

upon the then Government in 1877 by this Chamber, but without effect, the reply returned, on the 28th August, 1878, stating that it would be "very inexpedient" to "carry out such registration": no reason for the alleged inexpediency, however, being offered. Again, in April, 1891, when considering the draft of the present Bankruptcy Amendment Ordinance, the Committee of this Chamber expressed a strong opinion that, to render the measure more completely applicable to local requirements, it should be preceded or supplemented by a Bill for the compulsory registration of the partners in Chinese firms, and added that without such registration as an adjunct the proposed new Bankruptcy Ordinance would lose much in usefulness. How thoroughly this provision has been fulfilled, the records of the Supreme Court can readily demonstrate.

6. No real hardship would be entailed on the Chinese by the passage of such a measure. European and American houses trading here or in the Treaty Ports of China voluntarily announce to the public, by means of circulars and by advertisements in the newspapers, the names of the individual partners in their firms, and of all changes in such partnerships, at considerable expense, and certain Chinese firms have voluntarily followed the example. It is not too much to ask, if the mass of the Chinese are used to such methods, that they should register their partnerships with the Registrar General. As a proof that the Chinese themselves are not likely to entertain any objection to such a system, I would remind the Government that in 1882 a Petition very numerously signed by Chinese traders was presented to the Registrar General praying that hongts or shops be required "to register and to appoint a fixed date within which all shops are to send in without delay the real names and surnames of their masters." This was really only a proposal to put into practice here a custom of trade observed among themselves in China, and, as a means of identification and a precautionary measure against fraud, could not excite hostility among reasonable persons.

7. The creation of such a system would of course entail some trouble, and it would probably necessitate the employment of one or two additional clerks. It might also require the dissociation of the two offices of Colonial Secretary and Registrar General: but as this is very desirable for other reasons the work of the former having greatly increased within the last three years—the Committee trust that such a consideration would not be allowed to weigh in a matter of so much importance to the trade of the Colony.

8. Trusting that His Excellency the Governor will agree with the Committee that the time has arrived when an earnest attempt should be made to grapple with a question so seriously affecting the conduct of business and the administration of justice in the Colony,—in proof whereof I need only cite the fact that four recent bankruptcy cases heard in the Supreme Court could have been settled in fewer hours than they took days to hear.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,  
*Secretary.*

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### GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 631.

The following Regulation made by the Governor in Council on the 23rd October, 1901, under section 5 of Ordinance No. 9 of 1893 as amended by section 2 of Ordinance No. 4 of 1899, is published.

By Command,

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

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 24th October, 1901.

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*Regulation respecting the Importation of Dogs into the Colony of Hongkong.*

No dog brought from Shanghai will be permitted to land in this Colony for a period of six months from the 1st November, 1901.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
HONGKONG.

C. CLEMENTI,  
*Acting Clerk of Councils.*