

The recent air raid caused a sharp rise in prices as illustrated by the following current quotations for essential foodstuffs:

Rice	per catty	MY27.00
Pork	" "	MY120.00
Beef	" "	MY90.00

(8 Dec 44 - Graded C3).

Fish-stall owners in the various markets charging prices exceeding the authorised profit of 50 per cent above wholesale prices will be prosecuted, according to an official of the Marine Products Department of the Governor's Office. The public are requested to report any excessive charge immediately to the market authorities. - (9 Oct 44 - Ungraded - Origin: Enemy Press, Hongkong News).

Wheat From Hunan:

With the arrival of a large consignment of wheat from Hunan a few days ago, the stocks of rice and other foodstuffs in Hongkong have been greatly augmented, resulting in the local food situation being greatly stabilized. - (10 Oct 44 - Ungraded - Origin: Enemy Press, Hongkong News).

Rationing:

Rations are now purchasable in HONGKONG to the extent of 4.5 cattles of sugar and .5 cattles of salt per person, and 5 single boxes of matches for 2 persons each month. - (1 Dec 44 - Graded C3).

KWIZ 78/62.

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY.

(1) Cement Works:

Approximately 70% of the machinery, and in addition the largest grinding machine, have been removed from the GREEN ISLAND CEMENT WORKS to Japan. Three air grinding machines remain, and about 150 workers are employed 15 to 17 days per month. The output is mainly for military purposes. - (26 Nov 44 - Graded C3).

(2) Oxygen Factory (223577):

There are 1,000 Chinese working in this factory, but during the day only.

(3) Engineering Works (227591):

The HIP TUNG WO Machine Works is engaged in the construction of Diesel engines. 2,000 Chinese are employed, and working hours are from 0700 to 1200 hrs and 1300 to 1800 hrs. Ships' engines are also stored here.

(4) Bailey's Shipyard (22155750):

Repairs to engines and wooden vessels are carried out in BAILEY'S Shipyard, and two 80' wooden vessels are at present on the slipways undergoing repairs. 2,000 Chinese are employed. No ship has been built in this yard recently.

(7 Dec 44 - Graded C4).

Comment:

Para (2) - This does not agree with earlier reports which stated production had ceased in September - KWIZ 76/46, and work being carried on with decreased staff of 96 in October - KWIZ 77/40.

Paras (3) & (4) - Employment figures appear high in comparison with earlier reports.