

scheme for an elaborate enquiry into Hongkong sanitation is, indeed, one in which all parties may join ; but the criticism on the plague administration is another matter. Doubtless the Government made many mistakes ; blunders have been perpetrated by all executive authorities called upon to face an outbreak of plague. But careful examination of the reports conveys the impression that the measures taken were reasonably adequate ; and the Government are at least entitled to be judged by results, which, to those who know what plague has meant to India, will appear remarkably successful. Before the Hongkong public devoted themselves to their favourite pastime of attacking the local administrators, they might have looked farther afield. At present they seem unconscious of the littleness of their fancied woes. It may be added that Sir HENRY BLAKE, unlike the community over which he rules, appears to have studied carefully the lessons of the Bombay epidemics. In an interesting despatch to the Secretary of State, he mentions that he recommended the tentative adoption of the Bombay system of permitting patients to remain in their houses to be nursed by their friends under proper restrictions. The Sanitary Board, from some inscrutable reason, declined to accept his suggestion. Sir HENRY BLAKE adds his personal belief that removal two or three miles to a hospital lessened the chances of a patient's recovery. In this respect, of course, his view is entirely borne out by the experience gained in Bombay. Another lesson derived from Bombay by the Governor was utilised without demur. Instead of disinfecting only the floor on which a case occurred, the whole house was ordered to be disinfected, as is done here. It seems surprising that such an obvious precaution was not locally originated. But they are sometimes curiously conservative in Hongkong. We gather from the local papers that there are still prominent personages in that eccentric island who decline to believe in the malignancy of the *anopheles* mosquito.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 727.

The following Report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor to enquire into and report on the question of the existing difficulty of procuring and retaining reliable chair and jinricksha coolies for private chairs and jinrickshas, which was laid before the Legislative Council on the 25th instant, is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 26th November, 1901.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION APPOINTED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE
GOVERNOR TO ENQUIRE INTO AND REPORT ON THE QUESTION
OF THE EXISTING DIFFICULTY OF PROCURING AND
RETAINING RELIABLE CHAIR AND JINRICKSHA
COOLIES FOR PRIVATE CHAIRS AND
JINRICKSHAS.

The undersigned, Members of a Commission appointed to inquire into and report on the question of the existing difficulty of procuring and retaining reliable private chair and jinricksha coolies, have the honour to report as follows :—

1. We have held 14 Meetings between 3rd September and 4th November, 1901, and have examined 30 witnesses.

2. We have ascertained the views, on certain points, of over 120 residents by means of a printed paper of questions, which forms Appendix C.

3. The answers to those questions show conclusively that there has been difficulty in procuring and retaining reliable private chair and ricksha coolies.

4. As to the causes of the existing difficulty, we find that the main cause of the difficulty in *procuring* such coolies is a demand for increased wages, which many non-Chinese refuse to pay.

5. We observe that there has apparently been no difficulty in procuring six hundred coolies from China to man the three hundred new public rickshas which have recently been licensed. Further, we observe from the annual reports of the Captain Superintendent of Police that in the year 1897, 7,164 drivers and bearers were licensed; in the year 1898, 8,252; in the year 1899, 8,923; and in the year 1900, 9,984, or an increase of 2,820 drivers and bearers in a period of 4 years, that is, an increase of nearly 40 per cent. in the number of drivers and bearers. These figures seem to show that the demand for *public* chair and ricksha coolies has been amply met, and lead us to the conclusion that there is an adequate number of men procurable for *private* service, provided the wages offered approach in amount the takings of the licensees of public vehicles.

6. We are of opinion that the price of lodging is not as a rule a serious factor in the matter, because private coolies are usually lodged, rent free, by their masters; and we think that the increased cost of food has been approximately met by the advance in wages which has occurred in the last five years.

7. The demand for wages exceeding \$8 a month seems, in the main, due to the fact that the calling of a public chair or ricksha coolie, especially the latter, is more lucrative, and induces private coolies to leave to join the ranks of public coolies.

8. The evidence tends to show that no regular guilds of chair and ricksha coolies exist, but each lodging house seems to be an effective centre for combination.

9. The causes of the difficulty in *retaining* such coolies when procured are:—

A.—That such coolies, in many cases, object to perform odd jobs, such as chit carrying, punkah pulling, tennis fielding, housework, &c., which they once did without demur.

B.—That there is some doubt whether the law makes it penal for such coolies to neglect their duty, or to absent themselves from duty, or to leave service without notice, or to disobey lawful and reasonable orders, &c., &c., although such a law exists in respect of domestic servants. (*Vide* section 3 sub-section 3 of Ordinance 14 of 1845.)

C.—That a knowledge of the earnings of public coolies makes private coolies discontented and induces them to leave private employ at the earliest opportunity.

D.—That they sometimes object to give their whole time to their masters' service.

E.—That if they leave a master, they can usually find employment with another master or obtain other work.

10. As to whether it is advisable and practicable to introduce any, and (if any) what legislation on the subject, our answer is yes, and we append a draft Bill which we think would meet the case. (See Appendix *F*.)

11. We are aware that the provisions of the Victoria Registration Ordinance No. 7 of 1866 affecting the registration of servants and repealed by Ordinance 13 of 1888, were not worked with much success. The reasons for this failure, were, we believe, the absence of photography, laxity in enforcing those provisions, indifference on the part of masters, the preference of personal convenience to the general advantage, the doubtful applicability of sub-section 3 of section 3 of Ordinance 14 of 1845 to other than *domestic* servants, the fraudulent transfer of certificates of registration, and, probably, the payment of a registration fee.

12. The draft Bill referred to in para. 10 provides, *inter alia*, for compulsory registration at the Central Police Station, for the photographing of every private coolie, for the regulation of the conduct of private coolies, and for making it penal for masters to engage unregistered coolies and for unregistered coolies to seek or obtain employment in the same capacities.

13. We are decidedly of the opinion, which the evidence supports, that to be effective, registration must be compulsory, universal, and in the hands of the Police Department.

We think that the scheme of registration embodied in the draft Bill, will give both the Police and masters desirable and, we trust, effective control over private coolies.

14. In answer to question 6 of Appendix C. "Whether persons who engage unregistered private chair and ricksha coolies should be liable to a fine in the Police Court", there were 78 ayes, 26 conditional ayes, and 24 nays. The evidence of Mr. POATE shows that there was misapprehension as to the meaning of this question. When it was explained to him that it was not proposed to punish the master, and leave the coolie alone, he adopted the view of this Commission, that no scheme of registration could be successfully enforced if masters were not made liable for engaging unregistered coolies. If this is borne in mind, it is evident that the majority of "ayes" in favour of making such masters liable would probably have been greater; as it is, the proportion of "ayes" to "nays" is that of more than 3 to 1.

15. We recommend that registration shall be *free*, because the payment of a fee in former times may have conduced to render the former Ordinance nugatory, and because the existence of a fee may be made the ground for demanding higher wages.

