

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

OCEAN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY. THE undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Office at Shanghai...

N. TICÉ. I have established myself at this Port as a Merchant and Commission Agent, under the style of NORTON & Co.

NOTICE. THE interest and responsibility of Mr. WILLIAM GUNSTON HOWELL in our Firm, ceased on the 31st ultimo...

WITH reference to the above, notice is hereby given that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between the undersigned and Mr. FRANCIS HAMILTON GUYER...

Their business has been transferred to Messrs GEO. BARNETT & Co., and will be carried on by Mr. F. H. GUYER in London...

THE interest and responsibility of Mr. JAMES C. HASSON in our Firm, ceased on the 24th January, 1863.

MR. JOHN THORNE is authorized to sign our Firm in proportion.

THE undersigned have this day entered into Partnership as Bill and Bullion Brokers under the style of MILLER AND GWYTHER.

DURING the temporary absence of Mr. MILLER the Business will be carried on solely by Mr. GWYTHER.

FOR KANAGAWA via NAGASAKI AND THE INLAND SEA. THE S.S. HELLESPONT will have quick dispatch as above.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE. NOTICE.—DIVINE SERVICE is held in the Roman Catholic Chapel, near the French Consulate...

NOTICE.—SRAMEN'S CHURCH. Services in the morning at 11 o'clock, and in the afternoon at 3 o'clock.

NOTICE.—DIVINE SERVICE will be held in Union Chapel, London Mission, every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock and in the evening at 9 o'clock.

LATEST DATES. England, Jan 26; Hongkong, April 4; Shanghai, Nov 23.

COMPARISON OF OBSERVATIONS taken by a SELF-REGISTERING THERMOMETER FOR THE WEEK.

Table with 4 columns: Max. Min. Old Therm. New Therm.

Table with 4 columns: OPIUM. New Tls. Old Tls. New Tls. Old Tls.

LATEST SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE. ARRIVED.—April 9th, Arrington, (Am. sh.), from Hankow...

PASSENGERS. ARRIVED.—Per Hydaspes, from Hongkong, Mrs Ode and Infant, Messrs Vermerde, Petrochimo...

DEPARTED.—Per Ganges, for Hongkong, Captain Eales, Mr and Mrs Medhurst and Infant, Mr and Mrs MacKenzie and 3 children...

ARRETÉ CONSULAIRE.

La Chancellerie du Consulat général de France est ouverte tous les jours, dimanches exceptés, de 11 h. à 4 h.

Le Consul Général recevra avec plaisir toutes personnes, mais il engage le public à s'adresser:

M. Rameau, Vice-Consul, et pour la délivrance de pièces et actes à M. le Chancelier.

Le Consul Général, [L. S.] V. MAUBOUSSIN. 18ap 92 Shanghai, le 6 Avril, 1863.

CONSULAT GÉNÉRAL DE FRANCE. NOTICE.

Il est de nouveau et pour la dernière fois, donné avis que tout navire, bateau, ou sampan qui soit en mer...

Les sujets français résidents dans les provinces de King-soi, Fu-kien, Tehe-kiang & Chan-tong et notamment à Shanghai et environs...

Le Consul Général, [L. S.] V. MAUBOUSSIN. 18ap 93 Shanghai, le 6 Avril, 1863.

The London Mail of 26th February, due in Hongkong on the 12th April, and here on the 17th. It was received last year on the 16th April, per Jin-hee.

The North-China Herald. IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL. SHANGHAI SATURDAY 11 APRIL 1863.

AMONG the self-governing institutions of occidental nations, which form the political and social bulwarks of every independent state, perhaps there are none so practically useful for internal government as a well devised Municipal corporation.

extended in principle; provided their successors carry out energetically the various measures initiated, and the public works commenced, as detailed in their able report.

On referring to the report, with a knowledge of what has transpired recently regarding the legal status of the Land Renters from whom the Council is elected...

The Chairman explained the absence in consequence of indisposition, of Frederick Harvey Esq., H.B.M. Consul, and opened the meeting. He read the minutes of the last annual meeting.

