

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 433.

The following Report on the Assessment for 1899-1900 is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 28th July, 1899.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 20th July, 1899.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my Report on the Assessment for the year 1899-1900.

2. *The City of Victoria.*—The result of the new Valuation is that the Rateable Value of the City of Victoria is, in the list which came into force on the 1st instant, \$4,241,919 as compared with last year's (1898-99) Assessment \$3,828,577, an increase in Rateable Value of \$413,342 equivalent to 10.79 per cent.

3. *The Hill District.*—The Rateable Value of the Hill District is now \$149,875 against \$138,765 last year—an increase of \$11,110 or 8.00 per cent.

4. *Hongkong Villages.*—The Rateable Value of the Hongkong Villages has risen from \$172,543 to \$176,063—an increase of \$3,520 or 2.04 per cent.

5. *Kowloon Point.*—The Rateable Value of the District known as Kowloon Point has increased from \$137,335 to \$144,530—a difference of \$7,195 equal to 5.23 per cent.

6. *Kowloon Villages.*—The Rateable Value of the Villages comprising the remainder of British Kowloon is now \$274,447 as compared with \$244,727 last year—an increase of \$29,720 or 12.14 per cent.

7. *The Whole Colony.*—The Rateable Value of the whole Colony is now \$4,986,834 as compared with last year's Assessment of \$4,521,947—an increase of \$464,887 or 10.27 per cent.

8. *Interim Valuations.*—During the period from 1st July, 1898, to 1st June, 1899, Interim Valuations have been made as follows:—

In the City of Victoria.

222 new and/or rebuilt tenements, rateable value,	\$ 200,035
62 improved tenements, rateable value,	\$55,590
Replacing Assessments, amounting to.....	40,950
	————— 14,640
	214,675
64 Assessments cancelled, tenements pulled down, or being in other respects not rateable,.....	36,695
	—————
Increase in City of Victoria,	\$ 177,980

In the rest of the Colony.

156 new and/or rebuilt tenements, rateable value,	\$ 34,238
60 improved tenements, rateable value,.....	\$12,013
Replacing Assessments, amounting to	8,186
	————— 3,827
	38,065
89 Assessments cancelled, tenements pulled down, or being in other respects not rateable,	15,671
	—————
Increase in Rest of Colony,	\$ 22,394

The total number of tenements affected by Interim Valuations being 653 and the increase in Rateable Value \$200,374.

9. *Vacant Tenements.*—The number of reported vacant tenements in the City of Victoria inspected under section 35 of the Rating Ordinance averaged about 85 monthly against 125 last year.

10. *Appeals.*—Notices of Appeal under section 15 of the Rating Ordinance were lodged against the assessments of eleven tenements. The appeals were heard by the Court on 21st June, and resulted in a reduction in Rateable Value amounting to \$370.

11. *Tabular Statements.*—The usual tabular statements giving comparisons of the Valuation for 1898-99 and the new Valuation for 1899-1900 are attached.

12. *Staff.*—There has been no change in the Staff during the year. Mr. CHAU YUNG-CHÉUNG, Clerk, and Mr. CHEUNG YUK-FAI have discharged their duties to my satisfaction. I would again respectfully suggest that the salaries of these officers should be increased. The pay of clerk and interpreter is the same now as it was in 1888. C.S.O. 1899.

13. *New Territories.*—I would draw attention to the positions of Kowloon City, Kowloon Tong, and Chinese Sham Shui Po, which are now merged into the original British Kowloon Peninsula, and would suggest that the whole of these should be treated, for Rating purposes, in the same manner as the other villages in the peninsula. In the case of Chinese Sham Shui Po, which was formerly separated from British Sham Shui Po or Fuk Tsun Heung by a bamboo fence, now removed, houses in Fuk Tsun Heung are charged rates, whereas those on the Sham Shui Po side of the boundary are free. I have ascertained from the Land Office that there are between 250 and 300 owners of property in Chinese Sham Shui Po.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ARTHUR CHAPMAN,
Assessor.

The Honourable

A. M. THOMSON,
Colonial Treasurer.

Table A.

THE CITY OF VICTORIA.

No.	DISTRICT NAME.	VALUATION, 1898-1899.	VALUATION, 1899-1900.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.	PERCENT- AGE.
		\$	\$	\$	\$	%
1	Kennedy Town,	63,780	76,445	12,665	.....
2	Shek Tong Tsui,	147,274	159,654	12,380	.....
3	Sai Ying Pun,	834,290	882,495	48,205	.....
4	Tai Ping Shan,	326,680	363,640	36,960	.....
5	Sheung Wan,	500,381	537,685	37,304	.....
6	Chung Wan,	1,535,742	1,755,970	220,228	.....
7	Ha Wan,	158,855	178,895	20,040	.....
8	Wan Tsai,	142,405	165,035	22,630	.....
9	Bowrington,	44,115	39,120	.....	4,995	
10	Soo Kon Poo,	75,055	82,980	7,925	.....
		\$ 3,828,577	4,241,919	418,337	4,995	
	Deduct Decrease,			4,995		
	Total Increase,			413,342		10.79

Table B.
THE HILL DISTRICT AND HONGKONG VILLAGES.

DISTRICT.	VALUATION, 1898-1899.	VALUATION, 1899-1900.	INCREASE.	PERCENTAGE.
	\$	\$	\$	%
The Hill District,.....	138,765	149,875	11,110	8.00
Hongkong Villages,	172,543	176,063	3,520	2.04
\$	311,308	325,938	14,630	4.69

Table C.
KOWLOON POINT AND KOWLOON VILLAGES.

DISTRICT.	VALUATION, 1898-1899.	VALUATION, 1899-1900.	INCREASE.	PERCENTAGE.
	\$	\$	\$	%
Kowloon Point,.....	137,335	144,530	7,195	5.23
Kowloon Villages,	244,727	274,447	29,720	12.14
\$	382,062	418,977	36,915	9.66

Table D.
THE COLONY OF HONGKONG.

DISTRICT.	VALUATION, 1898-1899.	VALUATION, 1899-1900.	INCREASE.	PERCENTAGE.
	\$	\$	\$	%
The City of Victoria,	3,828,577	4,241,919	413,342	10.79
Hill District and Hongkong Villages,	311,308	325,938	14,630	4.69
Kowloon Point and Kowloon Villages,	382,062	418,977	36,915	9.66
\$	4,521,947	4,986,834	464,887	10.27

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 434.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of Ordinance No. 8 of 1897, it is hereby notified that the Government proposes to erect a public latrine for 60 persons on the following site :—

On Crown Land, at the junction of Pound Lane with Taipingshan Street, bounded on the North by Taipingshan Street, on the East by Shin Hing Lane, on the South by Kat Cheung Lane, and on the West by Pound Lane.

Also a public latrine for 60 persons on the following site :—

On Crown Land, on the Praya Reclamation near the junction of Wing Lok Street with the Praya Central, bounded on the North and East by reclaimed land, on the South by Wing Lok Street, and on the West by a new street to be constructed.

Also a public latrine for 40 persons on the following site :—

On Crown Land, at the junction of Shing Wong and Gough Street, at No. 46 Gough Street, bounded on the East by No. 44 Gough Street, and opposite Nos. 29, 31 and 33 Gough Street, and situated under the play-ground attached to the Belilios Public School.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 29th July, 1899.