16. Apart from the reason that the omission of the penal clause affecting masters will defeat the whole purpose of registration, we consider that it would be unjust to punish the coolie who offers his services and not also the person who accepts those services.

17. Generally, we think that registration will tend to weed out of the ranks of private coolies the bad characters sometimes met with, because persons unfavourably known to the Police would not be registered.

18. Some persons fear that registration will tend to limit the number of coolies now available, and therefore wish to be at liberty to engage unregistered coolies who may offer themselves. The limitation of numbers, it is said, will arise (1) from the Police Department refusing to register as private coolies men known to be bad characters, but who, *quâ* coolies, are capable servants, (2) from unwillingness on the part of private coolies to register.

In our judgment, if the result (1) anticipated by the sceptics concerning registration is attained, it will prove an unmixed advantage to the community, which will thus be relieved of the presence of rogues masquerading as private coolies who, we should not be surprised, would also prove on inquiry to be to some extent at the bottom of the present difficulty.

As regards result (2) we believe that no persons who wish to become private coolies, would be deterred by free registration from entering private service.

By the draft Bill, which we have submitted, it is provided that a master may have in his employ for 48 hours unregistered coolies. This period of 48 hours will enable the coolie to become registered, and will give the master reasonable time to insist on the coolie being registered.

We do not oppose an enlargement of this period of 48 hours, but would point out that if the period is much enlarged, it will merely induce an aggravated condition of the present difficulty in *retaining* coolies.

19. As regards what other (if any) remedial measures should be taken, we suggest that the scale of fares for public rickshas, in Victoria and Kowloon, should be revised and reduced, at any rate so far as short time fares are concerned; for we are convinced that if the earnings of private chair and ricksha coolies could be placed more nearly on an equality with those of public ricksha coolies, the inducement to throw up private service for public employ would lose much of its force, the demand for higher wages would almost cease, and the difficulty of procuring and retaining private chair and ricksha coolies would be largely diminished, if it did not altogether disappear.

20. Chief Detective Inspector HANSON stated in his evidence that he had calculated that it is possible for two men between them to make from \$60 to \$80 a month with a public ricksha ; and one of the public ricksha coolies examined stated that his nett earnings, after paying for food and rent, amounted to \$10 a month. The evidence also shows that a coolie will pay a considerable sum for the goodwill of a public ricksha.

21. At present, the minimum ricksha fare is 5 cents for a quarter of an hour. If a person takes a ricksha from the Clock Tower to the Hongkong Club or Hongkong Bank he must pay 5 cents.

This seems to be an unnecessarily large fare. We therefore advocate ricksha rates of 2, 3, and 5 cents for 5, 10 and 15 minutes respectively. Distance fares, as in the case of gâris, might also be introduced. The difficulty of carrying the necessary money can be overcome by adopting a system of checks for these several amounts. These checks should be saleable at the Treasury and Police Stations in the Colony and could be redeemed by the coolies on presentation at the Treasury in office hours.

Great care would have to be taken to guard against the acceptance, for redemption, of forged checks, not issued by the Treasury or a Police Station.

As it is a practice for Chinese engaging public chairs and rickshas to bargain for rates below the tariff rates, it is clear that licensed coolies are willing to take passengers at reduced fares.

22. We are not aware whether the public revenue of \$55,000 which was the sum derived in 1900 from the licensing of carriages, chairs, &c. would be materially affected by our proposal, but we submit that, even though the public revenue from this particular source were decreased, it would be but a small consideration to pay for the advantages resulting from a supply of private chair and ricksha coolies.

23. We have not entered into the question of the probable effect of the reduction in public fares for short times and distances upon the number of public vehicles which might continue to ply, but we see no reason to think that the approximate equalisation of the earnings of public and private coolies would tend to drive public vehicles off the streets, because we think that the earnings still procurable in Hongkong as compared with the earnings procurable in China, would continue to attract Chinese from the mainland.

24. It appears to us that the community's independence of private coolies' services would be aided by the establishment of a larger number of chair or ricksha stands or ranks. Take the Peak as an example. If stands or ranks for chairs were placed at such points as Plantation Road Station, underneath Craigieburn and at the bifurcation of the roads round Mount Kellett, it is obvious that this convenience would render Peak residents more or less independent of private coolies.

It would also aid in the same direction if the chair stand at Victoria Gap were on the public telephone system. An English-speaking Chinese should be put in charge who should depute certain chairs to go where wanted. The number and destination of the chair should be entered in a book kept by the Chinese in charge, and complaints of non-compliance with telephone messages should be sent to and investigated by the Captain Superintendent of Police.

25. We surmise that private coolies occasionally elude the vigilance of the Police and succeed in acting as substitutes for public coolies, or themselves employ what look like private rickshas in soliciting fares.

26. We recommend that the Police, when on ordinary duty, should more frequently, and especially at night, require chair and ricksha coolies to show their licences, and should arrest and charge all who do not produce their licences, or who produce licences not bearing the photograph of the person producing it.

27. We strongly recommend that one or more members of the Police Force, who might be called Inspectors of Public Vehicles (as there already is an Inspector of Weights and Measures) should be appointed and detached to exercise special supervision

over all licensed public vehicles and coolies whilst they are plying for hire in the streets. These Inspectors should have travelling allowances and should be here, there, and everywhere, calling on all kinds of vehicle coolies to produce their licences. This proposal is not intended to be in substitution for the recommendation that the Police on ordinary duty should constantly call for and examine the licences. It would be an additional help, we think, in cases where an unlicensed person is found plying a licensed vehicle, to make the licensed drawer, driver or bearer also liable to be heavily punished.

28. It appears from the evidence that the Chinese generally do not wish that any steps should be taken to register or otherwise control coolies in their employ : therefore, we have no recommendation to make on this point, though we venture the opinion that they will be likely to share in any benefits which may result from the adoption of our proposals.

29. If on consideration it is thought desirable, we see no objection to placing in the hands of persons approved by the Government the business of supplying private chair and ricksha coolies at a given rate of wages, and in accordance with a scheme submitted to the Government on 2nd August, 1901, by the Captain Superintendent of Police and annexed as Appendix *G* to this report. The rate of wages set forth in that scheme, however, might, in our opinion, be reduced, if the legislation and the remedial measures which we have submitted, are carried into effect.

30. Nevertheless, we are of opinion that our proposals, if carried out, might render a resort to such a scheme unnecessary, and that the market could be supplied without it.

31. As the preamble of the Commission issued to us recognises the existing difficulty of procuring and retaining reliable private chair and ricksha coolies, and we are of opinion that that difficulty, if firmly faced with a determination to remove it, would largely if not entirely disappear, we beg respectfully but emphatically to urge that our proposals be given a trial during the *coming winter months*, that no threats of opposition or rumours of a strike be allowed to thwart an attempt to remedy the prevailing difficulties and inconvenience, and that it should be fully recognised that a difficulty of this nature, arising in connection with the employment of Orientals, will only become aggravated, if not grappled with sternly and speedily. The community may have to face a brief dislocation of the private coolie service, but will, we think, be amply repaid for any temporary discomfort by the benefits expected to accrue.

