

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 214.

The following Circular Despatch and its enclosure are published for general information.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 19th May, 1888.

CIRCULAR.

DOWNING STREET,
27th March, 1888.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copies of a Memorandum setting forth a system of orthography for Native Names of Places, which I request you will cause to be adopted in the Colony under your Government.

Full instructions for the application of the system are contained in the Memorandum.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

KNUTSFORD.

The Officer administering the Government of

HONGKONG.

The following SYSTEM OF ORTOGRAPHY FOR NATIVE NAMES OF PLACES, adopted by the Council of the Royal Geographical Society, approved by the Foreign and Colonial Offices, and used on the Admiralty Charts, is to be adhered to in future in all Intelligence Department Publications.

1. No change will be made in the orthography of foreign names in countries which use Roman letters: thus Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, &c., names will be spelt as by the respective nations.

2. Neither will any change be made in the spelling of such names in languages which are not written in Roman character as have become by long usage familiar to English readers: thus Calcutta, Cutch, Celebes, Mecca, &c., will be retained in their present form.

3. The true sound of the word as locally pronounced will be taken as the basis of the spelling.

4. An approximation, however, to the sound is alone aimed at. A system which would attempt to represent the more delicate inflections of sound and accent would be so complicated as only to defeat itself. Those who desire a more accurate pronunciation of the written name must learn it on the spot by a study of local accent and peculiarities.

5. The broad features of the system are that vowels are pronounced as in Italian and consonants as in English.

6. One accent only is used, the acute, to denote the syllable on which stress is laid. This is very important, as the sounds of many names are entirely altered by the misplacement of this "stress."

7. Every letter is pronounced. When two vowels come together, each one is sounded, though the result, when spoken quickly, is sometimes scarcely to be distinguished from a single sound, as in *ai*, *au*, *ei*.

8. Doubling of a vowel is only necessary where there is a distinct repetition of the single sound; thus *Nuulúa*, *Oosima*.

9. All vowels are shortened in sound by doubling the following consonant, as in *Yarra*, *Tanna*, *Mecca*, *Jidda*, *Bonny*.

10. Indian names are accepted as spelt in Hunter's Gazetteer.

The amplification of the rules is given below :—

Letters.	Pronunciation and Remarks.	Examples.
a	<i>ah, a</i> as in <i>father</i>	Java, Banána, Somáli, Bari, Suákin.
e	<i>eh, e</i> as in <i>benefit</i>	Tel-el-Kel, Oléleh, Yezo, Medina, Le-vúka, Peru.
i	English <i>e</i> ; <i>i</i> as in <i>ravine</i> ; the sound of <i>ee</i> in <i>beet</i> . Thus, not <i>Feejee</i> , but	Fiji, Hindi.
o	<i>o</i> as in <i>mote</i>	Tokio.
u	long <i>u</i> as in <i>flute</i> ; the sound of <i>oo</i> in <i>boot</i> . Thus, not <i>Zooloo</i> , but	Zulu, Sumatra.
ai	English <i>i</i> , as in <i>ice</i>	Shanghai.
au	<i>ow</i> as in <i>how</i> Thus, not <i>Foochow</i> , but	Fuchau.
ao	is slightly different from above.....	Macao.
ei	is the sound of the two Italian vowels, but is frequently slurred over, when it is scarcely to be distinguished from <i>ey</i> in the English <i>they</i> .	Beirút, Beilúl.
b	English <i>b</i> .	
c	is always soft, but is so nearly the sound of <i>f</i> s that it should be seldom used. If <i>Celebes</i> were not already recognised it would be written <i>Selebes</i> .	Celebes.
ch	is always sounded as in <i>church</i>	Chingchin.
d	English <i>d</i> .	
f	English <i>f</i> . <i>ph</i> should not be used for the sound of <i>f</i> . Thus, not <i>Haiphong</i> , but	Haifong, Nafa, Galápagos.
g	is always hard. (Soft <i>g</i> is given by <i>j</i>).....	
h	is always pronounced when inserted.	
j	English <i>j</i> . <i>Dj</i> should never be put for this sound.....	Japan, Jiuchuen.
k	English <i>k</i> . It should always be put for the hard <i>c</i> . Thus, not <i>Corea</i> , but	Korea.
kh	The Oriental guttural.....	Khan.
gh	is another guttural, as in the Turkish.....	Dagh, Ghazi.
l	} As in English.	
m		
n		
ng		has two separate sounds, the one hard as in the English word <i>finger</i> , the other as in <i>singer</i> . As these two sounds are rarely employed in the same locality, no attempt is made to distinguish between them.
p	As in English.	
q	should never be employed: <i>qu</i> is given as <i>ku</i>	Kwangtung.
r	} As in English.	
s		
t		
v		
w		
x		
y	is always a consonant, as in <i>yard</i> , and therefore should never be used as a terminal, <i>i</i> or <i>e</i> being substituted. Thus, not <i>Mikindány</i> , but, not <i>Kwaly</i> , but	Kikáyu.
z	English <i>z</i> Accents should not generally be used, but where there is a very decided emphatic syllable or stress, which affects the sound of the word, it should be marked by an <i>acute</i> accent.	Mikindáni. Kwá. Zulu. Tongatábu, Galápagos, Paláwan, Sará-wak.

INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.
September, 1885.

A. S. CAMERON, Colonel,
A.Q.M.G.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.--No. 215.

The following Returns of Deaths for the week ended the 12th May are published for general information.

By Command.

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 19th May, 1888.