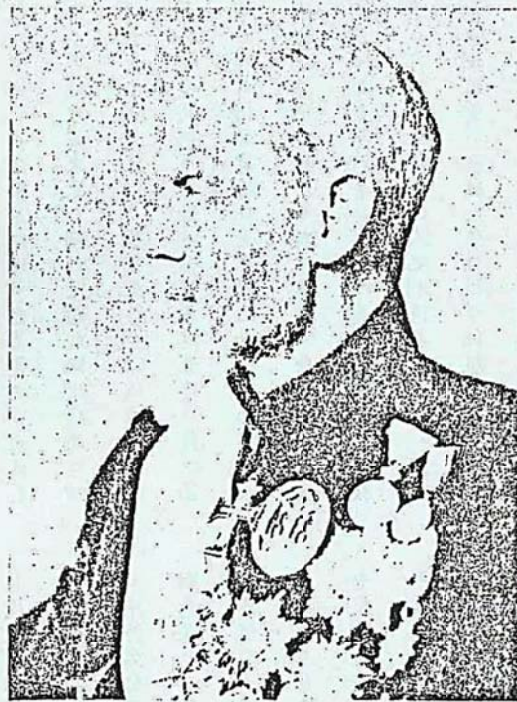


何東爵士

何東爵士。字晚生。現年七十六歲。系籍嶺南。僑寓香江。父早見背。遺孀七人。母氏殊賢。督課不稍寬假。爵士少岐嶷。以家清儉。僅



SIR ROBERT HO TUNG

就學私塾。母日與銅錢三。作午餐用。飲極有存積。合數尚得四十餘錢。一日途遇老乞可。狀甚貧苦。憐之。竟以半數相贈。其尚儉與好義。於幼時已見其端倪矣。迨七齡。其母患治生計。擬令批學。改習英文。師愛其材。銅免所費。仍使留讀於塾中者數載。故爵士於漢學頗具淵源。十二歲時入中央學校。(即今克仁

書院)六年畢業。博覽西史。淹通群籍。為謀術水之概。曾留校充助教。越年。致進粵垣海關。襄理稅務。以治事精勤。賢勞擢著。為上游器重。兩年後。因應友召。告辭返港。英商怡和洋行總司理人夙耳其名。亟謀借重。延任該行副買辦。爵士固辭不獲。乃就職任事。贊襄助理。咸慶得人。

又越二年。香港火險，廣東水險，兩公司分行。並以經理要席聘請兼領。而辦理船務總務。復關重要。爵士繼任數職。規畫精詳。興利剔弊。洞中肯綮。業務蒸蒸日上。

半項日上。未幾怡和洋行復振。為正買辦。爵士益展鴻才。直至公元一九零零年。始以積勞告退。該行更選其亞。勉從所辭。然銘發紀績。贈書叙功。其盛德之感人。勞苦功高。有如此者。嗣後爵士自營商業。孳然奇計。范蠡宏散。利涉風帆。如操左券。義取之貨。致千累萬。紫標黃榜。貫朽倉陳。非其才不足以濟

之。非其德尤不足以致之也。爵士曾任滙豐銀行買辦。該行舊有規定。華人供職其中者。須納巨資保證。寒門下戶。抱負長才。每有向隅之歎。爵士慨免除之。人皆感戴盛德。生平對於公益事業。熱心輸助。更無或吝。培植人才。獎掖後進。孜孜不倦。於皇仁大書院。曾慨捐巨款之獎勵金。於港大學堂初立。更大解義。竭力助贊。前後輸將。達二十六萬。其他港中稍具成績之學校。多蒙其扶助。所捐分學額。獎品。及基金三種。爵士更念學校雖多。但貧窮子弟。殊少進校機會。遂出巨金。遍設義務夜學於香港及九龍兩地。以謀教育之普及。又以廣置於九龍地域。苦無相當教育。乃創設學校。俾西方學。強誦其中。其不分畛域。嘉惠士林。誠無涯涘。一九三一年。爵士舉行金婚典禮時。復慨然捐貲二十萬圓。以半數在新界建築兒童幸福會一所。以半數充本港貧女教育費。一九三四年。又捐貲十萬。在香港行廷設一兒童工藝學院。復撥款建一畜生收養所。以財本港之禁虐畜生會。香港自開闢後。華人商其中者日多。五方雜處。疾疫時有。原設東華醫院。房室狹小。病者恆以額滿見道

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SIR ROBERT HO TUNG, Kt. J.P.

Sir Robert Ho Tung (widely known as the "Grand Old Man" of Hongkong) was born in a humble home in Hongkong in 1862. As the eldest child of a family of seven, he early acquired and developed those qualities of organization and leadership which paved the way for his brilliant career later on. Being poor, he learned from his childhood days the lesson of frugality and wise employment of limited resources.

