The Admiralty Order in Council 1910 came into force on April 1, and the Rules are now posted on the board at H. M. Supreme Court.

The "Japan Daily Mail" reports that two rats have been found at Nagasaki showing plague bacillus on dissection. There is naturally some excitement.

The 2nd Battalion Somersethshire Light Infantry, which went to Malta in 1908, has been ordered to Tientsin, where it will relieve the 1st Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

The "Peking and Tientsin Times" reports that Mr. J. W. Campbell, c.m.g., who has been Chinese Secretary at Peking for so many years, has resigned from the Consular Service.

Mr. Robert Morrison, who was a member of the special missions in China in 1857-58, and a son of the founder of Protestant Missions in China, died at Newbury on March 16.

The Directors of Messrs. Llewellyn & Co., Ltd., at a recent meeting decided to recommend a dividend of 80 per share, amounting to 80 per cent for the year ended December 31, 1910.

Francis Trail, the Envoy of China to the Coronation, will be accommodated at the Alexandra Hotel, where a suite of rooms has been secured for him by the British Government.

Abstention from the use of milk, cheese and butter by the Chinese, Japanese and Koreans is held by Professor A. Henry, probably to account for the prevalence among them of syphilitic diseases.

The annual conferences of prefectoral governors and superintendents of police will be held in Tokio during April. An important feature of the police conference will be a discussion of measures to control socialists and advertisements.

The Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd., confidentially informs us that the total output of the Company's three mines for the week ending March 25, 1911, amounted to 29,972.48 tons, and the sales during the period to 30,175.57 tons.

A correspondent, who has recently arrived at Wabiansin, Szechuan, writes that all along the banks of the Yangtze River from Hankow to Changkung, the hills, which formerly were covered with the poppy plant, are now cultivated with broad beans and wheat.

The United States transport Buford returned from Nanking on Wednesday after discharging the supplies brought for distribution in the famine-stricken districts. She leaves for Nagasaki at 3 p.m. to-day, and after coaling will proceed direct to San Francisco.

Amongst the passengers by the Kobe Maru for Europe were Dr. and Mrs. S. A. Ransom. Dr. Ransom, who has been United States Public Health Officer at Shanghai for some years, will be away from Shanghai for nine months. Dr. F. M. Neilson took over the duties of that officer on Saturday.

Owing to the retirement of Inspector G. Matheson from the Municipal police, Inspector J. McGregor has been transferred from "Bubbling Well" Station to the Central Station, and Sub-Inspector G. W. Morrison from Harbin Road Station to Bubbling Well Station. Sergt. Macdonald has been placed in charge of Harbin Road Station.

At the German Consular Court on Thursday morning, before Mr. B. V. Hahn, Vice-Consul, Mr. Schelemann was charged with having removed several cases of beer from the Wiener Cafe, Broadway, while the said premises were sealed under orders from the Mixed Court. The accused was sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment.

The Custom House rates of exchange for April are as follows:

- £1 @28s.4d.
- £1 = HK. Tls. 7.48
- francs @30s.3d.
- HK. Tls. 1.00 = France 3.58
- marks @24s.
- HK. Tls. 1.00 = Marks 2.70
- golds @23s.8s.
- HK. Tls. 1.00 = Golds 1.54
- yen @84s.
- HK. Tls. 1.00 = Yen 1.31
- rupees @15.
- HK. Tls. 1.00 = Rupees 2.01
- m. $ @1.50
- HK. Tls. 1.00 = Mex. $ 1.50

At the Russian Consular Court on Tuesday morning, before Mr. W. Bratzev, Vice-Consul, the hearing was resumed of the charge against F. Masnowsky, of No. 38 Yulang Road, of having sold intoxicating liquors on his unlicensed premises during the month of February, in contravention of Municipal By-law No. XXXIV, His Honour ordered that the premises be closed up from to-day's date.

Our Hongkong correspondent writes:

- The combined wisdom of the Licensing Board and the Legislative Council has at length solved the barmaid question, by inserting in the Licences Consolidation Ordinance, which passed through all its stages at the Council meeting on Thursday, March 23, a clause prohibiting any woman, whether belonging to the licensee's family or not, from serving in any capacity in a bar-room or in a room opening out of a bar-room.