32. In advance, we would earnestly deprecate any opposition to a fresh attempt to enforce registration on new lines and to make it effective by means of the penal clause, because such registration and such penal clause may not in the opinion of some prove effective and may involve slight personal trouble, inconvenience and loss of time.

33. We trust that all ranks and divisions of the non-Chinese community will be prepared to co-operate in order to make the legislation and measures, which we have proposed, effective and workable. If this co-operation, either from purely selfish considerations or out of mere sentiment, be withheld by an influential minority, it is to be feared that no remedial measures devised to meet the emergency can be successful.

We therefore hope that the wealthier members of the non-Chinese community will sink all considerations of personal inconvenience, dignity, trouble and loss of time, and will combine with the less favoured members of that community in lending their support to provide a remedy for the admitted evils which have given rise to this Commission.

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
(Chairman).

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX.

F. J. BADELEY.

HONGKONG, 6th November, 1901.

APPENDIX A.

COMMISSION BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF HONGKONG.

[L.S.] HENRY ARTHUR BLAKE,
Governor.

WHEREAS it is expedient that a Commission be appointed to enquire into and report on the question of the existing difficulty of procuring and retaining reliable chair and jinricksha coolies for private chairs and jinrickshas with special reference to the following points, viz.:—

- (a.) What are the causes of the existing difficulty?
- (b.) Whether it is advisable and practicable to introduce any, and (if any) what legislation on the subject?
- (c.) What other (if any) remedial measures should be taken?
- (d.) Whether any proposed legislation or other measures should embrace coolies in the employ of Chinese and non-Chinese alike?

Now, therefore, I, Sir HENRY ARTHUR BLAKE, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor of the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies and Vice-Admiral of the same, do hereby under the powers vested in me by Ordinance 27 of 1886, entitled the Commissioners Powers Ordinance, 1886, appoint you:—

1. THOMAS SERCOMBE SMITH,
2. ROBERT CHATTERTON WILCOX,
3. FRANCIS JOSEPH BADELEY,

to be a Commission for the purpose of instituting, making, and conducting such enquiry; And I do hereby appoint you the said THOMAS SERCOMBE SMITH to be Chairman of such Commission; And I do hereby appoint LEO. D'ALMADA E CASTRO to be Secretary to such Commission; And I do hereby order and direct that for all or any of the purposes of this Commission two Members thereof inclusive of the Chairman shall be and constitute a quorum.

And I do further hereby order and direct that the said Commission shall, for the purpose of making the said enquiry, have all such powers as are vested in the Supreme Court of this Colony or in any Judge thereof on the occasion of any suit or action in respect of the following matters, viz.:—

- (a.) The enforcing the attendance of witnesses and examining them on oath, affirmation or otherwise, as the Commissioners or any of them may think fit.
- (b.) The compelling the production of documents.
- (c.) The punishing persons guilty of contempt.
- (d.) The ordering an inspection of any property.

And also the power, for the purposes of this Commission, to enter and view any premises. And I do hereby further direct that every examination of witnesses shall be held in private; And I do further direct that any person examined as a witness in the enquiry aforesaid who in the opinion of the Commissioners makes a full and true disclosure touching all the matters in respect of which he is examined shall receive a certificate under the hand of the Chairman or presiding Member of the Commission, countersigned by the Secretary, stating that the witness has upon his examination made a full and true disclosure as aforesaid, as provided by section 4 of the before mentioned Ordinance; And I do further require you to report to me the evidence and your opinion thereon; And I hereby charge all persons in the Public Service to assist you herein.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the Colony in Executive Council, this 28th day of August, A.D. 1901.

By Command,

C. CLEMENTI,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

Council Chamber, Hongkong, 28th August, 1901.

APPENDIX B.

EVIDENCE OF WITNESSES.*

APPENDIX C.

PRIVATE CHAIR AND RICKSHA COOLIES COMMISSION.

As the Commission investigating the question of private chair and ricksha coolies cannot examine *vivâ voce* more than a limited number of witnesses, the Commissioners will be glad to receive, within three days, signed communications addressed: "Secretary, Commission, Supreme Court" containing answers to the following questions:—

<i>Questions.</i>	<i>Answers.</i>
1.—Have you had difficulty in <i>procuring</i> private chair and/or ricksha coolies?	1.—
2.—Have you had difficulty in <i>retaining</i> private chair and/or ricksha coolies?	2.—
3.—What are the causes of the difficulty in 1 and 2?	3.—
4.—What wages are you paying now?	4.—
5.—What wages did you pay five years ago?	5.—
6.—Are you in favour of making persons who engage unlicensed or unregistered private chair and ricksha coolies liable to a fine in the Police Court, if any system of licensing or registration is introduced?	6.—

Signature

Residence

APPENDIX D.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS NOS. 1, 2 AND 6 IN APPENDIX C.

Question 1.

CHAIR COOLIES.		RICKSHA COOLIES.	
Yes.	No.	Yes.	No.
89.	29.	78.	22.

* Not printed.

Question 2.

CHAIR COOLIES.		RICKSHA COOLIES.	
Yes.	No.	Yes.	No.
95.	21.	78.	19.

Question 6.

Yes.	No.	Yes : Conditionally.
78.	24.	26.

N.B.—The replies to Questions 4 and 5 shew that monthly wages paid five years ago ranged from \$6 to \$8.50 according to circumstances, and that present wages range from \$8 to \$12 according to circumstances.

APPENDIX E.

Selection of Answers to Questions in Appendix C.

G. C. ANDERSON, "Eilandonan," Mount Kellet.

1.—No difficulty in procuring chair coolies for the Peak. Great difficulty in procuring ricksha coolies in Town.

2.—Yes, with ricksha coolies, not with chair coolies.

3.—The ricksha coolies were frequently absent when wanted, and, when spoken to, they always demanded more pay; in consequence of this I discarded my private ricksha and now use the public ricksha.

4.—For chair coolies at the Peak I pay \$9.00 per month.

5.—\$7.50 for chair coolies. \$7.00 for ricksha coolies.

6.—Yes, anything to remedy the existing state of affairs. I would favour recognizing and regulating the Guilds, like Trades Unions in England.

THOS. ARNOLD, 4, Albany.

1.—Yes.

2.—Yes.

3.—(1.) Coolies said that they could make more money as street chair coolies.

(2.) Objected to do any work in addition to that of carrying the chair which only occupied them about an hour each day.

Found them more bother than they were worth, so gave up employing them a year ago.

4.—At that time was paying \$8.50 to \$9.00 per month per man.

5.—\$7.00 per month per man.

6.—Certainly not.

FRANK COLLINS, "Dunford," The Peak.

1.—Yes.

2.—Yes.

3.—In June last, the coolies wanted an increase of \$2.00 per month each. I refused, they left. Other coolies applied for the job, but all wanted \$10.00 or \$11.00 per month each, which I would not give.

