



# THE HONGKONG Government Gazette.

Published by Authority.

No. 30.

VICTORIA, SATURDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 1878.

VOL. XXIV.

## CHINA FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

The following correspondence is published for general information.

By Command,

J. M. PRICE,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 27th July, 1878.

SHANGHAI, *June 29th*, 1878.

To His Excellency

Honourable JOHN POPE HENNESSY,

*Governor of Hongkong,*

*&c., &c., &c.*

SIR,—Knowing the deep interest Your Excellency has taken in the work of relief for the famine stricken districts of the Province of China, I beg, as Chairman of the Shanghai Committee, to address you on the subject.

You will be informed from the detailed reports of the Catholic and Protestant Missionaries, who have so nobly devoted themselves to the work, that the funds placed in their hands have been of the greatest service, and that the measures adopted by them in various parts of the Country have been most effective for the alleviation of the wide spread misery: you will also have learned that abundant rains have at length fallen throughout most of the famine districts, so that there is good reason to believe when the autumn harvests are reaped, the horrors of the famine will be greatly at an end, and its intensity so far abated, that the native authorities will be sufficiently able to cope with it. Between the present time and the autumn, however, a most critical period has to be passed, and both classes of Missionaries in the field are most pressing in their appeals for further assistance to enable them to continue the systems of relief which they have organized, and without which they assure us the fruits of their labours and expenditure must to a great extent be sacrificed.

In this emergency, it is with the deepest regret we find ourselves unable fully to meet the urgent calls thus made upon us. Contributions from Great Britain, on which we have chiefly depended, have recently fallen off materially, and local sources of supply are well nigh exhausted.

Under these circumstances, while thanking you most gratefully for the kind and liberal response you were pleased to make to our former appeal for assistance, we venture to make a second application, hoping that your Excellency may be induced to recommend the appropriation of a further sum from the funds of the Colony, for the charitable work we have at heart, as special help at the present time would be most opportune and accomplish a very large amount of good.

I remain,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

W. S. WETMORE,  
*Chairman of the  
China Famine Relief Committee.*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
HONGKONG, 27th July, 1878.

SIR,—After giving my best consideration to your letter of the 29th of June, and with the most anxious desire to meet your wishes, I do not think I should be justified in recommending any further appropriation from the Treasury of this Colony for the China Famine Relief Fund.

2. My predecessor, Sir ARTHUR KENNEDY, obtained a vote of \$1,380 and I had the satisfaction of obtaining the consent of the Legislative Council, and of Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH to a further vote of \$10,000. In addition to this, the European Community here subscribed about \$12,900, and the Chinese Community about \$108,000; being a total of over one hundred and thirty-two thousand dollars.

3. Looking to the limited population of this Colony, it may perhaps be only fair to say, that no Community in any part of the Globe has contributed more, in proportion, for the Famine Fund than the Community of Hongkong.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. POPE HENNESSY.

W. S. WETMORE, Esquire,  
*Chairman of the  
China Famine Relief Fund.*

### CHINESE HOUSES.

The following Documents relating to the structures of Chinese Houses in the Chinese part of the Town of Victoria, are published for general information.

By Command,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 27th July, 1878.

PRICE,  
Secretary.

(Translation.)

To His Excellency

JOHN POPE HENNESSY, I.G.,  
Governor of Hongkong,  
&c., &c., &c.

The humble Memorial of the undersigned, Land Owners  
and Residents in the Colony of Hongkong.

SHEWETH:—Your Memorialists venture to memorialize your Excellency with reference to the following subject:—

A letter has been brought to their notice recently addressed by the Honourable Mr. PRICE, Surveyor General, to Mr. R. G. ALFORD, regarding certain plans for Chinese houses, prepared by the latter, as Architect, for Mr. LEE TAK CHEONG and others, which had been officially laid before Mr. PRICE. Your Memorialists observe from this letter that your Excellency concurs in objections raised to these plans by the Surveyor General on the ground that houses built in accordance with them would be unhealthy, and in the suggestions made by the Surveyor General for improving the ventilations of the houses by widening an alley space already allowed for in one plan, and by allowing space for two alleys where such had not been provided for in the other.

The terms of Mr. PRICE's letter lead your Memorialists to infer that your Excellency in concurring in the suggested alterations and the reasons for them is, to a certain extent, laying down or is prepared to lay down general principles for the guidance of all land owners intending to build Chinese houses, because having been shewn the plans in question they observe that the buildings as designed are for a very superior class of residence, that they provide for the ordinary requirements of