely met with elsewhere. All over the Continent of Europe and the United Kingdom the Government Telegraphs and Cable Companies accept for transmission, messages on cash payment only.

So far as Hongkong is concerned I think the system of Deposits with the Cable Companies is generally looked upon as a great convenience, especially to large firms where telegraphic correspondence is bulky. This Deposit is an item under Assets in the Balance Sheets of all large local concerns.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

E. C. Dingman, Esq.,
Messrs. Northwest Trading Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong.

Northwest Trading Co.,
Hongkong, 5th January, 1920.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of December 30th on the subject of deposit of cable company, we enclose herewith copy of letter dated November 14th just received from our London Office. This letter is rather contrary to the information given in your own letter.—Yours, etc.,

p.p. Northwest Trading Co., Ltd.,
E. C. DINGMAN.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Northwest Trading Co., Ltd.,
Ref. No. 50942.

From London Office
To Hongkong Office
Subject: Cables.

We have your letter 4157, of the 22nd September. We have never been asked by a cable company to deposit money with our bankers.

It is the custom in this country, both with the Western Union Cable Company and the Eastern Telegraph Co. to send in a monthly account,

and this is paid by us at the end of the month. We telephone to the Company when we have a cable ready and they send a messenger, who signs in our book for every cable taken; we can therefore check the number of cables sent out.

We sympathise with you over the arbitrary action of the cable company and hope that something can be done to rectify this.
(Signed.)

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 23rd January, 1920.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of 5th instant with enclosure regarding deposits with the Cable Companies, I am now given to understand that the information you have from your London House is substantially correct.

The innovation, however, has only been instituted in recent years, and is the outcome of the strong competition between the various Cable Companies. The practice is by no means general, and is in fact a privilege extended only to approved firms of indisputable integrity and may be withdrawn at any time.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

E. C. Dingman, Esq.,
Messrs. Northwest Trading Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong.

M2

CIRCULARS ISSUED BY THE IMPORTS
AND EXPORTS OFFICE.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 10th January, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 1.

The public is reminded that no Import or Export Permits are necessary for any of the following articles, arriving from or destined to any countries except Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Holland:—

Fresh Milk and Cream,
Fresh Fish,
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables,
Ice,
Live Fish,
Live Poultry,
Live Stock.

(Sgd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 13th January, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 2.

List of Headings for Classification of Imports and Exports.
The following Government Notification is circulated for information •
of Merchants:—

"A revised and enlarged edition of the List of Headings for
"Classification of Imports and Exports, containing an index and a
"Chinese version, has now been compiled. Copies of the former
"List will be exchanged free of charge on presentation at the
"General Office of this Department. Additional copies can be
"purchased from the Government Printers at 50 cents each."

(Sgd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 13th January, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 3.

Firms are requested to note that the Staff of the Imports and
Exports Department is strictly forbidden to give any information regard-
ing imports and exports without the consent of the Superintendent unless
such information directly concerns some definite shipment handled or to
be handled by the enquirer's own firm.

(Sgd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 13th January, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 4.

Firms are requested to note that Messrs. S. Hamer and C. J. Roe
have been empowered to sign all permits for the Superintendent from
the 4th December, 1918. Their signatures are shown below.

(Sgd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

(Sd.) S. Hamer.
(Sd.) C. J. Roe.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 13th January, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 5.

Prohibited Imports into the United Kingdom.

The following telegram has been received from the Secretary of
State:—

"..... Import prohibitions have not been withdrawn,
"but since Armistice general licences have been issued allowing
"importation of any quantity of numerous articles including
"following:—

"Aerated mineral and table waters,
"Almonds,
"Apparel not waterproofed,
"Works of art,
"Baskets,
"Metal baths,
"Live Birds,
"Bladders, casings and sausage skins,
"Brooms and brushes,
"Cement,
"Fresh flowers,
"Leather gloves,
"Hats and bonnets,
"Horns and hoofs,
"Vegetable,
"Ivory,
"Linen, yarns,
"Mops,
"Nuts,
"Oilcloth,
"Perfumery,
"Pictures,
"Prints and engravings,
"Photographs,
"Manufactured skins and furs,
"Canned, bottled and preserved fruit,
"Soap,
"Gum kauri."

(Sgd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 17th January, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 6.

This year's stocktakings at the Licenced Warehouses have revealed in almost every case shortages which can only be attributed to removals without permits. Strong comment has been made by the Audit Department and a recurrence of such irregularities may oblige this Department to adopt a system of strict Bond, allowing Licenced Warehouses to be open only when an Officer of the Department can be present.

(Sd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 28th January, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 7.

Exports to Holland.

Subject to the conditions stated below the following articles may now be exported to satisfactory consignees in Holland viz:—

Hides, Vegetable Oils, Ginger, Cassia, Matting, Feathers, Galangal, Tea. Shipment may be either direct or via the United Kingdom with or without transshipment there.

CONDITIONS.

A. The goods must be covered at the time of shipment by import certificates from the Netherlands Overseas Trust and evidence to this effect must be furnished to the Superintendent of Imports and Exports before an export or transshipment permit will be granted. Such evidence may take any of the following forms:—

- (I) Production of the actual certificates.
- (II) Telegraphic advices from some British representative in Holland or from the British Colonial Office addressed to the Colonial Government.
- (III) A certificate in the annexed form which in the case of consignments originating in Hongkong, must be signed by the Consul General for the Netherlands in Hongkong, and in the case of consignments originating elsewhere, must be signed either by the British Consul or the Consul for the Netherlands at the place of origin.

B. The goods must be consigned to the Netherlands Overseas Trust for the account of the ultimate consignees and Bills of Lading so made out must be produced to and visaed by this Department.

C. All applications for export permits must be made in **TRIPLICATE**.

(Sd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Hongkong,1919.

I, the undersigned, certify that the goods specified below are destined for the Netherlands Overseas Trust which has granted import certificates for them and guarantee their disposal in accordance with its regulations.

(Sgd.)

Consul-General for the
Netherlands.

Consignee

Nature of Goods

Quantity of Goods

Marks and Numbers

*N.O.T. Import Certificate No. :—

*When known to be stated.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 30th January, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 8.

Importation of Tin from the Straits Settlements.

Numerous enquiries are being addressed to this Department with regard to the importation and subsequent re-exportation of Singapore and Penang Tin. The position is this:—

Importation.

An import permit will be given, on application, for any Tin arriving from Singapore or Penang, as for any other goods arriving from those places. This is a routine matter and implies no special sanction or approval of the importation on the part of the Hongkong Government.

Re-exportation.

No Tin of any kind can be exported or re-exported from Hongkong to any destination without the consent of the Secretary of State and in the case of Tin imported from the Straits Settlements it appears improbable that such consent will be given.

This Department reserves the right to take any steps it may consider necessary to prevent Singapore and Penang Tin from being disguised as Yunnan—or other description of non-British Tin.

It must be understood that this position is subject to variation without notice, should fresh instructions from the Secretary of State so require.

(Sd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 4th February, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 9.

Transshipment Cargo.

With reference to Circular No. 60 of the 27th December, 1918, it is now requested that all applications for Transshipment Permits shall state in addition to the number of packages, the QUANTITY of the goods concerned in terms of the basis on which freight is to be charged i.e. tons weight, measurement tons, value, or any other measure by which the quantity of the goods is to be calculated for freight purposes.

2. Though desirable, it is not essential that these particulars should be given at the time the application is made. Permits will be signed subject to the condition "Full particulars to be given when known" in cases when the forward freight charges on a consignment are not known at the time of application.

(Sd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 8th March, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 10.

Exports to France and Italy.

The following goods in Class B may be shipped or transhipped to satisfactory consignees in France and Italy for consumption in those countries:—

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Lard, | } of Chinese Origin. |
| Tallow, | |
| Vegetable Fibres
and | |
| Manila Hemp. | |

(Sgd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 11th March, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 11.

Transshipment of Goods in the United Kingdom.

The following telegram has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

"Owing to altered conditions transshipment facilities United Kingdom are now granted freely for goods from British Oversea Dominions destined countries excepted from operations United Kingdom List C., provided it is shewn to the satisfaction of the War Trade Department that the goods were actually sent to this country with a view to such transshipment.

"Existence of import restrictions in France and Italy must be borne in mind.

"Import licences into Belgium no longer needed except for sugar, cereals for breadmaking, malt, barley, oats and coal.

"Transshipment facilities cannot be guaranteed for export to countries to which List C. applies unless His Majesty's Government consulted in advance as to classes of goods in question.

"With regard to goods from foreign countries in Europe to Oversea Dominions transshipment facilities are freely granted United Kingdom except in case of essential foodstuffs."

2. This Department will therefore grant export permits for Goods to be transhipped in the United Kingdom to the following countries:—
France and French Possessions,
Italy and Italian Possessions,
Portugual,
Belgium,
Greece,
Spain and Morocco,

provided such goods are not prohibited for exportation to the country in question.

3. It is advisable that the Bills of Lading for Goods destined for transshipment in the United Kingdom should be marked "In transit to (country of ultimate destination)."

(Sgd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 26th March, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 12.

Transshipment of British Goods to non-British destinations.

With reference to Circular No. 38 of the 31st August, 1918, merchants and shipping companies are advised that Customs Form S. 73 is now required, only in the case to destinations to which such goods are prohibited from exportation from Hongkong for the time being.

2. The export prohibitions now in force in Hongkong will be found in the Gazettes of the 31st January and 14th February, 1919.

3. The following are examples of the working of this rule:—
- Copper* is in Class B. and therefore prohibited for export to any non-British destination. Consequently a consignment of Copper arriving from the United Kingdom could not be transhipped to Canton unless accompanied by form S. 73.
 - Rubber, jute manufactures (as distinct from raw jute) and *all* articles not specifically mentioned in the Gazettes referred to are in Class C. and may therefore be transhipped without form S. 73 to any country except Russia and certain countries in Europe (see definition of Class C.)

4. It should be borne in mind that the export prohibitions published in the Gazette have in many cases been made subject to extensive relaxations and that these relaxations *remain unimpaired* by the new list of prohibitions. On the other hand, these relaxations have never been extended to the articles in question when imported from the United Kingdom.

(Sgd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 27th March, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 13.

Exportation of Tin.

This may now be exported to satisfactory consignees in any country which is not prohibited under Class C. in the Export Prohibition List. The Countries so prohibited are European and Asiatic Russia and foreign countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean except:—

France and French Possessions,
Italy and Italian Possessions,
Portugal,
Belgium,
Greece,
Spain,
Morocco,

Reference to London is no longer necessary.

(Sgd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 1st April, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 14.

Firms are requested to note that Mr. B. W. Cormack has been empowered to sign all permits for the Superintendent from the 1st April, 1919. His signature is shown below.

(Sd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

(Sd.) B. W. Cormack.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 13th May, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 15.

Exportation of Sugar to Belgium.

Sugar may now be exported to Belgium freely either direct or via the United Kingdom provided the ultimate destination is in Allied territory.

Shippers should, however, satisfy themselves that the import licences required for the admission of Sugar into Belgium have been obtained.

(Sd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 26th May, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 16.

Import and Export Permits.

On and after the 29th May, 1919, with the exceptions stated below, approval of Import and Export applications will be signified by Stamp instead of by signature, the object being to reduce the time required for obtaining such approval.

Exceptions.

- GOODS.** Applications to import or export any of the following goods whatever the origin or destination must still receive the *signature* of the Superintendent or his Assistants:—

Aircraft,
Asphalt (Raw),
Bitumen (Raw),
Bauxite (Raw),
Butter—over 50 lbs.,
Cheese—over 50 lbs.,
Chrome Ore,
Coal and Coke,
Cotton,
Jute (Raw),
Lead—over 100 piculs,
Lead-Ore,
Mica,
Oils and Fats, Animal and Vegetable (not including essential oils)—over 10 piculs,
Oleaginous Kernels, Nuts Seeds and Products—over 10 piculs,
Rice—over 10 piculs,
Silver Coin and Bullion,
Spelter,
Tungsten (Wolfram),
Tungsten Ore (Wolframite),
Whalebone,
Wheat,
Wool (Raw),
Zinc Ore and Concentrates,
Arms,
Ammunition,
Explosives (including Sulphur and Saltpetre),
Intoxicating Liquors,
Tobacco,
Opium,
Cocaine,
Morphine,

2. *ORIGINS & DESTINATIONS.* Applications to import from or export to the following Countries, whatever the nature of the goods must still receive the *signature* of the Superintendent or his Assistants:—

Russia in Europe,
Norway,
Sweden,
Denmark,
Holland
Switzerland,
Turkey,
Bulgaria,
and all Ports in those Countries

3. *TRANSHIPMENT.* All transshipment permits will be signed as heretofore.
Specimen applications, showing method of approval by stamp, are annexed.

Note 1. All trade with Germany and Austria is still prohibited except for those portions now occupied by the Armies of the Associated Governments.

Note 2. The attention of merchants is drawn to the revised notification regarding Black Lists appearing in the Gazette of 16th May.

Note 3. Import restrictions are in force in the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Italy and elsewhere and the approval of an export application for any of those destinations implies no guarantee that the goods are not prohibited under such restrictions.

(Sd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 29th May, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 17.

Export of Rice to Australia.

Australia appears to be calling for Rice from Hongkong in quantities out of proportion to her purchases here in 1918 and it is necessary in the interests of the Colony at large that any abnormal movement of Rice should be prevented.

Total prohibition of exportation to Australia is not contemplated but it may be necessary to refuse permission for large shipments.

Merchants proposing to make shipments exceeding 30 tons by any one steamer are therefore advised to consult this Department before closing business.

(Sd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 31st May, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 18.

Exports to Norway, Sweden, Denmark,
Holland and Switzerland.

Any goods, except those in the Schedule below, may now be exported from Hongkong to the above Countries provided the goods are in every case consigned to the appropriate importing association (e.g. S.S.S. in Switzerland.—N.O.T. in Holland) for account of the actual consignee.

If it is found by the consignee that these associations refuse to accept consignment the goods may be consigned to the inter-allied Trade Committee at the Hague, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Christiania and to the British Legation at Berne in the case of Switzerland.
 Note:—This dispensation does not apply to European Russia and the Baltic Provinces.

Schedule.

Aircraft,
 Ammunition,
 Asbestos,
 Asphalt, raw,
 Bitumen, raw,
 Bauxite, raw,
 Butter,
 Cheese,
 Chrome Ore,
 Coal,
 Coke,
 Cocaine,
 Copper,
 Copper Ore,
 Cotton,
 Explosives,
 Ferro alloys,
 Firearms of all kinds,
 Gambier,
 Hemp,
 Jute,
 Lead,
 Lead Ore,
 Manganese Ore,
 Mica,
 Oils and fats, animal and vegetable,
 Oleaginous kernels, nuts, seeds and products,
 Opium,
 Paraffin wax,
 Rattans,
 Rice,
 Rubber,
 Sago,
 Silver coin and silver bullion,
 Spelter,
 Sugar,

Tapioca,
 Tin,
 Tin Ore,
 Tungsten,
 Tungsten Ore,
 Whalebone,
 Wheat,
 Wool,
 Zinc Ore and concentrates,

(Sgd.) D. W. TRATMAN,
 Superintendent,
 Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
 Hongkong, 6th June, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 19.

Transshipment of Rice.

Firms are requested to note that all rice intended for transshipment at this port for destinations other than China, Japan, United States of America, Central and South America and the Philippine Islands must for the present be accompanied by a Consular Certificate from the port of shipment stating the ultimate destination.

(Sgd.) C. W. BECKWITH,
 Superintendent,
 Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
 Hongkong, 19th June, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 20.

Firms are requested to note that Mr. J. A. C. V. RIBEIRO has been empowered to sign all Import and Export Permits for the Superintendent from the 20th June, 1919. His signature is shown below.

(Sgd.) C. W. BECKWITH,
 Superintendent,
 Imports and Exports

(Sd.) J. A. C. V. Ribeiro

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 20th June, 1919

CIRCULAR NO. 21.

Exports to Black Sea Ports and Odessa.

Shippers are requested to note that goods exported to Black Sea Ports and destined for places inland may be liable to detention and that shipments of cargo to Odessa will not be allowed.

(Sgd.) C. W. BECKWITH,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 23rd June, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 22.

Bills of Lading and shipping manifests, except those covering shipment of prohibited goods for Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Holland, North Russia and Switzerland, may now be made out "TO ORDER."

(Sgd.) C. W. BECKWITH,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 24th June, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 23.

With reference to shipments to Norway, it is no longer necessary to consign to Importing Association or Official Consignees, but Exporters should satisfy themselves that goods are not subject to Norwegian Import Restrictions.

In the case of Switzerland, consignees should procure certificate from Societe Surveillance Suisse in respect of goods consignable to such body before arrival of goods in order to avoid delay in delivery, but all other goods not prohibited may now be forwarded direct to purchasers.

(Sgd.) C. W. BECKWITH,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 2nd July, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 24.

With reference to shipment of goods to Sweden and Denmark, it is no longer necessary to consign to Inter Allied Trading Association. This applies to goods not prohibited.—see Circular No. 18 of the 31st May, 1919.

(Sgd.) C. W. BECKWITH,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 2nd July, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 25.

Certificates of Origin are no longer required for Belgium goods shipped from the United Kingdom and Belgium ports.

(Sgd.) C. W. BECKWITH,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 30th July, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 26.

All firms holding stocks of Rice are requested to forward to this Office as soon as possible a statement showing the amount of rice held by them, the quality, and date of importation, together with details of any forward contracts entered into in respect to such rice.

(Sgd.) C. W. BECKWITH,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
Hongkong, 10th September, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 27.

On and after the 11th September the approval of all Import and Export applications will be signified by a Rubber Stamp instead of by signature, with the exceptions noted below:—

(1) *GOODS.* Application to import or export any of the following Goods whatever the origin or destination must still receive the signature of the Superintendent or his Assistants:—

Aircraft,
 Chrome Ore,
 Rice,
 Silver Coin and Bullion,
 Spelter.
 Aluminium,
 Bismuth,
 Copper,
 Lead,
 Nickel,
 Tin,
 Tungsten,
 Zinc,
 Arms,
 Ammunition,
 Explosives, including Sulphur and Saltpetre.
 Intoxicating Liquors,
 Tobacco,
 Opium,
 Cocaine,
 Morphine.

Including Ores and Concentrates.

(2) *ORIGIN & DESTINATIONS.* Applications to import from or export to the following Countries, whatever the nature of the Goods must still receive the signature of the Superintendent or his Assistants:—

Austria,
 Bulgaria,
 Germany,
 Russia in Europe,
 Turkey,
 and all Ports in those Countries.

(Sgd.) C. W. BECKWITH,
 Superintendent,
 Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
 Hongkong, 20th September, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 28

By the repeal of the Sugar Convention Ordinance, Sugar is placed on the same footing for import as other cargo not covered by Opium, Liquor and Tobacco Ordinances. An ordinary import permit must be taken out and the Sugar must be declared under one of the Classification List Headings.

(Sgd.) H. ALLAN TAYLOR,
 Superintendent,
 Imports and Exports

Imports and Exports Office,
 Hongkong, 14th November, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 29.

