

In order to attain this result the mail packet as a general rule, will leave Hongkong at daylight and this it is believed will be a convenient arrangement to the community. The days of departure will be Thursday in the fair season and Sunday in the monsoon and this will admit of the mails, being closed and put on board the night before so that the Packets can leave at the early dawn and get a clear departure from the Port.

In connection with this subject of leaving Hongkong and the allusion made to the French Mail hours it is right I should point out that a reference to the letter written by the Postmaster General of Hongkong to the Colonial Secretary dated the 16th of June, 1886, shows the reason of the Messageries Company in fixing noon for leaving Hongkong to be in no way out of consideration for any wishes expressed by that community but in order to permit of their saving daylight at the mouth of the Saigon River.

I am, &c.,

(Signed), ED. H. REA.

Sir ROBERT G. W. HERBERT, K.C.B.,
Colonial Office.

B.—APPROXIMATE STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1888.

DESCRIPTION OF CORRESPONDENCE.	INTERNATIONAL.		LOCAL.		TOTAL.	COMPARISON WITH 1887.		
	De-spached.	Received.	De-spached.	Received.		Total in 1887.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ordinary paid Letters,	545,650	472,200	70,750	58,400	1,147,000	1,120,000	27,000	
Unpaid and short paid Articles,	11,500	26,450	2,300	5,750	46,000	44,000	2,000	
Letters on Postal Business,	1,380	1,150	1,495	1,380	5,405	4,400	1,005	
Post Cards,	5,750	3,450	3,450	1,725	14,375	12,500	1,875	
Do., with prepaid reply,								
Newspapers and Periodicals,	140,900	260,700	41,550	17,400	460,550	437,000	23,550	
Books, Circulars, Prices Current, &c.,	222,500	85,050	17,250	13,225	338,025	323,500	14,525	
Patterns,	5,750	2,300	1,150	575	9,775	9,500	275	
Commercial Papers,								
Registered Articles,	24,750	35,000	4,625	4,750	69,125	62,500	6,625	
Letters with value declared,								
Registered Articles with Return Receipts,	345	5,750	115	115	6,325	5,500	825	
Parcels,	4,403	6,190	1,150	1,380	13,123	11,607	1,516	

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 49.

The following Returns of the Average Amount of BANK NOTES in Circulation and of Specie in Reserve in Hongkong, during the Month ended 31st January, 1889, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published for general information.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 2nd February, 1889.

BANKS.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.	SPECIE IN RESERVE.
	\$	\$
Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China,	1,516,385	510,000
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,	1,654,238	600,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,	3,253,598	1,500,000
TOTAL,.....\$	6,424,221	2,610,000

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 50.

The following Returns from the Registrar General are published for general information.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 2nd February, 1889.