



Hongkong GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

Published by Authority.

VICTORIA, HONGKONG; SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1854.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

THE Contract hitherto in force for the publication of GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS having ceased on *the 21st instant*, —Notice is hereby given, that the *HONGKONG GOVERNMENT GAZETTE*, this day established, will be hereafter the only Official Organ of Proclamations, Notifications, and all Public Papers of this Government.

By Order,

W. CAINE,
Colonial Secretary.

Victoria, Hongkong, 24th September, 1853.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency The Governor is pleased to direct the publication, for general information, of the subjoined Circular, with its Enclosure, from the Right Honorable The Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, requiring certain Penalties, Fines, and Forfeitures, hitherto payable to the Board of Trade, to be in future accounted for and remitted to Mr. John Wilkin, the Receiver of Fines and Forfeitures for the Crown, London.

By Order,

W. CAINE,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria,
Hongkong, 24th January, 1854.

(CIRCULAR.)

DOWNING STREET, 21st October, 1853.

SIR,—I transmit to you, for your information and guidance, the copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, desiring that certain Penalties, Fines, and Forfeitures which have hitherto been payable to that Department, may, in future, be accounted for and paid to Mr. John Wilkin, of No. 10, Spring Gardens, who holds the appointment of Receiver of Fines and Forfeitures for the Crown.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

NEWCASTLE.

Governor Sir GEORGE BONHAM,
&c. &c. &c.
Hongkong.

OFFICE OF COMMITTEE OF PRIVY COUNCIL FOR TRADE,
6th October, 1853.

SIR,—I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to request you to call the attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the 26th Section of the Act, 15th and 16th Vict., cap. 131, according to which certain Penalties, Fines, and Forfeitures heretofore payable to the Board of Trade under the Acts 13th and 14th Vict., cap. 93, 14th and 15th Vict., cap. 96, 14th and 15th Vict., cap. 79, and 14th and 15th Vict., cap. 102, are, from the 1st instant to be paid into the Exchequer, in such manner as the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may direct.

In pursuance of this Enactment, my Lords have communicated with the Lords Commissioners, who have informed them that the most convenient plan will be, that the Penalties, Fines, and

Forfeitures in question should be accounted for and paid to Mr. John Wilkin, of No. 10, Spring Gardens, who holds the appointment of Receiver of Fines and Forfeitures for the Crown, to be by him paid into the Exchequer periodically with other Fines.

I am, therefore, to request you to move the Duke of Newcastle, to take such steps as may be necessary, in order to instruct the authorities in the British Colonies to remit the Penalties, Fines, and Forfeitures imposed there under the Acts above referred to, to Mr. Wilkin, in accordance with the instructions of the Treasury.

I am to add, that the Penalties &c., referred to in Section 26 of 16th and 17th Vict., cap. 131, include Penalties and Forfeitures under 7th and 8th Vict., cap. 112, and 8th and 9th Vict., cap. 116, as these Penalties &c., have hitherto, under 13th and 14th Vict., cap. 93, sect. 111, been payable to the Board of Trade.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) JAMES BOOTH.

H. MERIVALE, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.
Colonial Office.

Diplomatic Department.

His Excellency Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and Chief Superintendent of Trade in China, having been pleased to grant Mr. Alexander Bird Twelve months' leave of absence, Mr. Horace Oakley will from this date and until further notice officiate as Her Majesty's Vice Consul at Whampoa.

By Order,

W. H. MEDHURST.

Officiating Secretary to H. B. M.'s Plenipotentiary.

Superintendency of Trade, Victoria, Hongkong,
28th January 1854.

Diplomatic Department.

With reference to the Provisional Rules for the clearing of ships established at Shanghai in September last by Mr. Consul Alcock, which were published in the *Government Gazette* of the 26th of that month, His Excellency Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and Chief Superintendent of Trade in China is pleased to direct that the subjoined letters addressed to the Right Honorable the Earl of Clarendon, K. G., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, by the London, Liverpool, and Manchester Chambers of Commerce, and His Lordship's replies thereto, be published for general information.

By Order,

W. H. MEDHURST,

Officiating Secretary to H. B. M.'s Plenipotentiary.

Superintendency of Trade, Victoria, Hongkong
25th January, 1854.

OFFICE OF THE EAST INDIA AND CHINA ASSOCIATION.
Couper's Court, Cornhill, November 17th, 1853.

MY LORD,—On behalf of the Committee of this Association I have the honor to transmit for Your Lordship's consideration the enclosed papers relative to the existing interruption to the fiscal operations of the Chinese Government at Shanghai: and the Committee beg leave to request that in consideration of the urgency of the case Your Lordship would by the Mail of the 24th instant send out such specific instructions for the guidance of Her Majesty's Consul at that port as may determine the important question at issue.

In making this request, the Committee would beg to draw Your Lordship's attention to the magnitude of the amount which, should the present state of disorganization continue, may be expected to accumulate in the Consul's hands; and to pray that Her Majesty's Government will assume to itself the entire responsibility for the Sums so collected, and become exclusively the medium of its ultimate appropriation either in payment to the Government established, or should such course be determined on, in repayment to the respective depositors.

I have &c.,

(Signed)

S. GREGSON,

Lord CLARENDON, &c., &c.

BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.
Shanghai, September 22, 1853.

SIR,—You will already from the public prints be aware of the subversion of the Imperial Government in Shanghai on the 7th instant, the abandonment of the Custom House, and the cessation of the Collection of Duties by the Chinese Officials.

Consequent on this, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul has issued a Notification dated 9th instant, containing provisional Rules for the clearing of ships in the absence of a Custom House Establishment, and, from the enclosed Copy of this document, you will perceive the reason alleged by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for pursuing the course he has done is, that as no Port Clearance or Grand Chop can be produced at the British Consulate, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul cannot by Treaty return to the consignee the Ship's papers, and allow the Ship to depart.

Although by the original Treaties and Regulations of Trade with China signed 1842 and 1843, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul has important duties to perform in connection with the Chinese Customs' Revenue, these were abrogated by a despatch of Lord Palmerston's issued, we believe, in 1851 to the Superintendent of Trade and Consular Departments in China, *which although never made public*, was stated by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul as the origin of the Regulations of Trade issued by the Taou-