Mr. Thorne proposed that the minutes just read be adopted.

Mr. Brand seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

Mr. Pickwood read the Report of the Council for the past year as follows:— MUNICIPAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1862.

The present Municipal Council entered upon their duties at a season of general distrust and uneasiness, when, in consequence of the threatening aspect of the Taiping Rebels, new powers were brought into existence for the protection of the Settlement.

The energetic action taken this time last year, by the Defence Committee, is so familiar to every one, that the Council need not refer to it in detail.

This fact was made so apparent, that, at a special meeting of Land Renters held 8th September last year, fresh powers were granted to the Council and a large increase to their staff voted.

Increase of population.—The increase of the foreign population, more especially in the lower orders, within the last 12 months, has defied all the efforts of the Council to keep pace with it in police organization...

Whilst your council have to deplore their inability to perfect this long suggested measure, they learn with surprise that the local authorities have elaborated a scheme of taxation, which they are seeking to enforce within this settlement...

The privilege of levying taxes, virtually renounced by them in 1854, when self-government was unreservedly conceded to the Municipal Body...

Civil Engineer.—Your Council are glad to report that they have every prospect of obtaining the services of a competent civil engineer from home.

all that your Council have been able to effect in the way of improvement will be found in the existence of a skeleton police, which must be largely increased before the almost reign of terror, which now prevails there, can be dispelled.

Police.—Council acting upon the authority given to them, at once indentured for arms and accoutrements for 100 men, but feeling the inadvisability of augmenting and recruiting their ranks from the only present source at command...

Imports and Exports.—The present system adopted, of obtaining returns through H. I. M. Customs, though unsatisfactory in itself, has raised this tax from Tls. 14,000 to Tls. 38,735 per annum.

European House and Land Tax.—Up to the present time, this tax has been gathered upon the old assessment of 1856, which amounted to little more than Tls. 4,000 annually.

Chinese House Tax.—This tax, necessitated by the vast influx of native inhabitants to this settlement, will, it is calculated, somewhat exceed in amount Tls. 100,000 per annum.

General Licensing Scheme.—This measure, which has from for some years past been an unprofitable item in our annual Municipal Reports, having been thwarted in another place...

Legal status of the Land Regulations.—Many persons have been induced to question the legality of our Land Regulations, and your Council would be unmindful of a pressing duty were they to pass over this subject in silence.

Encroachments on Land surrendered to Public use.—The Land Regulations have hitherto been a dead letter in regard to this important subject; partly from the fact, it is presumed, that before the Council had any permanent staff to attend to these matters...

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Council are a mixed Body and not responsible to, or controlled by the representative of any one power, however formidable, it is not difficult to foresee the defeat of the attempt, if the Land Renters are unanimous in adopting their views and affording the council their support in opposing the pretention.

Roads & Drainage.—Your council appended a detailed statement drawn up by the superintendent of the public works on these subjects, as the best evidence of their desire to sustain and complete the suggestions made this time last year by the defence committee.

The new roads recommended by the Committee, on the old Race Course have been opened, and Chinese buildings are rapidly springing up in that locality.

Shakloo Drain. Flagging, piling, building, &c., 345 chang, 3 feet by 5 feet, with a granite front at each end.

Drains leading from Shakloo Drain. The one past dye house, a medium drain 2 feet by 3 feet, 71 chang.

Drains now in progress are: 1. In Kiangsoo Road, late Bridge street, medium.

Small Drains. Are being put in all parts of the Settlement.

Public Latrine. Jetties are:—Dent's, Hooper's and Russell's, and besides numberless repairs and alterations.

Side Walks are:—One in Naunkin Road. One in Hangchow do. One in Hankow do.

New Roads are:—1. Continuation of Hangchow Road 150 chang, 30 feet. 2. Soochow Road, 400 chang, 30 feet.

Buildings in progress, are:—One police Barrack, 100 feet by 30 feet, 2 stories with nine rooms. Bunding Yang-king-pang creek with granite stone, 150 chang.

