

5. I regret to find that, with one or two exceptions, this rule has not of late years been observed, and that, in the case of some Colonies, promotion is therefore apt, occasionally, to go to the man who applies at the right moment rather than to those—possibly the more deserving—who do not press their own claims. In order to prevent such mistakes, I am anxious that the practice of making annual reports should be resumed. I need hardly say that you are not required to report upon the claims of every officer of your Government, which would be unnecessary and impracticable; but I see no reason why you should not be able to supply each year a report upon those officers whose claims to promotion either elsewhere or in the same Colony might reasonably be expected to come shortly under the consideration of the Secretary of State. It is chiefly in connexion with the transfer of officers from one Colony to another that these reports are wanted. In the Eastern Colonies the number of officers who may be desirous of such transfer, and whom it may be feasible to transfer, is comparatively small. On the other hand, in the West African Colonies a very large proportion of the European officers are desirous of being transferred.

6. Subject to these remarks, I leave it to you to determine in the first instance what officers should be reported upon. It will be convenient, for the sake of uniformity, that the reports should be made out on the forms of which I enclose copies; and as far as possible they should be arranged under the heads mentioned in Lord Derby's Circular of the 4th December, 1884,* a copy of which is enclosed, and which need not any longer be treated as confidential. The reports should be sent to me in the first instance as soon as possible after the receipt of this despatch, and in future they should be taken in hand immediately after the annual estimates have been passed and should be despatched so as to reach the Colonial Office as early after the beginning of January as may be practicable.

I should be glad also if you would invariably require officers who may be applicants for promotion to fill in, in the first place, a form of particulars similar to that now transmitted.

I have, etc.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Officer Administering the Government of
HONGKONG.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 222.—His Majesty the King has not been advised to exercise his power of disallowance with respect to the following Ordinances:—

Ordinance No. 15 of 1911, entitled—An Ordinance to amend the Census Ordinance, 1881.

Ordinance No. 16 of 1911, entitled—An Ordinance to amend the Law with respect to Persons carrying on business as Money-lenders.

Ordinance No. 18 of 1911, entitled—An Ordinance for regulating the supply of Electricity for Lighting and other purposes within the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies.

C. CLEMENTI,
Clerk of Councils.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
25th July, 1911.

APPOINTMENTS, &c.

No. 223.—His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint, under Sub-section 22 of Section 37 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, (Ordinance No. 10 of 1899), Mr. ROBERT HUNTER to be a Surveyor of Boilers of Unlicensed Steamships under 60 tons burden.

25th July, 1911.

* *Note.*—This Circular was not at the time sent to all the Colonies to which it might apply.