

HONGKONG.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK AND DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR 1892.

Laid before the Legislative Council by Command of His Excellency the Governor, on the 17th July, 1893.

1.—TAXATION.

(1) The Assessed Rates were raised by Government Notification No. 299 to $10\frac{3}{4}\%$ in a portion of the Hill District and to $8\frac{3}{4}\%$ in Yaumati, Kowloon Point, and Hunghom.

(2) A new Scale of Fees and percentages to be taken in the Supreme Court, to come into force on 1st January, 1893, was approved by the Legislative Council on the 30th November, 1892.

(3) An alteration in the Scale of Fees to be levied in Distraints for Rents was made under Ordinance 15 of 1892.

2.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue amounted to \$2,236,933.37, or excluding premiums from Land Sales and Water Account to \$2,032,244.10; and the Expenditure amounted to \$2,342,837.26, including Extraordinary Works; excluding these, to \$1,882,474.49.

The Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years have been:—

Year.	Revenue.	Premia from Land.	Ordinary Expenditure.	Extraordinary Expenditure, including Defensive Works.	Water Account. Receipts.	Water Account. Expenditure.
1888,...	\$1,557,300.03	\$160,688.64	\$1,461,459.64	\$530,870.03	.....	.....
1889,...	1,823,549.13	154,725.60	1,459,167.16	374,551.63	.....	.....
1890,...	1,995,220.47	16,638.80	1,517,843.05	397,507.42	.....	.....
1891,...	1,907,054.43	51,761.47	1,868,073.26	514,526.39	\$66,486.61	\$66,486.61
1892,...	2,032,244.10	121,828.84	1,882,474.49	377,502.34	82,860.43	82,860.43

3.—LOCAL REVENUES.

The Chinese inhabitants contributed in 1892, by voluntary assessment among themselves, to the pay of the District Watchmen,.....\$7,430.17 and received from the Government for the same object a grant-in-aid of 2,000.00

4.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

On the 31st December, 1892, the assets of the Colony exceeded its liabilities by.\$35,105.87

The surplus assets in:—

1886 the liabilities exceeded the assets by	\$ 191,512.29 (a)
1887 the surplus assets were	\$ 631,374.08 (b)
1888 Do.	\$ 360,649.76
1889 Do.	\$ 505,109.87
1890 Do.	\$ 309,732.25
1891 Do.	\$ 231,177.51
(c) 1892 Do.	\$ 35,105.87

5.—PUBLIC DEBT.

No new loan was raised.

Amount of present Loan, £200,000. Amount of Sinking Fund, £42,758 7s. 7d.

6.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The Military Expenditure (inclusive of the Volunteer Corps) defrayed by the Colony during the last seven years has been as follows:—

	Military Contribution, exclusive of Defensive Works, and inclusive of Volunteer Corps.	Defensive Works.	Defensive Works.
1886,	\$124,561.68	\$217,901.45	£39,230. 0.0
1887,	\$128,815.63	\$258,444.28	£43,710. 7.6
1888,	\$134,594.68	\$ 62,115.90	£10,036. 4.0
1889,	\$134,261.12	\$ 63,753.73	£ 9,678.14.5
1890,	\$124,616.96	\$ 5,082.92	£ 832. 1.1
1891,	\$421,002.01 (d)	\$ 20,005.45	£ 3,102. 1.7
1892,	\$269,005.27	.....	.....

(a) In the years 1886-91, the liabilities on 31st December did not include salaries and local Departmental charges for the month of December.

(b) A loan of £200,000 having been raised during 1887 to be paid off on the 1st of March, 1907.

(c) In 1892 there were 13 monthly payments.

(d) The Military Contribution was doubled from 1st January, 1890, and the arrears for 1890 were paid in 1891.

7.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure under this head was \$115,689.12 on account of Annually Recurrent Works, and \$460,362.77 on account of Extraordinary Public Works.

