



THE EARLY DAYS OF HONG KONG SCOUTING—PART 12

ARCHIVES OF THE PAST – Part 5D

This is the final part of the (4 parts) long letter from Rev. G. T. Waldegrave, Commissioner of the Boy Scouts Association, Hong Kong Branch dated 31st May 1926 to Mr. Butterworth of the Imperial Headquarters of London. The letter was written against the background of the eve of the Northern Expedition of the Nationalist Forces from Canton and the aftermath of the General Strike in Hong Kong, Macau and Canton for the boycott of all British interests. This period also ushered the era of Sir Cecil Clementi who being a Chinese scholar himself shew more interest and understanding to the Chinese in Hong Kong.

(Continued from the last issue of Hong Kong Scouting #242")

" You will shortly be getting official notice of the death, in England of P.H. Holyoak, our President, and our recommendation of a new one. Holyoak was a good fellow, but really too busy and too ill to be able to do much, though he did what he could. After becoming very prosperous the firm he represented fell on bad days through trouble here, and it went broke, at home, H. losing £100,000 in the smash. This was entirely due to the Chinese bother, for his firm had a reputation for straight plain dealing and no undue speculation. H. himself was typical of the firm. He did not give in, but set to again, started a new firm, against great odds, but the trouble continued, his health got worse, and he never got a fair chance. However he kept game to the end. He is a big loss to us. I am suggesting to Clementi that we ask one of the Chinese representatives on the Legislative Council to succeed him. This man, the Hon. Dr. R.H. Kotewall (Dr. of Laws, H.K. University) is a Parsee-Chinese with a Chinese wife, a big merchant and business man, and a very well-liked and straight man. He is very interested in the welfare of boys in the Colony, and in fact when I was home I had to buy literature on Industrial Schools for him. He is already President of one troop. Blason and I both feel that considering the great number of Chinese Scouts we have it would, especially at the present time make a very good impression to have him. We should have a member of the Council, and the other Chinese representative, Sir Shou-son Chow, is an old man, and not nearly so suitable as Kotewall. Of course I shall have to have Clementi's approval, but I think he will endorse this at once.

We have also lost Sir Paul Chater one of our great Colonial Benefactors. Col. Robertson got \$1,000 from him for the Girl Guides, and Chater then offered him a like sum for us. R. forgetting that "a bird in the hand etc.", said that we were not in desperate need then but would call for it later on. In due course the St. Andrew's Kowloon troop of which Chater was president received \$1,000. Chater is dead, and the Assoc. has nil. Very annoying, especially as R. said he would make a point of seeing that we did get the \$1,000, and the old man got sick before he had the chance. As a matter of fact I had him in view for the Training Camp Building, and only the fact that Robertson had him apparently in tow stopped me from seeing him. The \$1,000 incident took place they (sic) day after I returned to H. K. in/25. Chater went away to England then at once, and on returning went sick, so that we could do nothing.

This letter has gone on far too long, and in mercy to you I must stop. Please remember me to all at H.Q. who I know.

Charles Blason joins with me a sending salaams. He is working as hard as ever for us, but at present is none too fit with a poisoned foot.

Yours very sincerely,

G.T. Waldegrave
Commissioner H.K.B.S.A.

P.S. I had two men going in for Part I of the Wood Badge, but they have both failed owing to lack of time due to exams etc. They are however finishing the course on their own for practice purposes which is all to the good.

P.P.S. I enclose for approval a form of Letter of Commendation, Hongkong Association, with a respect on the why and therefore etc. I hope it does not clash with those issued by H.Q.

G.T.W. "



Front row left 2 and 1:
SIR SHOU-SON CHOW
AND Rev G.T.W.
INSPECTING S.C.A.A.
TROOP 1925



Rev. G. T. Waldegrave
Commissioner of the
Boy Scouts Association,
Hong Kong Branch
1921 - 1934



Hon. Sir Paul Chater
President of the St. Andrew's
Church of Kowloon Boy Scout Troop
and Lady Chater at Repulse Bay Hotel in 1921