

**TRANSLATION OF
THE PEKING GAZETTE
FOR 1873; PP. 1-123**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649455317

Translation of the Peking Gazette for 1873; pp. 1-123 by Various

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Cover @ 2017

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VARIOUS

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THE PEKING GAZETTE

FOR

1873.

SHANGHAI:

REPRINTED FROM THE "NORTH-CHINA HERALD, AND SUPREME COURT
AND CONSULAR GAZETTE."

1874.



Mich. H. Lit.
9.
9-22-1923

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTES.

1873.

January 4th.—To-morrow, at 7 o'clock in the morning, the Emperor will proceed from the Palace to the Chung-ching Temple to burn incense.

A petition was forwarded to the Emperor a short time ago, by the Footae of the province of Shense, complaining that the Public Instructor in the district of Hing was incapacitated, by old age, for the proper discharge of his duties; and praying that the official might therefore be deprived of his office. The Emperor gave his consent, and the Footae was entrusted with the execution of the sentence. In consequence however of delay on the part of that official, the Public Instructor died before being formally deprived of office. The Footae therefore now forwards a further communication to His Majesty, charging himself with culpable carelessness, and neglect of public business, and beseeches His Majesty to inflict an adequate punishment upon him. The Emperor orders the proper Board to forgive the Footae.

(2) The Footae of Honan prays the Emperor to inflict capital punishment upon a notorious criminal. The culprit is a military officer formerly of the rank of Tsün-teung, but already deprived of that rank in consequence of robberies committed by him. He has since been found guilty of coining copper cash and adulterating silver money; and is, besides, the associate of thieves and robbers. The Emperor replies that the case is recorded.

Jan. 5th.—A petition has been received from the Footae of Che-kéang to the following effect. The District Magistrate of Sên-kin has resigned his post, having been transferred to the District of Shih-mun, and a communication has been received from the proper Board recommending three officers as candidates for the vacancy. The first candidate being prevented by illness from accepting the office, the Footae prays that it may be conferred upon the second, named Shin Chung-suy, on whose behalf he had already petitioned the Emperor. His Majesty orders the Board for the appointment of officials, to take the matter into consideration.

(2) A further communication from the same official refers to the promotion of the Che-foo of Tae-chow to the rank of Taotae, and prays the Emperor to nominate some one to the vacant post. The petitioner adds, that the expectant Che-foo, named Chin-keung, is an officer of ability and fully equal to the proper discharge of the duties of that office, and he therefore prays His Majesty to appoint him to it. His Majesty consents.

(3) Le Hung-chang prays the Emperor to promote a deserving officer. The candidate is decorated with the peacock's feather, and has already been promoted to the rank of Adjutant-General. He formerly accompanied the petitioner in an expedition against the Rebels, has received several wounds in engagements, and is well acquainted with the tactics of war. He is an honorable man, intelligent, and a strict disciplinarian. The Grace of Heaven (i. e. the Emperor) is implored on behalf of the officer, that further honours may be conferred upon him. The Emperor consents.

Jan. 6th.—I, the Footae of Shang-tung, named Ting Paon-ching, Junior Guardian to the Hair Apparent, and an Officer of the first rank, humbly present a communication.

Your Majesty recently issued an order that I should investigate a certain case, and I have now done so in conjunction with the Criminal Judge.

Seu Sze-tae is an inhabitant of the District of Tsaou. His brother, Seu Wan-sew by name, has been for some time acquainted with a man named Lew Pun-leih, with whom he was for a period on good terms. One day Seu Wan-sew requested their eldest brother, named Seu Hih-hoo (the Black Tiger) to borrow 200 cash from Lew Pun-leih. The latter refused to lend the money and also gave Seu Hih-hoo a beating; and the two combatants were at last separated by some persons who were looking on. In consequence of this quarrel, an ill feeling arose between Seu Wan-sew and Lew Pun-leih. Shortly after this incident a relative of Seu Wan-sew, named Seu Yew-mei, who

