

1. That the interests of Commerce being best promoted by union and co-operation among mercantile men on subjects involving their common good, an association be formed to be called the *Ceylon Chamber of Commerce*.

The objects of this society will be, to foster and protect the growing Commerce of Ceylon, by collecting and classifying all information bearing on its wants and interests, and obtaining by every means in its power the redress of acknowledged grievances and the removal of pernicious restrictions; to decide differences on matters of local custom and usage, and to form a Court of reconciliation to parties willing to abide by its decisions; to communicate with the Public Authorities, with similar associations in other places, and with individuals, on matters of Trade; and finally, by recording its proceedings and decisions, to form a *code of practice*, by which the transactions of business may be amplified and facilitated.

2. That all Merchants and other persons engaged in the General Trade of Ceylon be admissible as members; the individuals present at this Meeting to be considered the original members.—Candidates subsequent to this Meeting, to be admitted as Members on being proposed by one member and seconded by another: fifteen days' notice to be given by entering in a book the candidate's name, with that of the proposer and seconder, and at the first meeting thereafter, he shall be balloted for and elected by a majority of votes.

3. That the Chamber reserve to itself the right of expulsion in case of need, to be decided at a General Meeting, on ten days' previous notice, by a majority of three-fourths of the members present.

4. That voting by proxy be not allowed, except when a member is proposed to be elected or expelled.

5. That to provide a suitable establishment and defray the current expenses, a fund be raised by entrance and other fees, monthly subscriptions and fines.

6. That each member do pay an entrance fee of Ten pounds, and a monthly subscription of One pound, to be

carried to the general funds of the Society with the amounts of such fines and fees on reference, as shall hereafter be provided.

7. That the affairs and funds of the Association be conducted by a Chairman and a Committee of six members, to be elected by ballot.—The Chairman to be ex-officio Chairman of the Committee, and in his absence the Committee to elect their own Chairman, three to be a quorum.

8. That it be imperative on members to serve on the Committee when elected, subject to a fine on refusal equal to the amount of their yearly subscription; and members not attending the Committee when daily summoned to be fined £1, unless in either case satisfactory reasons be assigned.

9. That no two members of the same firm shall belong to the Committee.

10. That all questions before the Committee be decided by a Majority, the Chairman having the deciding or casting vote; and that in all cases where three of the Committee dissent, they are to have the privilege of referring the question to the decision of the Chamber at a General Meeting.

11. That the Committee shall meet for the despatch of business on the Wednesday of every second week, or at such other times as occasion may require, when summoned by the Secretary, who shall intimate in his notice the business to be brought before them.

12. That a General Meeting of the Chamber be held half-yearly on the first Wednesday of November and May, when if half of the resident members be not present the meeting to be dissolved; and that it be the duty of the Secretary, when directed by the Committee, or on the requisition of not less than six Members, to call General Meetings, at any other time that occasion may require.

13. That all the proceedings of the Chamber be submitted to the half-yearly Meetings, at which time the accounts of the Treasurer be audited, and should it appear necessary the present regulations be added to, revoked, or modified.

14. That the election of the Chairman for the year shall take place at the meeting in the month of May, at which time, and also at the Meeting in November, three new members shall be elected to serve on the Committee, in the place of three old members, who shall in the first instance go out by lot, but at all subsequent elections by rotation.

15. That the Committee be authorised to provide suitable accommodation for meetings of the Chamber, and defray the current expenses for Periodicals, House Rent, &c., which should they during the first year exceed the amount of the funds of the Society, the subscribers hereto agree to bear in equal proportion.

16. That a Treasurer be appointed to collect and receive fees, subscriptions, and fines, and to make such payments as shall be authorised by the Committee.

17. That one of the members of the Committee be requested to act for the present as Honorary Secretary, and in that capacity to take charge of the correspondence and records of the Chamber, and perform such other duties as the Committee may direct.

18. That a report of the Proceedings of the Chamber be published annually, with such statistical and other data as may be deemed of general interest.

19. That the foregoing rules be copied into a book which shall be subscribed by all the members, and that copies be printed and distributed to each, and that the Secretary be enjoined to forward authenticated copies to the Colonial Secretary, to the Chambers of Commerce in the three Presidencies, to the East India and China Association, and to such other associations or individuals at Home or abroad as it may be deemed advisable should be made acquainted with the objects of the Society.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of a Chairman and Committee, and a ballot having been called for, the choice fell on the following: Joseph Read, Chairman; Committee: C.D. Parlett, D. Wilson, Stephen Vertue, G. Crabbe, J. Armistage, A. Fraser. Stephen Vertue was elected Honorary Secretary.

The individual members of the Chamber were: John Armitage, E.H. Brook, George Crabbe, Robert Christian, R.C. Clark, A. Fraser, Hormonjie Espondarjie, F. Lambe, C.D. Parlett, J. Read, J. Steuart, Saporjee Hirjee, S. Vertue and D. Wilson.

The firms composing the Chamber were: Gibson & Co., A. & R. Crowe & Co., Wilson, Archer & Co., C.D. Parlett & Co., Armitage Scott & Co., A. Fraser, E.H. Brook, Joseph Steuart, R.C. Clark & Co., Hormonjie Espondarjie and Saporjee Hirjee.

The Honorary Secretary's letter, dated Colombo 10th April, 1839, to the Colonial Secretary was as follows:

"I am directed by the Chairman and Committee of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce to lay before you for the information of His Excellency the Governor a printed Report containing the Rules and Regulations of the Institution and an account of the proceedings in which it originated.

The objects which the Society proposes to effect, the Committee feel convinced, will receive all the support which their importance demands, at the hands of the Government, and they particularly solicit, that His Excellency will cause to be opened to them, such sources of information, in the hands of the Government, as may tend both to illustrate the past condition of the commerce of the country and furnish them with correct data by which to Estimate its progress at the present time".

The following trade figures refer to 1839, the year in which the Chamber was born:

			<i>Imports</i>	<i>Exports</i>
Colombo	£483,625	£275,589
Galle	£178,295	£100,019
		Total ..	<u>£661,920</u>	<u>£375,608</u>