

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 594.

The following Minutes are published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

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

**No. 34.**

Minutes of the proceedings of the SANITARY BOARD, at a meeting held on Thursday, the 12th day of October, 1899.

PRESENT :

The Principal Civil Medical Officer, (Dr. JOHN MITFORD ATKINSON), President.  
The Captain Superintendent of Police, (The Honourable FRANCIS HENRY MAY, C.M.G.), Vice-President.  
The Director of Public Works, (The Honourable ROBERT DALY ORMSBY).  
The Medical Officer of Health, (Dr. FRANCIS WILLIAM CLARK).  
EDWARD OSBORNE, Esquire.

**Minutes.**—The minutes of regular meeting No. 33 of 28th September, and of a confidential meeting held on the same date were confirmed.

**Insanitary Properties Bill.**—A letter from the Honourable the Colonial Secretary stating the cause of the delay in introducing this Bill was laid on the table.

**Licences for Cattle and Swine.**—One application for a licence to keep cattle and nine applications to keep swine were considered.

The President moved—

*That these licences be granted.*

The Medical Officer of Health seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

**Yard Bridges of a greater width than 3'6".**—An application from Messrs. PALMER and TURNER for permission to retain yard bridges of 4'2" in 17 houses at Mong Kok Tsui was considered.

The Director of Public Works moved—

*That the permission asked for be granted.*

The Medical Officer of Health seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

**Quarters of the Inspector in charge of the Animals Dépôt at Kennedy Town.**—A report on the health of the Inspector and his family, and the state of his quarters was considered.

The President moved—

*That Government be requested to add another storey to the building.*

The Vice-President seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

**Rabies at Nagasaki.**—A report of the existence of Rabies at Nagasaki was considered.

The Medical Officer of Health moved—

*That Government be asked to prohibit the importation into this Colony of dogs from Japan for a period of not less than six months.*

Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

**Unwholesome Well at 83, Queen's Road Central.**—A report by the Government Analyst on the unwholesome state of the water in this well was considered.

The Medical Officer of Health moved—

*That this well be closed.*

The Director of Public Works seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

**Food and Drugs Ordinance.**—A return of samples examined by the Government Analyst for the Quarter ended 30th September was laid on the table.

**Bubonic Plague.**—A report from Calcutta that Bushire in the Persian Gulf is declared free from Plague, was laid on the table.

A report by the Portuguese Consul-General that Plague is abating at Oporto was laid on the table.

A further return of the progress of Plague at Bombay City for the period 29th August to 11th September, 1899, was laid on the table.

Notifications from Calcutta that Venice Regulations were enforced in Burma against arrivals from Swatow and Portuguese Ports were laid on the table.

**Mortality Returns** from Macao for the weeks ended 17th and 24th September, 1899, were laid on the table.

**Mortality Statistics** for this Colony for the weeks ended 23rd and 30th September, 1899, were laid on the table. Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE addressed the Board and moved—

*That the Board resume the practice of inserting advertisements in the Chinese newspapers warning those house owners in the Central Division of the City of Victoria, and in the Western Division of Kowloon, who have not complied with the lime-washing and cleansing bye-law, that the Board will rigorously prosecute all who are in default after the expiry of the time allowed by law.*

The Vice-President seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

**Cessation of Plague.**—The Medical Officer of Health addressed the Board and moved—

*That the Board recommend the Government to instruct the Medical Officer of Health for the Port to issue clean Bills of Health for the Port of Hongkong, as a period of ten successive days has elapsed since the last case of Bubonic Plague.*

Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

The President moved—

*That strangers be requested to withdraw.*

The Vice-President seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

**Adjournment.**—The Board then adjourned till Thursday, the 26th day of October, 1899.

J. M. ATKINSON,  
*President.*

Confirmed at a regular meeting held this 26th day of October, 1899.

C. W. DUGGAN,  
*Secretary.*

### GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 595.

The following Finding of the Marine Court of Enquiry into the casualty attending the British Steam-ship *Esmeralda*, Official No. 95,859, on a voyage from Hongkong to Manila, is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 27th October, 1899.

#### FINDING.

We find that the British Steam-ship *Esmeralda*, Official No. 95,859, of which ALEXANDER WILLIAM ROSS COBBAN is Master, the number of whose Certificate is 017,422 issued at Aberdeen, left Hongkong on a voyage to Manila *via* Amoy on the 14th September, 1899, at about 2 p.m.

That at about 10.30 p.m. the same day a shock was felt as of the ship striking some submerged body, the position of the ship at the time according to the evidence being approximately Chelang Point N.E. by N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. (true)  $4\frac{3}{4}$  miles, the chart showing 14 fathoms and an even bottom.

The ship appears to have been properly manned and found provided with proper charts, and the course steered according to the evidence was a safe and proper one.

Having duly considered the evidence the Court is of opinion that the casualty is not to be attributed in any way to any default of the Master or Officers.

Given under our hands at Victoria, Hongkong, this 25th day of October, 1899.

R. MURRAY RUMSEY, Retd. Comdr., R.N.,  
*President.*

RICHD. J. ROGERS, Staff Commander, R.N.

JOHN KYNOCH, Master S.S. *Mausang.*

P. T. REID, Master S.S. *St. Jerome.*

JAMES FOWLER, Master Br. S.S. *Phra Chom Klao.*