resided at a distance, fell ill and died, and was buried at the place where he died. Seu Wan-sew being now at enmity with Lew Pun-leih turned this incident to the injury of the latter, and conceived the plan of going to the office of the District Magistrate to inform against him, to the effect that he had killed his relative with a spear and had hidden the body in the ground. This plot coming to the ears of Lew Pun-leih caused him no slight uneasiness, and he therefore employed persons to go to Seu Wan-sew and arrange the matter with him. Seu Wan-sew, however, refused to come to terms, and going to the District Magistrate's office brought an accusation against him there. The magistrate, as the body was not produced, refused to try the case; so Seu Wan-sew went to the Che-foo and laid the matter before that official. The Che-foo replied that he would send orders to the District Magistrate to try the case; but the latter, as before, declined to investigate the matter. Seu Wan-sew then went to the Taou-tae with his complaint, and that official replied that he would issue orders to the Che-foo to try the case. The Che-foo then arrested Seu Wan-sew and put him in prison for safe keeping.

Seu Wan-sew's father, now dreading the consequences of his son's crime in lodging a false accusation, offered money to the police runners to change his son's name, but they refused to comply with his request; and in the meantime, before the trial came on, Seu Wan-sew fell sick and died in prison. Sew Sze-tae about this time returned from a distant place where he was engaged in trade, and hearing the whole story, without making a proper enquiry into it, went to the District Magistrate's office to offer his evidence in the case, but the magistrate declined to examine him. He then came up to Peking and lodged his complaint at the Tsung-li Yamun, so that the case at last came to the knowledge of your Majesty.

Your Majesty's decision in the matter was to the effect that Seu Sze-tae did not intentionally desire to inflict injury upon any one. But the laws state that, if two men strive together, and one kills the other with a spear; or if one man kills another through revenge, then such criminals are equally deserving of punishment. Further, if any one, without having himself clearly investigated a case, shall volunteer information concerning it, he shall receive 100 strokes of the bamboo, and shall be banished to a distance of 3,000 li. To do what one ought not to do, is punishable with 80 blows.

We have carefully looked into the whole matter. As Seu Wan-sew is now dead we need not give any opinion concerning his conduct, Seu Sze-tae is fully aware of his fault, and begs that mercy may be extended to him; there is no necessity therefore to punish him; still less is it necessary to do anything further regarding Lew Pun-leih, as he is the injured party in the case.

We respectfully present this communication, and await further orders from your Majesty.

The Emperor replies that the Board of Punishments shall be ordered to report upon the case.

Jan. 7th.—I, Ying-yuen, President of the Board of Censors and a member of the Imperial Household, with others, kneel and petition in reference to a matter which has come to our knowledge, and pray for your Majesty's instructions.

Hwang Yuh-gan, Imperial reader and member of the Imperial College, with others, have forwarded evidence and a petition to my office, praying earnestly that I would beseech your Majesty to confer honorary posthumous titles in a certain case.

I, in conjunction with my Colleagues have examined closely into the matter. In their evidence the petitioners state that they are natives of the province of Hoo-pih, and on examination we find that To-shan formerly held in succession the offices of Che-foo of Seang-yang-foo, acting Che-foo of Woo-chang-foo, and finally acting Criminal Judge and Superintendent of the Imperial Granaries in the Province of Hoo-pih; he was a Manchu, of the Bordered Blue Banner, and held the literary degree of Ken-jin. He was chosen from amongst the members of the Board of Punishments, and sent to Hoo-pih in the third year of the reign of Heen-fung, to fill the office of the Che-foo at Seang-yang-foo.

