

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

OCEAN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY. THE undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Office at Shanghai, are prepared to grant policies payable in Hongkong, Bombay, Calcutta and London.

I have established myself at this Port as a Merchant and Commission Agent, under the style of NORTON & CO. WALTER MILLER NORTON.

NOTICE. THE interest and responsibility of Mr WILLIAM GUNSTON HOWELL in our Firm ceased on the 31st ultimo, and Mr THOMAS MONCRIEFF was admitted a partner on the 1st Instant.

WITH reference to the above, notice is hereby given that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between the undersigned and Mr FRANCIS HAMILTON GROVE, under the firm of style of MONCRIEFF, GROVE & Co, in Shanghai, determined by mutual consent on the 31st ultimo.

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

MR JOHN THORNE is authorized to sign our Firm per pro. WAINWRIGHT & Co.

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

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE. NOTICE.—DIVINE SERVICE is held in the Roman Catholic Chapel, near the French Consulate, every Sunday, at 8 and 10 o'clock in the morning, and 6 o'clock in the evening.

NOTICE.—FRANK'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. Table with columns for destination (Hongkong, Nankow, Nagonki, Teletsin, Kanagawa) and dates.

COMPARISON OF OBSERVATIONS. Table with columns for temperature (Max, Min) and wind (Miles) for dates from April 6 to 10.

OPIMUM. Table with columns for price (New, Old, New, Old) for dates from April 6 to 10.

LATEST SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE. ARRIVED.—April 9th. Carrington, (Am sh.), from Hankow; 11th, Kitty Singapore, (Am. sh.), from Fuchow; 10th, Goo v. Sieten, (Dan. bq.), from Swatow; 10th, Grossvater, (Pr. bq.), from Hongkong; 10th, Amy, (Br. bq.), from P. Smith; 10th, Argus, (Br. str.), from Ningpo; 10th, Hlaworra, (Chi str.), from Ningpo.

DEPARTED.—April 9th. Marvick, (Pr. bq.); 10th, Maria, (Am. str.), from Fuchow and Ningpo; Reange, (Am. str.), for Hankow and Paita; Shuttle, (Br. str.), for Hankow; 10th, Granville, (Pr. str.), for Hongkong; 10th, Transmontain, (Am. sh.), for Hongkong; 10th, Civiale, (Dan. bq.), for Hongkong; 10th, Anna Maria, (Br. bq.), for Hongkong; 10th, Fraitower, (Am. bq.), for Japan; 10th, Emerald, (Br. str.), for Ningpo; 10th, Berdinkha, (Br. bq.), for Chefoo.

PASSENGERS. ARRIVED.—Per Hydaspes, from Hongkong, Mrs Ode and Infant, Messrs Vernerde, Petrochino, Mazade, Engelhard, Emuljee Pannjee, Francis Bernojee, Williams, T. L. Hay, M. A. Correa, Bernojee, Evans, Sam. Wana, G. Brenier, Vaucher, Apollen, Brenier, Lear, and J. L. Hay.

DEPARTED.—Per Ganges, for Hongkong, Captain Eates, Mr and Mrs Medhurst and Infant, Mr and Mrs MacKenzie and 3 children, Mr and Mrs Hart, Mrs M. T. Yates, Mrs Fay, Miss A. Yates, Miss J. Wild, Miss C. Wild, Mrs Bates and 2 children, Mr and Mrs Boniface, Mr and Mrs Barlow, Dr W. E. Eastlack, Messrs Iggulden, W. Davison, J. F. Carter, W. Godfrey, K. Miller, Tan Loh Sing, J. H. Nichols, and C. R. Walter.

ARRETE CONSULAIRE. France est ouverte tous les jours, dimanches exceptés, de 11 h. à 4 h. Pour la bonne expedition des Affaires, le Public est informe que:

1° Les demandes et reclamations relatives a la Police et a la protection des nationaux seront entendues de 11 h. a midi. 2° Les contestations en matiere civile et commerciale viendront a leur ordre d'inscription de midi a 2 h.

Le Consol General recevra avec plaisir toutes personnes, mais il engage le public a s'adresser: pour les reclamations et informations a M. Rameau, Vice-Consul, et pour la delivrance de pieces et actes a M. le Chancelier.

Le Consol General: L. S.] V. MAUBOUSSIN. 18ap 92. Shanghai, le 6 Avril, 1863.

