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THE



Hongkong Government

GAZETTE.

STILLS.

VICTORIA, SATURDAY, 15TH MARCH, 1856.

VOL. I. No. 37.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The Contract for publishing this Gazette, entered into on the 24th September, 1853, was terminated on the 30th ultimo; and notice is hereby given that a New Contract of this Gazette will be published hereafter, to commence from the 7th instant, under a New Contract, and that

“THE HONGKONG GOVERNMENT GAZETTE”

shall be the only Official Organ for PROCLAMATIONS, NOTIFICATIONS, and PUBLIC PAPERS, of this Government.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 2d July, 1855.

Diplomatic Department.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

A question having arisen as to the Law by which Contracts entered into with Her Majesty's Subjects on Chinese property by Chinese Subjects for the Cession of Property in China, should be regulated; the matter has been referred to the Earl of Clarendon to the Law Officers of the Crown, whose opinion is as follows:—

It is the opinion of the Law Officers that British Tribunals and Judicial Authorities in China are bound to observe the rules and principles of Public International Law, as they are settled and received by the common consent of European nations.

It is not concurred in the conclusion of the acting Attorney-General, that the Chinese are to be considered as beyond the pale of International Law.

In questions that may come before any British Tribunal in China relating to the ownership or occupation of houses or lands, the law and custom of China, if they can be ascertained, must govern the decision, unless the terms of the contract the law or usage of some other country be imported into it; and if in any such case the Chinese Law be ascertained, the decision must be governed by the principles of natural justice. There is no pretence for the introduction of the Law of real property.

It is a universal principle of Law in Europe, that in all questions respecting immoveable property, the ‘lex loci rei sitæ’ prevails; and it is both right and useful that the same rule should be acted on in the administration of Justice in China.”

By Order,

G. W. CAINE,

*In the absence of the Offs. Secretary
to H. B. M.'s Plenipotentiary.*

Superintendency of Trade, Victoria, Hongkong, 10th March, 1856.

Diplomatic Department.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The Excellency Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and Chief Superintendent of British Trade in China, &c., &c., has received instructions from the Earl of Clarendon to give publicity to the following Resolution passed by the Committee of the Stock Exchange, London, December 19, 1855:—

It having come to the knowledge of the Committee, that Neutral Powers have permitted subscriptions to Loans for Russia within

the limits of the British Empire, the Committee unanimously resolve,—

That they will not, either now or at the restoration of peace, recognize transactions in, nor allow the quotation of, any Loan raised in any country while at war with Great Britain.

(Signed)

GEO. WEBB,
Secretary.

December 19, 1855.

By Order,

G. W. CAINE,

*In the absence of the Offs. Secretary
to H. B. M.'s Plenipotentiary.*

Superintendency of Trade, Victoria, Hongkong, 10th March, 1856.

Diplomatic Department.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The Excellency Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and Chief Superintendent of British Trade in China, &c., &c., has received Instructions from the Earl of Clarendon, to the effect that no British Vessel is to be permitted to depart from Hongkong for any Foreign Country, until she shall have proceeded to Hongkong, where the Emigration Commissioners will be charged to ascertain that the Conditions of the Chinese Passenger Act have been fulfilled: and Her Majesty's Consular Authorities are required to notify these Instructions of the Secretary of State in their several

Departments. Her Majesty's Naval Commander-in-Chief will instruct all Officers under his authority to assist the Consul in effecting the orders of Her Majesty's Government.

By Order,

G. W. CAINE,

*In the absence of the Offs. Secretary
to H. B. M.'s Plenipotentiary.*

Superintendency of Trade, Victoria, Hongkong, 12th March, 1856.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Diplomatic Department.

With reference to the Notification dated 2d January, 1855, His Excellency Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and Chief Superintendent of British Trade in China, &c., &c. is pleased to notify, that The Right Honorable the Earl of Clarendon, K.G., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has appointed WILLIAM WOODGATE, Esquire, to be Secretary and Registrar to Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and the Superintendency of British Trade in China.

By Order,

G. W. CAINE,
In the absence of the Secretary to
H. B. M.'s Plenipotentiary.

Superintendency of Trade, Victoria, Hongkong, 14th March, 1856.

No. 33.

PROCLAMATION.

JOHN BOWRING.