At that time the Rebels from the Two Kwang had penetrated into the prefecture of Tih-gan and the department of King-mun in the province of Hoo-pih, and each of these places being successively deserted, they at length approached Seang-yang. The officer mentioned, closely defended this place, the Literati and the people all trusting to him without fear. When acting Magistrate at Woo-chang, after the Rebels had been defeated at that place, he soothed and tranquillized the people, and repaired all devastations. A short time afterwards, the Rebels advanced and threw Han-yang into confusion, and again surrounded and attacked Woo-chang, whereupon he vigor-

ously defended that place, and swearing that he would sacrifice his life in doing his duty, he caused himself to be let down by a rope from the city wall, and with his troops attacked the Rebels in the rear, killing some and taking others prisoners. The soldiers' rations afterwards coming suddenly to an end, and the city being in great danger, he again led his forces to the attack, and killed seven of the enemy. Being himself wounded in the arm, and the blood flowing into the sleeve of his dress, he quickly returned on horseback to his Ya-mun. He then handed over his seal of office to his soldiers, and committed suicide by throwing himself down a stone well in the courtyard.

Both the Viceroy Yang-pei, and the Commander-in-chief Kwan-wan have already petitioned your Majesty, and have received the assurance that this case should be taken into consideration, and the deceased commiserated according to the regulations regarding officers of the third rank, and with the liberality customary in such cases. Moreover the Literati and people of Woo-chang and Seang-yang have already implored permission to erect a tablet to this renowned officer, and in such case your Majesty has granted the prayer of the petitioners.

Having humbly examined the records concerning officers who have recently committed suicide, viz, the Che-foo Kiu Yun-mun, Tuh Pe-tsung, Wän-ching, and Le Tse-wän; the Oü-chow Le-yuen; and the Che-héens Shang Na-poo, Le Pei-fuh, and Wang Ngan-show; I find that all these officers have had honorary posthumous titles conferred upon them by the Imperial bounty. Now To-shan's death was most pitiable, and corresponds in all the circumstances of it with the cases just cited; and therefore your Majesty is now petitioned to confer honorary posthumous titles in this case also. We having examined the evidence of Hwang Yuh-gan and others concerning To-shan the late acting Che-foo at Woo-chang, &c., dare not prevent the case from reaching your Majesty's ears. We have closely examined the original evidence in the case, and now respectfully and reverentially present the same for your Majesty's perusal.

The Emperor replies that the petition is recorded.

Jan. 7th.—1, Lew Yoh-chaou, the Viceroy of Yun-nan and Kwei-chow, deprived of rank but retained in office; and I Tsin-Yuh-ying, Deputy-Governor of Yun-nan, kneel and petition your Majesty in reference to certain officers and soldiers killed in Kwan-jih and Poo-neu-he. These places

were for many years infested by rebels, of whom several ringleaders were caught and executed; and the officers and soldiers mentioned, were killed in engagements with them in E-tung and E-nan. In accordance with your Majesty's expressed will that all officers recommended for their bravery in the field should be rewarded, we respectfully present our report, and looking up, pray your Majesty to examine into the matter.

We find on examining the translations of former years that these officers and soldiers, belonging to E-tung and E-nan in the province of Yun-nan, attacked and defeated the rebels in the city of Ching-keang-foo; and after they had scattered each nest of rebels at Chuh-yuen, Keang-na, Le-tse, Mow-kih, and Na-to-jih, there still remained five places at Yü-chay-heang in Ling-gan-foo from which the rebels were not yet driven out, and where they herded at no great distance from the province. The intention was, first to exterminate the rebels in these places, and then to drive out those in the West in order that all suffering might terminate.

We have already deliberated together on this matter, and have come to the determination to present a petition on the subject to your Majesty. When I Yuh-ying left the province in order to lead out the army and quell the disturbances, we marched by different roads to the attack, and rooted out each nest of rebels in Teen-sin and Yuo-chay-heang; moreover, we swept away the entire entrenchment of rebels at Woo-shan, outside the city of Kwan-jih, broke down the four gates, and entered the city; all which transactions have been already successively reported to your Majesty.

We shall now take the names of other brave civil and military officers belonging to the encampments at E-tung and E-nan, and transcribe them all clearly and in order, and respectfully present the list for your Majesty's perusal; praying earnestly for your Majesty's favourable regard. Amongst these there are some whom we especially recommend for reward, as having exhibited extraordinary valour on all occasions, and who have already received commendation from your Majesty's vast and superabundant compassion.