Firms are requested to note that:—

Mr. C. J. Roe
 Mr. H. A. Taylor have been empowered to sign all permits.

Mr. B. W. Cormack has been empowered to sign all permits other than Rice.

Mr. F. Place da Silva has been empowered to sign Liquor and Tobacco Permits.

Specimens of the signature of each of the above gentlemen are in your possession. This cancels all previous advices, except Circular No. 27 of 10/9/19 which will not be affected.

(Sgd.) C. W. BECKWITH,
 Superintendent,
 Imports and Exports.

Imports and Exports Office,
 Hongkong, 18th December, 1919.

CIRCULAR NO. 30.

LIQUOR AND TOBACCO PERMITS.

On and after the 22nd December, 1919, the approval of all Liquor and Tobacco permits will be signified by an embossed impression of the seal of this Department as shown below.

(Sgd.) H. ALAN TAYLOR,
 Superintendent,
 Imports and Exports

N2

TRADE WITH GERMANY.

Hongkong, 12th January, 1920.

Dear Sir,—We beg to advise having received letters from our pre-war correspondents in Germany, but so far, such letters have been immediately consigned to the waste paper basket.

We have received information that some Hong Kong firms have already opened up business with Germany and Austria, but as we wish to act strictly in conformity with other members of the Chamber, we shall be much obliged if you will kindly inform us what action (if any) has been taken by our members in dealing with the above named countries.

Thanking you in anticipation for your kind reply.—We are, etc.,

H. Stephens & Co., Ltd.
H. STEPHENS,
Managing Director.

The Secretary,
Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 19th January, 1920.

Dear Sirs,—In reply to your letter of the 12th inst., so far as my Committee is aware, there is now nothing to prevent any British Merchant entering into business relations with Germany or Austria, but Merchants appear to be awaiting a lead from the Imperial Authorities.

I am communicating with the local Government for a definite ruling and will advise you of their reply when received.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. H. Stephens & Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 19th January, 1920.

Sir,—You are probably aware that British Merchants are uncertain whether or not they can properly engage in business with Germany and Austria, and appear to be awaiting an Imperial pronouncement as to the exact situation.

My Committee direct me to request a definite expression of opinion from your Government, for which they will be obliged.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIRS.

Office of the Commercial Secretary
to H. M. Legation, Peking,
New Government Building,
Hongkong, 18th October, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to inform you that I am in receipt of a Despatch from the Department of Overseas Trade on the subject of the British Industries Fairs to be held in London, Birmingham and Glasgow during the period February 23, to March 5, 1920. These Fairs have received very strong support from British manufacturers and the products exhibited should be of great interest to overseas buyers.

The Fairs are not Exhibitions in the ordinary sense of the word, admission being by invitation only and being restricted to persons seriously interested in the participating trades. A supply of tickets of admission is being forwarded to me by the Department of Overseas Trade, and I shall be glad to furnish one to any member of your Chamber, whether of British or other nationality, who may be contemplating a trip to England in the spring of next year, and would like to visit these Fairs, or who may desire to secure a card of invitation for the firm's representative in the United Kingdom.—Yours, etc.,

H. J. BRETT,
Commercial Secretary of Legation.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS.

Fire Insurance Association of Hongkong,
Hongkong, 23rd December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Committee of this Association held yesterday a copy of a letter addressed by Mr. B. L. Frost to the Government on the subject of electric installation of the Kam Ling Hotel, West Point was submitted.

The whole situation both from the fire insurance and public interests points of view was discussed, and it was resolved that the Association should approach the Chamber of Commerce with a view to legislation being enacted and enforced having for its object the protection of the public against electrical work installed by unqualified persons.

It appears to our Committee that no installation work should be undertaken by individuals or firms who have not passed some form of test,

either administered by an electrical expert of the P.W.D. (whom they at present do not possess) or by a Board of Electrical Engineers constituted by Government.

Installations using the current of the Hongkong Electric Co. or the China Light and Power Co. are already or could be approved by these Companies before joining up, but private installations, which are on the increase, should be subject to stringent regulations.—Yours, etc.,

LOWE, BINGHAM & MATHEWS,
Secretaries.

The Secretary,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Enclosure.

Hongkong, 28th November, 1919.

Dear Sir,—A short time ago there was published in the local press an account of the opening of a new Chinese Hotel at West Point and in that account particulars were given of the electric lighting plant for the building.

It was stated that the plant was an alternating one of 2200 volts reduced by three transformers to 110 volts and that the load consisted of more than 1,000 lamps, two lifts and a number of fans.

Those of the engineering profession who read that account were very much astonished that such a plant should have been allowed in a building and even doubted the accuracy of it as it is against all Board of Trade, Institution of Electrical Engineer and Fire Insurance Rules.

Besides the authorities mentioned above the Local Ordinance expressly lays down that the pressure of a supply shall not exceed the limit of low pressure (250 volts) except for special purposes, for which a medium pressure may be given on the consumer undertaking to comply with the following conditions: This is followed by a series of very stringent regulations which apply to a voltage not exceeding 650. Not one of these regulations have been carried out in this plant although of 2200 volts.

From enquiries which I made I found that the account was correct, I also found out who had supplied the installation and by the courtesy of a gentleman connected with the work on the building I was shewn over the Hotel.

I did not expect to find anything very elaborate in the plant but was quite unprepared to find the truly scandalous way in which it had been installed.

I will confine my remarks to the electrical plant. The Generator which is a belt driven one is located in a small room in the basement and had an iron rail round it. The three transformers stood on the floor within a few inches of the rail without anything to protect anyone from touching their cases as should have been. The switchboard extended partly across the room the back of it quite open so that anyone could touch the high tension terminals, and a regulator was put up without any pretence at insulation whatever.

The high and low tension wires are carried on the same board, the low tension from the transformers below the H. T. This would not be tolerated in any other place in the world.

At the time of my visit, last Monday afternoon, the whole of the lighting of the building was being run direct from the transformers there being no low tension switchboard, no main switches and no main fuses. The ends of the circuits leading to all parts of the building were joined up on the wall, the bare wire being left exposed so that a coolie carrying a bamboo over his shoulder could have easily shorted several of them together and put such a load on the transformers that they would probably have broken down with disastrous consequences. Most of the building would probably be plunged into darkness the result of which in a place thronged with Chinese men, women and children as I saw them, is better imagined than described.

No notices warning employes or others as to the very dangerous results of touching any of the live wires or what to do in the event of shock was displayed and the generator room had three beds and a table with food on it, which is also against all regulations.

The Manager of the General Electric Company, who supplied the plant, told me that permission to install this plant had been given by the Public Works Department. Whoever the person that gave the permission is, I have not the least hesitation in saying, acted in gross ignorance of the Rules regulating electric lighting and without understanding the very serious consequences which are likely to occur.

Besides these faults in the generating plant I found that the roof garden lights which are carried, many of them, on iron pipe standards, were connected up with ordinary flexible wire slung between the standards with no support. Where the wire entered the pipes there was some attempt at taping but there were no bushes for insulation as there should have been. This class of wire is totally unfit for outside lighting and is another source of danger to the building.

There could not possibly have been any proper test taken of the insulation of the system and how an unfinished plant of the size of this one could have been allowed to be used I cannot understand.

I trust, Sir, that you will give this matter your immediate and serious consideration as, although no trouble has occurred so far, should we have a spell of wet weather, it is impossible to say what may happen.—I have, etc.,

B. L. FROST.

To the Hon. Mr. Claud Severn, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 11th December, 1919

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of and to thank you for your letter of the 28th November regarding the Electric plant at the Kam Ling Hotel at West Point, and to inform you that action has been taken to improve matters.—I am, etc.,

CLAUD SEVERN,
Colonial Secretary.

B. L. Frost, Esq.,
c/o The Eastern Extension, Australasia
and China Telegraph Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 19th January, 1920.

Sir,—I am directed to approach you with regard to the danger arising from Electrical Installation work undertaken by individuals or firms possessing little or no qualification for this class of work.

It appears to my Committee that legislation is necessary to prevent a considerable and increasing danger to the community.

It is suggested by my Committee that if the P.W.D. do not already possess the services of a first class electrical expert, such should be secured, and legislation enacted obliging individuals or firms undertaking installation work, and not possessing recognised qualifications, to pass an approved form of test administered by such expert.

The legislation could enact that installations proposing to use the current of the Hongkong Electric Co. or the China Light and Power Co. must be approved by those Companies before being joined up, but private installations, which are on the increase, should be subject to most stringent regulations.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Q2

BANK HOLIDAY, 27th DECEMBER, 1919.

Chartered Bank of India Australia & China,
Hongkong, 31st October, 1919.

Dear Sir,—The Exchange Banks are unanimous in suggesting that Saturday, the 27th December, 1919, be declared a Bank Holiday. In addition to the usual general holidays on Thursday, the 25th and Friday, the 26th December, and we have accordingly applied to the Government for their sanction. We shall feel obliged if the Chamber will give its support to our application.—Yours, etc.,

J. L. CROCKATT,
Manager.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 31st October, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to the application of the Exchange Banks to the Government to have Saturday, 27th December, 1919, declared a Bank Holiday, I am directed by my Committee to state that the application has the support of this Chamber.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 6th November, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 31st October, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor-in-Council has appointed Saturday, the 27th December, 1919, to be observed as a General Holiday.

A notification will be published in the Hongkong Government Gazette to this effect.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 8th November, 1919.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the application to the Government by the Exchange Banks to have Saturday, 27th December declared a Bank Holiday, which application was supported by this Chamber, I have now to inform you that the Government have acceded to the request, and a notification to this effect will be published in the Government Gazette.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Manager,
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,
Hongkong.

R2

BANK HOLIDAYS, 2ND AND 3RD JANUARY, 1920.

Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China,
Hongkong, 12th November, 1919.

Dear Sir,—The Exchange Banks are desirous of making Friday, the 2nd and Saturday, the 3rd January, 1920 Bank Holidays to facilitate the closing of their Books at the end of the year, and we have accordingly applied to the Government for their sanction. We shall feel obliged if the Chamber will give its support to our application.—Yours, etc.,

J. L. CROCKATT,
Manager.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 12th November, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to the application of the Exchange Banks to the Government to have Friday, the 2nd and Saturday, the 3rd January, 1920 declared Bank Holidays, I am directed by my Committee to state that the application has the support of this Chamber.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 13th November, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 12th November, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor-in-Council has been pleased to appoint Friday the 2nd and Saturday the 3rd January, 1920, to be observed as General Holidays.

A notification will be published in the Hongkong Government Gazette to this effect.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 13th November, 1919.

Dear Sir.—With reference to the application to the Government by the Exchange Banks to have Friday the 2nd and Saturday the 3rd January, 1920, declared Bank Holidays, which application was supported by this Chamber, I have now to inform you that the Government have acceded to the request, and a notification to this effect will be published in the Government Gazette.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
The Manager,
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,
Hongkong.

VANCOUVER HARBOUR.

Office of the Commercial Secretary
to H. M. Legation, Peking,
New Government Building,
Hongkong, 28th November, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to enclose herewith copy of a letter addressed by the Vancouver Harbour Commissioners to His Majesty's Consul General at Canton and transmitted to me by him.

It is not improbable that a similar Communication may have reached you direct from the Harbour Commissioners, but if the matter has not already been dealt with I would suggest that it might be considered by your Committee, and I shall be glad to transmit any recommendations which they may consider advisable.—Yours, etc.,

H. J. BRETT,
Commercial Secretary of Legation.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Vancouver Harbour Commissioners,
Vancouver, B.C. 20th October, 1919.

British Consul,
Canton, China.

Sir,—The Vancouver Harbour Commissioners are deeply concerned with the future potentialities of the Port of Vancouver in relation to trans-Pacific commerce and the requirements of business communities in the Orient.

You have, no doubt, already formed impressions of the significance of the present circumstances, or it may be deficiencies, of this Port, in considering the service required of it by the commercial interests within your sphere of influence, I am instructed to express the hope that you can kindly see your way to favour the Commissioners with your views on this subject at early convenience. Any criticism, suggestions or advice from you, or through you from importing or exporting corporations of your acquaintance, will be warmly welcomed by the Commissioners as it is their earnest desire to energetically mould future development in line with intelligent appreciation of every consideration tending towards expansion of business between the Port of Vancouver and Oriental shipping points.

It is hoped that the Commissioners can count on your sympathetic and helpful interest in the welfare of their responsibility and I am instructed to assure you that your reply to this communication will be highly valued.—I am, etc.,

(Sd.) W. D. HARNE,
Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 2nd December, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to forward for the consideration of your Chamber the enclosed copy of a letter from the Vancouver Harbour Commissioners and to request that I may be furnished with an expression of the opinion of the Chamber on the subject.—I am, etc.,

CLAUD SEVERN,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 16th January, 1920.

Dear Sir,—I enclose herewith for your information copies of letters received from the Commercial Secretary of Legation for South China and the Colonial Secretary, Hongkong Government with enclosure dealing with Vancouver Harbour improvements.

My Committee will be glad if you can possibly assist the Chamber by offering any suggestions that may be useful to the Vancouver Harbour Commissioners.

I am advising the Government that the matter has been referred to you.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Capt. Davies,
Marine Superintendent,
Canadian Pacific Ocean Services, Ltd.,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 16th January, 1920.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 2nd ult. with enclosure dealing with Vancouver Harbour improvements.

The subject has been referred to the Marine Superintendent of the Canadian Pacific Ocean Services, Ltd., and also publicity given to the matter in the Chamber's Monthly Report dated 12th December, 1919.

Whatever suggestions may be received by the Chamber will be transmitted to you in due course.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

TESTING OF WOOD OIL.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 10th October, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to forward for the consideration of your Chamber a copy of a report with enclosures on the subject of the testing of wood oil, which has been received from the Government Analyst.

Dr. Lubatti has been instructed to communicate direct with you.—I am, etc.,

CLAUD SEVERN,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 15th October, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I enclose herewith copy of a letter received from the Government covering a report by the Government Analyst on the subject of the testing of Wood Oil.

This is a matter which comes more directly under your province, and my Committee will be glad if your Association will deal direct with the Government on the subject.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

DYES.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 11th December, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to address you with reference to Government Notification No. 554 concerning the importation of Dyes and Dye-stuffs.

My Committee understand from the Commercial Secretary of Legation that Government appreciates the fact that fully 95% of the Dyes and Dye-stuffs imported into this Colony are for sale to China Proper and that to interfere with this trade would not oblige the consumer to use the British produce but merely drive the business away to Canton and elsewhere.

My Committee further understand that Government would welcome a suggestion as to how the Imperial Decree is to be observed with the least interference with Trade until such time as the Imperial Authorities can be communicated with with a view to the removal of an enactment which in the opinion of my Committee is practically useless so far as this Colony is concerned.

It is suggested that licences to deal in dyes and dye-stuffs should be granted to all firms applying for them upon such firms making or signing a declaration to the effect that the importation is for re-export.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

V2

PEAK HOSPITAL.

Hongkong, 25th November, 1919.

Dear Sir,—We desire to bring before the notice of the Chamber the present and future position of the Colony with reference to private hospital accommodation at the Peak.

History.

The present 'Peak Hospital' was erected some twenty years ago by the firm of 'Hartigan Stedman and Rennie' and it has been maintained mainly by Drs. Stedman, Rennie, Harston, and Marriott a minority of shares being held outside the medical profession. For some considerable time past we have felt that the present building is utterly inadequate to meet the growing demands of the Colony for private hospital accommodation.

It is suggested that the present private company which owns the Peak Hospital, known as The Peak Hospital Ltd, should be wound up and a new company formed under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce; further that the present building should be pulled down and that a modern fully equipped Nursing Home should be erected in its place.

Site.

The present building occupies a site which is unrivalled for the purpose in the Colony. Its near vicinity to the Peak Tram station renders it easy of access both to visitors and patients. Its position on a plateau, with no surrounding hillside, ensures a cool breeze throughout the Summer months.

Accommodation.

We suggest that there should be accommodation for 20 first class and 10 second class beds, the former entailing separate rooms the latter two wards of 5 beds each. Separate quarters should be provided for the nursing staff and in these quarters there should also be accommodation for 2 private nurses for outside visiting; these nurses would be employed on special duty for critical cases in the Home and would only be employed outside when their presence in the Home is not required.

Style and Designation.

We would suggest that the Institution should be known as 'The Peak Nursing Home' thus eliminating the word 'Hospital' to which many people have an aversion, and more accurately describing the nature of the Institution.

Administration.

The Home should be conducted on self supporting lines under a Committee of management composed of Business men and registered medical practitioners. A medical superintendent would reside close to the Home, to ensure immediate attendance in critical cases at night time but cases should be admitted under the care of any medical practitioner duly registered in the Colony.

Under such a scheme continuity of treatment would be ensured, the same doctor being responsible for the patient's admission to the Home, his treatment in the Home and his supervision during convalescence, such continuity of treatment being of the utmost importance to firms from an economical point of view.

Financial.

It is roughly estimated that the cost of such a scheme would be in the neighbourhood of \$300,000. The initial outlay for purchase of site, rebuilding, including quarters for the nursing staff, would in a hospital of 30 beds be about \$280,000 and any sum in excess of this would be for equipment.

One of us (G.M.H.) has approached the Government for support in the scheme, such support to be in the nature of a subsidy in return for the privilege of admission of Government Officials and Servants. It is hoped that the Government will on the representation of the Chamber of Commerce recognise the urgent necessity of such a scheme. At the present time there is no male hospital accommodation on the Peak for Government Servants it is therefore in the interests of the Government to render substantial assistance towards any rebuilding scheme in addition to an annual grant in aid of maintenance.

We would be ready to attend any Committee meeting of the Chamber to discuss matters in fuller detail. The matter which has been held over during war conditions, is of some urgency. A large number of shares in the present institution are in the hands of shareholders outside the

Colony who have no further interest in the institution, and who may be desirous of withdrawing their capital; in this case we as the remaining active participators, would be unable to carry on the present state of affairs and would be reluctantly forced to close down.—We are, etc.,

G. MONTAGU HARSTON,
OSWALD MARRIOTT.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 11th December, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—Your letter of 25th November relative to the Peak Hospital was discussed and fully considered at the monthly meeting of my Committee held on Tuesday the 9th inst.

The unanimous opinion of the Committee was that this question is one entirely outside the province of a Chamber of Commerce.

As regards further or improved Hospital accommodation, my Committee consider this is to be a matter for Government to undertake, but there is no doubt that a private Nursing Home fulfills a real need and could probably be considered as a commercial proposition.

A concrete scheme in the shape of a prospectus asking for public support would undoubtedly bring forth applications for shares from most firms desiring to secure accommodation for their staffs in case of sickness and outport firms could also be approached.

At first sight it would appear that the initial cost mentioned by you would be too high to permit of a reasonable yield and presumably you have appreciated this possibility as you write of a Government subsidy.

Perhaps most firms would not expect a return on such an investment but they would expect such an institution to be self supporting.

The site is, as you say, excellent, but the cost seems very large and to obtain support you would have to convince the business man that a suitable site could not be obtained elsewhere, and the requisite building erected at a much less cost.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Drs. G. Montague Harston & Oswald Marriott,
Hongkong.

REPATRIATION OF ASSYRIANS.

