

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 499.

The following Finding of the Marine Court, held on the 22nd instant, to enquire into the loss of the British Steam-ship *Wah Yeung*, Official No. 88,834 of Hongkong, WITT, Master, whose Certificate of Competency is 257, is published for general information.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 26th November, 1887.

FINDING.

We find that the British Steam-ship *Wah Yeung*, of 313 tons register, built of wood, 3 years old, Official No. 88,834 of Hongkong, left this port for Canton at about 5 P.M. on the 15th instant, with about 500 Chinese passengers. Some passengers were on the awning deck, some on the main deck, and others in the after hold, a place not licensed for the conveyance of passengers. There is no available evidence as to what number of Chinese were on each of these places.

2. We find that at about 9 P.M., smoke was seen to issue from the hatchway of the after hold, and almost immediately afterwards dense volumes of smoke and fire came up and made their way along the between decks, burning everything with great rapidity. The fire was so rapid that the boats could not be got out, and only one life raft was put over the side.

3. We find that directly the fire was seen to take such a hold of the ship, the helm was ported and the ship's head was turned to the shore, where she grounded 4 or 5 minutes afterwards, at about 100 yards from Chuen Pee Point in the Canton River.

4. We find that many of the passengers were saved, but a large number must have perished in the after hold and between decks.

5. We are of opinion that the fire originated in the after hold of the *Wah Yeung*, from the Chinese medicines or passengers' luggage catching fire, either from lighted matches, smoking, the possible breakage of a lamp, or the use of naked lights, and that the rapidity of the fire along the between decks was the result of the main deck being saturated with kerosine oil. As the lower hold was commonly used for the storage of kerosine oil, the ballast and ceiling would probably also have been impregnated with it causing the sudden outbreak of fire in that part of the ship.

The Court have carefully considered the Master's statement in his defence, and while sympathizing with him for the unfortunate position he was placed in by being, to some extent, compelled by his Owners to commit a breach of the law, cannot allow such circumstances to exonerate a Ship Master from his proper responsibilities. The Court, however, in consideration of the Master's exertions to save life after the fire, directs the suspension of Mr. WITT's Certificate of Competency No. 257 Hongkong, for a period of three months only.

We recommend a First Mate's Certificate being given to Mr. WITT during the interval of suspension.

We are of opinion that some restriction, if not total prohibition, should be placed on ships having more than 12 passengers from carrying kerosine oil or other dangerous goods.

Given under our hands at Hongkong, this Twenty-second day of November, 1887.

H. G. THOMSETT, R.N., *Stipendiary Magistrate.*

J. BUCKNER, R.N., *Staff Commander H.M.S. "Victor Emanuel."*

J. METCALFE, *Commanding Br. S.S. "Oceanic."*

C. F. PRESTON, R.N.R., *Commanding Br. S.S. "Khiva."*

W. H. WATTON, *Commanding Br. S.S. "Batavia."*

Approved,

G. WILLIAM DES VŒUX,  
*Governor, &c.*

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 500.

The following Returns of Deaths for the week ended the 19th November are published for general information.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 26th November, 1887.

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE

CAUSES.	BRITISH AND FOREIGN COMMUNITY.			CHINESE COMMUNITY.									
				VICTORIA DISTRICT.									
				DIVISION.									
	Civil.	Army.	Navy.	Sokonpo.	Bowrington.	Wantsai.	Hawan.	Sheungwan.	Chungwan.	Táip'ingshan.	Saiyingpun.	Shektongtsui.	Kennedy Town.
Convulsions, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	3	..	..	..
Diphtheria, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trismus, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis or Consumption, ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis and Pneumonia, .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery, .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3*	..	..	..
Do., Choleraic or Vomiting and Purgings, }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3†	1†	..	..
Colic, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever, Simple Continued, ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	1	..	..
Do., Intermittent, .....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..
Do., Remittent, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	20	4	1	..
Heart Disease, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Small-Pox, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..
Measles, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Asthma, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Debility and Jaundice, .....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lung Disease, (Chronic), .....	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	4	11	5	..	..
Undiagnosed, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	2	..	..
Dropsy, Heart Disease, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
Dropsy, Nature of unascertained, }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Natural Causes, .....	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	..
Suicide, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Apoplexy, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Beri Beri, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marasmus, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..
Unclassed but Diagnosed, (Insanity), }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Chronic Tuberculosis, .....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Carcinoma of Stomach, .....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidental Death, .....	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Valvular Disease of the Heart, }	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Child birth, within a month after delivery, }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>TOTAL, .....</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

\* Chronic.

† Acute.

‡ 1 Chronic, 2 Acute.

REMARKS.

Italian Convent.

Marasmus, .....10

Trismus, ..... 4

14

French Convent.

Fever, Simple Continued, ..... 2

Trismus, ..... 5

7

WEEK ENDING THE 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1887, AND THEIR CAUSES.