This necessary petition includes all who have been promoted already to the several ranks of Corporal and Sergeant, together with the meritorious officers of higher grade, not at present employed; all of whose names are, in addition, recommended by us to be placed upon the Records of the Board of War. [The names of those who lost their

lives during the troubles are next enumerated; viz., 60 killed and 51 who died of disease in the camp.]

Jan. 8th.—Chang-gan petitions the Emperor that he may be allowed to resign his office in consequence of illness. The Emperor refuses to accept his resignation, and allows him another month for the recovery of his health.

(2) An edict has been issued to the following effect. Petitions have been presented to the Emperor by the Censors, and also by a member of the Board which regulates appointments to official rank, on behalf of the District Magistrate of Ching-ko, in the province of Shen-si, on whom His Majesty is implored to confer posthumous honours. This Magistrate, by name She Tsó-lin, was killed in a most cruel manner by the long-haired rebels, in the reign of the preceding Emperor, on the frontiers of the province of Shen-si. The compassion of the Emperor is sought in consequence of the distressing circumstances attending his death. The Emperor grants the request of the petitioners.

(3) The Emperor is informed as to the amount of money expended on repairing the Canals and the Peih-lóng lake in the prefecture of Hoo-chow. The nature of the repairs, the number of workmen employed, and the various sums actually paid are all mentioned in detail.

Jan. 9th.—A common servant, by name LeHwang-han, having been found guilty of a grave offence, the Emperor is prayed to inflict an adequate punishment upon him. This man was formerly a domestic servant in Shang-ching in the district of Hoo-nan. He associated much with the writers in the office of the Che-chow. Assuming a false name he deceived his companions, represented himself as being a Kwang-chow man, and by bribery eventually obtained the office of assistant to the Che-chow. He also procured a literary degree for his son by bribery, and actually had him appointed an Examiner of the candidates for the degree of Keu-jin. Both of these men being guilty of such meanness, their case should be strictly investigated and the matter satisfactorily arranged. The Emperor has issued orders that the father be immediately deprived of his office and his sealed credentials taken from him. The purchase of a literary degree for his son must also be examined into, and the name assumed by the latter in order to obtain it must be ascertained. The son must further be deprived of his degree, and the whole case settled according to law, in order that the distinction in ranks may asserted, and the

dignity of office maintained. The case is laid before the proper Board.

Jan. 10th.—An Imperial Edict states that from the commencement of the Winter season very little snow has fallen, and hence the land is much in want of moisture. His Majesty earnestly and devoutly looks for a change of weather in this respect, and considers that prayers should be respectfully offered in order to obtain a good fall of snow. In order to obtain this blessing, the Emperor will proceed to the Takaou Temple, on the 13th of the present month, to offer incense. His Majesty also issues orders to certain Princes and Nobles to repair to four other temples in Peking for the same purpose.

(2) Petitions have been presented from several districts, praying for a reduction in the grain tax in consequence of the incursions of rebels, want of rain, &c. The soldiers in the province of Keang-soo complain of the deficiency of their rations, and the Foo-tae petitions for an increase of allowance for them. The Emperor consents.

(3) The Emperor has issued the following Edict. The Censor Woo Fung-taou petitions, stating that he has received reliable information from his native place, concerning certain gentry and people, with matrons and unmarried women, who have suffered death; some losing their lives in action with the enemy, and some dying in a more lingering manner; but all being worthy of commiseration.

This Censor, besides receiving reliable information from Ché-keang, his native place, has also received a list of names amounting to 166 persons, both male and female; the first name on the list being that of the Keu-jin, Kin Yue-neuh, and we have given orders to the proper Board to investigate the matter.

Besides those who have already received honours, there are others, all of whom we have ordered to be recompensed according to law, and with due respect to the distinction of rank. Moreover we have given permission to the relatives of the deceased to collect money and build temples to their honour.

The deaths of the two persons Kaou Ur-shau, and Kaou-gó are singularly distressing; and we have ordered the proper Board to deliberate and bestow liberal marks of commiseration upon them in order to make known their faithfulness. The entire list has been made out and handed to the proper Board. Respect this.