I engaged at beginning of this month (September) 2 coolies at \$9.00 per month each.

4.—\$9.00 per month.

5.—\$7.00 per month.

6.—Yes. All servants should be registered.

WM. A. CRUICKSHANK, "Redhill," The Peak.

1.—Chair coolies—Yes.

2.—Chair coolies—Yes.

3.—Refusal of coolies to do anything but carry a chair. Last summer two chair coolies left because they were asked to carry up a box of claret to the Peak for our Mess, and for over a month I was "tabooed."

Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s Compradore was powerless to get two new coolies, notwithstanding his influential position.

The Compradore of Sugar Refinery obtained two when asked to do so, and the men came, agreed on wages, &c., and within two hours were intimidated and driven away.

4.—\$8.00 per coolie. (Very easy situation, to and from tram.)

5.—\$7.00.

6.—Certainly not, for the reason I do not believe the Government will succeed in making private servants register.

WM. DANBY, 5, Queen's Gardens.

1.—Yes.

2.—Yes.

3.—Combination among chair coolies, especially among those in the neighbourhood of Queen's Gardens. On several occasions the whole district has been boycotted owing I presume to the refusal of a resident to pay the increased wages demanded by the coolies.

4.—\$9.50 and \$8.50.

5.—\$7.00.

6.—Yes.

W. CLEMENT DREW, 1 Canton Villas, Kowloon.

1.—Yes.

2.—Yes.

3.—The coolies obtainable at Kowloon are practically no use whatever; in addition to this they are very insolent, especially to ladies, and the least complaint brings the

reply that if you do not like it you had better get another man. Unless very stringent measures are taken, it will soon be impossible to obtain a private chair or ricksha coolie.

4.—Cannot get one under \$9 a month.

5.—Seven dollars.

6.—Certainly, unless this is done there might just as well be no registration at all, as the majority will not take the trouble unless they are compelled.

JAMES M. FORBES, China Sugar Refinery Co., East Point.

1.—Yes.

2.—Yes.

3.—Outside ricksha labour more remunerative ever since the occupation of the Philippines by America.

4.—\$9 per month.

5.—\$7.50.

6.—Most certainly.

A. FUCKEERA, Army and Navy Contractor, 20, Yee Wo Street.

1.—Yes.

2.—Not very much.

3.—(1.) Owing to house rent being very high, and the prevalence of plague, very few disengaged coolies remain in the Colony to look for employment. (2.) A strong, able-bodied coolie considers he can make more money by running a private ricksha on his own account, and hire himself and ricksha out to visitors, or Captains of merchant ships.

4.—Ten dollars.

5.—Eight dollars.

6.—No, necessities compel employers to engage the first coolie he can get, whether the man is licensed or otherwise.

R. MACLEAN GIBSON, London Mission House.

1.—Yes, chair coolies.

2.—Yes, chair coolies.

3.—(1.) They demand more wages than I can give. (2.) I find that they are becoming very insolent and even very reasonable demands are demurred at, with the result that I have often to dismiss them.

4.—Eight dollars per month.

5.—Two years ago paid seven dollars per month. (Only came to Colony three and a half years ago.)

6.—Yes. (If registration is to be of any use there must be uniform action on part of employers of chair coolies or ricksha coolies.)

C. L. GORHAM, Barker Road.

1.—Yes, sometimes.

2.—Occasionally.

3.—Have had no difficulty with the office coolies, but at my house: 1st—they want to dictate terms; 2nd—they are very cheeky and lazy. D'ont want to do anything but carry the chair and pull the ricksha, and very little of that. When they are told to go to the East they send to the West.

4.—\$9 per month.

5.—\$7 per month.

6.—I am in favour of registering all servants—boys and cooks especially. If a comprehensive scheme of registration is adopted, I would be in favour of enforcing a fine against those who employ unregistered servants; but I am decidedly opposed to it, if it is only a question of chair and ricksha coolies.

W. D. GRAHAM, "Burrington," The Peak.

1.—No.

2.—No.

3.—Not having experienced it I cannot say.

4.—\$8.50 per coolie.

5.—\$7.

6.—No. As long as my work is done, I don't care what my coolies do with their spare time, and when I employ outside coolies, I do not ask where they come from.

CHARLOTTE P. HANCE, 7, Seymour Terrace.

1.—Great difficulty.

2.—Yes, they leave without any notice, or excuse.

3.—(1.) If a coolie makes a complaint against his employer, the Guild prevents others from coming to seek employment. (2.) They seem to have made a stand for higher wages. (3.) Coolies seem scarce; also those carrying outside or licensed chairs make so much money, that they will not enter private service.

4.—\$9 each coolie.

5.—\$6.50 each coolie.

6.—Yes.

J. W. HARRIS, Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co.

1.—Yes.

2.—Yes.

3.—In No. 1 is that they ask too high a price for wages. In No. 2 is that as soon as they get their first month's pay they want to leave without giving a month's notice as agreed when I engage them. They are cheeky and lazy and if you check them for not doing their work properly, they want to leave at once. I have been to Police Station on several occasions, and once a Sergeant of Police at No. 2 Station told my

wife that she could not charge our ricksha coolie because he was not reckoned as a servant.

- 4.—Nine dollars per month.
- 5.—Seven dollars per month.
- 6.—Yes.

G. MONTAGU HARSTON, Queen's Gardens.

- 1.—Yes, the utmost difficulty in procuring both chair and ricksha coolies.
- 2.—Yes, especially at the beginning of the summer.
- 3.—(1.) A demand for higher wages. (2.) Higher wages and lighter work being obtainable elsewhere in the Colony.
- 4.—\$9 per month.
- 5.—Three and a half years ago I paid \$7.
- 6.—Yes, strongly in favour of such a measure.

WILLIAM HARTIGAN, "Scarteen," MacDonnell Road.

- 1.—Yes, frequently during the last two years.
- 2.—Yes, much difficulty lately.
- 3.—Wages, objections to doing house work, such as washing verandahs, &c., and complaints of hard work and various other petty reasons. In some cases dismissed for rudeness.
- 4.—\$8.50 per month.
- 5.—\$7.00 per month.
- 6.—Yes.

T. F. HOUGH, C/o. HUGHES & HOUGH.

- 1.—No.
- 2.—No.
- 3.—Some time ago I used to keep private chair coolies, but had trouble with them; since then I have always employed an outside licensed chair. I employ two private coolies for my jinricksha, which I have generally finished with by about 5 p.m., after which hour have seen my private coolies carrying outside licensed chairs; whether the coolies have licences or not I do not know.
- 4.—\$8.00 per month.
- 5.—\$7.00 per month.
- 6.—Yes.

F. HOWELL, 20, Morrison Hill Road.

- 1.—Yes, ricksha coolies.
- 2.—Yes.
- 3.—Cannot say; on receiving their pay, they state that they are going home, although I have seen several coolies that were formerly in my employ, running public rickshas. At times they have provided a substitute just from the country; when used

to running the ricksha, he would leave; these have been Chin Chew men. My present coolie is a Hakka man, and understands very little Cantonese.