CHINESE COMMUNITY.								TOTAL AT DIFFERENT AGE PERIODS.						GRAND TOTAL.
KAULUNG DISTRICT.		SHAUKIWAN DISTRICT.		ABERDEEN DISTRICT.		STANLEY DISTRICT.		Under 1 Month.	Over 1 & under 12 Months.	Over 1 & under 5 Years.	Over 5 & under 15 Years.	Over 15 & under 45 Years.	Over 45 Years.	
Land Population.	Boat Population.	Land Population.	Boat Population.	Land Population.	Boat Population.	Land Population.	Boat Population.							
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	9	..	..	..	12
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1*	..	1†	1†	..	1*	..	..	..	..	1	2	4	1	4
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	6	4	13
..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	..	5
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	17	6	26
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	4
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	9	26
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	1	5
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3
..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	3	1	6
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	2	..	..	..	10
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
7	1	2	3	3	3	..	..	19	8	16	11	70	25	149

REMARKS.

Tung Wa Hospital.

Lung Disease, (Chronic), .....	6
Dropsy, Heart Disease, .....	1
Dropsy, Nature of unascertained, .....	2
Apoplexy, .....	1
Small-Pox, .....	3
Diarrhoea, (Acute), .....	2
Diarrhoea, (Chronic), .....	1
Intermittent Fever, .....	19
Dysentery, (Chronic), .....	3
Insanity, .....	1

A SUMMARY OF DEATHS AND THEIR CAUSES SHOWN IN THE FOREGOING RETURN

DISEASE.	EUROPEAN AND FOREIGN COMMUNITY.			CHINESE COMMUNITY.						
	Civil. — Esti- mated Popula- tion. 6,392	Army. — Esti- mated Strength. ...	Navy. — Esti- mated Strength. ...	VICTORIA DISTRICT.—						
				Sokompo.	Bowrington.	Wantsai.	Hawan.	Sheungwan.	Chungwan.	Taipingshan.
				Estimated Population, .....						
Infantile Convulsive Diseases, {										
Convulsions, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	3
Trismus Nascentium, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	5	...
Throat Affections, {										
Acute, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chronic, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chest Affections, {										
Acute, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chronic, .....	1	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	4	11
Bowel Complaints, {										
Cholera, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera Nostras, ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera Infantum, ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dysentery, .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Colic, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fevers, {										
Malarial, {										
Remittent, ....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Intermittent, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	20
Simple Continued, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Exanthematous, {										
Typhus, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox, ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Marasmus, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...
Other Causes, .....	4	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	10
TOTAL, .....	6	3	...	1	...	2	8	...	33	56

AS HAVING BEEN REGISTERED DURING THE WEEK ENDING 19TH NOVEMBER, 1887.

CHINESE COMMUNITY.													TOTAL.	GRAND TOTAL
DIVISION.				Kaulung District.		Sháukiwán District.		Aberdeen District.		Stanley District.				
Sayingpún.	Shektongtsui.	Kennedy Town.	Harbour. Estimated Population.	Estimated Population.		Estimated Population.		Estimated Population.		Estimated Population.				
				Land.	Boat.	Land.	Boat.	Land.	Boat.	Land.	Boat.			
.....	122,199		20,470	12,556	5,000	4,712	4,000	2,500	3,500	1,000	1,000			
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	} 22	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10		
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	} ...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	} 27	
5	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	27		
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	} ...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	} 12	
1	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	8		
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	} ...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	} ...	
4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26		
1	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	13	} 48	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	} ...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4		
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	
6	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	30	30	
17	2	1	1	7	1	2	3	3	3	...	...	149	149	

Statement showing the death-rate in the different registration districts during the week ending 19th November, 1887.

British and Foreign Community.—Civil Population, .....	48.8	per 1,000 per annum.
Chinese Community.—Victoria District,—Land Population, .....	51.1	} " "
" " " Boat " .....	2.5	
" " Kaulung " Land " .....	29.0	
" " " Boat " .....	10.4	
" " Sháukiwán " Land " .....	22.1	
" " " Boat " .....	39.0	
" " Aberdeen " Land " .....	62.4	
" " " Boat " .....	44.6	
" " Stanley " Land " .....	—	
" " " Boat " .....	—	
" " The whole Colony, Land " .....	48.0	
" " " Boat " .....	12.2	
" " " Land and Boat Population, .....	41.1	

SANITARY BOARD ROOM, HONGKONG, 23rd November, 1887.

WM. EDWARD CROW,  
Secretary.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE DEATHS RECORDED UNDER THE DIFFERENT GROUPS OF DISEASES FOR EACH WEEK OF THE CURRENT YEAR.

DEATH-RATE RECORDED PER 1,000 PER ANNUM.

