

HONGKONG.

DESPATCHES RESPECTING ADJUTANCY OF THE POLICE FORCE.

*Laid before the Legislative Council, by Command of His
Excellency the Officer Administering the Government.*

Secretary of State to Governor Sir G. W. Des Vœux, K.C.M.G.

HONGKONG.
No. 26.

DOWNING STREET,
8th February, 1890.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 380 of the 19th of December, and to convey to you my approval of your suggestion that the adjutancy of the Police Force should be abolished, and the appointment of Assistant Superintendent of Police revived in its place, Mr. HORSPOOL being appointed to the latter post on two years' probation with a salary of \$220 per mensem.

2. You will no doubt consult Captain DEMPSTER'S convenience as far as possible in fixing the date when these changes should come into effect, and it appears to me that three months' notice should be given to him of the termination of his employment under the Colonial Government.

3. You do not state whether or not it is proposed to fill up the post of Chief Inspector at present held by Mr. HORSPOOL; if so, the change will hardly result in the saving which you contemplate.

4. The Crown Agents have received instructions with a view to securing the services of Sergeant JOHNSON to whom your despatch No. 393 of the 24th of December last refers, for the post of Musketry Instructor and Officer in charge of Stores. A copy of the letter to them is enclosed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

KNUTSFORD.

Governor Sir G. W. DES VŒUX, K.C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

Colonial Office to Crown Agents.

(Copy.)

DOWNING STREET,
7th February, 1890.

GENTLEMEN,

You will observe from the enclosed copies of despatches from the Governor of Hongkong that an Ex Non-commissioned Officer is asked for to take charge of the Musketry Instruction and the stores in connection with the Police Force of the Colony, and that Sergeant JOHNSON has been recommended as a suitable man for the post by the Secretary to 'The Army and Navy Pensioners' Society.

2. I am to request you to be good enough to communicate with this Officer either directly or through the Society, and upon ascertaining that he is medically fit for service in the tropics to appoint him on three years' probation giving the Colonial Government the option either of paying his passage home at the end of that period or of retaining him on the footing of an ordinary Government servant.

3. The proposed salary you will see is at the rate of \$720 per annum and he should be given a free second class passage under the ordinary conditions.

4. Lord KNUTSFORD has not caused any communication to be addressed to the War Office on the subject, as it appears hardly necessary, assuming that JOHNSON is entirely free of the Imperial Service beyond being in receipt of a pension.

I am, &c.,

(Signed), J. BRAMSTON.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies.

The Officer Administering the Government to Secretary of State.

No. 93.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
HONGKONG, 8th April, 1890.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch No. 26 of the 8th of February last, approving of Sir G. WILLIAM DES VŒUX'S suggestion that the Adjutancy of the Police Force should be abolished and the appointment of Assistant Superintendent of Police revived in its place, Mr. HORSPOOL being appointed to the latter post on two years' probation with a salary of \$220 per mensem.

2. Upon receiving your Lordship's Despatch I caused Major DEMPSTER to be informed of your Lordship's directions in the matter and proposed, as was suggested in the second paragraph of your Despatch, that the changes should take effect in three months' time, viz. from the 1st of July next.

3. Mr. HORSPOOL also received intimation to the same effect and has expressed his willingness to accept the post under the conditions mentioned by your Lordship.

4. There is, however, a point connected with Mr. HORSPOOL'S appointment on which I should be glad to be favoured with your Lordship's decision, viz. whether your Lordship intends that Mr. HORSPOOL should, under the Police Ordinance No. 14 of 1887, continue to be a subordinate Officer or not?

5. Ordinance No. 9 of 1862 provided that there should be a Captain Superintendent and an Assistant Superintendent of Police the latter not being included among the Subordinate Officers. This Ordinance was, with the exception of certain sections, repealed by Ordinance No. 14 of 1887 under which Ordinance there is no such Officer mentioned as an Assistant Superintendent. The three superior Officers provided for in this Ordinance (section 7) are the Captain Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, and Adjutant, all the other Officers coming within the classification of subordinate Officers.

In the first schedule to this Ordinance no mention is made of a Deputy Superintendent, so that the Ordinance did not probably contemplate the existence of an Adjutant and a Deputy Superintendent at the same time.

6. If it is your Lordship's intention that Mr. HORSPOOL should fill the position of a superior Officer I would suggest that he should be called Deputy Superintendent rather than Assistant Superintendent, otherwise, in the Attorney General's opinion, it will be necessary to amend the Ordinance.

