

PAPER.—The Acting Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following paper :—

Report on the Epidemic of Bubonic Plague in Hongkong in the Year 1898.

FINANCIAL MINUTE.—The Acting Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following Financial Minute, (No. 23), and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee :—

HENRY A. BLAKE.

C.S.O.
882 of 1898.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Twenty-nine thousand One hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$29,150), to meet the expenses of the Post Office for 1898.

Government House, Hongkong, 30th November, 1898.

The Acting Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Acting Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee dated the 22nd November, 1898, (No. 8), and moved its adoption.

The Acting Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WATERWORKS ORDINANCES, 1890 TO 1897.—The Acting Colonial Secretary moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Director of Public Works seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR THE NATURALIZATION OF WONG SHU TONG alias WONG KA YAU alias WONG WING KWAN.—The Acting Colonial Secretary moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Acting Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

Read and confirmed this 30th day of December, 1898.

J. G. T. BUCKLE,
Clerk of Councils.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 598.

The following is published in substitution for Government Notification No. 593 of the 19th instant.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 30th December, 1898.

ORDER

Made by the Governor-in-Council under Section 8 of "The Post Office Ordinance, 1887," on the 21st day of December, 1898.

It is hereby directed that the Table hereto annexed shall be the Table of Rates of Postage for Letters and Parcels chargeable and to be charged at the General Post Office of this Colony or its Agencies on and after the 25th day of December, 1898, and until further notice.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
HONGKONG.

J. G. T. BUCKLE,
Clerk of Councils.

HONGKONG GENERAL POST OFFICE.

RATES OF POSTAGE

| To | Letters, per ½ oz. | Single Post Cards, each. | Reply Post Cards, each. | Books, News- papers, Patterns, Prices Current, &c., per 2 oz. | Registra- tion. | Return Receipt for Regis- tered Articles. | Commer- cial Papers. |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | <i>cents.</i> | <i>cents.</i> | <i>cents.</i> | <i>cents.</i> | <i>cents.</i> | <i>cents.</i> | |
| UNION COUNTRIES, (Except as below.) | 10 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 10 | 10 | |
| United Kingdom. | | | | | | | |
| Aden, Ascension, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Central Africa, British East Africa, British Guiana, British Honduras, British India, Canada, Cape Colony, Ceylon, Cyprus, Fiji, Federated Malay States, Gibraltar, Gold Coast Colony, Johore, Lagos, Natal, New- foundland, Sarawak, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Straits Settlements, St. Helena, The Falk- land Islands, The Gambia, The Leeward Islands (which comprise—Antigua, St. Chris- topher and Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands), The Niger Coast Protectorate, The Niger Company's Terri- tory, The Windward Islands, (Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent), Tobago and Trinidad, Turks Island, and Uganda, | 4 * | 4 | 8 | 2 | 10 | 10 | |
| NON-UNION COUNTRIES:— | | | | | | | |
| Abyssinia, | 10 (c) | 4 | 8 | 2 | 10 (in) | ... | |
| Afghanistan, | 10 (ca) | 4 | 8 | 2 | 10 (in) | ... | |
| Africa (West Coast, Native Possessions), | 20 (ca) | 4 | 8 | 5 | 10 (in) | ... | |
| Arabia, | 10 (c) | 4 | 8 | 2 | 10 (in) | ... | |
| Bechuanaland Protectorate, including—Kanye, Lake Ngami, Macloutsie, Molepolole, Pala- chwe, (Khamas town), Rhodesia (comprising Mashonaland, Matabeleland, and Northern Zambesia), Shoshong, and Tati River,..... | 20 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 10 | ... | |
| China, (or from China to Hongkong),..... | 5 (c) | 1 | 2 | 2 | 10 (b) | 10 | |
| Friendly Islands, (Tonga Islands), | 10 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 10 | ... | |
| Madagascar, (except French Establishments, viz., Amboitra, Andevovante, Antananarivo, Diego Suarez, Fenerive, Fiaranantson, Foul- pointe, Ivondro, Maevatanana, Mahambo, Mahanoro, Mahela, Maintirano, Majunga, Mananjary, Morandava, Morotsangana, Nossi- Vé, St. Mary, Tamatave, Vatomandry, and Vohemar), | 10 (c) | 4 | 8 | 2 | 10 (in) | ... | |
| Morocco, (except Casablanca, El-ksar-el-kbir, Fez, Laraiiche, Mazagan, Mogador, Rabat, Saffi, Tangier and Tetuan, at each of which places the Gibraltar P. O. or French P. O. maintains an Agency under the Postal Union Regulations), | 10 (c) | 4 | 8 | 2 | ... | ... | |
| Navigator's Islands, (Samoa), | 10 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 10 | ... | |
| Society Islands, | 10 (c) | 4 | 8 | 2 | 10 | ... | |
| Other parts,..... | 10 (c) | 4 | 8 | 2 | 10 (in) | ... | |
| Between Hongkong and Canton, Macao, and Changchow, and for Local Delivery, | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 10 | |

Same as for Books, except that the lowest charge is 10 cents.

(a.) An additional charge is made on delivery.

(b.) Registration in China through British Offices extends to Hoilow, Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, Shanghai and Hankow only.

(c.) Prepayment is compulsory.

(in.) Registration is incomplete, not extending beyond Port of Arrival.

* Letters for these places posted at any Office, other than in the Colony, are subject to the rate of 10 cents per half ounce.

Attention is specially called to the changes in the postal rates for correspondence to the United Kingdom and certain British Colonies and also to the increases in the fees for return receipts and for registration of local letters and those addressed to Macao and China.

For Parcel Rates; see separate Table, or the Postal Guide.

General Post Office, Hongkong, 22nd December, 1898.