Astor House Hotel,
Hongkong, 26th November, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have some of our Assyrian Refugees who are returning to their homes in Mesopotamia and they need some money to pay for their Passage and I shall be pleased if the Chamber of Commerce could be able to help us for some Passage Money to H.M.'s new Colony, Mesopotamia. I have already sent 360 Refugees from Siberia and North China.

I hope that the Chamber of Commerce will give us a helping hand to reach our destination, which is made free from the Turkish slavery.—
Yours, etc.,

M. G. DANIEL,
Archdeacon.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 11th December, 1919.

Venerable Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 25th November seeking help from my Chamber towards the repatriation of your nationals from Siberia and North China.

I am to state that no funds exist which the Committee could use for this purpose and that in the opinion of the Committee the matter is one for individual action.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Archdeacon M. G. Daniel,
Astor House Hotel,
Hongkong.

X2

RICE SHIPMENTS TO THE U.S.A.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 25th January, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in enclosing herewith telegraphic reply from the San Francisco Rice Association to this Chamber's telegram of 10th instant, regarding which my Committee await your further instructions.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of
Hongkong.

Translation of telegram received from the San Francisco
Rice Association on 25/1/19.

Rice—cannot agree to leave decision one surveyor alone Suggest that right of appeal be left to decision of Chamber of Commerce San Francisco not final merely to eliminate unnecessary claims.

We agree to Hongkong weights certificate final only on condition that entire shipments are weighed otherwise will necessitate sellers guaranteeing full shipping weights.

Suggest Capt. Branch issues weight certificate.

RICE ASSOCIATION.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 12th February, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to pass on for your information and consideration copy of a letter dated 2nd January received from the Rice Association of California, San Francisco.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

X 2

San Francisco, 2nd January, 1919.

Gentlemen,—This will acknowledge receipt November 2nd, of your cablegram as follows:—

“Reference to your cablegram of September 28th and October 9th. Association Exporters, Hongkong, decided all half grains be considered broken. Agree adopt for percentages broken grains:

Your Sample	1 — 5%
”	2 — 8 to 10%
”	3 — 20 to 30%
”	4 — 15 to 20%
”	5 — 25 to 30%
”	6 — 1—A, Saigon Long 15 to 20%
”	7 — 1—B, Saigon Long 22 to 25%
”	8 — 1—A, Saigon Round 15 to 20%
”	9 — 1—B, Saigon Round 22 to 25%
”	10 — 35 to 40%

“All foregoing conditional upon acceptance Hongkong Chamber of Commerce certificates as final.”

Immediately upon receipt of this message, a meeting of the committee appointed by this Association to handle the matter was called, and after considerable discussion it was decided that all members of the Association should be advised of your suggestions, and an individual expression from each member invited. In this manner the views of practically all members were expressed, and another meeting of the committee was called at which time we replied to your cable on December 18th, as follows:

“Replying to your telegram of November 2nd, we agree to percentages of broken. We agree to your certificate quality condition stowage to be final on condition that importer has the right to appeal to you in event of this Association deciding claims justifiable. This will eliminate unjust claims however after your review of certificate your decision final. We agree to Hongkong weights final, but we insist upon your shippers furnishing approved public weighmaster's certificate showing detailed uniform weights; no short weight bags to be shipped. Kindly reply as promptly as possible. Compliments of the season.”

The foregoing represents the views of our largest rice importers, as well as practically all members of this association.

It is the opinion of our committee that the better designation for our samples Nos. 7 and 9 (Saigon Long 22 to 25% and Saigon Round 22 to 25%, respectively), would be Grade “1” instead of “1—B”, inasmuch as the designation “1—B” might be taken to mean an inferior grade. In other words, it is the opinion of our committee that our samples Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9 should be designated as follows:

Sample	6 — 1—A, Saigon Long 15 to 20%
”	7 — 1, Saigon Long 22 to 25%
”	8 — 1—A, Saigon Round 15 to 20%
”	9 — 1, Saigon Round 22 to 25%

It is also the opinion of our committee that it will be to the advantage of our importers to have both their buying and selling contracts conditional upon acceptance of Hongkong Chamber of Commerce certificates

final as to quality, condition and stowage, but in view of the possibility of obvious errors in such certificates, it was considered only fair that if an importer considers that he has a claim, he should first present same to a committee of this Association for investigation, and after investigating the matter if our committee considers the claim meritorious, it should then be submitted to your organization by our committee, with request that your certificate be reviewed and if you find the claim to be in order, proper adjustment should be made.

If this suggestion is adopted, the findings of your organization after review of certificates would be accepted as final, and by having all claims first submitted and passed upon by our committee, you would not be called upon to review certificates where importers have petty claims of little or no merit, but should our committee, after reviewing all facts, consider that the importer had sufficient cause for review of certificate, we believe you will agree that a review should be granted.

Our importers are willing to accept Hongkong weights as final, provided all shipments are actually weighed and certificates issued by a reliable weigh master, showing detailed weights and provided further that only uniform packages are shipped.

Some difficulty in weights has been experienced by our importers heretofore, which was apparently due to the fact that only a few bags of each lot were weighed, and the average weight applied to the entire consignment. Therefore, we believe it will be more satisfactory to have all bags weighed and detailed weight certificates furnished.

When a consignment is received here by an importer, he very frequently has it sold to several buyers, and it is distributed and shipped to the various destinations directly from the dock. Therefore, unless the rice is packed in uniform containers, it is necessary for the importer to have the entire lot reweighed before making distribution. This causes considerable expense, as well as congestion on the docks, which will be avoided if only uniform packages are shipped.

For your information we are enclosing a list of the members of our association.

Trusting that our recommendations will meet with the approval of your exporters,—We are, etc.,

B. H. CARMICHAEL,

Acting Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

MEMBERS OF RICE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA.

Millers.

Pacific Rice Mills,	24 Bluxome St., San Francisco.
Union Rice Mills, Inc., (Also Importers)	707 Battery St., San Francisco.
C. E. Grosjean Rice Milling Co. (Also Importers)	3210-20th St., San Francisco.
M. Phillips & Co., (Also Importers)	1098 Sansome St., S. Francisco.
Globe Grain and Milling Co.,	Merchants Exchange Bldg., S. F.
Growers Rice Milling Co. Inc.,	Merchants Exchange Bldg., S. F.

Rosenberg Bros. & Co., (Also Importers)	334 California St., S. F.
M. J. Brandenstein & Co., (Also Importers)	665 Third St., San Francisco.
Natoma Milling Co.,	82 Natoma Street, S. Francisco.
Golden West Rice Milling Co.,	5th & Kirkham St., Oakland, Cal.
Kanesan Company, (Also Importers)	416 Jackson St., S. Francisco.
National Rice Mills, (Also Importers)	112 Market St., S. Francisco.
American Import & Export Co., (Also Importers)	433 Clay St., San Francisco.

Brokers

A. A. Brown & Co.,	230 California St., S. Francisco.
M. S. Cowen & Co.,	214 Front St., S. Francisco.
Johnson Locke Mercantile Co.,	1 Drumm St., S. Francisco.
W. T. Welisch & Co.,	230 California St., S. Francisco.
Parrott & Co.,	320 California St., S. Francisco.
Mr. J. M. Tees,	311 California St., S. Francisco.
Mr. B. C. Ireland,	24 California St., S. Francisco.
Chas. H. Welch & Co.,	214 Front St., S. Francisco.
E. S. Swann & Co.,	149 California St., S. F.
Western Cereal Co.,	Kohl Bldg., San Francisco.
C. B. Jennings & Co.,	24 California St., S. Francisco.
Bernhardt Fest & Co.,	255 California St., S. Francisco.
D. H. McClure & Co.,	214 Front St., San Francisco.
Harry Hall & Co.,	16 California St., S. Francisco.

Importers.

Balfour-Guthrie & Co.,	350 California St., S. Francisco.
S. L. Jones & Co.,	209 California St., S. Francisco.
A. O. Andersen & Co.,	244 California St., S. Francisco.
Dodwell & Co., Ltd.,	160 California St., S. Francisco.
Schwartz Bros.	310 Sansome St., S. Francisco.
F. W. Peters & Co.,	311 California St., S. Francisco.
W. R. Grace & Co.,	332 Pine St., San Francisco.
Hamberger-Polhemus Co.,	149 California St., S. Francisco.
American Trading Co.,	244 California St., S. Francisco.
Hind Rolph & Co.,	230 California St., S. Francisco.
Leon Lewin,	112 California St., S. Francisco.
Otis, McAllister & Co.,	310 California St., S. Francisco.
China Agency and Trading Co., Inc.,	519 California St., S. Francisco.
Frame-Leaycraft Co.,	244 California St., S. Francisco.
Lewis Simas Jones Co.,	427 Davis St., San Francisco.
Mitsui Co.,	Merchants Exchange Bldg., S. F.
Karanja & Co.,	311 California St., S. Francisco.
United States Trading Corporation	Clunie Bldg., San Francisco.

Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong,

Hongkong, 18th February, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have to thank you for your letter of 25th ult. covering copy of a reply from the San Francisco Rice Association to your telegram of 10th January with reference to Rice shipments to America.

My Committee met and discussed with the Rice Sub-Committee the reply, and I am now directed to request that you will be good enough to despatch the following telegram to San Francisco:—

"We agree to method of appeal. We have not asked for surveyor on your side in case of claims. We only require our permanent sampler appointed by San Francisco Chamber besides your sampler. Shippers agree guaranteeing full shipping weights provided detailed weights certificate furnished and weighing costs buyers account. All claims must be cabled this Chamber within fourteen days after steamer's arrival."—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 18th February, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have for acknowledgment your letter of date, and as requested, have despatched to the Rice Association of California, San Francisco the telegram set out therein and reading:—

"We agree to method of appeal. We have not asked for surveyor on your side in case of claims. We only require our permanent sampler appointed by San Francisco Chamber besides your sampler. Shippers agree guaranteeing full shipping weights provided detailed weights certificate furnished and weighing costs buyers account. All claims must be cabled this Chamber within fourteen days after steamer's arrival.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 1st March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in enclosing herewith a telegram from the Rice Association of California in reply to ours of 18th ult.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Telegraphic reply from San Francisco Rice Association
to Chamber's telegram of 18/2/19.

Terms and conditions referred to in your telegram quite satisfactory.

Notify exporters cost of weighing must be included in all quotations.

Advise us if all of the exporters unanimously agreed as to terms and conditions provided for in agreement.

Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong,
Hongkong, 10th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have to thank you for your letter of 1st inst. covering copy of a telegram from the Rice Association of California reading:—

"Terms and conditions referred to in your telegram quite satisfactory. Notify exporters cost of weighing must be included in all quotations. Advise us if all of the exporters unanimously agreed as to terms and conditions provided for in Agreement."

At a meeting of the Committee of this Association and of the Rice Sub-Committee held to-day, it was decided to request your Chamber to despatch the following telegram, and I shall be glad to learn that this has been done:—

"Referring to our telegram 18th February, meaning of detailed weighing on your side required only case of claims at buyers costs. We cannot estimate costs here. Suggest that buyers at yours add our quotations. Await your reply before confirming agreement"—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 10th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have for acknowledgment your letter of date, and as requested, have despatched to the Rice Association of California, San Francisco the telegram set out therein.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 15th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I enclose for your information and consideration a letter dated 31st January from the Rice Association of California confirming certain telegrams which have passed between this Chamber and San Francisco on the subject of Rice Shipments to the U. S. A.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

San Francisco, California, 31st January, 1919.

Gentlemen,—Referring to our previous correspondence relative to standardization of rices, we beg to acknowledge receipt of your cablegram dated January 11—1919, as follows:—

"Replying to your telegram received December 26th agree right to appeal quality condition stowage we appoint independent your port (Stop) Official weigh master states impracticable if not impossible weigh whole cargo suggest weighing 5 per cent of shipments of 10,000 bags or over and 10 per cent shipments of under 10,000 bags (Stop) Certificate accordingly (Stop) He anticipates minimum trouble short weights (Stop) Reply promptly."

The committee appointed by this Association to handle this matter met immediately after receipt of your cablegram, and after considerable discussion decided that the contents of your message should be considered a few days when another meeting should be held to draft a reply to your cablegram. This was done, and the committee met again on January 17th and the secretary was instructed to transmit the following in reply to you, which was sent on January 18-1919.

"Rice cannot agree to leave decision one Surveyor alone suggest that right of appeal be left to decision of Chamber of Commerce San Francisco not final merely to eliminate unnecessary claims full (Stop) We agree to Hongkong weight certificate only on condition that entire shipments are weighed otherwise will necessitate sellers guaranteeing full shipping weights suggest Captain Branch issue weight certificates."

From your cablegram of January 11th, we understand that you agree to right of our importers to appeal to your organization in case obvious errors in your certificates are claimed, but that you prefer to appoint an independent surveyor here to make a preliminary examination of all such claims before having them submitted to you, instead of having a committee of this Association make this preliminary examination. This point was discussed by our committee, and it was considered unwise to entrust questions of this character to the judgment of one man. Therefore, as the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce would be disinterested, and will establish a committee or board of arbitration, consisting of three members, to pass upon such claims, we suggest that you allow that organization to pass upon such claims, inasmuch as the final decision would rest with you.

In discussing the matter of weights, our committee concluded that weight certificates could not be accepted as final unless entire shipments are actually weighed and sworn detailed weights furnished; otherwise the certificates would not be accepted as final by our buyers.

Some of our members suggested that Captain Branch was equipped to furnish detailed weight certificates, therefore his name was suggested in our cablegram.

Hoping that our suggestions will be acceptable to your organization, we remain.—Yours, etc.,

RICE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA,

B. H. CARMICHAEL,

Acting Secretary.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, China.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 24th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I enclose for your information copy of a telegram received to-day from the Rice Association of California with reference to Rice Shipments to the U. S. A., and I shall be glad to take your instructions thereon.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Telegram from the Rice Association, San
Francisco received on 24/3/19.

Referring to your telegram 12th—We accept your proposal relative weighing as per your telegram of 11th *January Shippers guaranteeing weights—telegraph your confirmation of agreement.

*This telegram suggests weighing 5% of shipments of 10,000 bags or over and 10% of shipments of under 10,000 bags (Under supervision of Capt. Branch at Hongkong).

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 27th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I enclose for your information copy of a telegram received to-day from the Rice Association of California with reference to Rice Shipments to the U.S.A., and I shall be glad to take your instructions thereon.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Telegram received on 27th March from Rice
Association San Francisco.

Request you to submit to us as early as possible subject to our approval standard form of sales contract embodying standard terms and conditions provided for in agreement recently reached Chamber of Commerce here. Advise us of agreement. Await instructions from you relative appointing sampling representative.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 9th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to enclose for your information copy of a letter received from the Rice Association of California with enclosure, and confirming telegrams which have passed between this Chamber and San Francisco on the subject of Rice Shipment to the U.S.A., and I shall be glad to take your further instructions.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Rice Association of California,
San Francisco, California, 28th February, 1919.

Gentlemen,—This will acknowledge receipt February 20th, of your cablegram reading as follows:—

“We agree to method of appeal. We have not asked for surveyor on your side in case of claims. We only require our permanent Sampler appointed by your Chamber of Commerce besides your sampler. Shippers here agree guaranteeing full shipping weights provided detailed weight certificates furnished and weighing costs buyers account. All claims must be cabled this Chamber of Commerce within fourteen days after arrival of steamer.”

A meeting of our committee handling this matter was called immediately, and after consideration of your message, the following cablegram was drafted and transmitted on February 21st:—

“Terms and conditions referred to in your telegram quite satisfactory notify exporters cost of weighing must be included in all quotations advise us if all of the exporters unanimously decided (agreed) as to terms and conditions provided for in agreement.”

If our understanding is correct, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce will appoint one permanent sampler, who will draw and transmit samples to you of shipments when the committee of our association considers that an obvious error has been made in your certificate, and that our importer has justifiable cause for review of certificate.

We are advising our Chamber of Commerce of the standards agreed upon, also the terms and conditions as we understand them, as per copy of letter enclosed. Upon receipt of this letter, we would suggest that you cable your concurrence in the grades and conditions as outlined in our letter to the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, at the same time requesting them to appoint a sampler to act in your behalf, if you have not already done so.

In your cablegram received by us February 20th, you state that all claims must be cabled to you within fourteen days after arrival of steamer. This feature was discussed at considerable length by our committee, and while we appreciate the importance of advising you of all claims at the earliest possible date, we do not think it will be possible for our importers to cable claim within fourteen days after arrival of steamer in all cases. We were anxious, however, to get this matter finished up; therefore, rather than delay the matter any longer, we cabled our acceptance.

Some of our importers receive shipments through Seattle, Vancouver and other Pacific coast ports. In such cases deliveries are frequently delayed several days before clearance papers can be procured, and surrendered to the proper agent. Furthermore, it is usually three or four days after a vessel arrives before all cargo is discharged. After the cargo is discharged at port of entry, customs papers surrendered and the rice examined by the importer, it will then be necessary for him to submit a sample with your certificate to this Association, if he believes your certificate to be in error. Our committee will then review claim of the importer, and if in its judgment the importer has a just claim, we will cable the particulars and notify your sampler.

We are confident that your certificates will be correct, and do not anticipate that our importers will have cause to question them, but should an error occur you can realize that it will not always be possible to complete the preliminary proceedings as outlined above in time to cable claim within fourteen days from date of arrival of vessel, therefore we think it would be only fair for our importers to have fourteen days after all cargo has been discharged from the steamer in which to cable claim, instead of fourteen days from date of arrival of steamer, and trust that this change will meet with the approval of your exporters.

Our committee is now preparing a standard form of contract based on the standards and conditions agreed upon, which will be submitted to you for approval within the next few days; in the meantime please cable us as soon after receipt of this letter as possible, if it will be agreeable with your exporters to base the fourteen day period within which claims are to be cabled from the date cargo is discharged, rather than from the date the vessel arrives.—Yours, etc.,

RICE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA,

B. H. CARMICHAEL,

Acting Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, China.

Rice Association of California,
San Francisco, California, 28th February, 1919.

Gentlemen,—After negotiating with the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce for several months, the following standards and conditions to govern rice imported from Hongkong have been agreed upon between Hongkong Chamber and members of this Association:—

STANDARDS

Sample	1 — No. 1 Siam Garden — 5% broken
"	2 — No. 1 Siam Straight — 8% to 10%
"	3 — No. 2 Siam Straight — 20 to 30%
"	4 — No. 1 Siam Usual — 15 to 20% consisting of No. 1 Siam Straight and No. 1 Saigon Long, $\frac{1}{2}$ each.
"	5 — No. 2 Siam Usual — 25 to 30% consisting of No. 2 Siam Straight and No. 2 Saigon Long, $\frac{1}{2}$ each.
"	6 — No. 1—A Saigon Long — 15 to 20%
"	7 — No. 1 Saigon Long — 22 to 25%
"	8 — No. 1—A Saigon Round — 15 to 20%
"	9 — No. 1 Saigon Round — 22 to 25%
"	10 — No. 2 Saigon Round — 35 to 40%

The sample numbers shown above have been adopted as a brief method of designating the grades indicated when they are referred to in cablegrams.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce certificates as to quality, condition and stowage are to be accepted as final, with the exception that if an importer considers Hongkong certificate to be in error, he will bring the matter to the attention of a committee of this Association to be appointed for that purpose, whereupon this committee will investigate the importer's claim, and if it considers the claim to be justifiable, it will then be transmitted to Hongkong Chamber of Commerce by our committee. The Hongkong Chamber will then review its certificate, and our importer will abide by its decision. In the operation of this arrangement the Hongkong Chamber advises us that they will require an independent sampler, who will draw samples of such shipments as our committee may decide are not up to standard, said samples to be transmitted to Hongkong direct by the sampler they appoint. The Hongkong Chamber has signified its desire to have its sampler appointed by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, therefore you will probably be requested by said Chamber of Commerce to make such an appointment within the next few days.

