

within Our said Island of Hongkong and its Dependencies: And whereas by a Proclamation issued by the Officer administering the Government of Hongkong on the 22nd day of January, 1864, Our said Proclamation was ordered to take effect and come in force within the Colony of Hongkong from and after the 16th day of February, 1864: And whereas by the Promulgation of Our said Proclamation, the regulation previously in force fixing the rate at which the Mexican Dollar should pass current in relation to British Money has been abrogated and annulled; and it is necessary that a rate should be prescribed at which such Dollar, or other Silver Dollar of equivalent value and other Coins authorized by the said Proclamation to be issued from Our Mint should be issued in payments to Our Forces in Our said Island of Hongkong and its Dependencies: Now We by the Advice of Our Privy Council have thought fit to declare and ordain, and by the Advice aforesaid We do hereby declare and ordain that from and after the date of the Promulgation of this Our Proclamation the said Dollar or other Dollar of equivalent value the circulation of which may be authorized as aforesaid and the Coins authorized by Our said Proclamation to be issued from Our Mint representing Cents and Mills or Cash, or some multiples thereof, shall be issued in payments to Our Troops at the rate of Four Shillings and Three Pence to each Dollar.

No. 188.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Circular, issued by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, is published for general information.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 31st December, 1864.

CIRCULAR No. 35.

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ADMIRALTY, 5th August, 1864.

(Distinguishing Flags and Pendants.)

9th July, 1864.

With reference to chapter 4, section II, Article I, of the Queen's Regulations as to the Classification and Rank of Flag Officers, Her Majesty has been graciously pleased, by Her Order in Council, to direct that the classification of the Officers in question, under the denomination of the Red, White, and Blue Squadrons, shall be discontinued; and that the following regulations shall be henceforward established in regard to "Distinguishing Flags and Colours."

Chap. 2, sect. IX, "Distinguishing Flags."

Articles 4, 5, and 6. Admirals, Vice-Admirals, and Rear-Admirals shall, in future wear respectively a white flag with the Red St. George's Cross therein, at the maintop, fore, or mizentop-gallant masthead.

Article 7. In boats and tenders with less than three masts, Vice-Admiral's flags shall be distinguished by one red ball in the upper part of the flag, near the staff, and Rear-Admiral's by two such balls.

Sec. X, "Distinguishing Pendants."

Article 1. Commodores of the 1st Class shall wear a white broad pendant with a Red St. George's Cross therein, at the maintop-gallant masthead.

Article 2. Commodores of the 2nd Class a similar broad pendant at the foretop-gallant masthead.

When two or more of Her Majesty's ships are present in ports or roadsteads, a small broad pendant (white, with a St. George's Cross) is to be hoisted at the mizentop-gallant masthead of the ship of the Senior Officer.

Article 1. When more than one Commodore of the 1st Class shall be present, the Junior Commodore shall wear such distinguishing mark or pendant as the Commander-in-Chief (or Senior Officer) may order, under the authority given by article 8, section IX, chapter 2.

Commodores of the 2nd Class, when carrying their pendants in boats and tenders, shall be distinguished by a red ball in the upper part of the pendant next the mast.

Article 3. The fly of the long pendant for Her Majesty's Ships shall be, in future, white.

Section XI, Colours—Navy.

Article 1. All Her Majesty's ships of war in commission shall bear a White Ensign, with a red St. George's Cross and the union in the upper canton.

Section XII, Colours—not Navy.

Article 2. Ships and Vessels employed in the Service of any public office shall carry the Blue Ensign and a small blue flag with the union described therein, as prescribed by the said article (2), blue being substituted for red where colour is therein specified.

The Blue Ensign, and Union Jack with a white border, may be borne by ships and vessels commanded by Officers of the Royal Naval Reserve Force, and fulfilling in other respects the conditions required to entitle them to the privilege. (*Vide* Circular No. 33, dated 3rd August, 1864.)

The Red Ensign, and Union Jack with a white border, are to continue (as prescribed by art. 1) the National Colours for all other British ships, with the exception of yachts and such other vessels as their Lordships may from time to time authorise to bear distinguishing flags. Article 1.

All regulations not conflicting with the foregoing, remain in force.

By Command of their Lordships,

C. PAGET.

To all Commanders-in-Chief, Captains, Commanders, and Commanding Officers in Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels.

No. 174.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Under the provisions of Ordinance No. 11 of 1844, Notice is hereby given that a Special Sessions of the Justices of the Peace will be held at the Police Magistrates' Court, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon of Thursday, the 5th day of January, 1865, and thereafter on the first Thursday of every month, for the purpose of considering applications for the transfer of Spirit Licenses.

Such applications to be lodged at the Police Magistrates' Court, at least ten days before each of the Sessions now notified.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 2nd December, 1864.

No. 176.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Under the provisions of Ordinance No. 11 of 1844, notice is hereby given that a Special Sessions of the Justices of the Peace will be held at the Police Magistrates' Court at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon of Wednesday the 18th January next, for the purpose of considering one Application for a Spirit License.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 16th December, 1864.

No. 181.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

It is hereby notified for general information, that a List of the Tenements valued for the Year 1865 under the provisions of Ordinance No. 5 of 1863, will be open for inspection at the Government Offices for Fourteen Days, commencing on Monday, the 19th Instant.

Persons wishing to inspect the List are requested to apply at the Colonial Treasury to Mr. HYNDMAN, Police and Lighting Rate Clerk.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 17th December, 1864.

POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

The existing practice of charging the letters of Officers serving on board Her Majesty's Ships which may be posted unpaid or insufficiently paid with the deficient amount of postage only having been found exceptional and inconvenient, Her Majesty's Postmaster General has decided that in future when such letters are posted unpaid in the United Kingdom, or are received unpaid in a Ship's Bag from any Colonial Station, they will be chargeable on delivery with a fine of a single rate (6d.) in addition to the postage, and when they are posted insufficiently prepaid by means of postage stamps, they will be chargeable on delivery with a fine of six pence in addition to the deficient postage; and it is hereby notified for general information that such letters addressed to the United Kingdom which may reach this Office in the Ships' Bags will be treated correspondently.

Letters from Naval Officers addressed to the United Kingdom are entitled to be forwarded at the reduced charge of 6d. the half ounce via Southampton and 10d. the half ounce via Marseilles only when the same are posted here in the Ship's letter bag, and when they are brought to this Office otherwise they are treated as ordinary letters from the Public and charged accordingly.

F. W. MITCHELL,
Postmaster General.

General Post Office, Hongkong, 27th December, 1864.