On the other side:—

Sale of Land occupied by Land Office and Crosby's Store, as estimated by the Director of Public Works, 16,078 square feet at \$10, ..\$ 160,780

Sale of land occupied by Post Office and Law

Courts, 25,867 square feet at \$12,........... 310,404

Rents now paid or to be paid next year for Offices as estimated by the Director of Public 

Total,— 551,184

Net cost of proposed new Offices to Government, say,.....\$ 199,000

- 13. The net cost shewn above of \$199,000 is against the net cost shewn by the Director of Public Works of \$162,000 for his scheme, and I venture to think that the convenience to public and accommodation gained would justify a far larger expenditure.
- 14. I have taken the value of the site of the present Land Office and Crosby Store, 16,078 square feet at \$10 per foot as given by the Director of Public Works, but for the site of the present Post Office, I am confident that \$2 per foot more would be obtained, owing to the superior position and frontage.
- 15. As for the value of Plot No. 1 on the new Praya Reclamation, put down at \$10 per foot by the Director of Public Works, I fear that it will be a considerable time before so large a piece of ground can be sold at such a price.
- 16. I wish to point out that no allowance appears to have been made for the sale of the ground at present occupied by the Harbour Office, which land is in a most valuable part of the City and is worth about \$15 per foot, the area is about 8,000 square feet and therefore the net cost to the Colony of the new buildings should be reduced by \$120,000.
- 17. I wish to record my opinion that the plans for the new Public Offices should be made by local architects of standing who, I think, by their experience of local requirements and construction, are far more likely to produce a satisfactory and economical building than any firm of architects in England. The work already executed in this City seems to me quite proof enough of the ability of the local architects to undertake the proposed buildings which, I may mention, are not so large as the blocks now being built on the Reclamation.

C. P. CHATER.

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 32.

The following Supreme Court Revenue Returns, &c. for 1897, which were laid before the Legislative Council on the 25th instant, are published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 26th January, 1898.

No. 2.

SUPREME COURT, Hongkong, 8th January, 1898.

Sir,-I have the honour to forward to you herewith the Return of Revenue for the Supreme Court for 1897, and a Return of Intestate Estates for the half-year ending the 31st December, 1897.

> I have the honour to be, Sir. Your most obedient Servant,

> > J. W. NORTON KYSHE, Registrar.

The Honourable

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

åc.,

Original Jurisdiction,	\$ 3,752.84
Summary Jurisdiction,	4.474.65
Bankruptcy Jurisdiction,	717.15
Probate Jurisdiction,	2,163.15
Official Administrator's Commission,	3,164.36
Official Assignee's Commission,	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Official Trustee's Commission,	55.45
Sheriff's Fees,	116.50
Bailiff's Fees,	902.50
Interest on Deposit of Surplus Cash,	405.54
Fees on Distraints,	1,275.25
Registrer of Companies,	2,863.25
Fine and Forfeitures,	2,000.20
Admiralty Jurisdiction,	549.35
Auctioneer's Commission paid in by the Bailiff,	7.48
para it by the Dania,	7.10
	\$20,447.47
Land Office Fees,	5,998.00
	0,550.00
	\$26,445.47
	<del></del>

J. W. Norton Kyshe, Registrar.

Registry Supreme Court, Hongkong, 7th January, 1898.

RETURN of all Sums Collected in the Registry of the Supreme Court for the Year 1897, and paid into the Treasury. 1896. 1897.

LAND OFFICE FEES,	6,825.50	5,998.00
	20,845.23	\$20,447.47
AUCTIONEER'S COMMISSION paid in by the Bailiff,	•••	7.48
Admiralty Fees,	541.17	197.35
FINE AND FORFEITURES,	10.00	•••
Interest on Deposit of Surplus Cash,	1,701.41	405.54
REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES,	2,471.50	2,863.25
Sheriff,	102.00	116.50
BAILIFF,	1,137.50	902.50
income,	58.26	55.45
above \$10,000 commission 1% on further amount, 1% commission on		
Official Trustee.—2 % on amount of Trust on taking over up to \$10,000,	2,100.01	9,101.00
Official Administrator,	2.485.84	3,164.36
REGISTRAR.—Court fees paid by Stamps,	5.15	\$12,735.04

Registry Supreme Court, Hongkong, 7th January, 1898.

J. W. Norton Kyshe, Registrar.

RETURN of ESTATES of Intestate for the Second Half-year ending 31st December, 1897.

	Amount received on Account of Estate.	Deductions for Dis- bursements.	Balance on closing Account.	Disposal of Balance.
	<b>\$</b> c.	\$ $c$ .	\$ $c$ .	
David Symington,	227.08		9.59	Estate being administered.
Claudio J. da Silva,		3.22	56.13	Paid to A. J. Reed, the Administrator.
C. F. Burdett,	727.30	49.57	677.73	Estate being administered.
Esmail,		1.05	19.87	Paid into the Government Treasury.
Wong Kan,	.04	•••	.04	$D_0$ .
F. Irene,	2.86	.11	2.75	Do.
Marie Gabriel Simon Lajeat,	183.45	15.67	167.78	Paid to French Consul.
Tong Sam Chi,	.l5	•••	.15	Paid into the Government Treasury.
Bartholomew Spain,	7.26	4.96	2.30	Do.
Jindah Singh,	5.00	.25	4.75	$D_0$ .
J. H. Meyers,		8.45	50.48	Estate being administered.
Arthur Norman,	175.10	167.76	7.34	$\mathbf{\check{D}_{0}}$ .
John Caldwell Melrose,	1,874.17	121.81	1,752.36	Do.
Sumi,	24.60	1.23	23.37	Paid into the Government Treasury.
Chan Sing Sam,	980.00	65.25	914.75	Paid to W. & Grist, Solicitors for the Administratrix.
Thomas Campbell,			277.13	Estate being administered.
Samuel Barff,	334.60	191.20	143,40	Paid to Mrs. Kate Barff, the Administratrix.
Chan Tsau Shing,	11.60	.56	11.04	Paid to Wong Shi, the mother of deceased.
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