Young Robert showed signs of promise from the very first. At the age of seven he was such an adept pupil in Chinese that when his mother had to withdraw him from school on account of poverty, the teacher offered to continue teaching the child without fees. This teacher became so attached to his pupil that when the little boy had to commence his English studies at the Central School (now Queen's College) there was a reluctant parting. As an English student at the age of twelve Sir Robert quickly showed his ability, for after only six years of study he was chosen as a pupil teacher of the School. Then after a year of teaching (that is in 1878) he sat for a competitive examination for a post in the Chinese Maritime Customs at Canton under Sir Robert Hart's regime. Though he was the youngest candidate at that examination Sir Robert easily secured the post. After two years at the Customs young Ho Tung resigned. He then commenced his association with Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., which has now lasted over 50 years. His business abilities and his energising will soon became apparent and in two years he was promoted from a junior position to become the Manager of the Chinese department of the leading business firm in the Far East as Comptroller of Jardine's. Sir Robert soon multiplied the business returns and connexions of the firm.

A Millionaire before he was 30 years of age, the once poor struggling youth soon became associated with practically every important business enterprise in the Colony. When he resigned his comradeship in 1900 (at the early age of 38) Sir Robert Ho Tung was already known as the leading expert and merchant in Hongkong in property, insurance, shipping, and import and export business, with agencies in Java and the Philippines. From 1900 and onwards one company after another invited him to serve on its Board of Directors, until to-day he is a Director of 18 of the leading companies in Hongkong & Shanghai as well as being Chairman and largest shareholder of a number of them. A genius in all matters touching finance Sir Robert Ho Tung's opinion has been constantly sought after not only by the Government of Hongkong but also by the Chinese Republic whose High Adviser he is. In Hongkong he has served on many of the leading Committees and Commissions dealing with the economic life on the Colony. In particular he, as Chairman, was mainly responsible for producing the report of a Sub-Committee on the economic resources of Hong Kong and its Dependencies in 1920. In 1922 he contributed much towards the settlement of the Seamen's Strike.

Sir Robert Ho Tung also takes a keen interest in the welfare of the Colony. Education in all its forms receives unstinted support from him. He has given \$250,000. to the Hongkong University and defrayed the cost of building the old Kowloon British School. Many free evening schools on the island and the mainland are being maintained by him, while almost every school of importance in the Colony for both boys and girls has received something from him either in the form of scholarships or prizes or donations.

The poor and needy also have always had his sympathetic support. Sir Robert was the Chairman of the Tung Wah Hospital as far back as 1898, and during his term of office he was responsible for extending the hospital structurally, by raising funds for a new building as an Extension and Plague Hospital. In 1931 Sir Robert celebrated his Golden Wedding, and announced a donation of \$200,000 to mark that occasion. Half this sum was applied to the building of a Children's Welfare Centre in the New Territories and the other half was devoted to the free education of poor girls in Hongkong. In 1934 he defrayed the entire cost of erecting a home for abandoned dumb animals and presenting it to the S.P.C.A. Thus from dumb animals to needy human beings, Sir Robert has held out the helping hand. In the same year he gave \$100,000 towards the cost of an erection of an Industrial School for boys at Aberdeen so that the poor children of Hongkong may learn a craft as well as the three Rs.

During the Great War he presented two aeroplanes and a number of motor ambulances to the British Government. Among some of the best known of Sir Robert's many public and social activities mention must be made of his efforts to end Civil Warfare in China by setting up a Round Table Conference between the various warlords. Though his efforts were not immediately successful they stimulated a demand for national unification which became an established fact in 1936. He also personally interviewed famine and flood sufferers in China on various occasions. Another prominent part played by Sir Robert Ho Tung was at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in 1924 and 1925, which he attended as the Honorary Associate Commissioner of the Hongkong Section.

Sir Robert was a member of the Committee which organized the Reception to Duke of Connaught, and the then Prince of Wales as well as the celebrations in honour of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and the King George V Silver Jubilee.

In 1936 Sir Robert presented the Chinese Government an aeroplane costing \$100,000 to mark the Fiftieth Birthday of the Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek. Honours have been heaped upon Sir Robert from many countries. In 1915 he was knighted by His Majesty the King. He has been a Justice of the Peace since 1889, being the senior one on the list, and received several honours from the Chinese Government. To-day his imposing list of honours includes the following:—Knight of Grace of St. John of Jerusalem (1925), Knight Grand Officer of the Order of Christ of Portugal (promoted Grand Officer in 1930), First Class Order of the Excellent Crop with Sash of China 1922, Knight Commander of the Legion of Honour 1932, First Class National Red Cross of Germany 1932, Knight Commander of the Crown of Italy 1933, Knight Commander of the Crown of Leopold of Belgium 1933, Knight Commander of the Imperial Dragon of Annam 1936. He is also Senior Honorary LL.D. of the University of Hongkong as well as the Colony's Senior Justice of the Peace. Sir Robert has travelled extensively throughout the world and his visits to Europe, U.S.A. and North China have been frequent in recent years. Many local societies claim him either as their Patron or President or Hon. Vice President.

In 1880 Sir Robert married Lady Ho Tung who is a Lady of Grace of the order of St. John of Jerusalem and assisted Sir Robert at the Wembley Exhibition in 1924 and 1925.