Notice of all claims based on erroneous certificates, must be cabled to Hongkong within fourteen days after arrival of vessel. However, we have requested Hongkong to modify this requirement by allowing our importers fourteen days from the date cargo of the vessel is discharged, instead of fourteen days from date of arrival of the vessel. We hope to receive their concurrence in this modification within the next two or three weeks.

Hongkong sworn weight certificates issued by Captain Branch, or other reliable Public Weigher, will be accepted as final, with the understanding that detailed certificates are furnished and only uniform packages are shipped, the cost of weighing being for buyer's account, but all C. I. F. quotations are to include cost of weighing.—Yours, etc.,

RICE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA,

B. H. CARMICHAEL,

Acting Secretary.

San Francisco Chamber of Commerce,
San Francisco, California.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 20th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to enclose for your information copy of a further letter from San Francisco on the subject of Rice Shipments to the U. S. A.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,

Secretary.

The Secretary,

Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Rice Association of California,

San Francisco, California, 10th March, 1919.

Gentlemen,—This will confirm our cablegram transmitted to you to-day as follows:

"Request you submit to us as early as possible subject to our approval standard form of sale (s) contract embodying standards terms and conditions provided for in agreement recently reached. Chamber of Commerce here advised by us of agreement await instructions from you relative appointing sampling representative."

In order to eliminate the necessity of lengthy cablegrams, our importers think it advisable to adopt a standard form of contract to govern all purchases of rice from your exporters. The standards and conditions adopted should be embodied in this contract, which when approved and adopted, can be briefly designated in cablegrams as "Rice Association Terms."

In accordance with the last paragraph of our letter of February 28th our committee met for the purpose of drafting a standard form of contract, but after discussing the matter, they decided that the contract should be drafted by your exporters, and submitted to this Association for approval.

It is our understanding that the percentages of broken agreed upon, are to be determined by weight. However, we would like to have you advise just what method you will employ in separating and grading rice.

If possible, we want to install similar equipment for the use of our members. Therefore, if you will advise us just what kind of screening apparatus and scales you will use, we will endeavor to get similar equipment if it is found to be satisfactory—Yours, etc.,

RICE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA,

B. H. CARMICHAEL,

Acting Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, China.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 2nd May, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to enclose for your information copy of a further letter from the Rice Association of California confirming telegrams which have passed between this Chamber and San Francisco on the subject of Rice Shipments to the U.S.A.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,

Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Rice Association of California,
San Francisco, California, 22nd March, 1919.

Gentlemen,—This will acknowledge receipt March 13th of your cablegram as follows:

"Referring to our telegram 18th meaning detailed weighing on your side required only cases of claims at buyer's cost. We cannot estimate cost here. Suggest that buyer at your end add our quotations. Await your reply before confirming agreement."

Our Committee was called together immediately upon receipt of your cablegram and on March 18th we cabled you as follows:

"Referring to your telegram 12th we accept your proposal relative weighing as per your telegram January 11th, shippers guaranteeing weights. Telegraph your confirmation of agreement."

We understood your cablegram of February 19th as meaning that your exporters would have all shipments weighed and furnish sworn weight certificates showing detailed weights of all shipments provided our importers would stand the expense. However, since receipt of your cablegram of March 12th, we understand that 5% of shipment consisting of 10,000 bags or more will be weighed, and 10% of shipments consisting of less than 10,000 bags will be weighed, and weight certificates furnished accordingly, also that only uniform sized bags will be shipped. Your shippers will guarantee invoice weights under these conditions with the

understanding that in case of claims of short weight our importers will have shipments reweighed here by a sworn Public Weigh-Master and detailed weight certificates furnished to your exporters at the expense of our importers, also that notice of all claims for short weight or errors in your certificates must be cabled within fourteen days.

We believe that our understanding is now in accordance with yours, and have advised all of our importers of standards and conditions agreed upon, which we trust will be confirmed by cablegram before this letter reaches you, as our importers are anxious to have these standards confirmed and made effective at the earliest possible date.—Yours, etc.,

RICE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA,

B. H. CARMICHAEL,

Acting Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, China.

Telegram

21.5.19.

Rice Association,
San Francisco.

Rice Agreement prepared and approved by Rice Sub-Committee now being signed will mail copy to-day and telegraph names of signatories thereto on first June.

Hongkong Chamber Commerce.

Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Hongkong, 22nd May, 1919.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the Chamber's letter of 3rd September, 1918, I am instructed by my Committee to inform you that they have now drawn up an Agreement, purporting to regulate the grades of Rice sold by the Exporters of Hongkong to Members of the Rice Association of California.

This Agreement is the outcome of protracted deliberations of a Special Rice Sub-Committee of the Association and joint Meetings of the General Committee and Sub-Committee.

I have now pleasure in handing you herewith complete file of the Committee's and Sub-Committee's deliberations when dealing with the Agreement, copy of which is attached. The original will be handed to you and, I suggest, should be retained in your office till 31st inst. for signature by those members of your Chamber and this Association who are willing to sell in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

My Committee suggest that:—

(1) A cable be sent to the Rice Association of California informing them that the Agreement has been completed and will be signed not later than 31st inst. by all members who are willing to be bound by same.

(2) A letter confirming the above cable be addressed to the Rice Association of California, together with a copy of the Agreement. My Committee suggest that in this letter it should be clearly stated:

(a) that these conditions apply only to sales made under Hongkong Chamber of Commerce Rules, and that where buyers or sellers wish to trade under special terms agreed to between themselves, they shall not be prejudiced by so doing.

(b) that special reference shall be made to the word "both" in sub-section C. of Clause 8. In case the meaning of this word is not clear to the Rice Association it is intended that the sample submitted to the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce by the buyers shall be sealed by them in the event of their considering the claim a justifiable one, and sent together with the sample drawn and sealed by the appointed sampler of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce at San Francisco, to you.

(3) All Merchant Members of your Chamber and this Association be supplied with a copy of the Agreement, and those interested requested to sign original of same, in your office before 31st inst.

(4) On or about 1st Prox. a telegram be addressed to the Rice Association of California naming all the signatories to the Agreement and that the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce be asked to appoint a sampler on behalf of your Chamber.

(5) A copy of the Agreement be sent to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce who shall be requested to make it readily accessible to all members of that Chamber.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

RICE AGREEMENT.

1. The terms and conditions hereinafter specified shall be known as the "Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce rules."
2. All shipments from Hongkong shall be supervised, surveyed and reported upon by the appointed agents or surveyors of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce. Certificates of surveys will show:—
 - (a) Quality and condition of goods at time of shipment.
 - (b) Percentage of broken grains in shipment.
 - (c) Stowage of shipment.
3. Samples shall be drawn at time of shipment from Hongkong by the agents or surveyors of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce and sealed by them. One sample to be retained by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce and one to be sent to the buyers by the sellers.

4. 10% of all shipments under 10,000 bags and 5% of all shipments over 10,000 bags shall be weighed by the sworn weigher of Hongkong and weight certificate of the bags weighed shall be furnished by the sellers.
5. For the purpose of standardizing Siam and Saigon Rices the maximum percentage of broken grains permissible to be determined by weight shall be as follows:—

1. or (a) Garden Siam not to exceed	5%	Broken grains.
2. ,, (b) No. 1 Siam Straight	8 to 10%	,,
3. ,, (c) No. 2 Siam Straight	20 to 30%	,,
4. ,, (d) No. 1 Siam Usual	15 to 20%	,,
5. ,, (e) No. 2 Siam Usual	25 to 30%	,,
6. ,, (f) No. 1-A Saigon Long	15 to 20%	,,
7. ,, (g) No. 1 Saigon Long	22 to 25%	,,
8. ,, (h) No. 1-A Saigon Round	15 to 20%	,,
9. ,, (i) No. 1 Saigon Round	22 to 25%	,,
10. ,, (j) No. 2 Saigon Round	35 to 40%	,,
6. Half grains and under shall be considered broken grains.
7. In the event of claims arising out of quality and/or condition, and/or percentage of broken grains the matter shall be referred to a Committee appointed by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Such claims will be considered by the said Committee and if found justifiable will be referred to the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce for final settlement. The decision of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, or such Committee as may be appointed by them shall in all cases be final and binding as between the parties concerned.
8. In case of claims the following shall be the mode of procedure:—
 - (a) All claims shall be notified to the San Francisco Committee within 14 days from date of completion of discharge from ocean steamer.
 - (b) Samples shall be submitted by the buyers to the San Francisco Committee for their consideration.
 - (c) If the San Francisco Committee find the claim justifiable they will forthwith instruct the authorised sampler of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco to draw and seal relative samples and shall dispatch both samples duly sealed to Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
 - (d) The Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce or the Committee appointed by them on receipt of samples and particulars of claim, will then give due consideration to the matter. They will as promptly as possible report their finding which shall be absolutely final and binding.
9. Claims for short weight shall be notified to the San Francisco Committee within 14 days from date of completion of discharge from ocean steamer. Such claims as may be lodged must be supported by detailed weight certificates issued by recognised weighers appointed by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Cost of weighing at point of arrival to be borne by buyers.

10. All claims in excess of G\$250.— shall be notified to the sellers by cable within the time prescribed in clauses 8 and 9.
11. No claim shall be recognised after the cargo has been transferred from the Docks at port of discharge.

2/6/19.

Telegram
Rice Association,
San Francisco.

Signatories Rice Agreement thirtyfirst May Hongkong Mercantile Company, Soares Company, Humphreys Company, Union Trading Company, Maxim Company, Cooper Company, Rumjahn Company, Wicking Company, David Sassoon Company, Wing Cheong Company, Hannibal Company, Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Beaumont Company, Dodwell Company, Gilman Company, Holland China Trading Company, Fung Tang, Shewan Tomes Company, Hogg Karanjia Company, Rudolf Wolff and Kew, Hongkong Import and China Produce Export Company, Ip Tak Company, Moulder Company, Gregory Company, Pentreath Company, David Company, Patell Company, Joseph Brothers, Thoresen Company, Walter Ford Company, Jardine Matheson Company, Reiss Company, Arnhold Brothers Company, Manners and Backhouse, Bradley Company, De Sousa Company, Gibb Livingston Company, Alves Company, Transmarina Trading Company. Request Sanfrancisco Chamber Commerce appoint sampler our behalf.

Hongkong Chamber Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 3rd June, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to enclose for your information copy of a telegram received to-day from the Rice Association of California, and I shall be glad to take your instructions thereon.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Telegram received from the San Francisco
Rice Association on 3/6/19.

We are informed qualities of rice your port becoming inferior importers request you to notify Surveyors that qualities must strictly comply with agreed descriptions also furnish weights certificates referred to our letter of 22nd March ship immediately 1 ton each fair average standards agreed upon.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 11th June, 1919.

RICE SHIPMENTS TO UNITED STATES.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your telegram of 2nd September last and subsequent interchange of telegrams on the subject of standardization of rices shipped to the American market from this Port, my committee is now in receipt of a final report from the Association of Exporters of Hongkong and a Special Rice Sub-Committee which has been dealing with the matter.

At the outset I beg to tender my apologies for any apparent neglect in confirming by letter the telegrams which have passed, a circumstance due to the fact that this Chamber's letter of 7th November last was returned by the San Francisco Postal Authorities endorsed "unknown" and which letter with cover I now enclose for your information. I also have pleasure in now enclosing a complete file of telegraphic and letter correspondence which has passed between your Association and this Chamber, and which will serve to confirm all.

An Agreement purporting to regulate the grades of rice sold by exporters of Hongkong to the members of the Rice Association of California was open for signature in this Chamber from 21st to 31st May. I now enclose duplicate copy of this Agreement with the signatures attached for the purpose of ratification at your end, and it is the intention of this Chamber to notify you by letter from time to time of any additional signatures. I also enclose for your information an approved form of Survey Certificate.

The conditions set out in the Agreement, it must be clearly understood, apply only to sales made under the "Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce Rules," so that, where buyers or sellers wish to trade under special terms agreed to between themselves they shall not be prevented from so doing.

With reference to sub-section C of Clause 8 of the Agreement I am to point out that in case the meaning of the word "both" is not quite clear, it is intended that the sample submitted to the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce by the buyers shall be sealed by the San Francisco Chamber, in the event of their considering the claim a justifiable one, and dispatched to Hongkong together with the sample drawn and sealed by the appointed sampler of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce at San Francisco.

In our cable of June 2nd, I asked you to request the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce to appoint a Sampler on our behalf. You will see from the file attached to this letter that I have had an application from Messrs. Falkenburg & Co. of Seattle, and there have also been some other applications, but it is preferred to leave the matter in the hands of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, as my Committee are sure they will appoint a suitable individual or Company.

The object of appointing a special sampler on behalf of this Chamber is to enable us to have two absolutely different samples, one of which

has been drawn by an entirely disinterested party. The samples submitted will then be compared with that retained by us, and in this manner it is hoped to eliminate any possibility of mistake. I trust that you have communicated our message to the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

As you are aware, all rice shipped from Hongkong is hand-sieved, and to ascertain the percentage of broken grains, it would be necessary to test in this manner, and I am therefore sending you a sieve—would it be possible for you to test in this manner at your end?—If not, I suggest that you send us all data, prices, etc. in connection with a machine such as used by your goodselves, and I will submit it to my committee with the suggestion that a similar machine be bought by you for our account, and in this manner uniform results should be obtained.

My Committee appreciate that there may be minor differences of opinion on your side as to the exact wording of the Agreement under cover, but consider that the present form which is the outcome of protracted and careful deliberation, is the best possible basis from which to work with any assurance of satisfaction and they hope to learn at an early date that the Agreement has been ratified.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Rice Association of California,
San Francisco, California.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RULES GOVERNING
THE SALE OF RICE TO MEMBERS OF THE RICE
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO.

- 1.—The terms and conditions hereinafter specified shall be known as the "Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce rules."
- 2.—All shipments from Hongkong shall be supervised, surveyed and reported upon by the appointed agents or surveyors of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce. Certificate of surveys will show:—
 - (a) Quality and condition of goods at time of shipment.
 - (b) Percentage of broken grains in shipment.
 - (c) Stowage of shipment.
- 3.—Samples shall be drawn at time of shipment from Hongkong by the agents or surveyors of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce and sealed by them. One sample to be retained by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce and one to be sent to the buyers by the sellers.
- 4.—10% of all shipments under 10,000 bags and 5% of all shipments over 10,000 bags shall be weighed by the sworn weigher of Hongkong and weight certificate of the bags weighed shall be furnished by the sellers.

- 5.—For the purpose of standardising Siam and Saigon Rices the maximum percentage of broken grains permissible to be determined by weight shall be as follows:—
 1. or (a) Garden Siam not to exceed 5% Broken grains.
 2. ,, (b) No. 1 Siam Straight 8 to 10% ,,
 3. ,, (c) No. 2 Siam Straight 20 to 30% ,,
 4. ,, (d) No. 1 Siam Usual 15 to 20% ,,
 5. ,, (e) No. 2 Siam Usual 25 to 30% ,,
 6. ,, (f) No. 1-A Saigon Long 15 to 20% ,,
 7. ,, (g) No. 1 Saigon Long 22 to 25% ,,
 8. ,, (h) No. 1-A Saigon Round 15 to 20% ,,
 9. ,, (i) No. 1 Saigon Round 22 to 25% ,,
 10. ,, (j) No. 2 Saigon Round 35 to 40% ,,
- 6.—Half grains and under shall be considered broken grains.
- 7.—In the event of claims arising out of quality and/or condition, and/or percentage of broken grains the matter shall be referred to a Committee appointed by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Such claims will be considered by the said Committee and if found justifiable will be referred to the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce for final settlement. The decision of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, or such Committee as may be appointed by them shall in all cases be final and binding as between the parties concerned.
- 8.—In case of claims the following shall be the mode of procedure:—
 - (a.) All claims shall be notified to the San Francisco Committee within 14 days from date of completion of discharge from ocean steamer.
 - (b.) Samples shall be submitted by the buyers to the San Francisco Committee for their consideration.
 - (c.) If the San Francisco Committee find the claim justifiable they will forthwith instruct the authorised sampler of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco to draw and seal relative samples and shall dispatch both samples duly sealed to Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
 - (d.) The Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce or the Committee appointed by them on receipt of samples and particulars of claim, will then give due consideration to the matter. They will as promptly as possible report their finding which shall be absolutely final and binding.
- 9.—Claims for short weight shall be notified to the San Francisco Committee within 14 days from date of completion of discharge from ocean steamer. Such claims as may be lodged must be supported by detailed weight certificates issued by recognised weighers appointed by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Cost of weighting at point of arrival to be borne by buyers.
- 10.—All claims in excess of G\$250.00 shall be notified to the sellers by cable within the time prescribed in clauses 8 and 9.
- 11.—No claim shall be recognised after the cargo has been transferred from the Docks at port of discharge.

SURVEY ON RICE HELD UNDER "HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE RULES" GOVERNING THE SALE OF RICE TO
MEMBERS OF THE RICE ASSOCIATION OF
CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO.

At the request of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce we
the undersigned
attended since the at
and afterwards on board the S.S.
to survey and report on the quality, condition, percentage of broken grain
(determined by weight) and Stowage of the undermentioned Consignment
of Rice intended for shipment to
per S.S. Sailing on or about the

Marks:—

We now report as follows:—

(a) Quality and condition of goods at time of shipment:—...

(b) Percentage of broken grains determined by weight:—...

(c) Stowage:—

Three samples of this shipment have been withdrawn and sealed by
us, one of which has been handed to
for forwarding to purchasers, a second to the Hongkong General Chamber
of Commerce and the third retained by ourselves.

Surveyors.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 12th June, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I enclose herewith a letter received from the Rice Association of California with reference to the subject of Rice shipments to the U.S.A., and will be glad to transmit to San Francisco your reply in due course.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Rice Association of California,
California, 1st May, 1919.

Gentlemen,—At a general meeting of this Association held Saturday, April 26th, we had with us as a guest Mr. H. A. Lammert, a Surveyor of your City, and we discussed with him the standards and conditions recently agreed upon between your organization and ourselves to govern the importation of rice into the United States from Hongkong.

At Mr. Lammert's suggestion a Committee was appointed to have a suitable grading or screening device manufactured, to be used in extracting broken grains. When a suitable machine is found, we will have several made so that we can furnish you with one or two machines of the same type that will be in use here, unless you have already adopted a suitable machine, duplicates of which can be procured by us. We would like to have you advise us immediately if you have adopted such a machine, and if so, give us full particulars as to the type of machine and where we may procure one.

