

COW-SHEDS.

With the exception of Foot-and-Mouth disease which broke out in nearly every cow-shed in the Colony, and is referred to previously in this report under the heading "Importation of Live Stock," no cases of infectious or contagious disease have occurred in any of these places.

Although as far back as 1889 I recommended that no cow-sheds be licensed by the Board within the precincts of the City, I regret to note that nothing has yet been done to consider or carry out my suggestion.

MARKETS.

Central.—This building is in a good state of repair and amendment, and most of the shops and stalls are let.

The Western Market is an old, insanitary structure, does not at all meet present requirements, and is altogether unfitted to be used as a public market.

On pointing this out in my annual report for 1890 a Committee of the Board considered the question, and in a report dated May 19, 1891, recommended that the market be re-built; but no steps appear to be taken to carry out their recommendation.

Saiyingpoon.—My remarks upon the Western Market apply equally to this one.

The building is old and inconvenient and far too small to meet the wants of the district which it supplies. *Shektongsui, Wanchai, Sokonpoo, Yaumati and Hung Hom Markets* are all in a good state of repair and meet all present wants.

Shaukiwan.—This building is in a good state of repair, but is too small. In my annual report for 1889 I pointed this out, and recommended that accommodation for at least thirty more stalls be provided.

STAFF.

On November 7 I returned to the Colony from leave and took over my duties from Inspector FISHER, who resumed those of his appointment at Kennedy Town, Inspector WATSON going back to the Markets as Inspector of Markets.

I am pleased to be in a position to state that both these officers performed their duties in a very satisfactory manner during my absence.

Watchman MAHER resigned on January 31, and Watchman DAHLING was appointed in his stead.

No other changes of importance took place in the staff and the general routine work appears to have gone on smoothly.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

C. VIVIAN LADDS.

The Secretary,

SANITARY BOARD.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 260.

There is a vacancy in the Police Magistracy for the post of Fifth Clerk and Portuguese Interpreter.

Qualifications,Ability to interpret readily Portuguese into English and *vice versa*, and good handwriting.

Salary,.....\$432 per annum.

Applications with the usual certificates to be sent to the Colonial Secretary not later than Noon of Friday, the 17th instant.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 10th June, 1898.