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Your Council have received valuable assistance from Mr. Carlisle, Superintendent of Public Works, who being a stone mason by trade, and having had advantages of long training in a scientific portion of H. B. M. Army, has shown himself quite equal to present emergencies.

Supply of Water.—In connexion with the foregoing, your Council have been restrained in the prosecution of this all important matter, whether viewed in connection with the health or personal comfort of the inhabitants of the settlement.

Registration of Land.—Your Council cannot do better, in regard to this important matter, than to lay before the Land Renters copy of a letter, covering memoranda on the same subject from the committee appointed to assess European houses and land within this Concession, and to recommend it to your favourable consideration.

Post Office.—At the special meeting of Land Renters held on the 8th September last, a proposal from the Post Master General of Hongkong was submitted by the Council, and with some reluctance adopted provisionally by the meeting.

In the first place, the Council beg to call your attention to the fact, that very few letters from the North of China or from Japan find their way to the Post Office at all, and that it was with no intention of interfering either with revenue or expenditure of the General Post Office, that they proposed to collect an impost on all letters (hither to delivered by private hands) arriving here in private vessels.

Mr. Dent proposed that the Report of the last Council with the accounts, just read to the meeting be adopted and published. Mr. P. H. Underwood seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Turner rose and said; one of not the least onerous and important duties of the Municipal Council on retiring from office, was to furnish the meeting with a list of fit and eligible persons who were willing to act as their successors.

The new Council were then balloted for: and the votes appeared as follows:—Mr. Cock, 37, Mr. Reid, 35, Mr. Brand, 34, Mr. Dent, 33, Mr. Heard, 27, Mr. Rogers, 27, Mr. Wieters, 26, Mr. Hanbury, 6, Mr. Porter, 5, Mr. Alabaster, 4, Mr. Dow, 3, Mr. Underwood, 3, Mr. Forbes, 3, Mr. Carter, 3, Mr. Cunningham, 3, Mr. J. Thorne, 2, Mr. May, 1, Mr. Lent, 1, Mr. Fitzroy, 1.

Mr. TURNER said the meeting would have gathered from the Report just read that the Municipality was much in want of funds. Drain and Road making in a place like Shanghai, where the materials were so expensive, was very costly work.

That the Foreign House and Land Tax for the past year 1862 be collected by the new assessment.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Lanevo and carried unanimously.

Mr. TURNER remarked that the subject matter of the Resolution he was now about to propose was embodied in the report, but the Council regarded the question of encroachments on Public thoroughfares to which it had reference as so important, that they thought it better to obtain the sentiments of the

may compose the Council for the official year next ensuing.

HENRY TURNER, Chairman  
A. MICHIE,  
JAMES COCK, Treasurer.

SHANGHAI, 19th March, 1863.  
H. TURNER, Esq.  
Chairman Municipal Council,

Sir.—We have the honor to transmit herewith our list of assessments on land and Foreign Buildings in the limits of the British Concession. At the same time we have to express our regret that the document is necessarily very imperfect and incomplete, owing to the confused state of the records connected with land here, and the impossibility of identifying many lots by the very vague and indefinite boundaries described in the records at our disposal.

We can only hope that our labors may be of some present value to the Council, but we trust they will also prove of some ultimate advantage to the community, in showing the necessity for a proper survey of the settlement by competent professional persons, and for organizing some more intelligible system of land registration than at present exists.

W. H. VACHER, T. HANBURY, C. THORNE, S. RAWSON, J. KEARNY RODGER, BARNES DALLAS.

MEMORANDUM TO ACCOMPANY ASSESSMENT LIST.

Localities of Lots.—Owing to the impossibility of obtaining accurate information from the Agents or representatives of absent Owners, the committee have at times been obliged to assume what they suppose to be the proper situation of some lots, and it may be found, that there are occasional mistakes from this cause.