The matter of weighing conditions in your city was also discussed with Mr. Lammert. He explained that it would be impossible for a Public Weigher to weigh each and every sack of a large consignment of Rice in view of the present methods of loading and shipping. However in response to our inquiry he stated that it would be practicable to have a reliable Weigh Master from the firm of some recognised Public Weigher, such as Mr. Lammert, Captain Branch, or Messrs. Goddard and Douglas, at each Rice Shop, where he could remain on duty all the time that rice is being sacked. This Weigh Master would then be able to verify the accuracy of the scales several times a day, and could see every bag weighed as well as watch the quality and condition of rice while it is being sacked. It is our understanding that your exporters do not sack rice until it is sold and ready for shipment, therefore by assigning a Weigh Master to each shop while the rice is being sacked, sworn detailed Weight Certificates could be furnished at a minimum cost. Arrangements might be made whereby the rice after it is sacked and weighed would remain under the observation of the Weigh Master until it is delivered to the carrier.

As stated in our previous correspondence, it would be quite desirable for us to have sworn Weight Certificates showing the detailed weight of each entire shipment if such certificates can be furnished without too great a cost, therefore we will be pleased to have you consider adoption of the methods suggested above, and advise us your conclusions at the earliest possible date.—Yours, etc.,

RICE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA,
B. H. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Secretary,

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 19th June, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to enclose for your information copy of a telegram received to-day from the Rice Association of California with reference to the standardization of Pakling and Tonkin Rices, your reply to which I shall be glad to transmit in due course.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Telegram

From Rice Association, San Francisco.
To Chamber Commerce, Hongkong.
Received 19/3/19.

Importers here request your exporters adopt standard for Pakling and Tongking Rice suggest three Pakling and two Tongking grades forward us 50 pounds sample fair average quality each type as soon as possible.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 8th July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to enclose for your information copy of a letter from the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce with reference to the appointment of an independent sampler at San Francisco for rice shipments.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

San Francisco Chamber of Commerce,
San Francisco, 5th June, 1919.

Gentlemen,—The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce received last February a communication from the Rice Association of California giving the standards and conditions to govern rice imported from Hongkong which have been agreed upon between the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce and the members of the Rice Association of California.

They also advised us that your Chamber had notified them that you would require an independent sampler who will draw samples of such shipments as a Committee of the Rice Association of California may decide are not up to standard according to the certificates issued by the Hongkong Chamber and that you had signified your desire to have this sampler appointed by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and that we would probably hear from your Chamber regarding this matter within a short time.

We have never received any communication from you asking for the appointment of such a sampler, but for your information we beg to advise you that such an appointment is not necessary as the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce already has a thoroughly equipped Grain Inspection and Sampling Department and our inspectors are fully qualified to draw samples of rice and other commodities and are doing so regularly. Therefore, if the Rice Association of California or any individual importers here desire drawn samples of rice about which there is a dispute, with the understanding that such samples are to be transmitted to Hongkong

direct by the sampler, the Chief Inspector of our Inspection Department will be ready to handle the matter for them and we have notified the Rice Association of California accordingly.—Yours, etc.,

SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

D. M. KING,
Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, China.

Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong,
Hongkong, 9th July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your letter of 12th June enclosing copy of a letter from the Rice Association of California on the subject of rice shipments to the United States of America, I have now to inform you that at a Special Joint Meeting of the General Committee of this Association and the Rice Sub-Committee and at which also the Rice Surveyors were present by invitation San Francisco's letter of 1st May and telegrams of 3rd and 19th June were considered.

It was decided to leave the matter of grading of Pakling and Tonkin Rice to the Rice Sub-Committee and the two firms of surveyors, also the procuring and shipment of samples to San Francisco.

With regard to the grading and screening question your letter of 11th ult. to San Francisco, which will have reached San Francisco ere now, sets out the views of my Committee regarding the machine for this purpose.

The question of weighing, as outlined in San Francisco's letter, was considered impracticable, it being the unanimous opinion of the Meeting that the agreed arrangement for weighing 5% of shipments of 10,000 bags or over and 10% of shipments under 10,000 bags, should be adhered to.

It was considered unnecessary to reply by telegraph to San Francisco and I was instructed to request that you will be good enough to reply to San Francisco by letter in the sense of the foregoing conclusions.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 10th July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 9th instant with reference to the grading of Pakling and Tonkin Rices, and the question of weighing at this Port.

The Chamber has to-day despatched a reply to the Rice Association of California on the lines indicated by you, and I now enclose for your information a copy of the letter.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 10th July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your telegrams received here on 3rd and 19th June, as per transcripts enclosed, and to your letter of the 1st May, I am directed by my Committee to transmit to you the conclusions reached at a Joint Meeting of the General Committee of the Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong, the Rice Sub-Committee and the Surveyors, Messrs. Goddard and Douglas and Mr. Geo. L. Lammert, in regard to the matters dealt with therein.

The Rice Sub-Committee has been requested to secure, under the supervision of the two Firms of Surveyors mentioned, one ton each of the standards agreed upon, as well as 50 lbs. each of Pakling and Tonkin rice, and to consider the question of adopting standards for the two last mentioned qualities. As soon as the samples, and the result of the deliberations of the Rice Sub-Committee received, they will be forwarded to you. My Committee presumes that you will bear the cost of the samples.

As regards your letter of the 1st May, the Trade here has so far not adopted a grading or screening machine; and should you succeed in finding or devising a suitable one, my Committee would be pleased, as explained in my letter of 11th ult., to have full particulars.

The method outlined in your letter for detailed weighing was considered impracticable by the Joint Meeting which was unanimously of the opinion that the agreed arrangement for weighing 5% of shipments of 10,000 bags or over, and 10% of shipments under 10,000 bags, should be adhered to.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Rice Association of California,
San Francisco.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 5th August, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I enclose for your information copy of a letter from the Rice Association of California confirming this Chamber's telegram of 2nd June setting out the names for Signatories to the Rice Agreement.—Yours, etc.,

(Sgd.) E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Rice Association of California,
San Francisco, Cal., 21st June, 1919.

Gentlemen,—This will acknowledge receipt, June 7th of your cablegram as follows:—

“Signatories Rice Agreement Thirtyfirst May (stop) Hongkong Mercantile Company; Soares Company; Humphreys Company; Union Trading Company; Maxim Company; Cooper Company; Rumjahn Company; Wicking Company; David Sassoon Company; Wing Cheong Company; Hannibal Company; Mitsui Bussan Kaisha; Beaumont Company; Dodwell Company; Gilman Company; Holland China Trading Company; Fungtang; Shewan Tomes Company; Hogg Karanjia Company; Rudolf Wolf and Kew; Hongkong Import and China Produce Export Company; Iptak Company; Moulder Company; Gregory Company; Pentreath Company; David Company; Patell Company; Joseph Brothers; Thoresen Company; Walter Ford Company; Jardine Matheson Company; Reiss Company; Arnhold Brothers Company; Manners and Backhouse; Bradley Company; de Sousa Company; Gibb Livingston Company; Alves Company; Transmarina Trading Company (stop) Request San Francisco Chamber Commerce appoint sampler our behalf.”

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce advises that they wrote you on June 5th to the effect that they maintain a thoroughly equipped grain inspection and sampling department which is fully qualified to draw samples of rice as well as other commodities. This department is in charge of Mr. H. C. Bunker, whose ability and integrity are recognised throughout this country, therefore we have advised our Chamber of Commerce of your request, and we will consider Mr. Bunker the official sampler for your organization.—Yours, etc.,

RICE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA,

B. H. CARMICHAEL,

Acting Secretary.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong,
Hongkong, 29th August, 1919.

Dear Sir,—With reference to this Association's letter of 9th ult. on the subject of grading of Rice as agreed upon between the Rice Exporters of Hongkong and the Rice Association of California, San Francisco, I now submit for the information of your Committee copy of a letter received from the Special Sub-Committee appointed to procure samples for shipment, as requested, to San Francisco.

My Committee will be glad if you will advise the Rice Association of California of the inability at present of this Association's Sub-Committee to procure fair average standards of the different grades, including Pakling and Tonkin Rice.

The Authorities in Siam and Saigon have prohibited the exportation of Rice and under the circumstances the Sub-Committee consider it advisable to await the new crops, which will be available at the end of November or first half of December.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 9th September, 1919.

Dear Sir,—With reference to my letter of 10th July on the subject of Rice Samples, I am now requested by the Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong to advise you that the special Sub-Committee appointed to deal with this matter has furnished its report.

The Sub-Committee state that they are unable at present to procure fair average standards of the different grades including Pakling and Tonkin Rices, that the authorities in Siam and Saigon have prohibited the exportation of Rice, and under the circumstances they consider it advisable to await the new crops which will be available at the end of November or first half of December.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Rice Association of California,
127, Montgomery Street,
San Francisco, California.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 18th November, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to enclose for your information copy of a telegram from the Rice Association of California suggesting certain alterations to the Rice Agreement, and I shall be glad to take your instructions thereon.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Telegram from the San Francisco Rice Association received by the Chamber of Commerce on 18/11/19.

Referring your Rules governing Rice we suggest under Article 5 Item 6 be changed to read No. 1 Saigon Long, Item 7 to read No. 1 B Saigon Long, No. 8 to read No. 1 Saigon Round, No. 9 No. 1 B Saigon Round this we believe necessary advise.

RICE ASSOCIATION.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 25th November, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I beg to enclose for your information copies of letters (2) dated dated 23rd ult. from the Rice Association of California with reference to Rice Shipments to the U.S.A.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Rice Association of California,
San Francisco, California, 23rd October, 1919.

Gentlemen,—We have for acknowledgment your valued favor of September 9th in which you advise that it is considered advisable to await the new rice crops which will be available at the end of November or the first half of December before sending us the samples requested by us some time ago.

We appreciate the conditions which have surrounded the rice industry in the Orient during the past year and feel sure that the action of your special sub-committee is perfectly proper.

Awaiting your further valued favors in the premises, we beg to remain,—Yours, etc.,

RICE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
L. R. BISHOP,
Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, China.

Rice Association of California,
San Francisco, California, 23rd October, 1919.

ATTENTION MR. E. A. M. WILLIAMS SECRETARY.

Gentlemen,—We received at this office several days ago a package containing a small hand rice screener which we believe was sent by you although we have received no advice from you as to why it was sent.

We assume that you have written to us, and believing that your communication has gone astray, we would ask that you furnish us with a copy of your letter.

We are now having the Rice Importers of this association affix their signatures to the agreement covering established standards, etc., similar to the ones signed by the various Rice Exporters of Hongkong, and we will arrange to send you a duplicate of the document as soon as all of the signatures have been obtained.

Assuring you of our hearty co-operation, we beg to remain,—Yours,
etc.,

RICE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
L. R. BISHOP,
Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, China.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 10th December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have for acknowledgment your letters (2) of 23rd October.

Rice Samples.—These have still not yet been procured.

Rice Sieve.—This was despatched by parcel post in accordance with the penultimate paragraph of my letter of 11th June to which I would again direct your attention.

Alteration to Article 5 of Agreement.—I have now pleasure to confirm telegrams which have recently passed on the above subject, as per attached circular letter to Signatories with altered Agreement.

Signatories to Agreement.—I attach herewith a list of additional Signatories to the Agreement which please affix to your copy.—Yours,
etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Rice Association of California,
San Francisco, Cal.

Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong,
Hongkong, 2nd December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have to thank you for your letter of 18th ult. covering copy of a telegram received from the Rice Association of California with reference to alterations to the Agreement.

At a Meeting of my Committee held to-day, it was agreed to alter the wording of the Agreement in the manner suggested by San Francisco, and my Committee will be glad if you will kindly transmit to San Francisco the following telegram:—

“Your telegram referring rules we agree your suggestions.”
Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 2nd December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have for acknowledgment your letter of date, and as requested, have despatched to San Francisco the telegram set out therein.
Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 24th December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I enclose for your information copy of a telegram received from the Rice Association of California with reference to substitutions for Siam Usual Rice.

My Committee will be glad if you will investigate this matter and advise me at once of the position.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Translation of Telegram received by the Chamber of Commerce
from the Rice Association of California on 24/12/19.
Siam Usual buyers cannot accept substitutions what do you propose
doing certificates in view of embargo.

Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong,
Hongkong, 30th December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have to thank you for your letter of 24th inst. covering copy of a telegram from the Rice Association of California with reference to substitutions for Siam Usual Rice.

The matter has been considered by the Rice Sub-Committee and the General Committee of this Association, and I am directed to request the Chamber to despatch the following telegram to San Francisco:—

“Your telegram Siam Rice Stop Certificates covering substitutions will not knowingly be issued.”
It has further been decided to issue the following Circular to Signatories to the Rice Agreement:—

Rice Shipments to U.S.A.

The Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce is in receipt of the following telegram from the Rice Association of California:—

“Siam Usual buyers cannot accept substitutions what do you propose doing certificates in view of embargo”
to which the Chamber has replied as follows:—

“Your telegram Siam Rice Stop Certificates covering substitutions will not knowingly be issued.”

“The Chamber has officially notified the Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong that it will not knowingly certify any substitute for the cargo which the surveyor's certificate purports to cover, and the Chamber's Surveyors have been requested to exercise the greatest care.”

“The view of the Chamber with which my Association concurs, is that contracts for forward sales of Siam Usual are a matter for individual compromise between the parties to the Contract.”—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 31st December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—My Chamber is in receipt of the following telegram from the Rice Association of California:—

“Siam Usual buyers cannot accept substitutions what do you propose doing certificates in view of embargo.”
My Committee have replied that no certificates will be issued by this Chamber covering a substitution for Siam Usual.

I am directed to request your assistance in seeing that the Rice Agreement is strictly adhered to, and that the cargo covered by the certificate granted by you is exactly what it purports to be.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

G. P. Lammert, Esq.,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 31st December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—My Chamber is in receipt of the following telegram from the Rice Association of California:—

“Siam Usual buyers cannot accept substitutions what do you propose doing certificates in view of embargo.”
My Committee have replied that no certificates will be issued by this Chamber covering a substitution for Siam Usual.

I am directed to request your assistance in seeing that the Rice Agreement is strictly adhered to, and that the cargo covered by the certificate granted by you is exactly what it purports to be.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. Goddard and Douglas,
Hongkong.

SIGNATORIES TO AGREEMENT TO DATE.
HONGKONG SIGNATORIES.

The Hongkong Mercantile Co., Ltd.
Soares and Co.
W. G. Humphreys and Co.
Union Trading Co.
Maxim and Co.
Cooper and Co.
U. Rumjahn and Co.
Harry Wicking and Co.
David Sassoon and Co., Ltd.
Wing Cheong Co.
W. A. Hannibal and Co.
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Ltd.
E. A. Beaumont and Co.
Dodwell and Co., Ltd.
Gilman and Co., Ltd.
Holland China Trading Co.
Fung Tang.
Shewan, Tomes and Co.
Hogg, Karanjia and Co., Ltd.
Rudolf Wolff and Kew, Ltd.
Hongkong Import and China Produce Export Co.
Ip Tak and Co.
A. B. Moulder and Co., Ltd.
T. M. Gregory and Co.
Pentreath and Co.
S. J. David and Co., Ltd.
Patell and Co.
Joseph Bros.
Thoresen and Co.
Walter Ford and Co.
Jardine, Matheson and Co., Ltd.
Reiss and Co.
Arnhold Bros. and Co., Ltd.
Manners and Backhouse, Ltd.
Bradley and Co., Ltd.
De Sousa and Co.
J. M. Alves and Co.
Gibb, Livingston and Co.

"Transmarina" Trading Co.
Suzuki and Co.
Silva-Netto and Co.
Mitsubishi Shoji Kaisha, Ltd.
J. M. da Rocha and Co.
Hastings, Hodge and Co.
Carvalho and Co.
Pacific Rice Mills.
Hontsz and Co., Ltd.
Botelho Bros.

SAN FRANCISCO SIGNATORIES

W. Phillips and Co.
A. O. Andersen and Co.
Leon Israel and Bros.
S. L. Jones and Co.
Mitsui and Co., Ltd.
Pacific Rice Mills.
American Finance and Commerce Co.
American Import and Export Co.
F. W. Peters and Co.
American Trading Co.
W. R. Grace and Co.
Frame, Leaycraft and Co.
Hind, Rolph and Co.
Leon Lewin.
China Agency and Trading Co., Inc.
United States Trading Corporation,
Pacific Trading Co., Inc.
Rosenberg Bros. and Co.
M. J. Brandenstein and Co.
Balfour, Guthrie and Co.
National Rice Mills.

Y N

CROWN AGENTS.

Singapore Chamber of Commerce and Exchange.

Singapore, 3rd October, 1919.

Dear Sir,—We enclose herewith a copy of a letter dated 18th April, 1918, which we received from the F. M. S. Chamber of Commerce, together with a copy of our reply thereto.

We also enclose a copy of a further letter on this subject dated 5th September.

The Committee of our Chamber are in sympathy with the suggestions made by the F. M. S. Chamber, and at a recent meeting we were instructed to write to you, stating that our Committee believe that the practice in your Colony is similar to that in Singapore, and enquiring whether, if you also are in sympathy with the suggestions, you would be willing to make a joint protest to Government with this Colony against the present practice.

A similar letter has been sent to the Chamber of Commerce in Ceylon.—Yours, etc.,

GATTEY & BATEMAN,
Secretaries.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Kuala Lumpur, 18th April, 1918.

CROWN AGENTS.

Dear Sirs,—At the Annual General Meeting of this Chamber held on the 23rd March, the following Resolution was unanimously passed:—

"Resolved that this meeting protests against the system whereby the local Government must indent for its supplies through the Crown Agents, and requests the General Committee to take such action as they may think proper to remedy this state of affairs, so that local firms may, in future, be given the opportunity of competing for the business."

At the present time the F.M.S. Government is placing as much of its business locally as possible, and presumably the same applies in the Colony, but this is entirely on account of existing conditions as regards shipping space and manufacture, and is in nowise due to any recognition on the part of Government of the right of local firms to compete for the business. It is thought that when conditions revert to normal, the business community here will be unable to get redress in this matter unless some action be taken presently to establish our point of view.

In certain lines, Government departments are of course big consumers; and it is thought that, if local merchants had the opportunity of competing for this business, it might be of assistance (indirectly) to us in our efforts to establish our trade after the War in competition with foreign firms.

I am now instructed by the General Committee of this Chamber to approach your Chamber as to whether you would be willing to unite with us in a protest to be laid before the newly appointed Trade Commissioner to Singapore at some early date. It is considered that this official would be the proper individual to address, as he will be in direct touch with the new Department of Overseas Trade; also in view of the fact that the local Government has no power in the matter, but merely acts under instructions from Home.

You will note it is not recommended that Government be obliged to place its indents locally, but merely that local British merchants shall be given the opportunity of competing for the business.

A similar letter has been addressed to the Penang Chamber of Commerce.—I am, etc.,

(Sd.) P. W. GLEESON,
General Secretary,
F.M.S. Chamber of Commerce

The Secretaries,
Singapore Chamber of Commerce,
Singapore.

Singapore, 23rd April, 1918.