8.—LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed during the year :—

- No. 1.—An Ordinance to give effect to the change in name and style of the Surveyor General and Surveyor General's Department.
- No. 2.—An Ordinance entitled *The Patent Ordinance, 1892*.
- No. 3.—An Ordinance to make further provision as to the issue of Night Passes for Chinese.
- No. 4.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinances No. 3 of 1860, No. 15 of 1885, and No. 17 of 1891 in relation to the power of the Governor in Council to grant certain licences.
- No. 5.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 15 of 1888, entitled *The Rating Ordinance, 1888*, and Ordinance No. 16 of 1890 entitled *The Waterworks Ordinance, 1890*.
- No. 6.—An Ordinance to amend *The Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891*.
- No. 7.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 4 of 1865, relating to Offences against the person.
- No. 8.—An Ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 19 of 1890 and to amend *The Dangerous Goods Ordinance, 1873*.
- No. 9.—An Ordinance to amend *The Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance, 1891*.
- No. 10.—An Ordinance for the incorporation of the Chairman of the Committee of the Diocesan School and Orphanage.
- No. 11.—An Ordinance to provide for the due performance of divine worship and other services in accordance with the rites of the Church of England at St. John's Cathedral Church at Victoria in this Colony and elsewhere, to incorporate a Church Body, to vest the said Cathedral in such Body and for other purposes in connection therewith.
- No. 12.—An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Two Millions Two hundred and Fifty-six thousand, Three hundred and Seventy-five Dollars to the Public Service of the Year 1893.
- No. 13.—An Ordinance to authorise the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of Three hundred and Sixty thousand Six hundred and Eighty-seven Dollars and Thirty-seven Cents to defray the Charges of the Year 1891.
- No. 14.—An Ordinance entitled *The United Kingdom Probates Ordinance, 1892*.
- No. 15.—An Ordinance to repeal Section 45 of Ordinance No. 8 of 1860 and to amend Schedule A to Ordinance No. 1 of 1883.

9.—COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLIES.

Executive Council.—The Honourable G. T. M. O'BRIEN, C.M.G. joined the Council on appointment as Colonial Secretary. The Honourable F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works, was admitted a Member of the Council.

Legislative Council.—The Honourable G. T. M. O'BRIEN, C.M.G., joined the Council on appointment as Colonial Secretary. The Honourable R. MURRAY RUMSEY, R.N., joined the Council on appointment as Harbour Master, *vice* the Honourable W. M. DEANE, Captain Superintendent of Police, retired. The Honourable E. R. BELLIOS was appointed an Unofficial Member of the Council, *vice* the Honourable P. RYRIE, deceased. The Honourable J. J. BELL-IRVING was appointed temporarily an Unofficial Member of the Council in the room of the Honourable J. J. KESWICK, absent on leave.

Sanitary Board.—Mr. LAU WAI-CH'UN was appointed a Member of the Board in the room of Mr. WOO LIN YUEN, resigned.

Board of Examiners.—The Revd. G. REUSCH was appointed a Member.

10.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Sir JAMES RUSSELL, Chief Justice, retired on pension and was succeeded by Mr. FIELDING CLARKE, Puisne Judge, Mr. E. J. ACKROYD, the Registrar of the Supreme Court, being promoted to the office of Puisne Judge. Mr. A. G. WISE, Police Magistrate, was subsequently appointed Registrar, and Mr. H. B. LETHBRIDGE was appointed Superintendent of the Gaol.

11.—OFFICERS WHO HAVE GIVEN SECURITY FOR THE DISCHARGES OF THEIR DUTIES.

The validity of the sureties of the various Officers was duly enquired into at the end of the year and found to be satisfactory.

12.—PENSIONS.

The following Officers retired on pension during the year—

1 Head of Department, 1 Gaol Guard, 1 Hospital Steward, 1 Female Keeper of the Lunatic Asylum, the Sexton and Clerk of St. John's Cathedral, and 1 Assistant Inspector of Markets, 2 European and 9 Indian Police Constables.

13.—FOREIGN CONSULS.

No new Consulates were established in the Colony during 1892.

14.—POPULATION.

The estimated population on the 31st December, 1892, was.....231,662 being 6,848 more than the estimated population at the end of 1891.

The last census was taken on the 20th May, 1891, the population being returned as 221,441, of which 157,585 were males, and 63,856 females.

The following is the estimated population for the last 10 years :—

<i>Years</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1883,	124,768	48,707	173,475
1884,	130,560	50,969	181,529
1885,	137,079	53,515	190,594
1886,	144,550	56,440	200,990
1887,	152,427	60,524	212,951
1888,	154,500	61,300	215,800
1889,	138,033	56,449	194,482
1890,	—	—	198,742
1891,	159,969	64,845	224,814
1892,	164,808	66,854	231,662

The Births and deaths for the last 5 years were as follows :—

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Per 1,000 of mean Population.</i>	
			<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
1888,.....	1,662	6,034	7.70	27.96
1889,.....	1,683	4,597	8.65	23.64
1890,.....	1,617	4,553	8.14	22.90
1891,.....	1,734	5,374	7.71	23.90
1892,.....	1,843	4,907	7.96	21.18

15.—EDUCATION.