Unknown Lots.—Nos 126, 161, 237, 262, 359, and 397, the Committee can obtain no information about at present, and must leave the Municipal Officers to ascertain localities. Mr. Wills' lots also, cannot be described by his Agents here, and have consequently not been assessed, or placed in the accompanying List.

Should any Lots be discovered in the British Concession not included in this List, the Committee will affix a valuation on receiving particulars of the locality, though in most instances, the value of adjoining Lots, may be taken as a standard.

W. H. VACHER, C. THORNE, S. RAWSON, BARNES DALLAS, T. HANBURY, J. KEARNY RODGER.

(No. 28) PACKET AGENCY.

SHANGHAI, 7th March, 1863.  
Sir,—Having just observed your Advertisement in the North-China Herald, I take the earliest opportunity of informing you that your notice does not coincide with the instructions I am prepared to obey, as thus:—

Town Letters.—I have been made distinctly to understand are such as may be sent by you; for instance to Messrs. Dent & Co. here, and upon Letters of this description only does the rate of one penny per half ounce hold good.

Letters from the River, Northern, Japanese and other parts are not included in the above, and will as before be charged at the rate of four pence per half ounce.

These are what I understood to be the charges as conveyed in the Letter to Mr. Baker, and as pointed out to me by Mr. Michie personally.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
J. P. MARTIN,  
Packet Agent.

(Copy) COUNCIL ROOM,

March 24th, 1863.  
Sir.—Under direction of the Municipal Council, I do myself the honor to enclose copy of a letter I have received from Mr. Martin, from which it would appear that the Council are as distant as ever from the prospect of securing the advantages that the Board conceives to be legitimately within their control.

After a careful consideration of your views, gathered from your correspondence with this office, the Council is led to believe that, in objecting to their system of a penny postage upon letters arriving at this port by private vessels, you are hampering yourself with British postal regulations, which were never contemplated to apply to this portion of the dominions of the Emperor of China, where Foreign residents, under sufferance, are permitted by the native authorities to make such rules and regulations for the delivery of letters arriving here from outports, having no Post Office Agents, as seem most adapted to their local requirements.

recognized by the Packet Agent here by accident or by common report, as seen or river letters, and consequently need not of necessity be liable to the established rule of 4d. each as laid down by yourself.

The Council are utterly at a loss to conceive how the realization of one penny postage letters which never have been and never will be given over to the Post Office, can either interfere with the regulations or revenues of the Imperial Post Office in Hongkong.

Be that as it may; it only remains for me, now, in obedience to the commands I have received from the Municipal Council, to notify to you the determination of the Board to withhold any further payments on behalf of a department from which they have derived no additional benefits, as well as to demand the repayment of the sum of \$ 1,250 already advanced on the faith of an engagement which the Council content has not been kept on the part of the Hongkong Government.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,  
(Signed) EDWIN PICKWOOD,  
Secretary Municipal Council.

To the Post Master General, Hongkong.

COUNCIL ROOM,  
January, 21st 1863.  
To the Post Master General, Hongkong.

Sir.—I am directed by the Municipal Council, in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 10th Nov. last, to bring under your consideration the highly unsatisfactory working of the Post Office here, which, in the opinion of the Board, is traceable to the defective arrangements made by the Hongkong Government for its maintenance.

I am directed to observe, that you appear from your letter of the 10th Nov. altogether to have been under a misapprehension of the wishes and intentions of the Council in regard to their determination to affix a penny postage on a certain class of letters arising in Shanghai for distribution.

With this the Council do not wish to interfere in anyway. All that they claim to do is to make use of the Post Office staff for the delivery of the spot letters sent to them from the spot, for that purpose. Letters of this description are in the opinion of the Council entirely beyond your control.

The Council, therefore, desire me distinctly to give you to understand, that they contemplate an individual action over all such letters, and that any opposition on the part of the Hongkong Government to this reasonable demand, will be looked upon as a breach on their part, of the engagement recently concluded between the Hongkong Government and themselves.

The Post Office, after a lapse of some months, is as bad, if not worse, than ever.