CROWN AGENTS.

Dear Sir,—We have to thank you for your letter of 18th instant, and to inform you that same will be discussed at the next meeting of our Committee.—We are, etc.,

(Sd.) GATTEY & BATEMAN,
Secretaries.

The Secretary,
F. M. S. Chamber of Commerce,
Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur, 5th September, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—I enclose a copy of my letter to you dated 18th April 1918 on the subject of a joint protest against the arrangement by which all Government orders must be sent through the Crown Agents.

The matter has now been in abeyance for over a year awaiting the arrival of the Trade Commissioner, and my Committee think that in view of the uncertainty as to when this officer will arrive it is undesirable to delay action any longer.

They are of opinion that a joint representation to the local Government will be the most effective way of dealing with the matter, and I am to enquire if your Chamber will agree to this suggestion.

I enclose a copy of the reply to my letter above mentioned received from the Penang Chamber.—I am, etc.,

(Sd.) P. W. GLEESON,
General Secretary.

The Secretaries,
Singapore Chamber of Commerce and Exchange,
Singapore.

Penang, 9th May, 1918.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 18th ultimo and our reply of 23rd ultimo, we beg to inform you that the question of the "Crown Agents" was discussed at a meeting of the Committee held on 7th inst. when it was decided that it should be left over for further discussion when the Trade Commissioner for the Straite Settlements arrives in the Colony.—Yours, etc.,

(Sd.) BROWN, PHILIPS AND
STEWART,
Secretaries.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 11th November, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 3rd ult. covering correspondence between the F.M.S. Chamber of Commerce and your Chamber on the subject of the Crown Agents System.

This is a matter which has been the subject of previous correspondence between this Chamber and the Hongkong Government, and I now enclose for your information copies of such correspondence from which you will learn that in 1917 the Government here announce its complete satisfaction with the Crown Agents System.

The view point of Government may now be somewhat different and the subject will be re-opened, for the purpose of which, copies of your enclosures will be made use of.

In the meantime I am to assure you that this Chamber is in entire sympathy with your suggested action and will support whatever steps may be taken to have the Crown Agents System entirely abolished.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretaries,
Singapore Chamber of Commerce and Exchange,
Singapore.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 11th November, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose for the information of His Excellency the Governor copy of correspondence received from the Singapore Chamber of Commerce with reference to the System obtaining in the F.M.S. as here, whereby Government must indent for supplies through the Crown Agents.

This is a matter which has previously been the subject of correspondence between this Chamber and the Government here, and my Committee now take the opportunity of confirming the views expressed in my letter of 10th January, 1917, and to enquire if the Secretary of State has given his consideration to the correspondence submitted to him three years ago.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 15th November, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 11th November, 1919, dealing with the system of requisitioning for Government supplies through the Crown Agents for the Colonies, I am directed to inform you that the Secretary of State has not made any comment on the subject.—I am, etc.,

CLAUD SEVERN,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 9th December, 1919.

Sir,—Reverting to my letter of the 11th November and your reply of the 15th November, in which you inform me that the Secretary of State had not made any comment on the views expressed in my letter of the 10th January, 1917, I am directed to suggest that the matter be again brought before the Secretary of State in the hope that he has now had sufficient time to formulate an opinion thereon.—I am, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 16th December, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 9th December, I am directed to inform you that the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.—I am, etc.,

CLAUD SEVERN,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce

EMBARGO ON AND CONFISCATION OF RICE
SHIPMENTS FROM HONGKONG.

Translation of telegram received by the Chamber of Commerce
from the Rice Association of California on 3/7/19.
San Francisco, 25th June, 1919.

Please ascertain and telegraph us promptly if there will be embargo upon Rice effective 7th July. If there will be advise us to what countries applicable, also state what is the reason for embargo. Importers strongly urge you to make strong effort to have existing contracts for June/July, July/August shipments. Expenditure on importers here have resold to various parts of world and must fulfil contracts.

RICE ASSOCIATION.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 4th July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I enclose for your information copy of a telegram which has been received from the Rice Association of California dealing with the question of an embargo on Rice shipments to America from this port.

The Chamber has taken the matter up with the Government, and will advise you in due course of the Government's decision, which will be immediately cabled to San Francisco.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 12th July, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose for your information, a copy of a telegram received by this Chamber from the Rice Association of California with reference to Rice Shipments to the United States of America.

The question of grading of Rice Shipments to San Francisco has for nearly a year been engaging the attention of this Chamber and the Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong, and only recently has an Agreement been arrived at with the Rice Association of California with regard to standards, copy of which Agreement which came into force from 1st June, I now enclose for your information.

My Committee will be glad of an early assurance from the Government that it is not their intention to place an embargo on rice exports from this Colony as feared by San Francisco Importers. They feel that the Government are fully aware of the effect such a proceeding would have on one of the most valuable trades of the Colony, and that it is unnecessary for them to emphasize the importance of avoiding an embargo at all costs.

My Committee will be glad if the Chamber may be promptly put in a position to wire San Francisco, so that their fears with regard to current commitments at any rate may be allayed.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 14th July, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 12th July, I am directed to state that it is not the intention of this Government to place an embargo on the export of rice from this Colony.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Telegram to
Rice Association, Sanfrancisco,
Hongkong Government no intention embargo rice export.

HONGKONG CHAMBER COMMERCE.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 15th July, 1919.

Dear Sir,—With reference to my letter of 4th July, I have now pleasure to enclose copy of a reply received by the Chamber from the Government regarding Rice exportations to America, also copy of Chamber's telegram to San Francisco.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Translation of Telegram received from the Rice
Association of California on 5/8/19

Replying to your telegram just received 25th July have received advice of your Government confiscating stocks telegraph particulars.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 6th August, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of 14th ult. concerning the export of Rice from this Colony, on the strength of which, the following telegram was despatched to San Francisco:—

"Hongkong Government no intention embargo Rice export" this Chamber is now in receipt of a telegram from the Rice Association of California reading:—

"Replying to your telegram just received 25th July have received advice of your Government confiscating stocks telegraph particulars."

My Committee will be glad if you will be good enough to supply them with information regarding the position of the Rice export trade as affecting exports to the Pacific Coast so that a telegraphic reply may be despatched to San Francisco.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Translation of telegram received from Messrs. Frame
Leaycraft & Co., San Francisco on 8/8/19.

We wish to strongly protest action Hongkong Government confiscating 1,100 tons Rice bought through Da Rocha. Rice booked for Hawaiian Maru June, vessel delayed by repairs. We liable to purchasers as vessel specified for. In any event Rice coated and therefore is not suited for Chinese consumption. We liable very heavy damages unless contract fulfilled.

Translation of telegram received from Messrs.
Brandenstein on 15/8/19.

Beaumont cables your Government seized 1,600 tons our Rice without redress heavy loss are entitled to just compensation based on recognised laws international justice cable what do you recommend

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 14th August, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 6th August, I am directed to inform you that this Government recently found it necessary, in order to provide rice for the immediate needs of the local population, to exercise its powers of compulsory purchase, and it bought 7,500 piculs destined for New York and 32,250 piculs destined for San Francisco. This Government's policy in buying has been to buy in the first instance from stocks consigned to countries where rice is not the staple food of the population; but its purchases have been distributed over stocks generally, and a considerable quantity of rice bound for Japan has been taken over.

As far as can be foreseen, it will not be necessary to interfere further with rice consigned to the United States of America.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Copy of Chamber's telegram to the Rice Association
of California dated 16/8/19.

Replying to your telegram confiscation Government states in order provide rice immediate needs local population powers compulsory purchase exercised bought 7,500 piculs destined New York 32,250 piculs destined San Francisco. Government's policy has been to buy firstly from stocks consigned countries where Rice not staple food of population but purchases been distributed over stocks generally and large quantity for Japan taken over Government state as far as can be foreseen will not be necessary further interfere rice consignments United States. Government repeat no intention embargo export.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 16th August, 1919.

Dear Sir,—In connection with telegrams received from the Rice Association of California on the subject of embargo on Rice Shipments from Hongkong, I have now pleasure in enclosing herewith, for your information, copy of the Chamber's telegraphic reply despatched to-day, which explains the position taken up by the Government here in regard to rice exportations from the Colony to the Pacific Coast.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 16th August, 1919.

Dear Sirs,—I beg to enclose for your information a copy of a telegram received from Messrs. Frame Leaycraft & Co. of San Francisco relative to the purchase of 1,100 tons of Rice by the Hongkong Government, which under contract you had arranged to ship to San Francisco.

I also enclose a copy of this Chamber's telegram of date to the Rice Association of California, San Francisco, which explains the attitude of the Hongkong Government on the Rice situation at Hongkong, and I shall be glad if you will telegraph to your San Francisco friends advising them to refer to the Rice Association of California for an explanation.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. J. M. da Rocha & Co.,
Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 16th August, 1919.

Dear Sirs.—I beg to enclose for your information a copy of a telegram received from Messrs. Brandenstein of San Francisco relative to the purchase of 1,600 tons of Rice by the Hongkong Government, which under contract you had arranged to ship to San Francisco.

I also enclose a copy of this Chamber's telegram of date to the Rice Association of California, San Francisco, which explains the attitude of the Hongkong Government on the Rice situation at Hongkong, and I shall be glad if you will telegraph to your San Francisco friends advising them to refer to the Rice Association of California for an explanation.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. E. A. Beaumont & Co.,
Hongkong.

E. A. Beaumont & Co.,
Hongkong, 21st August, 1919.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 16th instant enclosing copy of a telegram received by your Chamber from Messrs. M. J. Brandenstein & Co., of San Francisco relative to a quantity of 1600 tons of Rice we had under contract to them and seized by the Government, we have, as you instructed telegraphed reply to them, and enclosed have pleasure to hand you a copy of such reply.—Yours, etc.,

HENRY A. CASTRO,
per pro. E. A. Beaumont & Co.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Translation of Telegram despatched to
Messrs. M. J. Brandenstein & Co.,
San Francisco.
Hongkong, 21st August, 1919.

With reference to your telegram (to) Chamber of Commerce here they instruct us refer you to association your port for full explanation in connection with Government seizure.

A3

HONGKONG DEFENCE CORPS.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 19th December, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor proposes to appoint a Committee under the presidency of the General Officer Commanding the Troops, to consider the drafting of a new Ordinance for the regulation of the Volunteer Corps and that he wishes to appoint a member who will represent the point of view of the employers of the men who may be expected to join the Corps.

I am to request therefore that your Chamber will suggest a suitable person for this Committee at an early date as it is desired that the Committee should meet as soon as possible.—I am etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 29th December, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 19th instant conveying the information that His Excellency the Governor proposes to appoint a Committee under the presidency of the General Officer Commanding the Troops, to consider the drafting of a new Ordinance for the regulation of the Volunteer Corps.

I am directed by my Committee to request that you will be good enough to convey to His Excellency the Governor their appreciation of the opportunity he gives the Chamber of being represented on this Committee and to inform him that the Chamber has pleasure in submitting the name of Mr. G. M. Young for his approval.—I have etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 29th December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—His Excellency the Governor has requested the Chamber to nominate a representative on the Committee to be appointed to consider the drafting of a new Ordinance for the regulation of the Volunteer Corps.

My Committee has put your name forward as the Chamber's nominee and will be glad to learn that you will represent the view point of employers of men who may be expected to join the Corps.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

G. M. Young, Esq.,
Hongkong.

Butterfield and Swire,
Hongkong, 29th December, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of even date, and shall be pleased to act as the representative of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce on the Committee to consider the drafting of a new Ordinance for the regulation of the Volunteer Corps, from the view point of employers of men who may be expected to join.—Yours, etc.,

G. M. YOUNG.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 12th January, 1920.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 29th December, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor approves of the appointment of Mr. G. M. Young to be a member of the Committee to consider the drafting of a new Volunteer Ordinance. Mr. Young has already attended the meetings of the Committee.—I am, etc.,

CLAUD SEVERN,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

B3

CHAMBER'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Hongkong, 29th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in handing you copy of my letter to His Excellency, the Officer Administering the Government applying for leave of absence for some eight months and you will no doubt receive, in due course, the usual official intimation from the Government asking the Chamber to elect a representative during my absence.

I now beg to formally apply to the Committee for leave of absence from the Committee during the same period.
With best wishes for the increasing prosperity and usefulness of the Chamber.—Yours, etc.,

P. H. HOLYOAK.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,
Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 29th April, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to apply for leave of absence from the Legislative Council for about eight months, dating from the second of May. It is impossible to give the precise time that I shall be away because so much depends upon conditions which I may find at home.

On receipt of your Excellency's instructions the Chamber of Commerce will proceed to elect a representative to serve upon the Legislative Council during my absence.

With sincerest thanks for your many courtesies and with best wishes,—I have, etc.,

P. H. HOLYOAK.

His Excellency,
The Officer Administering the Government.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 29th April, 1919.

Sir,—I am directed to request that the necessary steps may be taken to nominate a member of the Chamber of Commerce to serve on the Legislative Council during the absence from the Colony of the Honourable Mr. P. H. Holyoak, with effect from the 2nd May.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

B 3

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 1st May, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to your letter No. 2002/1918 of 29th ult., I have the honour to inform you that a General Meeting of Members of the Chamber has been called for Tuesday, 13th instant, for the purpose of nominating a Representative of this Chamber to serve on the Legislative Council during the absence on leave of the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 13th May, 1919.

Sir,—I have the honour to announce for the information of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, that at a General Meeting of the Chamber, held at 4 o'clock p.m. to-day, Mr. Edward Victor David Parr was unanimously elected as the Chamber's nominee for the seat on the Legislative Council, rendered vacant during the absence from the Colony on leave of the Hon. Mr. Holyoak.

In connection with the above nomination, I beg to hand you the following papers:—

1. A copy of the notice convening the Meeting.
2. A list of members present.
3. The name of the candidate and those of the proposer and seconder.—I have, etc.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

NOTICE.

A GENERAL MEETING of Members will be held TO-DAY (TUESDAY), May 13th, at 4 p.m., in the CHAMBER ROOM, CHARTERED BANK BUILDING, 3, Queen's Road Central, for the purpose of nominating a Representative of the Chamber to serve on the Legislative Council during the absence on leave of the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak.

By Order,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 13th May, 1919.

LIST OF MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
OF THE HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

13th May, 1919.

Name of Firm.	Representative.
Bradley & Co., Ltd.	J. A. Plummer.
Butterfield & Swire	R. Ross Thomson.
Cawasjee Pallanjee & Co.	R. B. Cooper.
China Borneo Co., Ltd.	G. M. Lakin.
China Mutual Life Insurance Co., Ltd.	B. W. Tape.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.	Chas. Beswick.
Dodwell & Co., Ltd.	S. H. Dodwell.
Eastern Asbestos Co.	K. S. Morrison.
Fire Insurance Association of Hongkong.	D. K. Blair.
Gibb Livingston & Co., Ltd.	A. O. Lang.
Gilman & Co., Ltd.	W. L. Pattenden.
Gande Price & Co., Ltd.	C. Bond.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.	F. Graham.
J. D. Humphreys & Son	Henry Humphreys.
J. D. Hutchison & Co.	T. E. Pearce.
W. G. Humphreys & Co.	W. M. Humphreys.
Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.	J. Johnstone.
Linstead & Davis	F. Maitland.
Lowe, Bingham & Matthews	E. A. M. Williams.
N. Mody & Co.	N. Mody.
Nestle Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co.	A. G. Coppin.
Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co.	E. V. D. Parr and P. L. Knight.
H. Stephens & Co.	H. Stephens.
South British Insurance Co., Ltd.	S. G. Newall.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.	C. H. P. Hay.
Harry Wicking & Co.	J. Owen Hughes.

Election of Chamber's Nominee for representation
on the Legislative Council.

EDWARD VICTOR DAVID PARR, ESQ.

Proposed by:—

A. G. Coppin, Esq.,
Manager for Hongkong and South China.
Nestle and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co., London.

Seconded by:—

W. M. Humphreys, Esq.,
Partner, W. G. Humphreys & Co.

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Hongkong, 19th May, 1919.

Sir.—With reference to your letter of the 13th May, 1919, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to appoint Mr. E. V. D. Parr, provisionally and subject to His Majesty's pleasure, to be temporarily an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council during the absence of the Honourable Mr. P. H. Holyoak.—I am, etc.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,

Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

FORTNIGHTLY
CURRENT EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS
FOR THE YEAR 1919.

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT EXCHANGE AND BULLION OPENING QUOTATIONS DURING THE YEAR 1919.