The total number of Schools subject to supervision by the Government in 1892 was 122 as against 117 in 1891, and 112 in 1890.

The total number of Scholars subject to Government supervision in the Government and Grant-in-aid Schools during the last 5 years was as follows :—

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Govt.</i>	<i>Grant-in-aid.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1888,.....	1,933	4,325	6,258
1889,.....	2,293	4,814	7,107
1890,.....	2,514	4,656	7,170
1891,.....	2,540	5,132	7,672
1892,.....	2,622	5,655	8,277

The total expenditure for these Schools for the last 5 years was as follows:—

1888, (after deducting School fees),	\$45,518.93
1889, (" "),	44,321.98
1890, (" "),	56,081.75
1891, (" "),	60,359.10
1892, (" "),	54,819.41

16.—EXCHANGE, MONEY, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Exchange.

The rate of Exchange on 4 months' Bills on London was on 7th January, 1892, $3/1\frac{3}{8}$, it fell to $2/9\frac{3}{4}$ on the 18th August, and rose to $2/10\frac{3}{4}$ on 19th October, and was at the end of the year $2/9\frac{1}{8}$.

Currency.

The law affecting currency has remained unchanged.

Bank Notes.

The Bank Notes in circulation in Hongkong during the last 5 years, as furnished by the Managers of the respective Banks, were as follows:—

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Average Amount.</i>	<i>Specie in Reserve.</i>
1888,.....	\$ 5,759,875	\$ 2,660,000
1889,.....	6,034,984	2,552,500
1890,.....	6,073,332	2,775,833
1891,.....	6,050,122	2,650,833
1892,.....	6,066,958	2,701,150

Money Circulation.

The approximate amount of Coin put into circulation up to 31st December, 1892, was as follows:—

Hongkong Silver and Copper Subsidiary Coins (50, 20, 10, and 5 cent pieces; and 1 Cent and Mil pieces),\$8,220,125.

Weights and Measures.

The Weights and Measures in use in the Colony are regulated by Ordinance 8 of 1885.

17.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

There being no Custom House, it is not possible to furnish an account of all Imports and Exports, but a record of Raw Opium imported and exported during 1892 has been kept, and is as follows:—

Imported,	56,864 $\frac{1}{2}$ chests.
Exported,	52,625 $\frac{3}{4}$ " "

NOTE.—*Through Cargo* reported in Manifests but not landed,21,144 $\frac{1}{2}$ chests.

18.—SHIPPING.

Arrivals exclusive of Junks.

The total arrivals, exclusive of Junks, during the year 1892, amounted to 4,499 vessels and 5,166,938 tons, being 28,311 tons over the arrivals in 1891.

Junks.

22,755 Junks measuring 1,606,251 tons arrived in the Colony in 1892, as against 22,806 Junks and 1,634,616 tons in 1891, showing a decrease of 51 Junks and 28,365 tons.

The total arrivals for the last 5 years were:—

Years.	EXCLUSIVE OF JUNKS.		JUNKS.		GRAND TOTAL.	
	Number of Vessels.	Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.
1888,.....	3,821	4,536,442	23,958	1,863,968	27,779	6,400,410
1889,.....	3,820	4,518,614	22,926	1,716,922	26,746	6,235,536
1890,.....	4,114	4,893,733	23,512	1,795,261	27,626	6,688,994
1891,.....	4,351	5,138,627	22,806	1,634,616	27,157	6,773,243
1892,.....	4,499	5,166,938	22,755	1,606,251	27,254	6,773,189

Immigration and Emigration from and to Ports other than in China and Japan.

Years.	Arrived.	Departed.
1888,	98,800	96,195
1889,	99,315	47,849
1890,	101,147	42,066
1891,	105,199	45,162
1892,	97,971	52,143

19.—AGRICULTURE.

The lands of the Colony being limited and not favourable for agricultural purposes, there is no inducement for this industry here. The produce is quite nominal, and is for local consumption only.

