

No. 178.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

SUNDAY LABOUR.

The following Correspondence is published for general information.

By Command,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 14th September, 1878.

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

HONGKONG, 15th May, 1878.

SIR,—I consider it my duty to submit for your consideration the necessity which seems to me to exist for discontinuing, as far as possible, the employment of Chinese, and other labour, in Government departments, on Sundays.

Highly appreciating Your Excellency's cordial interest in the well-being of the Native population, I am induced to believe that the subject will, if it has not done so already, engage your anxious attention.

Although, unfortunately, opinions differ among Christians as to the lawfulness of secular Recreations on the LORD's day, I am not aware but that the keeping it as a Day of Rest from manual labour, is a duty acknowledged by all.

And the terms of the Commandment which describes our Sabbath obligations, since they include "the Stranger that is within our gates," doubtless embrace the population who are residing here under our National laws and protection.

If circumstances could be pleaded in extenuation of the neglect of this subject in past years, the admirable opportunities presented by the settled and flourishing condition of the Colony, seem to make the call imperative for dealing with it, now, in another manner.

I earnestly hope, then, that Your Excellency and Council will be of opinion that all Chinese Coolie, and other labour, on Sundays, under ordinary circumstances, should be abolished in Government works; and that this proviso be made in future contracts.

The objections which may be raised against this course will be found, I am convinced, inconsiderable, and will be altogether outweighed by its advantages, in the fulfilment of a duty; setting an example of consistency; and bestowing great physical benefit on a large number of industrious labourers; besides tending to promote the observance of the Sabbath, generally, and to the Native and Foreign.

It is probable that the cause of the absence of progress in the arts of civilization, together with the attachment under debasing superstitions seen in heathen lands, and so notorious in China, is a little due to the want of that Divinely appointed season of repose which enables the human mind to invigorate itself by reflection and rest.

For the same reason, and for many others which will present themselves to Your Excellency, I trust that you will be induced to adopt the best and speediest means to relieve the Colony from the demoralization caused by the sights and sounds of Sunday toil under Government authority; and thereby set a befitting and widely influential standard for the practice of private individuals, and our Commercial Firms.

I have the honour to remain,  
Sir,  
Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

EDMUND DAVYS,  
*Acting Colonial Chaplain.*

To His Excellency  
The Governor in Council.

[No. 403.]

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
HONGKONG, 16th May, 1878.

REV. SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, and to inform you that His Excellency the Governor agrees with you as to the desirability, if practicable, of stopping all Sunday labour in Government Departments, and that he will give the whole subject his best consideration.

I have the honour to be,  
Rev. Sir,  
Your most obedient Servant,

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

The Rev. EDMUND DAVYS, M.A.,  
*Acting Colonial Chaplain.*

[No. 646.]

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
HONGKONG, 14th August, 1878.

REV. SIR,—Adverting to my letter No. 403 of the 16th May, I have the honour to inform you that Governor POPE HENNESSY having carefully considered the objections you have taken to the practice of Sunday labour by Government employées, which has prevailed in Hongkong for many years past, has given instructions that His Excellency hopes will put a stop to all labour of the kind in future, except that which may be absolutely necessary and unavoidable

I have the honour to be,

Rev. Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

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

The Rev. EDMUND DAVYS,  
*Acting Colonial Chaplain.*

No. 179.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION.

The following Documents are published for general information.

By Command,

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

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 14th September, 1878.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

HONGKONG, 12th September, 1878.

SIR,—With reference to the Competitive Examination for the vacant post of Shroff (including also the duties of an English and Chinese Clerk) at the Supreme Court, we have the honour to report:—

1. All the candidates who at the preliminary examination, conducted by the Honourable C. B. PLUNKET, and to have any knowledge of English at all, were summoned to present themselves for examination at the Government Central School.

2. Of the 15 Candidates thus summoned, only 6 presented themselves for examination, two of whom begged to be allowed to withdraw before the whole examination was completed, viz., Nos. 8 and No. 16, so that only 4 Candidates submitted to the whole examination, viz., Nos. 14, No. 15, and No. 18.

3. These 6 Candidates were examined according to the scheme approved by His Excellency the Governor, and the results are detailed in the appended tabulated statement, from which it will appear that the Candidates ranged as follows:—

No. 15, .....	63 Marks.
„ 6, .....	38 „
„ 14, .....	31 „
„ 16, .....	24 „
„ 8, .....	22 „
„ 18, .....	14 „

4. The only Candidate whom we can recommend for the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Governor is No. 15, Mr. CHUNG-SHING-HONG, who passed well in every subject, and regarding whom the Honourable C. B. PLUNKET writes in his list No. 15, “an intelligent smart man, speaks, reads and writes English remarkably well for a Chinaman;” which remark the undersigned are fully able to endorse.

5. The examination papers of all the Candidates and the testimonials of Mr. CHUNG-SHING-HONG are herewith enclosed.

6. The testimonials of all the other Candidates and the documents which Dr. EITEL obtained from the Honourable C. B. PLUNKET for the purposes of this examination, and which are to be returned to Mr. PLUNKET, are also herewith forwarded.

E. J. EITEL.  
M. S. TONNOCHY.  
NG CHOY.

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