- 4.—Nine Dollars per month.
- 5.—Seven Dollars per month.
- 6.—Yes, not only coolies, but boys, cooks and other servants.

JOHN A. JUPP, "Ian Mor," Peak Road.

- 1.—Yes.
- 2.—Not lately.
- 3.—The question of wages was the principal difficulty: until I paid \$9.00 a month to each coolie I was unable to procure any. A number of coolies left my employ complaining of too much work; they seemed to think that if they carried me to my office in the morning and brought me back at night it was all they ought to be expected to do.
- 4.—\$9.00 a month.
- 5.—\$7.00 to \$7.50 a month.
- 6.—Yes.

H. KUSAKABE & Co., "Edenhall," Lower Richmond Road.

- 1.—Yes.
- 2.—Yes.
- 3.—(1.) There is no place to apply for coolies. (2.) We don't know, but generally our coolies will not stay long.
- 4.—\$8.00 for one chair coolie when chair is carried by two coolies. \$8.00 for ricksha coolie when we employ two coolies for one ricksha, but if one coolie only for a ricksha we have to pay \$10.00 for one coolie.
- 5.—We don't know.
- 6.—We hope a system of licensing or registration is introduced, but we are not in favour of making persons liable to a fine, as we are not sure whether all the good coolies will register or not, and probably we can get honest coolies among those who have no licence.

D. R. LAW, "Formosa," The Peak.

- 1.—It is not an easy matter to secure reliable coolies.
- 2.—Yes, they come and go as it pleases them.
- 3.—The great demand and the restless spirit engendered thereby. When employment is easily procured and there is no incentive to behave and retain their situations, the coolies take offence at the smallest provocation (?) and leave first favourable opportunity, very often at much inconvenience to their employers. Were situations difficult to obtain this would disappear. The fact is demand is greater than the supply.
- 4.—\$8.50
- 5.—\$7.50.

6.—No, punish the coolie for not having a licence. If it is made obligatory for the coolies to obtain licences (at a small cost) before they can secure employment, they will very quickly fall into line if the Government keep a stiff front and refuse to listen to the many protests that are sure to follow legislation.

B. LAYTON, 1, Gough Hill, The Peak.

1.—Yes.

2.—Yes.

3.—Request for higher wages, or unjustifiable complaints of overwork—work done by chair coolies at Peak in former times without demur. At Peak, coolies remained in same employ for years. Carry water from various wells for the supply of household; carry one down from Peak to Victoria in morning; up again in afternoon; carry me out to dinner and back from time to time; assist in house work when requested. To-day, carry to Tram, perhaps back; object to night work, refuse to assist in house work and want Tram tickets!

4.—Chair coolies \$8.50 per man. Ricksha coolies \$9.00 per man.

5.—Chair coolies \$7.50 per man. Ricksha coolies \$7.50 per man.

6.—Yes.

R. K. LEIGH, 1, Hillside, The Peak.

1.—No.

2.—Yes.

3.—In my opinion the difficulty is caused by the fact that during the Summer months the outside chair and ricksha coolies make more money than the private coolies, besides being their own masters. This causes them to be very independent and to leave on the slightest pretext. There is seldom any difficulty with coolies during the winter months.

4.—\$8.00.

5.—\$7.00.

6.—Yes, if a proper system is enforced.

F. MAITLAND, "Nettlewood."

1.—Yes.

2.—Yes.

3.—Increase of wages.

4.—\$9 per month.

5.—\$7 per month.

6.—Yes.

GODFREY C. C. MASTER, 12, Queen's Road Central and No. 4, Morrison Hill.

1.—Yes.

2.—Yes.

3.—I think the Coolie Guild. I can in connection with my own coolies give an instance as to how I think the Guild interfered with my private chair coolies.

4.—\$9 per month and 25 cents for firewood.

5.—\$7.50, no firewood.

6.—Certainly, so long as equally good servants at the same rate of wages can be engaged from amongst registered coolies. Unless there is some restriction imposed against engaging unregistered coolies, many will not take any trouble in the matter.

K. W. MOUNSEY, No. 2 "Goolistan," Conduit Road.

1.—Private chair and ricksha coolies—wages are so absurdly high in comparison with the work required of them that I prefer to employ the outside men.

2.—When I did employ private chair and ricksha coolies, it was impossible to retain them for any length of time.

3.—Want of combination on the part of employers to keep wages within a reasonable figure, and a disinclination on the part of the Magistrates to convict coolies when charged before them on the ground that they are *not domestic servants*.

4.—None to private coolies, their wages are too high. \$10 a month for an outside chair whenever I want it.

5.—\$7 per month per coolie.

6.—Certainly. It was on account of a series of reports which I made to Mr. May that he brought forward the registration scheme again the other day. See my letter to him about a year ago.

F. POWELL, Commodore, Commodore's Bungalow, The Peak.

1.—Yes.

2.—Yes.

3.—They ask for higher wages than I consider sufficient. Those I get are weakly and lazy, it takes four of them to carry me to my house when two outside chair coolies do it. They leave either without notice at all or on the most frivolous excuses, and expect to do little or no work.

4.—\$8.50 a month. Each coolie has a waterproof and a blanket.

5.—\$7.50 a month and as above.

6.—Yes.

A. G. ROMANO, "Duart," Arbuthnot Road, No. 15.

1.—Very difficult to obtain private chair coolies.

2.—Yes, they constantly change and have new substitutes in their places.

3.—No. 1 because they prefer to ply for hire their chairs or they ask high wages. No. 2 because they find excuses to go home to leave their places for substitutes.

4.—Nine dollars each coolie per month.

5.—Seven dollars each coolie per month.

6.—Yes.

GEO. J. B. SAYER, 2, Kimberly Villas, Kowloon.

1.—Yes.

2.—Yes.

3.—The coolies obtainable at Kowloon are of an inferior class and are practically no good for the work; they are independent and cheeky, more especially to ladies, which makes it impossible to retain their services. I have had over ten years' experience and submit that some stringent measures should be taken to ensure a proper service.

4.—Not obtainable under nine dollars.

5.—Six to seven dollars.

6.—Most decidedly.

E. H. SHARP, "Homestead," The Peak.

1.—No.

2.—No.

3.—I gather that there is a considerable shortness of chair and ricksha coolies in the colony. Those therefore in private employment probably choose the easiest places, and the ambitious go to outside work where they can make more money.

4.—\$8 a month with \$1 extra to the No. 1.

5.—\$7.50 a month with \$1 extra to the No. 1.

6.—This does not seem feasible unless enough licensed or registered coolies can be assured to go round.

A. H. SKELTON, "Tarawera," Upper Richmond Road.

1.—No, simply because I've had a really good No. 1 man who has saved me all trouble.

2.—No, for the reason given above.

3.—

4.—\$8.50 (chair) 4, and find them in firewood.

5.—Did not have them then.

