

In respect of public buildings the Coolie Shelter at the Peak comes first in importance although least in amount. After that the Post Office and after that, but a long way after, new Law Courts—the present Courts although inconvenient being adequate for the transaction of business.

Next in the order of importance come the new roads. Those in the New Territory first. They are required for the preservation of peace, order, and good government there as well as for the purpose of opening up the Territory for profitable use.

The present Estimates should be amended and re-cast. The Treasurer's Financial Returns and two Statements of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December, 1898, cannot both be correct. The estimates for Public Works Extraordinary need re-consideration from beginning to end; the works enumerated in them might well be arranged in the order of their importance and urgency instead of in their present apparently purposeless succession.

Then the available money should be appropriated to the several works in the order in which they stand on the Estimates, and if there is not enough to go round, the last on the list should be left over till some other year.

It is useless to plead the insufficiency of the staff of the Public Works Department as a reason for not proceeding with any urgent work or works. Extra-ordinary works should be provided for by the provision of additional strength for the Department or by special staffs. At present with much pressing work on hand the staff is being apparently reduced. It is certainly much less strong than it was ten years ago when the population was much less and the area of the Colony twenty-nine square miles instead of four hundred and twenty-nine.

T. H. WHITEHEAD.

HONGKONG, 23rd November, 1899.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 678.

The following Particulars and Conditions of Sale of Crown Land by Public Auction, to be held at the Offices of the Public Works Department, on Monday, the 18th day of December, 1899, at 3 p.m., are published for general information.

By Command,

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

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 2nd December, 1899.

Particulars and Conditions of the letting by Public Auction Sale, to be held on Monday, the 18th day of December, 1899, at 3 p.m., at the Offices of the Public Works Department, by Order of His Excellency the Governor, of One Lot of Crown Land, in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term of 75 Years, with the option of renewal at a Crown Rent to be fixed by the Surveyor of Her Majesty the QUEEN, for one further term of 75 years.

• PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

No. of Sale.	Registry No.	LOCALITY.	Boundary Measurements.				Contents in Square ft.	Annual Rent.	Upset Price.
			N.	S.	E.	W.			
			feet.	feet.	feet.	feet.	\$	\$	
1	Inland Lot No. 1,566.	Queen's Road East (near Tai Wong Temple),.....	16	16	60	60	960	14	1,440

CONDITIONS OF SALE.

1. The highest bidder above the upset price shall be the Purchaser, and if any dispute arise between two or more bidders, the Lot shall be put up again at a former bidding.
2. No person shall at any bidding advance less than \$20.

3. Immediately after the fall of the hammer, the Purchaser shall sign the Memorandum of Agreement, hereinafter contained, for completing the purchase according to these Conditions, and shall, within Three Days of the day of sale, pay into the Colonial Treasury the full amount of Premium at which the Lot shall have been purchased.

4. The Purchaser of the Lot shall also pay to the Land Officer, on behalf of Her Majesty the QUEEN, the sum of \$15 within three days of the day of sale, for and in consideration of the Boundary Stones, properly cut, fixed, and marked with the Registry Number, which shall be placed by the Director of Public Works, for the Purchaser, at each angle of the Lot.

5. The Purchaser of the Lot shall pay to the Land Officer, on behalf of Her Majesty the QUEEN, a Fee of \$15 upon the execution of the Crown Lease thereof.

6. The Purchaser of the Lot shall build and finish, fit for occupation, before the expiration of twenty-four calendar months from the day of sale, in a good, substantial and workmanlike manner, one or more good and permanent messuage or tenement upon some part of his Lot, with walls of stone or brick and lime-mortar and roof of tiles or such other materials as may be approved by the Director of Public Works, and in other respects in accordance with the conditions of the Building Ordinances, No. 25 of 1891 and No. 7 of 1895, and shall expend thereon a sum of not less than \$1,000 in rateable improvements.

7. The Purchaser of the Lot shall pay into the Treasury a proportionate part of the annual rental specified in the particulars hereinbefore contained on the 25th day of December next, and thereafter shall pay such annual rental by equal half-yearly payments on the 24th day of June and the 25th day of December in each and every year during the term of 75 years hereinbefore mentioned.

8. When the conditions herein contained have been complied with to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works, the Purchaser of the Lot shall be entitled to, and shall execute, on demand, a Lease from the Crown of the Piece of Ground comprised in such Lot for 75 Years, to be computed from the day of sale, at such Annual Rental, payable half-yearly on the 25th day of December and the 24th day of June in every year, as is specified in the Particulars of such Lot hereinbefore contained; and such Crown Lease shall be subject to, and contain, all Exceptions, Reservations, Covenants, Clauses, and Conditions inserted in the Crown Leases of Inland Lots in the Colony of Hongkong.

9. Should the Purchaser neglect, or fail to comply with these Conditions, his Premium, or any portion thereof which may be paid, shall be thereupon forfeited to Her Majesty, who shall be at full liberty either to enforce the Sale, or to re-sell the Property at such time and place, and in such manner as to Her Majesty shall seem fit, and in case of a re-sale the increase, if any, of the Premium or Purchase Money shall be retained by Her Majesty, and the deficiency, if any, and all Costs and Expenses shall be made good by the defaulter and be recoverable as liquidated damages, or at the option and pleasure of Her Majesty to re-enter and resume the property as if no sale had ever taken place, in which case also the premium paid by the Purchaser shall be thereupon wholly forfeited to Her Majesty. But such re-entry shall not exonerate the present Purchaser upon a subsequent re-sale of the property to make good the deficiency, if any, upon such re-sale and all costs and expenses as ascertained to be recoverable as aforesaid.

10. Possession of the Lot sold shall be given to the Purchaser, and deemed to have been taken by him, on the day of sale.

*Director of Public Works.*

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BY THE PURCHASER.

Memorandum that

of

the person whose name is hereunder written has been declared the highest bidder for the Lot described in the foregoing Particulars of Sale and hereunder specified opposite to his said name and signature, and does hereby agree to become the Lessee thereof under and subject to the foregoing Conditions of Sale, and on his part to perform and abide by the said Conditions.

Number of Sale.	Registry Number.	Annual Rental.	Amount of Premium at which Purchased.	Signature of Purchaser.
1	Inland Lot No. 1,566.	\$14		

*Witness to Signature of Purchaser.*

*Director of Public Works.*

*Witness to Signature of Director of Public Works.*