This state of things, the Council feel, is to be attributed in a great measure to the want of local knowledge of the Hongkong Government, in sanctioning an outlay of £250 only for an assistant; an amount not simply inadequate to the duties required, but equally out of keeping with the requirements for the obtaining of the ordinary necessities of life here. Hasty abandonment of the office by your first nominee, was the inevitable result.

The Council have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the assiduity and attention of Mr. Baker, but single handed, it cannot be expected that he will be enabled to superintend the reform, so loudly called for on all sides, and without wishing to interfere with the expenditure of your department; the Board cannot but point out the more liberal salaries given to others here, as likely at no distant period, to deprive the department of an efficient and painstaking officer.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) EDWIN PICKWOOD,  
Secretary Municipal Council.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FINANCE.

Balance Sheet for Year ended 31st March 1863.

Table with 3 columns: Description, Tls., and P. It shows financial details including income from wharfage dues, licenses, and expenditures for police, roads, and council operations, ending with a total balance of 138,465.04.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FINANCE For the Year Commenced 1st April 1862 and ended 31st March 1863.

Table with 3 columns: Description, Tls., and P. It details the council's income from wharfage dues, licenses, and other sources, and lists various expenditures such as police, roads, and council salaries, totaling 130,030.82.

JAMES COCK, Treasurer.

Land Renters in a separate and distinct form. The Council had had great difficulties during their year of office in contending against Parties who sought to create obstructions or encroachments on the Public Highways and Streets. In some instances they had been foiled, and it appeared that the Land Regulations were not sufficiently explicit on the point.

That from and after this date, all persons intending to build on public thoroughfares within the limits of this settlement, be required to give notice to the Municipal Council of their intention to do so, and to produce their plans for the inspection and approval of the Superintendent of Public Works with the view to prevent encroachments on the public thoroughfares.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Reid and carried unanimously.

Mr. G. F. CARTER proposed and Mr. Dow seconded.

That a vote of thanks be given to the retiring Council for the able and energetic manner in which they have discharged their arduous duties during their term of office.

Passed unanimously. Mr. Turner the Chairman of the Municipal Council, briefly returned thanks.

Mr. HANBURY rose and said that he thought it most desirable that the portion of the Settlement known as Hong-que should be incorporated without delay, and be placed under Municipal authority.

Mr. HANBURY rose and said that he thought it most desirable that the portion of the Settlement known as Hong-que should be incorporated without delay, and be placed under Municipal authority. It was every day more apparent that stringent measures would ere long be required to preserve order there; and if some suitable steps were not taken, the evil would make itself unpleasantly felt even by those dwelling on this side of the creek.

That the newly elected Council he recommended to use every exertion to carry into effect the resolution passed at the last annual meeting relative to the incorporation of Hong-que into the present settlement, and to make such alteration there as, if found necessary, to secure either partially or wholly that desirable end. Mr. Michie seconded the motion.

Mr. PICKWOOD said it was not with a view of offering opposition to any measure that might conduce to the welfare of Hong-que that he desired to make a few remarks, but, in the position in which he stood, it might be supposed he was better able to form an opinion in regard to its wants, than persons who had not bestowed equal attention to the subject.

All were agreed that the time had arrived, when some measure for the amelioration of its condition should be carried. But men differed as to what that measure should be. He (Mr. P.) had some conversation with the U. S. Consul nearly twelve months ago on the subject; and, even then, it was a matter for consideration, whether it should not be allowed to stand by itself.

The subsequent unparalleled increase of this place, fully convinced him, that it contained sufficient vitality within itself to be able to form a separate and independent municipality. It did not, at present, contain either the wealth or intelligence of this Settlement three years ago. But, he was satisfied, that a far greater revenue could be obtained from it, for its civil maintenance, than was drawn from this settlement at that period.

Mr. HANBURY would not amend his original proposition, the community in Hong-que in his opinion having not yet sufficient weight or importance to carry on a separate municipal government; and most of the property was owned by those were resident on this side.

Upon the motion being put, it was carried by a small majority. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.  
Wm. H. LAY,  
Secretary.