

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.--No. 581.

The following Rules relating to Chinese Student Interpreters and Interpreters are published.

By Command,

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

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 5th October, 1901.

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RULES RELATING TO CHINESE STUDENT INTERPRETERS.

1. All Chinese Student Interpreters employed by Government shall be arranged in one department which shall be under the supervision of the Registrar General.
2. Student Interpreters may be appointed from time to time on the recommendation of the Registrar General. Every such Student Interpreter shall be between the ages of 16 and 19 and shall have passed the Examination for the Fifth Standard in Grant-in-aid schools in Class III or the Annual Examination in the Fourth Class in Queen's College.
3. Importance will be attached to the knowledge of Written Chinese possessed by candidates.
4. The salary of Student Interpreters will be \$120 a year, and unless living with their parents, Student Interpreters shall reside in quarters to be provided for them by the Government.
5. Their course of study shall be under the direction of the Registrar General. They will be required to attend the ordinary classes at Queen's College every morning, and at the Registrar General's Office in the afternoon for special instruction in Chinese, and in translation and interpretation.
6. Student Interpreters shall be exempted from payment of school fees.
7. The usual term of study for a Chinese Student Interpreter shall be two years. At intervals of six months reports shall be made to the Governor by the Registrar General as to the progress made by Student Interpreters in their studies and as to their diligence and good conduct. For continued idleness and gross misconduct they shall be liable to be dismissed and to forfeit a sum not exceeding the amount spent by the Government on their education and maintenance.
8. Student Interpreters who fail through want of natural ability to make proper progress or to qualify as Third Class Interpreters at the end of two years may be dismissed with a month's notice.
9. All persons appointed as Student Interpreters shall enter into a bond with approved sureties in Form A in the schedule hereto, to the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars to serve as Student Interpreters and as Interpreters in any part of the Colony of Hongkong and its dependencies for a period of seven years from the date of their appointment.
10. Student Interpreters who may be selected to fill Translatorships may be required to undergo a three years' course of study.

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RULES RELATING TO CHINESE INTERPRETERS.

1. All Chinese Interpreters shall be classified and arranged in one department under the supervision of the officer for the time performing the duties of Registrar General.
2. The Registrar General shall keep a nominal record shewing all necessary particulars regarding each Interpreter.
3. No Interpreter after completing the period of time he agrees to serve by the terms of the Bond he has made when a Student Interpreter shall leave his appointment unless he previously gives thirty days' notice in writing, under penalty of forfeiting one month's salary.
4. Interpreters shall be arranged in three classes, the qualifications for admission or promotion into which shall be as follows:--

*Third Class:--*

- (1.) Knowledge of English.
- (2.) Knowledge of one Chinese Dialect.
- (3.) Ability to translate an easy petition or letter into English.

*Second Class:--*

- (1.) Correct knowledge of English.
- (2.) Fair knowledge of a second Chinese Dialect.
- (3.) Ability to translate petitions and business documents into English.

*First Class:--*

- (1.) Correct and fluent knowledge of English.
- (2.) Thorough knowledge of a second Chinese Dialect and fair knowledge of a third.
- (3.) Ability to translate petitions and business documents into English.

5. The salaries attached to the three classes shall be as follows:—

*Third Class*, \$360 rising by biennial increments of \$60 to \$540.

*Second Class*, \$720 rising by biennial increments of \$60 to \$1,200.

*First Class*, \$1,500 rising by biennial increments of \$120 to \$2,400.

6. The whole time of an Interpreter is at the disposal of the Government, and he is liable to be called upon to interpret in any language of which he may have a competent knowledge and to perform clerical or other duties when not engaged in interpreting.

7. No Interpreter will be employed or promoted without examination.

8. The dialects a knowledge of which is required before an Interpreter is qualified for promotion to the Second and First Classes shall be prescribed for each Interpreter by the Government.

9. Any Interpreter may, on passing the requisite examination, be promoted to a higher class at any time that a vacancy occurs.

10. Interpreters are liable to be transferred from one court or department to another, and may be called upon to serve in any part of the Colony.

11. During the first two years after their appointment, Interpreters in the Third Class may be required to attend three months in each year at the Registrar General's Office for special instruction and to attend at the Supreme Court and the Magistracy in order to study the practice of interpretation.

12. A certain number of posts in the Department shall be styled Translatorships.

13. Rules 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to Translators.

14. Translators shall be arranged in three classes, the qualifications for admission or promotion into which shall be as follows:—

*Third Class*:—

(1.) Knowledge of English.

(2.) Ability to translate at sight easy petitions, letters and business documents into English and *vice versa*.

*Second Class*:—

(1.) Correct knowledge of English.

(2.) Ability to translate at sight ordinary petitions, letters and business documents into correct English and *vice versa*.

*First Class*:—

(1.) Correct knowledge of English.

(2.) Ability to translate Chinese editorials into English and to translate laws, regulations and speeches into Chinese and *vice versa*.

15. The salaries attached to the three classes shall be as follows:—

*Third Class*:—Salary \$480 rising by biennial increments of \$120 to \$720.

*Second Class*:—Salary \$960 rising by biennial increments of \$60 to \$1,200.

*First Class*:—Salary \$1,500 rising by biennial increments of \$120 to \$2,400.

16. All examinations shall be conducted by a Board of which one member shall be the Registrar General. On passing any examination under these rules an Interpreter or Translator shall be granted a Certificate in the following form:—

—————  
*Certificate of Chinese Interpreter.*  
—————

We hereby certify that  
Class  
subjects:—

has passed the prescribed examination for  
and has satisfied the Examiners in the following

(Date.)

*Examiners.*

17. It shall be one of the duties of the Translators and Interpreters in the Supreme Court, the Magistracy and the Registrar General's Office to give every assistance in their power to Student Interpreters and Interpreters temporarily attached to these departments.

18. The Chief Interpreter of the Supreme Court shall exercise supervision over the Second and Third Class Interpreters in the Supreme Court and the Magistracy in the performance of their duties and also over the Student Interpreters who may be temporarily attached to these Courts. He shall assist them in their studies and shall arrange that they have opportunities of interpreting under his guidance or that of a First Class Interpreter. The Chief Interpreter shall report on the qualifications of all candidates for promotion and all proposals to transfer an Interpreter from one Department to another shall be referred to him for his opinion as to their suitability.

*Chinese Student Interpreter's Bond.*

KNOW ALL MEN by these presents that we are held and firmly bound unto Our Sovereign Lord the King in the sum of Two hundred and fifty Dollars to be paid to our said Lord, His Heirs and Successors to which payment well and truly to be made we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals and dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS the said \_\_\_\_\_ has been appointed by the Government of Hongkong to be a Chinese Student Interpreter.

NOW the condition of the above written bond is such that if the said \_\_\_\_\_ shall for the period of seven years from the date of these presents well and faithfully serve the said Government as a Chinese Student Interpreter or as a Chinese Interpreter or Translator or in any other capacity according to the rules and regulations which shall for the time being be in force regulating the duties of Chinese Student Interpreters, Interpreters, Translators or other Officers in the service of the said Government, then the above written bond or obligation to be void otherwise to be and remain in full force and virtue.

(1.) Signed, sealed and delivered }  
by the said

in the presence of

(LS)

(2.) Signed, sealed and delivered }  
by the said

in the presence of

(LS)

(3.) Signed, sealed and delivered }  
by the said

in the presence of

(LS)