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## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

### POLICE DUTIES AND INCREASE OF CRIME.

The following Documents are published for general information.

By Command,

C. MAY,  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 30th September, 1878.

*His Excellency The Governor to the Honourable C. May, Acting Colonial Secretary, the  
Honourable Phineas R. Barré, and the Honourable Thomas Child Hayllar, Q.C.*

C. MAY,  
HONGKONG.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Report obtained from Mr. DEANE, the Committee, relating to the Night Duties of the Police, I should like to see you yourselves as a Committee to consider those papers on the same subject, which I enclose, and to make such enquiries as you deem necessary suggesting a more efficient disposition of the Police Force.

2. In Mr. DEANE'S Report he observes that the Beat book has been virtually unworkable since 1874, and that he has rarely enough of men to fill all the beats, in which case he has to give one man charge of two beats. The continuance of such a system since 1874 cannot be fair to Mr. DEANE and the Police Force, nor can it provide in the most efficient manner for the due security of life and property.

3. Amongst the papers enclosed I have therefore included the Annual Reports of the Captain Superintendent of Police since 1874, together with a letter written by Mr. DEANE in November last on the apparent increase of crime in Hongkong of late years. I should be glad if you would favour me with your opinions on the matters embraced in those Reports and in that Letter.

4. I have requested Mr. DEANE and Mr. CREAGH to attend any sittings of the Committee at which you may require their presence, and to give you whatever information or explanations you may deem necessary; and I hereby authorize you to call before you any Inspector or other member of the Police Force for the same purpose.

Any other public record or document, in addition to the enclosed, that you may desire to consult shall be placed at your disposal.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. POPE JENNESY,  
Governor.

#### SCHEDULE AND PRÉCIS OF DOCUMENTS LAID BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

1. Minute of His Excellency the Governor on the Police Report of the Beat Book on the night of the 29th of August, 1878, calling for a Report on the night duties of the Police, with the beats, number of men, &c. at that date, and at the same date in 1876. Report of the Captain Superintendent of Police, dated 3rd September, 1878, transmitting the information called for, with further minutes and returns on the same subject. 1 letter from the Captain Superintendent suggesting certain changes.

2. Letters from Bank Managers, dated 27th September, 1878, as to increased night patrols, with correspondence and Minutes thereon.
  3. Police Reports and Returns of Crime for the year 1874, (as published in the *Government Gazette*, February, 1875).
  4. Police Report and Returns of Crime for 1875, showing "an increase of 19.74 per cent. of serious crime" as compared with 1874, (*Government Gazette*, February, 1876).
  5. Police Report and Returns of Crime for 1876, showing "an increase of 6.45 per cent. of Serious Crime, and an increase of 23.86 per cent. of Minor Offences," as compared with 1875, (*Government Gazette*, February, 1877).
  6. Police Report and Returns of Crime for 1877, showing an "increase of 32.39 per cent. of Serious Crime, and an increase of 7.13 per cent. of Minor Offences," as compared with 1876, (*Government Gazette*, April, 1878).
  7. Despatch from Governor SIR ARTHUR KENNEDY to the EARL OF CARNARVON, dated 29th September, 1876, reporting that "various returns may hereafter indicate a serious increase of crime in this Colony," and attributing "this apparent outbreak among the population of Hongkong," to the cheap fares of the Canton River Steamers.
  8. Returns and information on this subject transmitted to the EARL OF CARNARVON by Governor POPE HENNESSY.
  9. Letters from His Excellency the Governor to Commodore WATSON and H. M. Consul at Canton, dated 3rd and 5th of May, 1877, respecting an attack by armed robbers on one of the villages in Hongkong, with subsequent Police Report of a similar attack on another village of the Colony.
  10. Statement made by His Excellency the Governor to the Legislative Council, on the 17th of September, 1877, on the increase of crime.
  11. Letter from Mr. DEANE, the Captain Superintendent of Police, dated Bath, 26th November, 1877, submitting certain explanations concerning the apparent increase of crime in Hongkong.
  12. Statement made by His Excellency the Governor to the Legislative Council, on the 12th of November 1877, on the advantage of having Steam-launches for Police purposes, with Minutes on this subject and Reports from Mr. CREAGH and Mr. DEANE.
- on the subject of increasing the number of armed Police; placing the District Captain Superintendent of Police, and further organizing the native Watchmen
- Police Reports and other Returns respecting the Police in 1878 (up to date).

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Comparative Return, prepared by the late Acting Superintendent of the Gaol, is published for general information.

By Command,

C. MAY,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 30th September, 1878.

*Number of Prisoners discharged from the Hongkong Gaol, by Pardon, Warrant, or Authority of His Excellency the Governor, before such Prisoners had served two-thirds of the sentence of imprisonment imposed by the Judges or Magistrates.\**

	EUROPEANS.	INDIANS.	CHINESE.
In the fifteen months, from 21st January, 1876, } to 21st April, 1877, .....	9	...	142
In the fifteen months, from 22nd April, 1877, } to 22nd July, 1878, .....	12	2	72

\* This list does not include Prisoners whose fines for Gambling were remitted on the recommendations of the Magistrates.

In reference to the number 142, there are twelve Chinese now in Gaol, and to the latter number 72, six are now in Gaol.

T. C. DEMPSTER, Captain,  
*Acting Superintendent  
Hongkong Gaol.*

24th July, 187