CONSULAT GENERAL DE FRANCE. Notice. IL est de nouveau et pour la derniere fois, donne avis que tout navire, bateau, ou sampan qui soit en mer, soit dans la fevriere ou ses affluents, arborer le pavillon ou les couleurs de France, sans y avoir ete officiellement autorise par le Consulat General de S. M., sera saisi et juge conformement a la loi et aux reglements etablis.

Les sujets francais residents dans les provinces de Kiang-soo, Fo-kien, Tehe-kiang & Chan-tong et notamment a Shanghai et environs, sont invites a se presenter au Consulat General, pour, apres avoir fait constater leur nationalite, s'y faire immatriculer conformement a la loi.

Le Consol General: 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-kee.

THE P. & O. Co.'s steamer with the Mail for Europe is appointed to leave on Thursday, the 23rd instant.

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. From the days of the ancient Roman municipium—from whence the name is derived—to the sturdy Aldermanic rule established in the hearts and memories of Englishmen, this principle has been sound in theory and practice for the body politic. On the one hand, the laws which guide its members in council, provide for the peace of the community; while on the other all that relates to sanitary measures and public works in cities is under control. It may be said, therefore, that the municipal system of government is naturally the first which can be introduced into a young colony for the mutual benefit of all. Hence it was, that the present Sir Rutherford Alcock, while British Consul at Shanghai in 1854, saw the necessity of forming the foreign landholders, of what has been called the "British Concession" in this settlement; into an electoral body, to select from their numbers the members of a Municipal Council, with power to tax the inhabitants, native and foreign. For nine years this principle has been struggling in Shanghai to obtain root upon oriental soil, and notwithstanding the many vicissitudes of time and climate, it has flourished and grown into a goodly tree with vigorous shoots. Our issue of this day bears witness to the rapid progress it has made in every branch of municipal government during the past official year. During a period of unparalleled perplexity in the history of this disturbed country, the members of that council have met the difficulties which rose up before them from time to time, with an alacrity and determination which showed that they were the men for the occasion. Not only have they overcome the unforeseen obstacles which stood in the way of improvement, but they have built up a municipal superstructure out of the slender materials at their disposal, which bids fair to become one of the most efficient in practice and

extended in principle; provided their successors carry out energetically the various measures initiated, and the public works commenced, as detailed in their able report. For this, the retiring council are entitled to the thanks of every foreign resident; and so far as our small, but independent meed of approbation extends, we cordially thank them for their unremunerated labour and oftentimes thankless task in providing for the general welfare of the community.

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, it will be seen that the most important point for the new members to consider is to set at rest all doubts as to their locus standi on Chinese ground. Independent of the action taken by the select committee on the Land Regulations, it will be their duty to see that the recommendations appended to the assessment committee's report relative to the better registration of land be carried out, so that titles may be rendered as far as possible indisputable. On this point the opinion of the best law authorities should be ascertained. The more equitable mode of assessment proposed by the committee demands their best attention, in order to augment the revenues from foreign sources. We need not enumerate the other matters requiring their consideration; but above all, the financial economy of the Council is of primary importance. However well the various parts of the municipal machinery may be controlled by the body of councillors and their staff of employes, unless the revenue and expenditure be judiciously managed, affairs are certain to get into an unsatisfactory state.

MINUTES of the annual meeting of Land Renters within the limits of the British settlement of Shanghai held at H.B.M. Consulate on Saturday, the 4th day of April, 1863.

Present.—Messrs. Medhurst, Turner, Pickwood, Brand, Cock, Underwood, Loureiro, C. Thorne, J. F. Carter, Trautman, Hanbury, Dent, Schwemann, Davison, Coghill, J. Thorne, Forbes, White, Love Jr., Dow, Michie, Godfrey, Twombly, Alabaster, H. W. Carter, Reid, and others not Renters.

J. MARKHAM, Esq., H.M. Vice-Consul took the Chair. 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. The defences they erected and the works they recommended, have received, since entrusted to their care, that attention from the hands of the Municipal Council, which the magnitude of the interests involved so obviously demanded. It remains only for the board to lay succinctly before the Land Renters the mode in which they have dealt with these interests, and to offer such suggestions for the future, as the experience they have acquired in office would seem to entitle them to give. If shall appear, after all, that the Council have left much to do, it will not be forgotten that much has been done—that this is a Foreign Settlement of no remote origin, and that a concurrence of circumstances, at this particular juncture, has led to its increase on a scale altogether disproportioned to the means at the disposal of the Council to control it.

