

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. S. 220.—The following Bill was read a first time at a Meeting of the Council held on the 24th August, 1911 :—

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance to further amend the Opium Ordinance, 1909.

BE it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows :—

Short title. 1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Opium Amendment Ordinance, 1911.

Amends Ordinance No. 23 of 1909 as amended by Ordinances Nos. 11 and 33 of 1910. 2. The Opium Ordinance, 1909, as amended by the Opium Amendment Ordinance, 1910, and by the Opium Amendment (No. 2) Ordinance, 1910, is hereby further amended by the repeal of section 3 thereof and by the substitution thereof of the following section :—

Restriction on import of raw opium. 3.—(1) No person shall import, or aid or abet in the importation, into the Colony or into the waters thereof, any raw opium the importation of which into China shall have been notified in the *Gazette* as being illegal.

(2) The provisions of sub-section (1) of this section shall not apply to opium imported by or for the use of the Opium Farmer with the written consent of the Colonial Secretary previously obtained, and further shall not apply to opium brought into the Colony or into the waters thereof on any steamship under a through Bill of Lading to some place to which such opium may by the laws of such place be lawfully imported provided that such opium shall not be removed from such steamship whilst in the waters of the Colony.

(3) No person shall import, or aid or abet in the importation, into the Colony or into the waters thereof any loose opium."

Penalty clause of Ordinance No. 23 of 1909 to apply to new section 3. 3. The reference in section 8 (1) of the Opium Ordinance, 1909, to section 3 thereof shall be deemed to be a reference to the new section 3 substituted by this Ordinance.

Commencement. 4. This Ordinance shall come into operation on the day of _____, 1911.

Objects and Reasons.

Since the new agreement regarding the importation of opium into China limits the importation to chests bearing a certificate that they have been sold in India for the China market, there is no longer any legitimate market for uncertified opium exported from Hongkong. The opium dealers fear lest imports of uncertified opium should be made into this Colony with a view to smuggling into China thereby interfering with the legitimate and much restricted trade in certified chests. This Ordinance has, therefore, been introduced to meet the new circumstances. Opium required by the Opium Farmer can be imported under permit and opium in transit under a through Bill of Lading is not interfered with.

C. G. ALABASTER,
Attorney General.