



The Edinburgh Gazette.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1864.

WAR-OFFICE, October 7, 1864.

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to give orders for the appointment of Surgeon William Alexander Mackinnon, of the 57th Regiment, to be an Ordinary Member of the Military Division of the Third Class, or Companions of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

DOWNING STREET, October 6, 1864.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint John Maclean, Esq., C.B., now Lieutenant-Governor of the territories of British Kaffraria, to be Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony of Natal.

Her Majesty has also been pleased to appoint Wellwood Maxwell Anderson, Esq., to be Agent-General of Immigration for the Island of Jamaica.

FOREIGN OFFICE, October 5, 1864.

THE following Returns have been received by Earl Russell, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Pekin:—

REPORT on the Foreign Trade at the Port of Canton, for the Year 1863.

The Returns annexed to this Report are as follows:—

- No. 1. A Return of the British Shipping at the Port of Canton in the year 1863, showing the direct trade in British vessels to and from Great Britain and British Colonies.
- No. 2. A Return of the British and Foreign Shipping at the Port of Canton during the year 1863.
- No. 3. A Return of the Foreign (other than British) Shipping at the Port of Canton during the year 1863.
- No. 4. A Synoptical Return of the Import Trade at Canton during the year 1863, and contrasting the same with the value of the Imports in 1862.
- No. 5. A Synoptical Return of the Export Trade at Canton during the year 1863, and contrasting the same with the value of the Exports in 1862.

These Returns, like those of the preceding year, have been compiled from the Custom-house Reports, and in so far may be considered as correct; but they must not be assumed as representing the actual trade of this portion of the Chinese Empire, from the fact that a very large business in foreign manufactures and opium is done at the British Colony of Hong-Kong, and the goods and produce there purchased are conveyed chiefly down the coast, and being landed at the numerous towns, or carried up the rivers, find their way into the interior in all directions. To obtain therefore a true estimate of the amount and value of Foreign trade with this part of China would require Returns from all these various places, which is simply impossible. The position may be shewn in very few words. On a coast line of nearly seven hundred miles, studded with bays, harbours, cities, and towns, and with rivers, such as that called the West River, penetrating far into the interior, there is one treaty port, Canton, and an open and free mart, the Colony of Hong-Kong. It is but reasonable therefore, that if Chinese traders can purchase goods at Hong-Kong, and land them on the coast, they will not pass them through the Foreign Custom-house at Canton, but will ship them direct to their destination. The same may be said with regard to Exports from these places. Hence it follows that no estimate can be formed of the Foreign trade in this part of China from the published Canton Custom-house Returns, for they represent a local trade only.

A comparison of the Returns of the past with the preceding year will show a decrease generally in the trade of the port, but by no means to the extent anticipated. To begin with —

Imports.

The total value in sterling for the year 1863 is estimated at two millions two hundred and eighty-one thousand three hundred and fifty four pounds (L.2,281,354,) against two millions four hundred and twelve thousand five hundred and fifteen pounds (L.2,412,515) in 1862, showing a decrease amounting to the sum of one hundred and thirty-one thousand and sixty-one pounds (L.131,161) in the past year's trade.

As regards the causes of this decrease, the falling off must be attributed as much to failure in supply as to failure in demand, the goods, owing to the American supply