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, and as many of these persons are known to be without any honest means of obtaining a living, several robberies have been committed, even within the Settlement, from which we have hitherto been exempt. But it is in the neighbouring district of Hong-kee that a disorganized and even dangerous state of society is known to exist. To obviate this difficulty, it was proposed to incorporate that district with this Municipality, giving to it all the privileges that were enjoyed here. Your Council, impressed with the identity of interests, unhesitatingly offered to assume the responsibility. This object, which will probably ere long force itself disagreeably upon the holders of office, has been delayed from causes so well known, that your Council refrain from alluding to them, further than to remark that they have been wholly without their control. As it is

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 indebted for arms and accoutrements for 100 men, but feeling the inadvisability of augmenting and recruiting their ranks from the only present source at command—the offcasts from the Mercantile Marine—they have only been enabled to raise the Force to its present strength, 69 men. Your Council, however, looking forward to the demands that they feel certain will be made upon their successors, have assumed the responsibility of ordering Enfield Rifles, and other necessaries for 150 men, which will arrive during the present year; and they have been led to believe that when the present pressure upon H. B. M. Forces here, shall have been relieved, the promise held out by General Sir John Michel of recruiting the ranks of the Force with men claiming or desiring their discharge from military service, will be redeemed. To meet the steady demand for recruits, your Council are of opinion that public attention should be directed to other sources. They learn that the Police in London, send out to Australia regular drafts of men, and they are informed that no difficulty would be experienced in making similar arrangements for Shanghai. The scale of gratuities, which after much consideration, they have established for men entitled to retire from the service, is sufficiently liberal to secure the services of respectable men. To meet this large additional expenditure, your Council directed their attention to the existing taxes, which though they sufficed for the limited wants of other days, were quite inadequate to the present and prospective requirements of the Settlement. They felt, too, that their distribution bore very unequally upon foreign renters, leaving the greater burthen to be sustained by a few, whilst the many escaped their responsibilities in part, or altogether.

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. As the community extends, still further checks must be placed upon the unscrupulous, to ensure a fair division of the responsibility, until the time arrives, when this tax may be abolished altogether. 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. To effect an alteration, a Committee was appointed at the special meeting of Land Renters held on 8th September last, who have spared no trouble in discharging the important duties confided to them, and who are now prepared to place before you the result of their labors. From this source, it is calculated that an annual revenue of no less than Tls. 23,000 per annum may be relied on. 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. The Rev. Mr. Yates has been indefatigable in re-assessing the China houses, and from his intimate knowledge of the language, the most beneficial results may be expected to follow.

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, your council have failed to establish, but, in lieu of the more perfect and comprehensive scheme, they have been compelled, from the very unsettled and even threatening state of affairs, to place all houses of public entertainment under control, and your council have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the ready and timely support offered them in affecting this, by all the consular agents residing here. Thirteen houses here, and seventeen in Hong-que have been opened under license, which yield a revenue of \$6,000 per annum. The sampans, too, have been brought under control, and no less than one thousand three hundred and twenty-three boats have been numbered and licensed. This tax realizes \$5,292 per annum. The system has also been extended to sedan chairs, plying for hire, of which one hundred and thirty have been licensed. Your council must leave to their successors the perfecting of this scheme, and the decision as to how far it may be extended without trenching upon those social landmarks laid down for the governance of all civilized communities in every part of the world.

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, far more minute and comprehensive than that contemplated by the council; thus raising up an imperium in imperio that in its practical results, has already led to confusion and disorder. By Chinese authority, this foreign settlement has been divided into separate areas and farmed out to native proprietors of sedan chairs; whilst, by a fiat of the Municipal Council all monopolies in this regard, have been destroyed, and this occupation has been thrown open to general competition. Placed thus in direct and open antagonism with the native rulers of the district, your council are unable to control the evils necessarily arising from this clashing of authority.

The privilege of levying taxes, virtually renounced by them in 1854, when self government within this concession was unreservedly ceded to the Municipal Body, no longer in the belief of the Council, resides in the Chinese authorities, whose inability to afford those advantages for which taxes are levied, is undisputed, and if submitted to, the exercise of it by them, bids fair to terminate in hopeless confusion. It is no part of the duty of your Council to animadvert upon the conduct of others in authority upon this menacing assumption of a power that has long since been abandoned, but as your

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. The opinion of this council on this matter, has been fully set forth in a circular letter dated 6th December and addressed to all the consuls of the treaty powers here, who for the most part, have subscribed to the views held by your council upon this subject.

