

*Reasons and Objects.*

Prior to September, 1882, the Supreme Court of this Colony observed an annual vacation of two months. The effect of Ordinance No. 17 of 1882 was to completely abolish such vacation, with the result that the Court and its offices have remained open all the year round. This being the case, it is difficult for those members of the legal profession who require occasionally a few days rest and change, to absent themselves from the Colony for that purpose without the risk of serious loss to their business. I can find no record showing that the barristers and solicitors of the Colony were consulted before the former vacation was abolished; but there has been recently expressed an almost unanimous desire on the part of both branches of the profession that legal vacations should be re-established in the Supreme Court. That desire has been forcibly brought to my notice, and I have accordingly introduced the present Ordinance. Before doing so, I have consulted the Judges and modified the Ordinance in accordance with their suggestions. It will be observed that due provision has been made for the regular and prompt despatch of Criminal business and of all urgent matters in the Supreme Court as well as of suits in the summary jurisdiction. There is no reason to suppose that the passing of this Ordinance will prejudicially affect the interests either of suitors or of the general public.

W. MEIGH GOODMAN,  
*Attorney General.*

---

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 348.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to appoint Dr. JAMES ALFRED LOWSON to be Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer during the absence from the Colony of Dr. JOHN MITFORD ATKINSON, or until further notice.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 5th August, 1898.

---

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 349.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to appoint WILLIAM CHATHAM, Assistant Director of Public Works, to act as Director of Public Works and Water Authority under the Water Works Ordinance, 1890, during the temporary absence from the Colony, on special service, of the Honourable ROBERT DALY ORMSBY, or until further notice.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 6th August, 1898.

---

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 350.

The following is published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 4th August, 1898.

---

NOTIFICATION.

Notice is hereby given that no sales of land within the Island of Liu Kung Tau made after the 24th May, 1898, will be recognized as legal or authorized, unless they shall have been first referred to the British Commissioner or Administrator, and thereafter approved by the Superior British Authority of the Territory of Weihaiwei.

The same regulation holds good in respect of land situated within the Inner Zone on the mainland.

G. KING HALL,  
*Captain, R.N.*  
L. C. HOPKINS,  
*Consul,*  
*Commissioners for Weihaiwei.*

H. M. S. *Narcissus* at Weihaiwei, 19th July, 1898.