20.—MANUFACTURES, &C.

Manufactories.

In addition to the several Manufactories previously in existence, a Paper Mill was established at Aberdeen.

Steam-Launches.

The total number of Steam-Launches built in the Colony in 1892 was 22, with a total tonnage of 2,714.69, as against 25 with a total tonnage of 2,324.03 in 1891. The total number of licensed Steam-Launches of all descriptions, in the Colony, in 1892, were:—

Licensed to carry passengers,	51
Private Launches,	59
Colonial Government Launches,	12
War Department Launches,	5
	127
	127

21.—GRANTS OF LAND.

The grants of land on lease during the last 5 years were:—

Years.	No. of Grants.	No. of acres sold.		No. of acres re-granted.		Total No. of acres granted.
		A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	
1888,.....	202	44.0.31	59.3.13½	104.0.	4½	
1889,.....	65	44.1. 9¾	44.0. 5½	88.1.15¼		
(a) 1890,.....	29	9.3.17	15.3.30¾	25.3.	7¾	
1891,.....	37	26.0.33¼	43.0. 5¼	69.0.38½		
(b) 1892,.....	61	60.3.18½	9.1.28½	70.1.7		

(a) The Returns in the Blue Book report for 1890 stated for that year lands sold by auction only viz.:—2 A. 3 R. 10½ P. and did not include lands sold by way of extension to Lots already existing, the addition of the latter increasing the number of acres sold in that year to 9 A. 3 R. 17 P. as above.

(b) 116 A. 1 R. 14 P. were granted, and 46 A. 0 R. 7 P. were resumed, leaving 70 A. 1 R. 7 P. additional Land granted during the year.

Persons having possession of Lands or Houses previously to the Treaty, were allowed to retain them on payment of certain assessed rentals, now collected by the Treasurer; and in cases where such Lands or Houses are not leased, the occupiers are considered as Tenants at will.

22.—GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

On the 1st January, 1892, there were 502 prisoners in Victoria Gaol; 5,046 were admitted during the year, and 5,080 discharged; the total number of prisoners on the 31st December, 1892, was 468, of whom 18 were Europeans.

The daily average of prisoners was 515, as against 507 in the previous year.

The number of prisoners admitted into Gaol during the last five years was as follows:—

YEARS.	NO. OF PRISONERS.			TOTAL.	DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER IN PRISON.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.		
1888,	3,390	98	139	3,627	531.00
1889,	3,453	131	121	3,705	581.00
1890,	3,218	119	107	3,444	566.00
1891,	4,805	223	203	5,231	507.00
1892,	4,699	181	166	5,046	515.00

23.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Supreme Court.

The following is a Return of cases tried at the Supreme Court during the last five years:—

YEARS.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	CHARGES ABANDONED.		POSTPONED.	
					Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.
1888,	101	186	99	47	28	40	...	...
1889,	92	143	64	41	24	37	...	...
1890,	59	80	43	20	7	17	...	...
1891,	32	37	26	9	2	2	...	...
1892,	30	44	18	17	4	9	...	...
Total,	314	490	250	134	65	105	...	...
Average of last 5 years,	62 $\frac{2}{5}$	98	50	26 $\frac{2}{5}$	13	21	...	...
Do. ending 1887,	83 $\frac{2}{5}$	127 $\frac{2}{5}$	75 $\frac{2}{5}$	24 $\frac{2}{5}$	14 $\frac{2}{5}$	23 $\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{4}{5}$	2 $\frac{1}{5}$

Police Magistrates' Court.

The Cases before the Police Magistrates during the last 5 years were as follows:—

YEARS.	Total No. of Cases.	Total No. of Prisoners.	CASES HOW DISPOSED OF.						
			Convicted and Punished.	Discharged.	Committed for Trial.	Committed pending Orders.	Ordered to Find Security.	Punished for False Testimony.	Un-decided.
1888,	11,647	13,309	9,932	2,849	174	109	192	3	50
1889,	8,670	10,033	6,894	2,497	167	54	337	17	67
1890,	9,739	10,772	7,740	2,557	102	15	318	3	37
1891,	13,676	16,382	13,972	2,040	40	12	172	1	145
1892,	11,920	14,471	12,098	2,078	44	5	211	7	28
Total,	55,652	64,967	50,636	12,021	527	195	1,230	31	327
Average of last 5 years,	11,130.4	12,993.4	10,127.2	2,404.2	105.4	39	246	6.2	65.4
Do. ending 1887,	12,325	14,153.8	10,807	2,584.4	143.8	25.4	477	13.8	102.4

Marine Magistrate's Court.