Roads & Drainage.—Your council append 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. To meet the immediate outlay consequent upon a comprehensive scheme for draining the whole settlement at once, the council advertised for a loan of Tls. 133,000, called the Shanghai municipal 10 per cent drainage loan, and sinking fund at 10 per cent. The response to this appeal fell far short of their expectations, and a sum of only Tls. 20,000 was realized. Nevertheless the council have steadily progressed in this important work as far as the means at their disposal would permit. To enumerate the difficulties that presented themselves in the furtherance of this work, from the want, not only of materials but of skilled and even ordinary labor, would occupy more time than your Council have to spare, and call for the display of more patience, than probably it would be reasonable to expect at your hands. Suffice it to say: in their anxiety to overcome the difficulties referred to, that no less than 100 boats, and 500 men with a considerable quantity of treasure, have been captured and confiscated by the Rebels, into whose hands they have unhappily fallen.

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. To meet the danger likely to arise from the damming up of the old network of water outlet there, upon the approach of the hot season, the Council have ordered open drains to be constructed, as a part and parcel of the drainage scheme. These open drains would not only suffice to carry off the storm water from the surrounding land, but would be flushed with every tide, and thus save the community from the evils likely to arise from a collection of stagnant water. The following statement comprises the principal works in this department. Shallow Drains. Flaggings, piling, building, &c., 345 chang, 3 feet by 5 feet, with a granite front at each end. Owing to alteration in line of excavation 50 chang.

Drains leading from Shallow Drain. The one past dye house, a medium drain 2 feet by 3 feet, 71 chang. Nanking Road in continuation of Maloo, 137 chang, small drain. Canton Road, one small drain, 12 chang. New street drain, medium 2 feet by 3 feet, 126 chang. Kiangsue Road, late Church street drain, 3 feet by 5 feet, 127 chang.

Drains now in progress are:— 1. In Kiangsue Road, late Bridge street, medium. 2. Smith Road, 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 Nankin 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. 3. Sikh do. 387 " 40 " 4. Nankin do. 165 " 60 " 5. Foochow do. 74 " 30 "

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.

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. They feel, in common with every one, that some definite understanding should be arrived at on the subject, as our existence as a community is, to a great extent, based upon them, and vast capital has been invested in property which rests altogether on their faith. If they have been generally acknowledged and acted upon, it requires no very great amount of legal information to pronounce them—in absence of any other enactments—to be as binding on English subjects, at least, as the common or unwritten Law of England is.

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, it escaped the notice of preceding Councils, and partly, that, up to within a very recent period, our narrow thoroughfares have sufficed for the ordinary wants of the place. The sudden and almost unexampled increase of the population, has shewn how desirable it will be that the Land Regulations, in this regard, should be strengthened. Your Council, therefore, recommend that for the future it should be made compulsory on all persons intending to build within this settlement, to give notice at the office of the Municipal Council of such intention, with plans of their proposed buildings, and there to receive the sanction of the Council for the same.

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

your Council for Public Works, and training in the matter, w the health of the tants of doubt, ho competent may easily Registr cannot do matter th copy of a same subj to assess this Conce favourable Post Of Land Ren last, a proj ral of H Council, a provisiona effect that the sum of support of Office; in were to h control ov Office, by have been the establ stead of hin agreed th the local i the Post C was plac as to ensu should pa Council in bution of a penny priv fident her mails wof the use revenue w heretofore notorious defence arr and river, goes thro Your C that the Master Ge et agent I plans, the the view o "Town L work neve ment was i that the gr times to b tion of the of Shangh of \$2,500 tutio wh deprived; inevitably at the dist stipulated The corr table, and add that t the Postm the agreee Council co any furth claim the r contribution of the Soc Settlement been a so Council, an flux of th who, doub comparativ Police and or property limits at th has taught day tend in Obstacles junction of Council ne to control. difficulties; by any me doubt that cessors an especially i municipal r in the desi Finances balance She ure of the out the stat to the start and meeti of The Cou the balance together wi The esti your Cou Chinese H Wharfige Licence fe The expo not with hir ed. The Secr to your Ce appointment current hal new Board. The emolu present, ar commensur duties requi mlicity; soon becom