6.—Certainly, by all means, as that in my opinion is the only way to make the system work satisfactorily.

J. J. SPOONER, Opium Farm.

1.—Yes, great difficulty.

2.—In retaining the original ones I engaged—Yes. I find that after a short time I am put off with substitutes.

3.—The principal cause in No. 1 is wages and refusal to do any house work, such as chopping firewood and washing floors and windows. The difficulty I find in retaining coolies is about the hours of work: mine come at 9 a.m. and finish from 6.30 to 7

p.m.; I give them from an hour and a half to two hours in the middle of the day for tiffin. They contend that 7 p.m. is too late.

4.—\$8.50 and the coolies do nothing but ricksha work.

5.—\$8 and every Sunday the coolies scrubbed the floor, cleaned the windows, &c.; during the week they chopped firewood or did any odd jobs required about the house.

6.—Most certainly.

H. E. TOMKINS, "Treverbyn," The Peak.

1 and 2.—No.

4.—\$8.50.

5.—\$7.00.

6.—Unnecessary. Everyone would require their coolies to be registered if the system was introduced.

GEO. L. TOMLIN, "Cringleford," 45, Robinson Road.

1.—Yes.

2.—No.

3.—(1.) The extortionate rate of wages demanded by chair coolies. I keep four of them. (2.) No difficulty so far, for the simple reason that they have never been called upon to do anything extra since I have had them (7 weeks), but I feel they are masters of the situation and that they will strike the first time they are told to do something extra, for instance, take me out to dinner, &c.

4.—\$9.50 but providing them with no quarters.

5.—\$7.00 with quarters, \$7.50 without quarters, and much stronger men too.

6.—Certainly, provided a satisfactory system can be introduced.

T. H. WHITEHEAD, Manager, Chartered Bank of I. A. & China, "Charter House."

1.—Yes.

2.—Yes.

3.—The Manager's four chair coolies absconded on 31st May last without giving any notice and without any reason assigned. It was not possible to secure other coolies until end of July. They simply declined service, and public chair coolies were not always readily or easily obtainable.

4.—The head coolie \$12 and three others \$10 each per month.

5.—Head coolie \$8.50 and three others \$7.50 each per month.

6.—Yes, if any thoroughly effective system of licensing or registration can be introduced.

APPENDIX F.

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance to provide for the Registration of Chair and Jinricksha Coolies in private employ.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the Registration of Chair and Jinricksha Coolies in private employ :

Be it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows :—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as “The Private Coolie Ordinance, 1901.”

2. In this Ordinance, the word “coolie” means a Chinese employed by a non-Chinese as the bearer of a chair or the puller of a jinricksha.

The word “master” means a non-Chinese employing a coolie.

3. A Register of Coolies shall be kept at the Central Police Station, and shall be under the control of the Captain Superintendent of Police.

4.—(1.) Every person, who, at the commencement of this Ordinance, is employed as a coolie, shall, within thirty days next thereafter, attend at the Central Police Station and furnish the Captain Superintendent of Police with the following particulars, to be entered in such Register :—

(a.) Names.

(b.) Age.

(c.) Whether chair bearer or jinricksha puller or both.

(d.) Name and address of master.

(e.) Native place.

(f.) Such other particulars as the Captain Superintendent of Police may require.

(2.) He shall also furnish two copies of his photograph, one to be inserted in the Register, the other to be attached to the Certificate of Registration.

5. Every person, who, after the commencement of this Ordinance, shall wish to engage himself as a coolie, shall attend at the Central Police Station and supply the particulars and photographs mentioned or referred to in section 4.

6. Any person coming within the meaning of the provisions of sections 4 and 5, shall, after supplying the requisite particulars and photographs, receive from the Captain Superintendent of Police, a numbered Certificate of Registration in the form given in the Schedule hereto, or such other form as may, from time to time, be approved by the Governor-in-Council, provided always that it shall be competent for the Captain Superintendent of Police, in his discretion, to refuse such Certificate of Registration to any person.

7. The Certificate of Registration shall be issued *gratis*, and shall contain on the face thereof, the particulars, except (d.), required by section 4 to be entered in the Register. There shall be endorsed on such Certificate, the names and addresses of all masters and the periods of service with each master, and there shall be a column for remarks by a Magistrate. Moreover, the face of the Certificate shall bear the Police Department seal of which a portion shall be impressed upon the photograph.

8. Every registered coolie shall, within thirty-six hours of every change of service, report the same at the Central Police Station, and produce his Certificate for the purpose of having the name and address of his new master endorsed thereon.

9. Every coolie, within three days of entering into service, shall deliver to his master his Certificate, which shall be kept by that master and shall be returned to the coolie upon his discharge from service.

10. If the master shall lose, destroy, wilfully deface or refuse to deliver to the coolie upon discharge, the Certificate delivered to him as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the Captain Superintendent of Police, upon complaint by a coolie and after due inquiries as to the facts, to issue to such coolie a duplicate of such Certificate, and to recover at the Magistracy from the master so acting, a sum not exceeding Five Dollars on the issue of the duplicate: provided also, that if any coolie shall lose his Certificate and shall satisfy the Captain Superintendent of Police that he has not improperly parted with it, it shall be lawful for the Captain Superintendent of Police to issue a fresh Certificate to such coolie, whereupon, the previous Certificate shall be deemed to be cancelled, and any person found to be making any use whatsoever of the cancelled Certificate shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Fifty Dollars.

11. On the expiration of Thirty days after the coming into operation of this Ordinance, it shall not be lawful for a master to engage or employ, for any period exceeding forty-eight hours, any coolie who has not been registered under the provisions of this Ordinance, and has not produced his Certificate of Registration to such master, and it shall not be lawful for any coolie who is not registered under the provisions of this Ordinance and does not produce a Certificate of Registration at the time of seeking employment, to offer his services to any master or to enter into the employ of any master. Any master or coolie acting in contravention of this section, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Twenty-five Dollars or, in default of payment, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month.

12. Where any agreement of service exists between a master and an unregistered coolie, such agreement, whether in writing or otherwise, shall not be enforceable in any Court of Law, either by the master or by the coolie.

13. In the absence of any contract to the contrary, every registered coolie shall, by his contract of service, be deemed to have contracted to perform such services as carrying notes, running errands, acting as tennis coolie, and performing such other light duties inside and outside the house as he may be called upon by his master to perform.

14. In the absence of any contract to the contrary, the contract of service existing between master and coolie shall be deemed to be a contract of service for one calendar month at the least.

15. Every person employed as a registered coolie who shall neglect his duty, or absent himself from his duty without the leave of his master, or shall leave his master's service without giving one calendar month's notice to his master, or shall disobey any lawful or reasonable order of his master, or shall use any abusive or insulting language to his master, or shall behave abusively or insultingly to his master, or shall continue to speak in loud tones after having been once requested by his master to desist, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding Fifty Dollars, or, in default of payment, to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a period not exceeding three months.

