

of 9/10 as compared with the pure Silver (Sycee) of the Customs' department, and was equal (in purity or value) to the Mexican Dollar at present used as currency, whence it resulted that Taels 110.1.1 in the new coinage of Hongkong equals Taels 100 in Hai-Kwan Sycee, an authentication to which effect was accordingly drawn up in testimony thereof. The dollar should therefore be permitted hereupon to be used in payment of duty and in ordinary currency, as a convenience to the mercantile and other classes; and the VICEROY hereupon issued a proclamation, conjointly with the Governor of Kwang-tung and the Superintendent of Customs, notifying the same to the public. Copies of the Authentication, proclamation, &c., were forwarded annexed to this despatch. On receipt hereof, the Board have to observe that, in as much as it appears on an assay of the quality of the new coinage referred to that it is equal to the standard of 9/10, and may pass current on equal terms with the present Eagle (Mexican) Coinage and may also, on payment of the due amount of premium as against Sycee, be used in the discharge of Government duties, it is certainly proper that such privileges be conceded to it. It is at the same time necessary that evil doers be stringently prohibited from counterfeiting this coinage or perpetrating (other) acts of fraud by means thereof, to the end that (the arrangements now made) may be obeyed in perpetuity. Should, however, the intrinsic value of the coin hereafter become depreciated, or the trading classes be averse to making use of it, or should irregularities occur entailing injury to the public interests, the Dollar may not in such cases be insisted upon as a valid tender in payment of Government dues. It is impossible not to take into account the possibility of the various objections above enumerated; and the Board in addition to communicating with the British Minister, have to address this despatch to Your Excellency and to request that it may be duly noted. Enclosed is copy of the Board's despatch to the British Minister."

On receipt of the foregoing the Viceroy, in addition to communicating its purport to his colleagues, has to acquaint the honorable Consul with its contents, and begs him to take note thereof,—He avails, &c.

TUNG CHIH VI., 3-27.

Translated by

(Signed) Wm. FREDK. MAYERS.

True Copy,

ALEX. FRASER.

No. 78.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

It is hereby publicly notified that CHAN-LUNG-IP, Chinese Writer in the Registrar General's Department, has been dismissed from the Service of this Government.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 8th May, 1867.

No. 73.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

It is hereby notified that henceforth all Public Offices under this Government, with the exception of the General Post Office, will be closed, as a rule, at half past 1 P.M. on the Saturday in each week.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 29th April, 1867.

NOTICE

to Consignees, Masters and others in charge of Merchant Vessels.

1. On or before the 1st June proximo all Ships, with the following exceptions, shall be moved over to the North side of the Harbor mooring them properly with 45 fathoms on each chain, the anchors lying in an E.N.E. and W.S.W. direction from each other.

2. The Southern line of this anchorage is the North extremity of Hongkong shut in with the South extremity of the Kowloong Peninsula bearing E. by S.; the Top Gallant Masts and Yards are to be on deck and flying Jib-boom in, a spare anchor should be ready for letting go, and the hawse kept clear.

3. Vessels discharging or taking in cargo, Hulks and receiving Ships may, with permission, lie on the South shore.

NOTE.—The Masters of Ships taking advantage of Article 3, and those alongside wharves and jetties are to understand that they do so at their own risk.

H. G. THOMSETT,
Harbor Master, &c.

Harbor Master's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 3rd May, 1867.