1919.	BANK'S SELLING.								BANK'S BUYING.				Bar Silver.	Clean Mexican Dollars.	Gold Bar, 98 Touch.	Gold Leaf, 100 Touch.
	London T.T.	France T.T.	Amer. T.T.	S'hai T.T.	India T.T.	Japan T.T.	S'pore T.T.	Java T.T.	London 4 m/s. L.C.	France 4 m/s.	Amer. 4 m/s.	Australia 30 d/s.				
Fortnight ending 10th Jan.	3/3 ³ / ₄	430	78 ⁷ / ₈	Nom.	Nom.	151	141	185	3/5 ¹ / ₂	447 ¹ / ₂	81 ⁵ / ₈	3/5 ¹ / ₂	48 ⁷ / ₁₆	Nom.	40.00	42.40
do 24th "	3/3	422	77 ³ / ₈	"	"	149	138 ¹ / ₂	182 ¹ / ₂	3/4 ³ / ₈	439 ¹ / ₂	80 ⁵ / ₈	3/4 ³ / ₈	48 ¹ / ₁₆	"	41.00	43.40
do 7th Feb.	3/2 ³ / ₄	419 ¹ / ₂	76 ⁷ / ₈	"	"	149	137 ¹ / ₂	184	3/4 ¹ / ₂	437	79 ⁵ / ₈	3/4 ¹ / ₂	48 ⁷ / ₁₆	"	42.00	44.40
do 21st "	3/1 ¹ / ₂	406	74 ³ / ₈	"	"	143 ¹ / ₂	132 ¹ / ₂	179 ¹ / ₂	3/2 ³ / ₈	423 ¹ / ₂	77 ³ / ₈	3/3 ¹ / ₄	47 ³ / ₈	"	42.00	44.80
do 7th March.....	3/1	400 ¹ / ₂	73 ³ / ₈	"	"	143	131 ¹ / ₂	177 ¹ / ₂	3/2 ¹ / ₂	418	76 ¹ / ₈	3/2 ³ / ₄	47 ³ / ₈	"	42.20	44.60
do 21st "	3/1 ¹ / ₂	408 ¹ / ₂	74 ³ / ₈	"	"	146 ¹ / ₂	134 ¹ / ₂	180 ¹ / ₂	3/2 ³ / ₄	426	77 ¹ / ₈	3/3 ¹ / ₄	47 ³ / ₈	"	42.00	44.40
do 4th April	3/2 ³ / ₄	443	75	"	"	147 ¹ / ₂	138 ³ / ₈	188 ¹ / ₂	3/4	460 ¹ / ₂	77 ³ / ₈	3/3 ¹ / ₄	47 ³ / ₈	"	41.00	43.40
do 17th "	3/3 ³ / ₄	465	77 ³ / ₈	"	"	151	141 ³ / ₄	190 ¹ / ₂	3/5	482 ¹ / ₂	80 ¹ / ₂	3/5 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₁₆	"	39.00	41.40
do 2nd May	3/4 ³ / ₄	482	79 ³ / ₄	"	"	154 ¹ / ₂	154 ¹ / ₄	195	3/6	499 ¹ / ₂	82 ¹ / ₂	3/6 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₁₆	"	38.60	41.00
do 16th "	3/6 ¹ / ₄	510 ¹ / ₂	82 ³ / ₄	"	"	160	150	200	3/7 ¹ / ₂	528	85 ¹ / ₂	3/8	54	"	38.80	41.20
do 30th "	3/6 ¹ / ₄	530	81 ³ / ₄	"	"	159	150	202	3/7 ¹ / ₂	547 ¹ / ₂	84 ¹ / ₂	3/8	52 ¹ / ₂	"	39.60	42.00
do 13th June	3/6 ¹ / ₄	534	82 ³ / ₄	"	"	160	152	206	3/8	551 ¹ / ₂	85 ¹ / ₂	3/8 ¹ / ₂	54 ³ / ₄	"	39.00	41.40
do 27th "	3/6 ¹ / ₄	523	81 ¹ / ₄	"	"	160	150	203 ¹ / ₂	3/7 ¹ / ₂	540 ¹ / ₂	84	3/8	54 ⁵ / ₁₆	"	35.00	37.40
do 11th July	3/6 ¹ / ₄	540	79 ¹ / ₂	"	"	156	150	203	3/7 ¹ / ₂	557 ¹ / ₂	82 ¹ / ₄	3/8	53 ⁵ / ₈	"	35.80	38.20
do 25th "	3/7	558	79 ³ / ₄	"	"	158	152 ³ / ₄	205	3/8 ¹ / ₂	575 ¹ / ₂	79 ³ / ₄	3/8 ³ / ₄	54 ⁷ / ₈	"	33.40	35.60
do 7th Aug.	3/8	590	80 ¹ / ₂	"	"	162	156 ¹ / ₂	208 ¹ / ₂	3/9 ¹ / ₄	610	83 ¹ / ₄	3/9 ³ / ₄	57	"	34.20	36.40
do 22nd "	3/9 ³ / ₄	625	78 ¹ / ₂	"	"	161	162	213	3/11	645	81 ¹ / ₄	3/11 ¹ / ₂	60 ¹ / ₄	"	34.80	37.00
do 5th Sept.	4/- ¹ / ₂	676	84 ¹ / ₄	"	"	167 ¹ / ₂	172	220	4/1 ³ / ₄	696	87	4/2 ¹ / ₄	61	"	32.80	35.00
do 19th "	4/1 ¹ / ₂	730	85	"	"	169 ¹ / ₂	175	222	4/2 ³ / ₄	750	87 ³ / ₄	4/3 ¹ / ₄	61 ³ / ₄	"	32.20	34.40
do 3rd Oct.	4/2 ¹ / ₄	695	87	"	200	171	177 ¹ / ₂	223	4/3 ¹ / ₂	715	89 ³ / ₄	4/4	64 ¹ / ₄	"	31.20	33.40
do 17th "	4/3 ¹ / ₄	758	89 ¹ / ₂	"	210	177	181 ¹ / ₂	229	4/4 ³ / ₈	782	92 ¹ / ₄	4/5 ¹ / ₈	63 ³ / ₄	"	31.00	33.40
do 31st "	4/5 ¹ / ₂	808	93 ¹ / ₄	"	223 ¹ / ₂	185	190	239	4/7	832	96 ¹ / ₄	4/7 ¹ / ₂	66 ¹ / ₂	"	29.80	32.00
do 14th Nov.	4/8	887	96 ³ / ₄	"	225	193	198 ¹ / ₂	250	4/9 ³ / ₄	917	99 ³ / ₄	4/10 ¹ / ₂	69	"	27.60	29.80
do 28th "	4/11	962	99 ³ / ₄	"	222	196 ¹ / ₂	209	258	5/1	996	103	5/1 ³ / ₄	74	"	26.20	28.40
do 12th Dec.	5/2	1149	101	"	224	203	220 ¹ / ₂	253	5/4	1189	104 ¹ / ₄	5/4 ³ / ₄	75 ¹ / ₄	"	26.80	29.00
do 24th "	4/11 ¹ / ₂	995	94 ³ / ₄	"	204	187	211	250	5/1 ¹ / ₂	1035	98	5/2 ¹ / ₄	77 ¹ / ₄	"	29.60	31.80

Note.—d/- means demand no T.T. Quotations on that date.

Nom. means Nominal and refers to the quotations underneath.

TABLE SHOWING THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST
Prices of Bar Silver in London,
Rates of Exchange in Hongkong, and Bank of England rate
of Discount, for the years 1877 to 1919.

YEAR.	BAR SILVER IN LONDON.		EXCHANGE IN HONGKONG.		BANK RATE OF DISCOUNT IN LONDON.	
	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
1877	58¼	53¼	4¾	3/9½	5	2
1878	55¼	49½	3/11	3/5	6	2
1879	53¼	48%	4/1¼	3/5½	5	2
1880	52¾	51%	4/0%	3/7¾	3	2½
1881	53	50%	3/9¼	3/7¾	5	2½
1882	52½	50	3/9%	3/6%	6	3
1883	51½	50 1/8	3/8¾	3/7	5	3
1884	51%	49½	3/8¾	3/6¼	5	2
1885	50	46¾	3/7	3/3¾	5	2
1886	47	42	3/4%	2/11½	5	2
1887	47%	43¼	3/4¼	3/0½	5	2
1888	44 1/8	41%	3/1%	2/11%	5	2
1889	44%	41 1/8	3/2%	2/11½	6	2½
1890	54%	43%	3/10¼	3/0%	6	3
1891	48¾	43%	3/5	3/0%	5	2½
1892	43¾	37%	3/0%	2/8%	3½	2
1893	38 1/8	30½	2/8%	2/2%	5	2½
1894	31 7/8	27	2/3%	1/11%	3	2
1895	31 5/8	27 3/8	2/2%	1/11¼	2	2
1896	31 1/8	29¼	2/2%	2/1%	4	2
1897	29 1/8	23%	2/1%	1/9%	4	2
1898	28%	25	1/11½	1/9%	4	2½
1899	29	26%	1/11¾	1/10¾	6	3
1900	30%	27	2/1¼	1/11¼	6	3
1901	29 1/8	25	2/1	1/9%	6	3
1902	26	21 1/8	1/10%	1/6½	4	3
1903	28½	21 1/4	1/10 1/8	1/6%	4	2%
1904	28 1/8	24 7/8	1/11 1/8	1/8%	4	3
1905	30 5/8	25 1/8	2/1%	1/9 1/8	4	2½
1906	33%	29	2/3 1/8	2/0%	6	3½
1907	32 7/8	24 3/8	2/3 1/8	1/9½	7	4
1908	27 1/8	22	1/11¼	1/8	4	2½
1909	24%	23 1/8	1/9%	1/8%	5	2½
1910	26¼	23 3/8	1/10¾	1/8 1/8	5	3
1911	26%	23 1/8	1/10%	1/9 1/8	4½	3
1912	29 1/8	25%	2/1 1/8	1/10 5/8	5	3
1913	29%	25 1/8	2/0 1/8	1/11	5	4½
1914	27¼	22%	1/11½	1/8¼	10	3
1915	27¾	22 5/8	1/11%	1/9	5	5
1916	37%	26¼	2/4¼	1/11 1/8	6	5
1917	55	35 1/8	3/2%	2/3½	6	5
1918	49½	42½	3/8	2/11¼	5	5
1919	79%	47 7/8	5/2	3/-¼	6	5

Exports from Hongkong to Great Britain for 1913-1919.

	Silk P. Goods	Waste Silk	Tin	Preserves.	Soy	Canes	Mats and Matting	China-ware, &c.	Galangal	Cassia	Human Hair	Essential Oil	Bristles	Chinese M'chandise	Feathers	Camphor	Hemp	Minerals	Sundries	Tea	Fire Crackers	Gall Nuts	Peanuts	Raw Silk	
	pkgs	bales	slabs	pkgs	cases	pkgs	rolls	pkgs	boxes	boxes	boxes	boxes	bales	boxes	pkgs	boxes	bales	pkgs	pkgs	pkgs	cases	pkgs.	cases	boxes	
1913	446	9,441	8,047	65,829	5,864	28,240	30,542	4,499	20	4,735	3,214	777	319	4,519	8,957	25	22,560	669	31,972	12,332	11,577	200	9,362	..	
1914	232	10,732	9,644	49,396	3,744	26,895	33,582	3,917	..	2,585	1,472	1,551	1,398	1,640	4,369	3,335	70,008	2,470	33,442	5,919	12,863	150	9,478	..	
1915	190	10,330	27,992	38,449	4,670	19,956	63,463	1,613	268	37,950	2,071	4,715	4,620	2,244	8,659	665	19,119	14,919	68,062	15,771	1,878	265	62,883	..	
1916	83	9,475	22,473	35,684	4,312	6,245	68,180	578	200	36,271	2,790	2,544	3,520	2,272	18,123	6	27,829	5,168	102,488	5,337	..	750	46,974	..	
1917	213	17,252	17,420	19,927	1,656	2,989	23,860	279	28,905	279	28,905	2,272	6,752	3,830	2,272	7,254	..	5,300	15,441	200,030	1,235	50,375	..
1918	576	5,571	1,549	19,092	400	560	630	348	400	19,769	1,001	8,445	2,423	3,705	4,500	27	1,014	17,945	857,161	1,672	500	1,679	..
1919	235	4,442	2,043	103,093	7,376	16,607	40,183	2,510	803	104,957	831	8,044	2,081	2,472	15,557	644	43	6,140	419,168	2,942	4,897	15	40,695	..	

Exports from Hongkong to Continent of Europe for 1913-1919.

	Silk P. Goods	Waste Silk	Preserves	Canes	Bristles	Mats and Matting	Human Hair	Star Aniseed	Cassia Lignea and Buds	Broken Cassia	Bamboo	Essential Oil	Tin	Rattan-ware	Tobacco	Feathers	China-ware & M'chandise	Crackers	Sundries	Hemp	Tea	Minerals	Coprah	Copper Ingots	Vermillion	Peanuts	Raw Silk	
	pkgs	bales	pkgs	bales	pkgs	rolls	boxes	boxes	boxes	boxes	bales	boxes	slabs	boxes	pkgs	pkgs	cases	pkgs	bales	pkgs	..	..	..	..	..	..	cases	bales
1913	542	26,637	10,874	31,375	7,632	119,808	13,896	2,300	94,227	1,700	15,615	6,567	32,575	793	16,043	23,787	7,281	10,204	29,446	22,636	1,353	16,623	57,784	..	..	120	24,663	..
1914	270	9,104	6,183	24,113	4,264	88,102	5,635	2,592	62,616	50	12,609	4,047	23,992	64	10,253	14,307	3,498	2,004	32,813	120,572	817	4,048	51,117	..	..	20	20,159	..
1915	169	2,018	2,942	3,237	1,173	17,044	1,983	1,235	25,152	..	5,815	3,104	18,043	16	8,370	5,623	114	490	16,051	5,693	746	500	1,666	..	..	..	9,680	..
1916	137	11,175	500	365	992	2,232	2,099	2,015	24,678	..	2,508	5,021	4,800	32	3,947	519	235	..	23,955	2,320	234	1,924	..	..	..	..	2,454	..
1917	125	6,491	..	..	319	3,977	725	425	1,650	..	..	1,709	21,800	..	3,947	519	161	..	50,030	2,931	165	4,026	..	..	..	..	..	..
1918	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,769	..	..	..	5,484	56	200	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1919	237	4,131	7,418	3,949	2,730	42,064	714	650	54,731	425	3,437	1,369	4,210	65	19,167	4,291	2,766	..	75,886	209	1,413	3,329	..	..	..	..	..	..

Exports from Hongkong to U.S. and Canada via Suez & Panama Canal for 1913-1919.

	Raw Silk	Silk P. Goods	Waste Silk	Human Hair	Essential Oil	Mats and Matting	Preserves	Chinese M'chandise	China-ware, &c.	Rattan	Cassia	Rice	Gunnies	Canes	Sugar	Fans	Fire Crackers	Nut Oil	Hemp	Miscella.	Tea	Bristles	Tin	Peanuts Shelled	Peanuts Unshelled
	bales	pkgs	bales	boxes	cases	rolls	pkgs	pkgs	pkgs	b'dies	cases	bags	bales	pkgs	bags	pkgs	boxes	b'rels	pkgs	pkgs	pkgs	cases	slabs	bags	bags
1913	9,162	1,097	9,354	52	338	150,133	1,933	367,701	1,625	42,237	18,123	948,971	27,358	31	47,281	10,992	64,106	17,624	20	212,750	7,196	15	14,100	..	..
1914	11,872	653	11,718	102	346	119,336	1,559	361,120	1,290	54,099	13,178	1,118,039	27,060	..	47,095	12,922	70,398	16,487	50	167,802	58,482	290	14,908	..	..
1915	19,178	299	10,801	..	72	63,715	1,416	386,357	1,864	66,273	27,693	1,554,845	22,940	..	46,709	16,571	63,059	12,258	15	75,283	30,938	135	45,917	..	..
1916	15,070	1,327	10,854	115	143	95,731	919	223,924	2,322	23,457	41,505	1,044,181	24,810	508	19,365	9,689	83,677	7,161	1,801	268,030	5,304	1,093	173,515	17,474	2,476
1917	14,342	492	13,050	693	316	50,226	1,100	247,088	1,537	17,539	22,773	1,292,799	13,010	4,251	4,059	4,009	84,706	13,385	935	382,232	10,367	681	973,479	52,834	27,820
1918	18,301	241	32,782	1,471	276	9,678	1,062	146,435	4,921	12,652	165,804	1,695,758	9,252	5,195	6,376	3,250	6,974	17,976	5,451	361,240	8,258	2,430	182,530	67,300	4,360
1919	32,144	469	8,210	824	755	42,273	537	333,077	3,873	33,589	39,635	1,026,017	9,863	..	28,494	6,016	7,509	77,649	13,505	292,541	3,758	204	35,521	20,828	2,502

Exports from Hongkong to Great Britain for 1913-1919.

Table showing exports from Hongkong to Great Britain for 1913-1919, including categories like Waste Silk, Raw Silk, Preserves, Soy, Canees, Mats and Matting, etc.

Exports from Hongkong to Continent of Europe for 1913-1919.

Table showing exports from Hongkong to Continent of Europe for 1913-1919, including categories like Waste Silk, Raw Silk, Preserves, Canees, Mats and Matting, etc.

Exports from Hongkong to U.S. and Canada via Suez & Panama Canal for 1913-1919.

Table showing exports from Hongkong to U.S. and Canada via Suez & Panama Canal for 1913-1919, including categories like Waste Silk, Raw Silk, Preserves, Mats and Matting, etc.

Exports from Hongkong to U.S. and Canada via Pacific for 1913-1919.

Table showing exports from Hongkong to U.S. and Canada via Pacific for 1913-1919, including categories like Waste Silk, Raw Silk, Goods, Hair, Human, etc.

REPORT
OF THE
HARBOUR MASTER
FOR THE YEAR.

1.—Shipping.

1. The total of the Shipping entering and clearing at Ports in the Colony during the year 1919 amounted to 649,168 vessels of 35,615,169 tons, which, compared with the figures for 1918, shows an increase of 69,627 vessels, with an increase of 6,096,980 tons.

Of the above, 41,985 vessels of 21,072,129 tons were engaged in Foreign Trade, as compared with 43,436 vessels of 16,955,332 tons in 1918, and were distributed as follows:—

	1918.	1919.	1918.	1919.
	Numbers.	Numbers.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.
British Ocean-going Ships,	5.6 %	9.2 %	21.4 %	32.4 %
Foreign Ocean-going Ships,	9.8	12.6	36.1	36.2
British River Steamers,	13.3	13.2	20.3	15.4
Foreign River Steamers,	3.5	3.8	3.6	2.9
Steam Launches (under 60 tons),	13.8	11.9	1.1	0.8
Trading Junks, ...	54.0	49.3	17.5	12.3
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

N.B.—The movements of Fishing Junks are not included in this Table.

2. Of vessels of European construction, 4,571 Ocean Steamers, 4 Sailing Ships, 3,550 River Steamers, and 2,509 Steamships not exceeding 60 tons entered during the year, giving a daily average of 29.1 ships, as compared with 27.3 in 1918, and 29.9 in 1917.

3. The average tonnage of individual Ocean Vessels entering the Port has increased from 1,459.2 tons to 1,583.1 tons, that of British ships has increased from 1,482.6 tons to 1,772.6 tons while that of Foreign ships has also increased from 1,445.7 tons to 1,449.2 tons.

The average tonnage of individual River Steamers entering during the year has decreased from 484.7 tons to 448.8 tons.

That of British River Steamers has increased from 511.6 tons to 529.8 tons, and that of Foreign River Steamers has decreased from 439.9 tons to 336.6 tons.

4. A comparison between the years 1918 and 1919 is given in the following table:—

Class of Vessels.	1918.		1919.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British Ocean-going,	2,444	3,627,576	3,865	6,842,024	1,421	3,214,448	...	...
Foreign Ocean-going,	4,234	6,117,893	5,274	7,625,823	1,040	1,507,930	...	...
British River Steamers,	5,807	3,444,445	5,502	3,253,781	...	...	305	190,664
Foreign River Steamers,	1,150	612,314	1,599	591,679	89	...	...	20,638
Steamships under 60 tons (Foreign Trade),	6,002	180,738	5,035	161,689	...	...	967	1,049
Junks, Foreign Trade,	23,439	2,972,366	20,710	2,597,133	...	...	2,729	375,233
Total, Foreign Trade,	43,436	16,955,332	41,985	21,072,129	2,550	4,722,378	4,001	605,584
Steam-launches plying in Waters of Colony,	499,102	10,734,658	586,188	13,366,602	87,076	2,631,944	...	...
Junks, Local Trade,	*37,003	*1,828,199	†20,995	†1,176,438	...	...	16,008	651,761
Grand Total,	379,541	29,518,189	649,168	35,615,169	89,636	7,354,322	20,009	1,257,345
Nett Increase.....					69,627	6,096,977	...	...

* Including 11,686 Conservancy and Dust Boats of 638,884 tons.

† " 11,486 " " " " " 758,634 "

5. This table shows an increase in British Ocean-going Shipping of 1,421 ships or 58.1 per cent., and an increase of 3,214,448 tons or 88.6 per cent. That is due to a partial recovery of Shipping after the war conditions owing to release of many ships for commercial purposes.

British River Steamers have decreased by 305 ships and 190,664 tons or 5.2 per cent. in numbers and 5.5 per cent. in tonnage. This is due to two ships formerly British having been transferred to the Chinese flag, to one ship having been taken off the run for three months and another having been laid up.

Foreign Ocean-going Vessels have increased by 1,040 ships with an increase of 1,507,930 tons or 24.5 per cent. in numbers and 24.6 per cent. in tonnage. This is due to partial return to pre-war conditions.