16. Coolies, whilst accompanying their master, or carrying their master's chair, or pulling their master's jiu-rieksha, shall observe absolute silence, and no coolie shall at any time or under any circumstances shout or bawl to other persons. Any person infringing the provisions of this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Ten Dollars or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a period not exceeding fourteen days.

For the purposes of this section and section 15 the word "master" shall include every non-Chinese adult relative or guest living or being on the premises of such master.

17. Every coolie is prohibited from taking out a licence to ply any public vehicle.

18. Every coolie, whether registered or unregistered, convicted of an offence against this Ordinance for which no special penalty is provided, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Fifty Dollars or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a period not exceeding three months.

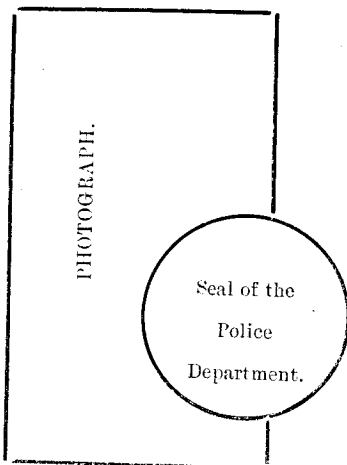
19. Every registered coolie more than once convicted of an offence against this Ordinance, shall forfeit his Certificate of Registration, and shall not again be registered as a coolie, and no unregistered coolie convicted of an offence against this Ordinance shall be registered under this Ordinance.

SCHEDULE.

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION.

No. _____

This is to certify that
 whose photograph is hereunto annexed, has been duly registered as
 a Coolie under the provisions of "The Private Coolie Ordinance,
 1901."



A. B.,
*Captain Superintendent of
 Police.*

Date _____

*Particulars required by Section 4 of the above named
 Ordinance.*

Names.	Age.	Whether Chair Bearer or Jinricksha Puller or both.	Native Place.

(Back of Certificate.)

Masters.		Period of Service of Coolie.		Remarks by Magistrate.
Name.	Address.	From	To	

APPENDIX G.

Minute by the Honourable the Captain Superintendent of Police, in C.S.O. 2804/1900.

Honourable COLONIAL SECRETARY,

The difficulties that European residents are finding with their Chinese servants, especially chair and ricksha coolies, have become more accentuated than ever during the last five months.

I have had appeals for help in getting chair and ricksha coolies from a number of residents during that period including the following:—Mr. J. Hastings, Mr. J. F. Reece, Mr. J. S. Harston, Mr. Gumpert, Commodore Powell, His Excellency Major-General Gascoigne, the Colonial Secretary, Mrs. Hance and various others whose names I cannot call to mind. I have also assisted by engaging coolies for Government House.

I have been making some enquiries into the causes of the difficulty, and I find that they are as follows:—

- (a.) Want of control.—I can get coolies for people, because I have means of getting at a headman of licensed coolies who has influence with, and knows where to look for, coolies. A private individual's house boy or No. 1 chair coolie, either will not or cannot find men in a market where labour is undoubtedly scarce.
- (b.) Want of house accommodation for coolies out of and waiting for employ.—This limits the supply.
- (c.) The dearness of rent and of living generally.—This also limits the supply, for coolies can't afford to come down from the country seeking employment, unless they are assured beforehand that they have some house to go to live in and are possessed of what is, to them, not inconsiderable sum of ready money.

Thus in 1898 it cost a chair coolie \$3.75 a month to live in a coolie house for chair coolies. They all live in these houses while looking for and when out of work, and, even when employed, frequent these houses to see their countrymen, and in many cases to sleep at night.

This sum was made up as follows, and I have set against the items the cost for the same accommodation and food at the present time:—

	1898.	1901.
Rent	\$0.25	\$1.00
Rice	1.20	1.60
Provisions	1.50	1.50
Firewood and Oil	0.60	0.90
Shaving	0.20	0.20
	\$3.75	\$5.20

I find that the large local employers of labour have had to raise the rate of wages of their Chinese employees during the last few months, and that the rise is not altogether attributable to Plague.

I am not at liberty to state the figures, which were supplied to me confidentially.

To remedy this unsatisfactory state of things I have to recommend as follows:—

- (a.) that Government build a number of houses on Mr. Chatham's model-dwellings model in Taipingshan or other convenient locality;

- (b.) and rent them to a headman of coolies at a moderate rental which will, at the same time, give Government a fair return for its money. The headman mentions a rental of 50 cents per head of coolie accommodated in the house, or \$10 a floor capable of accommodating 20 coolies, as what he considers a reasonable rental ;
- (c.) the rate of wages for the coolies supplied by the headman to be \$9 a month for Peak or Lower Levels ;
- (d.) licensing and registration of all the coolies supplied by the headman in the same manner as coolies for public vehicles and chairs are licensed ;
- (e.) enactment making it penal to employ an unlicensed coolie.

If Government is not prepared to build the coolie houses, the headman will build them himself, if he can come to reasonable terms with Government as to cost of site, etc. But in the event of his building, he must charge \$10 a month per coolie.

In my opinion it would, for many reasons, be better for Government to build.

I think something ought to be done. It is no part of the duties of the Captain Superintendent of Police to engage coolies for residents, and applications are now made so frequently that I shall soon have to decline my good offices. The service involves time and worry.

F. H. MAY,
2/8/01.

P.S.—I advise that if licensing is decided on, as I hope it will be, the coolies be tackled first. When they have been dealt with, in-door servants can, if desired, be wheeled into line.

F. H. M.

APPENDIX H.

Letter from the Honourable the Captain Superintendent of Police.

DAMPFER "PRINZESS IRENE,"
7th September, 1901.

SIR,

I would like to add to the evidence I gave before you on the 3rd instant, the following remarks in view of possible objections to putting a monopoly of supplying private chair and jinricksha coolies into the hands of one or more persons.

The licensing of these coolies would, in itself, give large and much needed control over them, and if it were adopted, it would probably be found that the coolies, like those for licensed public vehicles, would get licensed through headmen of their own.

Coolies of this class who come to the Colony to look for work are strangers to the place, and rarely have any money to keep them while looking for work. What would probably happen would be that they would ask the keeper of the lodging-house where their clansmen stop in the Colony and whither they would go on first arrival, probably under the guidance of some clansman who had been here before, or perhaps some headman of licensed chair and jinricksha coolies, to put them in the way of getting licensed and to pay the necessary fee ; and thus, in course of time, a set of headmen would spring up who would make a living out of supplying the market with private licensed coolies, just as there are headmen who supply the Colony with its licensed coolies.

I would point to the example of the manner in which public chair coolies get licensed. Hardly any of them have even the small capital necessary to own and ply a chair of their own. They look to headmen to supply them with the chairs, their photographs and their licences. These headmen are the licensees of the chairs, and it is the same with the public jinrickshas.

The system which I sketched in my memorandum of the 2nd August would give a more complete control, but the next best thing to it is licensing without a monopoly of the supply of coolies.

