

His Excellency the Governor, The Honorable Lieut.-Colonel Graham, Military Commandant, the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, The Honourable the Chief Magistrate, Captain Cowper R.E., Acting Surveyor General, Commodore Elliot and other military and civil Government officers were present and by their presence and directions stimulated the exertions of those who rendered assistance to subdue the fire.—I have &c.,

C. MAY,
Superintendent of Police.

N. B.—The total number of houses burnt down is 78, and about 20 others partially burnt or damaged. The value of the houses destroyed, I estimate at (\$80,000) eighty thousand dollars, and the other property and merchandize at (\$20,000) twenty thousand dollars.

C. MAY.

The Honorable
W. T. MERCER, Esquire,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 26.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Circular, issued by the Commission for executing the Office of Colonial Treasurer, is made public for general information.

By Order,
W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria,
Hongkong, 27th February, 1856.

CIRCULAR.

TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

It is hereby intimated, that in future, on the First Morning of every Month, a Notice will be posted at the Colonial Treasury, shewing the Quantity of each particular Coin in the Treasury Chest, and the Proportion in which each will be distributed in payment of the various Salaries and Contingencies due for the month preceding.

(Signed) W. T. MERCER, *President*,
J. HYNDMAN, } *Members*,
" H. REINHARD, }
of the Treasury Commission.

Colonial Treasury, 26th February, 1856.

No. 27.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Return of Notes in Circulation and Specie in Reserve at the Bank of the Oriental Bank

Corporation in Hongkong, is published for general information.

By Order,
W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria,
Hongkong, 27th February, 1856.

Account of the Average amount of Notes in Circulation at the Bank of the Oriental Bank Corporation in Hongkong for the Month ending 31st January, 1856, rendered in accordance with the Terms of Her Majesty's Royal Charter of Incorporation.

NOTES ISSUED.....\$149,575,
exclusive of the Notes of the Oriental Bank still outstanding.

Wm. LAMOND,
Acting Sub-Manager.

Oriental Bank Corporation, Hongkong,
1st February, 1856.

I hereby certify having examined the Books of the Oriental Bank Corporation, and that the Treasure exhibited corresponded in Amount with the Terms of the Royal Charter.

H. REINHARD,
A Member of the Colonial
Treasury Commission.

Victoria, Hongkong, 26th February, 1856.

No. 28.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Tenders will be received up to Noon of the 15th March next, for the construction of the following Works:—

1. A CENTRAL POLICE STATION at the S.E. angle of the junction of Wellington and Cochrane Streets.
2. A SMALL POLICE STATION near Messrs Gibb, Livingston & Co.'s lower gate.
3. A POLICE STATION at West Point.

Plans and Specifications may be seen, and every information given, on application at the Surveyor-General's Office.

By Order,
W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria,
Hongkong, 28th February, 1856.

CONSULATE OF CHILE,
CANTON, February 18th, 1856.

Under the instructions of the MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, the undersigned hereby calls the attention of persons concerned to the annexed DECREE of the GOVERNMENT OF CHILE.

GIDEON NYE, Jr.
Consul of Chile.

SANTIAGO, 8th May, 1855.

SIR,—I have received from the Minister of Marine a Communication, stating that His Excellency the President has issued the following Decree,—

1st, The Government is at present equipping and shipping men for the Brig-of-war "Ancud," and other Government Vessels:

2d, That Foreign Merchant vessels have lately been shipping Native Sailors to an extent seriously incommoding to the State:

3d, That the Government has adopted effective means in order to sustain the national character of Merchant Vessels, and render more effective the Laws relative to the Mercantile Marine:

4th, That for the reasons above given, there exists great scarcity of Chilian Sailors, which scarcity embarrasses our mercantile vessels.

In consequence, therefore, the Commandant General of Marine, according to the Law XXVII, of July 1836, and in virtue of the power reposed in him by the said Act, issued the following Decree:—

1st, Chilian Merchant Vessels are hereby permitted to ship and employ as ship's Company, two-thirds of their crew from Foreign sailors, from Captain to Boy.

2d, This Decree shall exist and have full effect and virtue till the 25th day of May 1857, after which time the Decree of the 25th January 1847, will again take effect.

3d, National ships at sea on the 25th May 1857, will enjoy the benefit of the Decree now made till their arrival in a Chilian port.

Government Officials are requested to give full publicity to the foregoing Decree.

(Signed) A. VARAS.

NOTICE.

THE next SESSIONS of the SUPREME COURT under its SUMMARY JURISDICTION, will be held on FRIDAY, the 7th day of March, 1856, at 12 o'clock Noon.

By Order of the Court,
WILLIAM HASTINGS ALEXANDER,
Acting Registrar.

In re JOHN COLLETT, deceased.
" FRANCISCO ANACLETO, "
" CAETAINO FERNANDEZ, "
" MAHOMMED ALLI, "
" MUNGLOO.

NOTICE is hereby given to the NEXT OF KIN and all other Persons to produce any WILLS or CODICILS of the above Parties that may be in their possession, before the Supreme Court, on SATURDAY, the 8th day of March, 1856; or if none, that the Next of Kin do accept or refuse LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION; failing which, Administration will be granted to the Acting Registrar of the said Court.

By the Court,
WILLIAM HASTINGS ALEXANDER,
Acting Registrar.

NOTICE.

FREDERICK BLOCK, Esq., is my ATTORNEY in China during my absence therefrom.

W. T. BRIDGES.
15th January, 1856.

NOTICE.

A PUBLIC MEETING, for the establishment of a FIRE BRIGADE, will be held at the Residence of Messrs ARMSTRONG & LAWRENCE, on WEDNESDAY, the 5th March, at 3 o'clock P.M. Should the Mail Steamer arrive on Wednesday, the Meeting will be postponed till the following day, at 3 P.M.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1856.