By His Excellency SIR JOHN BOWRING, Knight, LL.D., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, and Chief Superintendent of the Trade of British Subjects in China:

Whereas the Commands of Her Most Gracious Majesty The QUEEN, conveyed through The Right Honorable Henry Labouchere, M.P., Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, have been received, approving of and confirming Ordinance No. 4 of 1855, entitled "An Ordinance to establish a proper System of Registration for Colonial Vessels": Now, therefore, it is hereby declared, that the said Ordinance has been so approved and confirmed as aforesaid.

By His Excellency's Command,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Given at Victoria, Hongkong, this 13th Day of March, 1856.

No. 34.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

In order to prevent difficulties arising on board Emigrant Ships at the moment of intended departure, through unfounded statements by the Passengers that their Contracts were not properly explained at the time of signature, Persons engaging Emigrants for labor in the Colonies are advised to convey each Laborer before the Emigration Officer, or before a Magistrate, who shall fill in the Contract with a full description of the intending Emigrant, and certify in the form following that its purport has been fully and intelligibly explained. At present no fee will be charged for such attestation:—

FORM.

Name and Surname of the Laborer contracting (to be written in the Chinese as well as in the English character.)
Age,
Native Province, District, and Place,
Descriptive Marks,

I CERTIFY, that on this day of , 185 , in my presence, the within Contract was fully, distinctly, and intelligibly (as I believe) explained to the above-named Laborer in a Dialect which he understood; that he expressed himself willing to be bound by its Terms; and that he received into his own hands, in my presence, the sum of Dollars, as advance Wages.

(Signed) A. B.
Justice of the Peace for Hongkong.

The attention of Merchants and others interested in the Emigration Business is specially called to the above intimation.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 14th March, 1856.

POST-OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

IT has been found necessary to levy upon Newspapers conveyed in the Mails across the Isthmus of Panama, in addition to the Postage now chargeable, a transit rate of Two Pence upon every Newspaper forwarded in the British Mails by that route.

This Transit Rate, in addition to the Present Postage, must in future be collected upon all Newspapers passing through the United Kingdom, addressed to, or received from, the following places, viz:—

- PERU.
- CHILLI.
- BOLIVIA.
- ECUADOR.
- THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.
- CALIFORNIA.
- ORIGON.

The same additional rate must also be collected at this Office upon each Newspaper addressed to ANY BRITISH COLONY via the United Kingdom and Panama.

By Order,
WM. CHAPMAN,
Acting Post-Master.

Post-Office, Hongkong,
12th March, 1856.

POST-OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

THE following Instructions received from THE POST-MASTER GENERAL, dated 26th December, 1855, are published for general information, viz:—

"I am directed by The Post-Master General to acquaint you, that it has since been deemed expedient to maintain the existing Mediterranean and ited Sea rates, of 10d. per Half Ounce, and 1s. per Half Ounce, respectively, upon all LETTERS passing between Hongkong and Gibraltar; and I am to request, therefore, that you will not apply the reduced rate of 4d. laid down in my Letter of the 31st October, to the correspondence in question."

WM. CHAPMAN,
Acting Post-Master.

Post-office, Hongkong,
12th March, 1856.

NOTICE.

MR R. P. DE SILVER is this day admitted a Partner in our Firm, and will take charge of the NEW YORK Branch Establishment.

DE SILVER & Co.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1856.

NOTIFICATION.

Bowring Praya Commission.

MEMBERS of the Community interested in this enquiry are informed, that the Commission is Daily at the COUNCIL ROOM, GOVERNMENT OFFICES, unless when specially adjourned to another time or place; that the Hour of Meeting is in general 1 P.M.; and that, except in cases where order is made to the contrary, its Sittings are open to the public.

By Order of the Commission,
T. CHISHOLM ANSTEY, A.G.,
President of the Commission.

Council Room, 5th March, 1856.

NOTICE.

THE Interest and Responsibility of Mr C. VICTOR BESSLIERES in our Firm ceased on the 31st December last.

DIMIER BROTHERS & Co.
Canton, 1st January, 1856.

NOTICE.

MR CHARLES GUYE is authorized to sign our Firm in CHINA per Procurator.

DIMIER BROTHERS & Co.
Canton, 1st January, 1856.