This decision in the action for alleged infringement of copyright, heard at the Mixed Court on Friday between the Commercial Press (China Printing Co.) and Messrs. Guo & Co., American Publishing House, represented by Mr. Edward Evans, was not given on Tuesday, as announced. Magistrate Pao and Mr. J. F. Jameson, American Assessor, before whom the case was tried, have decided to give a verdict next Tuesday afternoon.

Wong Dau Ze, who was arrested on a warrant, was charged at the Mixed Court on Tuesday with cruelly ill-treating a maid, named Ching, by prickling her with hot opium pipe cleaners on various parts of the body, and also burning her with incense sticks, on various dates during the last five months, in a house at No. 33 Willow Road. On the application of Del. Sub-Inspector Craig, a remand was granted, the officer stating that the accused was concerned in a case that had been before the British Assessor.

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Ching was remanded in custody, but Zung, for whom Mr. W.S. Fleming appeared, was released on security.

CHINESE AT THE CORONATION.

A telegram from Peking, was received by the authorities of the Kiangan Amebasalow Wednesday, giving orders that the Chinese cruiser Haichi is to be made ready to go, under command of Admiral Ching, to take part in the festivities of the Coronation of King George. The Haichi will start as soon as she has been commissioned.

Prince Tsai Ch'ou, son of Prince Ching, who represents the Emperor will go via Siberia.

SHANGHAI OIL CO., LTD.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Shanghai Oil Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Company's offices, 22 Yuenминyuen Road.

Mr. Browett, who occupied the chair, stated that they were called together to confirm the resolution referring to the issue of accumulative preference shares, which was presented to the meeting on March 22. The resolution, which he moved should be confirmed, was to the effect that the capital of the Company be increased by the creation of 10,000 of $50 shares, to be called preference shares.

Mr. J. H. Osborne seconded the confirmation of the resolution and the proceedings terminated.

A FISH STORY.

On the 20th instant a queer-shapes sea monster, about eighteen feet in length, was sighted by some fishermen off Haneda, in Tokio Bay. The "Japanese Times" states that, as the creature made no effort to evade the boats as they approached, the fishermen attacked the stranger with their oars, and managed to drag the weakened monster into one of the boats and returned to their quarters at Haneda, with the trophy. In shape the creature looks like a tai fish. It is eighteen feet in length, has a breadth of twelve feet, and two long fins measuring five feet each. The monster weighed over 1,600 lb. and the oldest fisherman of the place declared that he had never before saw a fish of the kind. The opinion was advanced by some that the fish was a malformed sun-fish, but according to Dr. Kishigami, who is a great authority, even the biggest sun-fish rarely reaches over six feet in length. At any rate this is not a native of the waters of Tokio Bay.

THE HONGKONG TIGER.

It may be recalled that some little time ago a report was in circulation that a tiger was large in Hongkong. In this connexion the following extract from the "Hongkong Daily Press" of April 1 is of interest:—

The unknown animal, believed to be a tiger, which carried off some cattle at Repulse Bay recently, has again left indications of its visit which he recently paid to Shek O, which is about six miles from Shaukiwan. On the night of March 27 the Indian constable station ed at this village missed a goat, but did not report it.

FIRE AT KIOTO.

At 3:30 yesterday morning, says "Japan Chronicle" of March 31, fire broke out in Kioto in one of the most densely populated districts, Shinkyo-gahori. The flames spread rapidly until more than fifty-seven buildings were on fire, including some thirty theatres and other public places of amusement. A number of large shops were also destroyed. The conflagration was not under control at 5:40 yesterday morning. Among the buildings destroyed were the Seishin- in and the Saijoji temples and the Takayamishiki shrine, by the peaceful and famous place of devotion; the Asahina and Tumurara theatres; a large bazaar, and the Kotani photographic studio. The roofs of the Saiiri, a temple, and two music halls were involved, but the buildings were saved. At one time Teramachi-dori, the Street of Temples, was threatened owing to the strong wind, but by the strenuous efforts of the fire brigades this calamity was averted. The district in which the fire occurred is the most prosperous part of the city, the ground in it being said to cost one sho of gold for one sho of earth. The total damage is estimated at Y300,000.