But if Mr. HORSPOOL ceases to be a Subordinate Officer he will of course lose the privileges accorded to Subordinate Officers under Ordinance No. 14 of 1887, such as the right of having a free passage home or the right to retire on a pension after five years' local service.

7. I enclose copy of a letter which has been received from Major DEMPSTER in reply to the communication made to him. In this letter Major DEMPSTER asks that he may be allowed to retain the post of Adjutant until his term of Military Service expires in this Colony, which I understand will be about the month of March next year.

If it is your Lordship's intention that Mr. HORSPOOL should become Deputy Superintendent of Police within the meaning of Ordinance No. 14 of 1887 so as to replace the Captain Superintendent in case of absence, &c., I doubt whether Major DEMPSTER would himself like to be under the orders of one who has hitherto been a subordinate to him in the same force. If, however, your Lordship contemplates Mr. HORSPOOL remaining a Subordinate Officer while merely bearing the title of Assistant Superintendent there would probably be no great objection to Major DEMPSTER retaining his post of Adjutant until the period mentioned, more particularly so if no Chief Inspector be appointed for the present.

8. Your Lordship will notice that at the end of his letter Major DEMPSTER refers to the conditions under which he was appointed Adjutant and I understand that what he says is correct, viz.: that Sir GEORGE BOWEN did fix the salary at £300 a year, but that in consequence of free quarters being provided it was reduced to \$100 a month.

9. I may add that so long as Mr. DEANE is acting as Colonial Secretary and Major-General GORDON as Captain Superintendent of Police, Major DEMPSTER will probably continue to fill the post of the latter as Acting Superintendent of the Victoria Gaol, for which he will receive half salary in addition to his salary as Adjutant of Police the duties of which post he is also performing.

10. Mr. HORSPOOL has written to ask that the proposed changes in the Police Department should take place as soon as possible, but in presence of the circumstances I have above alluded to I do not feel able to sanction their being carried out before the date I have already mentioned.

11. I should be glad to hear, if possible, by telegraph whether your Lordship sees any objection to Mr. HORSPOOL being called Deputy rather than Assistant Superintendent, presuming, of course, that it is your Lordship's intention that he should no longer continue a Subordinate Officer under Ordinance No. 14 of 1887.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble Servant,

F. FLEMING.

The Right Honourable

LORD KNUTSFORD, G.C.M.G.,

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies,

&c., &c., &c.

Secretary of State to the Officer Administering the Government.

HONGKONG.

No. 87.

DOWNING STREET,

15th May, 1890.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 93 of the 8th ultimo respecting the appointment of Mr. HORSPOOL to be Assistant Superintendent of the Police, and to inform you that I gathered from Sir W. DES VŒUX's despatch No. 380 of the 15th of December that it was the intention, on the abolition of the Adjutancy, to revive the Office of Deputy Superintendent who should take the place of the Superintendent during the latter's absence. The term "Assistant Superintendent" appears to have been used merely by a slip of the pen.

Mr. HORSPOOL may however have some hesitation in accepting on probation only, an office which would imply a forfeiture of his privileges as "Subordinate Officer" under Ordinance No. 14 of 1887, and it seems to me not quite fair to Major DEMPSTER to require him to resign, before the termination of his extended military service in Hongkong, an office on the faith of holding which he had accepted such extension of his military service.

In these circumstances I suggest for your consideration that Mr. HORSPOOL, while retaining his title of Chief Inspector, should be appointed to act as Deputy Superintendent and Adjutant with an addition of \$50 a month to his pay, Major DEMPSTER while acting as Superintendent of the Gaol receiving only half the pay of Adjutant of the Police. Should Major DEMPSTER cease to act as Superintendent of the Gaol before his extended military service expires, and it be not found possible to provide him with another suitable acting appointment, he would of course return to the Police for a time, and it would be necessary to ask the Legislative Council to vote an addition of \$50 a month to the pay of Mr. HORSPOOL, who would continue to act as Deputy Superintendent, but subordinate to Major DEMPSTER.

If, as seems probable, Major DEMPSTER's term of military service in Hongkong should expire before a sufficient and satisfactory trial of Mr. HORSPOOL as Deputy Superintendent had been made, the latter would continue to act as Deputy Superintendent on the terms as regards salary above mentioned.

Should you see no objection to the above proposals you have my authority for carrying them into effect.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

KNUTSFORD.

The Officer Administering the Government of

HONGKONG.