

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 97.

The following Conditions of Sub-licences to be granted by the Opium Farmers, which have been approved by the Governor in Council, are published for general information, as required by Section 1 of the Opium Ordinance, No. 1 of 1884.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 20th March, 1886.

*Regulations approved by the Governor in Council under Section 15 of Ordinance 1 of 1884, this 20th day of March, 1886.*

CONDITIONS OF SUB-LICENCES TO BE GRANTED BY THE OPIUM FARMERS.

1.—Each Licence shall be granted for a term of six months; and there shall be paid in advance a monthly fee of Twenty-four Dollars, weighed at 7.2; the first payment to be made on signing the Agreement.

2.—At the signing of the Agreement, besides the first monthly fee to be paid in advance, a further sum equal to one month's licence fee shall be paid as a deposit on account of the said licence fee, which shall go in payment of the last month's licence fee of the said term.

3.—The licence shall be for six months certain, and shall not be discontinued at any time within the term of six months under the plea that the business is not profitable, or that the shop has been closed, nor on any other pretext; should the sub-licensee during the said term commit a breach of any of the conditions of the Opium Ordinance, 1884, or of any of these conditions whereby the Opium Farmers suffer loss or damage, the Opium Farmers shall be at liberty to revoke the licence without refunding any moneys paid to them on account thereof, and the same shall thereon become forfeited, and the Opium Farmers shall claim from the said sub-licensee or his surety the remaining monthly fees for the remainder of the said term.

4.—Every monthly fee must be paid between the 1st and 5th day of each month, and in case of the Sub-licensee making default in any such payment, the said Opium Farmers shall be entitled to withdraw the said Licence, and the Sub-licensee shall make good all losses and expenses incurred by reason of such default.

5.—The Sub-licensee shall buy all prepared opium from the Opium Farmers for sale on retail, and shall not construct furnaces nor prepare opium in his shop, nor in any other place in this Colony, and he shall not buy contraband prepared opium from any other persons or shops and sell it with the prepared opium bought from the Opium Farmers. Should he be detected in such illegal conduct, all prepared opium found in the Sub-licensee's premises shall be handed over to the Opium Farmers.

6.—The Opium Farmers shall always have on hand a stock of prepared opium for sale, so that the Sub-licensee selling or retailing prepared opium on his premises can buy his prepared opium from them; but the Sub-licensee must daily report to the Opium Farmers the quantity sold, which must be entered in his book, stating the name of the shop and the name of the purchaser, in order that a check may be kept of the quantity sold and the quantity on hand from day to day; in case of his failing to deliver such statement, or in the event of the prepared opium being found not to tally with his book, all the prepared opium found on the premises of the Sub-licensee shall be forfeited and handed over to the Opium Farmers.

7.—If the Sub-licensee wishes to remove his business to another house, he must inform the Opium Farmers, and if the intended house be found not to interfere with the business of any other Sub-licensee the removal shall be allowed; no false excuse for removing such business, such as that the landlord has given notice to quit, or that he has raised the rent, shall be allowed. In case fire or any unusual circumstances should occur in the vicinity, rendering it impossible to carry on the business, the Sub-licensee shall be allowed to remove to other premises in the neighbourhood, but he shall not in that case be at liberty to stop his business without paying the remaining monthly fees for the remainder of his term.

Council Chamber, Hongkong.

ARATHOON SETH,  
*Clerk of Councils.*

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 98.

It is hereby notified that the Governor will not in future order any refund of Municipal Rates under Section 29 of *The Municipal Rates Ordinance* No. 21 of 1885, either on the ground that tenements were unoccupied, or that they were in Military occupation, unless the sums claimed were paid within the quarter in which they were due.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 20th March, 1886.