

THE

Hongkong



Government

G A Z E T T E .

NEW SERIES.

VICTORIA, SATURDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1859.

VOL. IV. No. 201.

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 Series of this *Gazette* will be published hereafter, to commence from the 7th instant, under a New Contract, and that "THE HONGKONG GOVERNMENT GAZETTE" will, as before, 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.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The subjoined Report of a successful Expedition to Namtao, by Her Majesty's Ship *Cruiser*, and Gun-boats *Clown* and *Janus*, under the command of Commander BYTHESEA, R.N., is published for general information.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 21st March, 1859.

P. CRACROFT, *Captain of H. M. Ship*
"Retribution," and Senior Officer.

H.M. SHIP *Cruiser*, HONGKONG, 20th March, 1859.

Sir,—I have the honour to report that, in compliance with instructions from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, I proceeded on the 18th instant, with the Gun-boats *Clown* and *Janus*, to Namtao, to endeavour to recover Property amounting in Value to 4,500 Dollars, which had been stolen from a Hongkong Passage Boat on the 27th ultimo.

Immediately on arrival I sent a Letter, which had been prepared by Mr Caldwell, to the principal Mandarin, stating the circumstances of the case, and requesting that the Property, or its Value, should be returned in Two Hours, otherwise I should proceed to hostilities.

Within an Hour the Elders of the Village came on board, and requested more time; a Letter from the Chief Magistrate also requested a suspension of the time. As there appeared to be a desire on the part of the Elders to come to a satisfactory arrangement, I gave till 7 this morning.

As nothing had been concluded by that Hour, I fired a shot in the direction of the principal House of the Family to which the Pirates belonged; four other shots were afterwards fired in the same direction.

The Owners of the stolen Property at length consented to take 4,000 Dollars in full payment of the Sum,—1,000 of which were at once paid; the remainder, for which satisfactory security is given, to be paid at the Registrar General's Office at Hongkong within a Week.

The duty for which I was despatched having been thus happily concluded, I returned with the Gun-boats in Company to the present anchorage.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed)

J. BYTHESEA,
Commander.

To Captain P. CRACROFT, *Senior Officer,*
Hongkong.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

With reference to Government Notification No. 23 of the 2d instant, it is hereby made known, that His Excellency the Governor in Council has this day granted to CHEONG ASUN, Manager of the Foo-TAI Pawnbroker Shop, No. 89, in Queen's Road, West, and LUM KI, of the Too-LOONG Shop, No. 2776, in Bonham Strand, Broker, the exclusive *Privilege of preparing and selling prepared Opium* within the Colony of Hongkong, and the Waters thereof, for the Term of One Year, commencing with the First Day of April, 1859, and ending with the 31st of March, 1860.

The Form of Grant is as published in the *Hongkong Government Gazette*, No 155, of 22d May, 1858.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 26th March, 1859.

照得英三月初二日會經出
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No. 7.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The subjoined Notification, issued by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Canton to the British Mercantile Community at that Port, respecting modifications in the Rate of Duties levied on certain Printed Goods of inferior quality, is published for general information.

By Order,

G. W. CAINE.

Superintendency of Trade, Victoria, Hongkong, 24th March, 1859.

NOTIFICATION.

An Official Communication having been addressed by His Excellency Hang, the Comptroller of Maritime Customs at this Port, to the undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, respecting certain modifications in the Tariff-rate of Duties hitherto levied on a coarse kind of Printed Goods, consisting of Brown and Blue Handkerchiefs and Chintzes of like inferior quality, the annexed Translation is circulated for general information.

It will be seen that, on the representation of Her Majesty's Consul, His Excellency the Hopo has agreed to class these coarse Handkerchiefs and Chintzes among the Unenumerated Articles, and to levy an *ad valorem* Duty of Five per Cent, instead of considering them as heretofore in the same class with the more expensive Handkerchiefs and Chintzes to which the Treaty Tariff had more especially reference, and rendering them liable to a Duty so heavy as to prove in many cases prohibitory.

His Excellency the Hopo further agrees, that hereafter certain Dyed Cottons, named *Kwei-hwa-poo*, and *Chay* or *Te-hwa-poo*, among the Chinese, specimens of which are attached, ranging in Value from Three to Five or Six Taels, and about which frequent discussions have recently arisen, shall be admitted at a uniform Rate of Three Taels, and in like manner be classed among the Unenumerated Articles, on which a Duty of Five per Cent *ad valorem* will be levied.

The arrangements proposed in regard to these Four Articles, being all in favour of the Importer, and a great improvement on the mode of assessing the Duties hitherto in practice, Her Majesty's Consul has informed His Excellency that the British Mercantile Community will be duly advised that these Duties, and no others, will be collected on the above specified Goods.

(Signed,) RUTHERFORD ALCOCK, Consul.

British Consulate, Canton, March 22d, 1859.

An Official Communication in Reply, addressed to RUTHERFORD ALCOCK, Esquire, H.B.M.'s Consul at Canton, by His Excellency HANG, Comptroller of Maritime Customs, &c., &c., &c. Dated Hien-fung, 9th year, 2d month, 15th day. 19th March, 1859.

I have received your Official Communication (informing me that the Chintzes, Printed Cottons, and Handkerchiefs, now brought to Canton for sale, are of a Quality so much inferior to the Goods that used to be imported when the Tariff first came into operation, that to levy Duties on them according to the Scale prescribed by the said Tariff is almost in effect to prohibit their importation. You further state, that the Shanghai Customs, perceiving the disproportion that existed between the intrinsic Value of the Imports in question and the Tariff Duty levied thereon, have, for some time past, classed them with the Unenumerated Articles, and levied an Import *ad valorem* Duty of Five per Cent, and you request me to adopt the same Rule at this Port.)

On the receipt of your Despatch, I at once examined the specimens enclosed of the Articles to which it referred, consisting of Two Handkerchiefs and One Piece of Chintz, and I saw that in point of fabric they were really of a coarse quality. Your present proposition therefore, to the effect that these coarse Chintzes and Handkerchiefs be classed, as at Shanghai, with the Unenumerated Articles, and admitted on payment of an *ad valorem* Duty of Five per Cent, is a measure of general expediency, being, as it is, in furtherance of Commercial interests and for the prevention of obstacles to Trade. Now, accordance with reality is what I aim at in all matters. In order therefore that your proposal may be complied with, it is right that the Market Price should be ascertained, and the Duty fixed in accordance with the dearness or cheapness of the Goods; in that way, it will be possible to make the change you suggest. For the future, therefore, let this coarse kind of Chintz be valued at Two Taels [about \$2.80] per Piece; and let the value of coloured Handkerchiefs of the Quality sent me be fixed at Six Candareens each [about \$1 per Dozen]: the said Goods will then be admitted at this valuation, and be assessed for Duties at Five per Cent thereon. As regards the fine Chintzes and Turkey-red Handkerchiefs, I shall continue to levy on them the Tariff Duty, and thereby act as is rendered right by equity and reality.

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