

IX. A fee of two dollars and a half for the examination of a Master or Engineer of a steam-launch shall be payable to the Harbour Master for the Government, and such Master or Engineer, shall, if he obtains a certificate, produce three copies of a photograph of himself, one to be attached to his certificate of competency, one to be attached to the licence of any vessel to which he may belong and one for record in the Harbour Office; and when a Master or Engineer is transferred from one steam-launch to another steam-launch, he shall produce a photograph of himself to be attached to the licence of the vessel to which he is to be transferred.

X. The certificate granted by the Harbour Master to the Master or Engineer of a steam-launch may, with the approval of the Governor, be suspended or cancelled by the Harbour Master, if it shall be proved to his satisfaction, after due enquiry held by him, that the said Master or Engineer has been guilty of incompetency or negligence in the performance of his duty as Master or Engineer.

XI. The owner of every licensed steam-launch shall cause the licence to be framed and exhibited in a conspicuous part of the cabin, so as to be visible to all persons on board the said vessel.

XII. If the owner of a licensed steam-launch wishes to employ his vessel for purposes other than for the conveyance of passengers within the waters of the Colony, or to or from Hongkong and places without the waters of the Colony, the licence shall be delivered to the Harbour Master to be retained by him during the period of such employment.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

Council Chamber, Hongkong.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 47.

His Excellency the Governor recommends the following Notice to Public attention:—

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

1. The subject of keeping up a supply of properly equipped "Guard" Boats to assist in the defence of the Colony, and of raising a Volunteer Corps to man them, is receiving the attention of the Government.

2. It is considered that if this corps consisted of 40 or 50 members, these would probably be sufficient to act as a nucleus. On the emergency arising, it is thought that a further supply of Volunteers would be forthcoming who, in a short time, would acquire sufficient proficiency.

3. Briefly stated, the conditions of service in the Volunteer Corps would be that, Members will, for the benefit of the Colony, undertake to attend drills at least once a month, and in the case of threatened war place themselves at the disposal of the Government without reserve.

4. The organization of the Corps would be somewhat on the lines of the "Royal Naval Volunteers" and the "Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers," and they would be required to serve in the special vessels provided for the defence of the Colony.

The officers would receive commissions from the Governor, and an allowance to help towards providing themselves with the authorized uniform. They would be expected to acquire a competent knowledge of their duties, and to give a proper attention to the drills of the Corps. They will receive the pay of their rank when called out on actual service, and provision will also be made for officers and men disabled on service.

The men of the Corps will be provided with uniform at the Government expense, and, when on service, will receive pay according to their rank.

Officers and men will be required to conform to such Regulation as may be made from time to time by the Governor, and, when on actual service, will be subject to the provisions of the "Naval Discipline Act."

Any Volunteer may, except when on actual service, quit the Corps, on giving ten days' notice of his intention, and delivering up any property belonging to the Corps which may be in his possession.

The drills will comprise the working of the machine guns carried by the vessels provided, as well as Rifle, Pistol and Cutlass drill, as carried out in the Royal Navy; in addition to this, the officers and petty officers will be trained with a view to rendering them capable of taking command of any vessel in the service of the Corps.

5. With a view towards ascertaining whether the raising and institution of such a force is practicable, the Government hereby invite offers from Candidates for enrolment in the Corps, the decision as to whether the undertaking is proceeded with or not depending on the number and character of the offers received.

Communications should be addressed to the Colonial Secretary.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 29th January, 1889.