

NOTICES.

The London Mail of the 14th Dec., is due in Hongkong on the 20th Jan., and here on the 25th Jan.—The 15th of Dec. Mail arrived last year on the 27th January, per *Ganges*.

The next French Mail of 9th Dec., is due in Hongkong on the 15th Jan., and here on the 21st January.

Left Hongkong, at 2 p.m. on the 16th inst., per *Ozarks*.

Latest mail advices received in London from Shanghai December 5th.

The publication of the *North-China Daily News* commenced at 5h. 30m. A.M.

TO-DAY'S DOINGS.

AUCTION—Household Furniture & Sundries; Alex. Belfield 2.00 p.m.

MEETING—Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.; at the Municipal Council Board Room 2.30 p.m.

MEETING—Min-ho-koong Hook & Ladder Company; at the Municipal Council Board Room 5.15 p.m.

MEETING—S.V.C. No. 1 Co., M. H. L. Rides; at the Municipal Council Board Room 6.00 p.m.

Zi-ka-wei Observatory.

17TH JANUARY, 1884.

WEATHER.	Previous day	On date		
	4 P.M.	10 P.M.	4 A.M.	10 A.M.
BAROMETER at 8h.	30.235	30.208	30.202	30.185
Variation for 24 hours.	+0.005	+0.008	+0.028	+0.128
Variation for 12 hours.	+0.009	+0.020	+0.097	+0.128
Wind (Direction)	N. W.	W.	W. N. W.	N. N. W.
Temperature (in Miles per hour).	45.7	49.3	38.6	41.0
Humidity: %	92	93	95	93
Barometric: 0-10	10	3	2	0
Rainfall: 0-10	—	—	—	—

PREVIOUS DAY—16TH JANUARY, 1884.

WEATHER.	Previous day	On date	
	Mean	Variation for mean 24 hours.	Normal 10 years.
BAROMETER: 4 obs.	30.270	+0.100	30.312
TEMPERATURE: { Minimum 39.2 } 42.7	+2.1	58.1	

The

North-China Daily News.

IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, JANUARY 18, 1884.

ONE of the most important offices in the scheme of foreign Settlements in Shanghai is that of Senior Consul. The duties of the Consular Doyen are of an arduous, and generally speaking singularly thankless, nature; he has no inconsiderable amount of trouble and hard work laid upon his shoulders, with all the concomitant responsibility and exposure to criticism; and this without any recompense save the extorted approval of a somewhat apathetic community when he has taken advantage of his position to do battle for their rights with the Chinese. The post, however, is an honourable one, and is always offered to the Consul who holds seniority in rank and time of service. A Consul-General thus takes precedence of a Consul pure and simple, and the representative of one of the smaller European Powers such as Holland or Belgium who may have been here, say, three years has priority over a representative of Great Britain, Germany, or the United States who may have arrived more recently. Of course this is the only rule possible in view of the fact that by diplomatic courtesy all nations are of equal rank; but like many other institutions unimpeachable in theory it is not without its disadvantages in practice. There would be a decided anomaly in a Consular Body, including the representatives of a nation whose annual trade with China amounts to over 80% of the entire foreign commerce of the country, being headed by the agent of a Power which has no trade with China whatever, and whose flags are never seen in Chinese waters. Yet by virtue of his seniority either in rank or time of service such a man would be fully entitled to the post of Doyen, and as a matter of fact has before now accepted the honour and discharged the functions appertaining to it, although, in the case we are thinking of, his knowledge of English was of the most imperfect and rudimentary description. Recently, however, two Consuls-General, feeling themselves personally unfit for a post which involves public chairmanship and various other duties to which they were unaccustomed, declined the honour, which was therupon offered to the Consul-General for Germany, who accepted it. It is a number of years since the Italian Consul-General was Doyen of the body, and it may be generally affirmed that the post is held by the representative of either Germany or the United States. We do not intend to criticise the way in which recent incumbents have discharged the very onerous duties thus imposed upon them. Only one, perhaps, has succeeded in arousing the really enthusiastic approbation of the community, and that was Consul-General Douny. And Englishmen, who after all represent the great majority of residents out here, have always acquiesced in the Doyenship being thus confined to American and German agents. We have never once heard a regret expressed at the fact that the Senior Consul was not an Englishman, or, to vary the meaning by a shade, that the British Consul was not Doyen instead of somebody who was. Of course, as our readers must have gathered for themselves, under the present system no British Consul can be elected to the post for the simple reason that he is not a Consul-General. As long as there is an Consul-General willing to accept the Doyenship, no inferior officer can be asked to take it, and this practically excludes the man who represents the biggest interests of any. Now apart from the question of personal fitness there can be no doubt that such a system is defective. We do not for a moment suppose that a British Consul is likely to lament his exclu-

sion, unless he is one who is unconstitutional enough to question the blessedness of that self-effacement policy which is regarded by the Foreign Office as such an excellent thing in Consuls.