1887.	CONVULSIVE DISEASES.		Throat Affections.	Chest Affections.	Bowel Complaints.	Fevers.	Other Causes.	TOTAL.	British and Foreign Community Civil Population.	CHINESE COMMUNITY.		
	Under one Month.	Over one Month.								POPULATION.		
										Land.	Boat.	Land & Boat.
Week ending the 8th January,	2	10	...	22	7	17	21	79	33.3	25	7.7	21.6
Do. the 15th "	2	4	...	26	6	12	24	74	24.9	24.6	7.7	21.3
Do. the 22nd "	1	8	...	20	8	8	21	66	16.6	19.7	13.8	18.6
Do. the 29th "	3	4	...	22	5	12	17	63	16.6	18.6	16.9	18.3
Do. the 5th February,	5	6	...	21	4	17	22	75	16.5	20.8	23.1	21.2
Do. the 12th "	4	15	...	23	6	13	23	84	49.4	26.3	9.2	23.0
Do. the 19th "	5	5	...	27	7	19	15	78	24.7	24.5	12.3	22.1
Do. the 26th "	5	6	...	20	5	16	17	69	8.2	20.4	16.9	19.7
Do. the 5th March,	13	9	...	20	4	10	22	78	24.7	25.6	9.2	22.4
Do. the 12th "	8	11	...	20	3	22	18	82	16.4	27.0	10.7	23.9
Do. the 19th "	9	10	...	15	7	18	24	83	32.9	25.9	13.8	23.6
Do. the 26th "	11	5	...	20	2	10	21	69	57.5	21.1	7.7	18.5
Do. the 2nd April,	7	11	...	14	2	19	24	77	16.4	24.8	10.8	22.1
Do. the 9th "	10	5	...	17	4	27	11	74	16.4	24.8	7.7	21.4
Do. the 16th "	6	10	...	15	6	12	20	69	16.4	22.2	10.8	20.0
Do. the 23rd "	9	12	...	15	1	26	15	78	32.8	23.3	16.9	22.0
Do. the 30th "	7	14	1	16	4	25	15	82	24.6	27.3	7.7	23.5
Do. the 7th May,	6	21	...	20	4	13	23	87	32.8	29.1	6.2	24.7
Do. the 14th "	10	14	...	15	8	14	18	79	32.8	24.7	12.3	22.3
Do. the 21st "	12	22	1	20	5	32	18	110	41.0	35.8	12.3	31.2
Do. the 28th "	10	12	...	21	9	16	21	89	...	28.7	13.8	25.9
Do. the 4th June,	9	16	1	22	11	19	24	102	49.2	31.3	16.9	28.5
Do. the 11th "	14	15	...	16	5	32	17	99	40.9	32.4	9.2	27.9
Do. the 18th "	13	20	...	18	16	31	27	125	32.8	37.2	30.7	35.9
Do. the 25th "	10	19	2	16	10	32	30	119	40.9	37.9	16.9	33.9
Do. the 2nd July,	16	26	1	16	20	23	31	133	73.7	42.6	12.3	36.8
Do. the 9th "	14	16	...	17	13	29	23	112	73.7	34.9	12.3	30.5
Do. the 16th "	9	21	...	15	15	25	38	123	40.9	37.8	23.0	35.0
Do. the 23rd "	16	15	1	27	9	24	31	123	89.9	36.3	19.9	33.2
Do. the 30th "	11	11	...	15	13	31	24	105	32.7	30.4	27.6	29.9
Do. the 6th August,	10	15	...	21	8	35	25	114	16.3	35.2	24.5	33.1
Do. the 13th "	13	6	...	9	8	35	29	100	32.7	28.6	27.6	28.4
Do. the 20th "	15	9	1	25	8	40	23	121	49.0	36.6	23.0	34.0
Do. the 27th "	20	11	...	16	19	35	29	130	16.3	39.2	32.2	37.8
Do. the 3rd September	17	9	...	19	20	24	18	107	16.3	32.9	21.5	30.7
Do. the 10th "	13	5	...	25	7	35	24	109	24.5	32.2	26.0	31.0
Do. the 17th "	18	13	...	13	10	33	21	108	8.2	32.2	26.1	31.0
Do. the 24th "	19	14	1	24	15	32	13	118	24.5	34.3	32.2	33.9
Do. the 1st October,	45	10	...	12	10	41	12	100	24.5	29.9	19.9	28.0
Do. the 8th "	16	10	...	17	7	29	13	92	16.3	31.0	7.7	26.5
Do. the 15th "	12	12	1	21	7	32	18	103	32.6	32.5	15.3	29.2
Do. the 22nd "	13	8	...	21	7	30	20	99	32.6	31.0	13.8	27.7
Do. the 29th "	19	12	...	23	10	23	22	109	8.1	34.6	19.9	31.8
Do. the 5th November	7	9	1	25	8	40	18	108	48.8	31.0	24.5	29.7
Do. the 12th "	1	13	...	22	13	35	23	107	...	34.2	15.3	30.6
Do. the 19th "	10	12	...	27	12	48	40	149	48.8	48.0	12.2	41.1

SANITARY BOARD ROOM, HONGKONG, 23rd November, 1887.

WM. EDWARD CROW,  
Secretary.