To forestall a possible strike, some one or two of the present headmen of licensed coolies could be easily influenced by the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police to undertake to induce a number of the coolies who are in the Colony to submit to the licensing, or to bring into the Colony and get licensed a number of coolies to take the place of the strikers.

Once the ice was broken, the licensing would go on smoothly, if a firm front were shown.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

F. H. MAY.

His Honour

Mr. Justice SERCOMBE SMITH,

*Chairman of Commission to enquire
into licensing of private coolies.*

APPENDIX I.

*Chief Detective Inspector Hanson's Memo. to Mr. F. J. Badeley, Acting Captain
Superintendent of Police.*

CENTRAL STATION,
23rd September, 1901.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following details, the result of enquiries about the pay of chair and ricksha coolies in the private employ of Chinese residents:—

- (1.) The master of the "Hang Yuen" tailors' shop in Queen's Road Central pays for chair and/or ricksha coolies \$10.00 each per month and lodges them.
- (2.) Mr. Ho Fook, Compradore of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., pays four chair and/or ricksha coolies \$9.00 each per month and lodges them. He supplies them with oil and firewood.
- (3.) Mr. Fung Wa Chiün has four coolies. Two old hands act as house-coolies in addition to being chair coolies and get free board and lodging and \$9.00 each per month. The other two, newer hands, get \$9.00 each per month and free lodging but not board.
- (4.) The Yan Wo Co. pays two coolies \$6.50 each per month and free board and lodging.
- (5.) Mr. Li Tsz Ming, a rich man living at "Greenmount," pays two coolies \$6.00 each per month and provides free board and lodging.

- (6.) The master of the "Nam Yai Lang" shop in Queen's Road Central pays two coolies \$6.00 each per month and gives free board and lodging.
- (7.) Dr. Lui Hin Tong, who has some practice amongst Portuguese also as well as Chinese, pays two chair coolies, who have to turn out on occasion at night also in addition to their day work, \$14.00 each per month, but no board or lodging.
- (8.) Dr. Lau Pun Shek, pays two coolies \$7.50 each per month and board, but no lodgings.
- (9.) Dr. Chü Ng Cho pays two coolies \$12.00 each per month but no board or lodgings.
- (10.) Hui Sun Chün, Compradore at the Government Civil Hospital, pays two coolies \$6.00 each per month and free board and lodgings.

With regard to the question of lowering the fares, I believe that, owing to the increase about to be made in the number of licensed rickshas, it is not advisable to deal with the matter in that way now. But I would suggest that the city from East to West be divided into sections and that a run over each section be charged for so much. They could be made one-cent rides.

As a matter of fact Chinese bargain with the coolie for a ride from one place to another for less than the legalized fare.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. D. HANSON,
C.D.I.

F. J. BADELEY, Esq.,
Acting Captain Superintendent of Police,
&c., &c., &c.

APPENDIX J.

Mr. A. W. Brewin's Letter to the Secretary of the Commission.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 23rd Mny, 1901.

SIR,

I shall be obliged if the Commissioners will permit me to add the following remarks as supplementary to the evidence which I gave this morning.

2. Practically there should be no difficulty in identifying coolies who have had their licences cancelled even without measurement. When everything is in working order the number of licences cancelled ought to be few and the men's photographs would be kept in a separate book or posted up in the licensing office.

3. One of the Commissioners mentioned chair coolies asking for ten or eleven dollars a month as wages. This is a little out of the way, but not much if for the Peak. A Chinese gentleman who has chair coolies told me two or three months ago that he paid eight and a half dollars a month, and that he did not think chair coolies could be obtained for less. This would make ten dollars a month for the Peak not so unreasonable.

4. The last time I thought of engaging private chair coolies was some months ago. I offered eight and a half dollars. Two sets of men came to see about the place, but they made so many conditions and required so many particulars about the work that I gave up the idea of engaging them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. BREWIN.

THE SECRETARY

to the Chair and Jinricksha Coolies Commission.

APPENDIX K.

His Honour Mr. Justice Sercombe Smith to His Excellency the Governor.

31st August, 1901.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Letter No. 172/G. of the 29th instant, inviting me to serve as Chairman of a Commission to inquire into the question of the registration of private chair and jinricksha coolies in this Colony.

2. Whilst I gladly comply with Your Excellency's request, I beg to suggest that the scope of the inquiry should be extended to include all classes of Chinese servants and labourers in European employ.

3. The reasons for this suggestion are:—

(a.) That the in-door servant question is as acute as the out-door servant question.

(b.) That, with but little additional labour, the Commission could include the in-door servant question within its inquiries.

(c.) That any legislation resulting from the inquiry and Report of the Commission and affecting only out-door servants may be resented by the out-door servants as being invidious.

4. If I recollect aright, the question of the registration of Chinese domestic servants was recently referred to the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, the Committee of which reported adversely to the proposal.

5. With all respect for the reply of the Chamber of Commerce and the decision of the Government thereon, I would point out that the opinion of the Committee of that Chamber upon the question of how to control native servants, is hardly authoritative, and that, in all probability, the Members of that Committee were mostly exempt from the inconveniences which ordinary householders experience in respect of all classes of Chinese servants.

6. Under the Compradore system, heads of the firms of which the aforesaid Committee is mainly composed, have an easy method of engaging and controlling native servants, which is not available to the average householder.

7. The Committee of the Chamber, moreover, forms a very small portion of the Community and its opinion on a matter involving no technical skill and outside the purposes of the Chamber, should, I submit, be no bar to an extension of the inquiry so as to embrace the question of the registration of all classes of Chinese servants—a question which affects and interests a large majority of the European Community, and especially the poorer classes of that Community.

8. May I also point out that any objections advanced by the Chamber against the registration of Chinese domestic servants must equally apply to the registration of purely out-door Chinese servants, and that if the objections are fatal and valid in one case, they must be fatal and valid in the other case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH.

His Excellency

THE GOVERNOR.

APPENDIX L.

His Excellency the Governor to His Honour Mr. Justice Sercombe Smith.

No. 174/g.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
HONGKONG, 2nd September, 1901.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks your letter of the 31st ultimo suggesting that the scope of inquiry into the question of the registration of private chair and jinricksha coolies should be extended to include all classes of Chinese servants and labourers in European employ.

2. I have, however, to inform you in reply that I do not propose to extend the scope of the Commission as issued.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Honour's most obedient Servant,

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor, &c.

His Honour

MR. JUSTICE SMITH.

APPENDIX M.

Letter from Mr. Wilcox to Government.

HONGKONG, 30th August, 1901.

SIR,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date inquiring whether I would be willing to serve on a Commission it is proposed by His Excellency the Governor to appoint for the purpose of inquiring into the question of private chair and jinricksha coolies in this Colony.

In reply, will you please inform His Excellency that I shall be happy to serve on such a Commission; but I beg respectfully to suggest that it is most desirable, in the interest of the general community, that the scope of the inquiry should be widened to embrace at any rate *all* domestic servants, if not outside coolies as well.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX.

HON. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.