As long as the golden rule of grandmotherly administration is enforced, that little Consul should be seen and not heard, and that if they are heard the probability is they will receive a shrubbing for their loquacity, so long will British representatives in China acquiesce in their exclusion from a post which adds in however slight a degree to their responsibilities. But it is nevertheless true that a regard to the fitness of things appears to demand the at least occasional participation of Her Majesty's representative at Shanghai in the duties of Consular Doyen. Of course we are not in a position to say how far such an officer might be hampered by instructions from his Minister. Far be it from us to wish to pry beneath the coils of red-tape and portentous shields of sealing-wax which protect official despatches from the vulgar gaze. But the chances are certainly in favour of an energetic Consul, who should be also Consular Doyen, being supported by Her Majesty's present representative in Peking. It cannot but be just a little galling to Englishmen that, in our corporate character as members of a cosmopolitan community, we should always have to look to the Consul of another Power when measures of a public character are on the *tips*. Nor, to regard the matter from another standpoint, is it fair that the burden of dealing with questions which possibly affect Englishmen more than other people, upon at least a numerical basis, should always devolve upon a German or an American. Let the British Consul take his turn at the wheel occasionally. It is not by getting some one else to do his work for her that England has become great. It is not by a policy of self-effacement that she has made her mark either in Europe or in Asia. As long as the representative of British interests in Shanghai is inferior in rank to his German, French, American, Japanese, Swedish, Italian, Austrian and Belgian colleagues, as is the case at present, so long will he labour under a disadvantage; and with him, his fellow-countrymen. It would be too much to say that a Consul lacks influence and power simply because he is not a Consul-General. There are said to have been cases in which a man's own force of character has actually made itself felt in spite of this serious drawback, and we would not for a moment throw doubt upon the authenticity of the legend. It must at least have had a foundation in fact, though embellishments may have been added afterwards. But on the principle of giving every public man the fullest scope and chance of distinguishing himself and serving the community in which he lives, we advocate most strongly the erection of the British Consulate in Shanghai into a Consulate-General; not so much from what may be called service-considerations, of which outsiders are supposed to know nothing, as on political and public grounds. A saint in craps, says Pope, is twice a saint in law; and a man who has been useful in few things, as a simple Consul, is likely to develop faithfulness in the greater things which would involve upon him as Consul-General and Doyen of the Consular Body.

A fire broke out in Chao-pao Road at half past eleven o'clock last night. Messrs. Maillard & Co. held their five hundredth auction of piece goods yesterday. We learn that Mr. Tong King-sing left Hongkong in the *Ozarks*, on Tuesday on his return to Shanghai.

Messrs. Butterfield & Swire inform us that the *Hector* left Singapore yesterday morning for Hongkong and Shanghai. The Japan Mail extracts a long and interesting document from the columns of the *North-China Daily News*, and acknowledges it to the *New York Herald*. This is a mistake.

The Hall & Holtz Co-operative Company send us a copy of their useful almanac for 1884. The days of the week and month are in large letters, and the figures can be readily seen at a distance.

Yesterday was the commencement of the period during which Chinese official seals are locked up at new year; there was no session of the Mixed Courts. The seals are supposed to be locked up for one month and one day.

Yesterday was the 102nd anniversary of the establishment of the Phoenix Fire Office, and Messrs. Carter & Co., the local Agents, have sent us two copies of its almanac for this year. Losses to the value of £14,000,000 have been paid.

A very generous entertainment was provided for the children of the local Sunday-schools by the congregation of Union Church yesterday afternoon in the Temperance Hall. Three large Sowchoo tubs, full of presents, were made to disgorge their treasures, and the distribution of these lasted a considerable time. An admirable magi-lantern exhibition concluded the proceedings, which were most successful throughout, to judge by the shrieks of delight which even and aon bore witness to the enjoyment of the children.

An instance of gamblers robbing gamblers has come to our notice. At the "ring and pin" gambling establishments, the rings are made of brass and cost about twenty cash each. Some men who were about to start similar establishments went to the already existing ones with the ostensible purpose of trying their luck. They paid ten cash for each throw, but instead of pitching all the rings, they only threw a few, and pocketed the rest! By this means,

they got as many rings as they wanted for their own establishments at half price.