Foreign River Steamers show an increase of 89 ships and a decrease of 20,638 tons or 5.2 per cent. in numbers and 3.3 per cent. in tonnage. This is due to the transfer of two ships formerly British to Chinese flag and two large ships having been taken off the run.

In Steamships not exceeding 60 tons employed in Foreign Trade there is a decrease of 967 ships and a decrease of 19,049 tons or 16.1 per cent. in numbers and 10.5 per cent. in tonnage. This decrease is due to a number of Steam-launches being laid up part of the year owing chiefly to the expense of coal and to two vessels formerly run as Steam-launches having been re-measured and run as vessels over 60 tons.

Junks in Foreign Trade show a decrease of 2,729 vessels of 275,333 tons or 11.6 per cent. in numbers and 12.6 per cent. in tonnage. This decrease is but apparent. It is due to the abolition of war time regulations, under which the movements of all junks were reported. Now many of them fail to report arrival or departure.

In Local Trade (*i.e.*, between places within the waters of the Colony) there is an increase in Steam-launches of 87,086 vessels with an increase in tonnage of 2,631,944 or 17.5 per cent. in numbers and 24.5 per cent. in tonnage. This increase is due to more shipping frequenting the Port, the employment of Launches towing having considerably increased.

Junks in Local Trade show a decrease of 16,008 vessels and 651,761 tons or 43.2 per cent. in numbers and 35.6 per cent. in tonnage. This decrease is due to abolition of war time restrictions, under which the movements of all Junks irrespective of size were reported, whereas many of them now fail to report their movements.

6. The actual number of individual Ocean-going Vessels of European construction during the year 1919 was 957 of which 301 were British and 656 Foreign. In 1918 the corresponding figures were 675 of which 162 were British and 513 Foreign.

These 957 ships measured 2,230,105 tons. They entered 4,575 times and gave a collective tonnage of 7,242,689. Thus 282 more

ships entered 1,232 more times and gave a collective tonnage greater by 2,364,580 tons, an average of 1,919.3 tons per entry.

Thus:—

Flag.	Steamers.		No. of times entered.		Total Tonnage.		
	1918	1919	1918	1919	1918	1919	
British	Steamers	158	299	1,219	1,938	1,803,176	3,436,616
	Sailing...	4	2	4	2	10,121	2,267
Japanese	Steamers	291	379	911	1,148	1,744,888	2,111,252
	Sailing...	—	1	—	1	—	89
Norwegian	25	18	108	96	128,157	99,652	
Chinese	66	84	620	854	424,965	585,972	
Danish	5	6	7	6	18,915	17,720	
Dutch	58	39	133	113	334,347	262,213	
French	20	17	153	159	154,474	204,494	
Portuguese	4	5	80	85	43,063	51,459	
Russian	5	9	13	8	15,244	9,989	
Siamese	3	3	2	7	1,801	7,916	
Swedish	2	1	3	1	8,304	2,217	
U.S.A.	Steamers	32	90	88	150	187,309	415,859
	Sailing...	1	1	1	1	1,271	3,000
Belgian	Steamers	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sailing...	1	—	1	—	2,074	—
Inter Allied	—	3	—	6	—	31,974	
Total	675	957	3,343	4,575	4,878,109	7,242,689	

7. The 301 British ships carried 2,408 British officers and 32 Foreign officers, the latter consisting of 5 Norwegians, 18 Americans, 2 Danish, 2 Swedish, 1 Roumanian, 3 Russians, and 1 Greek.

Thus, the proportion of Foreign officers in British ships was 1.33 per cent., comprising 7 nationalities, a decrease of 1.40 per cent., with a decrease in number of officers and an increase in ships.

8. The 656 Foreign ships carried 4,659 officers, of whom 78 were British, as follows:—

	1918.	1919.
In Chinese ships	45	34
„ Japanese ships	2	2
„ French ships	1	1
„ United States ships	9	26
„ Greek ships	—	15
	57	78

Thus 1.6 per cent. of the officers serving in Foreign ships were of British nationality, with an increase in the number of officers and an increase in the number of ships.

9. The Nationality of the Crews in British and in Foreign ships was as follows:—

	VESSELS.		BRITISH CREW.		AMERICANS AND EUROPEANS.		ASIATICS.	
	1918	1919	1918	1919	1918	1919	1918	1919
British	162	301	9,306	19,717	641	674	86,386	134,307
Foreign	513	656	751	1,359	9,113	11,725	122,479	150,517
Total	675	957	10,057	21,076	9,754	12,399	208,865	284,824

Hence in British ships:—

1918.	1919.	
9.66 %	12.74 %	of the crews were British.
0.66 %	0.45 %	of the crews were other Europeans.
89.68 %	86.81 %	of the crews were Asiatics.

And in Foreign ships:—

1918.	1919.	
0.58 %	0.83 %	of the crews were British.
6.88 %	7.17 %	of the crews were other Europeans.
92.54 %	92.00 %	of the crews were Asiatics.

2.—Trade.

10. Detailed and accurate statistics of imports and exports are now collected and published by the Imports and Exports Department. The rough statements hitherto included in these reports are therefore discontinued.

11. The number and tonnage of ships of European type construction carrying cargo for import and transit, compared with 1918, were as follows:—

	1918.		1919.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Steamers	3,337	4,864,643	4,571	7,237,333	1,234	2,372,690	—	—
River Steamers	3,660	2,028,674	3,550	1,917,236	—	—	110	111,438
Sailing Vessels	6	13,466	4	5,356	—	—	2	8,110
Total	7,003	6,906,783	8,125	9,159,925	1,234	2,372,690	112	119,548
Nett Increase					1,122	2,253,142	—	—

12. The corresponding figures relating to ships of European type of construction, shipping bunker coal, are as follows:—

EXPORTS.

	1918.		1919.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Steamers,	3,332	4,862,038	4,560	7,219,802	1,228	2,357,764	106	99,864
River Steamers,	3,657	2,028,085	3,551	1,928,221	106	100,000	...	2,040
Sailing Vessels,	3	7,396	4	5,356	1	...	...	101,904
Total,	6,992	6,897,519	8,115	9,153,379	1,229	2,357,764	106	101,904
	Net Increase,				1,123	2,355,860	...	...

	1918.		1919.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Bunker Coal.	No.	Bunker Coal.	No.	Bunker Coal.	No.	Bunker Coal.
Steamers,	3,332	357,109	4,560	850,386	1,228	493,277	...	...
River Steamers,	3,657	52,322	3,551	53,439	...	1,117	106	...
Total,	6,989	509,431	8,111	903,825	1,228	494,394	186	...
	Net Increase,				1,122	494,394	...	...

13. The River Trade, compared with 1918, is shown in the following Table:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Passengers.
1918,	362,146	399,458	1,410,400
1919,	323,536	328,369	1,373,947

14. The following Table shows the Junk Trade of the Colony for the years 1918 and 1919:—

	1918.		1919.	
	Junks.	Tons.	Junks.	Tons.
Foreign Trade,	11,698	1,501,757	10,353	1,248,389
Local Trade,	12,290	1,561,890	4,686	206,326
Total,	23,988	3,063,647	15,039	1,454,715

Imported 558,509 tons as under:—

Cattle, 1,608 head,	189
Swine, 8,460 head,	498
General,	545,641
Earth and Stones,	12,181
Total,	558,509

	1918.		1919.	
	Junks.	Tons.	Junks.	Tons.
Foreign Trade,	11,741	1,470,609	10,357	1,349,744
Local Trade,	13,027	627,425	4,823	211,488
Total,	24,768	2,098,034	15,180	1,561,232

Exported 794,566 tons as under:—

Kerosine, 2,385,000 cases,	68,710
Rice and Padi,	142,262
Coal,	192,869
General,	390,765
Total,	794,566

15. Summary of the Shipping of the Port for the year 1919:—

	No. of Ships.	Registered.		Passengers.		Emigrants.
		Tonnage.	Bunker Coal.	Arrived.	Departed.	
British Ocean-going,	3,865	6,842,024	458,487	165,726	31,888	24,642
Foreign Ocean-going,	5,274	7,625,823	391,899	93,885	76,877	25,327
British River Steamers,	3,502	3,253,781	44,668	598,384	568,299	...
Foreign River Steamers,	1,599	591,679	8,771	116,217	91,047	...
Total,	16,240	18,313,307	903,825	974,212	768,111	59,969
Steam-launches, Foreign Trade,	5,035	161,689	46,207	6,270,741	6,265,695	...
Junks, Foreign Trade,	20,710	2,597,133	...	103,795	83,231	...
Total, Foreign Trade,	41,985	21,072,129	950,032	7,348,748	7,117,037	59,969
Steam-launches, Local Trade,	586,188	13,366,602	17,031	16,394	18,454	...
Junks, Local Trade,	20,995	1,176,438	...	6,079	6,911	...
Total, Local Trade,	607,183	14,543,040	17,031	22,473	25,365	...
Grand Total,	649,168	35,615,169	967,063	7,371,221	7,142,402	59,969

3.—Revenue and Expenditure.

16. The gross Revenue collected by the Harbour Department during the year was \$633,794.25 as against \$594,278.91 collected in the previous year showing an increase of \$39,065.34 or 6.16 :—

	1918.	1919.	Increase.	Decrease.
Light Dues,	\$ 52,816.92	\$ 74,545.18	\$ 21,728.26	...
Light Dues, Special Assessment, ..	63,105.94	83,973.11	20,867.17	...
Licences and Internal Revenue, ..	168,829.34	156,353.24	...	\$ 12,476.10
Fees of Court and Office,	309,426.71	318,632.72	9,206.01	...
Miscellaneous Service,	100.00	290.00	190.00	...
Total,	\$594,278.91	\$633,794.25	\$ 39,065.34	\$ 12,476.10

The principal increases are under Light Dues \$21,728.26, Light Dues Special Assessment \$20,867.17, Engagement and Discharge of Seamen \$11,969.80, Survey of Steam-ships \$8,907.50, Fees for use of Government Buoys \$9,842.00 (due to increase of shipping after war), Medical Examination of Emigrants \$9,605.00 (due to removal of quarantine restrictions against Hongkong by Straits Settlements), Examination of Masters \$667.50, and Gunpowder Storage Fees \$329.46.

The principal decreases are under Boat Licences \$1,405.80, Junk Licences \$6,241.75, Fines \$4,705.32, Official Signatures \$6,100.00 (due to relaxation of war restrictions), Registry Fee \$1,219, Sunday Cargo Working Permits \$24,900.00 (due to increase of tonnage, hence no necessity to work on Sundays.)

The Expenditure of the Harbour Department for 1919 was \$191,850.96 as against \$173,527.64 expended in 1918 showing an increase of \$18,323.32. This increase is due to more expenditure incurred on new moorings for ocean Steam-ships and salaries for officers returned from active service.

Under Special Expenditure a sum of \$337.50 was expended in buying new furniture for Marine Surveyor's Office and Green Island Lighthouse; a sum of \$569.10 for anchor for Bockara Rock Buoy; a sum of \$7,500 for the purchase of the Steam-launch *Blackhead*; a sum of \$163.52 for a typewriter, and a sum of \$34,990 on acquisition and re-arrangement of moorings in Victoria Harbour.

17. The Amount of Light Dues collected during the year 1919 was as follows:—

Class of Vessels.	No. of Trips.	Tonnage	Rate per ton.	Fees Collected.	Special Assessment.		Total Fees Collected.
					Rate per ton.	Fees Collect-d.	
Ocean Vessels,	4,540	7,081,015	1 cent.	\$ 70,810.15		\$ 70,810.15	\$ 141,620.30
Steam-launches,	2,140	73,574	1 "	735.74		735.74	1,471.48
River Steamers, (Night Boats).....	1,787	899,807	½ "	2,999.29		4,499.38	7,498.67
Do., (Day Boats).....	1,391	951,341	Nil.	.....		7,927.84	7,927.84
Total,.....	9,858	9,005,737	...	\$74,545.18		\$83,973.11	\$158,518.30

4.—Steam-launches.

18. On the 31st December, 1919, there were 350 steam-launches (including licensed motor boats) employed in the harbour. Of these, 304 were licensed for the conveyance of passengers, etc. 24 were the property of the Colonial Government, and 22 belonged to the Imperial Government, comprising 4 Military and 18 Naval. In addition to the above there were 31 motor boats privately owned for pleasure and private purposes.

Five coxswains' certificates were suspended for incompetence or negligence in the performance of their duties; one of which was suspended for three months, two for two months each, and two for one month each; the holders, besides, being required to pass a further examination, on expiration of their suspensions before their certificates were returned.

Five hundred and twenty (520) engagements and five hundred and five (505) discharges of Masters and Engineers were made during the year.

Seven (7) steam-launches were permitted to carry arms for their protection against pirates.

5.—Emigration and Immigration.

19. Fifty nine thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine (59,969) emigrants left Hongkong for various places during the year 1919, (43,830 in 1918). Of these, 25,203 were carried in British ships, and 34,666 in Foreign ships.

One hundred and thirty-six thousand and twenty (136,020) returning emigrants were reported to have been brought to Hongkong from the several places to which they had emigrated either from this Colony or from Coast Ports, as against 74,109 in 1918. Of these, 92,385 arrived in British ships and 43,635 in Foreign ships.

6.—Registry, etc., of Shipping.

20. During the year, 12 ships were registered under the provisions of the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act, and 25 Certificates of Registry cancelled. 155 documents, etc., were dealt with in connection with the Act, the fees on which amounted to \$1,351.00 as compared with \$2,568.00 in 1918.

7.—Marine Magistrate's Court.

21. One hundred and sixty-seven (167) cases were heard in the Marine Magistrate's Court (261 in 1918). Breach of Harbour Regulations, Boarding ships without permission, Failing to observe the Rules of the Road, Making fast to steamers while under way, Neglecting to exhibit the Regulation Lights, Being in Causeway Bay without permit, Dredging in the Harbour without permit, and Carrying passengers in excess were the principal offences.

8.—Marine Court.

(Under Section 19 of Ordinance 10 of 1899).

22. During the year 1919 three courts were held, viz:—

(1.) On the 2nd day of April, 1919, to enquire into the circumstances of being asleep on duty on the part of E. High, Second Officer of the British Steamship *Chun Sang*.

(2.) On the 10th day of June, 1919, to enquire into the circumstances of misconduct and drunkenness on the part of W. Hudson, Second Officer of the British Steamship *Chun Sang*.

(3.) On the 22nd day of September, 1919, to enquire into the circumstances of misconduct on the part of F. Twomey, Third Officer of the British Steamship *Jason*.

9.—Examination of Masters, Mates, and Engineers.

(Under Board of Trade Regulations).

23. The following Tables show the number of Candidates examined under Ordinance No. 10 of 1899 for Certificates of Competency, distinguishing those who passed from those who failed:—

Grade.	Passed.	Failed.
Master,	5	2
Master, River Steamers,	1	0
First Mate,	28	20
Second Mate,	12	15
Second Mate, Temporary,	1	0
Mate, River Steamers,	5	4
Total,	52	41
First Class Engineer,	12	5
Second Class Engineer,	23	9
Total,	35	14

For Steamships not exceeding 60 tons, under Section 37 of Ordinance 10 of 1899:—

Candidates.	Passed.	Failed.
For Master,	73	16
For Engineers,	91	2
Total,	164	18

10.—Examination of Pilots.

(Under Ordinance No. 3 of 1904).

24. There were no candidates examined during the year. Nineteen (19) licences were renewed.

11.—Sunday Cargo-Working.

25. There were 1,122 permits issued during the year under Ordinance No. 1 of 1891, as compared with 1,247 in 1918. Of these, 440 were not used as the ships did not arrive up to time, and in some cases it was found unnecessary to work cargo on the Sunday.

The Revenue collected under this head amounted to \$108,900 as against \$133,800 in 1918.

The decrease is due to the increase of tonnage after the war, hence no necessity to work cargo on Sundays generally.

12.—New Territories.

(Twenty-first year of British Administration.)

26. The Out-stations attached to the Harbour Department continued to perform the work allotted to them and during the year Licences, etc., were issued by them as follows:—

	1899	1918	1919
Cheung Chau, opened	1899	2,667	2,532
Tai O, "	1899	2,509	2,177
Tai Po, "	1900	2,882	2,330
Sai Kung, "	1902	914	808
Long Ket, "	1905	1,288	1,455
Deep Bay, "	1911	1,078	1,114
Lantao, "	1912	1,719	1,515
		13,057	11,931

The Revenue collected by this Department from the New Territories during the year was \$30,625.30 as compared with \$34,273.45 in 1918.

13.—Lighthouses.

GAP ROCK LIGHTHOUSE.

27. During the year 1919, eight hundred and forty-three (843) vessels were reported by telegraph as passing this station and ten (10) were not reported, owing to communication being interrupted.

Three thousand and sixty (3,060) telegraphic messages, including meteorological reports for the Observatory, were sent and four hundred and ninety-four (494) were received.

Telegraphic communications were maintained throughout the year with the exception of six (6) complete days, and fourteen other short interruptions.

There were two hundred and eight (208) hours and ten (10) minutes of fog, during the year and the fog-signal was fired one thousand three hundred and nine (1,309) times.

On nine (9) occasions the relief was delayed by rough weather.

WAGLAN LIGHTHOUSE.

During the year 1919, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight (1,998) vessels were reported. One thousand six hundred and thirty-seven (1,637) messages were sent and four hundred and twenty (420) received.

Owing to telegraphic communication being interrupted three hundred and fifteen (315) vessels were not reported.

There were four hundred and six (406) hours of fog, and the fog-signal was fired four thousand one hundred and seventy (4,170) times.

The reliefs were regular throughout the year.

GREEN ISLAND.

During the year 1919, one thousand four hundred and eighty-eight (1,488) vessels were signalled and reported. In addition three hundred (300) messages were sent and forty-seven (47) were received.

Owing to telephone communications being interrupted during the year sixty-eight (68) vessels were not reported.

Kap Sing Lighthouse has been regularly inspected and except through a mechanical breakdown, when the light was exhibited as a fixed light for eight days, it has been working satisfactory.

The ten (10) Aga Flash Lights have been attended to from this station, namely, Cape Collinson, Mawan Island, Signal Hill Lighthouse, the Fairway and Cust Rock Buoys, and Harbour of Refuge.

These have been burning continuously, accurately, and satisfactorily during the year.

14.—Government Harbour Moorings.

28. The demand for more Mooring Buoys at West Point necessitated the laying down of five (5) new moorings complete *viz.*, two (2) B Class and three (3) C Class. These moorings are known as B 49, B 50, C 46, C 47, and C 48.

A further demand is also anticipated and will have to be provided for later.

During the year 1919, forty-four (44) moorings were lifted and relaid after necessary repairs had been effected. Twenty-two (22) Buoys were scaled and painted, and two (2) new B Class and two (2) new C Class Buoys were built by contract.

The total expenditure for upkeep of Government Moorings and Buoys for the year was \$36,286.46.

The total Revenue for the year 1919 was	\$69,440.
" " " 1918 "	\$59,594.
" " " 1917 "	\$61,156.

BASIL R. H. TAYLOUR, Captain R.N.,
Harbour Master, &c.

HARBOUR DEPARTMENT,
23rd March, 1920.