

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 464.

The following is published for general information.

By Command.

FREDERICK STEWART,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 5th November, 1887.

No. 33.

FIRE BRIGADE DEPARTMENT,  
HONGKONG, 4th November, 1887.

Sir,—I have the honour to report that the following special precautions have been taken for the prevention of Fires during the nights of the Illuminations.

1. Notices have been posted, and a house to house distribution of them made, calling upon all occupiers of houses and others to be careful to have in immediate readiness buckets of water on the different floors of their houses.

2. The Steam Fire Launch will be on patrol duty in Victoria Harbour throughout each night, and for the purpose of ready recognition will be illuminated with red lanterns and the words "Floating Fire Engine" depicted on them.

3. On shore the general Fire Brigade arrangements will remain unchanged. That is to say the Engines will be stationed in their usual place in the Fire Brigade Station, the Fire bell will sound as usual on the alarm of Fire, and the Firemen not on Police duty will rendezvous as heretofore at the Fire Brigade Station.

4. For the more ready conveyance, however, of the Engines to where they may be wanted, a special force of Coolies has been engaged with the consent of His Excellency the Governor to be in attendance at the Fire Brigade Station during the two nights of the Illuminations. Moreover the Captain Superintendent of Police, with the view of facilitating the movements of the Fire Brigade, has made arrangements whereby those of the European Policemen of the Central District who are Firemen shall leave their duties on beats fixed as near as possible to the Fire Brigade Station, this Station being also made the temporary head quarters of the Police Firemen while off duty. All off Police duty will be in Fire Brigade uniform.

5. During the two days of the illuminations the water supply from Pokfoolam will be on throughout the City of Victoria.

6. Advantage has been taken of this arrangement to select a certain number of central posts at which men will be stationed on duty and in Fire Brigade uniform each with four hundred feet of hose and a branch pipe ready, if required, to attach the hose to the street fire plug at which they will be stationed. A large red lantern with the word "Fire Hose" in English and Chinese on it will be suspended over each of the spots where the hose is kept.

7. The following are the stations that have been selected:—

1. Queen's Road between City Hall and Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.
2. Clock Tower.
3. Junction of Wyndham Street in the Glencaly Ravine.
4. Junction of Wellington Street and Pottinger Street.
5. Junction of Hollywood Road and Ladder Street (Man Mo Temple).
6. Junction of Queen's Road and Cleverley Street.
7. Junction of Queen's Road and Lower Lascar Road (Man On Insurance Company).
8. Junction of Bonham Strand and Queen's Road.

8. Also a Manual Engine will be stationed at Praya West near the Fish Lans, and a Steam Engine will be removed from the Central District to No. 2 Police Station Wanchai.

9. These being the arrangements I have only further to add that the main protection against fire lies with the community itself, and that while the movements of the Fire Brigade must be greatly impeded by the crowds in the streets, much can be done by individuals in houses to prevent such fires from occurring, and especially by having ready to hand buckets of water and appliances for throwing it.

10. I think it would be advisable if His Excellency permits, that this letter should be published in the *Government Gazette*.

I have the honour to be.

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

H. E. WODEHOUSE,  
*Superintendent Fire Brigade.*

The Honourable F. STEWART, LL.D.,  
*Colonial Secretary.*