When Tung-ka-doo Dock was pumped out on Wednesday, it was found that there was, in addition to the other damage, a hole on the port side of the *Swatow*, abaft of the forecastle, which is supposed to have been caused by the vessel sitting on rocks at Soudan Island. The hole is large enough to admit three fingers of a man's hand. Twenty-one plates will have to be replaced besides a new forecastle. Her port rolling chock is smashed in two places and the repairs will take a month to complete. Seeing the extent of the damage done, the captain and engineers deserve great credit for successfully bringing the vessel into port. The damage is roughly estimated at Tls. 20,000.

The question of ice appears to be a somewhat burning question in Shanghai just now. There is one point, however, which none of our Correspondents have done much to clear up. Is the machine fully available for ice-manufacture? If it is, there seems to us nothing to justify the closing of the company and sale of the plant. If not, why was a defective machine bought? We shall probably be told that the machine can make ice, but that the process is too expensive. This means that there has been local mismanagement, for, as a Correspondent points out, ice-making has succeeded well enough elsewhere. We suppose the mischief lies in the fact that non-experts have been attempting to do that which experts alone can do properly; and if the ice-machine is to be profitably utilized the first desideratum is to find somebody who understands how to work it.

We have to acknowledge receipt of the Customs List of Chinese lighthouses, light-vessels, buoys and beacons, just issued by order of the Inspector General. This return includes a chart showing the lights on the coast, on which are marked the limits of the Customs districts. A new light has been placed during the year on the South East Promontory of Shantung where a first-class siren, giving a blast of four seconds duration at intervals of one and a half minutes, will be sounded during thick or foggy weather. Another new light has been established on the South Cape of Formosa, where in thick or foggy weather two guns will be fired with an interval of three minutes between them, on the keepers hearing sounds indicating the proximity of a vessel, and if the vessel's fog signal is still heard the firing will be repeated after a space of eight minutes.

We take this from the *Daily Press*:—The following is cut from New York journal:—The consular service of the United States, according to the report of the Fifth Auditor of the Treasury, returned fees amounting to \$914,539 and expended \$370,290 in salaries and other expenses, showing that this service is not only self-sustaining, but has paid into the Treasury a revenue amounting to \$44,549. Consular fees have gradually increased from \$624,000 in 1877 to \$826,000 in 1880, \$843,000 in 1881, and \$917,331 in 1882. When all accounts are adjusted for the fiscal year 1883, says the report, the fees will slightly exceed those for 1882. Vessel fees and charges, including extra wages, amount to \$135,499, as against \$129,906 reported for the preceding year, showing that about one-seventh of the fees collected is a tax upon American shipping. Invoice fees amount to \$752,760 or five-sevenths of all the fees.

The Japan Gazette says:—One of the most interesting features of mission work in Japan is the large and ever increasing demand amongst the Japanese people for the Scriptures and books of a sacred character. During the past years, 26 co-porters employed by the National Bible Society of Scotland have sold 45,275 Bibles, Testaments and portions of Scripture, and 38,330 books and tracts published by the London Tract Society: the total value of which amounted to £318,43. These books have been sold in nearly every province of the country. Intelligent men and women in almost every town are engaged in studying Christian literature. This is proving a mighty factor in the evangelisation of the country. The work of translating the Old Testament into Japanese is being steadily carried on by Dr. J. C. Hepburn, Rev. P. K. Fyson and Rev. Dr. Verbeck. It is hoped that in three or four years the work will be completed.

The Indian Daily News gives in a recent issue several tables showing the amounts invested in Anglo-Indian industries in the various provinces. The total sum amounts to Rs. 32,32,28,365, of which by far the largest amount—17 crores—is invested in Bengal. The principal industries are: banks, cotton and twist mills, gold mines—5 and 2 crores; gunny mills, indigo, screw presses—4 and 1 crores; copper—52 lakhs; silk filatures—33 lakhs; sugar works—69 lakhs; tramways—46 lakhs. In the Bombay presidency there are 7 crores 65 lakhs of rupees, and in Madras 7 crores 84 lakhs invested in these industries, the balance being distributed over other parts of India. To this may be added 137 million sterling invested by England in railways. The progressive expansion of the Indian trade during the last three years is thus shown by the same paper:—

1850-81. 1882-83.
Rs. Rs.
Ocean Trade 1,35,23,77,332 14,78,33,924
Lnd. 11,21,84,604 9,99,42,479
Coast 54,30,87,221 63,81,00,000
Total 2,00,76,49,157 2,11,64,21,693

The grand totals of the import and export trade in periods of ten years from 1834 where they amounted to £216,723,532, to 1874/1883 nine years where they were £1,110,560,508, certainly show a marvellous growth.

