

HONGKONG.

ANNO VICESIMO SEPTIMO VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

No. 2 of 1864.

By His Excellency SIR HERCULES GEORGE ROBERT ROBINSON, Knight, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, with the Advice of the Legislative Council of Hongkong.

HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON.

Title.

An Ordinance for establishing a Mint in the Colony of Hongkong.

[26th February, 1864.]

Be it enacted by His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong, with the Advice of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

Empowering the Governor to establish a Mint.
To appoint a Master.
Master to be empowered to coin Silver Coin.

I. That a Mint be established in Hongkong on such site as the Governor or Officer administering the Government of the Colony may approve; that a Chief Officer thereof shall be appointed under the title of Master, who shall be empowered to coin Silver Coin of such weight and fineness and of such designs as may from time to time be approved by Her Majesty, from Dies to be furnished by the Master of the Royal Mint under such Regulations as may be prescribed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

Governor to frame Regulations for reception at Mint of Silver Bullion, &c.

II. That it may be lawful for the Governor or Officer administering the Government of the Colony, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, to frame Regulations under which the Mint shall receive Silver Bullion and coin the same; and to authorize the retention (without reference to any charge which may be imposed for the expense of refining such Bullion) of such proportion thereof, or of the Coin struck therefrom, by way of a Mint charge or seignorage, as shall be sufficient to defray the expenses attending the coinage; and to alter or amend such Regulations from time to time as may be found necessary.

Empowering Master to enter into contracts, subject to Governor's approval.

III. That the Master be empowered subject to the approval of the Governor or Officer administering the Government of the Colony, to enter into such Contracts and to establish such Regulations for the orderly and convenient performance of the duties of the Mint as may be found necessary.

Appointing four other principal Officers.

IV. That four other principal Officers of the Mint shall be appointed.

Superintendent of Bullion Office.

1st. The Superintendent of the Bullion Office, who shall be responsible to the Master for the receipt of Bullion and the delivery of coin by the Mint; the safe custody of the same while in charge of his department; the faithful conduct and accurate record of all transactions with the public, and with the assaying, melting and coining departments of the Mint, including the Store, Cash, Bullion, and other account; for the proper registering and safe custody of documents; and for the faithful and zealous discharge of any other duties which the Master may direct him to perform.

Assayer.

2nd. The Assayer who will be responsible to the Master for the correct assay of all Bullion brought to the Mint to be assayed or coined; for the correct assay of the bars cast for rolling and of the coin struck at the Mint; for the records thereof being kept with care and precision; and for the faithful and zealous discharge of any other duties which the Master may direct him to perform.

Superintendent of Coining Department and Machinery.

3rd. The Superintendent of the Coining Department and Machinery, who will be responsible to the Master for the Bullion delivered into his charge by the Superintendent of the Bullion Office; for its conversion into Coin of the legal weight, properly stamped with the authorized dies; for the safe custody and legitimate use of the dies; for the operations of his department being properly and economically conducted; for the records thereof being kept with care and precision; and for the faithful and zealous discharge of any other duties which the Master or his representative may direct him to perform.

4th. The Superintendent of the Melting Department, who will be responsible to the Master for the skilful and economical direction of the operations of melting and refining; for the records thereof being kept with care and precision; and for the faithful and zealous discharge of any other duties which the Master or his representative may direct him to perform. Superintendent of Melting Department.

V. That all such other Officers and Servants of the Mint as may be necessary shall be appointed from time to time by the Governor or Officer Administering the Government, subject to the approval and confirmation of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Governor to appoint such other Officers as may be necessary.

VI. That the Master shall faithfully and without unnecessary delay after the expiration of each Quarter prepare and forward to the Governor the following Returns: The Master to make quarterly Returns.

- (1.) Weight of Silver Bullion received from the public by the Bullion Office;
- (2.) Weight melted previous to assay;
- (3.) Weight assayed and valued, and value thereof;
- (4.) Weight refined;
- (5.) Weight and value of uncoined Bullion re-issued, and amount charged for melting, assaying, and refining;
- (6.) Weight of each description of Coin produced;
- (7.) Weight of each description of Coin delivered to the public, and the amount, if any, charged for coining;
- (8.) Copy of the reports of the assay of Coin;
- (9.) Number and description of dies received or completed during the quarter, of dies worn out, of dies effectually defaced, and of serviceable dies in hand.
- (10.) A return, shewing the waste during the quarter, distinguishing the waste arising in melting, in refining, in coining, and in assaying.

And he shall forward any other returns which the Governor or Officer administering the Government of the Colony may require. And any other Returns required by the Governor.

VII. That with a view to ensure the careful observance of the Standard in the Coin the Governor or Officer administering the Government of the Colony shall cause to be taken at uncertain times during each quarter from amongst the Coins issued at the Mint to the public without preference in the selection, specimen pieces, and that such specimens shall be forwarded from time to time to the Master of the Royal Mint in London for such examination as the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may direct. Specimen pieces to be taken at uncertain times in each Quarter, and forwarded to Master of the Royal Mint in London for examination.

VIII. That the Governor or Officer administering the Government of the Colony shall direct a Board of Government Officers not less than three in number, to assemble at the Mint at the expiration of each quarter for the inspection of the store of Bullion and Coin in the Mint, and report on the same to him, stating the exact amounts of the balance of each description verified by them. Quarterly Survey to be held of the Bullion and Coin in the Mint.

IX. That the Salaries specified as under shall be added to the Civil List: Salaries to be added to Civil List.

	<i>Per Annum.</i>
The Master of the Mint,	\$6,720.
The Superintendent of the Bullion Office,	\$3,840.
The Assayer,	\$3,840.
The Superintendent of the Coining Department,	\$3,840.
The Superintendent of the Melting Department,	\$3,840.

X. That such other Officers and Servants of the Mint as may be appointed shall be paid such Salaries as may be fixed by the Governor or Officer administering the Government of the Colony, with the approval of the Secretary of State, and that such Salaries shall be borne on the Annual Estimates. Salaries of other Officers to be fixed by the Governor and placed on the annual estimates.

Passed the Legislative Council of Hongkong, this 26th Day of February, 1864.

L. D'ALMADA E CASTRO,
Clerk of Councils.

No. 37.

PROCLAMATION.

HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON.

By His Excellency SIR HERCULES GEORGE ROBERT ROBINSON, Knight, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same.