

韋寶珊爵士

韋玉爵士，字寶珊。籍粵之中山縣。於公元一八四九年。生於香港。父誥光。歷任本港有利

時打學校。越年。轉進蘇格蘭大來書院。脩業四載。成績優異。師友佩服。嗣後遠來人士投考該書院者。胥蒙青睞。寶珊士曾給該院一好印象故也。爵士為我國留學歐西之第一人。於



THE LATE SIR WEI YUK, BOSHEN.

一八七二年。學成

返旆。即進有利銀

行供職。臂助乃父

。以學問及才幹兼

優。至為當事人所

器重。一八七九年

。其父棄世。該行

倚之更殷。一八八

二年。遂使繼父職

。而報達為華經理

。計其父子連續與該行發生關係者。幾達六十

年。可謂難得矣。爵士長於才。而勇於服務。

除銀行本職外。凡港中社會公益善舉。靡不贊

助。故政府信任。僑胞愛戴。各機關團體。爭

相聘請充名譽或重要職位。茲畧舉其顯著者述

之。一八八一年。為米華醫院首總理。一八八

三年。為太平局紳。一八九三年。為國防局紳

。（此局乃由爵士倡辦者）一八九六年。為定例

局議員。一九〇八年九月。晉授英國 O.M.C. 勳

章。一九一一年。英廷以其勳績發給。錫以爵

士榮銜。又爵士早年已有從九龍築鐵路至廣州

直達北京之獻議。惜清廷官吏不之許。嗣廣九

鐵路興築。實與其原定計劃一部份相同。今中

英政府有廣九粵漢兩路接軌之磋商。將屆實現

。此後還抵北平。當非難事。豈非爵士能洞燭

先機之明証耶。爵士於一八七二年。娶前本港

定例局議員黃誠之長女為室。（黃誠字平甫，

本港定例局華人議員之第二人，）爵士有第二

子。曰安。曰培。均遊於法學。為當時港中著名

律師。

銀行華經理。爵士出自富裕家庭。總角受書。

名儒專席。共齒十載。漢學功深。繼進本港官

立中央書院專習英文。融會新舊文化。學識愈

形豐富。年十八。破浪乘風。赴英肄業於利些

THE LATE SIR WEI YUK, BOSHEN C.M.G., J. P., Kt.

As a conscientious worker on behalf of the Chinese community of Hongkong, and as a man who did a great deal to produce the good relations existing between the Government and the Chinese, the late Sir Wei Yuk's name deserved to be specially remembered by all section of society in the Colony. On many occasions he was of invaluable assistance to the officials and his counsel was largely instrumental, notably at times of riots and strikes during the past half of a century. In settling matters amicably before they assumed the serious proportions which they threatened to do in several instances. Sir Wei Yuk was a Cantonese (Chungshan District), born in Hongkong in 1849, and came of excellent family. His father, the late Mr. Wei Kwong, was a well-known banker, and formerly compradore to the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China, in Hongkong.

After ten years' study of Chinese, under private tutors, Sir Wei Yuk commenced his English education at the Government Central School, under the late Dr. Frederick Stewart, LL.D., and in 1867, at the age of eighteen years, he proceeded to England and attended the Leicester Stoneygate School for twelve months. In 1868 he went to Scotland and studied for four years at the Dollar Institution. He soon became a favourite with both masters and fellow pupils, and the impression regarding his nationality that he made and left behind him became a tradition in the school, ensuring to others from the Far East a most friendly reception at that institution. The late Sir Wei Yuk was one of the first Chinese to go abroad for Western education. On his return to the East in 1872, after a European tour, he entered the service of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China (now the Mercantile Bank of India, Limited) in Hongkong, and on the death of his father, in 1879, he (after a temporary retirement, according to Chinese custom) took up the vacant position of compradore. Sir Wei Yuk and his father served the bank for fifty-three years in Hong Kong—that is to say, since it was first opened.

In 1883, the late Sir Wei Yuk was appointed a Justice of the Peace, and, in 1896, became an unofficial member (representing the Chinese community) of the Hongkong Legislative Council. He worked in the greatest harmony with his colleague, the late Sir Ho Kai, C.M.G., M.B., Kt. and while not noted for long speeches, was regarded as an invaluable adviser in connection with all legislation in any way touching the interests of his fellow countrymen. In many other capacities also he had striven for the public good. He held numerous appointments, and served on many committees, for whom his help was required for the furtherance of the public weal it was never withheld. It is impossible to give a complete list of his appointments in a brief biographical sketch such as is here essayed, but a few of his appointments may be mentioned. He was chairman of the Tung Wah Hospital (Hongkong's leading Chinese charitable institution), 1881-83 and 1888-90; a permanent member of the committee of the Po Leung Kuk for the protection of destitute women and children (of which he was one of the founders) since 1893; a permanent member of the Hongkong District Watchmen's Committee (which was formed on his suggestion); and a member of the Standing Law Committee since 1896.

Moreover, he served on all the commissions appointed by the Government to inquire into matters affecting the Chinese since the commencement of his public career. The Chinese Government was indebted to him in no small degree for the assistance he rendered in bringing to justice Chinese criminals who had fled from Chinese territory to Hongkong and elsewhere. For the services which he rendered during the plague epidemic of 1894, the general public of Hong Kong presented him with a gold medal and a letter of thanks, while the Chinese community also addressed to him a letter of thanks.

Sir Wei Yuk may be regarded as the father of the Sanitary Board. For many years, previous to the formation of the present body, he took greatest interest in sanitary matters, and he was the friend and adviser of Professor Chadwick when that well-known authority visited the Colony to report on the sanitary condition of the city of Victoria.

He suggested the construction of a railway from Kowloon to Canton, and thence to Peking. He spent large sum in furtherance of the scheme which failed however, owing to the obstacles placed in its way by Chinese officials, who at that time strenuously opposed the introduction of anything from the West. During the past decade, however, several lines of railway were constructed, between the places named, and they follow closely Sir Wei Yuk's original plans.

The Honour of Knighthood was conferred upon him by the British Empire in 1910.