The Cases before the Marine Magistrate's Court during the last 5 years were as follows :—

YEARS.	Number of Cases.	Number of Defendants.	DEFENDANTS HOW DISPOSED OF.							
			Imprisoned.	Fined.	Forfeiture of Pay.	Reprimanded.	Sent back to Duty.	To be discharged from Ship.	Dismissed.	Committed for Trial.
1888,.....	70	167	66	38	2	2	53	1	5	...
1889,.....	53	107	54	25	...	...	15	...	13	...
1890,.....	81	239	92	84	6	1	15	...	41	...
1891,.....	147	311	62	205	2	10	9	...	23	...
1892,.....	79	178	86	80	1	3	...	...	8	...
Total,.....	430	1,002	360	432	11	16	92	1	90	...
Average of last 5 years,	86	200.4	72	86.4	2.2	3.2	18.4	0.2	18	...
Do. ending 1887,...	74.8	137.4	64.8	30.2	8.4	5.4	8.2	1.4	19.	...

Police.

The Cases brought under the notice of the Police during the last 5 years were as follows :—

YEARS.	SERIOUS OFFENCES.			MINOR OFFENCES.		
	Number of Cases.	Persons.		Number of Cases.	Persons.	
		Convicted.	Discharged.		Convicted.	Discharged.
1888,.....	2,436	1,116	556	5,678	5,772	1,105
1889,.....	2,893	1,409	618	4,568	4,529	1,131
1890,.....	3,100	1,412	616	5,324	5,007	1,213
1891,.....	2,994	1,687	444	7,875	9,320	673
1892,.....	2,983	1,728	492	6,747	8,245	729
Total,.....	14,406	7,352	2,726	30,192	32,873	4,851
Average of last 5 years,.....	2,881.2	1,470.4	545.2	6,038.4	6,574.6	970.2
Do. ending 1887,.....	2,523.6	1,279.2	528.6	587.3	5,046.2	953.8

24.—HOSPITALS, &c.

Civil Hospital.

The admissions to the Government Civil Hospital during the year were as follows, as compared with 1891.

	1891.	1892.
Police,	570	496
Board of Trade,	135	157
Private paying Patients,	464	378
Government Servants,.....	179	168
Police Cases,.....	240	232
Destitutes,	279	284
Total,	<u>1,867</u>	<u>1,715</u>

The total admissions to the Hospital and Deaths during the last 5 years were as follows :—

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Admissions.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
1888,.....	1,772	80
1889,.....	1,793	77
1890,.....	1,957	98
1891,.....	1,867	84
1892,.....	1,715	68
Total,	<u>9,104</u>	<u>407</u>
Average,	<u>1,820.8</u>	<u>81.4</u>

The admissions from the Police Force and the number of Deaths for the past five years were as follows:—

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Admissions.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
1888,.....	657	15
1889,.....	590	14
1890,.....	582	7
1891,.....	570	8
1892,.....	496	7
Total,	<u>2,895</u>	<u>51</u>
Average,	<u>579</u>	<u>10.2</u>

The admissions of Europeans, Chinese, and Indians in 1892 were 152, 120, and 224 respectively as against 167, 118, and 285 in 1891.

Military Hospital.

The admissions from among the troops during the past five years were as follows:—

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Admissions.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
1888,.....	1,485	21
1889,.....	1,732	16
1890,.....	1,915	15
1891,.....	1,251	17
1892,.....	2,844	31
Total,	<u>9,227</u>	<u>100</u>
Average,	<u>1,845.4</u>	<u>20</u>

Small-pox Hospital.

The admissions during the past five years were as follows:—

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Admissions.</i>
1888,	99
1889,	19
1890,	2
1891,	17
1892,	13
Total,.....	<u>150</u>
Average,	<u>30</u>

Inquests.

The inquests held during the past five years were as follows:—

1888,	63
1889,	76
1890,	101
1891,	59
1892,	60

25.—CHARITABLE AND LITERARY INSTITUTIONS.

No fresh Institution was formed.

26.—RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

No fresh Institution was formed.

G. T. M. O'BRIEN,
Colonial Secretary.