

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 32.

The following Bill, which was read a first time at a Meeting of the Legislative Council held this day, is published for general information.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

Council Chamber, Hongkong, 27th January, 1886.

A BILL

ENTITLED

*The Religious Ceremonies and Festivals
Ordinance, 1886.*

BE it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. In the construction of this Ordinance the expressions *the city of Victoria and Districts number 5 and 6* shall mean respectively the city of Victoria and Districts number 5 and number 6 as defined by the Victoria Registration Ordinance No. 7 of 1866.

Definition.

2. Except as by this Ordinance provided no person shall, in or upon any public street or road in Districts number 5 and 6 play any musical instrument, or beat any drum or gong in connection with any religious ceremony (except a funeral or marriage) or with any annual or other festival.

Music.

3. Except as by this Ordinance provided no person shall organise, equip, or take part in any procession in or upon any public street or road in the Districts number 5 and 6 with or without music. Provided always that this section shall not apply to any funeral or marriage processions, whether with music or without.

Processions.

4. Except as by this Ordinance provided no person shall, in any town or village of the colony, or nearer to any building than 100 yards, erect any inflammable structure, awning, or decoration in connection with any religious or other festival or ceremony, or with any exhibition connected with any such ceremony or festival. Provided always that this section shall not apply to any scaffolding of wood or bamboo necessary for the removal of a dead body, if such scaffolding be removed within forty-eight hours from the time of its erection.

Sheds, &c.

5. Except as by this Ordinance provided no person shall discharge, kindle, or let off any firework in the city of Victoria or attempt to do so.

Fireworks.

6. No person shall advertise, notify, or carry on any Chinese theatrical performance of a public nature unless an abstract of the plot or nature of such performance shall first have been furnished to the Registrar General, who, on approving the same, may in his discretion issue a permit for such performance, without which permit no such performance shall be notified or carried on.

Theatricals.

7. No person shall post up or exhibit, or cause to be posted up or exhibited upon any wall or in any public place any public notice or proclamation in the Chinese language without the permission of the Registrar General being first obtained, which permission the Registrar General may in his discretion refuse subject to an appeal to the Governor in Council. Every notice approved by the Registrar General shall be stamped by him with a stamp to be provided for the purpose.

Placards.

8. No person shall tear down or deface, or cause to be torn down or defaced any public notice or proclamation bearing the Official seal of any Government Department of the Colony.

Defacing placards.

9. The Registrar General may, subject to such instructions as he shall from time to time receive from the Governor, issue permits for the following acts:—

Permits.

- (1.) Processions or music in Districts number 5 and 6 (other than funeral or marriage processions) at suitable hours and under suitable conditions.
- (2.) The erection in towns or villages of sheds or decorations of inflammable materials in suitable places, removed at least 100 yards from any building, and with proper precautions for safety and for the extinction of fire.
- (3.) The discharge of fireworks in suitable places in towns or villages.
- (4.) Chinese public theatrical performances.

One person to be named.

10. Permits for Processions, Theatricals, and other such acts as are to be joined in by a number of persons shall be issued to one person only by name, the words *and others* being added after such person's name. The person so named shall be responsible for the due observance of all the conditions of the permit, and shall, if so required, furnish such security for the observance of such conditions as to the Registrar General may seem fit.

Powers of Governor.

11. The Governor may direct the issue of all or any permits to be suspended, and may cancel or suspend any permit. The Governor in Council may extend the application of sections 2 and 3 of this Ordinance to any other district or part of the Colony, or may withdraw any district or part of the Colony from the operation of such sections.

No permit required for any act not illegal.

12. No permit shall be required for any ceremony or festival not of a disorderly nature which shall be carried on wholly within any house, whether with lights, music, and decorations or without, nor for any ceremony connected with birth, marriage, or death not involving a breach of Sections 2 to 8 of this Ordinance, nor for any funeral or marriage procession.

Penalties.

13. Every person who commits an offence against this Ordinance shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Twenty-five Dollars or to imprisonment with or without hard Labour for a term not exceeding three months.

Repeals.

14. Section 22 of Ordinance No. 8 of 1858 is hereby repealed so far as it relates to religious ceremonies or religious or theatrical entertainments, but not farther. The following Ordinances or portions of Ordinances are also repealed :—

- No. 17 of 1844.....The whole.
- „ 14 of 1845.....Sec. 2 Sub-sec. 12.
- „ 10 of 1872.....Sec. 2.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 33.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to appoint JOHN SHERREN BREWER, Esquire, to be Acting Superintendent, and ARTHUR WAGNER, Esquire, to be Acting Assistant Superintendent and Engineer, to the Fire Brigade, during the absence on leave of HENRY ERNEST WODEHOUSE, Esquire.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 26th January, 1886.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 34.

Notice is hereby given that Mr. SUNG SHU-PANG (宋少彭) of the Chy Loong (濟隆) firm, has complied with the requirements of Ordinances No. 16 of 1873, and 13 of 1885, for the registration in this Colony of the Mark of the said Chy Loong (濟隆) firm as applied to jars of Ginger, and that the same has been duly registered.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 27th January, 1886.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 35.

Notice is hereby given that Thursday the 4th proximo, being the Chinese New Year's Day, will be observed as a Holiday throughout the Government Departments.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 28th January, 1886.