Jan. 11th.—An Edict has been issued in reference to the petition of Kwei-chang and others, praying that the Manchu sol-

diers who attacked and exterminated certain sneaking rebels, may have their names published and be rewarded according to the order of merit.

In the 9th month of the present year, some bands of Mohamedan rebels were sneaking about the city of Woo, and the Dukes Ché-ti'h-gan-twan and Too-poo-too-urh-tsz, leading out their forces, followed them up and finally exterminated them, having defeated them previously in several engagements at King-shi-too. The Emperor orders that they all be rewarded according to their several merits.

(2) The Inspector of the Salt Department at Canton, Chung Kéen-keun, petitions in reference to his further appointment as Criminal Judge.

In accordance with the commands of the Emperor, he has received the seal of the latter office, and now returns thanks to Heaven (the Emperor) for His bounty. On the 24th day of the ninth month, in the present year, he received notice of his appointment from the Viceroy and the Foo-tao. In consequence of the promotion of the Criminal Judge Tsun-tó to the vacant post of officer in control of the Revenue for the province of Canton, he has been ordered to vacate his present appointment and to fill the post of Criminal Judge for a time.

(3) I your servant King-lin kneel and petition in reference to certain officials who have control over the affairs of the Palace, that their faithful services, in repairing the roads along which the Dragon Chair passes, at their own expense, may be rewarded. The evidence in this matter I respectfully transcribe and present, beseeching your Majesty to take the matter into consideration.

Tá San-ah, Wán-yèn, and Hoo-puh, members of one of the Boards, together with the writer Léen-peih, have respectfully examined all the Imperial Dragon Chair sheds, belonging to the Imperial tombs, erected at the Nan-sin-ching gate, whence at all proper periods for offering sacrifice the Imperial attendants reverently carry out the Dragon Chair and pass along to the Great and Little West Gates. Because of the excessive rain which has fallen this year, the road outside the Great Western Gate was flooded, and the water washed it away to the extent of more than 30 chang in length, more than 10 in breadth, and to the depth of more than two feet. The road outside the Little West Gate was washed away to the extent of more than 40 chang in length, 13 in breadth, and two feet five inches in depth. The drains

also were rendered irregular, thus making the road completely impassable.

On both sides of these roads are lands which are private property; and during the summer and winter months, when reverently carrying out the Dragon Chair, the bearers were always obliged to tread down the crops in order to pass along with safety.

From the Sinching Gate to the Imperial tombs, the distance is more than 10 le, and the pathway here had also been washed away in some places. All these damages have now been completely repaired, with the exception of the deep ditch along the road from the Great to the Little West Gate, which at present endangers the tombs. Earth ought to be carried without delay to fill this up, and stone steps should be built. The quantity of stone required for this purpose, however, is very great, and if it be purchased from a hill which is private property, and which is several le distant from the tombs, the excavating of the hill, and the carriage of the stone, will cause very great expenditure both of money and labour.

At the Fung-shwuy wall, towards the South, a quantity of stone has been left on the ground, which was not required by the masons, and my informants think of carrying away these stones so as to clear the Fung-shwuy space, and make it look neat; and thus render the Imperial road for the Dragon Chair still better adapted for use. Moreover the drains on each side of the road must be deepened, and willow trees planted at short distances, and then the entire road will be rendered durable, and secured from injury by water. If it be not quickly repaired, there is great danger that when rain again falls in excess, it will be still more difficult to put it in order.

The officials above mentioned have ever enjoyed the Imperial bounty, for which they have never yet made the slightest return, beyond always cherishing the remembrance of it in their hearts; and they now entreat me to petition your Majesty on their behalf. They make all these repairs themselves as a recompense, but they most certainly do not consider the matter to be worthy of your Majesty's consideration. If they only receive permission to order the preparation of the materials this winter, next spring they will collect the workmen together, and quickly make all the necessary repairs, in order to manifest their zeal.

I, your servant, have myself already examined the roads along which the Dragon Chair is borne; and, as these have not