Of the Indian Silk trade Mr. J. E. O'Connor says in his last report on the foreign trade of India, "it cannot but be regretted by those who remember, or have heard of, the period when the silk-growing and reeling industry in Bengal was

the first importance, and who now see Bengal not only unable to compete in the European market with China, or France or Italy, or the Levant, but actually unable to compete with China in the supply of raw material to the silk-weaving industry of Bengal." The downward course, the Englishman remarks, on which the industry seems to have set, is illustrated in a startling manner by the fact that, whereas in 1870 there was exported from India silk valued at Rs. 1,40,88,000, the exports for last year reached a value of not more than Rs. 82,07,000. In Bengal, which of all the Indian provinces has by far the chief interest in the trade, the decline was from Rs. 1,33,23,000 to Rs. 77,46,000. The largest consumers of Indian silks are France and Italy, the exports to which countries last year reached a value of twenty-nine and twenty-six lakhs respectively. Third in order comes the United Kingdom, which last year received Indian silk to the value of nearly twenty lakhs of rupees. Thirteen years ago England was by far the largest consumer of Indian silk, having taken in 1870 over a crore's worth of the article. It is the abandonment of Indian silk by that country that is the main cause of the decline in the industry. France takes, comparing one year with another, much as she has always done, and Italy has recently increased her consumption. Mr. Liottard thus sums up the various causes assigned for the decline of the industry:—The extensive importation from Japan and China to Europe since the opening of the Suez Canal, the larger yield of recent seasons in Italy and France, helped by regular supplies of silkworms eggs from Japan,—the inferior quality of the Bengal silk in that it wants strength and elasticity,—and the probable fact that the demand for silk goods has not kept pace proportionately with the increased supply thrown upon the market,—have all been brought forward as many causes of the stagnation and gradual decline of the Bengal silk industry; and, perhaps, there is some truth in each and all of these opinions."

altogether shameful inaction of the constituted authorities in the matter.

The Municipal Council, as is right and proper, does many things *pro bono publico*. Diseased cattle are not allowed to be killed for meat supply; water is tested that its purity may be assured; the quality of gas is a matter within the scope of Municipal acts; market accommodation will soon be provided, because the exposure of fish, fruit, vegetables, etc. in dirty streets was of great and unwholesome; the sanitation of the Settlement provided for; the roads, piers, streets, trees, etc. are cared for, and many other things are done by the Council for the health and comfort of the place. It cannot therefore, be alleged that if Chinese washermen souse our clothing in liquid manure the Council has not power or right to interfere in the public behalf to suppress a trade so horribly disgusting, so noxious, and—as we will find—deadly. Vested interests must be disregarded, and if any landowner stands up for the defence of the filthy washermen of Hongkew, the public will be glad to know his name, his position, and the excuses he can offer for not suppressing a most foul and pernicious trade.

Your obedient servant,

17th Jan. A. B.

BOOCHOW.

(FROM A CHINESE CORRESPONDENT.)

From the beginning of the winter season, when there has been no rain, the different regiments stationed in this city have been continually drilling on the several parade grounds. I find that, with no exception, the troops are all drilled after the foreign method, and the sound of continuous firing of the breach-loaders is kept up from day-light until noon. Target practice seems to be the chief thing. On stated days however archery on horseback and on foot is also practised by the soldiers. The 16th of this month has been settled upon when drilling shall cease for the New Year holidays, at the end of which however there will again be continuous exercises. The regiments garrisoning this city consist principally of men from the Hui (回) districts of this province. They are well drilled, and a fine body of men, and it is said that with the commencement of spring they will be despatched to Canton. I do not know whether this is true or not; however, when it was rumoured in the camps that they were going to Canton, the men all shouted approbation, and were anxious to go as soon as possible, so that they might quickly meet the French in battle.

In the case of the Yu family, husband and wife, I hear that orders have arrived in this city that the husband Yu Wan-jung is to suffer the *ling-chih*, i.e. slicing to pieces—process on the 16th instant on the execution ground. Yu's wife's sentence has not yet been approved of by the higher authorities, hence her execution has been delayed. Seven others, convicted of robbery, will also suffer death by decapitation on the same day.

14th January.

HANKOW.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)